

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

**Seventy-Fourth Session
March 21, 2007**

The Committee on Education was called to order by Chair Bonnie Parnell at 3:51 p.m., on Wednesday, March 21, 2007, in Room 3142 of the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 4406 of the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada. Copies of the minutes, including the Agenda ([Exhibit A](#)), the Attendance Roster ([Exhibit B](#)), and other substantive exhibits are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau and on the Nevada Legislature's website at www.leg.state.nv.us/74th/committees/. In addition, copies of the audio record may be purchased through the Legislative Counsel Bureau's Publications Office (email: publications@lcb.state.nv.us; telephone: 775-684-6835).

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Assemblywoman Bonnie Parnell, Chair
Assemblywoman Debbie Smith, Vice Chair
Assemblyman Bob Beers
Assemblyman David Bobzien
Assemblyman Mo Denis
Assemblyman Joseph P. (Joe) Hardy
Assemblyman Ruben Kihuen
Assemblyman Harvey J. Munford
Assemblyman Tick Segerblom
Assemblyman Lynn D. Stewart

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Assemblyman Garn Mabey (Excused)

GUEST LEGISLATURES:

Assemblywoman Ellen Koivisto, Assembly District No. 14



STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kristin Roberts, Committee Counsel
Carol M. Stonefield, Committee Policy Analyst
Denise Dunning, Committee Secretary
Trisha Moore, Committee Assistant
Rachel Pilliod, Committee Manager

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jason Williams, Student, ACE High School, Reno
Preston Adamson, Student, ACE High School, Reno
Benjamin Harding, Project Manager, Granite Construction Company, Reno
Keith Rheault, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Department of Education
Daniel Klaich, Executive Vice Chancellor, Nevada System of Higher Education
Carol Lucey, President, Western Nevada Community College
Jim Cooney, Public Policy Chairman, Association for Career and Technical Education
Valerie Guild, President, Charlie Guild Melanoma Foundation
Jay Adams, M.D., Carson City, Nevada
Stacey Escalante, Publicist, Orca Communications Unlimited, LLC
Greg Ferraro, Private Citizen, Reno, Nevada
Joyce Haldeman, Representative, Clark County School District
Amna Khawaja, Graduate Student, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Bob Crowell, Trustee, Carson City School Board
Anne Loring, Representative, Washoe County School District
Sam King, Representative, Nevada League of Women Voters
Sabra Smith-Newby, Director, Intergovernmental Relations, Clark County
Liane Lee, Legislative Officer, Government and Community Affairs, Las Vegas
Misty Grimmer, Representative, Cox Communications
Tom Axtell, General Manager, Vegas Public Broadcasting System
Craig Kadlub, Director of Government Affairs, Clark County School District
Dotty Merrill, Executive Director, Nevada Association of School Boards
Ramont Williams, Gang Specialist, H2K Youth Mentoring Program
Anthony Gallion, President, Target Program

Chair Parnell:

Meeting called to order [at 3:51 p.m. Roll called]. We have BDR 34-1370 awaiting Committee introduction.

BDR 34-1370—Revises provisions governing educational personnel and student teachers. (Later introduced as [Assembly Bill 512](#).)

ASSEMBLYMAN BEERS MOVED TO INTRODUCE BDR 34-1370.

ASSEMBLYMAN KIHUEN SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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I will turn the gavel over to Vice Chair Smith.

Vice Chair Smith:

I will open the hearing on Assembly Concurrent Resolution (A.C.R.) 6.

Assembly Concurrent Resolution 6: Urges the boards of trustees of school districts and the Nevada System of Higher Education to expand certain programs of career and technical education. (BDR R-442)

Assemblywoman Bonnie Parnell, Assembly District No. 40:

Assembly Concurrent Resolution 6 urges the trustees of our school districts and the Nevada System of Higher Education to expand the availability and scope of programs of Career and Technical Education (CTE) offered in high schools for which students receive college credits. This committee has heard from me regarding A.B. 131 and A.B. 151. You will be able to see how kids are benefiting from this combination of CTE and college credits. We are privileged to have several students from Academy for Career Education (ACE) Charter School joining us today. As these students can attest, programs of CTE lead to greater academic achievement, expanded career choices, and the opportunity to start their education at the postsecondary level while still in high school. One point I made in Ways and Means is to realize that CTE is not an either/or. For so long we talked about kids taking vocational education classes. It was made up of kids who chose to do that and often did not go beyond that level of education. What we see now are kids going to ACE Charter School, going to work right out of high school, and also continuing their education and planning to end up with perhaps a master's degree in construction management. At Southern Nevada Vocational Technical School (SNVTS) there is an advanced placement strand for students who want to be in the most challenging core classes while studying a challenging career skill. Additionally CTE programs result in lower dropout rates and a higher graduation rate among students who participate. We know that approximately 50 percent of people attending high school in Nevada take at least one CTE course and that there is a demand to

increase availability of these programs to serve more students. I ask for your support of A.C.R. 6.

