

CERTIFICATION STANDARDS & PRACTICES
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, JULY 24, 2008

*Front Street Learning Center
815 Front Street
Helena, MT*

CALL TO ORDER

CSPAC Chair, Dr. Douglas Reisig, called the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council meeting to order on Thursday, July 24, 2008 at 8:30 A.M. CSPAC council members present were: Chair, Dr. Douglas Reisig, School Administrator, Missoula; Ms. Melodee Smith-Burreson, Teacher, Missoula; Ms. Tonia Bloom, Trustee, Corvallis; Ms. Patty Muir, K-12 Specialist, Laurel; Ms. Judie Woodhouse, Teacher, Polson; Dr. Mary Susan Fishbaugh, Dean of Education, Montana State University-Billings; and Ms. Sharon Applegate, Teacher, Kalispell. Staff members present were: Mr. Peter Donovan, Administrative Officer for CSPAC; Mr. Steve Meloy, Executive Secretary for the Board of Public Education; and Ms. Anneliese Warhank, CSPAC Administrative Assistant. The following people signed the meeting roster: Ms. Elizabeth Keller, Office of Public Instruction; Mr. Bud Williams, OPI; Ms. Kim Warrick, OPI; Mr. Larry Nielsen, MEA-MFT; Mr. Marco Ferro, MEA-MFT; Mr. Bob Vogel, MTSBA; Ms. Nikki Sandve, OPI; Dr. Marsha Davis, Lewis & Clark County; Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson, OPI; Dr. Mike Miller, U of M Western; Ms. Katie Moore, OPI; Mr. Dale Kimmet, OPI; Mr. Jean Howard, OPI.

Dr. Reisig began the meeting by introducing Ms. Sharon Applegate and Ms. Patty Muir to the Council. Ms. Applegate is the new K-8 teacher, and Ms. Muir is the new K-12 specialist for the Council. He also noted Dr. Fishbaugh had been reappointed for a second term to the Council as the higher education member. Dr. Reisig then presented a PowerPoint discussing all the hard work teachers put into their schools and children as a thank you to Ms. Warrick and all the other teachers on the Council and in the state.

Motion: Ms. Judie Woodhouse moved to approve the agenda. This was seconded by Ms. Melodee Smith-Burreson. Motion was unanimously approved.

Motion: Ms. Melodee Smith-Burreson moved to approve the March 5-6, 2008 CSPAC Joint BPE meeting minutes. This was seconded by Ms. Judie Woodhouse. Motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Donovan went over the correspondence which consisted of the welcome and re-welcome letters to Ms. Muir, Ms. Applegate, and Dr. Fishbaugh. A thank you letter from the Board to Dr. Reisig for his presentation at the joint meeting on March 6, 2008 was

next. Finally, an article discussing the rising number of fraudulent diploma mills in the nation was discussed.

INFORMATION ITEMS

***Items are in the order they were discussed at the meeting.**

ITEM 1 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT – Dr. Douglas Reisig and Ms. Melodee Smith-Burreson

Election of officers:

Motion: Ms. Judie Woodhouse moved to elect Dr. Doug Reisig for chairperson of CSPAC. This was seconded by Ms. Tonia Bloom. Motion was unanimously approved.

Motion: Ms. Judie Woodhouse moved to elect Ms. Melodee Smith-Burreson for vice-chairperson of CSPAC. This was seconded by Ms. Tonia Bloom. Motion was unanimously approved.

It was decided the Council wait until a future meeting to determine committee appointments. Fall conferences listed are: MEA-MFT's Education Forum set for September 26, 2008, in Helena; MSU-Billings' Education Summit set for September 19, 2008, in Billings; and OPI's Montana Mentor Institute set for August 12-14, 2008, in Billings. The Council members discussed the calendar dates for the meetings for the upcoming year. The tentative dates decided are:

- Wednesday-Thursday, October 9-10, 2008 in Missoula (**NOTE:** date has been moved to October 23-24, 2008)
- Thursday, January 15, 2009 in Helena
- Wednesday-Thursday, March 11-12, 2009 in Helena with Board of Public Education
- Thursday, July 23, 2008 in Helena

The Council agreed to maintain the five general goals they currently have. Dr. Reisig noted the Council is now working on Sign Language Interpreters Standards for the state. The Council has also completed its work on the review of Chapter 57 with OPI. Finally, the Interpreters' Workgroup highlights were provided for the Council members to review, the next Interpreters' Workgroup meeting will take place August 13, 2008 in Helena.

