

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

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BOARD

June 7, 2017

Room 15

12pm to 3pm

Meeting Minutes

Regular Meeting:

Present: Dennis Perreault, Page Tompkins, Dianna Terrell, Anne Wallace, Nancy Morse, Kirk Beitler, Katrina Hall, Michele Mitnitsky, Gerard Buteau, Lisa Witte, Irv Richardson, Joanne Goelzer, Kim Yarlott, Christine Boston, Joanne Misra

Absent: Ray McNulty, Cynthia Lucero, David Webster, Erin Grogan

Department Staff: William Ross, David Benedetto, Mary Lane, Ginny Clifford, Amanda Phelps, Nicole Heimarck

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

I. Approval of Minutes

a. Dianna Terrell called for a motion to approve the minutes from May 3, 2017. Kim Yarlott made the motion and was seconded by Dennis Perreault. The motion passed unanimously with a spelling amendment to page 2. Irv Richardson, Katrina Hall and Joanne Misra abstained from the vote.

II. OPEN BOARD DISCUSSION

A. Professional Standards Board Membership Update

1. Dianna Terrell gave an update on the current PSB membership. She stated that Dennis Perreault was ending his two terms at the end of this meeting and thanked him for his contributions. She added that Gerry Buteau, Michelle Mitnitsky and Erin Grogan were all leaving for various personal reasons.
2. Ginny Clifford explained the process of new membership nominations and chair nominations. She added that she would be taking nominations for a chair of the PSB over the summer and the nominations would be announced at the September meeting.
3. Dianna Terrell pointed the PSB members to a handout of potential meeting dates for the 2017/2018 school year. Nancy asked that the PSB vote to not have a January

meeting and Kim Yarlott asked that the September meeting be moved to a week later. The PSB agreed to these changes.

4. **VOTE:** Ms. Hall moved to accept the proposed dates, with amendments. Irv Richardson seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously with Dennis Perreault abstaining from the vote.

B. Update on Subcommittees -

1. Tabled items – Dianna Terrell called for a motion to move the tabled items on the agenda to the regular agenda. Annie Wallace made the motion and was seconded by Kirk Beitler. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Math – Annie Wallace stated that she has formed the math subcommittee and that they were having their first meeting after the PSB meeting. She stated she would have about 20-30 people at the meeting. She stated that she has already identified a first reader and that this meeting was just an introduction to the rule process.

3. ELA – Joanne Misra stated that the ELA subcommittee met in person one time with about 15 people in attendance. From there the subcommittee looked at the rule individually and met via email and google docs. Ms. Misra stated that the subcommittee agreed to add more to the vocabulary section of the rule to make that part richer. She also stated that they went through the rule to make it consistent and changed “students” to “each student” where applicable.

Nancy Morse was the first reader for the rule and she went through the quality criteria.

Dianna Terrell opened the floor for discussion. Page Tompkins recommended that (7)c. be edited to remove 1-5 and just have number six which is all-inclusive. Ms. Misra stated that she was okay with that but to add “gender” to number 6. Dennis Perreault expressed concern that they would be eliminating the canon and that American and British literature are very important.

Mr. Tompkins stated that in his opinion the danger is in including the canon because it mostly denotes white male authors and he is reluctant to say “study what you want as long as it includes white, male authors. Ms. Misra stated that within the standards there is a list of the works that should be taught and that removing the list from the teacher certification rule does not mean they will not teach it.

Mr. Beitler wondered if a candidate gets certified with a major in British literature and gets hired with no exposure to American literature, will they be able to teach it. Mr. Tompkins stated that in the spirit of minimalism the PSB should not create licensure

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rules that create shortages. Mr. Buteau added that teaching literature is a set of skills that can be applied across all genres. The PSB agreed to the amendment to collapse the list into the proposed sentence including “gender”.

Ms. Terrell pointed out that unlike other rules the ELA rule seems to have “knowledge” and “pedagogy” mixed in, instead of separated. The PSB agreed that all the pedagogy should be moved to the end of the rule.

Vote - Mr. Tompkins made a motion to approve the proposal as amended. Nancy Morse seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Middle Level Science – Barbara Hopkins stated that the subcommittee for this rule decided to be less specific and add more content and themes. She stated that mathematics was a big discussion regarding baccalaureate level math with an emphasis on quantification.

Ms. Wallace was the first reader for this rule and went through the quality criteria. She stated that she really appreciated how the rule was condensed and that all specifics were included in big ideas. She proposed to edit (c)(1) to insert “communicate”. The PSB agreed that the rule should be amended to be called “Science Teacher Grades 5-8”.

