

**NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS IN EDUCATION
JANUARY 15, 2026
9:00 AM**

Office	Address	City	Meeting
Department of Education	2080 E. Flamingo Rd.	Las Vegas	Room 114
Department of Education	101 N. Carson St.	Carson City	Old Assembly Room
Department of Education	YouTube Live Stream w/captions	n/a	Link

DRAFT SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION MEETING

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

In Las Vegas:

Commissioner Toby Babina
Commissioner Kenny Belknap
Vice President Shartriya Collier
Commissioner Maria DeWeerdt
Commissioner Christina Hollowood
Commissioner Teresa Schultz

In Carson City:

Commissioner Hope Blinco
Commissioner Michele Haugen
Commissioner Jamie Hawkins
Commissioner Derild Parsons
Commissioner Shanon Taylor

COMMISSION MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

President Amy Dockter-Rozar
Commissioner Rozane Deighan

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT:

In Las Vegas:

Jeff Briske, Director and Commission Secretary, Educator Development, Licensure and Family Engagement (EDLiFE)
Geri Mendiola, Administrative Assistant III, EDLiFE

In Carson City:

Dr. Jackie Nygaard, Education Programs Professional, EDLiFE
Emily Richardson, Administrative Assistant II, EDLiFE

LEGAL STAFF PRESENT:

Deputy Attorney General Christena Georgas-Burns

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE

In Las Vegas:

None

Carson City:

None

1. CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL; PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice President Collier called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Roll call attendance was taken as reflected above and a quorum was established. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Belknap.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT #1

There were no public comments in Carson City or Las Vegas.

3. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Vice President Collier recognized several activities and events celebrated in the month of January such as School Board Appreciation Month, National Mentoring Month, National Braille Literacy Month, New Year's Day, Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, International Mentoring Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Thank Your Mentor Day, International Day of Education and Holocaust Remembrance Day. Vice President Collier welcomed new Commissioner Toby Babina, representing human resources for a district with over 40,000 students. Commissioner Babina introduced himself, noting his experience in education in Arizona and Nevada and credentials in special education.

4. SECRETARY'S REPORT

Jeff Briske Director, Office of Educator Development, Licensure, and Family Engagement (EDLiFE) briefed the Commission regarding public meeting workshops and hearings. Public Workshops at the January 15th meeting that are moved to a Public Hearing will be heard at the Commission's February or April meetings. Director Briske assured the Commission that future public workshops and public hearings will be heard throughout this calendar year.

5. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 19, 2025, MINUTES (*Information/Discussion/For possible action*)

Vice President Collier asked the Commission if there are any discussions regarding the November 19, 2025, meeting minutes. No discussion was made regarding the November 19, 2025, minutes. Vice President Collier entertained a motion to approve the November 19th meeting minutes.

Motion: Commissioner Belknap moved to approve the November 19, 2025, meeting minutes. Commissioner Shultz seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously and the November 19th meeting minutes were approved.

6. EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM APPROVAL, NAC 391.461 – APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL TO BECOME QUALIFIED PROVIDER; REVIEW, CONDITIONS OF PROVISIONAL APPROVAL; TERM OF VALIDITY; RENEWAL; APPROVAL TO OFFER PROGRAM FOR DIFFERENT AREA OF LICENSURE; ANNUAL EVALUATION, AND NAC 391.558 – PROCEDURE AND REQUIREMENTS FOR REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS AND APPROVAL OF COURSES; PROVISIONAL AND FINAL APPROVAL; DENIAL, EXPIRATION AND RENEWAL OF APPROVAL; REVIEW OF COURSE; ANNUAL REPORTS BY SCHOOL DISTRICT; FEE. *(Information/Discussion)*.

The Commission heard a presentation from Dr. Jackie Nygaard, Education Programs Professional in the Office of Educator Development, Licensure and Family Engagement. Dr. Nygaard outlined the standardized review and approval sequence for new educator preparation programs and providers to ensure compliance with NAC regulations. Dr. Nygaard explained that each application would be vetted by a dedicated review committee. Each review committee would include:

- Two members from the Commission on Professional Standards in Education (COPS).
- The EDLIFE Director, who serves as the COPS secretary.
- EDLIFE Licensing Analysts.
- NDE content area experts relevant to the specific program.

