

NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DIVISION OF PROGRAM SUPPORT
101 Pleasant Street, Concord, NH 03301

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BOARD
April 5, 2017
Room 15
12pm to 3pm
Meeting Minutes

Regular Meeting:

Present: Dennis Perreault, Page Tompkins, Lisa Witte, Dianna Terrell, Cynthia Lucero, Joanne Misra, Anne Wallace, Nancy Morse, Kirk Beitler, David Webster, Michele Mitnitsky, Gerard Buteau, Irv Richardson, Joanne Goelzer

Absent: Kim Yarlott, Katrina Hall, Christine Boston, Ray McNulty, Erin Grogan

Department Staff: William Ross, David Benedetto, Mary Lane, Barbara Hopkins, Ginny Clifford, Amanda Phelps, Frank Edelblut, Nicole Heimark

Meeting called to order at 12:30 p.m.

Irv Richardson spoke in remembrance of Scott McGilvray, former PSB member who passed away recently.

I. Approval of Minutes

- a. Chair Dianna Terrell asked for the committee to read the minutes and called for a motion
- b. Anne Wallace moved to approve the minutes. Cynthia Lucero seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous with Dennis Perreault and Page Tompkins abstaining from the vote.

II. Welcome and Remarks – Commissioner Frank Edelblut

- a. Commissioner Frank Edelblut introduced himself to the members of the PSB and spoke about his visits to schools throughout NH. He stated that in general he is seeing a lot of great, positive developments happening in the schools. He added that if a school would like for him to visit they can just call the office and be added to the list.
- b. Commissioner Edelblut stated that one of his themes when talking to schools is parent engagement. He asks every school he visits what they are doing to engage parents. He added that the more engaged the parents are, the more invested the students become. Commissioner Edelblut said that parent engagement is a lumpy process, meaning that some districts have 100% parent engagement while others struggle to get parents involved.
- c. A second theme in the Commissioner's school visits is personalization. Commissioner Edelblut explained that every student learns in a different way and at a different pace and that it is his goal to ensure that every student gets an education that is personalized to their needs. He cited examples of students he has met in his visits who are being limited by the current education system in NH. He stated that he met a 14 year old student who is ready for college, but because of the age requirement he cannot get out of school until he is 16. The Commissioner discussed other situations where students are trapped in generational poverty, stating that they still have an opportunity to get to the top of the game if education is personalized for them. He stated

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that his goal is to personalize education to achieve the best possible outcome for every student. Commissioner Edelblut stated that in one district with 6 elementary schools, parents are allowed to choose which elementary school they want their child to attend. He added that simply giving parents a voice and flexibility can help engage students and parents early on. The Commissioner stated that some school districts are off and running with choice and flexibility while others are more traditional with no options for students who need something different.

- d. Commissioner Edelblut spoke to the PSB about rules. He stated that he intends to be very involved in the rulemaking process. He added that he has spent a lot of time reading the Ed 300 rules regarding minimum standards for public school approval. The Commissioner stated that he read through the computer science proposal and pointed out that because of the bachelor's degree requirement that Bill Gates could not become certified to teach computer science in NH. Commissioner Edelblut stated that he had a 16 year old high school dropout who worked for him who acquired computer certifications through a variety of means. He added that today that man is the CFO of Hewlett Packard, without a bachelor's degree. The Commissioner said that it is possible to have the content knowledge to teach a subject without a degree. Commissioner Edelblut stated that in reading the English Language Arts and the Social Studies proposals he noted some challenges. He questioned why there is a rule for grades 5-12 and grades 5-8 when both the rules are exactly the same with the exception of a typo. Ms. Terrell stated that it is something they are looking into during the revision process. The Commissioner questioned how the competency areas for teachers are assessed citing a paragraph of the rule that states, "Trace how English has changed and developed over time."
- e. Ms. Terrell asked that the meeting attendees introduce themselves to the Commissioner. Discussion continued with the Commissioner asking, when the certifications are separated into different grade groupings, what happens when the grade for a student becomes fuzzy. He explained that in some schools a 5th grader, for example, could be taking 7th grade math. Ms. Terrell answered that the gradations in the rules are something that the current PSB inherited, but the priority is to address that along with competency-based grading. Ms. Terrell asked the PSB if there were any comments or questions for the Commissioner. David Webster asked that the Commissioner consider smaller schools where one science teacher is teaching science to the whole high school. The Commissioner stated that he is sensitive to the issues facing rural schools. Dennis Perreault wished the Commissioner good luck and asked that DOE add a social studies person back to their staff. The Commissioner thanked the PSB for having him at their meeting.

