

CERTIFICATION STANDARDS & PRACTICES **ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2010

Room 455
Montana State Capitol
Helena, MT 59601

CALL TO ORDER

CSPAC Chair, Dr. Douglas Reisig, called the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council meeting to order on Thursday, January 14, 2010 at 8:36 A.M. CSPAC council members present were: Chair, Dr. Douglas Reisig, School Administrator, Missoula; Vice-Chair, Ms. Judie Woodhouse, Teacher, Polson; Ms. Tonia Bloom, Trustee, Corvallis; Ms. Patty Muir, K-12 Specialist, Laurel; Mr. Jon Runnalls, Teacher, East Helena; Dr. Mary Susan Fishbaugh, Dean of Education, MSU Billings, 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: Dr. Linda Peterson, OPI; Mr. Dennis Parman, OPI; Ms. Elizabeth Keller, OPI; Ms. Nikki Sandve, OPI; Ms. Ann Gilkey, OPI; and Ms. Joyce Silverthorne, OPI.

*Ms. Judie Woodhouse moved: **to approve the agenda.** This was seconded by Mr. Jon Runnalls. Motion was unanimously approved.*

*Ms. Judie Woodhouse moved: **to approve the October 8-9, 2009 CSPAC meeting minutes.** This was seconded by Ms. Tonia Bloom. Motion was unanimously approved.*

Mr. Donovan presented the Council with an article discussing the newly created Montana Virtual Academy and the hiring of its new director, Mr. Robert Currie. Both Mr. Parman and Dr. Peterson from the Office of Public Instruction answered questions about the newly developed academy. A lengthy discussion ensued over what the qualifications of the instructor should be, where the student will be receiving instruction (at a public school, in their own home etc.), and how to assure the student is really the one taking the course, amongst other questions. The Council requested someone from OPI come speak to them more about the MTVA at its March meeting. The Council then spoke about the American Federation of Teachers', a 1.4 million-member union, proposal to tie student test scores to teacher evaluations. This would possibly be tied into Race to the Top funds being distributed by the federal government to public schools who are adhering to common core standards the government has developed. Discussion ensued over the evaluations and the Council requested someone from OPI come speak to them at a future meeting about the Common Core Standards. Other correspondence consisted of Superintendent Juneau's election to the Executive Board to the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education, the positive response the Board received from their presentation at MEA Days, an article about Troops to Teachers, and an article about NCATE and their move to more clinically based preparation of teachers.

INFORMATION ITEMS

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

ITEM 1 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT – Dr. Douglas Reisig and Ms. Judie Woodhouse

Dr. Douglas Reisig suggested that when drafting the 2009 CSPAC Annual Report the Council align their long term goals with the Board of Public Education’s 2008-2013 goals. A few of the short term goals were discussed and it was decided these would be reviewed again at the March 10, 2010 CSPAC meeting. Some goals discussed included the NCATE Teacher Retention study, the Board’s and OPI’s process of denial, revocation, and suspension of educator licenses, the status and efficacy of teacher preparation programs in the state, ARM 10.57.716(A)(B), the Threshold Behavior Committee, and dropout rates amongst teens in the state. Dr. Reisig clarified with Dr. Peterson that the Professional Educator Preparation Program (PEPPS for short) oversees the standards for the teacher prep programs across the state, of which CSPAC plays a role in drafting. Dr. Fishbaugh also suggested that as CSPAC, we have a responsibility to new teachers for information dissemination to help them understand where they are “in the bigger scheme of things”. Mr. Donovan informed the Council of the change with the Board’s schedule, due to the Board of Education Meeting. With the change, the joint meeting of CSPAC and BPE is being moved from March 11, 2010, to the week of July 12-16, 2010.

ITEM 2 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER’S REPORT – Mr. Peter Donovan

Mr. Peter Donovan spoke about the meetings he has attended since the October 8-9, 2009 CSPAC meeting. One meeting he spoke about was the School Staffing Project. This project is working on a database that will provide OPI with information about educators teaching in schools across the state in a straightforward, condensed style. It will include information such as where teachers are, what their assignments are, and salaries, amongst other facts. This will help determine where shortage areas are across the state. Mr. Donovan also spoke about the move from paper agendas to electronic agendas.

