



**AGENCY OF EDUCATION
EDUCATOR QUALITY DIVISION**

Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators
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VERMONT STANDARDS BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS

March 12, 2019 AOE Offices, Barre

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

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Erik Remmers, Bernadette Cleland, Ric Reardon, Tom Young, Jennifer Fribush, Roberta Baker, Cindy Cole, Shelby Quinn, Christine Latulippe

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jeremy Hill, Amy McMullen, Beth-Ann Repchick, David Younce

STAFF PRESENT: Patrick Halladay, Ron Ryan, Deborah Giles, Terry Reilly, Amy Scalabrini, Ellen Cairns, Catherine Wilkins

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Lindsay Townsend; Lyle Jepson, VTC; Malik McKinley, ETS.

CALL TO ORDER: E. Remmers called the meeting to order at 9:03am.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

**Motion made by C. Cole to amend the agenda to add a Superintendent waiver request for Lynn Cota. Seconded by T. Young.
Motion approved.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

**Motion made by R. Baker to approve the minutes. Seconded by C. Cole.
Motion approved.**

CORRESPONDENCE / ANNOUNCEMENTS:

R. Baker now holds a School Librarian endorsement.

T. Young was awarded Coach of the Year for DII basketball.

Board Chair, E. Remmers shared correspondence from a member of the public regarding identified disabilities and waiver requests. P. Halladay confirmed with General Counsel Emily Simmons that a decision to not consider the waiver was consistent with existing Rules.

E. Remmers will respond on behalf of the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Lindsay Townsend shared his thoughts on Bachelor's Degree requirement for Driver and Traffic Safety Education.

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES:

Two new board members:

Shelby Quinn, Second Grade teacher at Union Elementary School.

Bernadette Cleland, public member, former teacher and administrator.

STAFF REPORT:

R. Ryan gave the Board an update on the positive transition with interim Director, Patrick Halladay.

WAIVER REQUESTS:

Educator Waiver Request – B. Chandler

Motion made by C. Cole to approve the waiver request for B. Chandler to accept his non-transcript course for his transcript review. Seconded by J. Fribush.

Motion denied. The Board recommends to go through Peer Review or to take the original course approved by the Agency for previous applicants.

Superintendent Waiver Request – S. Bentley

E. Remmers recused himself.

Motion made by R. Baker to approve a 22-day extension for S. Bentley to continue to substitute. Seconded by C. Cole. Motion approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND MOTIONS:

Licensing Committee: T. Young, Chair, reporting:

T. Young moved that the Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators adopts the revised version of Policy F2, Recency of Study, to include additional professional learning when the Level I License has been lapsed more than ten (10) years. The revised Policy F2 will go into effect starting on July 1, 2019. Seconded by R Baker. Motion approved.

T. Young moved that the VSBPE update the SAT equivalency for Praxis Core for educator licensure and grant the office the authority to update the ACT equivalency upon receiving requested information. The SAT test was changed in 2016, and ETS defined College Readiness as having an SAT score of: Verbal 480, Math 530. Seconded by R. Baker. Motion approved.

T. Young moved that the VSBPE adopt the endorsement revisions for Health Education, Elementary Education and Associate School Nurse. Seconded by R. Baker. Motion approved.

T. Young moved that the VSBPE approve endorsement revisions for administrators that include Superintendent, Principal, Director of Special Education, Director of Curriculum, Assistant Director of Adult Education, and Career Technical Education Director be approved with the amended language below:

A 60-hour practicum is required when 60 hours of professional experience in the endorsement area is not documented within the original 300-hour internship that is required for an initial administrator license. Test Code: 6011 is required for all educators seeking any administrator endorsement unless they have completed a post-Baccalaureate degree in educational leadership, completed a ROPA-approved teacher leadership program, or hold a current administrator endorsement.

The additional 60-hour practicum is not applicable when adding the Superintendent endorsement.

Seconded by R. Baker.
Motion approved.

Break for lunch at 12:35pm.
Reconvene at 1:00pm.

