

CERTIFICATION STANDARDS & PRACTICES ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 17, 2002

BUTTE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
BOARD ROOM
111 NORTH MONTANA
BUTTE, MT 59701

The meeting of the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council was called to order by Vice-Chair, Gloria Curdy, on Tuesday, September 17, 2002, at 8:30 a.m. Council members present were Gloria Curdy, Vice-Chair, Margaret Bowles, George White, Shelly Fortune, Scott McCulloch and Charla Bunker. Calvin Spangler, Chair, was absent. Staff members present were Peter Donovan, Administrative Officer for CSPAC, Steve Meloy, Executive Secretary for the Board of Public Education and Tana Haxton, CSPAC Council Secretary. The following people signed the meeting roster: Deena Alley, Janet Brennan, Bob Clemons, Nikki Sandve and Linda Peterson.

ITEM 1 CERTIFICATION ADVISORY COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING

Gloria Curdy, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order and stated that Calvin Spangler, CSPAC Chair, would not be able to attend. She also requested that everyone present speak up for recording purposes.

Ms. Curdy then asked if there were any suggested changes that should be made from the July 11, 2002 meeting minutes. Scott McCulloch referenced that on page 4, in the last paragraph, the phrase "Class C Certificate" should to be changed to "Class 4 C Certificate." Council members agreed to this change.

MOTION: Margaret Bowles motioned to approve the minutes for the July 11, 2002 CSPAC meeting, with the approved change in text. George White seconded this motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Pete Donovan took this opportunity to report that Bruce Dunkle, a former CSPAC Administrative Officer, had taken a position as Principal at Whittier Elementary in Butte. Mr. Donovan pointed out two corresponding articles that had appeared in the Montana Standard recently and stated that he had spoke with Mr. Dunkle, who reported that he is enjoying his position in Butte.

Mr. Donovan then highlighted a card Margaret Bowles wrote to the Council as a thank you for the candy bouquet she received for her work as Chair of the Chapter 57 Committee. He also handed out a thank you letter Dr. Kirk Miller, Chair of the BPE, had written to Ms. Bowles for her work on Chapter 57.

Mr. Donovan spoke of a letter Dr. Miller had written to be given to the members of the legislature. It accompanied the follow-up report from Dori Neilson on "Who Will Teach Montana's Children." Steve Meloy had presented that letter, as well as that report, to over 150 members of the legislature on behalf of the BPE. Mr. Meloy commented that the letter had been well received.

ITEM 2 CHAIR'S REPORT

Ms. Curdy asked Mr. Donovan to discuss tentative dates that CSPAC could meet for the 2002-2003 year. The BPE calendar for 2002-2003 was handed out as well, so the council could coordinate meeting dates with the BPE. Council members then decided upon dates to meet for the upcoming year.

A January 30-31st meeting will be held at Western Montana College in Dillon for the annual out-of-town meeting. These dates in January were also chosen to not coincide with the Western States Certification Conference. The council also agreed to meet on March 12-13th. Their annual meeting with the BPE will take place on the 13th. They also agreed to meet on July 10-11th.

ITEM 3 BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION REPORT- Steve Meloy

Steve Meloy reviewed key agenda items from the most recent BPE meeting. That meeting was held on the MSU campus in Bozeman, on September 12-13, 2002. Mr. Meloy said that the BPE will experience a 14% budget cut starting in 2003. They already have experienced a 10% cut that was decided during the Special Session 2002. A cut of 3% more happened during the Legislative Session to total a 13% budget cut for the fiscal year 2002.

Mr. Meloy explained how the BPE elects a student representative every year, so the Board is able to have a student's perspective on current education issues. This person is a high school student and is a non-voting member of the Board, but can research and collate information for the Board. Currently, the student representative is Derek Duncan from Deerlodge, Montana. He is a junior in High School.

Mr. Meloy went on to say that the Board would be looking into funding issues for the Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education (MACIE). MACIE would like to be funded the same way CSPAC is. Mr. Meloy explained that MACIE would like to be able to take their issues before the BPE, but at this time, do not have the proper funds in place to do so. They have requested that the BPE look into this and help them to receive proper funding.

Mr. Meloy talked about how the "No Child Left Behind Act – A Follow-Up Study" is being distributed by the Office of Public Instruction (OPI). He commented that OPI is doing a wonderful job of keeping the BPE updated on how they are responding to some of the new rules. The BPE and OPI are forming an ESEA committee called the No Child Left Behind Advisory Committee that would be a recipient of technical assistance through NASBE. They have applied for a grant for this and are waiting for the results.