ITEM 2 BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION REPORT – Mr. Steve Meloy

Mr. Meloy discussed the Legislature's interest in the Board. The Legislative Financial Division would like to see a new strategic plan from the Board. The Legislature would also like to see 100% of Montana's schools meet the accreditation standards. The Interim Committee is also working with the Board, the Board of Regents, and the Office of Commissioner of Higher Education and has developed the K-12 Committee to create a shared vision statement by 2009. The K-College Workgroup is working to incorporate

more science and math into elementary school curriculum. Dr. Peterson came to the table on behalf of OPI to talk about accreditation and what options schools in deficiency have to correct deficiencies. Mr. Meloy then spoke about the strategic planning session the Board had held at their July meeting to revise the Board's mission and goals. Potential goals include better standards, improving the quality of education, better Board leadership, and an increase in student achievement. He also informed the Council about the increased number of cases the Board office had received in relation to revocations and suspensions of educator licenses. The increase in cases has also caused an increase in costs of legal fees. He gave a brief overview of each case and how much the Board has spent per case. Dr. Peterson took this time to introduce three new specialists at OPI. Ms. Katie Moore was hired as the Science Curriculum Instruction Coordinator; Mr. Dale Kimmet was hired as the Accreditation Alternatives Specialist; and Mr. Jean Howard was hired as the Math Curriculum Specialist. Mr. Meloy concluded with the Class 8 License update. The hearing for the proposed rule has been set for August 26, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. in the OCHE conference room. This will be the last opportunity for people who wish to comment on the proposed rule to speak. The rule implementation date, if everything passes, is set for September 26, 2008. One administrative piece still needs to be implemented for the qualification of applicants. Mr. Meloy asked the Council if they would be interested in being the review committee for the rule. The Council was very receptive to the idea and decided to discuss this possibility at a later date. The Board also needs to make sure they wouldn't be stepping outside legal authority by giving this role to the Council.

ITEM 3 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT – Mr. Pete Donovan

Mr. Donovan presented to the Council all the meetings he had attended since the March meeting. Some of the meetings mentioned included his meeting with the new Board of Regents Student Representative, Mitch Jessen. Mr. Donovan was pleased to announce Mr. Jessen, a student at U of M Western, is an education major who would love to teach in Montana some day. Ms. Keller and Ms. Warrick came up from OPI to discuss the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification Conference. Both Mr. Donovan and Dr. Fishbaugh attended the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education Clinic in May where the possible union of NCATE and Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC) was discussed. Dr. Fishbaugh commented that at the federal level, there should really only be one accreditation entity. Many agreed it would be wise for these two organizations to join.

ITEM 4 MONTANA COMMISSION ON TEACHING COMMITTEE REPORT – Ms. Melodee Smith-Burreson and Ms. Judie Woodhouse

Ms. Smith-Burreson turned the table over to Ms. Sandve and Ms. Keller from OPI to discuss the possibility of creating an area of permissive special competency for teacher mentors. Ms. Sandve spoke about the resources on the OPI website and the possibility of

offering a workshop with MTSBA for mentoring in hopes that school districts will better understand its importance. Dr. Fishbaugh expressed her desire to include higher education in the process and noted MSU Billings has offered seminars for a number of years now. Ms. Keller stated the next step would be to add the necessary language to Chapter 58. Mr. Donovan suggested the Council turn to OPI and the accreditation office to work on the project.

Motion: Ms. Judie Woodhouse moved to charge the accreditation office at OPI to begin work on Chapter 58 Language for Teacher Mentoring. This was seconded by Dr. Mary Susan Fishbaugh. Motion was unanimously approved.

ITEM 5 PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION AND CONTINUING EDUCATION REPORT – Dr. Mary Susan Fishbaugh and Ms. Tonia Bloom

Dr. Fishbaugh discussed her trip to this year's National Commission on Teaching and America's Future Conference. A big topic of discussion at the conference was the pilot project NCTAF had created with George Washington University and the D.C. Public Schools for a teacher residency program. This program looked at reframing public education with national standards and federal mandates in mind. Those in charge of this program would like to start working with post-secondary education to train educators with these new standards. Dr. Fishbaugh expressed interest in having the program work through Montana schools stating those involved in the previous project had seen great improvements. Ms. Woodhouse and Ms. Smith-Burreson voiced concern saying they had the same intentions the previous year, but no funding was available from NCTAF. Mr. Donovan mentioned many new hires had come onboard in the past year so more resources may be available.

