

Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators

*VSBPE: Ensuring a Caring, Competent, Highly Effective Educator in
Every Vermont Classroom to Improve Student Learning*

Draft Meeting Minutes

Meeting Place: Virtual Meeting | Microsoft Teams

Date: August 5, 2021

Members Present:

Ellen Emery, Brenda Seitz, Bill Clark, Amy Minor, Ric Reardon, Jennifer Clement, Cheryl N.,
Christie Martin, Christine Kurucz

Members Absent:

Amy Flannery, Shelby Quinn, Amanda Garces

Staff Present:

Patrick Halladay, Ron Ryan, Andrew Prowten, Amy Scalabrini, Ellen Cairns, Chris Case, Jacqui
Kelleher

Members of the Public:

Marcy Chant, Sarah Tetzlaff, Judith Kaplan, Amy Saks Pavese

Call to Order:

P. Halladay called the meeting to order at 9:04am.

BOARD REORGANIZATION:

B. Cleland nominated Amy Minor for Board Chair.
Seconded by Ellen Emery.
Motion approved.

Meeting turned over to Board Chair, Amy Minor.

E. Emery nominated Christine Kurucz for Vice Chair.
Seconded by Bernie Cleland.
Motion approved.

E. Emery nominated Bill Clark for Secretary.
Seconded by B. Seitz.
Motion approved.

B. Cleland nominated R. Reardon for Chair of the Program Approval Committee.
Seconded by E. Emery.
Motion approved.

E. Emery nominated Jennifer Clement for Chair of the Licensing Committee.
Seconded by B. Cleland.
Motion approved.

REVIEW OF SUB COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES:

Program Approval Committee (PAC): Responsibilities of the committee include but are not limited to: Approval of ROPA Review Team Members, ROPA Review Reports, and Two-Year Reports; updating educator preparation program rules and policies as needed.

Licensing Committee (LC): Responsibilities of the committee include but are not limited to: Approval of endorsement revisions and addition of new endorsements, Local and Regional Standards Board work, licensing data, testing requirements, licensing requirements, and policy recommendations.

Approval of Agenda:

P. Halladay made a request to amend the Agenda to change the Literacy Advisory Council Member to a discussion only.

B. Clark moved to approve the agenda with changing the Literacy Advisory Council Member to discussion only.
Seconded by C. Kurucz.
Motion approved.

Approval of Minutes:

R. Reardon moved to accept minutes from 5/20/21 and 7/12/21.
Seconded by C. Kurucz.
Motion approved.

Board Member Updates:

The Board and present AOE members took some time to give a brief overview of past and present career paths and why they are involved with the Board.

Staff Report:

P. Halladay spoke about the licensing renewal season coming to a close and gave kudos to the licensing team who have worked diligently to keep applications processed smoothly and quickly.

The Office will be returning to limited in person work on or around September 1.

T. Reilly has resigned. His position has been reworked to include coordination across the division and no longer includes supervision. We expect the position to be posted soon.

E. Cairns asked for a member to consider joining an upcoming ROPA review for the Higher Ed Collaborative.

Legislative Advisory Council on Literacy

Chair A. Minor appointed B. Clark to serve as the VSBPE representative on the Legislative Advisory Council on Literacy.

Superintendent Waiver Request – M. Chant

B. Clark moves to waive the requirement of the Praxis Core for M. Chant as presented.

Seconded by E. Emery.

Motion approved with one opposed.

Educator Request: T. Sunderland

E. Emery moved to approve the waiver request for T. Sunderland as presented.

Seconded by B. Clark.

Motion approved.

Committee Reports and Motions

Licensing Committee, J. Clement, Chair, Reporting

E. Emery moved that the VSBPE adopt the updated Praxis II Content test for Middle School Science test code 5442 with a Passing Score of 152.

Seconded by B. Clark.

Motion approved.

R. Ryan provided an update to the Board on the 2021 renewal cycle. Approximately 3,600 educators renewed licenses this season.

