



VERMONT STANDARDS BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS

May 2, 2017 AOE Offices, Barre

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

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Donald Tinney, Thomas Young, Jennifer Fribush, Claudine Bedell, Richard Reardon, Helen Lanthier, Roberta Baker, Erik Remmers.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jeremy Hill, Luisa Millington, Amy McMullen, Steven Owens.

STAFF/OTHERS PRESENT: Debora Price, Deborah Giles, Terry Reilly, Linda McSweeney, Kara Mayo, Joan Paustian, Joseph DeBonis, Rutland Southwest SU; Ellen Baker, UVM; Susan Torncello, UVM; Juliette Longchamp, NEA; Kumari Patty Younce, Goddard College.

CALL TO ORDER: D. Tinney called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

D. Tinney asked the board to adopt the revised agenda for today's meeting with flexibility

H. Lanthier **moved that the VSBPE accept the revised agenda.** R. Reardon **seconded.**
Motion passed.

Approval of minutes

D. Tinney asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the March 29, 2017 meeting.

H. Lanthier stated her last name was spelled incorrectly.

H. Lanthier **moved that the VSBPE accept the minutes of the March 29, 2017 meeting, with corrections.** R. Reardon **seconded.** **Motion passed.**

Public to be heard

Juliette Longchamp spoke to the Board about the newly revised Peer Review process. Educators may now upload their portfolio electronically.

Kumari Younce from Goddard College requested a change in AOE's process regarding fingerprinting.

Board Member Updates

Steve Owens is a proud Grampy to twin girls!!!

Staff Report

The Educator Quality Division is currently recruiting for four (4) positions: Program Manager of the In-service Team, two licensing specialists and an Education Consultant with responsibilities for the Transcript Review process and Teacher & Leader Evaluation Systems. Job postings are being advertised on Schoolspring.com and through the State of Vermont Department of Human Resources.

UVM Early Childhood Program Request

E. Baker and S. Torncello spoke to the board about their request regarding an amendment to the revised teacher endorsement requirements made in the Summer of 2016 regarding eligibility for the birth-grade 3 Early Childhood Education endorsement. The Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators had voted to require the Praxis 2 exam #5001: Elementary Education Multiple Subject Test, for the Early Childhood Birth-Grade 3 endorsement. This exam covers content and methods relevant for teaching in the K-grade 6 context.

UVM asked the Board to consider amending the teacher endorsement requirements, such that either exam is accepted as evidence of achieving mastery of the content area to fulfill the requirement to be granted the BirthGrade 3 endorsement. On behalf of the University of Vermont Early Childhood Program, we would prefer that our students take the Praxis 2 Exam #5021: Education of Young Children, since we believe it better reflects the span of their endorsement, as well as the preparation they have received throughout their teacher preparation program of study.

The board directed Debi Price to speak to the AOE's ETS contact, who may form a pilot group of educators to look at the current exams and talk about a recommendation for changes.

Waiver Requests

Rutland Southwest SU – Waive Praxis II Spanish

Waiver request from Dr. Joan Paustian, Superintendent, from Rutland Southwest SU, of Rule 5951 Waiver of Praxis Core Series Requirements.

The board entered into executive session at 9:50 am and ended at 10:45 am.

R. Baker, moved to hear the waiver in executive session. H.Lanthier seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

R. Baker moved to table the waiver request. **C. Bedell** seconded. **Motion passed.**

Licensure Committee – R. Baker Chair, Reporting

The committee discussed: In 2014, the Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators (VSBPE) sunset an endorsement (Supervisor – 75) while allowing educators to renew, reinstate, or apply for a Retired Educator License with the sunset endorsement. Once sunset, the endorsement was no longer included in the Rules Governing the Licensing of Educators and the Preparation of Educational Professionals. The placeholder for Sunset Endorsements will be in the policy manual in a Sunsetting section.

Also discussed were Professional Learning requirements for renewals and reinstatements for Level I, Level II, and Retired Educator Licenses. Current Rules 5421(b), 5424, 5431.1(b)(i), 5431.2(b)(i), 5432.3(a), 5433(a) all refer to the specific knowledge and performance standards of the endorsement being sought for professional learning hours. 15/45 hours of new learning for Level I Licenses and the 45/135 (seven year license) or 30/90 (five year license) hours of new learning for the Level II Licenses. Also, Policy H2, Activities that Qualify for Professional Learning Credit, also refer to the knowledge and performance standards for professional development hours. However, the newly revised endorsements are not written in the knowledge and performance format. Is the intention of the Vermont Standards Board to keep with the practice of requiring endorsement specific new learning for renewals, reinstatements, and Retired Educator Licenses? If so, how should future wording be constructed to ensure that educators remain current in the endorsement area issued on a license?

Deb Price will look into fingerprinting rules for students in Educator Prep program with no SSN and need to have CRC completed.

Professional Standards Committee

PSC members joined the Licensure Committee's discussion due to committee member absences.

Program Approval Committee – L. Millington Chair Reporting

During a Rules Check at the University of Vermont in preparation for a September ROPA visit, UVM was found to be out of compliance with Rule 5924.2b regarding an appeals process to recommend students for licensure who have less than a 3.0 GPA. A draft letter is provided for discussion and vote. The Board decided they will vote at a later date.

On February 6 – 8, 2017, a ROPA team visited Norwich University. The team reviewed the Institutional Portfolio, interviewed faculty, staff, administration, current candidates and graduates as well as mentor teachers and school administrators. They also reviewed licensure portfolios in various formats over the past six years. The team found no stipulations but the AOE will be looking for evidence in Norwich's May 2019 Two Year Report that they have addressed the concerns outlined in the report with particular attention to, and evidence of, improvements with concerns expressed in Standard 2.

Education Preparation Programs must stay current with Vermont Statutes, Rules and State Wide Initiatives, to ensure a high quality educator in every Vermont classroom. Rules 5911 and 5921 require updating to include the Vermont Licensure Portfolio, Education Quality Standards (EQS), and Act 77 language. Recommended language is included for discussion and voting.

C. Bedell moved that the VSBPE accept the finding of the ROPA review team (7-year visit) report and grant full approval for the following undergraduate programs: Elementary Education, Mathematics 7-12, Physical Education PK-6, 7-12, or PK-12. H. Lanthier seconded. Motion passed.

C. Bedell moved that the VSBPE approve a recommendation for Rules change to include current State Statute, Rules and State Wide Education Initiatives. H. Lanthier seconded. Motion passed.

C. Bedell moved that the VSBPE remove Sigrid Olson from the TAP ROPA Team visit in May 2017. H. Lanthier seconded. Motion passed.

D. Price discussed with the board an [article that was published in Educator Week Magazine](#).

Board reentered Executive Session to discuss Waiver at 12:55 and ended at 2:15 p.m.

The meeting adjourned by consensus at 2:27 p.m.

Minutes recorded and prepared by Kara Mayo