

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

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BOARD

September 20, 2017

Room 15

12pm to 3pm

Meeting Minutes

Regular Meeting:

Present: Janine Casavant, Kenneth Gorrell, Jack Grube, Katrina Hall, George Harne, Cynthia Lucero, Joann Misra, Christine Oskar-Poisson, Irv Richardson, Christie Sweeney, Dianna Terrell, Page Tompkins, Anne Wallace, Kimberly Yarlott

Absent: Kirk Beitler, Joanne Goelzer, David Webster, Lisa Witte

Department Staff: William Ross, David Benedetto, Joanne DeBello, Amanda Phelps, Nicole Heimarck

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

II. Approval of Minutes

a. Amanda Phelps called for a motion to approve the minutes. Dianna Terrell made a motion to approve the minutes. Joann Misra asked that the minutes reflect that she was present at the June 7, 2017 meeting. Irv Richardson pointed out an edit on Page 5 and asked to amend Troy Hutchins as an advisor to the Ethics Task force, not a member. Kimberly Yarlott seconded the motion to include amendments. The motion passed unanimously with 6 members abstaining.

III. OPEN BOARD DISCUSSION

A. Professional Standards Board Membership Update

1. Ms. Phelps welcomed the new members and explained to the full membership that she met with new members earlier in the day for an orientation meeting. She added that Commissioner Edelblut stopped by at that meeting to welcome new members and to describe his vision for credentialing rules moving forward in this new school year. Ms. Phelps asked that the board members introduce themselves to the group.

2. Ms. Phelps announced the nominations for chair and vice-chair of the PSB for the 2017-2018 session. Ms. Phelps stated that there was one nomination for Dianna Terrell for chair and one nomination for Anne Wallace for vice-chair. She asked if there were any other nominations to offer. Hearing none, Ms. Phelps called for a vote for the chair nomination of Dianna Terrell. The nomination was approved by a unanimous vote. Ms. Phelps called for a vote for the vice-chair nomination of Anne Wallace. The nomination

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was approved by a unanimous vote. Page Tompkins stated that Ms. Terrell had indicated this was her last year of her second term and asked Ms. Wallace how many years she had left to serve. Ms. Wallace stated that she had just been reappointed for her second term.

3. Ms. Terrell resumed duties as chair. She stated that Ms. Phelps had given an orientation to new members earlier in the day and pointed the full board to the orientation materials for discussion.

a. Ms. Phelps pointed the board to the orientation item “Rulemaking Process” which outlines the amount of time it takes for a rule to go through the Administrative Rulemaking process after the proposed rule leaves the PSB. She stated that it is important to note that a rule could take up to one year from the initial proposal phase at the State Board of Education meeting to final adoption of the rule. Ms. Phelps stated that she points this out because in past years it has been the practice to open rules for revision at the PSB levels with only a year remaining before the rule expires. Ms. Phelps stated that at a JLCAR hearing for School Speech-Language Specialist, the committee was concerned that the rule had been expired. They inquired about issuing certifications while the rule was expired and credentialing had issued 9 certificates under the expired rule. Ms. Phelps explained that JLCAR has expressed their displeasure about this in the past and that at this hearing they advised that we no longer issue any certificates under expired rules and that we reissue those 9 certificates once the Speech-Language Specialist rule was adopted. Ms. Phelps stated that going forward the PSB will see rules come up for subcommittee work that do not expire for two years in order for subcommittees to have time to do quality work and get stakeholder group feedback.

Ms. Phelps added that she would like to change the editing process in order to help the subcommittees with their work. She stated that in the past the subcommittees were asked to annotate the actual rule. She asked that for future subcommittee work that the document remain unedited and that the chair of the subcommittee provide her with a list of content they would like to see in the rule and that the DOE staff would write the rule and submit it back to the subcommittee for review and approval. Ms. Wallace stated that she was currently using this process for her math rules and that it is working out very well.

Ms. Terrell added that the Commissioner has mentioned that some of the proposals that come forward from the PSB are inconsistent or redundant to other rules. She added that adjusting this process the way Amanda suggested

allows our subcommittees to be content experts and avoid the overlaps and redundancies.

b. Ms. Phelps reported that the State Board has asked for more transparency going forward with rules this year. She stated that in the past the Board has heard initial proposals from DOE staff with no representation from the PSB. She added that members of the State Board have requested that the chair of the subcommittee that worked on the rule, or a designee who worked on the rule, be present at all State Board meetings regarding that rule. In addition, the State Board would like an executive summary attached to the initial proposal that gives a brief outline of the changes that were made. Ms. Terrell stated that she would make every effort as chair of the PSB to attend State Board meetings as well.

c. Ms. Phelps discussed Commissioner Edelblut's concern with the Ed 306 rules in relation to the Ed 500 credentialing rules. She stated that the Commissioner would like for subcommittees to review the minimum standards at the same time that the credentialing rule is being reviewed in order to ensure that what we want our students to know is consistent with what we are asking our teachers to know and teach. She added that the Commissioner is not asking that we revise that rule, but that the subcommittee should make recommendations for additions or alignment as they work on their credentialing rules. Bill Ross added that the 306 rules will probably never truly mesh with the credentialing rules, but that it is a good practice going forward to ensure that the information in the 306 rule is not outdated. Ms. Terrell added that she was happy to hear over the summer that the Commissioner was truly behind the work of the PSB and that he appreciates the content expertise of the subcommittees that would steer the minimum standard rules instead of the other way around.

