

ILLINOIS STATE TEACHER CERTIFICATION BOARD

**Illinois State Board of Education
State Board Room, Fourth Floor**

Friday, March 6, 2009

Business Meeting

MINUTES

Call to Order / Roll Call:

Mr. Patrick Murphy, Secretary, Illinois State Teacher Certification Board, called the Illinois State Teacher Certification Board meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. Mr. Murphy proceeded to call the roll. A quorum was present.

Mr. Murphy acknowledged the passing of fellow State Teacher Certification Board member, Muhammad Abdullah, by requesting Board members take a moment to collect their thoughts. Mr. Abdullah served on the State Teacher Certification Board as a teacher representative for the Illinois Federation of Teachers from July 1, 2004 to February 22, 2009. Mr. Lawer Dixon, Jr. provided a tribute to Mr. Abdullah as he is remembered for his commitment and devotion to impacting the lives of the children he worked with in and outside of the classroom.

Members Present:

Mr. Patrick Murphy, Secretary

Denise Albrecht
Richard Ammentorp
Carol Auer
Sheila Bowens
Douglas Bower
Stephen Breese

Eric Brown
Deborah Curtis
Lawer Dixon, Jr.
Allen Ellington
Ascencion Juarez
Vickie Mahrt

Sr. Colleen McNicholas
Janet Pierce-Ritter
Cynthia Shanahan

Members Absent:

Dr. Linda Tomlinson, Chair Designee (Representing Chairman Koch)

Caryn Block

Linda Pellegrini

Tamara Smith

Others Present:

Rick Acuncius
Lydia Bullock
Rori Carson
Joseph Cipfl
Dawn Hankins
Karen Haworth
Colleen Herald
Mitch Hopper
Linda Jamali

Phyliss Jones
Diane Lacopo
Robert Lehrer
Jerry Ligon
Daryl Morrison
Sabrina Peter
Melissa Phillips
Erin Real
Jessica Riddick

Deanne Riess
Lynn Steffen
Joy Taylor-Ankenbrandt
Renee Vilatte
Donna Wakefield
Janet Wicker
Dennis Williams

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

The minutes of the January 9, 2009, Illinois State Teacher Certification Board business meeting were presented for consideration. Sr. Colleen McNicholas moved that the State Teacher Certification Board accept the minutes of the January 9, 2009, business meeting as written. Eric Brown seconded the motion. Patrick Murphy called for discussion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Public Participation:

None.

Facilitation Committee's Report:

Sr. Colleen McNicholas, Chair, Facilitation Committee, reported the Facilitation Committee met today at 8:00 a.m. The only change to the agenda is moving "Item for Immediate Action E9 – Recommendation from Hearing Officer Regarding Jeffrey A. Kordys" to the first "Item for Immediate Action".

Item(s) for Immediate Action:

Recommendation from Hearing Officer Regarding Jeffrey A. Kordys

Patrick Murphy introduced Hearing Officer Robert Lehrer. Mr. Lehrer stated that he would like to amend his proposed decision by striking out the first paragraph only of footnote No. 2 on Page 5 (beginning with "To be sure, ..."), and by also striking out footnote No. 3 in its entirety on Page 6. The draft, "Final Administrative Decision and Order", should have added to the first paragraph after the parenthetical in the second line "(dated January 19, 2009, and attached hereto)" the clause, "as amended by this Board". Mr. Lehrer thanked Patrick Murphy and members of the Certification Board for moving this agenda item to the first order of business.

Mr. Murphy explained that there were two issues on the table: (1) Request for Oral Argument on the exceptions filed from the representation for Mr. Kordys; and (2) Decision on the recommendation from Hearing Officer Robert Lehrer.

Sr. Colleen McNicholas moved that the State Teacher Certification Board, having reviewed the motion filed by Mr. Loewenstein on February 11, 2009, on behalf of Jeff Kordys requesting oral argument on the exceptions filed, hereby denies the motion on grounds that oral argument on the merits of the appeal already occurred on November 7, 2008. Stephen Breese seconded the motion. Patrick Murphy called for discussion. The motion passed with two nay votes.

Sr. Colleen McNicholas moved that the State Teacher Certification Board hereby adopts the amended proposed decision of the Hearing Officer in this appeal from a decision of the State Superintendent to suspend the teaching certificates, Type 09 Certificate No. 2011087 (Standard Secondary Teaching) and Type 03 Certificate No. 2011088 (Standard Elementary Teaching), of Jeff Kordys for five years. At this time we ask the Secretary of the State Teacher Certification Board to advise the parties in writing of our decision. Janet Pierce-Ritter seconded the motion. Patrick Murphy called for discussion.