ITEM 7 MONTANA COMMISSION ON TEACHING COMMITTEE – Ms. Judie Woodhouse and Ms. Patty Muir

Ms. Nikki Sandve from OPI came to give the Teacher Mentoring Update. Ms. Sandve passed out the results of the 2009 survey sent to schools across the state asking questions about the mentoring programs schools may have in place. The questionnaire asked open ended questions such as “Have you attended any other Mentor training?” for those who may have been trained someplace other than the Teacher Mentor Training workshop in Helena, as well as “Has there been a mentor program implemented in your district or school in the past? If yes, why was it disbanded?” Ms. Sandve pointed out some of the trends including how some mentor programs start in schools with a lot of support, but tends to lose steam after some time. Discussion ensued in relation to what some schools have done other than mentor programs and the value of a mentor program to schools. Ms. Sandve would like to work with Dr. Jayne Downey of MSU and Dr. Fishbaugh in hopes of developing an alignment of programs at MSU and MSU-Billings with the Mentor Institute. Ms. Woodhouse added the committee would like to look at ways to make mentoring programs institutionalized. The next Trainer Institute will be in Great Falls on August 9-11, 2010.

ITEM 4 EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT – Mr. Steve Meloy

Mr. Steve Meloy spoke about Mr. Storrs Bishop retiring from the Board after 16 years of service. Mr. Meloy also spoke about the Montana Virtual Academy and if home school enrollment in online courses will affect high school's sports eligibility. Mr. Meloy has met with Mr. Donovan and Dr. Reisig to discuss sports eligibility and the three men will meet with MTHSA on March 9, 2010 to address this matter. Most of the Legislative Fiscal Division Performance Measures held by the Board have been met and Mr. Meloy managed to have the language altered for the 4th performance measure to stress the Board will continue to "work toward" school districts meeting 100% compliance of Montana's Accreditation Standards. The BPE office continues to work with LFD to develop a smooth rule writing system. Mr. Meloy discussed other topics the Board is dealing with at the moment including the Learning First Alliance, NASBE, Common Core Standards, and the agency's budget. Discussion ensued surrounding his meeting with Mr. Dan Villa from the Governor's Office and Race to the Top Funds. Mr. Meloy will attend the NASBE Common Core Western Regional Conference in Las Vegas on February 1-2, 2010.

ITEM 5 OPI STRATEGIC DIRECTION AND P-20 UPDATE – Ms. Joyce Silverthorne, OPI

Ms. Joyce Silverthorne from OPI came to speak to the Council about OPI's Strategic Direction and P-20. Ms. Silverthorne has begun work with other employees of OPI from various departments to help improve schools from pre-school through post graduate education. The overall goals for P-20 are as follow:

1. Entry to Education
2. K-12 Transition
3. High School and Higher Education
4. K-12 Policy

Their first priority is to focus on the entry to and exit from K-12 education. OPI will work with other pre-school agencies in the state, such as DPHHS and Head Start, to help enhance seamless education. They will also work with alternative high schools and post-secondary agencies, such as Big Sky Pathways and OCHE. After the first year's focus of entry and exit, "...the P-20 Achievement will continue to focus on the topics that improve OPI collaboration across Montana and reduce barriers for the students of Montana."

Ms. Silverthorne spoke briefly about the new 10 @ 10 program being run at OPI. Superintendent Juneau has asked these 10 minute webinars be broadcasted to the OPI employees to highlight new happenings occurring within the agency to keep everyone well informed.

ITEM 9 OPI UPDATE – Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson, OPI

Dr. Linda Peterson spoke about various projects currently being worked on at OPI. One major project in Dr. Peterson's department is counseling where an initiative between the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Commissioner of Higher Education, and BPE, known as the School Counseling Leadership Initiative, has been created to help develop a comprehensive counseling program in Montana schools. The program model will help schools:

- Establish a school counseling program as an integral component of the academic mission of the school.