Jason Williams, Student, ACE High School, Reno:

I came to ACE with low credits and no idea of what the real world was going to be like. Through ACE, I believe that not only myself, but my classmates, can say that we are ready for the world. We are ready for the careers that await us because we were prepared correctly. We will be able to take the skills that we have learned in the construction field any where in the world. Whether it is electrical, masonry, carpentry, et cetera, the CTE courses should be expanded because of the way that they prepare the students for the future.

Preston Adamson, Student, ACE High School, Reno:

I have been going to ACE since my sophomore year. I originally went there because I just wanted to get through high school and then get out of there and start working. Since I started at ACE I have wanted to go on to college. Originally, I was doing the construction program and recently I started the Computer Aided Drafting (CAD) program. I have received college credits through both programs. It has really made me feel good about myself. I am competing in a statewide competition for CAD and architecture—from there I plan on going to college for architecture.

Assemblyman Stewart:

I commend you both on your excellent testimony.

Assemblyman Munford:

What was it that attributed to your staying in school? How did the CTE school affect your decision to stay in school?

Preston Adamson:

At my other high school I felt like I was just another number. At this high school I feel like I am doing something to ready myself for the future. I have a skill that I can take with me when I leave. The reason I want to continue on with my education is the fact that the credits have already been earned while I was in high school and I was able to earn the Millennium Scholarship. I cannot resist wanting to continue on with my education.

Assemblyman Munford:

The reason you want to be in school is because of the enthusiasm?

Preston Adamson:

Yes. It gives me a reason to go.

Jason Williams:

I came to ACE from my former high school with low credits and no image of what I wanted to do after I got out of school. Through ACE and being able to work with my hands, I learned that I love construction. I believe that I excel at it and it is perfect for me.

Benjamin Harding, Representative, Associated General Contractors of America and Granite Construction Company, Reno:

I am here in support of A.C.R. 6. These types of programs allow young men and woman to explore an alternate form of education away from the traditional high school. We need these people in our industry. Nevada is growing at a tremendous rate and it takes many craft people to accomplish what we need to do. These students are in high demand and can earn a good living directly out of their educational programs. They can also continue on to higher education while they are employed.

Vice Chair Smith:

I have been to the house that was built during the construction phase. It was very impressive. It is a great opportunity for all of these students.

Keith Rheault, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Department of Education:

I am here to support A.C.R. 6. We hear that we have to do a better job at aligning K-12 curriculum and standards with postsecondary education. This is a program that is already aligned and that we have worked on for the last 6-8 years. It is consistent throughout the State and this current resolution would encourage the expansion of this program. We are 100 percent behind it.

Daniel Klaich, Executive Vice Chancellor, Nevada System of Higher Education:

I want to express our complete support of this legislation. We support continued improvement of CTE in Nevada. We have worked very hard to accomplish the goal of our CTE programs with the high schools. Students coming directly out of high schools can get an associates degree with just one additional year in the community college. We have worked with business and apprenticeship programs in Nevada to encourage them to contribute their private support. We recognize the importance of CTE classes in order to have a robust economy in Nevada.

Carol Lucey, President, Western Nevada Community College:

This issue has been a concern of mine since I came to Nevada in 1999. At that point we had a technical facility built by non-state funds. The money was raised by local employers and the Reynolds Foundation. We were not filling our classrooms, our labs or our technical programs. The reason was that there was no entry way—no career pathway for students to come out of high school and

see that they could enjoy an education and a career in these areas. CTE is surfacing as an important issue for this State. It is a place where two needs of the State come together. We do not have enough high school students finishing high school and continuing on to college. They do not have high expectations for themselves. For many of them it is because the high school has not provided the curriculum that they need. The other need that CTE can meet is preparing the students for the workforce. When we thought about this, we wondered how we could make it apparent to Nevada kids that they can have strong prosperous careers in construction, machine tool technology, and manufacturing, etc. We decided to work on our dual-enrollment program. With assistance from our local school districts we are now running dual-enrollment in construction and machine tool technology — with a new program in information technology and electronics. There are 93 students in these programs. These are pilot numbers. The 93 students are funded by local industries. The students in construction have received awards from the Builders Association of Western Nevada, Douglas County Builders Industry Association and from Custom Stamping. We are hoping that with the support from the Governor's work-force development funding to the community colleges, that we can add more students to the dual-enrollment programs. Our goal is to have the students taking courses which allow them college credits in the last two years of high school then to go into an industry, if they choose to, or continue on with college for an associate's degree or to continue on to get a bachelor's degree in construction management technology. We will be looking for other opportunities to offer more career ladders to students with clear career and technology interests.