The process involves a six-step operational sequence: completeness check, licensure alignment, technical review by content experts, Commission member review, formal vote by the Commission, and provider notification. Dr. Nygaard highlighted that there may be applications that may require adjustments. Should a deficiency be identified, the Department would provide the provider with a formal explanation. The provider would then address the issue and resubmit the application which would continue to flow through the remaining steps of the established process. Dr. Nygaard clarified that while review committee would provide technical recommendations, final authority rests with the Commission. Dr. Nygaard assured the Commission that the Standard Operating Procedures provide transparency and structure necessary to uphold the integrity of educator preparation in the State.

Vice President Collier asked about timelines and guidance documents. Dr. Nygaard stated the ideal review timeline is 30 days and confirmed that guidance documents will be updated for institutions.

7. PROGRAM APPROVAL FOR READING ENDORSEMENT IN NAC 391.285 FOR NORTHERN NEVADA REGIONAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (NNRPDP). *(Information/Discussion/For possible action)*.

The Commission heard and considered a proposal from Northeastern Nevada Regional Professional Development Program (NNRPDP) to provide a new K-12 course of study for a reading endorsement program. Dr. Nygaard reported that this proposal went through a rigorous and comprehensive review by a dedicated committee to include:

- EDLiFE Licensing Analysts.
- Two literacy experts, Rachel Tillotson and Lisa Calvert from the Department.
- The EDLiFE Director and COPS Secretary, Jeff Briske.
- Two COPS members, Shanon Taylor and Maria DeWeerdt.

Dr. Nygaard highlighted that NNRPDP was exceptionally responsive to the committee's feedback. NNRPDP and the committee worked to refine the curriculum and ensure all administrative and pedagogical requirements were met. Recommendations made by the committee were addressed and integrated into the final version. The committee has determined that the 16-credit program, covering foundations, methods, assessment, and a clinical practicum is fully aligned with NAC 391.285 and the Nevada Science of Reading standards. Dr. Nygaard emphasized that due to the high level of alignment and the program's rigor, the committee recommends the NNRPDP proposal for approval.

Vice President Collier asked the Commission if there were any questions or discussions regarding this agenda item. There were none, and therefore Vice President Collier entertained a motion to approve the reading endorsement course of study from NNRPDP.

Motion: Commissioner Hawkins moved to approve the Reading Endorsement proposal from Northeastern Nevada RPDP. Commissioner Shultz seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

8. PUBLIC WORKSHOP R109-25 TO SOLICIT COMMENTS ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO NAC CHAPTER 391.315-ENDORSEMENT TO SERVE AS A SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST: GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS; RENEWAL, NAC 391.316-ENDORSEMENT TO SERVE AS A SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST: REQUIRED AREAS OF STUDY, NAC 391.317-ENDORSEMENT TO SERVE AS A SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST: OPTIONAL AREAS OF STUDY, NAC 391.318-ENDORSEMENT TO SERVE AS A SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST: REQUIREMENTS FOR PRACTICUM, AND NAC 391.319-ENDORSEMENT TO SERVE AS A SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST: INTERNSHIP IN PSYCHOLOGY. (Information/Discussion/For possible action)

Vice President Collier announced public workshop for R109-25 at 9:15 AM. The Commission considered a regulation to update NAC 391.315 and repeal 391.316-319. The regulation would comply with Assembly Bill 277 that would allow a candidate to obtain a provisional license as a school psychologist and additional updates reflecting contemporary practices, standards, and research in school psychology. The Commission may approve or not approve moving this agenda item to a Public Hearing.

Dr. Nygaard explained that the draft regulation language was previously discussed at the May 2025 meeting. Last spring the Department convened a committee to revise the Nevada School Psychology Regulations contained in the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) Chapter 391, Sections 315-319. The regulations have not undergone substantial revision since 1999. After 25 years, the current framework no longer adequately reflects contemporary practices, standards, and research in school psychology. The regulation would comply with Assembly Bill 277 and would allow a candidate to obtain a provisional license as a school psychologist and will ensure Nevada's school psychologists possess appropriate qualifications, training, and scope of practice to effectively support student learning, mental health, and development within our current educational context. Dr. Nygaard noted that four regulations

would be combined into NAC 391.315 in an effort to streamline regulations. NAC 391.316-317 are recommended to be repealed as they are not necessary with the new language requiring candidates to complete an approved program. NAC 391.318-319 are recommended to be repealed as these regulations are incorporated into NAC 391.315.