4. Orientation materials were reviewed by Ms. Terrell who pointed out the glossary of acronyms and other frequently used terms. She stated that we would continue to add to this document. Ms. Terrell also pointed out the Subcommittee process paperwork and the quality criteria.

B. 2017 PSB Report and 2018 PSB Charge

1. Ms. Terrell pointed the Board to the 2017 PSB Report which she stated was heard by the Board of Education at their August meeting. She stated that she was reminded by Amanda that this report was due and that the PSB is required to submit two reports every year. She added that she had been under the impression that the initial proposals counted as reports, but that she thought a high-level executive summary was definitely

worth taking the time to complete. She went through the report and highlighted some of the sections of importance. She added that it would be a great orientation document for new members to get a glimpse of all the work that was completed by the PSB last year.

2. Ms. Terrell directed the PSB to the charge letter given by the State Board chair, Drew Cline. She pointed to the glossary and stated that based on this letter she would suggest adding some other terms to the glossary. Ms. Terrell stated that she had asked the Board for feedback regarding the quality criteria and that several State Board members had stated that they thought it was a good guiding document. Ms. Terrell highlighted the charge letter, specifically aligning the 306 rules with the credentialing rules as well as a revision of the alternative pathway rules.

C. Update on Subcommittees

1. Ed 507.25 and Ed 612.27 Educator in Mathematics for Grades 5-8; Ed 507.26 and Ed 612.18 Educator in Secondary Mathematics for Grades 7-12 (Expire 5/14/18) – Chair, Annie Wallace

Ms. Wallace stated that she has been working with Bill Ross and Amanda Phelps at the DOE along with a subcommittee that she formed over the summer. She stated that the group met once in August. She stated that a big part of the discussion was whether or not to have the 5-8 certification be a prerequisite for the 7-12 certification in order to reduce the redundancy of both sets of standards. She added that the subcommittee has been reviewing the Ed 306 math rule at the same time and found that in the Ed 306 rule, math history is required in middle school and high school. Ms. Wallace stated that the subcommittee would meet after the PSB meeting as well as again in October. She stated that she anticipates a proposal to be ready for the November PSB meeting.

2. Ed 507.35 Educational Interpreter/Transliterater for Children and Youth Ages 3-21 – Joanne DeBello

Ms. DeBello updated the PSB on the progress of this subcommittee. She stated that the work is on hold in anticipation of recruiting a credential holder to participate in the revision work. Mr. Ross pointed out that the rule was not opened for revision in the traditional way, coming through the PSB, but that it was requested by a legislator directly to the staff of the Special Education Department. He added that there would be substantive changes coming forward and that this credential has its own certification type. This certification does not follow the traditional pathway of beginning educator and experienced educator, but has its own EITC certificate. The group may end up recommending that it get moved into all the other credentials by adding the requirement of a bachelor's degree.

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3. Ed 507.05 – Comprehensive Technology Education Teacher (Expires 8/12/19)

Ms. Terrell gave the floor to Ms. Phelps who stated that she believed that at a meeting during last year, David Benedetto had volunteered to chair the committee, but that we needed someone from the PSB to act as chair and work with Mr. Benedetto as the DOE liaison. Ms. Terrell asked the current membership if anyone would be willing to chair that subcommittee. Jack Grube stated that he would be happy to participate on the committee but hesitates to chair as a new member of PSB. Ms. Yarlott stated that Mr. Benedetto had been circulating sign-up for work on this subcommittee. Ms. Terrell stated that she would be in touch with Mr. Benedetto about the formation of his subcommittee. Mr. Ross pointed out that this credential is one of those career and technical education credentials that are often prevalent in public schools as well.

4. Ed 507.22 and Ed 612.19 – Education Technology Integrator (Expire (11/11/18)

Ms. Terrell asked if there were any PSB members who would be willing to chair this subcommittee. Ms. Yarlott volunteered to chair. Mr. Ross added that Ed Tech Integrator evolved out of a previous credential which was Computer Education. When Ed Tech Integrator was finalized, it ended up replacing the Computer Education credential and because of that there is no true Computer Teacher endorsement. Mr. Ross added that there is a need for the Computer Teacher endorsement so that we can correctly endorse individuals who want to teach computer applications in school.