Jim Cooney, Public Policy Chairman, Association for Career and Technical Education:

Our association is in full support of A.C.R. 6. It is a winner for students, their parents, the secondary schools, and the colleges.

Vice Chair Smith:

I will close the hearing on A.C.R. 6 and invite Chairwoman Parnell back up to her seat. At this time I would entertain a motion to adopt A.C.R. 6.

ASSEMBLYMAN STEWART MOVED TO ADOPT A.C.R. 6.

ASSEMBLYMAN SEGERBLOM SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chairwoman Parnell:

I would like to open the hearing on Assembly Bill No. 78.

Assembly Bill 78: Requires the State Board of Education to adopt a program of education relating to skin cancer. (BDR 34-967)

Assemblywoman Ellen Koivisto, Assembly District No. 14:

This is a very simple bill that requires the State Board of Education to adopt a program of education relating to skin cancer. The State of Nevada has the highest incidents of skin cancer and I have a number of people who are here to talk to you about the importance of this education.

Assemblyman Hardy:

Does Section 1, subsection 2, mean that every year from kindergarten through 12th grade students have to have skin cancer instruction or is it just one time?

Assemblywoman Koivisto:

Each year they would have some kind of education on this and it would be detailed appropriate for their age.

Jay Adams, M.D., Carson City:

I am a physician in private practice in Carson City and specialize in the treatment of skin cancer. I am board certified in dermatology, pathology, and dermopathology. Skin cancer is a serious problem in the United States and particularly serious in states such as Nevada with high altitudes and a sunny climate. There are over a million new cases of skin cancer each year. The most serious form of skin cancer is malignant melanoma, which claims more than 10,000 lives per year and ranks among the top ten most deadly cancers in the United States. Many of its victims are otherwise active, healthy, contributing members of society. Non-melanoma skin cancer, mainly squamous cell carcinoma, claims another 11,500 victims. Treating skin cancer ranks number five in terms of treatment cost for malignancies or cancer treatments. The highest incidents of skin cancer in the world are in Australia. They do have an extensive program of public education there that includes mandatory education and sun protection for students. This has decreased the incidents and treatment costs there. The link between sun exposure and skin cancer is very clear and not doubted by any members of the medical community. I think that one of the responsibilities of government is to provide fact-based education to promote health and well-being to the citizens of this State. I would urge you to support this legislation.

Valerie Guild, President, Charlie Guild Melanoma Foundation:

I am aware of the fact that our children have absolutely no idea how prevalent or how deadly skin cancer is. My daughter Charlie was a pre-med student at Brown University and not a sun-bather. When she was diagnosed, at the age of 25, with melanoma, she went home, called all of her friends who were as well educated as she was and said, I know it is cancer, but do not be upset because no one dies from skin cancer. Charlie died nine months later. People do die young from this disease. It shocked me to find out that this is the most common cancer for women ages 25 to 29 years old. It is the second most common cancer for women 30 to 34 years old, and the rate of melanoma in Caucasians has tripled in the last 25 years. I think what is particularly shocking is that it only takes two to three sunburns as a child or a teenager to double your rate of melanoma in the future. We have no treatment for this disease. The only two weapons we have are prevention and education as well as early detection. The place to start is with students K-12. There is a program called SunWise offered through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that exists in 14,000 schools throughout the country. It is offered free of charge and meets the federal educational guidelines and is integrated into the school curriculum. This bill, which passed in Arizona two years ago, was implemented with the EPA SunWise program and has had no fiscal impact on the budget there.

Stacey Escalante, Publicist, Orca Communications Unlimited, LLC:

I was a member of the media for 10 years, but resigned a month ago to stay at home with my family. I am a stage three melanoma survivor. I was diagnosed in June 2005. I wrote an article for the Nevada Cancer Institute last spring ([Exhibit C](#)). I also brought a video clip from the news that was aired when I went public with my story ([Exhibit D](#)). I wanted other people to learn from the mistakes that I made [video played].