Denise Albrecht clarified that it is her understanding that the role of the Certification Board is to review the procedure that occurred under the initial hearing. Mr. Murphy confirmed.

Mr. Lehrer further clarified that the Certification Board's role is to determine whether the Superintendent's Order which adopted the trial hearing officer's decision was contrary to the manifest weight of the evidence. If the Certification Board adopts Mr. Lehrer's proposed decision as amended, it would conclude that Mr. Kordys had not shown that the Superintendent's Order was contrary to the manifest weight of the evidence and that he had not presented any legal arguments outside of the manifest weight of the evidence which would require reversal.

Lawer Dixon, Jr. expressed his concern regarding the five-year suspension. Mr. Lehrer explained that the trial hearing officer recommended a suspension of at least three years. Superintendent Koch imposed a sanction of five years. That was not the most extreme sanction that he could have imposed. He could have asked to revoke Mr. Kordys' certificates permanently. The Superintendent did not, when he adopted the trial hearing officer's decision, state specifically why he chose five years rather than three, two or one year. And further, Mr. Kordys did not appeal on that ground.

Carol Auer stated that she will support the recommendation, but speaking on behalf of the superintendents in Illinois, she is disappointed with Superintendent Koch's decision of a five-year suspension.

The motion passed with three nay votes.

New Program Proposal Recommendation(s)

Concordia University

Foreign Language – Spanish

Dennis Williams introduced the following representative from Concordia University Chicago: Erin Real, Assistant Professor of Spanish.

Richard Ammentorp moved that the State Teacher Certification Board recommends to the State Board of Education provisional approval of the Foreign Language – Spanish program at Concordia University, authorizing the educational unit to conduct programs and to recommend candidates for certification by entitlement until the time of the institution's next scheduled Accreditation Review [Section 25.145 (d) (1)]. Denise Albrecht seconded the motion. Patrick Murphy called for discussion.

With regard to the initial cohort size and the capacity to staff that size of a cohort, Deborah Curtis encouraged Concordia University Chicago to continue to review their pledge to add faculty members as needed.

The motion passed with one abstention.

National-Louis University

Learning Behavior Specialist I (LBS I) – Alternative Certification

Learning Behavior Specialist II (LBS II) – Technology Specialist

Learning Behavior Specialist II (LBS II) – Curriculum Adaptation Specialist

Phyliss Jones introduced the following representatives from National-Louis University: Dr. Jerry Ligon, Associate Dean; Dr. Donna Wakefield, Assistant Professor and Program Coordinator, Special Education; Karen Haworth, Director, Outreach and Academic Programs; and Sabrina Peter, Director of District Strategy, Teach for America.

Learning Behavior Specialist I (LBS I) – Alternative Certification

Deborah Curtis asked fellow State Teacher Certification Board member, Ascencion Juarez, if Special Education is still a high needs area for Chicago. Mr. Juarez indicated that Special Education is in fact a very high needs area in Chicago.

Certification Board members raised many questions and concerns regarding the proposed program proposal. The following includes several of those discussion points:

- University supervision
- Number of students university is willing to accept into the program
- Field experiences
- What supports are available for mentor teachers
- How much time is someone spending with candidates
- Course of study
- What constitutes the core coursework

Janet Pierce-Ritter moved that the State Teacher Certification Board table, until the April Certification Board meeting, the Learning Behavior Specialist I (LBS I) – Alternative Certification program at National-Louis University. Richard Ammentorp seconded the motion. Patrick Murphy called for discussion. After a brief discussion in which the Teach for America representative expressed concern for the proposed timeline of the program, Janet Pierce-Ritter and Richard Ammentorp withdrew the motion.

Sr. Colleen McNicholas moved that the State Teacher Certification Board recommends to the State Board of Education provisional approval of the Learning Behavior Specialist I (LBS I) – Alternative Certification program at National-Louis University, authorizing the educational unit to conduct programs and to recommend candidates for certification by entitlement until the time of the institution's next scheduled Accreditation Review [Section 25.145 (d) (1)]. Richard Ammentorp seconded the motion. Patrick Murphy called for discussion. The motion failed with one abstention.

