

## 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: May 20, 2021**

#### **Members Present:**

Erik Remmers, Jennifer Fribush, Christine Latulippe, Ric Reardon, Jennifer Clement, Amy Flannery, Amy Minor, Cynthia Cole, Amy McMullen, Christine Kurucz, Bernadette Cleland, Cheryl Niedzwiecki

#### **Members Absent:**

Shelby Quinn

#### **Staff Present:**

Patrick Halladay, Ron Ryan, Ellen Cairns, Amy Scalabrini, Andrew Prowten, Terry Reilly

#### **Members of the Public:**

Malik McKinley, Charleen McFarlane, Juliette Longchamp, Karen Conroy, Jen Husle, Tom Debalsi; Megan Mallory; Diane Reilly, Jennifer Lawcewicz, Cathy Newton, Rafeef Faour; Stephanie Ratmeyer; Regina Toolin, Becky Wipfler, Kathleen Brinegar; Robert Erickson.

#### **Call to Order:**

E. Remmers called the meeting to order at 9:06am

#### **Approval of Agenda and Minutes:**

Motioned to approve April 13, 2021 minutes and amend the agenda to add a Superintendent waiver request by A. Minor.

Seconded by C. Latulippe.

Motion approved.

## **Correspondence / Announcements:**

P. Halladay gave the Board an update from Joy Wilcox who expressed concerns of the Praxis Core requirements being a hindrance to educator licensure. Based on Rule, an applicant enrolled in an educator preparation program would not be eligible for a waiver as they must be requested by a Superintendent, Head of School, or School Board Chair.

## **Public to be heard:**

J. Longchamp expressed her appreciation to the AOE and encouraged the Board not to lower standards when discussing teacher shortages.

## **Board Member Updates:**

N/A

## **Staff Report:**

P. Halladay discussed UVM and CLEP exams. R. Ryan added there are 449 educators on provisional licenses.

## **Waiver Requests:**

### **Superintendent Waiver Request: C. Colston**

E. Remmers recused himself.

J. Fribush moved to grant the waiver for a one-year provisional license in Special Education for C. Colston limited to Lamoille North Supervisory Union. A written plan of support must be submitted to the AOE.

Seconded by C. Cole.

Motion approved.

### **Superintendent Waiver Request: K. Lindgren**

E. Remmers recused himself.

J. Fribush moved to grant the waiver for a one-year provisional license in Special Education for K. Lindgren limited to Lamoille North Supervisory Union with the stipulation that she attempt the Praxis Core with any accommodations she is eligible for before the end of 2021 and that Lamoille North SU submit a written plan for mentorship to the AOE.

Seconded by C. Cole.

Motion approved.

**Superintendent Waiver Request: C. Brucker**

J. Fribush moved C. Brucker is granted an additional year on Special Education provisional license limited to Essex North with the acceptance by AOE of a plan for mentoring.  
Seconded by R. Reardon.  
Motion approved.

**Superintendent Waiver Request: S. Fennimore**

J. Fribush moved to approve S. Fennimore to extend emergency license in French limited to Harwood UUSD through October 31, 2021.  
Seconded by R. Reardon.  
Motion approved.

**Superintendent Waiver Request: M. Mallory**

C. Cole moved that the VSBPE grant M. Mallory a one-year provisional license in Elementary Education restricted to Harwood UUSD with a mentor who will guide her and help her until her license is completed.  
Seconded by B. Cleland.  
Motion approved.

**Superintendent Waiver Request: R. Faour**

A. Minor moved to approve R. Faour's waiver request as presented.  
Seconded by A. McMullen.  
Motion approved.

**Superintendent Waiver Request: S. Gauvin**

J. Fribush moved to grant the waiver for S. Gauvin as requested with the addition of a documented mentor and limited to the Hartford School District.  
Seconded by R. Reardon.  
Motion approved.

The Board took a 10-minute recess.

**ETS:**

M. McKinley gave an overview of the redesigned Praxis Secondary Science tests.

## **COVID-19 Update:**

P. Halladay gave an update to the Board related to Peer Review extensions. Little bit of a backlog, but things look normal in terms of licensing. No substantial concerns related to student teaching this Fall. We don't expect elementary students to be fully vaccinated in the Fall.

The EQ Division has been deeply involved in the Recovery Planning. Team is reviewing SU/SD recovery plans. Three pillars: Academic achievement, student engagement, and social/emotional issues.

## **Legislative Update:**

Senate Bill 114 – creation of literacy advisory council. Statute will require a VSBPE member to be present.

## **Teacher Shortage Update:**

P. Halladay spoke about the results from the teacher shortage survey. Special Education and Speech Language Pathologists are the two most identified areas of need. The Board discussed the results of the VPA Hiring Workforce Survey.