That was in June of 2005. I had a subsequent surgery which was worse. I had a lymph node dissection where they took 17 lymph nodes out of my groin. I was on my back for nine weeks in Los Angeles. My husband was in Las Vegas taking care of our kids. It was horribly emotional for me. I had a 6 month old baby who did not want to go to me anymore because I could not take care of her. There is a 30 percent chance of this type of cancer coming back. I am 18 months cancer-free, but I get bone, organ, liver, lung, and brain scans every three months and then it will move to every 6 months. I get shots every two weeks to try to boost my immune system in case this comes back. I grew up in Southern California, lived in Las Vegas for ten years, and was always in the sun and in tanning beds. People told me about skin cancer, but I did not know that it was a real cancer and that it can get inside of my system. I consider myself to be a smart woman and I did not know about this. Now my mission is to go

around to the schools in Clark County, on a volunteer basis, with my friend, Michael Brown, who started the Amanda Fay Brown chapter of the Melanoma Education Foundation. It is all free. We go to the schools and play the video that I showed here. Michael's wife passed away from melanoma at the age of 31. We ask the kids how many of them know what melanoma is. It is shocking how many kids do not know what it is. I stress to them that I did not know the realities of this disease and how bad it could be.

Assemblyman Stewart:

Do you have anything about the program in Arizona?

Valerie Guild:

The program that Arizona uses is the EPA's SunWise program and is in 14,000 schools around the country. That is not to say that there are not several other programs out there. Arizona used this program because so many of the schools were already using this program. They built it into the bill. The Arizona bill mandates that the SunWise program be used.

Assemblyman Stewart:

Do you know if it is every year or set years?

Valerie Guild:

It is very well integrated into the curriculum and done every year in Arizona. It could be as simple as a kindergarten class drawing a picture of a sunny day and starting a conversation about the sun. A biology class has used a skin cell as their model as part of the class work.

Greg Ferraro, Private Citizen, Reno, Nevada:

I am in support of A.B. 78. Six years ago I was diagnosed with malignant melanoma. I was one of the lucky ones who sought aggressive treatment. I have since learned a lot about melanoma and have discovered that it can happen to anyone. I would like to urge you to pass this legislation. I do not think it would be difficult to incorporate into the school's curriculum. It is about awareness. This is just another element of learning. I will never forget the first question that was asked of me at the Melanoma Clinic, which was "How many times have you peeled as a result of sun exposure." As a kid in Nevada, I probably peeled every weekend for 40 years. This is a simple solution.

Joyce Haldeman, Representative, Clark County School District:

We are 99 percent supportive of this legislation. We have elements currently in place in our curriculum. The concern that we have is the appropriateness of this kind of discussion in the earlier grades. If there is age appropriate curriculum already available, that would take away our concerns. The other

concern we have is that this curriculum is mandated and that some students who do not take a science class in their 12th grade year will not get the instruction. We want to make sure it is not mandatory that they receive instruction about this even if they are not enrolled in a science class. Other than that, we are fully supportive of this.

Assemblyman Stewart:

How long do you think it would take to implement the Arizona program here in Nevada?

Joyce Haldeman:

We would have to look into it and see how it fits in with our curriculum. We already have a curriculum that is recommended by the EPA and the American Cancer Society that we use in grades 4-8. That curriculum might be great for the earlier years and is something we can look into.

Amna Khawaja, Graduate Student, University of Nevada, Las Vegas:

I am representing the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, (UNLV) School of Public Health. I am here to provide you with additional information on sun safety and skin cancer education ([Exhibit E](#)). Not only does Nevada have one of the highest rates of skin cancer, but also melanoma is the deadliest form of skin cancer and causes 75 percent of all skin cancer deaths. There are more new cases of melanoma than Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) or Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). Children are very susceptible to skin cancer as 80 percent of an individual's lifetime exposure to sun is acquired within the first 18 years of their life. That is why it is important to educate students on this issue. The EPA's SunWise program is free, which is one of the benefits. Other benefits are that the program has been shown to improve knowledge and attitudes about tanning. We see fewer sunburns and stronger intentions to avoid adverse sun exposure. The Center for Disease Control's guidelines shows what to do for sun safety, which includes avoiding outdoor activities between the hours of 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and covering up, as well as using a lot of sunscreen. I am in support of the effort of educating the students about sun safety and skin cancer.

Chair Parnell:

You said that cases of melanoma are growing at a rate higher than HIV and AIDS. Is that correct?

Amna Khawaja:

That is correct and that has been presented by the American Academy of Dermatology.

Chair Parnell:

I do not think I will take a motion at this time as I think we need a little clarification on the years that are mentioned in the bill and the courses that it discusses. The issue regarding taking a science class needs to be clarified also. We should be able to discuss this bill at our next work session.