Learning Behavior Specialist II (LBS II) – Technology Specialist

Sr. Colleen McNicholas moved that the State Teacher Certification Board recommends to the State Board of Education provisional approval of the Learning Behavior Specialist II (LBS II) – Technology Specialist program at National-Louis University, authorizing the educational unit to conduct programs and to recommend candidates for certification by entitlement until the time of the institution's next scheduled Accreditation Review [Section 25.145 (d) (1)]. Richard Ammentorp seconded the motion. Patrick Murphy called for discussion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Learning Behavior Specialist II (LBS II) – Curriculum Adaptation Specialist

Sr. Colleen McNicholas moved that the State Teacher Certification Board recommends to the State Board of Education provisional approval of the Learning Behavior Specialist II (LBS II) – Curriculum Adaptation Specialist program at National-Louis University, authorizing the educational unit to conduct programs and to recommend candidates for certification by entitlement until the time of the institution’s next scheduled Accreditation Review [Section 25.145 (d) (1)]. Eric Brown seconded the motion. Patrick Murphy called for discussion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Program Updates

McKendree University

Dennis Williams indicated that representatives from McKendree University are available if Certification Board members have any questions. Mr. Williams also shared that the Physical Education program is not nationally recognized.

Sr. Colleen McNicholas moved that the State Teacher Certification Board recommends to the State Board of Education approval of the following programs at McKendree University: Mathematics; Science Biology; and Science Chemistry [Section 25.127 (j) (1) (A)]. Deborah Curtis seconded the motion. Patrick Murphy called for discussion. The motion passed with two abstentions.

Sr. Colleen McNicholas moved that the State Teacher Certification Board recommends to the State Board of Education probation for the following program at McKendree University and recommends an 18-month period during which no new candidates shall be enrolled: Physical Education [Section 25.127 (j) (2)]. Janet Pierce-Ritter seconded the motion. Patrick Murphy called for discussion. The motion passed with two abstentions.

Lewis University

Sr. Colleen McNicholas moved that the State Teacher Certification Board recommends to the State Board of Education approval of the following programs at Lewis University: Elementary Education – Bachelors; Science Biology; Science Chemistry; Science Physics; and Principals – General Administrative and Superintendent [Section 25.127 (j) (1) (A)]. Stephen Breese seconded the motion. Patrick Murphy called for discussion. The motion passed with one abstention.

Program Report Format(s)

With regard to the annual report, Sr. Colleen McNicholas shared that it is still unclear to several Certification Board members what the State Teacher Certification Board is trying to achieve – what the purpose of the annual report is.

Deborah Curtis shared that when the Certification Board first began discussing the need to change the state partnership agreement with the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), the Certification Board was talking about retaining the state’s right to review programs and that was based upon concerns that we had a dual system (two levels going on in the state at this time). That would alleviate that concern – everyone was meeting the same requirements. Another piece was that the timeliness of the Specialized Professional

Association (SPA) returns in regard to including that feedback in the unit decisions. This was an issue that could indeed, as we studied our schedule, be resolved by scheduling these for review by the State Teacher Certification Board.

Dr. Curtis further explained that institutions of higher education are already doing an annual report incorporating some data. There is a concern regarding capacity and how the Certification Board is assuring that the capacity of higher education institutions is appropriate for the numbers of students that are matriculating through those programs. The annual report would assist the State Teacher Certification Board in taking a better look at these concerns.

Dr. Curtis pulled up a clip art map on her laptop computer of the Midwest and went to NCATE's website and looked at their partnership agreements. She displayed states in red that retained the authority to review programs with their agreement with NCATE at the state level; and then in green displayed states that were still requiring SPA review for those institutions. She found that Illinois is in a sea of red all around the state. There are 21 states that retain the right to review the programs at the state level (Alabama, California, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, South Dakota, Oregon, Tennessee, Washington, Wisconsin).

Deborah Curtis suggested that the State Teacher Certification Board investigate how other states handle their program reviews on a regular basis and if it is working. Perhaps each Certification Board member could be assigned one or two states to contact in order to find out how that particular state reviews programs every seven years in the state; what process is being used; and how the reviews are managed.

Cynthia Shanahan asked what the consequences would be, if any, after the review on an annual basis. Janet Pierce-Ritter and Doug Bower supported Dr. Curtis' recommendation because it is important to know what other states are doing. Dr. Pierce-Ritter suggested tabling the annual report until the seven-year report is worked out.

There was a request that Certification Board members be provided at their next meeting (April 3) with the data that the State Board of Education has on the current annual report. Patrick Murphy shared that State Board of Education staff are working on new proposed rules to bring to the State Teacher Certification Board in April to address the process for the annual report.