- Ensure every student has equitable access to a school counseling program that is systemically delivered.
- Identify and deliver the knowledge and skills all students should acquire in the Academic, Career, and Personal/Social domains.
- Promote specific guidelines and strategies to engage culturally different students and parents in counseling and in the educational process.
- Promote a Culturally appropriate approach to counseling that is aligned with the spirit and intent of Indian Education for All.

Dr. Peterson also spoke about the Board's approval to begin the review process of the Administrative Rules of Montana Chapter 55. A teacher representative of CSPAC has been requested to join the review panel by the Board and OPI. The selection process will run through February 2010, with the task force scheduled to meet from March 2010 to November 2010.

**The CSPAC meeting recessed at 1:23 P.M. to conduct the Class 8 Review Panel.
The CSPAC meeting resumed at 1:55 P.M.**

ITEM 8 LICENSURE AND ENDORSEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT – Ms. Sharon Applegate and Mr. Jon Runnalls

Both Dr. Reisig and Ms. Elizabeth Keller from OPI attended the Western States Certification Conference in San Diego, CA at the beginning of January. Dr. Reisig made a presentation about teaching practices, and Ms. Keller presented as head of the Interstate Agreement Committee. Ms. Keller also gave a brief overview of the licensure denial and revocation cases that came before the Board at its January 8, 2010 meeting. Discussion ensued over granting individuals licenses who do not meet the minimum requirements, but due to special circumstances are granted a license. This is possible because of a clause in the Administrative Rules of Montana which allows the Superintendent of Public Instruction authority to exercise judgment in unusual cases.

ITEM 6 PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION AND CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT – Dr. Mary Susan Fishbaugh and Ms. Tonia Bloom

Dr. Fishbaugh passed out information about sign language interpreter training programs available in the US. Currently, the closest SLITP to the state of Montana is at Idaho State University in Pocatello, ID, which has a Sign Language Studies with Associate Degree Program, as well as higher degrees in Educational Interpreting and Deaf Education. She also provided an example of a program curriculum from Seattle Center Community College in Washington State. The Council spoke about the possible setting (i.e. university, community college, technical) for one of these programs in the state as Ms. Bloom pointed out many of these programs are offered through community and technical colleges. The Council also questioned the demand for such a program in such a rural state and if there would be enough students to sustain the program over the long run.

ITEM 10 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Due to the Board of Education meeting being rescheduled to March 11, 2010, the original joint BPE/CSPAC meeting date, the joint meeting has been postponed to coincide with the Board's July meeting. This moves the CSPAC meeting date in July to one week earlier than originally scheduled.

Since the joint BPE meeting has been postponed until July, the Council will draft up the Annual Report at the March meeting. The Council will also review the short term goals in March.

ITEM 3 WESTERN STATES CERTIFICATION CONFERENCE REPORT
Dr. Douglas Reisig

Dr. Reisig presented the PowerPoint he presented a week prior at the WSCC in San Diego, CA. The presentation was entitled “Accountability: Personal & Professional”. Dr. Reisig began the presentation with some hard-hitting facts including, “Every 29 seconds, an American high school student gives up on school, resulting in more than one million high school students who drop out every year...” As well as, “It is estimated that the U.S. could reap \$45 billion in extra tax revenues and reduced costs in public health, crime, and welfare payments if the dropout rate was cut in half...” He then pointed out the disparity many children from low income families face stating, “42% of children born to low-income parents stay there in adulthood.” Dr. Reisig believes positive school relationships between teachers and students are crucial to student achievement. He encourages teachers to speak to all students with respect and use positive nonverbal signals that also show respect. He then listed 5 ways to create an environment of mutual respect:

1. Know something about each student.
2. Engage in behaviors that indicate affection for each student.
3. Bring student interests into content and personalize learning activities.
4. Engage in physical behaviors that communicate interest in students.
5. Use humor when appropriate.

Dr. Reisig finished by quoting Dr. James Comer to stress the key point of why positive school relationships important for all students. Dr. Comer has said, “At the heart of all learning is relationship.”

ITEM 11 PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

Dr. Douglas Reisig adjourned the meeting at 3:02 P.M.

The Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council will make reasonable accommodations for known disabilities the may interfere with an individual’s ability to participate. Persons requiring such accommodations should make their request to 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.