III. Presentation – UNH Educator Preparation Division – P-3 ESOL Certification Program – Aaron Hughes

- a. Aaron Hughes stated that NH is experiencing a growing population of children who are English Language Learners and that 50% of ELLs are in grades 3 or below. He stated that the growth of the ELL student population in NH is most evident in younger students who are dual language learners (DLL). Because of the growing number and statistic the UNH Educator Preparation Division believes the State needs to prepare a teacher workforce that is equipped with the specialized knowledge, skills and competence to work with DLLs and their families. Mr. Hughes stated that the UNH Educator Preparation Division is interested in developing a program to prepare ESOL teachers specialized in supporting DLLS, the P-3 ESOL certification program. He stated that they would like to request that the PSB form a subcommittee to develop certification standards in the specialization. Mr. Hughes added that the program would not replace the NH K-12 ESOL certification program but would allow early childhood educators to focus their ESOL

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knowledge more purposefully on young learners. Mr. Hughes pointed out that there are cognitive advantages of being bilingual and that this subcommittee would bring together policymakers, faculty and experts in both Early Childhood Education and ESOL across the state with a vested interest in the preparation of a teacher workforce serving DLLS to ensure the success of NH's children in schools.

- b.** Ms. Terrell opened the floor for questions and discussion. She stated that she feels like there is a great need for this program and credential adding that the K-12 ESOL teacher is a current critical shortage area. She added that with limiting the grade scope drawing more ESOL teachers to the PK-3 credential, the critical shortage for K-12 would increase. Page Tompkins stated that his concern is to make sure this is not adding to bureaucracy. He asked Mr. Hughes to explain why they need a separate license for this because it seems to restrict who is allowed to teach. Mr. Hughes explained that UNH is willing to invest in piloting this training program. He added that the research justifies the need and for school administrators who are hiring, there would be a training program for new educators. He added that language learning is very different for young learners. The training and credential will distinguish applicants from others and will help transfer students out of ESOL sooner which has the potential of reducing the need for ESOL teachers in the higher grade levels. Mr. Perreault stated that he is not in favor of endorsing UNH to develop this curriculum without the promise of an endorsement to the graduate. He asked if the current ESOL credential could be revised or improved to address this. Nicole Heimark stated that the UNH proposal is a parallel with the ECE credential. She stated that there are other factors driving this proposal, pointing out that UNH is competing for a federal grant. Ginny Clifford explained that exploring the standards and having a committee does not necessarily lead to another credential. Gerry Buteau asked if there would be stakeholders or if Mr. Hughes is asking that the PSB get involved in the process. Mr. Hughes explained that UNH is only looking for a statement of support from the PSB to include in the grant application. Ms. Terrell stated that they should table this item until the next meeting. Mr. Hughes asked again that the PSB give him something that shows support of the proposal. Ms. Clifford asked if the PSB should make a motion.
- c.** Page Tompkins moved to support an exploratory committee for the UNH proposal. Dr. Richardson seconded the motion.

 - i.** Kirk Beitler stated that a new credential would limit a graduate finding a job. He stated that every school north of Concord needs K-12. He added that there were probably 3-5 districts that would need this credential. David Webster stated that he has a big problem giving the PSB endorsement of this proposal just so someone can get a grant, especially if it is not going to help anyone north of Concord. Nancy Morse asked that the board think outside the box, that the early childhood education general education requirements for teacher certification should require that all teachers become more skilled at ESOL. Mr. Hughes stated that adding this certificate does not remove the K-12 endorsement.
 - ii.** Mr. Tompkins amended his motion to state that the PSB formally recognizes the formation of an external exploratory committee to examine the needs for specialized training in ESOL. Michele Mitnitsky seconded that motion.
 - iii.** Mr. Buteau stated that support only to leverage a grant damages the integrity of the board. Ms. Terrell stated that she understands the hesitation. Cynthia Lucero asked, if money was not on the table, would the board explore this and would they say yes? She expressed concern over saying no just because it is attached to money. Lisa Witte stated that the motion isn't about the money, the motion is to support a subcommittee,

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but she stated that she agreed with Mr. Buteau and Mr. Webster. Mr. Tompkins stated that he agrees the grant is affecting the vote, but felt there was a sense of urgency for a motion. He added that if members felt they needed another meeting then they should vote no.

- iv. VOTE – The PSB voted on the amendment to the motion. The amendment failed unanimously.**

VOTE – The PSB voted on the original motion. The motion failed by a 9-5 vote.