Phyliss Jones indicated that State Board staff can bring forth examples since there are two types of annual reports collected – what changes have been made regarding the six NCATE Standards over the last year and the institutional data report.

After a lengthy discussion, Sr. Colleen McNicholas moved that the State Teacher Certification Board table the "draft" Annual Program Report and the "draft" Seven-Year Program Summary Report formats as written until the April 3, 2009, meeting of the Certification Board. Denise Albrecht seconded the motion. Patrick Murphy called for discussion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Rules Related to Certification (Various)

Patrick Murphy indicated that there are no rules related to certification at this time.

Proposals for Activities that Meet Requirements for Standard Certificate Eligibility

Sr. Colleen McNicholas moved that the State Teacher Certification Board accept the list of "Proposals for Activities that Meet Requirements for Standard Certificate Eligibility" dated February 26, 2009. Allen Ellington seconded the motion. Patrick Murphy called for discussion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (See Attachment)

Renewal of Standard / Master Certificates (Group B List)

Patrick Murphy reported there are no non-renewals on the Group B List at this time.

Voluntary Surrender of Teaching Certificate(s)

Patrick Murphy stated that at the December 2007 meeting of the State Teacher Certification Board, the Board directed the Secretary of the State Teacher Certification Board to sign Orders of Revocation under 21-23(a) on their behalf if the certificate holder did not request a hearing or did not request a hearing within the allowable timelines.

Michael D. Clarke

Patrick Murphy stated that Michael D. Clarke did not request a hearing; he voluntarily surrendered his certificate. Sr. Colleen McNicholas moved that the State Teacher Certification Board revoke the following certificate of Michael D. Clarke: Initial Secondary Teaching Certificate No. 1928950. Carol Auer seconded the motion. Patrick Murphy called for discussion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Sandra K. Dunford

Patrick Murphy stated that Sandra K. Dunford did not request a hearing; she voluntarily surrendered her certificate. Sr. Colleen McNicholas moved that the State Teacher Certification Board revoke the following certificate of Sandra K. Dunford: Standard Secondary Teaching Certificate No. 2094663. Carol Auer seconded the motion. Patrick Murphy called for discussion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Revocation of Certificate(s)

Patrick Murphy said the following individuals were provided due process under Part 475, but did not request a hearing before the State Teacher Certification Board.

H. Bruce Logsdon

Patrick Murphy stated that H. Bruce Logsdon failed to request a hearing. Sr. Colleen McNicholas moved that the State Teacher Certification Board adopt the Order to Revoke the following certificates of H. Bruce Logsdon: Secondary Teaching Certificate No. 0771741; Substitute Certificate No. 2307037; and direct the Secretary of the State Teacher Certification Board to sign the Order. Janet Pierce-Ritter seconded the motion. Patrick Murphy called for discussion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Kevin Maves

Patrick Murphy stated Kevin Maves originally requested a hearing and then, in a letter to the hearing officer assigned to the matter, withdrew his request for a hearing. Sr. Colleen McNicholas moved that the State Teacher Certification Board adopt the Order to Revoke the

following certificate of Kevin Maves: Substitute Certificate No. 2225644; and direct the Secretary of the State Teacher Certification Board to sign the Order. Stephen Breese seconded the motion. Patrick Murphy called for discussion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Harold L. Smith

Patrick Murphy stated Harold L. Smith did not request a hearing. Sr. Colleen McNicholas moved that the State Teacher Certification Board adopt the Order to Revoke the following certificate of Harold L. Smith: Standard Secondary Certificate No. 1666762; and direct the Secretary of the State Teacher Certification Board to sign the Order. Carol Auer seconded the motion. Patrick Murphy called for discussion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Item(s) for Information:

North Central College – Approved Foreign Language Program (Addition of German and French)

Patrick Murphy indicated that he received a letter dated January 7, 2009, from North Central College indicating the expansion of the foreign language certification beyond Spanish. In 2009-2010 academic year North Central College will offer foreign language certification in Spanish, French and German.

Eureka College – Removal of Physics as a Major and a Secondary (6-12) Certification Program

Patrick Murphy indicated that he received a letter dated February 20, 2009, from Eureka College stating the college currently has no majors in this area and has not had a major in Physics in the past ten years.

Renewal of Standard / Master Certificates (Report – Group A List)

Patrick Murphy reported that there were 201 recommendations for Standard / Master Certificates renewed in Group A for the period of January 7, 2009 through February 28, 2009.

Moving from Initial to Standard Certificate

Patrick Murphy reported that there were 191 recommendations for Initial Certificates moving to Standard Certificates for the period of January 7, 2009 through February 28, 2009.

