



STATEWIDE COUNCIL FOR THE COORDINATION OF THE REGIONAL  
TRAINING PROGRAMS  
TUESDAY MARCH 2, 2021  
1:00 P.M.

Meeting Location
Due to the circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Statewide Council for the Coordination of the Regional Professional Development Programs met via videoconference. In accordance with Governor Sisolak’s State of Emergency <a href="#">Directive 021 (subsection 37)</a> , no physical location was designated for this meeting. The meeting was livestreamed on the <a href="#">Nevada Department of Education Website</a> .

**DRAFT SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**

**MEMBERS PRESENT via videoconference**

- Adam Young
- Brent Husson
- Wayne Workman
- Pam Teel
- Debbie Brockett
- Aaron Grossman

**DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT via videoconference**

- Jeff Briske, Education Programs Professional, Office of Educator Development, Licensure, and Family Engagement
- KellyLynn Charles, Education Programs Professional, Office of Educator Development, Licensure, and Family Engagement
- Arina Kazemi, Administrative Assistant, Office of Educator Development, Licensure, and Family Engagement

**AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE via videoconference**

- Chelli Smith, Director Southern Nevada Regional Professional Development Program
- Sarah Negrete, Director Northeastern Nevada Regional Professional Development Program
- Sara Cunningham, Director Northwestern Nevada Regional Professional Development Program
- Jerrad Barczynszyn, Assistant Director Southern Nevada Regional Professional Development Program
- Jesse Sabo, Vice Principal, Carlin Middle School, Elko County School District
- Marjorie Conner, Deputy Executive Director Nevada Association of School Administrators (NASA)
- Brandon Merrill, Finance/Business Manager Vegas PBS Education
- Zachary Robbins, Principal Cheyenne High School, Clark County School District
- Jeffrey J Geihs, Executive Director Nevada Association of School Administrators (NASA)
- Heidi Gavrilles, Principal John Bohach Elementary, Washoe County School District

## **1: CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The meeting of the Statewide Council for the Coordination of the Regional Training Programs Council was called to order at 1:00 P.M. by Chair Young. Quorum was established. Chair Young led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Young moved to Agenda Item #2.

## **2: PUBLIC COMMENT #1**

Chair Young asked Mr. Briske if public comments had been submitted. Mr. Briske answered no public comment was submitted.

Chair Young moved to Agenda Item #3.

## **3: APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 3, 2020**

Chair Young explained that the minutes were included in the supplemental materials and sent to members of the Council. He then asked if there was a motion.

**Member Workman motioned to approve the minutes from the December 3, 2020 meeting. Seconded by Member Teel. No discussion. Motion carried.**

Chair Young moved to Agenda Item #4.

## **4: BUDGETS AND BUDGET AMENDMENTS PURSUANT TO NRS 391A.130**

Sara Cunningham, Director of Northwestern Nevada Regional Professional Development Program (NWRPDP), stated they submitted a budget revision for salary calculation corrections and to remove funding that was originally allocated for substitutes. NWRPDP is requesting to move that money into stipends. They also moved funding for mileage that they were not utilizing this year due to virtual meetings to stipends as well.

Chelli Smith, Director of Southern Nevada Regional Professional Development Program (SNRPDP), stated they had some small amendments. They are reducing travel costs and costs for conference speakers due to the switch to virtual conferences. They increased their postage since they had to provide books through mail instead of face to face. They also increased the costs for books and professional services. They anticipate having another amendment in April.

Sarah Negrete, Director of Northeastern Nevada Regional Professional Development Program (NNRPDP), stated they also had some adjustments in salaries and benefits due to a raise that was negotiated in January and active through July 1. She reminded the Council that the RPPDs have to adjust for district salary increases in their budget. They also reduced travel, removed substitutes, and increased the stipend amounts.

Brandon Merrill, Finance/Business Manager for Vegas PBS Education, stated he's working with the Nevada Association of School Administrators and at this time does not have a budget amendment. He stated that it looks like they are on target to spend their budget as it was requested.

Chair Young thanked the presenters and asked members if there were any questions on Agenda Item # 4.

**Member Workman motioned to approve the Budget Amendments pursuant to NRS 391A.130. Seconded by Member Grossman. No further discussions. Motion carried.**

Chair Young moved to Agenda Item #5.

### **5: RPDP ANNUAL OVERVIEW** *(Information/Discussion)*

Members heard an overview presentation on the Nevada Regional Training Programs including professional development standards, service areas, educators served, types of training, and evaluations.