ITEM 6 OPI UPDATE – Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson - OPI

The new OPI specialists were introduced during the morning so the first item on the OPI update was passed over. Dr. Peterson passed out a PowerPoint presentation titled "Montana Five-Year Comprehensive Education Plan Web Application" (5YCEP) which covered the rule in Chapter 55 ARM 10.55.601, this listed the elements needed for the plan, the project goals, guiding principles, activities, and timeline. By asking each school and school district to submit a 5-year plan, OPI hopes to gather enough data base to cover all the school districts "to promote continuous education improvement for all Montana children." The Professional Educator Preparation Program Standards (PEPPS) update came next. An on-site review schedule for 2008-2009 was passed out. The state will do a joint review with NCATE to ensure appropriate review procedures and rigor for each Professional Education Unit. Highly Qualified Teachers was the last topic and a number of letters between OPI and the Department of Education were handed out. Dr. Peterson said she would like it if she could come forward with these same letters at the fall meeting and explain them in further detail. It was decided to take a closer look at them at the next

meeting. These letters were copies of those written to Mr. James Butler, a part of the Teacher Quality Programs at the US Department of Education. OPI has had ongoing discussions with the Department of Education concerning the establishments of HQT requirements for Special Education. Class 5 Alternative License elementary teachers supposedly are not HQT unless they meet content knowledge requirements of No Child Left Behind before day one of teaching. The Department of Education is also saying education minors cannot count as HQT. Dr. Peterson covered the response letters explaining how they are correcting these problems and how they will provide information to prove we are meeting the requirements and requesting flexibility for the issue with minors. Some of these letters are listed on OPI's website: opi.mt.gov.

ITEM 7 LICENSURE AND ENDORSEMENT REPORT- Ms. Kim Warrick and Ms. Elizabeth Keller - OPI

Ms. Kim Warrick and Ms. Elizabeth Keller came before the Council to present the almost complete, rewritten Chapter 57. Ms. Keller felt the best way of explaining the changes to the chapter would be to skim over the entire document. Ms. Keller went through all the changes and answered questions throughout the explanation.

ITEM 8 MARSHA DAVIS – LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Marsha Davis, the County Superintendent for Lewis & Clark County, presented to the Council *Teacher Retention & Montana 6E School Districts*. The study, originally published in 2002 as Dr. Davis' dissertation, looked at the factors drawing to, and retaining teachers at 6E schools in the state. 6E schools refer to those elementary school districts in Montana with 40 or fewer students. Back in 1999 63.3% of Montana schools were rural and 32.5% of school aged children (K-8) attended these schools. She explained how 98% of 6E school teachers were white, 65% married, and 94% female. Many of these teachers had taught at other schools and had a rural background themselves. Throughout the PowerPoint, Dr. Davis explained how such factors as enjoying rural lifestyles and relationships with students have influenced teachers to stay at these 6E schools. Since Montana is such a rural state, it is difficult for other states to understand the issues rural schools in this state face on a regular basis. Dr. Davis hopes to make these issues better known so that these schools can receive the attention they deserve.

ITEM 9 PLAN FOR FUTURE CONFERENCES

The two upcoming conferences of interest to CSPAC are the NASDTEC Professional Practices Institute (October 29-31, 2008 in Austin, TX) and the Western States Certification Conference (January 6-8, 2009 in St. Louis, MS). Mr. Donovan informed

the Council that if anyone was interested in attending either of these conferences to contact him.

ITEM 10 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Dr. Reisig stated the CSPAC By-laws will need to be reviewed at the fall meeting. Mr. Meloy informed the Council the state auditors had told the office the By-laws need to state the Council was created by the Board who must also re-recognize the Council. The annual joint meeting with the Montana Council of Deans will also be taking place at the fall meeting in Missoula.

ITEM 12 PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Ferro of MEA-MFT passed out pamphlets for the Montana Educator Forum being held on September 26, 2008 in Helena and encouraged all who could, to attend the annual conference.

ADJOURN

Motion: Ms. Judie Woodhouse moved to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Ms. Melodee Smith-Burreson. Motion unanimously passed.

Dr. Douglas Reisig adjourned the meeting at 3:45 P.M.

The Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council will make reasonable accommodations for known disabilities that may interfere with an individual's ability to participate. Persons requiring such accommodations should make their request to the Board of Public Education as soon as possible before the meeting to allow adequate time for special arrangements. You may write or call: CSPAC, PO Box 200601, 46 North Last Chance Gulch, Helena, MT 59620-0601, (406) 444-6576.