The VSBPE discussed the Office's proposed revision to Policy F2, Policy on Recency of Study, to require consistent recent coursework among all applications for licensure.

B. Seitz moved that the VSBPE accept the Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing endorsement revision as the new endorsement standards for educators seeking this endorsement.

Seconded by E. Emery.

Motion approved.

This new endorsement revision standard will not go into effect until the next Rule revision.

B. Clark moved that the VSBPE accept the Teacher of the Visually Impaired endorsement revision as the new endorsement standards for educators seeking this endorsement.

Seconded by E. Emery.

Motion approved.

This new endorsement revision standard will not go into effect until the next Rule revision.

Program Approval Committee, R. Reardon, Chair, Reporting

E. Cairns gave an overview of the upcoming ROPA Review Schedule. The schedule is for the Board's awareness, a vote is not necessary.

B. Cleland moves that the VSBPE accept UVM's request for the AOE to accept working as a School Librarian under a Provisional license in lieu of traditional Student Teaching when a candidate applies for initial licensure as a School Librarian through Transcript Review if the candidate has completed a minimum of thirteen weeks of teaching under a practicum.

Seconded by B. Clark.

Motion approved.

B. Cleland moved that the VSBPE accept the report of the ROPA review team for Southern New Hampshire University. Approval of the program is not recommended until several stipulations have been met, as detailed in the report.

Seconded by B. Seitz.

Motion approved.

B. Seitz moved that the VSBPE accept the request from St. Michael's College for approval for its Literacy Program to recommend licensure in the new 79-Specialized Literacy Professional endorsement.

Seconded by B. Clark.

Motion approved.

ESSER State Plan Workforce Development

P. Halladay shared relevant details of the workforce development section of the ESSER State Plan.

The Board broke for lunch at 12:10 p.m. and reconvened at 12:50 p.m.

Online Teaching Specialist endorsement waiver

P. Halladay spoke to the Board about the Online Teaching Specialist endorsement waiver. The current waiver brought through by the Legislature expired on June 30 of this year. There is no further action being taken at this time.

Special Education License Survey Results

P. Halladay, J. Kelleher and C. Case presented on the critical challenges that SU/SDs are facing with special educator staffing shortages.

B. Clark moved for a temporary waiver for Special Education provisional licensing.

Seconded by B. Seitz.

Motion approved.

Temporary Waiver for Special Education provisional licensing

In response to staffing shortages exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, for the 2021/22 academic year, applicants for a Provisional License with a special education endorsement shall possess a baccalaureate degree and meet at least one of the following criteria:

- a) possess any valid professional Educator license from Vermont or from another state;
- b) possess any expired professional Vermont Educator license or any expired professional Educator license from another state, provided the license expired no fewer than two (2) years and no longer than ten (10) years ago;
- c) have a major or the equivalent in the content area of the provisional endorsement sought;
- d) have successfully completed Praxis II licensure content assessment for special education (Test number 5354) with a passing score of at least 145 within 120 days of issuance of a provisional license.
 - a. Educators qualifying through criterion d) must have been admitted to an approved pathway to special education licensure.
 - b. Educators qualifying through criterion d) must have a mentor participating in a Vermont-sponsored New Special Educator Mentoring Program.

- c. Educators qualifying through criterion d) must participate in the Vermont Agency of Education-identified modules for introduction to special education instruction within 30 days of issuance of a provisional license.

This policy automatically expires on 30 May 2022 unless reaffirmed by the Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators on or before the date of expiration.

Superintendent Waiver Request: D. Martin-Baker

This waiver request was tabled due to the motion of the Board on special education provisional licenses.

2021/2022 Agenda

P. Halladay presented items the Board could consider discussing during the 2021/22 academic year.

A survey will be sent out for Board members to state their top 3 priorities.

September Agenda Items

Anti-Bias Teaching Standards
Special Education Provisional Update
F2 Policy Revision:

B. Seitz motioned to adjourn.
Seconded by B. Cleland.
Motion approved.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45pm.

Minutes recorded by Amy Scalabrini.