

ILLINOIS STATE TEACHER CERTIFICATION BOARD

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

Friday, April 3, 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 9:07 a.m. Mr. Murphy proceeded to call the roll. A quorum was present.

Members Present:

Dr. Linda Tomlinson, Chair Designee (Representing Chairman Koch)
Mr. Patrick Murphy, Secretary

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

Eric Brown
Deborah Curtis
Lawer Dixon, Jr.
Ascencion Juarez
Vickie Mahrt
Sr. Colleen McNicholas

Linda Pellegrini
Janet Pierce-Ritter
Cynthia Shanahan
Tamara Smith

Members Absent:

Caryn Block

Allen Ellington

Others Present:

Lydia Bullock
Matt Franklin
Karen Haworth
Colleen Herald
Linda Jamali
Jerry Ligon
Daryl Morrison

Barbara Nourie
Suzanne O'Brien
Sally Bulkley Pancrazio
Nancy Slattery
Nancy Slavin
Lynn Steffen
Kate Sullivan

Joy Taylor-Ankenbrandt
Donna Wakefield
Mark Wancket
Dennis Williams

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

The minutes of the March 6, 2009, Illinois State Teacher Certification Board business meeting were presented for consideration. Carol Auer moved that the State Teacher Certification Board accept the minutes of the March 6, 2009, business meeting as written. Richard Ammentorp seconded the motion. Patrick Murphy called for discussion, but none followed. 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. There was no change made to the agenda.

Item(s) for Immediate Action:

Recommendation from Hearing Officer Regarding Darrin Thompson

Patrick Murphy introduced Hearing Officer Matt Franklin. Mr. Franklin stated that he conducted the hearing for Mr. Darrin Thompson and had previously shared his written recommendation with members of the State Teacher Certification Board for review.

Mr. Franklin provided a brief overview of the case. Mr. Thompson was charged with (1) failure to disclose a 1990 aggravated battery conviction on his 2005 *Application for Teaching Certificate*; and (2) a long history of criminal convictions which amount to immoral and unprofessional conduct. In the first allegation that Mr. Thompson failed to disclose in the 2005 application, Mr. Franklin confirmed that it is true; however Mr. Thompson previously disclosed it twice to the State Board of Education. Even though he made an error in filling out the form, there was no intent to defraud. Mr. Franklin explained he was much more concerned with the criminal history that dates back to 1990. Within 18 years Mr. Thompson has five criminal convictions – none of the convictions are serious and none of them involve school, children, or other teachers. After careful consideration of all the facts in this case, Mr. Franklin recommends a suspension of three years in addition to Mr. Thompson successfully satisfying his current probation.

Eric Brown referred to Mr. Franklin's recommendation (page 20) where there is a reference to Rule 25.90; Mr. Brown asked if that should read Rule 25.490 instead. Mr. Franklin agreed and asked members to amend their documents accordingly. Mr. Brown asked if Mr. Franklin could clarify the probation stipulation. Mr. Franklin stated the recommendation is that Mr. Thompson complete three years of suspension; and that would begin at the time the Certification Board takes its vote. If during the three years Mr. Thompson completes his probation and he is off of the probation for one year (May 2010), then the probation is not an issue because it would have been more than one year.

Sr. Colleen McNicholas moved that the State Teacher Certification Board hereby accepts the proposed recommendation of the Hearing Officer that the Standard Special Teaching Certificate No. 2196750 and the Teacher's Aide Approval of Darrin Thompson be suspended for a period of three years. At this time we ask the Secretary of the State Teacher Certification Board to advise the parties in writing of our decision. Richard Ammentorp seconded the motion. Patrick Murphy called for discussion.

Denise Albrecht asked if the motion needed to include the language regarding the probation stipulation. Patrick Murphy explained that the motion is to accept the recommendation from Hearing Officer Franklin and the final Order would include the language regarding the probation stipulation.

The motion passed by unanimous vote; one abstention.

New Program Proposal Recommendation(s)

Lewis University – Early Childhood Special Education

The following representative from Lewis University was introduced: Dr. Suzanne O'Brien, Assistant Professor, College of Education.