Vice President Collier asked the Commission if there are any questions or discussions regarding Public Workshop Public Workshop R109-25. There were no questions and discussions; Vice President Collier entertained a motion to move this agenda item to a Public Hearing at a future meeting.

Motion: Commissioner Belknap moved to move Public Workshop R109-25 to a Public Hearing. Commissioner DeWeerdt seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

9. PUBLIC WORKSHOP R067-25 TO SOLICIT COMMENTS ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO NAC CHAPTER 391.060 – EXPIRATION OF LICENSES AND ENDORSEMENTS AND NAC 391.073 – RENEWAL OF LICENSE: REQUIREMENTS FOR PERSONS WHO ARE RETIRED AND HOLD A VALID LICENSE ISSUED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION; FEE; TERM OF VALIDITY; DELAY OF EXPIRATION DATE BY SUPERINTENDENT; ENDORSEMENT; RENEWAL. *(Information/Discussion/For possible action).*

Vice President Collier announced Public Workshop for R067-25 at 9:18 AM. The Commission considered a regulation to update NAC 391.060 and 391.073. The regulation would align all licenses to 3, 5, and 6 years as well as allow all educators licensed in Chapter 391 to obtain a retiree license. The Commission may approve or not approve moving Public Workshop R067-25 to a Public Hearing.

Director Briske noted the intent of the regulation is to align all licenses to a period of 3-year provisional, 5-year standard, or 6-year professional license lengths. Additionally, this regulation will allow all educators licensed in Chapter 391 to apply for a retiree license and not limit the retiree license to only teachers and administrators.

Vice President Collier asked the Commission if there were any questions or further discussion on this agenda item. Commissioner Shultz asked for an explanation between the standard 5-year and professional 6-year periods. Director Briske explained that a standard license would be 5 years for an educator who has at least a bachelor's degree and zero to 4 years of experience and a professional 6-year license would be for educators who have a master's degree and at least five years of teaching experience. Commissioner Belknap noted that he would like to thank the work the Department has completed to streamline and make this regulation more standardized. He shared that coming into the district there was always confusion regarding the lengths of licenses and with the work that has been done to streamline the period of licenses as well as the retiree license; he is very appreciative and looks forward to this regulation being approved.

There were no further questions or discussions from the Commission therefore Vice President Collier entertained a motion to move this item to a Public Hearing at a future meeting.

Motion: Commissioner Shultz moved to move Public Workshop R067-25 to a Public Hearing. Commissioner Belknap seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

10. PUBLIC WORKSHOP R038-25 TO SOLICIT COMMENTS ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO NAC CHAPTER 391.146-“EXCEPTION” DEFINED, NAC 391.148 – APPLICABILITY OF PROVISIONS, NAC 391.150 – SUBMISSION OF LISTS: LIST OF TEACHERS AND TEACHING ASSIGNMENTS; LIST OF TEACHERS TEACHING OUTSIDE AREA OF ENDORSEMENT, NAC 391.152 – REQUEST FOR EXCEPTION: SUBMISSION; FORM AND CONTENTS; OBJECTION, NAC 391.154 REQUEST FOR EXCEPTION: ACTION BY SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION, NAC 391.156 – PERIOD OF EXCEPTION; EXTENSION OF PERIOD, AND NAC 391.158 – LIMITATION ON TEACHING OF COURSES RELATED TO AREA OF ENDORSEMENT. *(Information/Discussion/For possible action).*

Vice President Collier announced public workshop for R038-25 at 9:21 AM. The Commission considered a regulation that would repeal NAC 391.146-158 as they are duplicative of NRS 385A.220-230 and would no longer be needed. The Commission may approve or not approve moving this Public Workshop to a Public Hearing.

Vice President Collier asked the Commission if there were any questions or further discussion on this agenda item. There were no questions or discussions from the Commission. Vice President Collier entertained a motion to move this agenda item to a Public Hearing at a future meeting.

Motion: Commissioner Hollowood moved to move Public Workshop R038-25 to a Public Hearing. Commissioner DeWeerdt seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

11. PUBLIC WORKSHOP R100-25 TO SOLICIT COMMENTS ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO NAC CHAPTER 391.057 – PROVISIONAL LICENSURE: QUALIFICATIONS; AUTHORIZED EMPLOYMENT; TERM OF VALIDITY; AUTOMATIC INVALIDITY; REINSTATEMENT. *(Information/Discussion/For possible action).*

Vice President Collier announced public workshop for R100-25 at 9:22 AM. The Commission considered a regulation to update NAC 391.057. The regulation would allow for an additional pathway for educators to change endorsement areas. The Commission may approve or not approve moving this agenda item to a Public Hearing.

