

VERMONT STANDARDS BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS
December 18, 2008
VT College, Dewey Lounge

A G E N D A

8:30 – 8:45 a.m.	Call to Order Approval of Minutes 1(A) Correspondence/Announcements Board Member Updates Staff Report 2(A) Agenda Preview	Action
8:45 – 9:00 a.m.	Activity	
9:00 – 9:15 a.m.	Praxis Testing 3(A)	Discussion/Vote
9:15 – 10:00 a.m.	Licensing Law Changes 4(A) Governor’s 34 Point Plan Proposed Regulation Waiver	Discussion/Vote
10:00 – 10:15 a.m.	Code of Ethics document to regulatory process 5(A) Technical corrections to Regulations Praxis I Waiver	Discussion/Vote
10:15 – 10:30 a.m.	Break	
10:30 – 11:00 a.m.	Restructuring the Relicensure Process – summary & next steps	Discussion
11:00 – 11:30 a.m.	Committee Work	
	Administrator/Teacher Relicensing Committee	
	Reciprocity/NASDTEC Agreement 6(T/ARC)	Discussion
	Relicensure Activities 7(T/ARC)	Discussion
	Higher Education Committee	
	World Learning One-Year Update 8(HE)	Discussion/Vote
	College of St. Joseph – Graduate Certificate in School Counseling 9(HE)	Discussion
	Castleton State College – One-Year Report 10(HE)	Discussion/Vote
11:30 – 12:15 p.m.	Lunch	
12:15 – 1:15 p.m.	Continue Committee Work	
1:15 – 1:30 p.m.	Approve VSBPE Action Plan, 2008 – 2010 11(A)	Vote
1:30 – 1:45 p.m.	Approve Revised Policies 12(A)	Vote
1:45 – 2:15 p.m.	VCTE Discussion, Jonathan Miller-Lane	
2:15 p.m.	Committee Reports and Motions	Action on Recommendations
2:30 p.m.	Adjourn	

**The action listed next to each agenda item represents the intent of the Standards Board at the time the agenda is printed. It is possible that action may or may not be taken on any item listed on the agenda.*

Items Discussed/Approved at December 18, 2008 VSBPE Meeting

Discussed – Praxis II testing.....	pg. 2
Approved – Code of Ethics, Technical corrections, Praxis I Waiver to regulatory process.....	pg. 2-3
Discussed – Licensing Law Changes, Governor’s 34 Point Plan.....	pg. 3-4
Discussed – Proposed Regulation Waiver.....	pg. 4
Discussed – Relicensure Process.....	pg. 5
Discussed – Teacher Working Cond. Survey.....	pg. 5-6
Approved – VSBPE Action Plan 08-11.....	pg. 6
Approved – Revised Policies.....	pg. 6
Approved – World Learning 1 YR Update.....	pg. 6
Approved – CSC 1 YR Report.....	pg. 7

VERMONT STANDARDS BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS

December 18, 2008
VT College, Montpelier

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brian Howe, Heather McCollum, Bruce Richardson, Dolly Corkins, Susan Jensen, Janet Steward, Ronald Stahley, Judith Jones, Russell Agne, Sheryl Aliquo, Stephanie Taylor, Cassandra Major, Kathy Finck.

STAFF PRESENT: Marta Cambra, Bob Gross, Deb Giles, Mary Beth McNulty, Marilyn Richardson, Mark Oettinger, Anne Bordonaro, Rebecca Otis.

VISITORS/OTHERS PRESENT: Jeff Fannon and Joel Cook, VT NEA; Jonathan Miller-Lane and Ben Williams, Vermont Council of Teacher Educators (VCTE).

CALL TO ORDER: B. Howe called the meeting to order at 8:49 a.m.

B. Howe asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the November 13, 2008 meeting.

D. Corkins **moved that the VSBPE accept the minutes of the November 13, 2008 meeting.** S. Aliquo seconded.

M. Cambra amended the last sentence in the Board Member Updates section to read: At this time, the DOE will not be contributing any funds to the NEA in this venture. **Motion passed.**

CORRESPONDENCE / ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no correspondences or announcements.

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

H. McCollum added that under the VCTE item, Ben Williams will also be attending. He is the co-chair of the VCTE.

STAFF REPORT – Educator Quality Team

M. Cambra mentioned that J. Nicholson will be the new contact for National Board at the DOE. We have 11 new candidates that have applied for National Board Certification this year. Hopefully interest in National Board Certification can be expanded to other parts of Vermont. C. Major mentioned that one of the keys to recruiting candidates is the development of new cohort groups. Educator Quality (EQ) is working with interested parties to develop additional cohort groups in other areas of Vermont.