Sara Cunningham, Director of NWRPDP, spoke on behalf all of all three regions. She shared Nevada Regional Training Programs slides and gave a brief description (see meeting material Agenda Item #5). She mentioned this overview was specifically for the 2019-20 school year.

Chair Young raised a concern as a superintendent about the challenges that are faced throughout the state and asked the Directors what their biggest challenges are. Ms. Cunningham answered what keeps her up at night is the needs of students and how to make sure the students are served in the best way. Additionally, she worries about taking care of staff, teacher retention, administrators, and making sure they can serve educators where they are now in order to move forward.

Chelli Smith, Director of SNRPDP, stated that as they plan for the next year, they had their staff submit project proposals for next year. She continued that a lack of human resources is their one of their biggest issues. They had some great success with virtual this year more that they could have imagined, and the opportunity is there to provide some really good sound professional development opportunities. The other challenge is that students are going to need more supports next year and planning professional development for teachers to support kids in the gap is also one of the things keeping them up at night.

Sarah Negrete, Director of NNRPDP, said they are also thinking about students all the time and how to help teachers to support students in the best possible ways. In her region, they have 6 coordinators to serve the districts across the Northeastern areas and that is one of the challenges. She stated that this year was a huge challenge due to so many transitions and trying to support teachers where they are depending on where their districts are and what kind of transitions they are making. One thing they noticed is that even the teachers in districts that have been back fulltime need support as they are tired of the heaviness of the pandemic. Dr. Negrete stated that what keeps them up at night is the amount of need but realizing how much is too much all at once. She closed by stating there is lot to be celebrated.

Chair young asked Council members if they had any questions for the RPDP directors.

Member Workman expressed his gratitude to all the RPDP directors and their staff for the incredible adaptations they have done, along with all the educational staff in Nevada. He stated it is miracle how quickly everyone reacted to the ever-changing needs of educators and students in Nevada.

Member Grossman stated, as a classroom teacher in the Northwest, he had been in a couple of trainings and received assistance from somebody from RPDP regarding assessments; more importantly, the adaptability of everyone involved was extremely helpful and really beneficial for the kids.

Member Teel concurred with the hard work being done and reminded everyone that about a year ago the Council talked about how to include more people, and now there is virtual capacity to include more people while not losing the face-to-face interaction. As they move forward to a blended model, they will learn from what went well during this timeframe and reflect on it to move forward. Finally, she thanked all of RPDP directors for their hard work.

Chair Young thanked each of the directors and asked them to pass on to their staff how much the Council appreciated and recognized the great work they have done.

Chair Young moved to Agenda Item #6

**6: SENATE BILL (SB) 76 OVERVIEW** *(Information/Discussion)*

This item was pulled out of the agenda.

Chair Young moved to Agenda Item #7

**7: NASA CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE INSTITUTE (CEEI) 2020 PRESENTATION**

*(Information/Discussion/Possible Action)*

Chair Young informed members hearing from participants of the Center for Educational Excellence Institute (CEEI) regarding their experience and learning.

Dr. Jeffrey Geihs, Executive Director Nevada Association of School Administrators (NASA), gave a history and stated that since they started putting together the first Center for Educational Excellence Institute, they have had 4 CEEIs. He shared that CEEI #4 has nearly 200 participants enrolled and CEEI #5 will be in April. By the time the CEEI #5 is done, they have impacted somewhere between 700-800 educators in Nevada depending on the number of enrollments. They impacted approximately 500 educators so far. He then thanked the Council for allowing NASA to bring these trainings to educators in Nevada; not many states are able to do what NASA is able to do in Nevada. NASA's mission is to make everyone the best they can be at whatever position they hold. Dr. Geihs turned it over to Dr. Connor.

Dr. Marjorie Conner, NASA's Deputy Executive Director, reminded the Council that the first CEEI started in November of 2018, had 63 participants, and was by invitation. It was offered live in Las Vegas, Reno, and Lake Tahoe. The focus was on what it means to be a leader. The second CEEI started in January 2020 and concluded in June 2020, had 65 participants, was also by invitation, and included administrators and teachers. The third CEEI was March through May of 2020, had 110 participants, was all online, and focused on leadership basics as suggested by past participants. The fourth CEEI will be concluded by the end of March 2021 and has 187 people enrolled. It was an open enrollment so more facilitators, mentors, coordinators, as well as administrators participated. The fifth CEEI starts in April 2021, and will be online, include a book study, and will focus on Competency-Based Education. Dr. Conner then reported the Council will be hearing from a few of the CEEI participants: Dr. Robbins who is principal at Cheyenne High School in Clark County, Heidi Gavrilles who is principal of John Bohach Elementary in Washoe County School District, and Jesse Sabo who is assistant principal of Carlin Middle School in Elko County School District.