Director Briske stated that the intent of this regulation is to create another pathway that would allow educators who hold an Alternative Route to Licensure (ARL) license to change endorsement areas. The new language is on page 5 of the regulation. Director Briske noted that the purpose of the pathway streamlines the process if the employer needs to move the educator to another assignment due to staffing needs and would allow the educator to stay employed during the process. The regulation would also ensure the two full years equals two school years of full-time employment and ensures that any new exam requirements remain within the three year provisional license timeframe.

Vice President Collier asked the Commission if there were any questions or further discussion on this agenda item. There were no questions or discussions therefore President Rozar entertained a motion to move Public Workshop R100-25 to a Public Hearing at a future meeting.

Motion: Commissioner Hawkins moved to move Public Workshop R100-25 to a Public Hearing. Commissioner Taylor seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

12. PUBLIC WORKSHOP R101-25 TO SOLICIT COMMENTS ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO NAC CHAPTER 391.XXX – ENDORSEMENT TO SERVE AS A REGISTERED APPRENTICE. (Information/Discussion/For possible action).

Vice President Collier announced public workshop for R101-25 at 9:24 AM. The Commission considered a regulation to ensure that a person who holds a registered apprentice endorsement cannot apply for an initial license without at least one year of full-time employment in a public school. The Commission may approve or not approve this agenda item to a Public Hearing.

Director Briske noted that regulation 100-24 was adopted by the Commission in December of 2024. The intent of amending this regulation is to ensure the holder of an apprentice license cannot apply for an initial license until at least one year of full-time teaching in a public school is completed.

Vice President Collier asked the Commission if there were any questions or further discussion on this agenda item. There were no further questions or discussions from the Commission; Vice President Collier entertained a motion to move R101-25 to a Public Hearing at a future meeting.

Motion: Commissioner Taylor moved to move Public Workshop R101-25 to a Public Hearing. Commissioner DeWeerdt seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

13. PUBLIC WORKSHOP R105-25 TO SOLICIT COMMENTS ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO NAC CHAPTER 391.276–ENDORSEMENT TO SERVE AS A MUSIC THERAPIST. (Information/Discussion/For possible action).

President Rozar announced public workshop for R105-25 at 9:26 AM. The Commission considered a regulation to ensure that a person who serves as a music therapist has minimum degree requirements, expires on the educator's birthday, and other conforming language. The Commission may approve or not approve moving this agenda item to a Public Hearing.

Vice President Collier asked the Commission if there were any questions or further discussion on this agenda item. There were no questions or discussions therefore Vice President Collier entertained a motion to move R105-25 to a Public Hearing at a future meeting.

Motion: Commissioner Shultz moved to move Public Workshop R105-25 to a Public Hearing. Commissioner Taylor seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

14. PUBLIC HEARING R032-25 TO SOLICIT COMMENTS ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO NAC CHAPTER 391.036 – TESTS OF COMPETENCY REQUIRED FOR INITIAL LICENSE; EXEMPTIONS; FAILURE TO COMPLY, NAC 391.425 – BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY ENDORSEMENT: QUALIFICATIONS FOR RECEIPT AND FIRST RENEWAL, AND NAC 391.13065 – ENDORSEMENT TO TEACH AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE TECHNOLOGY: QUALIFICATIONS; PROVISIONAL ENDORSEMENT; CREDIT TOWARD RENEWAL OF LICENSE. (Information/Discussion/For possible action).

Vice President Collier announced public hearing for R032-25 at 9:27 AM. The Commission considered a regulation relating to educational personnel; revising the requirements for obtaining and renewing a business and industry endorsement; repealing provisions governing an endorsement to teach automotive service technology; and providing other matters properly relating thereto. The Commission may adopt or not adopt this regulation.

Director Briske explained the intent of the regulation is to ensure that an applicant for a Business and Industry license has experience in a Business or Industry. The language was added at the bottom of page 6 and top of page 7. Paragraph 3, staring at the bottom of page 7, is no longer needed as these areas are in another regulation. The middle of page 8 removed the automotive service technician endorsement and combines these license holders into the automotive technology endorsement. As both endorsements can teach the same assignment only one is needed.

