

**NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
COUNCIL TO ESTABLISH ACADEMIC STANDARDS  
SEPTEMBER 16, 2020**

**Meeting Location**

**Due to the circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Council to Establish Academic Standards met via videoconference. In accordance with Governor Sisolak's State of Emergency Directive 006, Section 1, no physical location was designated for this meeting. The meeting was livestreamed on the Nevada Department of Education's (NDE) website.**

**SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT**

**Via Videoconference**

Sharon Beatty  
Nikki Haag  
Brent Husson  
Yvette Williams  
David Sirna  
Andre Haynes

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT**

**DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT**

Dr. Jonathan Moore, Deputy Superintendent of Student Achievement  
Dave Brancamp, Director of the Office of Standards and Instructional Support  
Andrew Snyder, Education Programs Professional, Office of Standards and Instructional Support  
Cindi Chang, Education Programs Professional, Office of Standards and Instructional Support  
Jayne Malorni, Education Programs Professional, Office of Standards and Instructional Support

**PRESENTERS IN ATTENDANCE**

**Via Videoconference**

Shannon La Neve, Clark County School District  
Bonnie Preston, Carson City School District

**AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE**

**Via Livestream**

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:43 A.M. by Chair Sharon Beatty. Quorum was established. Chair Beatty led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

No public comment.

### **3: APPROVAL OF FLEXIBLE AGENDA**

Member Brent Husson moved to approve the flexible agenda. Member Andre Haynes seconded. Motion passed.

### **6: HEALTH STANDARDS PRESENTATION**

Andrew Snyder, Education Programs Professional, Nevada Department of Education; Shannon La Neve, Director of Humanities, Clark County School District, and Bonnie Preston, Middle School Health Teacher, Carson City School District, conducted a PowerPoint presentation regarding [the 2020 Academic Content Standards for Health](#).

Responding to Member Yvette Williams, Mr. Snyder confirmed that the Department planned to have the [Health Standards](#) framework ready to implement by the 2020-22 school year. Member Williams further asked if the Standards included content addressing adverse childhood experience. Mr. Snyder noted that the Standards do not specifically identify adverse childhood experiences, but guidance provided to educators would address this topic, focusing on empathy and response. Mr. Snyder emphasized the importance of equity in implementing the Standards and highlighted the Cultural and Diversity statement.

**Member Haynes moved to approve the 2020 Academic Content Standards for Health. Member David Sirna seconded. Motion passed.**

### **4: NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION UPDATE**

Dr. Jonathan Moore, Deputy Superintendent of Student Achievement, Nevada Department of Education, provided an Update to the Council regarding the work of the Department.

Deputy Superintendent Moore provided an overview of funding, noting that the Council to Establish Academic Standards was awarded \$5,934 for fiscal year 2019-20 (FY20) with no funds expended, and unexpended funds were reverted back to the State. The Council was initially budgeted the same funds for FY21, but these funds were cut during the 31<sup>st</sup> (2020) Special Session under Assembly Bill (AB) 3 (2020), with no funds remaining in the Council's budget.

The Department has a plan to procure each of its assessments per State Purchasing timelines, and the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Assessment request for proposal (RFP) was initially delayed by COVID-19, but has now been published with anticipated implementation in fall of 2021. The RFP for the College and Career Ready (CCR) Assessment is anticipated to release in January of 2021 and implemented by spring of 2023. The Smarter Balanced Assessment will be released in 2022 with anticipated implementation in the fall of 2024. Assessments were staggered intentionally to not overwhelm educators and their students.

Member Williams noted that African American students do not receive the CCR Diploma at the equivalent rate of their peers, and asked if there was any consideration to assess its accessibility. Deputy Superintendent Moore responded that the Department is actively seeking to narrow the opportunity gap for African American students to receive the CCR diploma.

Thanking Department staff, Deputy Superintendent Moore reported on the budget reductions made during the 31<sup>st</sup> (2020) Special Session of the Nevada Legislature due to a historic \$1.2 billion budget shortfall. \$161.8M of K-12 education funding was reduced, with \$50M in federal COVID-19 relief funding restored per amendment of (AB) 3 to support internet connectivity and programs for students most likely to develop deficits in education as a result of in-person intensive instruction loss. State workers were assigned six days of furlough in FY21, and existing positions in the Department were preserved by

holding vacant positions open through FY21 and/or shifting positions to other funding sources.

Notably, FY 21 funding was eliminated for school safety facility enhancements, Read by Grade 3 (RBG3) Literacy Specialists, Teachers' School Supply Reimbursement funding, and Senate Bill (SB) 178/New Nevada funds, with reductions for school safety officers and social workers. Amendments to AB 3 restored Financial Literacy, Computer Science, and Teach Nevada scholarship funding, and created a provision that future federal dollars restore programs by priority to: SB 178/New Nevada; RBG3; furlough leave; and any other budgetary reductions.,

Member Husson asked for further details regarding the elimination of RBG3 Literacy Specialists. Deputy Superintendent Moore clarified that all funding for Literacy Specialists was eliminated. Following this cut, the RBG3 Advisory Group met and made recommendations emphasizing flexibility for implementation. Schools may be able to identify other specialists who can serve as Literacy Specialists, develop literacy plans that fit their community, or find other funding sources to support Literacy Specialists. Responding to Member Husson, Deputy Superintendent Moore noted that one-on-one instruction and interventions were still being implemented under distance education, with innovations being created to meet needs. Further, the Department was monitoring the situation via constant communication, and was working to share best practices and ensure that all students have access to a robust education.

Member Williams emphasized the relationship between RBG3 and SB 178 in identifying students struggling with literacy proficiency, and asked if guidance was being issued regarding supporting students despite the loss of funds. Deputy Superintendent Moore noted that AB 3 specified "students who were likely to develop the largest deficits in education" and provided 5 criteria for students to still receive services and supports; he asked to report back to the Council regarding a memo.

Responding to Member Williams regarding connectivity and devices for students ,Dr. Moore highlighted connectingkidsnv.org, whose current mission is to ensure that every student across the state has connectivity and devices for distance learning, regardless of zip code.

#### **5: NEVADA DIGITAL LEARNING COLLABORATIVE UPDATE**

Cindi Chang, Education Programs Professional, Office of Standards and Instructional Support, and Jayne Malorni, Education Programs Professional, Office of Standards and Instructional Support, conducted a PowerPoint presentation regarding the work of the [Nevada Digital Learning Collaborative](#) (NvDLC).

Regarding cultural competency, Member Williams asked why the goal of equity is related to access of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Learning, and not access to education. Ms. Chang responded that supporting access to STEM learning includes providing access for both students and teachers to devices and connectivity.

Responding to Member Williams, Ms. Malorni noted that diversity within the Digital Engineers was a priority and that they represented demographics across the State.

Member Williams asked if the materials being provided by partners of the NvDLC meet Nevada Academic Standards.

Ms. Malorni responded that Gates Foundation and Apple materials are in compliance, and that all materials must be standards-aligned and have prioritize access and equity. Materials not meeting these standards are not promoted.

#### **7: FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (Information/Discussion)**

Member Williams asked for an update on the Multicultural Academic Standards and Framework.

#### **8: PUBLIC COMMENT #2**

No public comment.

**9: ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 11:26 A.M.

