

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

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BOARD
March 11, 2020
Room 15
12pm to 3:00pm
Meeting Minutes

AGENDA ITEM I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Professional Standards Board was convened at 12:35 p.m. at the State Department of Education, 101 Pleasant Street, Concord, NH. Ann Wallace presided as Chairman.

Members present: Kirk Bitler, Joe Crawford, Joanne Goezler, Cynthia Lucero, Vice-Chair, Beth McClure, Joann Misra, Irv Richardson, Christie Sweeny, Page Tompkins, Anne Wallace, Chair, David Webster, and Kim Yarlott.

Members not in attendance: Janine Casavant, Vincent Connelly, Jack Grube, Tom Laliberte and Mary Murphy.

Department staff in attendance: Steve Appleby, Kim Wilson, Pam Comeau, and Bill Ross.

AGENDA ITEM II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Meeting Minutes of February 5, 2020.

MOTION: Irv Richardson made the following motion, seconded by Beth McClure, that the approval of the minutes be tabled.

VOTE: The motion was approved by unanimous vote of the Board with the Chairman voting.

AGENDA ITEM III. OPEN BOARD DISCUSSION

A. Committee Updates

1. Ed 507.11 and Ed 612.04 – Elementary Education Teacher – Chair, Anne Wallace

Ms. Wallace met with Drew Cline, who is the chair of the State Board. They want to keep the on-ramp as easy as possible for people to get certified, and they discussed doing something close to what Rhode Island has, which is they have a K-6 with a 7-8 extension, rather than a focal area, which becomes another endorsement. Those who are K-6 without a focal area now would just become K-6. The way it is now, there is supposed to be an area of emphasis, but the rules don't restrict one to teaching in that area. The 50 percent rule is something that will be looked at later. The changes being discussed would clarify the content area, and it would take care of clarifying rules for the IAGs, as to what goes into getting that extension. That being said, it may adversely affect small, rural schools for whom it is a challenge to have those kinds of restrictions, particularly if they address the 50 percent rule. The Commissioner and the State Board have said that they want content area to be addressed.

It was pointed out that if the barriers to entry are increased without increasing inducements, shortages will be exacerbated, particularly in high shortage areas. In addition, it's easier for higher education to address undergraduate pathways than it is for graduate students. The emphasis, however, would be more on methods courses than it would be on content courses, as well as giving initial support.

Individuals who are K-8 certified without a focus area would revert to a K-6 after six years. There was concern that it doesn't seem possible to achieve more clarity in what is expected in 7-8 without causing too much distress to the field. Ms. Wallace explained that it really is coming down to the brain science showing that the middle years really is very different in terms of how students learn. One can't presume to use elementary methods teaching in the middle school because they do not learn the same way. The point was made, however, that those differences are true between lots of developmental stages. Ms. Wallace commented that the extension doesn't add new rules, but it would change what is already in place and clarifies the 7-8.

Professional development opportunities would become even more important, and the school districts have a responsibility to provide development opportunities. There are, however, many online opportunities.

Next steps: The plan is to put options out to the stakeholders to get feedback on where the big stumbling blocks may be. Ms. Wallace will work with Bill to get it to the sub-committee to make sure the wording is what is intended, and Bill will work with the DOE to get it sent out.

It was underscored that the State Board is focused on the fact that there is already a shortage, and they are very sensitive to rural areas of the state and the lack of teachers there. They are also very sensitive to creating more hurdles, and that is not likely to change.

2. Ed 507.35 – Educational Interpreter/Transliterater for Children and Youth Ages 3 -21 – Kirk Beitler, Chair- State Board sent back to subcommittee

Mr. Beitler received direction from the State Board by talking with Steve, and he will connect with Bill to look for a path forward.

3. Ed 505.06 – General Education Requirements and Ed 609.01 Content – Co-Chairs: Kimberly Yarlott and Beth McClure

Item was stricken from the agenda. There was a motion and a vote at the previous meeting.

4. Ed 505.07 and Ed 610.02 – Professional Education Requirements – Chair, Christie Sweeney

Christie Sweeney reported that they are still working on the professional education requirements, and information will be sent out prior to the April 1st meeting.

5. Master Teacher License – Co-Chairs: Irv Richardson and Page Thompkins

A meeting was held, and Bill researched the states that had master teacher licenses. The committee reviewed that information, which is leading to some recommendations. They are making progress, but there is a lot to consider moving forward.

6. Ed 506.01, Ed 506.02, Ed 506.03, Ed 506.04, Ed 506.05, Ed 506.06, Ed 506.07, Ed 506.08, and Ed 507.01 – Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Business Administrator, Principal Instructional Leader, Curriculum Administrator, District Administrator, Special Education Administrator, Associate Principal Instructional Leader, Career and Technical Director - Co-Chairs: Kimberly Yarlott and Joe Crawford

It was reported that progress is being made, and they are coalescing around an approach. One of the goals is to build consistency in to all of the endorsements as far as pattern and language. One of the larger organizational issues being considered is trying to ground the leadership competencies in some reasonable source document. The "Professional Standards for Educational Leaders" is being used as a guidepost for the leadership competencies that should exist in all of the endorsements. A couple of glitches have come up, one of which is there are school districts that are requiring assistant principals to be dual certified in special education. It will be a burden on universities to try to come up with a dual certification. Work is being done with Plymouth University, and they are providing good feedback about impacts of changes in terms of how they develop their graduation requirements.