Vice President Collier aske the Commission if there were any questions or discussions regarding R032-25. There were no questions or discussions therefore, Vice President Collier entertained a motion to adopt R032-25.

Motion: Commissioner DeWeerdt moved to adopt Public Workshop R032-25. Commissioner Belknap seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

15. PUBLIC HEARING R033-25 TO SOLICIT COMMENTS ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO NAC CHAPTER 391.055 – PROVISIONAL 1-YEAR LICENSURE OR ENDORSEMENT OF PERSON WHO HOLDS A RENEWAL LICENSE ISSUED IN THIS STATE, NAC 391.242 – ENDORSEMENTS TO TEACH PROGRAM OF BILINGUAL EDUCATION; PROVISIONAL ENDORSEMENT, AND NAC 391.059 – TESTING OR ASSESSMENT OF TEACHER ASSIGNED TO PROGRAM OF BILINGUAL EDUCATION; MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS; ANNUAL REPORT. *(Information/Discussion/For possible action)*

Vice President Collier announced public hearing for R033-25 at 9:29 AM. The Commission considered a regulation relating to educational personnel; revising provisions relating to the issuance of an endorsement or a provisional endorsement to teach pupils enrolled in a program of bilingual education; repealing provisions relating to the requirement for a school district which has a program of bilingual education to administer a language proficiency test or assessment to a teacher assigned to the program; and providing other matters properly relating thereto. The Commission may adopt or not adopt this regulation.

Director Briske explained that the intent of this regulation is to ensure that a person who is teaching in a program of bilingual education holds an endorsement in bilingual education. This regulation also repeals NAC 391.059 shifting the responsibility of the exam requirement from the employer back to the Department.

Vice President Collier asked the Commission if there were any questions or discussion. There were no questions or discussions from the Commission therefore Vice President Collier entertained a motion to adopt R033-25.

Motion: Commissioner Taylor moved to adopt Public Workshop R033-25. Commissioner Hawkins seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

16. PUBLIC HEARING R034-25 TO SOLICIT COMMENTS ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO NAC CHAPTER 391.229-ENDORSEMENTS IN CULTURAL COMPETENCY AND SPECIALIST IN CULTURAL COMPETENCY, NAC 391.237-ENDORSEMENTS TO TEACH ENGLISH LANGUAGE ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT; ENDORSEMENT AS A PROFESSIONAL TEACHER OF ENGLISH AS SECOND LANGUAGE; ENDORSEMENT AS SPECIALIST IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT, NAC 391.323-ENDORSEMENTS AS SPECIALIST OR PROFESSIONAL SPECIALIST IN SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL AND ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND NAC 391.420-BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY ENDORSEMENT: PROGRAM AREAS FOR WHICH ENDORSEMENT MAY BE ISSUED . *(Information/Discussion/For possible action).*

Vice President Collier announced Public Hearing R034-25 at 9:31 AM. The Commission considered a regulation relating to educational personnel; revising licensure requirements to obtain certain endorsements; updating the terminology used to refer to endorsements in social, emotional and academic development; and providing other matters properly relating thereto. The Commission may adopt or not adopt this regulation.

Director Briske explained that the intent of this regulation is to use conforming language for the Cultural Competency, English Language Acquisition and Development, and Social Emotional Academic Development endorsements. Additionally, this regulation will allow business and industry, school nurse, counselor, school psychologist, mental health professional , school social worker, or speech-language pathologist license holders to add these endorsements to their license.

Vice President Collier asked the Commission if there were any questions or discussion. There were no questions or discussions from the Commission; Vice President Collier entertained a motion to adopt R034-25.

Motion: Commissioner Shultz moved to adopt Public Workshop R034-25. Commissioner Belknap seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

17. PUBLIC HEARING R035-25 TO SOLICIT COMMENTS ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO NAC CHAPTER 391.420-BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY ENDORSEMENT:PROGRAM AREAS FOR WHICH ENDORSEMENT MAY BE ISSUED. *(Information/Discussion/For possible action).*

Vice President Collier announced Public Hearing R035-25 at 9:33 AM. The Commission considered a regulation relating to education; revising provisions governing the program areas for which a business and industry endorsement may be issue; revising the terminology used to refer to endorsements in social, emotional and academic development; and providing other matters properly relating thereto. The Commission may adopt or not adopt this regulation.