The BPE created a 5-year strategic plan that will start in July 2003 and continue through July of 2008. Over 22 representatives of education from around the state met at the Mountain Meadow Inn in Helena, on July 17, 2002, to come up with this plan. Their meeting coincided with the BPE meeting that took place on July 18-19, 2002. Mr. Meloy

stated that right now this plan is in draft form. Currently, the BPE is in the 2nd year of their 2-year plan.

The Chapter 57 committee, chaired by Margaret Bowles, has been a “crown achievement” for the BPE this year. The results will be presented at a public board hearing on October 22, 2002 in Helena. Mr. Meloy further commented that the BPE is very appreciative of CSPAC and OPI’s work on Chapter 57.

As of July 1, 2002 (the beginning of fiscal year), Mr. Meloy reported that the balance of the research fund was \$83,504.00. Since July 1, 2002, we have collected \$11,384.00. The balance is now around \$100,000.00. Gloria Curdy requested that for the next CSPAC meeting, she would like Mr. Meloy to have hard copies of the current research fund balance for all council members.

Mr. Meloy said the research money would serve a more useful purpose if it allowed coverage of other expenditures besides just research. Due to the budget cuts, BPE members would like to use this money for purposes such as member travel. These other expenditures would be only on a case-by-case basis. The BPE would like CSPAC’s support with this proposed change.

CSPAC members were invited to a Pathways Roundtable discussion being held on October 2, 2002. This meeting will take place in Helena at the Old Law Library in the Capitol Building. Admission is by invitation only and all council members were encouraged to attend.

ITEM 4 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT – Calvin Spangler

Steve Meloy reported that the purpose of the State Action For Education Leadership Project (SAELP) is to address the shortage of school leaders in Montana. He then handed out the SAELP meeting agenda and invited council members to attend. This meeting will be held at the Grand Tree Inn in Bozeman, on September 24, 2002.

ITEM 5 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER’S REPORT

Pete Donovan spoke of the meetings he attended since the previous CSPAC meeting. He also commented that he would like to attend the Interstate New Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium (INTASC) meeting coming up on September 20, 2002. Chief State Schools Officers have invited select individuals from each state to work with them to improve priorities in special education. Jeff Weldon, OPI asked that Mr. Donovan and Dr. George White to attend this meeting.

Mr. Donovan handed out the annual CSPAC brochure and newsletter in draft form for the council. He asked that they review these drafts and let him know of any changes that should be made, so he can get these sent out. Shelly Fortune requested that Mr. Donovan change her title on the newsletter and brochure from “teacher” to “school board representative from Butte.”

Linda Peterson, OPI, explained that the newsletter and brochure would be sent electronically from OPI to all schools in the state. Gloria Curdy requested that hardcopies be sent out along with the electronic copies. Mr. Donovan said that he would look into finding a more efficient way to distribute the hardcopies.

Mr. Donovan also announced the schedule of BPE presentations at the MEA-MFT conference coming up on October 17-18, 2002. The Montana Commission on Teaching (MCT) Power Point presentation will be on Thursday, October 17th from 3-4PM. The BPE presentation will be on Friday the 18th from 11AM-12PM and the Chapter 57 presentation will also be on Friday from 1-2PM.

ITEM 6 MONTANA COMMISSION ON TEACHING UPDATE - Margaret Bowles

Margaret Bowles gave details of the National Commission on Teaching America's Future (NCTAF) conference that she and Pete Donovan attended on August 21-22, 2002 in Washington, DC. She stated that the purpose of that meeting was to come up with ideas on how to keep more teachers in classrooms throughout the U.S.

During that NCTAF conference, keynote groups would speak on a particular subject and then the groups would hold roundtable discussions for suggestions. NCTAF is trying to create 3 summit conferences by next summer to help expand the vision of the group. Three subjects they would address in these conferences would be: teacher preparation issues, redesigning schools and creating more challenges for teachers by giving them more career options. Ms. Bowles stated that NCTAF is still in the process of planning these conferences.

Montana was counted as a partner state in the conference, but not a key state. Ms. Bowles said that both CSPAC and the Montana Commission on Teaching (MCT) should continue to maintain a partnership with the NCTAF, even though Montana's role is still undefined in their organization. She was optimistic that role would change in the future.

ITEM 7 FOLLOW-UP ON MONTANA TEACHER FORUM - Margaret Bowles and Gloria Curdy

The Montana Teacher Forum 2002 was cancelled this year, because not enough people signed up to attend. Council members commented that the poor attendance was most likely related to timing and location.

Scott McCulloch expressed his idea that since National Teacher Day is on May 6th next year, the forum would have a better turnout if it would be scheduled on that date. He stated that May 6, 2003 would be a more convenient day for teachers to travel, because it is in the summer.

ITEM 8 PRE-PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT – Gloria Curdy

Pete Donovan reported that Joyce Silverthorne, BPE, was scheduled to be here to present this report, but had to cancel. She was not able to find anyone from her committee to go in her place either. Mr. Donovan reported that Ms. Silverthorne's main concern has been accreditation standards for Native American endorsements.

