



## Education Collaborative Advisory Board

Gordon Biersch  
3987 Paradise Rd.  
Las Vegas, NV 89169

December 14, 2015  
11:30am - 1:30pm

- I. Welcome, Purpose, and Review September 14th Meeting Notes
- II. Guest Speaker
  - a. Manny Lamarre,  
*LEE Public Policy/Education Fellow*  
*Office of Governor Brian Sandoval*
- III. Discussion of Intermediate-Term goals and success
  - a. Review ECAB Priorities with currently undetermined action
- IV. Open Discussion for ECAB Membership
  - a. 2 year term approaching (April 2016)
  - b. "ECAB Membership" survey will be sent out soon
- V. Member Announcements
- VI. Wrap Up
  - a. Next Meeting: Monday, April 4, 2016

### Meeting Goals:

- ✓ Discuss the Landscape of Education for State of Nevada
- ✓ Review Deliverables for ECAB
- ✓ Discuss 2 year term for ECAB membership

Wishing you Happy Holidays and a great start to the New Year!  
-The Lincy Institute, Education Programs

## **K-20 EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE ADVISORY BOARD**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

Date/Time: December 14, 2015; 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Location: Gordon Biersch, Las Vegas

#### **In Attendance:**

Edith Fernandez (*Nevada State College*)

Angela Silva (*Clark County School District*)

Robert Henry (*Clark County School District*)

Julie Pippenger (*Andre Agassi Foundation for Education*)

Gwen Marchand (*University of Nevada, Las Vegas*)

Ruben Murillo (*Nevada State Education Association*)

Sean Parker (*Teach for America, State Board of Education*)

Dave Berns (*Nevada Succeeds*)

Magdalena Martinez (*The Lincy Institute*)

Caitlin Saladino (*The Lincy Institute*)

Manny Lamarre (*Office of Governor Brian Sandoval*)

#### **Welcome:**

Dr. Martinez introduced the meeting materials to the members (agenda, meeting minutes, and deliverables chart). Dr. Martinez reminded members that this meeting is drawing close to the two year mark of the start of ECAB. Dr. Martinez asked members to engage in an open conversation about where this board might be heading in the future. Dr. Martinez then asked Mr. Lamarre to talk about his background, and how he transitioned into the Governor's Office. Dr. Martinez then introduced our guest speaker: Mr. Manny Lamarre.

#### **Guest Speaker:**

##### **Manny Lamarre, Office of Governor Brian Sandoval:**

Mr. Lamarre expressed that he started his career with Teach for America, teaching in Miami, FL. After going to graduate school at Harvard in Policy and Management, he realized his passion to speak out about the tension between policy planning and implementation. He spoke about independent consulting and his role as an LEE fellow. He expressed that he is most focused on the policy side of his fellowship. He feels the missing link in policy implementation is "engagement." Mr. Lamarre spoke about the importance of system-level bureaucrats, and the importance of engaging those who the policy might impact most. His personal goal in his role with the Governor's Office is to design policy that encompasses planning, implementation, and engagement. For this fellowship year, he is primarily focused on two projects: The SAGE Commission and The Achievement School District.

First, he discussed the work of the SAGE Commission, which was created as a policy in the legislature. One goal of this policy is to find efficiency in public education, how to improve

public education, and ways that costs can be reduced. He stated that was 750 million dollars was infused into K-12 in the last legislative session, so the SAGE Commission is key. He offered to share web resources on the SAGE Commission progress with ECAB members. He invited members to be active and engaged in the meetings. Mr. Lamarre suggested that there will be three key issues explored through the SAGE Commission: capital construction costs, human capital, and the funding formula. He mentioned that most commissioners are located in southern Nevada, and that the commission was half nominated and half appointed by the Governor's Office, in order to represent various stakeholders in education.

