

CERTIFICATION STANDARDS & PRACTICES ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2022
Montana State Capitol Building, Room 152
Helena, MT

Starting at 9:00 A.M.

CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Stockton took Roll Call, the Chair read the Statement of Public Participation, and welcomed guests.

Council members present: Mr. Kelly Elder, Chair; Ms. Teresa Marchant, Vice Chair; Dr. Kate Eisele; Dr. Rob Watson; Dr. Trent Atkins; Ms. Barbara Brown; Ms. Ann Wake. Staff present: Ms. McCall Flynn, Executive Director; Ms. Kris Stockton, Administrative Specialist. Guests present: Ms. Amanda Curtis, MFPE; Dr. Kirk Miller, SAM; Ms. Crystal Andrews, OPI; Ms. Anne Keith, Board of Public Education Member; Dr. Tim Tharp, Board of Public Education Member; Ms. Kristi Steinberg, University of Montana; Dr. Barbara Sunderman, Western Governor's University; Mr. Nick Bellack, ETS, Ms. Tammy Lacey, Chair, Board of Public Education; Ms. Moffie Funk, Helena; Ms. Diane Fladmo, MFPE; Ms. Jule Walker, MTSBA.

ADOPT AGENDA

Ms. Ann Wake moved to approve the agenda as presented. Dr. Rob Watson seconded the motion.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVE MINUTES

Dr. Kate Eisele moved to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Ann Wake seconded the motion.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 1 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT – (INFORMATION)

Mr. Kelly Elder

The Chair recognized Dr. Rob Watson for his contributions to CSPAC, to public education, and his distinguished career in Montana, before congratulating him on his new career path with the School Administrators of Montana. Dr. Watson thanked the Council for their work and particularly Chair Elder for his leadership. Dr. Watson encouraged the other members to stay involved and connected. Dr. Kirk Miller, Executive Director of School Administrators of Montana commended the Council on their work over the past year, before recognizing Dr. Watson as the Administrator representative on CSPAC and noting his fellow administrators in Montana thank him for his representation.

The Chair continued with the review of the Draft Annual Report for CSPAC announcing the final report will be presented to the Board of Public Education at the joint meeting in July. The Council reviewed the draft report making no changes. Ms. Marchant asked if the Board would “accept” or “approve” the Annual Report in July, and the Chair noted it is a report to the Board on what the Council has been doing during the past year.

ITEM 2 BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION REPORT – (INFORMATION)

Ms. McCall Flynn

Ms. Flynn gave her report to the Council, reviewing the Chapter 57 proposed revisions and the public comment received during the public comment period. The Board will hold a special meeting on April 28th to review all the comments and determine if any changes should be made before the Adoption Notice is presented to the Board at their May meeting in Great Falls. Ms. Flynn discussed the Chapter 58 revisions which are moving through the revisions process and will be presented to the Board at their May meeting and to the Council in July. The Chapter 55 Task Force and the Negotiated Rulemaking Committee have been meeting to discuss revisions to the Accreditation Standards. Ms. Flynn noted that although CSPAC has not been involved in the Accreditation revisions in the past, one area under consideration for revision is the Mentorship and Induction piece, and that it may be good for the Council to be involved in any revisions. Ms. Flynn discussed the open Administrator position on the Council with Dr. Watson taking the Executive Director position at the School Administrators of Montana. Ms. Flynn expressed her appreciation for the guidance Dr. Watson has given her during her time as Executive Director of the Board and CSPAC and thanked him for his contributions to the Council. The Council Administrator position is open through close of business April 22, 2022, and the Board will approve the new member at their May meeting. Ms. Flynn then reviewed the Mentorship and Induction committee that was created after the February meeting. The committee met with Board member Anne Keith who is working with Montana State University on their mentorship project and will be presenting later at this meeting. Ms. Flynn gave an update on the March 2022 Board of Public Education meeting reviewing presentations and reports made to the Board including the memo from Lt. Governor Kristen Juras surrounding the Council's adoption of the Montana Educator Code of Ethics.

ITEM 3 WESTERN GOVERNOR'S UNIVERSITY PRESENTATION – (INFORMATION)

Barbara Sunderman, WGU

Dr. Barbara Sunderman, Western Governor's University(WGU), reviewed the WGU education program. Dr. Sunderman explained that WGU uses a Competency Based Education Model which allows the learner to move through the coursework based upon their competency and mastery of the skill, rather than a based upon a calendar or set timeline. WGU is 100% online and is approaching 300,000 graduates. Dr. Sunderman discussed programs specific to Montana before answering Council member questions.

ITEM 4 MENTORSHIP AND INDUCTION COMMITTEE UPDATE – (INFORMATION)

Anne Keith, Board of Public Education member, MentorMT

Ms. Anne Keith, Board of Public Education member, gave a report on the ASPIRE Grant, (Advancing Support, Preparation & Innovation in Education), which continues through the 2022-2023 school year, given to the Education Department at Montana State University Bozeman.. Ms. Keith discussed the parameters of the grant, which teachers are involved in the program, and how mentors are matched to teachers. Ms. Keith stated that the grant is directed to rural teachers in Montana to offer guidance and support, and that there has been an outpouring of existing teachers apply to be mentor teachers in the program. Mentors receive a stipend and materials to work in the program with training materials available via the Teacher Learning HUB through the Office of Public Instruction. The teacher being mentored is also given a small stipend to participate in the program, all of which is done virtually. Ms. Keith answered Council member questions. A discussion ensued about how this could fit into the Chapter 55 revisions process currently underway.

