

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

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 2010**

*Room 172  
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 Wednesday, March 10, 2010 at 8:38 A.M. CSPAC council members present were: Chair, Dr. Douglas Reisig, School Administrator, Missoula; Vice-Chair, Ms. Judie Woodhouse, Teacher, Polson; 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: Mr. Dennis Parman, OPI; Ms. Elizabeth Keller, OPI; Ms. Ann Gilkey, OPI; Mr. Marco Ferro, MEA-MFT; Dr. Bruce Messenger, MTDA; and Ms. Nancy Coopersmith, 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 January 14, 2010 CSPAC meeting minutes.** This was seconded by Ms. Patty Muir. Motion was unanimously approved.*

Mr. Donovan spoke about a couple of documents of interest including an announcement for the ETS Praxis Client Conference, a letter from the Office Public Instruction inviting CSPAC to nominate a member for the Chapter 55 Joint Task Force, an article Ms. Bloom sent out from the New York Times entitled Building a Better Teacher, and an article from the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind discussing the newly adopted Sign Language Interpreter Standards. OPI sponsored a MET-NET video conference for interpreters in January, and will sponsor another one in April. The conference is presented by Boys Town National Research Hospital.

## **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**

The CSPAC By-laws were reviewed. Ms. Woodhouse asked about the term limits and pointed out one typo. The Council agreed the by-laws looked fine as presented. The Council then reviewed the 2008 Annual Report to prepare for the 2009 Annual Report. The new joint BPE July meetings dates were announced. Dr. Fishbaugh asked the term “higher education” be changed to “post-secondary

education". The Short Term Goals were then reviewed. Dr. Reisig presented 18 items of potential discussion. A few of the potential areas of discussion included: teacher retention studies; review and understand process of certificate/license denial, revocation, and suspension; and review how best to disseminate information to new teachers to help them understand where they are "in the bigger scheme of things". It was decided the goals would be reviewed again at the July 15, 2010 meeting. Dr. Reisig then gave a brief and concise summary of the meeting he, Mr. Donovan, and Mr. Meloy attended the day prior at the Montana High School Association. The topic of discussion revolved around sports participation eligibility for high school students who take a number of courses online instead of in the school classroom. Mr. Meloy stated that MTHSA is open to working with other groups to develop a solution.

## **ITEM 2 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT – Mr. Peter Donovan**

Mr. Donovan spoke about the meetings he has attended since the January 14, 2010 CSPAC meeting. Mr. Donovan mentioned a recent radio announcement he heard from the Helena Education Foundation, a non-profit organization independent from the Helena School District that "works to increase private support for public education beyond that which is constitutionally mandated...". The ad praised the work Council Member Mr. Runnalls has done as an educator within the Helena schools. Mr. Donovan also stated Dr. Reisig was selected as the keynote speaker at the next NASDTEC Professional Practices Institute Conference, the title of this year's conference is "Doing More with Less". Mr. Donovan then spoke about work he has done with the Council of Deans, Board of Regents, and OPI. He has played an active role in the OPI School Staffing Project in helping determine staffing patterns and teacher shortages across the state.

**Ms. Tonia Bloom arrived at 9:09 A.M.**

## **ITEM 3 BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION REPORT – Mr. Steve Meloy**

Mr. Meloy spoke about various meetings he has attended since January including a NASBE trip to Las Vegas to discuss the National Common Core Standards. Mr. Meloy traveled with Board Chair Ms. Patty Myers and Ms. Nancy Coopersmith from OPI. Both NASBE and CCSSO are strong advocates of these standards. K-College work with the school counselors continues. The group has looked at redefining their scopes, the affect, what they do and what they are perceived to do with access and affordability in schools. Shared policy goal work with the Legislative Interim Committee continues. The four K-12 Shared Policy Goals have been drafted, but have yet to be approved and include: 1) Prepare students with the knowledge and skills necessary for success in the 21<sup>st</sup> century global society; 2) Improve teaching and students learning by promotion data-driven policy decisions and increasing access to educational information; 3) Improve student achievement in struggling schools; and 4) Increase public awareness of and engagement in the K-12 educational system recognizing the roles and responsibilities of the state and local educational agencies and the legislature. The K-20 Shared Policy Goals have been drafted, but have yet to be approved and include: 1) Align high school outcomes with college readiness expectations to facilitate the transition from high school to college; 2) Increase College participation of Montana high school graduates; 3) Expand distance learning opportunities; and 4) Utilize K-20 data to improve student access and achievement. Dr. Fishbaugh brought up the fact that the first goal deals with remediation reduction and how cognitive development plays a large role in how prepared an individual student will be for college courses. The Council spoke about how much high school and college

assessments are aligned. Discussion continued around the Montana University Writing Assessment offered to all high school students.