5. Ed 507.39 and Ed 612.07 – General Special Education Teacher (Expire 9/16/19)

6. Ed 507.391 and Ed 612.071 – Early Childhood Special Education Programs (Expire 9/16/19)

Ms. Phelps explained that because of rulemaking timelines it is important to open these rules now, but that she understands that the Bureau of Special Education is working with CEEDAR and waiting for a recommendation. She cautioned that the PSB should not hold off on revising these rules but should be working on them at the same time as CEEDAR is finishing up their work, otherwise there is a risk of not being able to issue these credentials.

Ms. Terrell asked if Joanne DeBello would like to discuss CEEDAR and give her task force update which was scheduled later in the meeting. Ms. DeBello stated that the draft report from CEEDAR has been completed and will be under review by Santina Thibedeau. Ms. DeBello could not give a specific date or timeline for when the final report would be ready. Mr. Ross was given the floor by Ms. Terrell. Nicole Heimarck asked if CEEDAR would be bringing their proposal forward to the group that is meeting later this month. Ms. DeBello stated that she did not know, and Ms. Heimarck added

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that she would follow up on that. Mr. Tompkins asked that if the CEEDAR working group has PSB members on it, could we use that as our subcommittee for the rule revision. Members agreed that that would be a good idea. Ms. Terrell asked by show of hands who was working with CEEDAR. Cynthia Lucero, Joann Misra and Anne Wallace all raised their hands. Ms. Lucero and Ms. Misra will co-chair the subcommittee working with CEEDAR.

7. Ed 505.01 through Ed 505.07 regarding Qualifying Methods for Obtaining a Teacher Credential (Alternative 1-5) (Expire 9/16/19)
8. Ed 505.07 and Ed 610.02 Professional Education Standards

Ms. Heimarck discussed the review and revision of these rules in conjunction with her Council for Teacher Education and NTEP report. Ms. Heimarck explained that she has been working with the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) to examine and revise educator preparation in the state of NH, both traditional and non-traditional pathways.

Ms. Heimarck stated that the NTEP leadership team has been tackling issues as they surface, one of which being the awkwardness over elementary educator certification. She explained that NH currently has two certifications, a K-6 and a K-8. She stated that the K-8 certification requires an area of concentration during preparation, but once certified that concentration area is moot. She stated that CTE would be sending a proposal regarding this issue to the PSB. Ms. Terrell asked if that meant that CTE would be requesting the PSB to open a subcommittee to review and revise the rules. Ms. Heimarck stated that, yes, the CTE would ask that of the PSB. Ms. Terrell explained, for the benefit of new members as well as returning members, that it is not typical for an outside body to request that rules be opened, but that it is usually the case that the PSB reviews rules as they come up for expiration.

Ms. Heimarck continued by discussing the heart of the work for NTEP as looking at all the rules that sit in the Ed 600 through Ed 609. She explained that these rules govern how educator preparation programs are formed, approved and maintained, in addition to the standards that they have to meet for each endorsement area. She explained that NTEP has revised all of these rules, filling in gaps and defining areas that were previously undefined. Ms. Heimarck stated that the group discovered the Ed 600 through Ed 609 rules truly only govern beginning educator credentials and do not transfer to the specialty areas of certification. NTEP decided to run an audit on the Ed 612 and Ed 614 rules for initial licenses and advanced licenses.

Ms. Heimarck stated that CTE has had some concern of an over reliance on the 610 rules to capture pedagogy experience. She stated that there have been rules, World Language, for example, that have come through PSB with little or no pedagogy in them.

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Mr. Tompkins stated that he was under the impression that the PSB quality criteria asked that content specific pedagogy remain in the Ed 500 rule but that general teacher pedagogy be removed. He stated that he is unclear what the charge is when he reads the State Board Chair's letter which says "remove all pedagogy from the 500s".

Ms. Phelps explained that in discussions with the Commissioner there was an idea to have the content rules be strictly content and the Ed 600 rules contain the pedagogy standards. Mr. Page stated that he did not have a problem with that, but that the true alternative routes to certification do not have pedagogy in their rules and he would be afraid that it would not be required. Mr. Ross stated that, to address Mr. Page's concern, a better idea would be to put it in the 500 rule and have the 600 rule point to it. Ms. Terrell explained, for new members, that this is a discussion that comes up every year and would probably continue for the rest of the year regarding pedagogy and content and where to put them.

Barbara Hopkins explained that for the science rules, during revision, the subcommittee members removed general science content and general science pedagogy and put them all in one rule. Mr. Tompkins stated that he real concern is that the pedagogy would sit in a separate section of the rules from the content rule and that subcommittees would have to revise both every time.

