

NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DIVISION OF EDUCATOR SUPPORT AND HIGHER EDUCATION
101 Pleasant Street, Concord, NH 03301

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BOARD

December 5, 2018

Room 15

12pm to 3:00 pm

Meeting Minutes

Regular Meeting:

Present: Vincent Connelly, Joe Crawford, Kenneth Gorrell, Jack Grube, Katrina Hall, Cynthia Lucero, Beth McClure, Joann Misra, Christine Oskar-Poisson, Christie Sweeney, Page Tompkins, Anne Wallace, Kimberly Yarlott, Stephen Appleby

Absent: Kirk Beitler, Janine Casavant, Joann Goetzler, Irv Richardson, David Webster, Lisa Witte

Department Staff: William Ross, Ashlee Stetser, Christine Zinkand

I. CALL TO ORDER:

A. Chair Anne Wallace called the meeting to order at 12:30 and asked that everyone take a moment to review the minutes.

II. MINUTES:

MOTION – Jack Grube made a motion to approve the minutes from November 7, 2018. Christine Oskar-Poisson seconded the motion. The motion passed with two abstentions (Vincent Connelly, Kimberly Yarlott).

Housekeeping: Steve Appleby introduced Christine Zinkand taking minutes in Amanda Phelps' absence. He requested members turn name cards facing Christine Zinkand and to state name when making a motion to assist with the documentation of Minutes. He also requested all members sign-in on the way out if not already signed-in.

III. OPEN BOARD DISCUSSION:

A. Criminal Background Check Study Committee Report

As Kirk Beitler was absent, Steve Appleby summarized what was spoken about last month, specifically that the study committee was going to report back to the legislature regarding the implementation of a background check tied to an initial credential (Part I - initial statute). This would not cover adding endorsements. The implementation of a background check for renewals would occur as Part II is phased in. This will allow the Bureau of Credentialing to ensure the process with the Department of Safety works seamlessly before implementation for the bulk of applications (renewals). It is his understanding that Phase I will move forward to the legislature this spring and there is support for the passage of this legislation.

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Vince Connelly requested clarification around background checks for admittance to IHE educator preparation programs and clinical experiences as background checks are only available to LEA's. Steve Appleby and William Ross indicated that a majority of states surveyed conduct background checks at initial credentialing and at renewal. Currently, the Bureau of Credentialing may issue a credential to someone that would not pass an LEA background check during the hiring process and the Bureau of Credentialing does not want to do this. Ashlee Stetser reported she is working with NHDOE legal counsel to determine the process for IHE educator preparation programs. RSA 189:13-a Section 9(b) is divided into two parts 1) upon enrollment that includes requirements for IHE's and 2) upon employment that includes requirements for LEA's (including placement or volunteers). IHE's cannot receive FBI background checks based on part 2. Ashlee has drafted a technical advisory that will be distributed to all IHE's after review by Diana Fenton. Diana will also be presenting an update at the upcoming CTE meeting. Cynthia Lucero requested direction for what to do in the interim. Ashlee responded that for January program enrollees, IHE's can use form 256 to request background checks from the State of NH as long as students are not directly interacting with students in schools based on the information on the form and a letter from the Department of Safety. Ashlee was unable to give a definitive answer about the process for those students who are enrolling and immediately interacting with students. She is working to get an answer within the next 15 days. She advised until then to follow the letter of the law.

B. Update on Rule Revision Committees

1. Ed 507.39 and Ed 612.07 – General Special Education Teacher (Expire 9/16/19); Ed 507.391 and Ed 612.071 – Early Childhood Special Education Programs (Expire 9/16/19); Ed 507.40 through Ed 507.45 Special Education Teacher Categoricals – Co-Chairs, Cynthia Lucero and Joann Misra

Joanne Misra distributed copies of General Special Education. The group worked on beefing up the standards of the reading portion of the rule to prepare new educators to meet the needs of students, but to not require the Praxis as Elementary Education teachers do. 6(f) was added to accomplish this, based on looking at the SLD and Elementary Education standards. 6(g) on math was designed with the same intention - that a General Special Education would provide the instruction, but not design the instruction. Joanne Misra questioned the members about 8(a) and if this section was still needed based on the recent adoption of a Code of Ethics by the State Board of Education. Joanne Misra confirmed for Beth McClure that this was a document used by IHE's to prepare teachers, and Beth McClure inquired if it would make sense to keep it in the rule. William Ross responded that the members should avoid including anything in a specific rule that applies to all educators, otherwise all rules will need to include this same language to avoid internal conflict. Kimberly Yarlott requested clarification on the word "basic", and Joann Misra and Cynthia Lucero agreed to removal of the word.