Draft 2019-2020 Meeting Schedule:

Motion made by R. Baker to approved draft meeting schedule. Seconded by R. Reardon. Motion approved.

Rule Changes

The Board reviewed, revised and approved the proposed Rule changes.

Motion made by J. Fribush to accept the proposed changes to the Rules. Seconded by R. Reardon. Motion approved.

Bachelor's Degree Requirements:

The Board had a lengthy discussion regarding the Bachelor's Degree requirement pertaining to the in-vehicle instruction segment of the Driver and Traffic Safety Education endorsement. The Board chose not to act at this time. There will be a broader review of the Driver and Traffic Safety Education endorsement in the future.

Proficiency Based Renewal:

J. Fribush would like to research what other states are doing relating to proficiency-based renewal. Discussion regarding how this might tie in to micro credentialing.

P. Halladay will bring a white paper to the next meeting. R. Reardon will present at the April meeting.

Action Plan:

The Board reviewed the Action Plan.

Act 173:

The Board agreed that on or before November 1, 2019, they will review all of the special educator endorsement requirements and initiate rulemaking to ensure that these requirements do not serve as a barrier to satisfying statewide demands for licensed special educators.

April Agenda Items:

Driver and Traffic Safety Education endorsement

P. Halladay, R. Reardon: Micro credentialing

LC:

- E-SLP and School Psychologist, RE: Teaching experience
- Praxis Core, Math
- Provisional and Emergency licenses report
- Computer Science instructional level expansion
- Discussion: Education Technology Specialist revision – Jay Ramsey

PAC:

- ROPA committee go over Section 7
- ROPA Alternate Route to licensure
- Review policies N11, N12 and N19
- Action Plan: Technical Assistance
- Standards Revision update

- Middlebury ROPA Report and Seven Year Plan
- UVM Report and Seven Year Plan
- SMC Report and Seven Year Plan
- Spark's non-compliance and change of status per Policy N2; report submitted 3/11/19
- UVM request for CAEP approval to be used in lieu of ROPA for 2025
- VCFA Teach-Out Plan
- SNHU new program application
- Approval of Castleton University ROPA Review team
- Question from CU Psych Dept – would Policy N17 apply to a new program approval or only an already approved one?
- Policy updates

Motion made by J. Fribush to adjourn, Seconded by C. Cole.

Meeting adjourned by consensus at 3:01 pm.

Minutes recorded and prepared by Amy Scalabrini.

I'm Lindsay Townsend. I appreciate this opportunity to speak on the Item - Bachelor's Degree Requirement - Driver and Traffic Safety Education. I feel the need to share some historical information and my background with you in order to speak to the current agenda item.

I've been a Vermont educator for nearly 60 years. The last 40 of those years were spent in driver and traffic safety education. At the high school level, I was a teacher of driver education and middle level administrator for a variety of high school programs including driver and traffic safety education.

In 2006 to 2010, I was employed by the Vermont Department of Education (DOE) (now Agency of Education) as the consultant for driver and traffic safety education. Among other duties, I oversaw the providing of driver and traffic safety teacher preparation courses, a function of DOE at that time. The recruitment of driver and traffic safety education teachers was also a part of that work.

During those years at DOE I also wrote, in conjunction with licensing specialists, the Rules for the Licensing of Driver and Traffic Safety Education Educators and mentored individuals through the licensing process.

In 2010, the driver and traffic safety education consultant position at DOE was eliminated. The overseeing of driver and traffic safety education teacher preparation courses was also removed from the DOE at that time.

The providing of the driver and traffic safety education teacher preparation courses was moved to the Vermont Higher Education Collaborative (VT-HEC) and I became employed by the Collaborative to oversee and manage all aspects of the courses. I held this position for eight years.

Part of my responsibilities, with the Collaborative, was mentoring Individuals, wanting to become driver and traffic safety education teachers, through the teacher licensing process. In carrying out this responsibility, I worked closely with the personnel in the Educator Quality Division of DOE/AOE.