Director Briske described the intent of this regulation is to create specific endorsements for each area of ethnic music and dance. The regulation also adds a business and industry license for musical

instrument technology and repair. Finally, this regulation contains conforming language allowing these license holders to add the cultural competency, English Language Acquisition and Development, and Social Emotional and Academic Development endorsements to their license.

Vice President Collier asked the Commission if there were any questions or discussion regarding this regulation. There were no questions or discussions from the Commission, therefore Vice President Collier entertained a motion to adopt R035-25.

Motion: Commissioner Belknap moved to adopt R035-25. Commissioner DeWeerdt seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

18. PUBLIC HEARING R066-24 TO SOLICIT COMMENTS ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO NAC CHAPTER 391.XXX-PROVISIONAL LICENSE FOR TRANSCRIPTS.
(Information/Discussion/For possible action).

Vice President Collier announce Public Hearing R066-24 at 9:35 AM. The Commission considered a regulation relating to educational personnel; requiring the Superintendent of Public Instruction to issue a provisional license with a transcript of provision to an applicant who satisfies certain requirements and is awaiting conferment of a bachelor's degree or a higher degree; and providing other matters properly relating thereto. The Commission may adopt or not adopt this regulation.

Director Briske explained that this regulation would allow a provisional license to be issued to an applicant pending submission of an official transcript with a conferred degree. In addition, this regulation will align the transcript provision with the length of the 3-year provisional license.

Vice President Collier asked the Commission if there were any questions or discussion regarding R066-24. Commissioner Shultz asked what the urgency is of pushing application through to a provisional license if the applicants are awaiting transcripts. Director Briske noted that the urgency is to be able to hire applicants and place them. Director Briske explained that if applicants are awaiting transcripts, the Department is unable to process the applications and issue a license. If the R066-24 is adopted, the Department can move forward with the application process. Director Briske explained further that as a safeguard in lieu of the transcript, the Department obtains lists of candidates who will be graduating from NSHE universities. The conferral on degrees take time so the universities provide names of candidates and their endorsement areas. The Department issues a provisional license based on the data from the universities. Commissioner Shultz asked if there was a caveat that this process can be completed only in a time of need for teachers or even if there is no desperate need for teachers. Director Briske confirmed that if R066-24 is adopted, the process for provisional licenses would be for anytime.

Vice President Collier commented that from the NSHE perspective, there are students who graduate and are eager to get into the classroom but there is a timeline; we would like for newly graduated students to go into the classroom as soon as possible, so this regulation helps support that movement up the teacher pipeline.

Commissioner Belknap expressed his support for this regulation having the experience of being delayed for two to three weeks in starting with the district. R066-24 would have been great to have

when he started his education career. He is very appreciative of this regulation and how it will get new energized excited educators into their profession and helping our students grow.

Vice President Collier asked the Commission if there were any further questions or discussion. There were no questions or discussion from the Commission; Vice President Collier entertained a motion to adopt R066-24.

Motion: Commissioner Belknap moved to adopt R066-24. Commissioner Babina seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

19. SCIENCE OF READING COURSEWORK APPROVAL. (*Information/Discussion/For possible action*).

The Commission reviewed coursework developed by the Department. The Commission may approve or not approve the Science of Reading Coursework. Director Briske noted that Senate Bill 460 had two components for the Science of Reading requirements. Section 56.2 is a professional development employment requirement, requiring all current educators who teach kindergarten and grades 1,2, 3 to complete coursework in the Science of Reading by July 1, 2028. Future educators who teach these grades will have three years after date of hire to complete the required coursework.

Section 39 is a licensure requirement that requires all pre-service educators who are enrolled in an approved program to complete the Science of Reading and additional components (classroom management, differentiated instruction, assessment, and curriculum) during their course of study or alternative route to licensure programs. In addition, out-of-state applicants would need to complete the coursework before renewal of their license.

The Commission is required by the Bill to approve all coursework for the licensure requirement in section 39. The coursework that Dr. Nygaard will present for approval consideration would satisfy both the professional development requirement in section 56.2 and licensure requirement in section 39.

