State of Nevada
Education Reform
Blue Ribbon Task Force

Friday, March 19, 2010
Meeting Minutes

The Governor's Education Reform Blue Ribbon Task Force (the "Task Force") held a meeting on March 19, 2010, at Wynn Las Vegas. The meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m.

The following Task Force members were present in person: Elaine P. Wynn, Dan Klaich, Heath Morrison, Alison Turner, Karen Pedersen, Gina Polovina, Dana Lee, Punam Mathur, Allison Serafin, Rorie Fitzpatrick (on behalf of Dr. Keith Rheault), Lynn Warne, Pam Hicks, Gintas Vildzius, Dr. Rob Roberts, Ronald Montoya, Dr. Jill Derby, Dr. Sonya Horsford and Dr. Michele Robinson.

The following Task Force members took part via the telephone: Joyce Haldeman, John Soderman, Diane Sumner and Assemblywoman Debbie Smith.

The following people were also in attendance: Kim Sinatra, Senior Vice President & General Counsel, Wynn Resorts, Limited; Christopher Cross, President, Croft & Joftus, LLC; Stacie Michaels, Corporate Counsel, Wynn Las Vegas; Fred Licon, Director of Community & Government Affairs, Wynn Las Vegas; Stephanie Vanderham, Executive Assistant to Elaine P. Wynn, Wynn Resorts, Limited; Julia Humbert, Communications Manager, Wynn Las Vegas; Stacy Woodbury, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor; and Hilary Crowley, Catamount Fund, Ltd.

Introductions

The Task Force members took part in introductions followed by comments from the co-chairs.

Mission of the Task Force

Mrs. Wynn noted the need to organize to the task.

Chancellor Klaich stated that Task Force cannot fail because the stakes are too high.

Mrs. Wynn stated that education has become the civil rights movement of our time and there is a need to address the issues of poverty and diversity and to ensure that every child has an opportunity to learn.

Briefing on Race to the Top ("RttT")

Mr. Cross provided a briefing on RttT. He explained that President Obama's administration allocated $100 billion for education, of which $10 billion was left to the discretion of the Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, who created the RttT program to dispense approximately $4.3 billion in education funding to states. He explained that education funding is usually based on a formula. RttT is the first time a system of incentives has been used to get states to think outside the box with regard to education reform.

Mr. Cross explained that RttT is a two (2) round process. Forty (40) states and the District of Columbia applied in the first round and sixteen (16) finalists (the "Finalists") have been selected. The Finalists' applications are available and videos of each applicant's in-person defense will be available soon. He stated that he expects five (5) winners will be selected in the first round. The second round closes June 1, 2010. States that do not receive any funding in the first round can re-apply in the second round. Alaska and Texas will not be participating.

Mr. Cross explained that the RttT scoring system is based on a total possible score of 500 points. He has been told that each Finalist earned at least 450 points on their applications. He summarized the scoring rubric for RttT, which explains what the Department of Education is looking for from the applications. Nevada's application needs to be a cohesive application with a vision for education reform and components that support the vision.

Mr. Morrison stated that the legislation reauthorizing "No Child Left Behind" will be tied to future goals of RttT. Arne Duncan alluded to the fact that there will be a third round of RttT at the district level, which will benefit Nevada's rural school districts.

Mr. Cross stated that funding for round three of RttT is in the President's budget request for 2011 (about $1 billion) and will mirror the themes of RttT at the state level.

Mr. Cross explained that under RttT, fifty percent (50%) of the money states receive goes to Local Educational Agencies ("LEAs") in the proportion to money each LEA gets under Title 1. The remaining fifty percent (50%) is up to states to distribute as they see fit. The Finalists had varying degrees of buy-in from LEAs. Mr. Cross stated that every LEA should sign-on to Nevada's RttT application and he believes these discussions have begun.

State of Education in Nevada

Mr. Cross gave a presentation on the "State of Education in Nevada". He stated that the data in his presentation comes from the Department of Education and other public sources. His presentation covered: student demographics and projected changes; high school graduation rates; high school drop out rate and it

economic impact; Advanced Placement data; college graduation rates; National Assessment of Educational Process data; Criterion Reference Test results; higher income student data; Education Week's "Chance of Success" data; ELL data; school funding; and teacher quality.

The Task Force members discussed the high school drop out data and the factors that make tracking such data difficult.

RttT Finalist

Mr. Cross summarized the highlights in the Finalists' applications. He stated that these applications can serve as inspiration for Nevada's application. All of the applications submitted in round one are available on the Department of Education's website at www.ed.gov under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

State Status on RttT Application

Rorie Fitzpatrick discussed the current status of Nevada's RttT application. The Nevada Department of Education (the "Department") mobilized in January with the Washoe and Clark County school districts. The Department followed with meetings with the rural superintendents. They have since created working groups to address four reform areas with the application made up of staff, representatives from Regional Professional Development Program, Nevada State Education Association and the Pubic Education Foundation. The working groups have been looking at research and cutting edge practices from other applications. They have been trying to determine what the current infrastructure is and what the existing gap is with the infrastructure. The Department's previous goal was to have a rough draft of the application prepared by March 30 for presentation to external stakeholders and a polished rough draft prepared by April 15.

Ms. Fitzpatrick stated that engagement with the business community has been lacking. However, the Assembly Concurrent Resolution 2 Committee and the Legislative Committee on Education have been in the loop. The Department is looking to the Task Force for public relations help moving forward. The Department has also sought input from the superintendents from each school district.

Application Strategy and Assignment of Sections and Section Leaders

Mrs. Wynn stated that the Task Force needs a practical way to move forward. The Task Force also needs to assess the work done up to this point that is why she and Chancellor Klaich have assigned each Task Force member to work on a section of the application. She also stated that they have assigned section leaders for each section. Each section leader should arrange a briefing with the

Department on what's been done up to this point. The section leaders should then report back to the Task Force co-chairs with their findings.

Ms. Sinatra stated that the next meeting would be April 9 and she discussed the calendar of events moving forward. She also expressed the need for input on how the Task Force receives public input and that a website would be created for transparency.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:48 p.m.