Keith Rheault:

I am opposing the bill, but it is not because I am opposed to providing instruction on skin cancer and melanoma to our students. What I was against was the method to get the curriculum into the school system. Each Legislative Session we hear a number of bills that want specific curriculum in the schools. This curriculum would be assigned to the State Board of Education. There is a separate council in the State—the Council for Academic Standards that has authority for approving standards and one of them is health education standards. The requirements that are asked for in this bill will fit into the Health Education Standards. I can tell you that it is timely that this has come up as we are just forming a review team to revise the Nevada Health Standards. The first meeting of the Standards review team will be in May of this year. I will make sure that the information from this bill is presented to them. The way that the health standards are written, it says that by the end of 3rd grade—by the end of 5th grade—by the end 8th grade—by the end of high school—these are the health education standards that must be taught at school. It is not every grade, so that may be different than this bill asks for. My opposition of this bill was just finding a better means to get it into the system. This type of instruction has to be in the required standards that must be taught as part of the health education requirements.

Assemblyman Stewart:

Is it possible to have this implemented by July 1, 2007, as the bill says?

Keith Rheault:

Probably not, since the Standards Review Team is not meeting until May of 2007. Our plan is to have them revise this into the Academics Standards Council by December of 2007. When the standards are adopted the school districts get a year to go back to integrate the standards into their curriculum.

Chair Parnell:

I will close the hearing on A.B. 78 and open the hearing on A.B. 267. At this time Assemblyman Segerblom will come to the table and present his legislation.

Assembly Bill 267: Requires the board of trustees of a school district in certain counties to cause each meeting of the board to be televised. (BDR 34-1164)

Assemblyman Segerblom:

[Read from prepared testimony ([Exhibit F](#)).]

Bob Crowell, Trustee, Carson City School Board:

I would like to explain what we do in Carson City with cable television, how it is funded, and how it works. In Carson City we have 2 access cable channels—Channel 10 and Channel 26. Channel 26 is our government access channel. All of the city government meetings are televised on this channel. The Carson City School Board has access to that channel. The Carson City School Board meets twice a month and each month we televise the meeting live on Channel 26. The live meeting is replayed in recorded form twice over the next week. The cost to Carson City is almost nothing. We do not pay for that, but that does not make it entirely free. Any expenses are paid through the franchise fee for Channel 10 and Channel 26. The Carson City municipalities receive franchise fees from Charter Cable. The amount of that franchise fee is based on the number of subscribers in the Carson City area. Carson City then transmits that money to a 501(c)(3) organization. That 501(c)(3) organization in Carson City is the Brewery Arts Center (BAC) which operates the Access Carson Television. That current contract between Carson City and the BAC is \$110,000 a year. That is what it costs to run both channels for Carson Access Television. I think it is a huge benefit to our residents to be able to view these meetings on their television.

Assemblyman Denis:

Are all of the meetings in Carson City taped out of the same room?

Bob Crowell:

They are out of the same room at the Community Center.

Assemblyman Denis:

Are meetings for different boards done out of that same room?

Bob Crowell:

They are and we are trying to get remote capability so we can tape out of other locations. Right now, in order to get live television, you have to be in that room.

Assemblyman Denis:

Are these taped or are they live?

Bob Crowell:

They are live and then we play taped recordings later.

Assemblyman Denis:

So they have a connection to the Legislative Building?

Bob Crowell:

Carson City Access Television has an agreement with the Legislature to run a number of different meetings. It can be live ones or taped meetings.

Anne Loring, Representative, Washoe County School District:

We are not taking a position on this bill, but are here to share what we are doing in Washoe County. The Washoe County School Board began televising its school board meetings about seven years ago. Originally they were taped and played on a delayed basis on Sierra Nevada Community Access Television (SNCAT). The reason it started that way is because one of the city governments had already arranged to have its meetings broadcast live and they met at the same time as the school board so we could not get live feed. Currently, the district's board meetings are shown live on Charter Cable channel 200. They are shown tape-delayed and three times a week on Charter channel 17. Our trustees meet essentially every week. I will pause to show a brief video. [Video shown.] I was on the Board of Trustees at the time that we started televising our meetings and there was some question as to whether anyone was actually watching them. I found that they were watching.

Our technician is taping the meetings from a separate building of the Administrative Complex. Internet and PowerPoint are linked into that control room so people who are watching can look at the same thing that the people in the meeting room are. Neither of the channels charge the school district for use of the broadcast mechanism, but there is a charge due to staff persons doing the set-up, recording, broadcasting, duplicating, and maintaining the equipment. We asked about the cost of the equipment. We purchased it about seven years ago, so the best estimate I can get is the insurance replacement value. All of the cameras, recording equipment and anything else that is in the control room are insured for \$750,000. The room that we use in Washoe County is very small and when there is a hot issue, we have to move to another location. When the meeting is moved to a larger room, the technician has to record it and it has to be shown as tape-delayed and can not be broadcast live.