H. McCollum asked how the budget cuts are affecting the DOE and the Educator Quality Division. M. Cambra replied that within EQ, no positions have been affected at this time. However subsequent meetings may bring about position reductions. EQ is primarily funded by licensing funds; however, special funds are being scrutinized as well. In the next two years a smaller amount of educators are up for renewals, which will mean reduced revenue for the EQ budget.

There were no additional comments on the staff report.

Activity

J. Steward organized an activity called 'find someone who'. This activity comes from the differentiated instruction of Judith Hartroads. The activity is used to build community.

Praxis II Testing

B. Gross and MB. McNulty spoke to the Board about the Praxis II testing agenda item. There has been discussion on whether we could independently use Praxis II tests to qualify people for Highly Qualified Teacher's (HQT); or would we need to have our own validated test and also use it for licensure and HQT. A representative at Educational Testing Service (ETS) recommended that we investigate adopting a test for HQT and licensure purposes in two areas, ESL and Reading/Language Arts.

The reason for not investigating a test in the other areas (Early Childhood and SPED), is they do not have a test that fits Vermont. Once this is investigated, it will be brought to the Board for their review. The chart on page two shows how many endorsements were issued in the ESL and Reading/Language Arts areas. This has been broken down to show which path to licensure was used to receive these endorsements.

H. McCollum asked whether this could be used for out of state applicants, but not used for VT Programs. B. Gross responded that legally, they were advised they can not distinguish between out of state and in state programs. This Board has to approve the administration of the test in these areas; they also have to approve the cut scores.

B. Howe stated that historically as Praxis II tests became available for endorsements, validation panels were formed. If the tests proved to be a good match for licensing purposes, they were adopted by the Board as a requirement for licensure.

It is the consensus of the Board that the Department begins the validation process for ESL and Reading/Language Arts Praxis II testing.

Code of Ethics document to regulatory process, Technical corrections to Regulations, Praxis I Waiver

B. Gross stated that the Code of Ethics (COE) document is ready to move forward to the regulatory process. The Praxis I Waiver has been formulated into a regulation and is ready, with the Board's approval, to move forward to the regulatory process. The technical corrections to the regulations are also ready to move forward to the regulatory process.

A. Bordonaro reviewed the technical corrections that were made to the regulations.

5231 Legislative action changed the name of Adult Services Coordinator to Assistant Director for Adult Education. The School Counselor and Career and Technical Education School Counseling Coordinator were removed from this section because these endorsements will have to meet the same requirements. 5220.7 created independent career and technical centers, which did not exist during the last round of regulation changes. Clarification is needed to state that superintendents are responsible for the licensure of the educators in the technical centers.

17 – Career and Technical Education - there was confusion in the field (especially in middle schools) whether Design and Technical Education teachers could also teach outside of the Career and Technical Center. This change is meant to clarify that these endorsements were meant exclusively for Career and Technical Centers only. It has been further clarified in the next endorsements: 10 Design and Technology Education and 09 Family and Consumer Science, that these are not limited to the Career and Technical Centers and cover the 5-12 grade levels.

5405 – This was clarified to show that the only people who qualify for an apprenticeship license, are those who enroll in the Career and Technical Education Mentor Program.

5351 – Provisional Licenses – This clarification shows that applicants who have applied for the 17 – Career and Technical Education, who have at least an associate’s degree, can qualify for a provisional license.

B. Howe asked, for the VT clinical Speech and Language Pathologist license, does someone have to pass the certification exam for clinical competence? A. Bordonaro responded that there is a standard Praxis exam, then there is the clinical fellowship year requirement, and then there is the master’s degree requirement. Those three things together qualify them for a certificate from ASHA. They do not need the certificate of clinical competence to receive the provisional endorsement. The only people who qualify for a provisional SLP license are people who are clinicians (passed Praxis, masters degree, certificate of clinical competency) they just lack a course in SPED law.

S. Aliquo asked if EQT has talked to field about these changes. A. Bordonaro said that these changes came from field and issues arose that needed to be resolved through clarification of the rules.

B. Gross added that the next step is for these changes to go through the public hearing process.

D. Corkins moved that the VSBPE move the following proposed regulations forward into the regulatory process: Code of Professional Ethics and Rules of Professional Conduct for Vermont Educators; Waiver of Praxis I Requirement; and the technical corrections to the Regulations. C. Major seconded.

J. Fannon spoke about the NEA’s concerns with the COE language. They have additional concerns that arose since their meeting with the DOE in May. They propose that the VSBPE allow time for the NEA to speak with the DOE about the document. B. Howe said that he prefers that conversation happen during the public hearing process. M. Oettinger agreed.

J. Cook elaborated on the NEA’s concerns. The definition of unprofessional conduct has been defined in statute; the COE document then re-defines unprofessional conduct. M. Oettinger said that he had the same concern; this is why they included the end clause stating that this document is not intended to expand on the statute. J. Cook asked that as the VSBPE moves the document forward, they should be cautious of the terminology that is used so this does not impair the Board in the future. Specifically, the simplest approach would be to change the term unprofessional conduct, to unethical conduct.