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Joann Misra also mentioned references to “researched-based” were removed. Joann Misra proposed that 8(a) be removed and 8(b) become 8(a). Vincent Connelly inquired about the definition of social skills in 6(h). Joann Misra responded that the definition came from CEC. Katrina Hall inquired about “increasing accuracy and proficiency” in 6(g). Joann Misra and Cynthia Lucero indicated that we want to be able to monitor not only instruction, but increased gains. Beth McClure suggested the wording “increasing accuracy and proficiency” also be included in 6(f). Kenneth Gorrell discussed the specificity of the reading content and the math content. Kimberly Yarlott, Page Tompkins and Anne Wallace discussed the 4 math strands (Numbers and Operations, Algebra and Algebraic Thinking, Measurement and Data, and Geometry) and 8 math practices. Joann Misra referenced the Elementary Education math standards. Anne Wallace suggested looking at the NH Quantitative Literacy Project on the NHDOE website as a reference. Joann Misra will review.

Joann Misra and Cynthia Lucero discussed working on General Special Education along with each of the categoricals. The intention is to present all the special education rules at the same time to ensure consistent standards, language and definitions. Vincent Connelly thought this would help support IHE’s implementing programs and William Ross emphatically supported this thoughtful strategy from a Credentialing standpoint. Joann Misra indicated the final recommendation would likely be in spring.

William Ross inquired if General Special Education should also require Pearson’s Foundation of Reading since 6(f) mirrors Elementary Education reading standards. Cynthia Lucero, William Ross, Joann Misra, Page Tompkins, Beth McClure, Vincent Connelly, Anne Wallace and Kimberly Yarlott discussed testing topics including validity, reliability, marketing, cut scores for endorsements and research about the Foundations of Reading test, critical shortage, the difference between a General Special Education teacher implementing reading instruction compared to an Elementary Education teacher developing instruction (and the possibility of requiring this for an SLD teacher), if the test should be taken out as a requirement for other endorsements, prior PSB meeting discussions about the testing, the Data Burst (NCTQ) provided by William Ross about what other states use and the group being split on the issue.

Joann Misra believes the intention of the November screening is to provide more intervention within the general education setting, not by the special education teacher. Beth McClure strongly supports having Foundations of Reading assessment for the special education teacher, and commented that majority of disabilities are in reading and the special educator provides a lot of reading instruction, the screening will result in students who are more severe receiving special education services and need educators that are more knowledgeable. Vincent Connelly discussed the range of subject content knowledge (in contrast to pedagogy content knowledge) a special educator should be expected to know as the endorsement is K-12, and the expectation is collaboration between content teachers and special educators.

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William Ross noted that the decision regarding testing requirements belongs with the DOE and Kimberly Yarlott suggested going back to the minutes of the prior meeting (September) before the members make a recommendation. Kenneth Gorrell suggested the group err on the side of not recommending if validity and reliability questions cannot be answered. Christine Oskar-Poisson noted the IHE's will need to ensure that the added reading standards are being met and that is all that is needed, not an additional test. Christie Sweeney concurred and noted this included math standards as well. Joann Mirsa also felt IHE's would be the best to determine pre-service performance. Anne Wallace noted the test outside of the IHE is an external check. Joann Mirsa and Anne Wallace stated the discussion will continue at the next meeting.

2. Ed 507.11 and Ed 612.04 – Elementary Education Teacher – Co-Chairs Anne Wallace and Joanne Gozler

Anne Wallace reported 12 total members currently, subgroups need to be looked at, specifically Elementary Education K-8 certified teachers at the 7th and 8th grade level that do not hold grade 5-8/Middle Level content certifications and administrators for such teachers, and Elementary Education K-8 certified teachers with a content concentration. Topics the group will discuss include if the K-8 certification should have content concentration limits and how this will affect current K-8 certified educators without a content concentration (William Ross noted historically the NHDOE gives a 6 year window to meet the new standard). January sub-committee date is pending confirmation from Amanda Phelps. Anne Wallace will get in touch with Joe Crawford, Beth McClure and Christine Oskar-Poisson for a planning meeting/conference prior to the sub-committee meeting. Anne Wallace passionately requested the word be spread about the subcommittee to teachers fitting the above subgroups, especially in the Northern and Western parts of the state. This would be a commitment of once a month between January and May 2019, likely 4-7 pm on Wednesdays (2nd or 4th of the month) or Thursdays.

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

Kirk Beitler previously requested Jack Grube present in his absence. Jack Grube stated the draft was presented to the Committee and needed some edits including name change. The updated draft is pending from Amanda Phelps. In addition, there is not going to be a grade span recommendation due to the migration of Engineering through STEM into the elementary schools and that it should be at the discretion of the Superintendent which endorsement would be used at that level.

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This item was noted on the agenda as Action Requested. William Ross noted at the last meeting motion for a recommendation to adopt as amended could have been voted on. However, without an updated copy of the text to look at, it was determined to table.

MOTION - Christie Sweeny made a motion to table. Cynthia Lucero seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

William Ross noted the NHDOE will make it more clear and alert members when a motion needs to be made. He apologized for this not happening at the last meeting.

4. Ed 505.01 through Ed 505.05 regarding Qualifying Methods for Obtaining a Teacher Credential (Alternative 1-5) Expire 9/16/19 – Chair Page Tompkins

Page Tompkins reported that the DOE staff is working on actual narrow rule changes for technical problems that need to be fixed while the committee is working on a proposal for a larger review process for how people are credentialed in New Hampshire that is beyond the scope of a PSB sub-committee. Both of these should be circulated to the committee by 12/17/2018. He stated that the hope is that the rule changes will be ready for review by January and the proposal for the review process will either be ready for presentation then as well, or discussion will be requested on the areas not in consensus.