Sam King, Representative, Nevada League of Women Voters:

[Read from prepared testimony ([Exhibit G](#)).]

Sabra Smith-Newby, Director, Clark County:

We at Clark County provide live unedited gavel to gavel coverage of our County Commission meetings and understand the value of making citizens aware of what we do and the decisions that our elected officials make. I have distributed

a handout for your review that describes our channel and its programming ([Exhibit H](#)). While Clark County supports open inclusive government, we do not support the requirement that the Clark County meetings be carried on our channel. There are several reasons for our opposition. First, Clark County School District (CCSD) has several channels of its own available for airing the meetings. To require that Clark County eliminate a portion of our programming to make room for CCSD programming when CCSD has not only one, but several channels seems misguided. Second, we believe that including CCSD meetings on the Clark County channel will cause more, not less, confusion. It is difficult to explain the differences between various jurisdictions to citizens in southern Nevada. We often get calls regarding issues that are located within Las Vegas, Henderson, or North Las Vegas. It is difficult to explain to those citizens that the right government is someplace else and to give them the phone number to call. We believe that carrying CCSD programming on the Clark County channel will suggest that the CCSD is part of the Clark County government when in fact it is a separate entity.

Third, Clark County has a series of production requirements for each of the programs on CCTV4. The current product produced by CCSD does not meet these requirements. A list of those production standards are on page 2 of my handout ([Exhibit H](#)). We believe that simply purchasing the cameras for the taping of the shows will cost the school district between \$150,000 and \$200,000. I believe that the school district has somebody working on getting a full estimate of what taping those shows would cost. Fourth, CCSD has a minimum of two meetings per month that last about five hours each. Each month, there is average of three additional subcommittee meetings that can last up to three hours. Carrying these meetings on our channel represents a significant time block that will crowd-out a large portion of our programming. In addition, the subcommittee schedules are so unpredictable in their scheduling and frequency, that it could cause some instability in our programming schedule. Fifth, local governments and community access channels provided through the franchise agreement process have come under attack by the cable industry. There are no fewer than four bills concerning the same franchise agreements that allow us to have these channels and provide access to public hearings for our citizens. We believe that the consolidation of governments into the same channel will be cause for further attacks on these channels and ultimately could lead to a reduction to access that citizens have to their government. Sixth, CCTV4 has a small staff that is already stretched in order to produce the programming and education materials for Clark County. Adding an additional responsibility for another entity would further overburden an already overburdened function. In summary, Clark County remains generally supportive of public access, but opposed to the mandate that a government entity has to take on the task of programming for another entity.

Liane Lee, Legislative Officer, Government and Community Affairs, Las Vegas:

We would like to voice our opposition to A.B. 267 for a number of reasons. First, the City of Las Vegas is concerned about the fiscal impact of using our facilities as stated in this bill. Subsection 5 says that, "the board of trustees shall cause each meeting of the board to be broadcast on a television station created to provide community access to cable television by using the facilities of the county or any city located in the county." The conservative cost estimate of this would be \$165,000. This cost would include support from other departments, full time video staff to cover the added meetings, security guards as well as other costs. This amount would be in addition to the \$150,000 the city already provides annually towards educational television, which is a partnership between CCSN and UNLV. Our second concern is that the CCSD currently has access to 3 existing channels. For example, tonight Channel 10 will feature a live television show for members to call in and talk to school board trustees. Finally, our planning commission meets on the same night as the school board. We are concerned that if the school board members were to use our facilities, our planning commission would have nowhere to meet.

Assemblyman Denis:

How do the community access channels work? Is there one for the city and one for the county? How did we come to the system that we have now?

Sabra Smith-Newby:

We get our community access channels through the franchise agreement that we negotiate with franchisees. We do not have a community access channel the way that it has been discussed. The channels that we do have were specifically negotiated among the government entities when those franchise agreements were done.

Assemblyman Denis:

Are the agreements between the county and Cox Communications and between Cox Communications and the city?

Misty Grimmer, Representative, Cox Communications:

Each local government has their own channel and those are defined as community access channels. The difference between community access and public access are the types of channels and what can be aired on those channels. Public access allows anyone that purchases air time to use that air time without any decency standards. That is why we have community access as opposes to public access.

Assemblyman Hardy:

If there is an emergency and no television is available, will there be Internet access to meetings? Can you view these meetings online as well as on television? How does this affect Boulder City and Mesquite public access? I look at the word "any" on line 24, subsection 5; there are some issues.

Assemblyman Segerblom:

Boulder City and Mesquite are in Clark County so the subsection applies to those cities also.

