

Education Quality Team
VSBEPE Agenda Item 2A
Staff Report for October 23, 2019

From the Education Quality Division: Patrick Halladay, Division Director

As most of the AOE has completed their move to the National Life campus in Montpelier, it has been a bit quieter for those of us left in Barre. The Education Quality Division and our siblings in the Federal Programs Division will begin working in Montpelier on about 12 November. In preparation, we have boxed and labeled all of our educator files. We have also been culling old criminal checks, keeping only those fewer than three years old and those that came back with a criminal hit. We gone from about 20 boxes of old CRCs to two binders.

It is our expectation that the next board meeting will be held at the National Life campus. We will provide details in advance of that meeting.

Recently, an educator who has returned to his school after 2 years of active military duty requested that the AOE extended the life of his license, due to expire in June 2020 for two years. On the guidance of our legal team, we think this should be requested as a waiver, then be codified in our next rule update.

We did receive two waiver requests this month; the executive board decided not to hear either request. For the first, the applicant was requesting a waiver from portions of the relevant PRAXIS II exam for elementary education. We have not granted such waivers in the past as the PRAXIS II reflects the content that educators should be teaching in their classroom.

For the second, an educator was requesting a waiver from PRAXIS Core math. She does not have a diagnosed disability, making her case inconsistent with the process we have previously adopted. Secondly, this request came from the educator, as opposed to from a superintendent, as she is not currently employed by an SU/SD. Licenses granted under these waivers are limited to a specific school district. In this case there would be no school district to limit the license to. She has been advised to have a superintendent make a waiver request on her behalf.

We have continued our investigating options for provisional licenses for educators who are working for entities that do not have the authority to request provisional licenses under our current rules. We are pursuing a potential proposed rule change for teachers of low-incident special education students such as visual impairment and Deaf or hard of hearing. We are still weighing options for early childhood educators working for private preschool providers.

From the Education Quality Division: Ron Ryan, Education Programs Manager

With School up and running temporary license requests have slowed down. We are currently working on a process for incorporating the CRC process into the temporary licenses for Emergency, Provisional and Apprenticeship. We will provide more information at the full board meeting.

The majority of the Agency of Education all moved to the National Life Building on October 4, 2019. The remaining divisions (FESP and EQ) will be moving on November 8.

L/RSB: D. Giles verified and connected L/RSB members with their corresponding Boards including mergers and is still receiving new member information. Every LSB has been sent their 2020 renewal list (list is only as valid as the employment section of an educator’s profile on date list is generated). Three RSBs have also requested individual SD/SU renewal lists. Deb has been verifying L/RSB Financial Statements with corresponding SDE 3.0s to prepare for the Grant Applications. The AOE Finance Office has given two extensions for final SDE 3.0s to be submitted which extends this process. Deb has composed and will be sending letters to approximately 30 Independent Schools served by the Vermont Special Education Independent Schools Local Standards Board to share information regarding the renewal process for the licensed educators associated with these schools/organizations. She also continues to address questions and concerns from L/RSBs and educators and to send updates to L/RSBs.

Current Work Queue per application type as of 10-11-19: *Applications in the work queue are in various stages of processing from just received to waiting for payment from applicant.*

Application Type	Total
Initial	76
Reinstatement	30
Renewal	2
Retired	0
Temporary	31
1 Yr. Temporary – extenuating circumstance	0
Transcript Review – Initial	29
Transcript Review – Add endorsement	43
Peer Review - Initial	57
Peer Review – Add endorsement	13

From the Education Quality Division: Terry Reilly, Pre-Service Educator Quality

The Pre-Service team has drafted a proposed policy aimed to address a perceived conflict of interest related to the process used by ROPA to review Peer Review. Transcript Review Worksheets have been updated as the result of the recent implementation of new Rules. Peer Review Score Sheets are also updated after the implementation of new Rules.

ROPA

The last large group meeting to revise the ROPA standards is scheduled for October 22. Recently the ROPA Coordinator traveled to Castleton U. to conduct a Rules Check as part of a new program review. Dates have been set for the new program reviews for the Higher Education Collaborative. Updating the ROPA Consultant Manual is ongoing project but has required more attention recently now that annual ROPA reporting has been implemented. Two-year follow-ups sites coming in spring 2020 are: Castleton, Middlebury, Norwich, Peer Review, Saint Michael's. Per Policy, a follow-up visit is required, but can be waived by the Board.

Peer Review

Networked Improvement Community (NIC) work continues. This work, facilitated by AOE staff, brings stakeholders together to solve a common program. In the case of Peer Review, the common problem or issue is addressing mentoring so that it helps Peer Review candidates on provisional licenses in school districts state-wide. School districts regularly utilize the provisional license. It is intended that those on a provisional license attain the Level I license. This does not always happen. EQ staff, through the NIC process, will begin working with districts to try to improve the mentoring of Peer Review candidates on a provisional license.