**ITEM 4 PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION AND CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT – Dr. Mary Susan Fishbaugh and Ms. Tonia Bloom**

Dr. Fishbaugh spoke about the Council of Deans of Education presentation made to the Board of Regents about what each of the 9 teacher preparation programs in the state has to offer. It was concluded that teacher prep programs across the state are geared towards what the community and field experience has to offer in that region and each program is geared towards a slightly different mission. The Inclusive and Supportive Education Congress will hold an international educator forum in Ireland this summer where Dr. Fishbaugh will speak about Montana Indian Education for All.

Dr. Fishbaugh also spoke about a conference she did not attend, but Dr. Larry Baker from MSU Bozeman did, the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education Annual Meeting and Exhibits. Secretary of the Department of Education Mr. Arne Duncan spoke to the group, blasting teacher preparation programs based on what he had seen in large urban schools. Dr. Fishbaugh stated teacher prep programs are greatly scrutinized to ensure they are adhering to the highest standards. It was also noted Mr. Duncan was probably not taking into account the many alternative routes to licensure that do not abide by NCATE or TEAC standards. Discussion ensued over alternative routes, the current economic state's affect on the teaching field, and Mr. Duncan's conclusion.

**ITEM 5 MONTANA COMMISSION ON TEACHING COMMITTEE REPORT – Ms. Judie Woodhouse and Ms. Patty Muir**

Ms. Woodhouse reported she has been working with other states to attain model language for mentor standards and how these states proceeded in putting in mentoring language for standards. Ms. Muir will conduct a mentor workshop in Sydney, MT where they have 14 mentors for the upcoming school year. Dr. Fishbaugh added she has been in contact with Ms. Nikki Sandve from OPI and Dr. Jayne Downey from MSU Bozeman about a mentor program they would like to offer at universities across the state to help prepare people for the Area of Permissive Specialized Competency for Mentor Teachers. They would like to include the MEA-MFT/OPI mentor workshop provided during the summer in this program.

**ITEM 6 LICENSURE AND ENDORSEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT – Ms. Sharon Applegate and Mr. Jon Runnalls**

During the January 2010 Board of Public Education Meeting, the Board of Public Education heard an appeal from an applicant denied by the Office of Public Instruction because the applicant's academic record did not demonstrate meeting or exceeding the licensure requirements of Administrative Rules of Montana, Chapter 57, even though the applicant is licensed in another state. The Board requested a presentation for information on other denials and applicants who were licensed in another state yet did not meet Montana's requirements.

Ms. Elizabeth Keller from OPI felt this information would be just as important for the Council to hear as well. She presented an overview of academic denials and applicants from other states with

academic deficiencies for licensure. The OPI has denied seventy-four license applications since 2004. The top denials come from Texas. Twenty-three of these seventy-four were licensed in other states. Many of these denials are a result of the individual either not completing the NCATE accredited program, or they went through a non-NCATE accredited program that provided them a license in their respective states. Montana does not grant licenses to those who do not complete a program either accredited by NCATE or their state. Discussion ensued about which states have the highest demand for teachers and the various routes they offer for licensure both in these states and abroad.

#### **ITEM 7      OPI UPDATE – Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson, OPI**

Mr. Parman stood in for Dr. Vrooman Peterson to present the OPI Update. Ms. Madalyn Quinlan from OPI completed the 2009 Critical Teacher Shortage Report which revealed music teachers are the second most severe in shortages. Teacher prep students who wish to major in music must adhere to a rigorous academic schedule which causes many to abandon music and re-route their education into another area. To help increase the number of music teachers, both Mr. Parman and Dr. Vrooman Peterson are looking at ways to amend the requirements.

Ms. Joyce Silverthorne from OPI continues her work with P-20. The OPI has become very involved with both Facebook and iTunes University in hopes of reaching out to those who wouldn't necessarily visit their website. Ms. Quinlan is working on a longitudinal statewide data system that can be accessed by school districts, legislatures, and researchers. Turn Around or Transformation Schools are currently being identified in the state. Mr. Parman wants to ensure schools that don't belong on the list don't wind up on there. A School Improvement Grant from the Department of Education could bring up to \$12 million for school improvements in 6 districts across the state. Mr. Parman spoke a bit about Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 schools as described by the Obama/Duncan Administration. OPI is looking at ways to reduce paperwork reporting for superintendents by treating elementary and secondary school districts as a single school system, as well as reviewing their reporting questions to see if there are any repetitive questions, questions that don't need to be asked, and to ensure the questions are being asked in a sufficient manner.