M. Oettinger replied that this discussion has taken place and if there are more improvements to be made, they are happy to work with the NEA during the public hearing process.

J. Fannon suggested that this language be changed now, rather than have the LCAR and ICAR committees push this back to the beginning of the process.

J. Steward suggested that the Board revise the document now to help this document go through the process quickly.

M. Oettinger disagreed on the premise that changing the wording will allow this document to go through the process quicker. He does not feel at all uncomfortable putting this document through the process as is. If the wording is changed after the public comment period, the document will still continue moving through the process.

Motion passed.

Licensing Law Changes, Governor’s 34 Point Plan

M. Oettinger spoke to the Board about the senate judiciary committee’s plan that is currently being vetted. As it is written currently, the ‘Governor’s 34 point plan’ requires that the EQ Division check the child

protection registry as well as the adult protection registry before issuing a license. This extra step will add a tremendous amount of work on EQ. The way the statute has been drafted, the registry would have to be checked in the instance of Initial applications, relicensure and reinstatement applications. The registries are run by the Department of Children and Families (DCF); the DOE currently has access to these through the legal office. During the course of an investigation, the DOE calls DCF who checks the database for a person's name. These checks can take up to 10 days.

H. McCollum asked how a person's name gets put on the registries, and can they get their name taken off. M. Oettinger responded that DCF tells people they will be on the registry and people are given opportunity to contest and appeal this decision. Someone who is convicted of a sexual crime would be listed on the registries. However, they do not have to be convicted of the crime in order to be listed on the registries. There are different levels of offenses that will be listed on the registries. Until 2007 there was no way to get off the registries, they have now implemented a process to be taken off the registries. This document represents a statutory change; unfortunately, the Board has no control over whether this document is passed. The Board may be asked to promulgate regulations to further define this document.

B. Howe stated that since there is a lesser burden of proof, people may appear on this registry for reasons that should not affect whether they receive a license.

M. Oettinger mentioned that the current criminal check the DOE performs does not include an applicant's full history. The current check only includes certain convictions. This can pose a problem when, for example, someone is hired as a driver's education teacher and they have a DUI conviction.

J. Cook stated that the law was intended to weed out applicants that have exploited children. There is no reason for every criminal conviction to travel with someone throughout their career.

H. McCollum asked if they have concerns as citizens or educators, what do we do?

M. Oettinger responded that they can certainly provide testimony at the state house, and if there is consensus among the VSBPE, a representative of the group can provide testimony to the legislative committee about this.

B. Howe stated that this should be on the agenda for a more formal discussion in January so the VSBPE can form a solid consensus.

M. Oettinger stated that as currently envisioned the statute requires registry checks for everyone involved in the school system, this would include: contractors, chaperones, student teachers, drivers, volunteers etc.

Proposed Regulation Waiver

M. Oettinger gave a brief background on this waiver. The SBE has a waiver rule that used to apply to licensing cases, when the VSBPE inherited the licensing regulations, they did not inherit the waiver provision. The VSBPE would like to have the authority to grant a waiver of licensing provisions.

J. Cook stated that the NEA believes an overarching waiver of any rules, with no right to appeal, should not be instituted.

M. Oettinger responded that the SBE has something similar if an appeal of their decision goes to the Supreme Court. He proposed that the VSBPE change #1 of the waiver to add: "When strict application and/or enforcement of the existing VSBPE rules **would be necessary**, or would create an unintended consequence, the result of which would be contrary to the intent of the VSBPE's rules as a whole; or." Also they would want to take out the section reading "and there shall be no right of appeal."

B. Howe responded that with the Act 214 changes, several regulations have not fallen under the VSBPE's purview. The Board felt that they should be allowed to waive their own regulations. The Board will continue to look at this.

Restructuring the Relicensure Process – summary & next steps

H. McCollum and D. Corkins reviewed the feedback received on the relicensure document. Within the feedback received, one recurring opinion stated that educators should not have to do any additional work for relicensure. Other opinions were: the work required by LSBs is inconsistent and there needs to be consistency within all LSBs; also, the structure as it exists is not authentic way to translate to the classroom, it is an inefficient process.

D. Giles stated that in her experiences with LSBs, most Boards were not aware there was a problem with the current process. These groups did strongly suggest that the licensure period remain at 7 years. These Boards are just beginning to streamline the current process. They would rather not change the process because it is working.

J. Steward suggested that further research doesn't appear to be needed regarding current issues. We should look at how to get consistency across boards. She stated that in the past, EQ has done research into what other states are doing for licensing. Are there other states where feedback has been received that their relicensure process is efficient and productive? This may assist the VSBPE to further assess their process. She asked MB. McNulty to collect data from other states. H. McCollum agreed that this data collection would be very useful.