Tom Axtell, General Manager, Vegas Public Broadcasting System:

We operate Channel 10, two educational cable channels, and a few other channels on the Cox system. The federal government has identified a licensing scheme whereby municipal and county governments may sign franchise agreements with cable companies to give them exclusive monopolistic access to cable services in that municipality. As a condition of receiving that grant of service from the government, the federal government allows a government to access a 5 percent franchise tax on the cable company and it allows up to three different kinds of access channels. One is called a public access channel, another one is an educational access channel, and the third is a government access channel. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) says that the requirement to have these channels changes based on the capacity of the system.

In urban Clark County, all of the franchise agreements call for the county channel to be carried on every municipality. That is Channel 4. They require that each city will have the opportunity to carry its city channel or to carry Channel 2. Two educational access channels will be carried. When the City of Las Vegas negotiated its cable franchise agreement, the CCSD asked for three educational access channels for itself and proposed one channel for the university and one for the community college. The final agreement provides two channels which must be shared with those three educational entities. Out of their franchise fees, the City of Las Vegas provides \$250,000 a year to The Consortium to operate those channels.

Assemblyman Denis:

Are the educational channels able to broadcast school board meetings?

Tom Axtell:

They could. The federal scheme is that the government meetings would be on the government channels and educational activities would occur on the educational channels. It is not a rigid requirement and is up to the local municipalities to work out the arrangement that makes the most sense.

Chair Parnell:

This is an extremely important issue and I do not know if the school district should take responsibility to make sure that the board meetings are televised or someone else. I think that there is a great deal of interest and that this should be put into a working group that consists of Assemblyman Segerblom, Assemblyman Denis and Assemblyman Hardy. The details can be worked out there. If any member would like to be a part of that discussion, they are not excluded from this working group. I will close the hearing on A.B. 267. I will open the hearing on A.B. 389 and ask Assemblyman Munford to come to the table.

Assembly Bill 389: Revises provisions governing the policies of school districts relating to criminal gang activity. (BDR 34-192)

Assemblyman Munford, Assembly District No. 6:

[Read from prepared testimony ([Exhibit I](#)).]

Craig Kadlub, Director of Government Affairs, Clark County School District:

There is no question that gangs present significant problems in our communities and schools. They are responsible for infractions that rank from assault to graffiti and impose costs on all of us. Under our existing regulations we prohibit activities of criminal gangs on school property, so my comments on the bill relate more to line 1 and 2 on page 2, which state that, "the provision of training for the prevention of the activities of criminal gangs on school property." The only resources to us are a small grant from Safe and Drug Free Schools and one school police officer. We are under-equipped to take on the district-wide training of staff and students. We do bring in the gang units from local law enforcement agencies and experts from the Southern Nevada Gang Task Force, but they are not always available according to our needs. They are also faced with limited staffing. These restrictions suggest that if we were to have mandated training, we would need money for trainers and for materials. Time is also a concern, particularly for students. There are many good ideas that could be added to the curriculum, but what is not added to a student teacher's day is time. It might be more practical to imbed gang prevention education into some existing curricular area such as health, physical education (P.E.), or social studies. Experts say that a school-wide approach is the best way to get at violence — violence prevention. If resources were available, we would want all students and staff to benefit from the information. We have 1st and 2nd grade gang members who were born into gangs. Intervention is just as important to elementary and middle-school students. Gangs come into our schools because they exist in our communities. Law enforcement agencies and gang task forces repeatedly emphasize that parent awareness is a critical piece in order for prevention to succeed in our schools. We appreciate the

intent, but without any funding, we can not support a bill that imposes costs on the district.

Chair Parnell:

Knowing that all teachers now have professional development, no matter what school district they are in, is there some way for each school district to weave the issue of gang prevention/identification training into their curriculum so we do not have to create a whole new program? We need to be creative and look at a way to tackle this. I do not think we have to pass a law to get school districts to realize that gang activity is important.

Assemblyman Munford:

During my experience as a teacher, I saw that some of the gang experts and school police and Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD) would come and give us a one-shot deal. It usually took place at the end of the year. I feel that it could be included on the curriculum in some way. My district has a deep concern for this issue. Something has to be done to tackle this problem. Gang activity and drive-by shootings can happen at any time. It is something that is very troubling and this is why I brought this bill forward. We have met with LVMPD several times to try to figure out how to deal with this problem. Every child attends school at some point and I think that if we can catch them early, we have a way to try to prevent gang involvement.

Chair Parnell:

We would need either a fiscal note on this or at certain schools where gang activity has disrupted the learning it would become part of the school improvement plan. S.B. No. 404 of the 73rd Session allows for application for such a program and may be something that we should keep in mind.