## **Rule Changes:**

21-P02 was on the LCAR Agenda on May 20; however, was postponed to May 27<sup>th</sup> due to time constraints.

## **Committee Reports and Motions:**

P. Halladay gave an overview of the virtual trainings and renewals.

R. Ryan gave the Board an update on renewals. We are confident that come June 30<sup>th</sup> all renewals will be processed.

### **Program Approval Committee: R. Reardon, Chair, reporting**

R. Reardon recused himself.

C. Latulippe moves the VSBPE approve the proposed review team members for Castleton's new program ROPA review.

Seconded by J. Fribush.

Motion approved.

R. Reardon moved the VSBPE accept the report of the ROPA review team and grant conditional approval to UVEI's Literacy Educator program until May 31, 2023.

Seconded by C. Latulippe.

Motion approved.

R. Reardon moved the VSBPE approve UVM's Two-Year Report and grant ongoing Full Approval to their Art, Music, Educational Speech Language Pathologist, and Special Education programs until their next review in 2025.

Seconded by C. Latulippe.

Motion approved.

R. Reardon moved the VSBPE approve UVM's request for approval of a reformatted version of its approved Computer Science Education (CSE) program.

Seconded by J. Fribush.

Motion approved.

R. Reardon moved the VSBPE grant approval to UVM's remote internship for a period of two years, until June 2023. UVM will report back to the Board with evidence of how the pilot project worked prior to placing students in remote internship assignments in the fall of 2023. This evidence should include survey data from student teachers, supervisors, cooperating teachers, and principals who supervise graduates from the first cohort.

Seconded by C. Latulippe.

Motion approved.

R. Reardon moved the VSBPE approve NVU-Johnson's substantive change requests: the first, to teach out NVU-Lyndon's current Elementary Education program, including the special education and early childhood concentrations available to students in that program, and offer the current NVU-Johnson Inclusive Childhood Education program across both campuses beginning Fall 2021, with the final candidates in the current Lyndon program being recommended for licensure no later than May 31, 2023; and second, to unify the Lyndon and Johnson programs for all ROPA considerations.

Seconded by C. Latulippe.

Motion approved.

R. Reardon moved the VSBPE approve Middlebury's Two-Year Report and grant continued full approval to their Elementary Education, English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies programs, and change the approval from Conditional to Full for their Art and Modern and Classical Languages (French, German, Russian, and Spanish) programs, until their next scheduled ROPA review in 2025.

Seconded by C. Latulippe.

Motion approved.

### **Anti-Bias Standards Draft:**

P. Halladay discussed the methodology used when drafting the anti-bias standards. Next steps are to form a review team, develop a second draft and identify action steps for the Board to consider.

## **August Agenda Items:**

Board Reorganization  
New Board Member Orientation  
Praxis Core Requirement  
Middle School Science Praxis II  
Anti-Bias Standards  
Licensure Survey to Administrators  
Private School Teachers – Pathway to Licensure  
2021 Rule Update  
Special Education provisional  
Rule Change Timeline  
ROPA Schedule  
Endorsement Revision Timeline  
Online Teaching Specialist endorsement waiver

A. McMullen motioned to adjourn.  
Seconded by C. Latulippe.  
Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned at 1:41pm.

Minutes recorded by Amy Scalabrini.

## Ode to VSBPE

There once was a Board,  
Who had the best Lord,  
Patrick K. Halliday  
Who I would just say  
Was by all members adored.

One day, March the Twelfth,  
We met in good health.  
At Norwich U,  
Christine with our crew,  
Never expecting the Covid stealth.

Dan French was our guest.  
Of shortages he expressed:  
Driver educators we need!  
And special educators indeed!  
But there was something else, he stressed...

Then the clock struck one.  
To the computer we spun.  
Covid updates were there  
And oh my, what a scare!  
The spread of the virus had begun...

We checked the Covid updates.  
State colleges closed, Jeb dictates!  
We looked at our screens  
And our other machines,  
Trying to imagine our new fates.

We talked of Mitigation  
And the whole situation.  
Our fearless leader, Erik  
Said, Let's look at a metric  
And plan for our adaptation.

Then Jenn made a move,  
And we all did approve  
To be our smartest  
And work our hardest  
To do the work as behooved.

Amy set up our Microsoft Teams.  
While Deb 'n Ellen fulfilled Educator dreams.  
With Ropa and Licenses,  
There were no crisis is!  
Andrew, Cathy, Terry and Ron, you have our esteem!

I will never forget  
All you people I have met.  
Doing this work  
And having the perk  
Of all the standards we did set!

Good luck at any rate  
To my esteemed colleagues great-  
To continue the mission  
And improving the condition  
Of education in our State!

**Cindy Cole**

Honored to Have Worked with VSBPE  
May 20, 2021