B. Howe stated that there needs to be a stronger directive to achieve consistency within LSBs.

J. Cook stated that within the NEA, there was an immediate reaction of support to this proposal. The confusion around the 7 or 5 year cycle and number of hours that would be required; took away from the rest of document.

The Board broke for lunch at 11:30 a.m. and reconvened at 12:15 p.m.

The Board worked in committees from 12:15 - 1:30 p.m. They reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

Teacher Working Conditions Survey, North Carolina Conference – J. Steward and H. McCollum

J. Steward spoke to the Board about the conference she and H. McCollum attended in NC. It was a presentation by states who have utilized the survey and also states who are thinking of utilizing the survey. She felt like it was an opportunity to improve student learning through gathering information on teacher working conditions. These goals are an excellent match to the VSBPE's action plan.

The data that is generated and utilized is very useful; each question has a direct correlation on retention, student learning etc. The speakers were very committed to education and learning. The states that have utilized the survey have seen concrete dramatic changes in student learning and achievement. What seems to be the case is that when you improve teaching working conditions, you immediately impact student learning.

Implementing this survey would have huge positive impact on student learning. It is designed to help schools address the issues that are impeding their success in helping student achievement. Every state that is doing this is working with a consortium of partners. In Vermont, the NEA is dedicated to carrying out this survey in March 2009. They have dedicated \$100,000 to work with the Teacher Quality Network (TQN); the TQN will be analyzing all of the data.

She would like the VSBPE to be supportive of the process; the VT NEA has taken this on as a professional development component. The VT NEA believes this is the best opportunity to help schools improve. This year, 2009, is a baseline collection year; the VT NEA is just looking for support from organizations.

It is the general consensus of the Board that this will be on the agenda in January. The Board may have a speaker at their February meeting.

VCTE Discussion, Jonathan Miller-Lane

Jonathan Miller Lane and Ben Williams spoke to the Board about the work of the Vermont Council for Teacher Educators (VCTE). They are co-directors of the VCTE for the second year. The VCTE would like to connect with other groups who are engaged in the same work, but with whom they rarely interact. They would like to facilitate dialogue around issues they are involved with, topics such as: the Transformation; the New England secondary school consortium created with VT, ME, NH RI; the shifting focus on secondary education and its implications on teacher preparation; assessments and how those will look in the future (i.e. high school courses online/interactive with other countries/states etc.). VCTE is trying to get ahead of the curve and prepare themselves as members of secondary education institutions, to train teachers for these future programs. This dialogue will assist the VCTE and the VSBPE in discussing how these things will happen and what they will look like.

B. Howe thanked J. Miller Lane and B. Williams for making this connection and speaking to the Board.

Approve VSBPE Action Plan, 2008 – 2011

S. Jensen moved to accept the VSBPE's 2008 – 2011 Action Plan. D. Corkins seconded.
Motion passed.

Approve Revised Policies

B. Gross stated that this is a revised list of policies.

C. Major moved that the VSBPE rescind policies: SB/D1; SB/D4; SB/G3; SB/I1 and SB/N1. She further moved that the VSBPE approve revisions to policies: SB/C2; SB/C4; SB/D2; SB/N5; SB/N8 and SB/N13. D. Corkins seconded. **Motion passed.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Teacher & Administrator Relicensing Committee – D. Corkins Chair, reporting

D. Corkins summarized the Committee's discussion regarding the Reciprocity/NASDTEC Agreement, Career and Technical Education, and Relicensure activities.

Higher Education Committee – H. McCollum Chair, reporting

H. McCollum spoke to the Board about the Higher Education Committee's discussion on World Learning's one-year update, and Castleton State College's one-year report. World Learning has closed their foreign language program.

H. McCollum moved that the VSBPE accept World Learning's One-Year Update. She further moved that, based on the report and its accompanying documentation, the VSBPE grant full approval for the following educator preparation program: English as a Second Language (preK-6, 7-12, or preK-12). We also note that World Learning has informed us that the Foreign Language program has been eliminated. S. Aliquo seconded. **Motion passed.**

This approval will be effective through the completion of the next ROPA Review of World Learning's educator preparation program.

H. McCollum moved that the VSBPE accept Castleton State College's One-Year Report and the Report of the Focus Visit Team. She further moved that the VSBPE grant continued conditional approval to the following new undergraduate programs: Art (preK-6, 7-12, preK-12), Elementary, and Special Education (K-8). J. Steward seconded. Motion passed.

These approvals will be effective through the completion of the next ROPA Review of Castleton State College's educator preparation programs.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned by consensus at 2:30 p.m.

Rebecca Otis, Administrative Assistant

Brian Howe, Chair