



Education Collaborative Advisory Board

April 20, 2015

11:30am

Nevada State Education Association

3511 East Harmon Ave.

Las Vegas, NV 89121

- I. Welcome
- II. Member Announcements & Upcoming Events
- III. Meeting Minutes and Additional Resources
- IV. Guest Speakers:
 - Patti Chance, *Planning Director for the M.A. in Urban Leadership, UNLV*
 - Patrick Gavin, *Director at Nevada State Public Charter School Authority*
- V. Final ECAB Brief
- VI. Wrap Up & Next Meeting: Monday, September 14, 2015

K-20 EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

Date/Time: April 20, 2015; 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Location: Nevada State Education Association

Attendance:

Gwen Marchand (*University of Nevada, Las Vegas*)
 Edith Fernandez (*Nevada State College*)
 Julie Pippenger (*Andre Agassi Foundation for Education*)
 Robert Henry (*Clark County School District*)
 Angela Silva (*Clark County School District*)
 Ruben Murillo (*Nevada State Education Association*)
 Susie Lee (*Communities in Schools*)
 Laura Latimer (*College of Southern Nevada*)
 Adriane Zaniewski (*Nevada PTA*)
 Adam Johnson (*Proxy for Victor Wakefield*)
 Jacob Silverstein (*Proxy for Seth Rau*)
 Patrick Gavin (*State Public Charter School Authority*)
 Patti Chance (*Planning Director for the M.A. in Urban Leadership*)
 Magdalena Martinez (*The Lincy Institute*)
 Emily Garcia (*The Lincy Institute*)
 Caitlin Saladino (*The Lincy Institute*)

Welcome

Dr. Martinez introduced the meeting materials to the members (agenda, briefs, letters, etc.). She also provided the members with the final ECAB brief which will serve as a template for the work of The Lincy Institute. Dr. Martinez then introduced Dr. Patti Chance (Planning Director for the M.A. in Urban Leadership) and Mr. Patrick Gavin (Director of the State Public Charter School Authority) our guest speakers.

Guest Speakers:

Dr. Patti Chance:

As the planning director for the M.A. in Urban Leadership, Dr. Chance spoke about the program's goals and objectives. She noted the importance of preparing principals to work in urban schools. Because schools exist as a larger part of the community, it is important to think of them from a systems perspective. The Urban Leadership Program has created an advisory council with individuals from multiple agencies. To date, the council has met once to speak about the program's vision. In terms of the program curriculum, each semester has four primary themes: 1) leadership to develop 21st century structures, 2) collaborative/distributive leadership, 3) evidence-based leadership, and 4) leadership to develop a culture of learning and equity. All courses can be found at www.unlv.edu,

under the School of Environmental and Public Affairs. The program also offers field-based experience and mentorship.

At the end of Dr. Chance's presentation, the floor was opened up for questions. Dr. Fernandez asked if there was a deal between UNLV and CCSD that would ensure a principal position for graduating students. Dr. Chance stated that although there was not a formal agreement that would ensure a position, CCSD has proposed to accept students into the leadership pool if they completed the program. Mr. Johnson asked if public policy would be part of the curriculum to which Dr. Chance said no. Dr. Fernandez asked how the program addressed ELL and other special populations. Dr. Chance stated that there is no class on ELL students specifically, but there are lectures on special populations and conflict resolution throughout the semester. Ms. Latimer asked about the application process. Dr. Chance stated that the application is open, but students have to have principal recommendations and go through an interview process. Dr. Martinez asked, given the interest in charter schools, if there was a charter school component to the curriculum. Ms. Chance explained that they had charter school guest speakers integrated into the curriculum, but no specific coursework.

Mr. Patrick Gavin:

Mr. Gavin then gave his presentation on the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) which is a successor agency to the Nevada Department of Education (NDE). The SPCSA inherited every school that NDE sponsored. Since this change, student achievement has improved. SPCSA schools, chartered after the creation of SPCSA in 2011, outperform older district & state-sponsored schools at 3-5 star levels. SPCSA charter graduation rates have increased 26 points versus 7 points for district charters. SPCSA looks carefully at principal candidates and charter school applications. In 2013, they revamped what school accountability looks like. For a long time, charter schools put together goals that were not rigorous, but that has changed dramatically. If a charter school performs under 1 star for 3 years, their contract is automatically revoked. When creating a contract, the authority determines the schools goals. They align the goals with the state performance framework. The performance framework has three elements: academic, financial, and organizational performance. Automatic closure was adopted in 2013 (AB 2015) which requires automatic closure of a charter school in the case of 3 consecutive years of lowest possible rating on the statewide system of accountability. The state is opting to do a pause on charter school performance but the authority is working around the pause so it's not an excuse to keep poor performing charter schools around. In the next four years, SPCSA hopes to diversify their charter school portfolio. The charter school portfolio is far more Caucasian. They plan to expand to other areas to cater to different demographics.

The presentation was followed by questions. Dr. Marchand asked if SPCSA collected demographic data for each school, to which Mr. Gavin answered yes. Dr. Marchand then asked if all schools were held accountable in the same way, to which Mr. Gavin answered yes. He also stated that adding additional ELL services can only happen after the school population has more ELL students. Dr. Henry wondered what efforts were there to recruit students of color and low socio-economic status. Mr. Gavin said SPCSA hopes to reach

out to all families and broaden enrollment application windows. Dr. Marchand asked if there were any stipulations to the admittance process. Mr. Gavin stated there was a lottery if there were too many applicants. Dr. Henry wondered what SPCSA anticipates to report as their population shifts. Mr. Gavin hopes that it will be just as impressive. Mr. Murillo asked if there is screening for quality students or adult staff. Mr. Gavin claimed they were screening for adults and principal leadership. Dr. Silva asked where the money came from to build the schools. Mr. Gavin clarified that the funds for students come from the Distributive School Account but they do not receive funding to build schools. Dr. Martinez then asked Mr. Gavin to touch on GreenDot. Mr. Gavin stated that there are schools that start off like GeenDot, with a collective bargaining plan, but there are mixed perceptions on union affiliated schools. He claimed that GreenDot shows us that it can happen; some GreenDot clones are successful while others are not.

Final ECAB Brief

Dr. Martinez discussed the final ECAB brief. As of now, only the short term priorities that are outlined in brief are being directly addressed by The Lincy Institute, Education Programs. She then introduced the deliverables chart which contains the specific short-term issue, Lincy's involvement, partners and collaborators, and the deliverables. In terms of upcoming goals, Dr. Henry mentioned he'd like to explore more about charter schools. He stated that enrollment into charter schools is not completely wide open like it would be in a public school environment. He would like to explore enrollment/recruitment efforts. Mr. Murillo would also like to explore the difference between suburban and urban charter school performance. He wondered how demographics play into the success of a charter school. Dr. Martinez agreed it would be helpful to have more information in regards to demographics and performance.

Wrap Up & Next Meeting: Monday, September 14, 2015

***Recorded by:
Emily Garcia***