William Ross commented the NHDOE will consolidate the cumulative recommendations for minor changes to present to the committee in December and bring to the PSB in January. Please email william.ross@doe.nh.gov with any recommendations for minor changes you would like the NHDOE to consider for inclusion and he will pass them along to Steve Appleby to bring to the committee.

5. *Ed 507.35 - Educational Interpreter/Transliterators for Children and Youth Ages 3-21 - Kirk Beitler, Chair*

In Kirk Beitler's absence, no other members had information. Tabled.

C. Social Studies Curriculum

In Janine Casavant's absence, no other members had information. Tabled.

D. Computer Science Minimum Standards

In Nate Greene's absence, no other members had information. Tabled.

William Ross noted the Bureau of Credentialing has certified 6 Computer Science educators. Within the next two weeks the hope is to be at 10. Each one has agreed to serve as a mentor for the Alternative 5 process. He is also hopeful IHE's are working on Computer Science educator preparation program proposals as this is an exciting time for computer science and all aspects/levels of education.

IV. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS - none

IV. OFFICE OF POLICY UPDATES

A. Update on Rulemaking – Amanda Phelps

In Amanda Phelps' absence, Anne Wallace read the agenda items for adoptions and initial proposals and advised the members to review the NH State Board of Education meeting minutes when available.

William Ross noted the Code of Conduct and Ethics are on the website and that all applications now require acknowledgment. He also noted Digital Learning Specialists is the new name for Education Technology Integrator.

V. DEPARTMENT REPORT

A. State Board of Education Update - Amanda Phelps

In Amanda Phelps' absence Anne Wallace read the meeting dates. Steve Appleby also recommended members read the State Board Minutes once available online.

B. Council for Teacher Education

In Michael Seidel's absence, Ashlee Stetser thanked Christine Oskar-Poisson for attending the CTE meeting. December 13th meeting - recommending 2 year conditional approval of Plymouth State University, and recommending full approval of UVEI's Visual Arts program. The next CTE meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 20th 12 pm - 3 pm (including lunch). All PSB members are more than welcome to attend. Agenda items include Rivier progress report, review of annual reports submitted by IHE's, and planning of the upcoming new programs. Beth McClure may be able to make the meeting. Anne Wallace requested Ashlee pass on that it would be nice to have members of CTE sit in on PSB meetings as well. Ashlee commented there was positive talk about attending when this was brought up at the November 15th meeting.

B. Ed 502.03 Custodian of Records - Steve Appleby

Steve Appleby presented a draft of proposed changes to this rule. He explained that many records are for people who have long since let their credential expire, or some for people who have passed away. He is working on getting access to the social security death record and doing regular data comparisons. The draft includes wording changes to become consistent with RSA's. Lifetime credentials issued prior to 1976 will fall under (a) and those records will be kept forever. Jack Grube inquired when the 50 years begins for section (b) and (c). Steve Appleby advised the clock starts ticking for the 50 years once a credential is no longer valid or denied. Steve explained the difference between a deficient application (one that a candidate can resolve with further documentation of requirements for certification) and a denial (a result of violating an RSA or Administrative Rule, such as falsifying a transcript). Pending legal counsel, it appears that a denial pursuant to Ed 512.01(a) is permanent. Currently, there is no rule requiring retention of denial records. (c) will provide that the Bureau of Credentialing keep the record of detail for 50 years or until the bureau is notified of the death of the applicant. Kimberly Yarlott

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inquired if (b) or (c) imply explicitly revocation. Steve Appleby responded that his understanding of legal counsel is that (b) covers revocation because it is a no longer valid credential. Joe Crawford noted (c) refers to credential holder, Steve Appleby suggested it should say “applicant” and suggested someone could make a motion to change that language. Page Tompkins asked if these changes correct the problems set out to solve. Steve Appleby noted that the 50 year limit would not put an undue hardship on credential holders issued in their 20’s that come back to teaching in their 60’s - maintaining these records would streamline re-entry into the profession. However, removing records of the deceased could help to protect from undiscovered identity theft in the event of a hack of our system. Joe Crawford inquired about the accuracy of the SSA death file. Steve Appleby noted a second federal list may also be used and the records will not be completely shredded/deleted. Steve Appleby and William Ross explained a minimal record including type of credential, endorsements, original issue date, and expiration date would be maintained. The bureau is not interested in removing the fact that someone was licensed, but rather all of the supporting documentation which currently takes up physical and electronic space.

MOTION - Beth McClure made a motion to strike “credential holder” from (c) and replace with applicant. Joe Crawford seconded the motion. Anne Wallace amended the motion to include recommending Ed 502.03 to the NH State Board of Education as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Christie Sweeney recommended members review minutes from September meeting and NCTQ Data Burst in preparation for next meeting to continue conversation regarding testing and special education endorsements.

VII. Adjournment

MOTION – Steve Appleby made a motion to adjourn (1:50 pm). Katrina Hall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Next meeting January 9, 2019