



Certification and Higher Education Committee

Maine State Board of Education

Minutes of the July 25, 2011 Meeting

The Certification and Higher Education Committee held a meeting on Monday, July 25, 2011, at the Department of Education in Augusta. The following were present: Chair Nancy Perkins; Jana Lapoint (by phone) (Board Members), Harry Osgood (DOE Staff), Sarah Forster, Assistant Attorney General, and Mary Becker, State Board of Education Secretary Associate.

Guest: Sue Williams, Professional Development Coordinator, and Bill Webster, Superintendent of Lewiston School District

Nancy Perkins called the meeting to order at 9:06 AM.

Professional Standards Board Report

The Professional Standards Board (PSB) is an Advisory Group to the State Board of Education (SBE). The group meets five times a year and makes a recommendation to the State Board. The Board will be voting on the PSB's report at their August 17, 2011 Board meeting.

Recommendation from the Professional Standards Board to be considered by the Commissioner and State Board:

1. That National Board Certification or Recertification achieved within the current State of Maine certification cycle be sufficient for the State's five year professional certificate renewal.

Rationale: Some local districts do not allow for the hours spent obtaining National Board Certification as meeting the requirements of the local certification committee for certificate renewal. The Professional Standards Board realizes that the amount of time required to meet the standards of National Board Certification are far and above the typical graduate level credits or contact hours currently required. The Professional Standards Board wishes the State Board indicate support of the above recommendation so that teachers need not complete additional hours beyond National Board Certification for local recertification.

The Certification and Higher Education Committee will recommend that the State Board of Education request that the Commissioner, through official correspondence, endorse the Professional Standards Board request. The Commissioner will encourage all local Certification Boards to accept the National Board Certification process for a 5 year professional certificate renewal.

Sue Williams, Professional Development Coordinator, discussed the proposal with the committee and agreed to develop a bulleted list on National Board Certification Talking Points to accompany the letter to Commissioner Bowen.

Nancy will draft a letter to the Commissioner that will include Sue's National Board Talking Points, and will send the draft to Jana and Dottie for review.

National Board Talking Points:

- *The National Board Certified Teachers are recognized as accomplished educators who meet high and rigorous standards through intensive study, expert evaluation, self-assessment and peer review.*
- *Completing the National Board process involves developing four portfolio entries involving student work, video tapes of teaching, and documented profession contributions to student learning, as well as the completion of six content-focused assessment center exercises.*
- *It is estimated that it takes anywhere from 300-400+ hours of work for a teacher to complete the full certification process. The NBPTS recognizes an NBCT's significant commitment to student and professional learning and growth by offering up to nine (9) graduate credits for achieving certification.*
- *National Board Certification is the highest credential a teacher can earn. Individuals with National Board certification in their field who move to Maine may be granted an initial Level II certificate.*
- *The State of Maine recognizes the significance of this accomplishment by awarding a stipend to teachers who achieve National Board Certification and by indicating National Board Certification as the primary requirement for the title of Master Teacher in the State's tiered licensure system.*

Sarah Forster joined the meeting at 9:33 AM

Jana Lapoint joined the meeting at 9:38 AM

Chapter 13:

Discussion on Rulemaking of Chapter 13: Qualifying Examinations of Teachers, Educational Specialists and Administrators

On May 11, 2011, the Board gave its approval to proceed with rulemaking for changes to Chapter 13, to change the way in which test codes and required scores are updated. Although rulemaking for Chapter 13 went as planned, the Board's Assistant Attorney General (AAG) could not grant final approval to file the amended rule due to a legal concern about the proposed changes. A new rulemaking process is required.

Sarah's explanation of concern to the committee:

The statutory basis cited for the rule is 13031-13038. That chapter requires that applicants make the minimum scores on the qualifying exams, but fails to state who sets those minimum scores. Section 13038 gives the State Board of Education rulemaking authority to implement the chapter. Past practice has been that ETS convenes a group who establishes recommended cut scores, and then the State Board has voted to adopt those scores (which appear on the ETS website) and has placed the scores it adopts in regulation. In other words, the State Board ultimately decides what the cut scores will be for Maine and places them in rule so that they are enforceable against applicants. The proposed amendments to the rule replace the actual scores with the statement that they are available either on the ETS website or by contacting the Department of Education. The State Board retains the authority to accept or reject the cut scores proposed by ETS. The problem is that there is no regulatory connection to the scores that is enforceable.

The old version of Chapter 13 is still in effect. Actions the Board can consider at their next meeting are as follows:

- 1) Change the rule to make the ETS recommended scores, the scores
- 2) Retain the current system where the State Board has the final decision on the cut scores
- 3) Amend the Statute

Approval of Minutes:

MOVED by Jana Lapoint, seconded by Nancy Perkins, and voted unanimously by those present to approve the minutes of the June 27, 2011 meeting as written.

Updates

➤ Higher Education (Harry Osgood):

- Exhibit for the August 17, 2011 State Board meeting - Consideration of Review Team Report of Findings Regarding the Request from Lesley University to Renew its Current Authorization to Offer Academic Credit Programs in Maine
- Exhibit for the August 17, 2011 State Board meeting - Consideration of the Review Team Report of Findings Concerning the Application for Additional Degree-Granting Authorization as Submitted by the University of New England to Award the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Degree.
- He will be attending the Higher Education Roundtable on Educator Preparation Programs along with Nancy Perkins. This is on 21st Century Skills, a follow-up on Tony Wagner's book "The International Achievement Gap".
- Next week he will be going to Minnesota to meet with the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) regarding implementing the Common Core Standards.

The next Certification Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 22, 2011 at 9:00 AM. The meeting will be held in room 541 of the Cross State Office Building.

Adjournment

The Certification Committee meeting adjourned at 10:55 AM.