Chapter 55 work begins soon. Ms. Myers of the Board and Mr. Parman will co-chair the group. Superintendent Juneau asked for open nominations from each of the participating groups. Ms. Applegate will represent CSPAC as a K-8 school teacher. The group will look more towards output over input standards from school districts, i.e. what are you doing, what goals have you set for yourself, are you accomplishing any of these?

#### **ITEM 10      PLAN FOR FUTURE CONFERENCES**

The NASDTEC Annual Conference is scheduled for June 13-16, 2010 in Indianapolis, IN. Due to current fiscal situations, Mr. Donovan is unsure whether he'll be able to attend the conference.

#### **ITEM 12      FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Ms. Warhank restated that the July meeting dates have been moved to July 14-15, 2010. The Joint BPE meeting will take place on the morning of July 15, 2010.

**ITEM 8            MONTANA VIRTUAL ACADEMY OVERVIEW – Dr. Bruce Messenger  
Chair, MTD**

Dr. Bruce Messenger, Helena School District Superintendent and Chair to the Montana Digital Academy, came before the Council to speak after the Council raised a number of questions about the Academy at their January 14, 2010 meeting. Dr. Messenger stated that due to the fact an outside party had previously purchased the rights to the domain name Montana Virtual Academy, the group was forced to rename itself the Montana Digital Academy. The MTD was created after the 2009 legislature authorized funds to help develop and implement the program. The MTD established its headquarters in Missoula and hired Mr. Robert Curry as its director. Mr. Curry had previously led a virtual academy in Michigan. Course registration will begin during high school fall 2010 class registration this spring. With its fall 2010 launch date, the MTD will have 30-40 courses led by a wide range of educators, all licensed professionals who should have their course align with Montana content standards. The first year will be free for school districts. Students, either public or home schooled, will need to register with their local public school district to enroll. All a course needs is for one student to enroll and can have up to 25 participants. At first the courses will be set up in the traditional manner, but this may change over time. Early student success and progress is hoped to be reported by the end of the first semester in January 2011. Dr. Messenger stated they hope to work closely with the MTHSA to help determine how the enrollment definition will affect student eligibility for sports participation. The Council had a few questions for Dr. Messenger including if students need to be on campus to take the courses, if MTD needs to provide the legislature with benchmarks to show the progress the Academy is making, and who will grant the credit to the student.

**ITEM 9            COMMON CORE STANDARDS OVERVIEW – Ms. Nancy Coopersmith, OPI**

This informational presentation included information concerning the following: 1) A regional conference conducted by the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE). The team that represented Montana at this conference included Ms. Myers, Chair of the Board; Mr. Meloy, Executive Secretary to the Board; and Ms. Coopersmith, Assistant Superintendent to OPI; and 2)The Montana Response to the February 9, 2010, draft of K-12 English Language Arts and Mathematics Standards.

Ms. Coopersmith provided an overview of the NASBE Western Regional Conference. It was clarified at the NASBE Western Regional Conference by the National Governor's Association (NGA) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) that states must approve the entire Common Core Standards verbatim. States may choose to add 15 percent of their own material, but how that 15 percent would be measured remains an open question. The first official public draft of the National K-12 Common Core State Standards (note: this was incorrectly referred to as federally mandated in the March 10, 2010 CSPAC meeting highlights) was available for comment on March 10, 2010, and will be open for comment until April 2, 2010. The standards are expected to be finalized in early spring. For more information, visit [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org). OPI has already gathered curriculum specialists in Helena to study how similar these are to the current state standards and develop a response to the proposed national ones. The Council inquired about the possibility of these standards dovetailing with Montana's, if other subjects aside from math and science will be subjected to national standards in the future, how this will affect Indian Education for All, and if Montana is at all involved with the development of these standards.

**ITEM 11 POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – Ms. Judie Woodhouse**

Ms. Woodhouse made a special presentation to honor two Council members whose second terms both end this June, Ms. Tonia Bloom and Dr. Douglas Reisig. Ms. Woodhouse presented Ms. Bloom with an oversized thank you card filled with pictures of Council members, BPE staff, and other education partners. Mr. Donovan prepared a poem for her entitled *They Do It for Free* which he read aloud. Ms. Woodhouse then presented a PowerPoint she prepared for Dr. Reisig with the help of Mr. Donovan, who once again composed and read aloud a poem entitled *When Nice Guys Finish in First Place*. Both Ms. Bloom and Dr. Reisig thanked everyone they worked with over the years while serving on the Council. Dr. Reisig stated, “Disappointment is not something we experience on CSPAC.” The Board of Public Education Office provided both Council members with gifts. Ms. Bloom received a box with her name, years served, and note of thank you engraved; Dr. Reisig received a gavel and block with his name, years served, and a note of thank you engraved.

**ITEM 13 PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF CSPAC**

There was no public comment.

Dr. Douglas Reisig adjourned the meeting at 3:11 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.