Ms. Heimarck stated that the PSB can push back and explain to the State Board the disadvantages of this idea.

Ms. Terrell, after some discussion, stated that she believes the PSB needs a clarification from the chair regarding the pedagogy piece in the charge letter. She stated that she would seek clarification from the Chair.

Ms. Heimarck continued her update stating that NTEP and CTE have also been looking into the Alt 3B route to certification. Also known as, ABCTE, which is taking a test in order to be certified. Ms. Heimarck stated that this is a concern and is being looked at by CTE who will be bringing a proposal forward.

Ms. Terrell stated that she believed it was premature to open up the Ed 505.07 and Ed 610.02, but asked if there was a PSB member who would like to chair a subcommittee for revision of the Alt Pathway rules. Page Tompkins volunteered to Chair, along with Mr. Grube, Dr. Richardson and Ms. Wallace.

IV. LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

A. Ethics – Nicole Heimarck

Ms. Heimarck gave the new members a background and history surrounding the rulemaking for a Teacher Code of Ethics.

Ms. Heimarck stated that the task force met the previous day to remove the enforcement pieces from the proposed document. She stated that the current document would be used as a code of ethics guidance document and that the enforcement pieces were being worked in to the teacher misconduct rules, but that the State Board needs rulemaking authority for a code of conduct before moving forward with the second phase of the project.

B. Update on Rulemaking

Ms. Phelps gave a brief summary of the current PSB proposals from last session and their status in the rulemaking process. These updates are listed on the agenda.

C. Update on Social Studies Credentialing Rule

Ms. Terrell explained the timeline issues with the Social Studies rule. She stated that the subcommittee brought the initial proposal forward to the State Board and that concerns were addressed in her final report to the Board. She explained that at the most recent State Board meeting, the Chair and other members raised the same concerns and asked for the PSB to clarify the changes that were made in the rule. The major concern of the State Board surrounds Ed 507.27(c)(2) where candidates are required to have an in depth knowledge of history and *one* of the following: New Hampshire and United States civics and government, economics, geography or world history. The State Board's concern is that a credentialed social studies teacher could teach economics without having any course work in economics.

Mr. Tompkins stated that he was confused because the section above (Ed 507.27(c)(1)) states that a candidate has to have a basic knowledge of all of the subject areas. He asked if the Board wants candidates to have an in-depth knowledge in all of those areas. Ms. Terrell stated that, relating to this, another question is what is being assessed by the Praxis. Mr. Tompkins stated that nothing is being assessed by the Praxis. Ms. Terrell stated that when we say basic knowledge a candidate needs to pass the Praxis in the subject area. She added that she researched the Praxis exam for social studies and only 11% of the questions are about economics. Mr. Tompkins stated that the way to address this would be to take an economics course, but that that is not in-depth knowledge, rather a basic understanding of economics.

Janine Casavant stated that she is a credentialed social studies teacher. She stated that she has a social science degree with a minor concentration in geography and political science. She stated that she teaches US history and economics and that she is

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competent and capable to do that. She stated that the way the rule is written she does not believe it supports a well-rounded candidate in the area of social sciences. Ms. Terrell responded that if a district has 100 qualified candidates, can the principal make the decision regarding who is the well-rounded candidate.

Ms. Heimarck stated that the conversation at the State Board meeting was largely lead by the board chair. She stated that it is her understanding based on her attendance at the State Board meeting that he had a concern with a general social studies certificate. She added there is a question of whether or not we should go to a separate credential for economics, history and psychology. Ms. Heimarck stated that the PSB took the opposite approach for science by breaking up the credential. She also sensed a tension among the Board chair and the commissioner over a content exam, the Praxis, and the subjective nature of the skills and knowledge requirements in the rules. She said they questioned why we need both. She said that because she was there she addressed this concern and explained that Praxis is not designed to assess in-depth knowledge, but that it is a survey assessment and the domains are not all equally weighted.

Ms. Terrell asked for clarification on what the State Board is looking for to address this concern asking if they would be happy if it was changed to *two*. Ms. Phelps stated that she believes the board would be happy with a PSB member explaining the changes at the next Board meeting. Ms. Heimarck stated that she would reach out to NASDTEC to find out what percentage of states offer universal social studies certification and present that information to the Board.

Kenneth Gorrell stated that he can understand the concern of the State Board because if 11% of the testing questions are economics it is possible for a candidate to fail every economics question and still receive a passing score. He asked, can a person who failed those economics questions teach the material effectively. Ms. Terrell stated that the curricular standards were also questioned and the Commissioner has asked that the PSB examine those standards.

Ms. Terrell stated that she would have a conversation with the Drew Cline, Chair of the State Board, for clarification and guidance.

V. ADJOURNMENT

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

1. Ms. Wallace made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Dr. Richardson. The vote passed unanimously.