Driver education in Vermont's high schools was established in the 1940s Additional legislation and rules occurred in the 1970s. From the beginning, the teacher certification/licensing requirements were the same as other high school subjects. This has provided Vermont with high quality driver and traffic safety education for decades and is recognized throughout the country as one of the best programs.

In the early 2000s, the first in-vehicle only licensing of teachers was established. The intent was fully licensed teachers, in subjects other than driver and traffic safety education, could complete selected driver and traffic safety education teacher preparation courses and be licensed teach the in-vehicle portion of driver and traffic safety education to high school students.

One of the keys to the success of this in-vehicle only licensing was fully licensed teachers, with knowledge of learning styles, behavioral issues, students needs resources available etc. would be in place for students. Unfortunately, some of this has already been lost by the removal of the student teaching requirement and the Core Teaching Standards for Vermont Educators from the current in-vehicle only licensing.

This brings us to today's Agenda - the option of keeping the current Bachelors Degree requirement for all driver and traffic safety education or removing it for in-vehicle only instruction. I'm here to encourage the Board to keep the current required Bachelors Degree for all instruction and offer the following,

1. Driver and traffic safety education programs, in our schools, need the classroom and in-vehicle portions to be concurrent and integrated. Classroom lessons need to be put in practice in the vehicle in a timely and consistent manner for quality driver and traffic safety education to occur. This gets very fragmented when the in-vehicle teacher is not a part of the classroom instruction. For a variety of reasons, the track record to accomplish concurrency and integration has not been good. More separation of classroom and in-vehicle instruction will lower the quality of driver and traffic safety education in Vermont.
2. In-vehicle instruction only, is still a teaching position in our high schools. It requires a high level of instruction and interaction with students diverse needs and levels of ability. Students with special needs are a significant part of our high school populations. A Bachelor's Degree, with general education courses, should provide teachers with this expertise to handle a variety of situations. Without it they will be less effective teachers
- 3.. An in-vehicle teacher needs to plan in-vehicle lessons and evaluate students performance. A Bachelor's Degree, with general education courses, should provide expertise in these tasks. A reinstatement of Core Teaching Standards for Vermont Educators would enhance this process and many other areas of an in-vehicle teachers duties and responsibilities
4. An in-vehicle teacher needs to have clear and effective professional communication with students parents, administrators, counselors, other teachers and others they may encounter inside and outside the school environment. A Bachelor's Degree with, general education courses should provide teachers with this expertise. Without it they will be less effective teachers and communicators.
5. In-vehicle instruction is a very high-risk activity. It's part of the high-risk highway situation we all find ourselves in today. !Students behaviors, actions and reactions are unpredictable. Other highway users behaviors, actions and reactions are unpredictable. A Bachelor's Degree, with general education courses, should provide teachers with some degree of corrective action, particularly in the area of behavioral or emergency issues that may need to be implemented accurately in a matter of seconds. Academic experience, in general, makes people better decision makers.
6. In-vehicle instruction occurs several miles from the school building. In-vehicle teachers are on their own. There is no immediate backup by administrators, counselors, or other specialized faculty/staff. A Bachelor's Degree, with general education courses, should provide teachers with this expertise particularly in the area of behavioral issues.
7. Option 2 proposes an in-vehicle only teacher "need to hold at a minimum a high school diploma, GED or an Associates Degree or the equivalent." The is totally inadequate for the duties and responsibilities of an in-vehicle only teacher. It suggests a recent high school graduate, with minimum training, could become an in-vehicle teacher of high school students. In addition to all the reasons cited above for a Bachelor's Degree. with general education courses, there would likely be a lack of maturity and experience for the duties and responsibilities of an in-vehicle teacher. Scientific studies have shown that a young persons brain has not developed for good decision making until they've reach their early to mid twenties.
8. Perhaps, above all else, option 2 would become a public safety issue. Inadequately trained, inexperienced and immature driver and traffic safety education teachers become a public safety issue for students, teachers and the general public during the instructional time and for the students lifetime of driving.