Gloria Curdy suggested council members move this subject as an item to be on our January meeting agenda. She said this would allow for more time to study this issue. Ms. Curdy would also like to see a speaker come in and present more information to the council in January. George White agreed with this suggestion and further commented that the expected outcomes of accreditation standards for Native American endorsements should also be discussed in January.

ITEM 9 PROFESSIONAL ETHICS COMMITTEE REPORT – Scott McCulloch and Charla Bunker

Scott McCulloch requested this report be postponed until the January meeting, since Calvin Spangler is absent. Mr. McCulloch would like the opportunity to work more with Mr. Spangler to expand on information that will be presented at the next meeting. Council members agreed to the request.

ITEM 10 RESEARCH PROJECTS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE REPORT – Shelly Fortune and Calvin Spangler

Pete Donovan updated council members by reporting that at the previous BPE meeting, the Board decided to move forward with research on e-learning/distance learning issues. Steve Meloy then stated that the BPE E-Learning Committee is in the process of setting up a time to meet. They will address where to start, how to continue with their research and what the role of CSPAC should be. They also will discuss ways to articulate their research to the legislature. The BPE will report their findings to CSPAC after their next meeting takes place on November 14-15, 2002.

Mr. Donovan commented how diligently Mr. Meloy and the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) worked to distribute “Who Will Teach Montana’s Children – A Follow-Up Study.” The report and all its appendices are available electronically on the OPI website. Dr. George White asked if OPI is counting the number of those who downloaded or viewed this report. Mr. Donovan responded that he would check into this and report back to council members.

ITEM 11 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND RENEWAL COMMITTEE REPORT – George White

George White stated his concerns about the financial setbacks Montana may face in the future, because of the cancellation of the PPST test. According to Title II Legislation, this research suggests that Montana will not be affected this year but, in 2004, we will not be able to report that data to be included nationwide. He said that we would be 1 of 8 states in the nation that do not have a standardized measurement for cross-examining and submitting data on student teacher certification. This will beset significant financial implications on Montana.

Dr. White then spoke of a committee that met to address this issue. They met first in May in Billings, then in Bozeman in June and finally on August 16, 2002, in Dillon, Montana. This committee decided that they would prefer to use the INTASC Standards, instead of the PPST Test. Bob Clemons, OPI, further explained how teacher education programs statewide are still using the PPST test as a basic certification entrance exam requirement. This decision has not been out of choice, but because educators must still satisfy Title II requirements in their programs. These educators are trying to finalize alternate ways to satisfy the requirement and eliminate the PPST test from their curriculums.

Pete Donovan said that this might create an opportunity to more closely bind K-12 accreditation standards to the higher education standards. If that happened it would also help to satisfy the Title II purpose.

Janet Brennan made a suggestion that Montana use the PPST for program evaluation, instead of program entrance. This change would enable all individuals who wanted to enter the teacher program to be able to do so. It could also be tailored to an individual's needs. For example, if a potential teacher was showing areas of weakness in reading or math, an alternate course with different requirements could be formed, so that the student could pass their program. The rest of the candidates in the program would not necessarily have to complete this change in curriculum.

Ms. Brennan went on to say that this would support the legislatures' concern of the allowing of all candidates access into the program. It would allow Montana's teacher programs the opportunity to become better tailored to students' needs and not be so broad-based. Dr. White agreed and stated this was an excellent point and that he would convey this to other educators.

Gloria Curdy commented that some of the information presented by Dr. White might be more appropriate to assign to the CSPAC Preprofessional Preparation committee. Ms. Curdy asked that more electronic information on this subject be sent to council members so a decision can be made. Dr. White said he would send this information to everyone when he arrives back in Billings.

ITEM 12 REVIEW AND ADOPT CSPAC GOALS FOR 2003

Pete Donovan started by reviewing the previous goals from 2001-2002. Council members agreed to go over each goal and decide if it should continue into the next year. Adding new goals would be covered at this time also. Their comments are listed as follows:

MOTION: Scott McCulloch motioned to adopt the "area of study goals" to continue into the 2002-2003 year. Charla Bunker seconded this motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Goal 1: Develop strategies to make the qualitative MGT study into a working document for the Montana education community.

After much discussion, a decision was made to continue this goal into 2002-2003, but to reword it. The new wording states: "Work with the Board of Public Education to identify issues and develop recommendations to enhance professional development opportunities for the Montana education community." Council members agreed the new wording coincides better with the purpose of CSPAC.

George White suggested that a short-term goal/objective goal be added that would allow CSPAC to interface with the BPE. This would allow CSPAC to figure out what projects their Professional Development and Renewal committee should work on. He would like to understand more fully what the expectations are for his committee and get the BPE's direction on what subjects would be appropriate to study.