Vote - Ms. Wallace made a motion to approve the proposal with the above amendments. Ms. Mitnitsky seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

5. Life Science 7-12 – Ms. Hopkins stated that again there was a strong debate around math. She added that she discussed the issue with a UNH professor and that the lack of background in math was a main reason for students dropping out of life science. For that reason the subcommittee decided to place an emphasis on math.

Mr. Buteau asked about a section for lab safety and Ms. Hopkins stated that it is in the Science Teacher; General Requirements rule.

Vote - Ms. Misra made a motion to approve the life science rule as proposed. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wallace. David Benedetto stated that letter (c) looks to limit. Mr. Tompkins offered an amendment to section (c) to read “A candidate for certification as a life sciences teacher for grades 7-12 shall have skills, competencies and knowledge in the following areas.” The motion passed unanimously with the amendment.

Vote - Mr. Tompkins made a motion to amend (c) in the newly approved ELA rule the same way the life science rule was amended. Ms. Wallace seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Earth Space Science - Christine Boston was the first reader. She stated that she was impressed with how well the rule breaks up the themes. She added that the language changes in (1) cleans up the redundancies. Mr. Tompkins asked to edit page 2, (1)c. to read "apply mathematical and statistical models as they relate to earth and space science". Ms. Hopkins stated that she had no issue with that edit. Ms. Terrell stated that this would parallel how it is phrased in the life sciences proposal. Mr. Perreault asked to edit the name of the science to "Earth and Space Science" and the group agreed. The board also agreed to amend (c) to read the same as previous amendments.

Vote - Ms. Mitnitsky made a motion to accept the proposal with the amendments. The motion was seconded by Nancy Morse and passed unanimously.

7. Chemistry, Physics and Physical Science - Ms. Hopkins stated that there was feedback to merge the three sciences at the high school level. She stated that she went through the chemistry and physics proposals and took out anything that was basic physics or chemistry and placed it in the physical science rule.

Ms. Hopkins explained that physical science is now the stepping stone to chemistry or physics. A candidate would need to satisfy the general requirements, physical science and chemistry or physics. Ms. Hopkins asked if chemistry and physics should now be a specialty. Mr. Tompkins was concerned that this would not solve the physics teacher shortage because we were now putting more requirements on them. Ms. Hopkins stated that it was a bigger issue than certification and not something that the PSB could solve at this time.

Ms. Clifford wondered if adding specialist to chemistry and physics would allow districts to offer more money to those teachers. Mr. Beitler stated that it would be a challenge under the collective bargaining agreement.

Mr. Benedetto stated that it seemed that the math requirements in physics were more rigorous than for a math teacher. Ms. Mitnitsky stated that you cannot be a chemistry teacher without high-level math.

Ms. Terrell was the first reader and stated that the three proposals look good but to address (b) and (c) as they did in the previous proposals.

Vote - Mr. Beitler made a motion to approve the proposals as amended. Ms. Morse seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

IV. LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

A. Ethics – Nicole Heimarck

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1. Ms. Heimarck stated that the ethics task force met on May 31 and made the final edits to the initial proposal, which were few in nature, one of which changed the title. She added that their next meeting will be on June 24.

She indicated that a Troy Hutchins, a consultant to the task force, offered feedback that was not expected. She stated the feedback was positive, but caused a moment of pause. The feedback stated that bulleted items were not reflective as aspirational as they could be and that they were too direct. Additionally she offered feedback between the code and the language of the ethics bill stating that the bill language was more “enactment and enforcement” and that she tried to work with the sponsors of the bill to remove the enforcement language. She stated that her attempt was unsuccessful. The task force is now facing the work of transitioning the code of ethics into a code of conduct, but that the board does not have rulemaking authority for a code of conduct. Ms. Heimarck added that the educator misconduct section of the rules could be a good place to insert the enforcement pieces of the document and use the current document as a reference piece.

Mr. Perreault expressed his displeasure with the fact that the ethics are going forward without the support of the PSB and was disappointed that the PSB was not allowed to vote on the document. He explained further that he is deeply disappointed to learn of the new direction of the ethics document at his last meeting after six years of service.

Ms. Terrell suggested that the PSB consider keeping a close eye on the ethics as it moves through the process.

V. ADJOURNMENT

A. Ms. Terrell called for a motion to adjourn.

1. Mr. Perreault made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Beitler and passed unanimously.