Janet Pierce-Ritter raised a question regarding the field experiences that the master students will receive; it appears the students must have a certificate to enter the program, but it is unclear where student teaching will be for a K-3 setting. Also, Dr. Pierce-Ritter referred to page 68 of the program proposal which states a prerequisite for entering the master's program is to have a valid initial or standard Type 03, 09, 10 or 73 Illinois certificate. Suzanne O'Brien stated that was an error; students must have a Type 03 to enter the program.

Sr. Colleen McNicholas asked for further clarification regarding the Early Childhood Center.

Eric Brown referred to page 67 of the program proposal – Faculty Information. He shared his concern regarding the "to be determined" position. Mr. Brown and Deborah Curtis raised questions as to how the institution would follow up with the graduates to determine their input into the effectiveness of the program once completed.

Carol Auer and Deborah Curtis raised questions and concerns regarding a fifth grade teacher coming into the program. The program does not detail, within the description, how a candidate coming into the program will be evaluated for the student teaching experience, and it was uncertain what assessments would be used to evaluate the candidate(s).

Doug Bower explained that he would like to see (in writing) the process a candidate will go through to make sure that all of those pieces together equal the full experience at the grade level for which they are receiving the certificate.

Many of the questions that were asked by Board members were not addressed or not addressed clearly in the responses by Dr. O'Brien.

Sr. Colleen McNicholas moved that the State Teacher Certification Board recommends to the State Board of Education provisional approval of the Early Childhood Special Education program at Lewis 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)]. Janet Pierce-Ritter seconded the motion. Patrick Murphy called for discussion, but none followed. The motion failed by unanimous vote; one abstention.

National-Louis University –
Learning Behavior Specialist I (LBS I) – Alternative Certification

The following representatives were introduced from National-Louis University: Dr. Jerry Ligon, Associate Dean; Dr. Donna Wakefield, Assistant Professor and Program Coordinator, Special Education; and Karen Haworth, Director, Outreach and Academic Program Initiatives.

Sr. Colleen McNicholas inquired where the courses will be taught and how will the candidates receive support services at that particular site.

Janet Pierce-Ritter referred to the list of edits in the program proposal indicating that candidates will receive a minimum of six hours pre-clinical before they are admitted to the program. Dr. Pierce-Ritter then asked for a description of how that is envisioned.

Sr. Colleen McNicholas asked what kind of remediation, if any, is available if the LBS I test is not passed without prior content. Sr. Colleen also asked for university representatives to share (in the program proposal) where the dispositions are listed.

Doug Bower expressed his appreciation for the work on this proposal; however, concerns still remain regarding the special education content which the teachers must have prior to interacting with students with the whole range of disabilities on a daily basis as the teacher of record. These teachers need the highest content level in working with and being able to deal with diagnosis, remediation, etc. There are definite concerns with the limited amount of content they receive beforehand.

Deborah Curtis asked university representatives to address how the teachers will be prepared prior to becoming the teacher of record to handle the Individualized Education Programs (IEPs).

Sr. Colleen McNicholas shared her concerns about the discrepancies of the numbers in relationship to need. At the March 6 Certification Board meeting, the program proposal was submitted with the number 300 and at this meeting the program proposal indicates 202 and in another location in the proposal 77. Sr. Colleen also asked university staff to share information regarding the compiling, analyzing and evaluating of the data in order to improve the candidate's performance.

Linda Tomlinson asked university staff to explain the differences and/or advantages of the alternative route versus candidates moving through a traditional route. Dr. Ligon recommended Chicago Teaching Fellows' staff to address the Board with regard to the inquiry since they have quite an intense screening process.

Dr. Ligon introduced, Nancy Slavin, Officer, Recruitment and Workforce Planning, Department of Human Resources, Chicago Public Schools; and Kate Sullivan, Program Manager, Chicago Teaching Fellows.

Linda Tomlinson asked Ms. Sullivan to explain how an individual would be selected to move through this proposed alternative certification program versus a traditional program.

Sr. Colleen McNicholas asked university representatives to explain how National-Louis University would make the decision as to whether an individual should come into the full program as opposed to the accelerated program.