Goal 2: Continue a review of Chapter 57 -- Teacher Certification and make recommendations to the Board of Public Education on proposed rule changes.

This has been accomplished and will not be a goal for 2002-2003.

Goal 3: Review, update, and distribute a follow-up report to “Who Will Teach Montana’s Children?” This report would assess recruitment and retention issues in Montana and identify potential options for addressing them.

Council members opted for this goal to continue as one of next year’s goals, but decided that the beginning of the second sentence will be reworded. It will start with the text: “This report will be utilized to assess” instead of “This report would assess.” Text following will remain the same.

Goal 4: The Council should assume a leadership role in Montana requiring fingerprinting be done before a teaching certificate can be issued.

This has been accomplished and will not be a goal for 2002-2003.

Goal 5: Initiate activities to familiarize Council members with teacher preparation and certification issues.

This goal will continue into the 2002-2003 year.

Goal 6: Monitor, support, and collaborate with the Montana Commission on Teaching.

This goal will continue into the 2002-2003 year.

Goal 7: Conduct a Public Forum that will promote the Council’s Goals.

This goal will continue, but will be reworded it to say: “Collaborate with other educational organizations to conduct a public forum that is consistent with the CSPAC goals.”

Council members elected to add an 8th goal that states: “Monitor and study e-learning, alternative certification, ESEA, and the effect qualified teachers have on student performance.”

Scott McCulloch suggested that the goal changes not be adopted today, but only be drafted. The council should wait until the January meeting to adopt these new goals, when all members would be present. This suggestion was agreed upon and it was decided that this would be an item on the agenda for the next meeting.

ITEM 13 CONVERSATION ON PRAXIS ASSESSMENTS – Janet Brennan, Educational Testing Services

Janet Brennan opened her presentation by asking if there were any Praxis questions from council or audience members. Ms. Brennan stated that her main goal today was to answer any and all questions.

Scott McCulloch asked Ms. Brennan her thoughts about whether or not standardized tests on teacher entry could be biased. She replied that every item on their tests is examined to see how it performs nationwide, so the results can always be determined with fairness and accuracy.

Margaret Bowles asked if there are currently 3 or 4 states like Montana, that do not require the Praxis tests for certification. Ms. Brennan clarified that there are 3 other states in her region that do not have any form of Praxis testing in place and would be counted as being in Montana’s situation. These states are Wyoming, Idaho and Utah. She said that Washington is also similar to Montana, but is currently adopting a testing policy. She does not have specifics though on that state, because Washington is not in her region.

Nikki Sandve, OPI asked why programs such as ETS and teacher education are not able to use Praxis as a licensure exam toward a graduation requirement. She asked this with comparison to the PPST test. Ms. Brennan answered that Praxis was intended for licensure testing, so it has no predictability and validity towards these other uses. She stated that would be an improper use of the Praxis test.

ITEM 14 UPDATE ON MENTOR INSTITUTE 2002 – Nikki Sandve, OPI

Nikki Sandve began by handing out both an agenda from the Mentor Institute 2002 and an overview of key topics covered at the conference. The Mentor Institute took place in Billings on July 31-August 2, 2002 and Ms. Sandve commented that it was a success this year. She went on to explain that the original goals of the institute were to promote programs and to develop teacher mentors. Those goals have now been used to make improvements towards next year's institute. At that time, they will try to do a two-stranded presentation. The first strand will be on ways to develop a program and the second will be on ways for teachers to become mentors.

ITEM 15 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Pete Donovan reviewed what the council had decided would be agenda items for their next meeting. Native American Accreditation Issues, Professional Development committee questions and the upcoming NASTDEC conference in June 2003 were listed. Gloria Curdy asked that council members contact Mr. Donovan if they have any additions, questions or concerns regarding future agenda items.

ITEM 16 GENERAL INFORMATION

Pete Donovan spoke of the upcoming Western States Certification Conference in San Antonio, on January 14-16, 2003. Council members discussed and decided upon which members would attend. Pete Donovan, George White and Gloria Curdy were those who could attend that conference and were chosen to go.

Mr. Donovan handed an OPI brochure on the Montana Comprehensive Assessment System to council members. He said that it was written by Judy Snow, OPI and is meant to give background information on how assessments are given in Montana K-12. Mr. Donovan stated that this had been given to BPE members at their last meeting, so council members should be aware of this new information.

MOTION: Scott McCulloch motioned that Pete Donovan and 2 other CSPAC representatives attend the San Antonio Western States Certification Conference on behalf of the CSPAC Committee. Charla Bunker seconded this motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

MOTION: Gloria Curdy requested a motion for the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council meeting to adjourn. Charla Bunker seconded this motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 P.M.