7. Ed 507.48 and Ed 507.49 – Comprehensive Marketing Educator and Comprehensive Business Educator – Co-Chairs: Anne Wallace and Mary Murphy

Ms. Wallace reported that they have gotten something out to Bill, who is going to get it out to the stakeholders.

8. Ed 507.21 – Library Media Specialist – Chair, Tom Laliberte

Mr. Laliberte was not present, but he had communicated to Ms. Wallace that they have a good group and are moving ahead.

9. Ed 507.35 and Ed 507.39 – Theater Teacher and Music Teacher – Co-Chair, Joanne Goelzer

Ms. Goelzer reported that they have gathered state resources, looking at similar sized states including Vermont, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. They have also gathered national data looking at the National Association of Music Teachers, the National Association of Music Education, and the National Board for Professional Standards for Music. Work is ongoing.

10. Ed 507.18 – Early Childhood Education Teacher – Co-Chairs: Joann Misra and Cynthia Lucero

It was reported that they are in the initial stages of gathering stakeholders and setting meeting times. They are not anticipating that it will take long and hope to have something next month or perhaps in two months.

11. Ed 507.37 – Classical Languages Teacher – Chair, Vince Connelly

Mr. Connelly was not present, but they have reported a good start with their group.

B. Social Studies Curriculum – Janine Casavant

AGENDA ITEM IV. DEPARTMENT REPORT

- A. Update on Rulemaking - Amanda Phelps
- B. State Board of Education Update - Amanda Phelps
 - 1. Meeting Dates - March 12, 2020, April 9, 2020, May 14, 2020, June 10, 2020.
- C. Council for Teacher Education (CTE) - Steve Appleby
 - 1 Meeting Dates - March 19, 2020, April 16, 2020, May 21, 2020, June 18, 2020.

2. CTE Update

Mr. Appleby reported that for CTE there are a number of items going to the State Board. There is an applicant for an empty position on the PSB, and that will go to the State Board. There are no rules currently in front of the State Board that have been recommended.

D. Department of Education Website - Steve Appleby

Mr. Appleby reported that the State of New Hampshire overall is updating its websites, and the DOE was amongst the first, if not the first, to flip the switch. There has been a lot of feedback from the field, and there is a learning curve for getting accustomed to the new site.

AGENDA ITEM V. OLD BUSINESS

AGENDA ITEM VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion around passing score for the Foundations of Reading Exam - Steve Appleby

Mr. Appleby reported on the Legislative Study Committee looking at the preparation programs, which was formed by the legislature to make suggestions and recommendations. One item that has consistently come up is passing scores for the Foundations of Reading Exam and how it is the same score for a reading specialist and for elementary education. The Study Committee would like to see that changed.

There was feedback offered that there are too many children who come through the system who do not learn to read, and since elementary education is when they learn to read, the score should not be lowered.

Additionally, it was pointed out that if the scores are different one might have to take the exam twice. The problem is that an enormous number of people are not passing it, and it is the same threshold for a reading specialist. Massachusetts has made a change to their scoring, and they use the same test as New Hampshire. Bill commented that before a change is made of that nature, they would need to consider the content of the test, whether it is reading instruction or reading instruction and adult learning instruction. The major responsibility of the reading specialist is adult learning and intervention. Also, they are about to release a new test in the fall. ETS has some alternatives that could be considered. It is focused on the classroom teacher, not the reading specialists.

B. Update on Medicaid to school legislation and how it impacts licensure.

Mr. Appleby reported that last year the federal government put out a directive that talked about billing for Medicaid services in schools, and New Hampshire was in violation of some of their rules. If one is licensed by some type of medical board, it is a reimbursable expense, and it can be billed to Medicaid. If licensed by the DOE, it can't. HHS working with the DOE fast-tracked rules and legislation that would direct the Office of Professional Licensure to come up with Rules whereby they would create several new types of licenses for school psychologist, school social worker, and for speech language specialist.

C. Master's degree inconsistencies - Page Tompkins

Mr. Tompkins reported that they have done an analysis of the rules, and there are 18 different areas that require or reference a Master's degree. Every single one describes it slightly differently, which raises a lot of definitional issues. The question is whether the way forward is to redo all of the rules for all 18 areas. It was suggested that they not fix it as one definition but fix it throughout, case-by-case, which is more work but may have a better outcome. The way forward may be to define a "related area."

One suggestion was to incorporate microcredentials that were specific to content, such as a teaching credential, or an administrator credential, which would in a roundabout way fix the problem of the Master's degree. One would get licensed as a teacher and then microcredentials in the subject areas that one teaches. The requirements for those subject areas would be very well and very narrowly defined. It was pointed out, however, that there is a difference between the concept of microcredentials and the quality, and there are a lot of microcredential programs that are "garbage."

Bill pointed out the issue of experience. In many of the rules that reference a Master's degree, there is also experience that is specified. As the language around the degree is looked at, the language around experience expectation will also need to be looked at.

AGENDA ITEM VII. TABLED ITEMS

AGENDA ITEM XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: David Webster the motion, seconded by Bill Duncan, to adjourn the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

VOTE: The motion was approved by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

Next meeting June 26, 2020

