

January 16, 2020

Education Quality Team
Staff Report for January 16, 2020

From the Education Quality Division: Patrick Halladay, Division Director

It has been a consequential few months since the last VSBPE Meeting.

First of all, we now have a full complement of board members! We recently received appointments of three new teachers as full board members.

- **Erin Brady** will be assuming the expired seat of Roberta Baker. Her term runs through 2022. Erin teaches social studies in the Humanities Department at Colchester High School.
- **Christine Kurucz** will be assuming the resigned seat of Jeremy Hill. Her term runs through 2021. Christine teaches English at Twin Valley High School in Whitingham.
- **Jennifer Clement** will be assuming the resigned seat of Beth-Ann Repchick. Her term runs through 2021. Jennifer teaches Family and Consumer Sciences at Fair Haven Union High School.

Nearly as notable, the 2020 licensing renewal season opened on Tuesday, 7 January. Ron provides additional detail below, but I would like to call attention to a thorough team effort in preparation for the opening. Several communications were shared with the field to help expedite applications and preemptively address potential points of confusion. This included reaching out to our technical partner, Aithent, in advance of the window opening. We did experience some technical delays on the first day; we were able to address those within 24 hours due to a coordinated response from the division and ADS (AOE's IT arm) with Aithent.

The State Auditor recent completed and published an audit of the AOE's and SUs' compliance with the legal requirement for all educators to have a completed Child Protection Registry (CPR) check. The audit found evidence that some dates for completed record checks had not been properly entered in the ALiS system. We have rectified the errors and are taking steps to ensure that those fields are required in the future. Additionally, the audit found that 11 SUs had not completed any CPR checks. The division is working with those SUs to make sure they understand and meet their requirements.

In 2019, the legislature passed Act 30, directing the Office of Professional Regulation (OPR) to conduct and issue a report on the processes of all state agencies responsible for any professional licensure. Specifically, the act sought a report on apprenticeship pathways to licensure, bridge to licensure to and from Canada, and potential efficiencies in collaboration between licensing entities. The division completed a lengthy survey and met with OPR for follow-up. They will be issuing their report in the next week or two.

In November, Wendy Scott announced that she was leaving her position as Peer Review Coordinator. Her last day in the position was 6 December. Terry Reilly lead a thorough search for her replacement. The search committee recommended Andrew Prowten, the current division program technician. Andrew accepted and will officially begin in his new role on 21 January.

This means that we now need to find a new program technician. The position has been posted, and Amy Scalabrini has organized a search committee. The posting closes on 21 January. We hope to conduct interviews before the end of January, with a recommendation to hire following quickly after.

Liz Bourne was granted an emergency school librarian license on a waiver in August, with the provision that she complete 15 hours of professional learning by 1 January 2020. She successfully met that requirement.

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

The 2020 Renewal season opened January 7th with prior notifications going out to applicants before and after the holidays. We are projecting 5282 renewals this year. This is the first year that both 5-year and 7-year license renewals will come due at the same time.

The Licensing Department, with the assistance of Lisa Pierson and Ron, have put together a standard operating procedure for temporary licenses requiring fingerprinting. Beginning June 1, 2020 Emergency, Provisionals and Apprenticeship licenses will require fingerprinting prior to getting the license. Once fingerprinting has been completed and the receipt is uploaded the applicant will receive a Letter of Eligibility from the agency until the actual license gets issued. This way the process will not be held up and applicants can begin their assignment in a timely fashion.

L/RSB: Deb Giles has been sending out monthly updates to Local & Regional Boards regarding licensure and the upcoming renewal season. The AOE Finance Office has given multiple extensions for final SDE 3.0s to be submitted which extends the Grant Application process. With changes to all State Grants, Deb needed to update documents contained in the Grant Application which all Boards need to complete. She hopes to send out the Grant Applications this month. Deb continues to address questions and concerns from L/RSBs and educators.

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

On December 5th a group of Educational Speech Language Pathologists and higher education faculty met to revise the Educational Speech Language Pathologist endorsement. The proposed endorsement reflects the most current national standards and best practices.

The Driver Education Work Group has begun its work exploring the idea of a Driver and Traffic Safety Education sub-endorsement for the Career Technical Education (CTE) endorsement. The CTE endorsement is always issued with at least one sub-endorsement. This idea would have the CTE teacher authorized to teach Driver and Traffic Safety Education. At the work group's next meeting on January 8th, it is expected the group will continue its conversation and explore the corresponding idea of the CTE apprenticeship license and a CTE driver education sub-endorsement.

ROPA

The Castleton ROPA report, the UVM review team, the Johnson State review team, the Lyndon State review team, the Higher Education Collaborative review teams have all been recent items for ROPA. Also, the ROPA Standards have been fully revised and are ready for the Board's review. UVM has submitted a Teach-Out Plan for the Board's review. ROPA will put forth a

proposal to the Board to clarify the approval for Post-bac and graduate levels. Recently, ROPA has provided technical assistance to teacher preparation programs on more than one occasion regarding this issue. Therefore, the proposed clarification.

Peer Review

Peer Review has a new Coordinator, Andrew Prowten. The hiring committee worked diligently interviewing nearly a half dozen candidates from around the northeast and beyond. While we are excited to have Andrew as the Peer Review Coordinator, Andrew is not new to the AOE. He started as a Program Technician for the EQ division in July of 2019. The hope is that Andrew can fully assume the role of Peer Review Coordinator on January 6th, 2019 pending confirmation from the state's Human Resources Office. The transition comes at a good time for Peer Review, during the holiday season, because Peer Review typically sees a slow-down in applications this time of year.

Before joining the AOE, Andrew spent a number of years as a middle school teacher in the Boston area. Additionally, he spent four years working for the STARBASE Vermont program, a STEM "Academy" hosted by the National Guard which provides free science education to 5th grade classrooms. Andrew states he has many interests and hobbies but because he and his wife recently bought their first house, he finds less time to dedicate to them. Welcome, Andrew.