Second, he discussed his close work with the Achievement School District project. He suggested that this is another piece where the missing link, of engagement, is going to be key. The Achievement School District – AB448, focuses on the lowest 5% of underperforming schools, and allows for a high functioning charter school to enter and reform the school. Within the policy, a maximum of six schools can be taken over and transformed in a given year. There are a lot of thoughts and politics that will be at play as this is implemented. Mr. Lamarre mentioned that this has been done in Tennessee, and in New Orleans, but we will be following the Tennessee model. The other key piece is that in New Orleans, the teachers were laid off. This piece of the policy will *not* be implemented in Nevada. However, similar to the Tennessee model, this new policy will give neighborhood school students first priority for enrollment. The final key piece in this role is the opportunity for community members to engage in the design and outcomes of the Achievement School District. There are community councils that will be created, opportunities to interact with the executive directors, and other opportunities for engagement within the policy. Ultimately, Mr. Lamarre views his role as an outsider to this process, and hopes to meet and engage with stakeholders. He is not predisposed to say this is how we have done things in the past, so he sees his role as a neutral party to help ensure that the implementation goes well.

Dr. Silva asked who the executive directors of the new Achievement School District schools might be. Mr. Lamarre said they are in the process of selecting people who are equipped with the ability to serve minority, underrepresented student populations. He suggested that they may not select these individuals and push it further into the future in order to ensure that appropriate executive directors are identified and chosen. Mr. Lamarre suggested that there are 75 schools under investigation. The Governor will approve a list, which will be narrowed down to no more than 6 schools. A majority of these schools will likely be from the South. Dr. Silva asked if there is an exit policy if schools improve in performance. Mr. Lamarre suggested that the policy is written in a way that allows for schools to stay as a charter, or return to the school district. Mr. Parker suggested that it seems unlikely that any schools will be chosen by the 2016-17 school year. Mr. Lamarre confirmed that this seems likely at this point. Mr. Berns asked if when we hear about these issues with charter schools, how do you all feel about policy and implementation. Dr. Silva suggested that charter schools are always a bit controversial. Mr. Lamarre suggested that the biggest change with this model is to allow for decision making to take place within the school-level. The charters tend to be more flexible with this decision-making, and with new programs and creative curriculum. Dr. Martinez asked about changes with federal level changes to no child left behind, and what that means for unrealistic thresholds that have been set. She asked, "How will that allow for greater state or district discretion for the work that is done in the classroom?" Mr. Lamarre said with the new standards of NCLB, the biggest

difference is more ownership on the state level. Mr. Murillo stated that it also limits what the U.S. Department of Education can implement in terms of unreasonable federal mandates. He went on to point out that charter schools are not all effective, and that what really matters is not where schools are located, but instead who is in charge of them. Dr. Marchand suggested that we need teams of people who are thoughtful and ready to lead, regardless of the departure of a given leader. She stated that she wants to see continuity between our K-12 and higher education arenas.

Mr. Murillo asked about the composition of the SAGE Commission, seeing that many of the members are from the South. Mr. Lamarre suggested that 80% of the student population of the state is in Clark County. He reported that 8 representatives are from the South, and 4 are from the North. Mr. Murillo suggested that in the future it is important to mention that there is buy-in from both north and south. Dr. Martinez ended the conversation by reminding members and guests that it is an exciting time in education for Nevada. She suggested that we have to remember that these policies we engage in and implement ultimately impact real families and children and it is important to keep that in mind.

### **Final Comments**

Dr. Martinez discussed the areas of the deliverables chart, and how we have engaged, collaborated and delivered on various education issues. She expressed that the time of the ECAB members has been appreciated during the two years. She asked for feedback from the board based on the items discussed today and the deliverables chart. Dr. Martinez told members that a survey would be sent out soon, to ask about the topics in the long-term section.

Dr. Martinez asked about the format of the advisory board, and where it may be headed. The Lincy Institute has been in discussion of possibly having one, Lincy-wide Advisory Board. We will include an area for you to comment on this possibility within the survey that will be sent out.

Dr. Fernandez provided a member announcement that she would like to invite others on the board to come visit Nevada State College. Mr. Lamarre said thank you for the invitation, and encouraged members to contact him if there are issues that we think should be connected to the Governor's Office.

### **Wrap Up & Next Meeting: Monday, April 4, 2016**

#### ***Recorded by:***

***Caitlin J. Saladino, M.A.***