Dr. Nygaard briefed the Commission with details regarding the development and structure of the coursework presented. Following the passage of Senate Bill 460, our workgroup, which included NDE leadership, multiple department representation and RPDP representatives, focused on creating a sustainable infrastructure for these new requirements. The Department recognized that both Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs) would need clear guidance. To support them, the workgroup developed formal protocols and a comprehensive application and crosswalk tool. This would ensure that any proposed course maintains a direct, measurable alignment between the curriculum and the rigorous standards mandated by the bill.

To lead by example and provide an immediate solution for Nevada educators, the Read by Grade 3 team has developed a robust course housed in Canvas. This course is uniquely designed to serve two functions:

- It satisfies the professional development employment requirements under Section 56.2.
- It fulfills the licensure requirements under Section 39, including the critical components of classroom management and differentiated instruction.

Dr. Nygaard emphasized that this course was authored by the Department's own reading experts, the same team that will be tasked with the official review of all future course submissions from LEAs and EPPs. By having our subject matter experts develop this initial offering, a "gold standard" for what the Science of Reading would look like in practice is being established. This standard would serve to ensure each teacher receives consistent, evidence-based instruction that translates directly to student literacy growth. The approval of this specific course would not only provide a high-quality option for our educators immediately but would also validate the framework the Department will use to evaluate all subsequent programs moving forward.

Vice President Collier thanked Director Briske and Dr. Nygaard and asked the Commission if there were any questions or discussion regarding the Science of Reading Coursework. Vice President Collier asked if the Canvas course that was created be accessible to the EPPs. Dr. Nygaard confirmed that the Canvas course will be made available to the EPPs. Vice President Collier also commented that as an exemplar as we go integrating these items into our own curriculum, since this is the "gold standard" its nice to know as teacher educators an example of what the "gold standard" would be.

Director Briske assured the Commission that the Canvas course would satisfy both requirements in SB 460, the professional development requirement for employment and the licensure requirement for new teachers in our approved Ed Prep programs and for reciprocity. Director Briske further explained that the draft regulation is currently with the Legislative Council Bureau. Vice President Collier clarified that the idea of the Canvas course is not a requirement that the EPPs and other agencies use, but it is only a model. Director Briske agreed and added that when the Commission reviews the regulation next month he will go over this. He further noted that all of the EPPs have several literacy classes for the elementary program and some are already doing the Science of Reading coursework and may need to review those literary classes and make some adjustments to their syllabus. Commissioner Haugen ask if there were any Pre-K based relevance. Dr. Nygaard confirmed that the program is K-3 and that there is not anything specific for Pre-K. Director Briske stated that the Pre-K course is not in the bill, but it doesn't mean a Pre-K teacher cannot take the course. Commissioner Belknap expressed his appreciation for the hard work the Department has completed to make sure there is a one-stop shop for educators to complete professional development as well as the licensure requirement. Commissioner Belknap asked if there was a cost or charge for the course. Director Briske clarified that by law RPDP cannot charge anything for professional development in addition, the bill states that LEAs cannot charge for this professional development.

Vice President Collier asked if there were any further questions or discussions from the Commission. There were none therefore, Vice President Collier entertained a motion to approve the Science of Reading Coursework.

Motion: Commissioner DeWeerdt moved to approve the Science of Reading Coursework. Commissioner Belknap seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

20. ANNUAL REPORT (Information/Discussion/For possible action).

The Commission reviewed the annual report as required by NRS 391.025. The Commission may approve or not approve the annual report. Vice President Collier asked the Commission if there were any questions or discussion regarding the annual report.

Director Briske noted that this report is required in statute; and is conveyed to the Legislative Joint Interim Legislative Commission on Education each year. Director Briske highlighted that there were no regulations that went to the Legislative Commission last year but emphasized that the regulations that were passed in today's meeting will be on their agenda by March or April depending on when their due dates are to be placed on the Legislative Commission's agenda.

Vice President Collier asked the Commission if there were any questions. There were none; Vice President Collier entertained a motion to approve the annual report and for its transmission to the Legislative Joint Interim Commission on Education.

Motion: Commissioner Belknap moved to approve the annual report. Commissioner Schultz seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

21. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (Information/Discussion)

- Workshops and Public Hearings

22. PUBLIC COMMENT #2

There were no public comments in Carson City and Las Vegas.

23. ADJOURNMENT

Vice President Collier acknowledged the next Commission on Professional Standards meeting on February 18, 2026, and entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Commissioner Belknap moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Hollowood seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 9:51 A.M.