**Virtual Education Advisory Committee (VEAC) Meeting**

**Date**: January 10, 2018

**Location**: Online Video Conference

**Time**: 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

**Committee Members**: **Angelique Littlejohn**, Jamie Christensen, **Jeff Verosky**, Katie Swistowicz, Laurie Davis, **Nancy Johnson**, **Nish Goicolea**, **Representative Freeman**, **Richard Parker**, **R.J. Kost**, Senator Ellis, **Shannon Siebert**, Steve Hopkins, **Summer**

**Stephens**, **Tanya Sisneros**, **Zeta Anderson**

**WDE and FLP Advisors:** Brent Bacon, Shelley Hamel, Jed Cicarelli, **Kim Morrow**, **Laurel Ballard**, **Robin Grandpre**, **Lori Thilmany**, **Amy Starzynski**, and **Andrea Johnson**

**Guests:** **Bob Jensen**

**Agenda**

1. Welcome and Overview
2. Chapter 41 Virtual Education Proposed Rules Comments

* Memo 2018-001: [Proposed Virtual Education Rules Input](http://links.govdelivery.com/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTgwMTAyLjgzMDkyNDgxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE4MDEwMi44MzA5MjQ4MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE3OTIyMjQxJmVtYWlsaWQ9d2RlLWV2ZXJ5b25lQHd5by5nb3YmdXNlcmlkPXdkZS1ldmVyeW9uZUB3eW8uZ292JmZsPSZleHRyYT1NdWx0aXZhcmlhdGVJZD0mJiY=&&&100&&&http://edu.wyoming.gov/downloads/communications/memos/2018/2018-001.pdf)
* Review of Comments Received

3. Process for VEAC to serve in an advisory capacity per W.S. 21-2-202(a)(xxxi)(F)

**Notes**

**Chapter 41 Open Comment Period**

* A memo has been sent to districts announcing the opening of the open comment period for the proposed virtual education rules.
* After the comment period closes, if there aren’t major revisions or objections, the next step will be to send the rules forward for the Governor to sign.
* Five sets of comments have been received thus far for the VEAC to review and discuss.

**Review Comments Received**

* Comment and concerns regarding the enrollment requirements in Section 3(g)(ii) since the programs are publicly funded.
  + Virtual education enrollment decisions are up to district discretion because they are programs within school districts. Programs are not the same as public schools and may have an application process to assess whether a student meets program eligibility requirements.
  + Also, the VEAC members discussed that even in the brick and mortar setting, schools evaluate enrollment requests of students who live outside the district. They look at students’ academic, athletic, and disciplinary history and do not always allow students to enroll as they are only required to enroll students who live within the school district boundaries.
* Comment regarding the level of education of faculty teaching dual and concurrent enrollment courses but no request or suggestion for revisions.
  + The comments don’t apply to the Chapter 41 Rules:
    - Dual enrollment courses (college courses taught by college faculty for college and high school credit) are not part of the K-12 virtual education program.
    - Community colleges oversee the concurrent enrollment course requirements.
* Comments regarding wording and location of assessment subgroup reporting information.
  + Three of the questions or comments are addressed by the rules and the VEAC saw no reason for any changes.
  + The VEAC decided to remove the terminology “just-in-time” from the Section 3(g)(iii)(A)(II) due to the lack of familiarity with that expression to describe training/professional development.
  + The VEAC also decided it did make more sense per the individual’s suggestion to move assessment subgroup reporting information to the end of Section 13.
* Comments suggesting a common learning management system (LMS) be available, questioning if three business days in Section 5(b) was enough time, and suggesting programs should be asynchronous and synchronous.
  + A statewide LMS is available but it is up to districts whether or not to access or utilize it so the VEAC so no call for any changes.
  + The VEAC did discuss the three business days turnaround time in Section 5(b) and agreed to change that to five business days.
  + It is up to districts to determine if they want asynchronous/synchronous programs. There is nothing in Chapter 41 Rules that precludes districts from doing all of one or the other or a combination of both.
* Comments suggesting work schedule/hours and pay of virtual education teachers be determined for consistency around the state.
  + The VEAC agreed that the statutes and rules don’t provide for any authority over those determinations and that it is up to individual school districts and boards to make those determinations.

**Action Items**

* Work on the process for the VEAC to serve districts in an advisory capacity at the next meeting as there was not enough time to discuss this at today’s meeting.