Deborah Curtis asked Nancy Slavin to explain if it was her sense that the other higher education institutions with approved traditional programs for special education in the Chicago area are not providing enough candidates for the area.

Sr. Colleen McNicholas indicated that there is a difference in the impression of the Chicago area deans as to whether or not Chicago Public Schools hire people who have come from programs that are really prepared for urban education. That kind of impression is permeating and is something to be addressed. After further discussion, Sr. Colleen asked university representatives to explain the use of adjunct faculty.

Deborah Curtis reiterated that if the need is that the most highly qualified people teach the students who need them the most, concerns remain that at the point that these teachers become teachers of record, they are not finished receiving the knowledge, information, and experiences that they need in order to do the job as well as, perhaps, someone who has graduated from a program that has already prepared them with those skills and experiences.

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)]. Sheila Bowens seconded the motion. Patrick Murphy called for discussion, but none followed. The motion failed; six aye votes, nine nay votes, one abstention.

Patrick Murphy asked Certification Board members if they could provide National-Louis University with further guidance since the LBS I – Alternative Certification program was not approved.

Recommendations included:

- front loading the coursework in the classroom (more than likely this would need to start before summer)
- begin the program with a smaller number of individuals
- early observations in the school
- possible prerequisite of one/two online courses

Deborah Curtis said that it has been her experience as a Certification Board member that there are a couple alternative certification programs in Special Education, but she assumes that they are more than just a summer intensive for exactly that reason, the models that tend to work best are those in which candidates already have a bachelor's degree and a content area in which they are going to teach and then they receive their pedagogy, as opposed of all of that taking place in the summer.

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

Janet Pierce-Ritter moved that the State Teacher Certification Board accept the list of “Proposals for Activities that Meet Requirements for Standard Certificate Eligibility” dated March 16, 2009. Carol Auer seconded the motion. Patrick Murphy called for discussion, but none followed. 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.

2010 Meeting Schedule of the Illinois State Teacher Certification Board

Carol Auer moved that the State Teacher Certification Board accept the 2010 Meeting Schedule of the Illinois State Teacher Certification Board as follows:

January 8, 2010	July 9, 2010
February 5, 2010	August 5 and 6, 2010
March 5, 2010	September 10, 2010
April 9, 2010	October 1, 2010
May 7, 2010	November 5, 2010
June 3 and 4, 2010	December 2 and 3, 2010

Richard Ammentorp seconded the motion. Patrick Murphy called for discussion.

Certification Board members recommended cancellation of the March 5, 2010 meeting due to ISAT testing. April 8, 2010 will then be added to the calendar in case there is need for a two-day meeting in April.

The motion was revised to include the recommendations discussed. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Item(s) for Discussion:

Program Report Format(s) –
Annual Program Report
Seven-Year Program Summary Data Report

Deborah Curtis (Kansas, Kentucky), Cynthia Shanahan (Nebraska) and Janet Pierce-Ritter (Minnesota) shared information regarding the states they contacted with regard to program review. The documents from those states have been posted to the STCB Secure Website.

Eric Brown (Wisconsin), Sr. Colleen McNicholas (Wisconsin) and Richard Ammentorp (Minnesota) also shared information regarding the states they contacted.

Certification Board members agree to continue contacting other states regarding their program review. Questions asked to other states may include:

- How many institutions does the state deal with?
- How many programs within the institutions?
- Can you provide the enrollment data?
- Do you have an Annual Report?
- Who conducts the program reviews?

Linda Tomlinson indicated Certification Board members may wish to consider an external review be required by each institution.

Sr. Colleen McNicholas suggested an option to have the universities volunteer to have someone (depending on the subject area) work pro bono (perhaps pay mileage reimbursement only). This would then provide a reviewer from inside the state. This option would be a less expensive alternative.

Deborah Curtis stated that one of the main goals of this endeavor is to ensure everyone meet the same rigorous process. Linda Tomlinson reiterated that the only way to maintain consistency is for everyone to go through the same type of review.

Certification Board members indicated it is very important to see what is being collected now by the State Board of Education. Dennis Williams indicated Phyliss Jones is working on this request.