IV. Computer Science Proposal – David Benedetto

- a. Ms. Terrell asked Mr. Benedetto to update the PSB on the process and the stakeholder group as well as present his proposal. Mr. Benedetto stated that stakeholder engagement consisted of math, science and tech integrator educators across the state. He added that there were representatives from K-12 as well as higher education. They held four meetings with 8-10 people at each meeting and then the work was communicated to a broader audience. Ms. Terrell stated that the commissioner inferred that the proposal had issues. Mr. Benedetto stated that the commissioner was referring to the requirement of the bachelor's degree which is standard in all of the endorsement rules. Mr. Benedetto explained that not every school will have a need for a certified computer science teacher but in a school that has the capacity, this proposal would be the model. Ms. Mitnitsky pointed out that currently people can graduate with a computer science degree but not have an educator component. Ms. Terrell explained that without the credential there was never a need for a teacher preparation program. Mr. Benedetto stated that with a degree in computer science a candidate would be eligible for an alternative pathway. Kirk Beitler asked if there is a credential in another state that these rules were modeled after. Mr. Benedetto stated that they looked at other states as well as the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE). Mr. Tompkins commended the computer science group for extraordinary work, especially starting from scratch. He expressed concern that there might be someone out in the field teaching courses that they now won't be able to do without this credential. Mr. Benedetto explained that since there are not currently any courses coded as computer science this would not be an issue. Ms. Heimark explained further that if a teacher is assigned courses and more than 50% of them are computer science, that teacher would need the computer science credential.
- b. Ms. Terrell called for a motion. Ms. Wallace moved to accept the proposal. Mr. Buteau seconded the motion. After discussion about educators who currently teach computer science courses as their major assignment, Ms. Wallace amended her motion to say "Accept proposal with an amendment that states, 'Educators who currently teach computer science course would have access to the Alternative 5 pathway without the college credit requirement.'"

VOTE – Unanimous to accept proposal

V. Update on Rules – Ginny Clifford

- a. Ms. Clifford explained briefly that the English Language Arts and Social Studies rules would be presented to the Board of Education on April 6, 2017 as initial proposals without any changes in order to avoid expiration. She added that the proposed changes from the subcommittees could be made in between the initial proposal and final proposal stages of the rulemaking process.

VI. New Business

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- a. **Upcoming Expiring Rules** – Ms. Clifford stated that there were many rules that needed to be reviewed. She stated that Ms. Wallace agreed to chair a subcommittee for the math rules. All the other rules would be brought forward at the May PSB meeting.

VII. Adjournment

- a. Ms. Terrell called for a motion to adjourn and table all other items until the next meeting.
- b. Mr. Perreault made that motion and was seconded by Ms. Lucero. The vote was unanimous.

Tabled Items:

I. Update on Subcommittees

- a. Ed 507.27 and Ed 612.28 Social Studies Teacher for Grades 5-12; 507.271 and Ed 612.29 Social Studies Teacher for Grades 5-8
- b. Ed 507.24 and Ed 612.05 English Language Arts Teacher for Grades 5-12; 507.241 and Ed 612.051 ELA Teacher for Grades 5-8
- c. Ed 507.28 and Ed 612.22 Middle Level Science Teacher for Grades 5 – 8 (expire 10/16/2017)
- d. Ed 507.29 and Ed 612.23 Science Teacher; General Requirements (expire 10/16/2017)
- e. Ed 507.30 and Ed 612.24 Earth space Science Teacher for Grades 7-12 (expire 10/16/2017)
- f. Ed 507.31 and Ed 612.25 Life Sciences Teacher for Grades 7-12 (expire 10/16/2017)
- g. Ed 507.32 and Ed 612.26 Chemistry Teacher for Grades 7-12 (expire 10/16/2017)
- h. Ed 507.33 and Ed 612.27 Physics Teacher for Grades 7-12 (expire 10/16/2017)

II. Initial Proposals – Anticipated for April 6, 2017 SBOE Meeting

- a. Ed 507.52 School Nurse
- b. Ed 507.23 and Ed 614.09 Speech-Language Specialist (Expired)

III. Unfinished Business

- a. Proposed PSB Bylaws

IV. New Business

- a. Upcoming Expiring Rules
 - i. Ed 507.22 Education Technology Integrator; Ed 612.19 Education Technology Integrator Program (**Expire 11/11/18**)
 - ii. Ed 507.39 General Special Education Teacher; Ed 612.07 Special Education Programs (**Expire 9/16/19**)
 - iii. Ed 507.391 Early Childhood Special Education Teacher; Ed 612.071 Early Childhood Special Education Programs (**Expire 9/16/19**)
 - iv. Ed 505.01 through Ed 505.07 regarding Qualifying Methods for Obtaining a Teacher Credential (Alternative 1-5) (**Expire 9/16/19**)