Dr. Zac Robbins stated that the CEEI was a fantastic experience. He emphasized the access provided though world class trainers, while not having to fly all over the place, was critical to the professional learning. The content was designed specifically to meet the needs of Nevada's educators. He shared that this program allowed him to continue to implement practices that meet the needs of diverse students. The CEEI has provided so much for the educators in Nevada and is an essential program.

Heidi Gavrilles shared her experience at NASA CEEI. She stated it helped her every step of the way with a new school. It was an extraordinary opportunity for administrators to come together with teacher leaders and those who want to take the next steps in their careers. The work Dr. Conner, Dr. Gorman, and Dr. Hager had done during the first institute helped participants to look at moral imperative, global context, mission and vision, system thinking, and messaging and managing the politics of our business. She stated the best thing she experienced in her career in terms of professional development was the

National Institute School of Leadership that she completed several years ago. She thanked NASA and RPDP.

Jesse Sabo stated he was one of 63 people chosen for the 2018-19 cohort of the CEEI. He thanked Dr. Conner, Dr. Geihs, and Dr. Workman for allowing him to participate in the CEEI. He expressed his opinion that CEEI had professional, high-caliber speakers. He stated he learned so much by listening to people who had gone to those experiences. He was thankful to be part of it, to be mentored, and to learn things to help him be a servant leader. He thanked the RPDP Council for supporting this Institute because of the need to mentor new leadership.

Dr. Conner stated some of the participants from Clark County could not attend this meeting due to schools opening and should the Council like to hear more, they could invite them to the next meeting. They can continue to bring together resources like the SEAD Center and the State Department of Education. She closed with an appreciation to Superintendent Gonzales and Ms. Galland-Collins for presenting and opened the floor to questions.

Member Husson thanked all the presenters for engaging in the work. He then thanked Dr. Geihs and Dr. Conner for doing what they promised to do. Three years ago, when they started talking about using this limited funding in a way that would advance the entire state and how to have more people involved, Dr. Conner and Dr. Geihs stood up and said they knew how to get people together and talk about how to improve schools. He thanked them for bringing the experts to Nevada. He said he was excited to hear about the next cohort focused on competency-based education.

Chair Young thanked Dr. Geihs, Dr. Conner, and the guests who shared their experience and asked members if they had any questions or comments.

Dr. Conner gave a shout out to Brandon Merrill who has been NASA's fiduciary agent and took a load off their shoulders. She stated he is good at managing the money in a way that makes sense and is wonderful to work with as he finds where to get the most use from the funds provided.

Member Husson stated he would love to hear more from more participants about their experiences as their testimony connects the Council to the work. It helps this Board to continue to fund this work. He would like to hear about what is accomplished, possibly giving some examples of what they are doing in their buildings that came about from being in this program.

Member Brockett thanked the entire leadership team of NASA. She reported having the opportunity this year to interview new principals and many of them referenced the CEEI Institute and what it has done for them. She shared the CEEI expanded their knowledge around leadership, and it showed in how they could bring that knowledge into an interview. She confirmed seeing value in the program.

Chair Young thanked Dr. Conner and Dr. Geihs for doing what they promised to do. It has been wonderful, and leaders from his district that participated in the CEEI came back excited. The CEEI has created a statewide network of school leaders in a way that he thinks hasn't been done before. The Council looks forward to that continuing, pending the funding.

Mr. Briske shared that Dr. Conner's presentation is shared in the meeting materials.

Chair Young moved to Agenda Item #8

## **8: FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Mr. Briske reminded the Council that any budget amendments will be on the agenda.

Chair Young suggested Member Husson's comment of hearing from more CEEI participants. Member Workman suggested pushing forward to invite Sarah Nicks to the next meeting. Mr. Briske reported that Ms. Nick will present at the April 13 meeting.

Chair Young moved to Agenda Item #9.

**9: PUBLIC COMMENT #2**

Chair Young asked Mr. Briske if any public comment had been submitted and allowed time for submissions due to the livestream delay. Mr. Briske answered that no public comment was submitted.

Chair Young moved to Agenda Item #10.

**10: ADJOURNMENT**

**Member Brockett motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Member Husson. Motion carried at 2:04 P.M.**