Deborah Curtis asked what would happen with the data collected. Linda Tomlinson indicated that a system (data base program) would be developed to review and aggregate the data. State Board staff would have to conduct an initial review of the aggregated data.

Certification Board members agreed to convene a subcommittee to focus on the Annual Program Report and to pursue more out-of-state reports. Information will be provided at the next Certification Board meeting on May 1. In order to assist the subcommittee members with their work, Dennis Williams agreed to update the documents (Annual Program Report and Seven-Year Program Summary Data Report) based on the comments received today and have those documents posted on the STCB Secure Website.

Item(s) for Information:

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

Patrick Murphy reported that there were 168 recommendations for Standard / Master Certificates renewed in Group A for the period of March 1, 2009 through March 31, 2009.

Moving from Initial to Standard Certificate

Patrick Murphy reported that there were 87 recommendations for Initial Certificates moving to Standard Certificates for the period of March 1, 2009 through March 31, 2009.

Secretary's Report:

Educator Certification Division

Linda Jamali, Division Administrator, Educator Certification Division, reported the following:

General

- Division remains within a 30-day processing window for most certificates and endorsements.
- There are currently 1,003 certificates/endorsements to be processed.
- The revised form 73-03C has been posted to the Illinois State Board of Education website along with the link for additional information concerning splitting a Type 10 certificate. In addition, reminder emails were sent to the regional offices of education and certification officers at Illinois colleges and universities.

During the Period of March 6, 2009 through April 1, 2009

- 619 certificates were issued through transcript evaluation. 581 deficiency letters were mailed regarding certificates evaluated through transcript evaluation.
- There were 478 new certificates issued through entitlement. 34 deficiency letters were mailed regarding entitlement certificates.
- 853 substitute certificates were processed and 385 duplication certificates were printed.
- 225 endorsement applications were processed and issued; deficiency letters were mailed for over 426 additional endorsement applications.
- 449 approvals/disapprovals were mailed.

Educator Testing

- 317 examinees registered to take the first online Basic Skills test during the March 12-18 testing window.
- There are currently 198 examinees registered for the May 14-20 testing window and 32 so far for the August window.
- 10, 842 examinees have registered for the April 25 paper/pencil test. They are registered for 12,370 tests at this point.
- Staff is in the process of updating case files from the February 28 paper/pencil test. There were 14,627 candidates registered for 16,564 tests.

Grow Your Own (GYO) Teacher Initiative

- Staff is already in receipt of FY10 Continuation proposals from 14 of the 16 consortia. The consortia members seem to be happy with the streamlined application process. This year we moved up the timeline for the Continuation proposals and are expecting a smooth process.
- Our next meeting with the GYO Illinois will be April 7.

Linda Tomlinson asked Certification Board members to provide feedback as to how many times an individual should be allowed to take a state certification test. Certification Board members agreed that the recommendation of five times is generous. That means that an individual may

take any one of the state tests only five times and then will not be allowed to take it again if not passed on the fifth try.

Educator and School Development Division

Patrick Murphy 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 (7)
- Number of **teachers** audited (94) – September 2008
- Number of **teachers** unable to document professional development (1)

Mr. Murphy also reported that the following State Teacher Certification Board member terms will expire June 30, 2009:

- Richard Ammentorp, Illinois Education Association
- Carol Auer, Illinois Association of School Administrators
- Lawer Dixon, Jr., Illinois Federation of Teachers
- Janet Pierce-Ritter, Illinois Association
- Tamara Smith, Illinois Education Association

There is also the vacancy left due to the passing of Muhammad Abdullah. Letters to organizations were sent April 2, 2009.

Adjournment:

With no further business, Denise Albrecht moved that the State Teacher Certification Board meeting adjourn. Richard Ammentorp seconded the motion. Patrick Murphy called for discussion, but none followed. The motion passed by unanimous vote. The State Teacher Certification Board meeting adjourned at 1:30 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**

April 2009

School / County

Lockport Township High School, Will County

Mt. Pulaski Community Unit District 23, Logan County

Queen Bee Schools – District 16, DuPage County

Staunton Community Unit School District 6, Macoupin County

Steger School District 194, Cook County