Assemblyman Stewart:

I think the idea of in-service or personal development would be effective without being expensive. Maybe you could require an hour or an hour and a half at one of the in-services and ask each school to develop their own program. I think that would be a minimal expense and would be effective.

Assemblyman Beers:

One of the things that bothers me is when there is an obvious need and the first thing that comes up is that there is not enough money and we can not afford to do it. If a solution is found, it will save money in the long run. We need to find a way to implement this. I like the idea of starting early and embedding in the children that this is not something they want to be involved in.

Assemblyman Kihuen:

Having gone to one of the high schools with one of the highest crime rates, I know that it was a problem and is still a problem. Something needs to be done. Gang activity is in all of the schools and needs to be addressed.

Assemblyman Segerblom:

Is there a program that has been implemented in other cities that we could model after? I support what you are trying to do.

Assemblyman Munford:

We have tried to meet with LVMPD and local law enforcement and some things have been done. Chicago has a program called Take Back the Community. We are trying to see how their program would work for us in Nevada. It is a school and a community program.

Assemblyman Hardy:

Have the school police been involved in this type of discussion? CCSD has a bully-free curriculum that could dove-tail with this issue. Is there any reason that we could not utilize the school police with something like this and not just as a visible presence?

Assemblyman Denis:

Have we had any successful programs that have helped reduce gang activity in the schools?

Craig Kadlub:

I would have to ask the person responsible for that part of the staff development. We have one person and one dedicated school police officer for gang intervention. They are primarily working with school staff and not with the students.

Assemblyman Denis:

Do they track gang violence in the schools?

Craig Kadlub:

I should be able to get that information for you.

Assemblyman Munford:

We talked about career and technical education (CTE). Gangs are attractive to kids as they have nothing else to gain their attention. CTE could help with gang activity to a degree.

Craig Kadlub:

I appreciate the creative ideas and comments and realize that this is a serious problem.

Chair Parnell:

I think that a group wants to get together and work on this bill as it is a critical issue.

Dotty Merrill, Executive Director, Nevada Association of School Boards:

On behalf of the Nevada Association of School Boards, we have not taken a position on this bill and I am here in a neutral capacity with a suggestion for the committee's consideration. There was a comment regarding professional development. Perhaps this could be implemented as a topic that would require a statutory change in *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) Chapter 391 because the existing professional development programs are fairly restrictive.

Chair Parnell:

What if it was on an Institute Day?

Dotty Merrill:

I am referring to where the money comes from and not how it is done. The money comes from the Regional Professional Development Programs which would require the change in the statute.

Ramont Williams, Gang Specialist, H2K Youth Mentoring Program:

I am a former gang leader and now a business owner in Las Vegas. I have a specialized program that I have been working on with Assemblyman Munford, the City of Las Vegas, CCSD, and law enforcement.

A couple of decades ago, a couple of friends and I plagued the city with gangs. I took an oath along with other people who participated in this gang to combat this problem. We have joined forces with law enforcement to try to eradicate this problem in our schools.

Anthony Gallion, President, Target Program:

Along with Ramont Williams, we created a program called Target—Teens At-Risk Get Educated Today. We go to schools and other agencies throughout the district and discuss teen violence, gang violence, and bullying. At 16 years old, I was charged with 17 felonies and was facing life in prison because of my gang association and poor choices. Now I go into the schools and tell the students how their choices have consequences, good or bad. We just want to say that there is a program out there. Our phone number is (702) 451-8336.

Assemblyman Munford:

These programs are very effective and I hope that we can implement the Target Program in the schools.

Chair Parnell:

I will close the hearing on A.B. 389. The meeting is adjourned [at 6:06 p.m.].

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Denise Dunning
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Assemblywoman Bonnie Parnell, Chair

DATE: _____

EXHIBITS

Committee Name: Committee on Education

Date: March 21, 2007

Time of Meeting: 3:45 p.m.

Bill	Exhibit	Witness / Agency	Description
	A	Committee on Education	Assembly Agenda
	B	Committee on Education	Sign in Sheets
AB 78	C	Stacey Escalante, Publicist, Orca Communications Unlimited, LLC	NVCI Breakthrough
AB 78	D	Stacey Escalante, Publicist, Orca Communications Unlimited, LLC	Video Clip/CD
AB 78	E	Amna Khawaja, Graduate Student, University of Nevada, Las Vegas	UNLV Policy Brief
AB 267	F	Assemblyman Tick Segerblom	Written Testimony
AB 267	G	Sam King, Representative, Nevada League of Women Voters	Written Testimony
AB 267	H	Sabra Smith-Newby, Intergovernmental Relations, Director, Clark County	Clark County Nevada- CCTV4
AB 389	I	Assemblyman Harvey Munford	Written Testimony