Secretary's Report:

Educator Certification Division

Linda Jamali, Division Administrator, Educator Certification Division, reported work remains within a 30-working-day processing window for nearly all certificates and endorsements. Currently, there are 644 certificates/endorsements to be processed. Ms. Jamali also discussed the Type 10 split certificates.

During the period of January 8, 2009 through March 6, 2009:

- 1,415 certificates were issued through transcript evaluation. 1,438 deficiency letters were sent out regarding certificates evaluated through transcript evaluation.
- There were 1,858 new certificates issued through entitlement. 72 deficiency letters were sent out regarding entitlement certificates.
- In addition, 2,921 substitute certificates were processed and 821 duplication certificates were printed.
- 521 endorsement applications were processed and issued; deficiency letters were sent out for over 889 additional endorsement applications.
- 1,057 approvals/disapprovals were sent out.

Educator Testing

Ms. Jamali shared the following:

- 369 individuals have signed up for the March computer based test (CBT) Basic Skills test. Of those, 163 are in the Chicago area. Others are from locations as far away as Pasadena, California; Miami, Florida; Buffalo, New York; Boston, Massachusetts; and Washington, D.C.
- The next CBT test will be held in May.
- Over 16,000 individuals sat for an Illinois educator test on February 28, 2009.
- There will be a supplemental test date on July 11, 2009, for all multiple choice tests. This test is paper/pencil.

Grow Your Own Teacher Initiative

Ms. Jamali stated:

- Staff member, Debra Stephens, conducted four budget sessions (two in Springfield and two in Chicago) for the 16 Grow Your Own consortia members in February. Grow Your Own continuation proposals are due April 1, 2009.
- Both versions of the amended Grow Your Own legislation have moved out of committee.

Educator and School Development Division

Patrick Murphy reported the following:

Revocations by the State Superintendent of Education

Jacob H. Bachman; Elementary Teaching Certificate #1485013

Steven J. Kemp; Standard Elementary Certificate #1699508; Standard Secondary Certificate #1699507

George A. Langlotz; Standard Secondary Certificate #1902153;
Administrative Certificate #1359339

Joseph H. Lyon; Standard Elementary Certificate #1679288
Daniel S. Markofski; Provisional Administrative Certificate #2295013
Michael C. Mayo; Standard Elementary Certificate #2231055
Joseph T. Nurek; Standard Elementary Certificate #1674836;
Administrative Certificate #1457654; Standard Special Certificate #1674838
Chad J. Roby; Standard Elementary Certificate #1945989
Ronald D. Suitts; Standard Secondary Certificate #1920322
Mike J. Wetzell; Initial Secondary Certificate #2121277

Suspensions by the State Superintendent of Education
Osevell E. Moody; Standard Secondary Certificate #1711406

Mr. Murphy discussed a document provided to Certification Board members, "FY 09 Educators Employed Per Teacher Service Record (TSR) Data", dated February 19, 2009. Letters were sent to regional offices of education on March 2, 2009.

Mr. Murphy also shared the following information regarding the 2008 Educator Audits:

As of March 4, 2009:

Number of **administrators** audited (90) – September 2008
Number of **administrators** unable to document professional development (14)
Number of **teachers** audited (94) – September 2008
Number of **teachers** unable to document professional development (3)

Mr. Murphy also provided a brief overview of the proposed Amendments to Part 25 Rules (Certification) that are scheduled to come before the Certification Board at their April meeting for action.

State Teacher Certification Board members were provided a tentative calendar for 2010. Members were asked to check these dates with their calendars as this item will be on the next agenda of the Certification Board.

State Teacher Certification Board members asked that meeting material be provided to them at least two weeks prior to the meeting date. There was also a request that paper copies of the meeting material be sent to any Certification Board member who requests to receive the material via mail.

Adjournment:

With no further business, Cynthia Shanahan moved that the State Teacher Certification Board meeting adjourn. Richard Ammentorp seconded the motion. Patrick Murphy called for discussion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. The State Teacher Certification Board meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

APPROVED

Chairman

Secretary

ATTACHMENT

**Proposals for “Induction and Mentoring Programs”
to Meet Requirements for the Standard Certificate**

**Recommended for Approval by
State Board of Education Staff**

March 2009

School / County

East Moline School District 37, Rock Island County
Germantown School District 69, Woodford County
Regional Office of Education 40, Macoupin County
Southwestern Unit District 9, Macoupin County