ITEM 5 PRESENTATION ON PRAXIS IN MONTANA – (INFORMATION)

Nick Bellack, Educational Testing Service, Kristi Steinberg, University of Montana

Mr. Nick Bellack, ETS, discussed the PRAXIS test in Montana for the Council. Mr. Bellack gave a background on ETS and the PRAXIS, the effects of COVID-19 on the PRAXIS, the purpose of the PRAXIS and support of it. Due to COVID-19, ETS created an online version of the PRAXIS, and currently has approximately 120 PRAXIS tests available online in addition to the in-person version. PRAXIS has partnered with Kahn Academy for support for new test takers to aid in test preparation. Mr. Bellack discussed the specific PRAXIS subject matter tests available to Montana, how to register, in-person test sites locations, and free test support resources. Mr. Bellack answered Council member questions. Ms. Kristi Steinberg, Director of Accreditation at the University of Montana, reviewed the multiple measures used in Montana for licensure and explained how the PRAXIS fits into that for assessing the content area knowledge of completers. Ms. Steinberg answered Council member questions.

ITEM 6 PRAXIS MATHEMATICS REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION – (ACTION)

Crystal Andrews, OPI

Ms. Crystal Andrews, OPI, reviewed for the Council the recommendation of a minimum passing score for the Mathematics PRAXIS in Montana. The current Math test is set to expire at the end of 2022, but PRAXIS has another test available. Ms. Andrews reviewed the differences in the two tests and discussed the recommended passing score from ETS which has been adopted by other states. A committee reviewed the test and is recommending a passing score of 159 which was also agreed upon by the Montana PRAXIS working committee and the Montana Council of Deans. Pending a recommendation from the Council, Ms. Andrews will bring the recommendation to the Board of Public Education in May to request approval. Ms. Andrews and Mr. Bellack answered Council member questions.

Dr. Kate Eisele moved to accept test 5165 as the Math PRAXIS in Montana with a passing score of 159 as the score for Montana. Motion seconded by Dr. Trent Atkins.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 7 ACTION ON CLASS 8 LICENSE APPLICATION – (ACTION)

Crystal Andrews, OPI

The Council reviewed one Class 8 license application and recommended the application for licensure.

ITEM 8 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mentorship and Induction follow-up

Chapter 58

Chapter 58 panel and recommendation to BPE

Joint meeting with BPE

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment made in person. One written public comment was submitted and is attached as Appendix A.

ADJOURN

Dr. Watson moved to adjourn. Motion seconded by Dr. Eisele.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjourned at 11:55 AM.

Agenda items are handled in the order listed on the approved agenda. Items may be rearranged unless listed “time certain”. Public comment is welcome on all items listed as “Action” and as noted at the end of each meeting.

The Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council will make reasonable accommodations for known disabilities that may interfere with an individual’s ability to participate in the meeting. Individuals who require such accommodations should make requests to the Board of Public Education as soon as possible prior to the meeting start date. You may write to: Kris Stockton, PO Box 200601, Helena MT, 59620, email at: kmstockton@mt.gov or phone at 444-0302.

APPENDIX A

CSPAC Public Comment

1. Trish Schreiber

I watched the February 9th meeting online and was pleased to see how many people showed up and commented on Zoom as opponents of changing the language on the current Code of Ethics to include "equity." Yes, education should be equitable, and that idea goes as far back as the 19th Century and into the early 20th Century in education theory and pretty much every pedagogy tends to search for equitable outcomes for all students. I, too, am a teacher and have a Master's Degree in Special Education and have read Dewey, Kilpatrick, Brunner, Piaget, and Rosseau for that matter, all of whom mention equity as a goal of education. However, when used in the form of "equity" in the current day, which we happen to be living in now, it reeks of the current CRT and Gender Ideology push in American schools, therefore making it divisive and trendy. If "equity" were so important to include in education related state documents, it would have already been in the Code. The "equitable" of John Dewey circa 1920 is very different from the "equity" of Ibram X. Kendi in 2022. If you want to be viewed as a serious organization, you should not be inserting trendy jargon into official, serious, state documents, in the hopes of sneaking one past the people to later use against us to push an illiberal agenda in the schools. We've seen this happen all over the country, so please stop telling us "equity" is a term used in educational theory, and educators are very familiar with it. It seems as though you allowed people to make comments against this change, and many, many, have, yet you ignored their outcry. Luckily, the people of Montana had the BPE there to protect their state, yet, now the teachers union and the press, the typical far-left progressive institutions throughout the country, are actually suing the BPE for protecting the people's interest. We all see what's going on here: the emperor has no clothes! Please urge MFPE and Amanda Curtis to drop this issue by supporting the BPE and listening to all of us who are dissenting to the change of inserting the word "equity" into the Code of Ethics. Thank you, Trish Schreiber.