

Report of the Professional Standards Board

January 1, 2010

PURPOSE

Pursuant to 14 Delaware C. §1205(a), as amended by House Bill 88, the Professional Standards Board is required to file reports on the first day of January, April, July, and October of each calendar year with the Governor, the General Assembly, the State Board of Education and the Department of Education.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

The Professional Standards Board is hopeful that the Honorable Governor Markell will appoint or re-appoint, and the Senate confirm seven (7) Professional Standards Board members by the end of the 145th Delaware General Assembly: five (5) DSEA representatives, one (1) DASA representative and the singular local School Board representative. With a full membership, the mandated work of the Professional Standards Board will be able to continue unabated.

MEMBERSHIP

The Professional Standards Board is a sixteen-member Board comprised of eight (8) teachers, four (4) school or district administrators, two (2) parents, one (1) district school board member, and one (1) representative from Delaware's Higher Education community. A quorum of nine (9) is necessary to hold a meeting and ten (10) affirmative votes are required to pass any Motion or take any official action. Board members are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate.

Current members of the Professional Standards Board are as follows:

Kathleen Thomas, Chair
Michael Casson
Samtra Devard
Karen Gordon
David Kohan
Wendy Murray
Whitney Price
Karen Schilling-Ross

Cristy Greaves, Vice Chair
Joanne Christian
Marilyn Dollard
Lori Hudson
Jill Lewandowski
Gretchen Pikus
Shelley Rouser
Juanita Wilson

THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BOARD MISSION

The Mission of the Delaware Professional Standards Board is to assure competence and promote excellence among professional educators to meet the needs of the community of learners in the State.

STANDING COMMITTEES

The Delaware Professional Standards Board has two (2) standing committees, and may convene additional committees as necessary for particular purposes. The two (2) standing committees are the *Licensure and Certification Criteria Committee* and the *Professional Development and Associated Compensation Committee*. The committee members are comprised of at least one member of the Professional Standards Board and any additional members as are approved by the Chair of the Professional Standards Board and the Secretary of Education. Each committee has traditionally been co-chaired by a Department of Education representative appointed by the Secretary of Education and a non-Department of Education representative elected by the committee membership. The membership of each committee is broad-based and includes teachers, administrators, higher education representatives, parents, and a member of a local district Board of Education. The *Professional Development and Associated Compensation Committee* and the *Licensure and Certification Criteria Committee* meet as needed. Both committees work diligently to thoughtfully review and make recommendations about those items that are referred to them.

The *Licensure and Certification Criteria Committee* reviews existing regulations regarding licensure and certification and makes recommendations to the Professional Standards Board for amended, reauthorized or new regulations. The *Committee* also recommends the repeal of regulations that are longer viewed as relevant or necessary. All regulations acted upon by the Professional Standards Board have been reviewed by the *Licensure and Certification Criteria Committee*, in collaboration with the Department of Education, Delaware Higher Education Institutions, and practitioners.

The *Professional Development and Associated Compensation Committee* is responsible for making recommendations to the Professional Standards Board concerning professional development opportunities for educators and proposed compensation under the knowledge and skills section of 14 Del. C. §1305. All professional development clusters approved by the Professional Standards Board and the State Board of Education have been rigorously reviewed by the *Professional Development and Associated Compensation Committee* before being recommended for approval. The final approval of all professional development clusters is contingent on available appropriations. As of June 30, 2007, the Delaware Office of Management and Budget approved educator salary supplements thrice a year: April one, August one and December one.

On May 21, 2008 a moratorium was placed on salary supplements for clusters and national certifications that had yet to be initiated, by the Joint Finance Committee in collaboration with the DE Office of Management and Budget. This moratorium has since impacted the frequency of the *Professional Development and Associated Compensation Committee* meetings.

New regulations are created and existing regulations are reviewed and adopted, amended, reauthorized or repealed in collaboration with the Department of Education, and with concurrence of the State Board of Education. The Professional Standards Board Executive Director has developed a proactive review process to ensure collaboration of regulation review with the Department of Education. Although implementation of regulations is the responsibility of the Department of Education, the Professional Standards Board makes every effort to work closely with the Department of Education to facilitate effective, timely implementation.

ACTIVITIES – October 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009

- At its meeting of October 1, 2009, the Board approved the Publication of amended 14 DE Admin. Code *1511 Issuance and Renewal of Continuing License*. Delaware Code mandates that the Professional Standards Board reviews the professional development requirements within the regulation on an ongoing basis. Upon a review spanning well over a year, the Board amended many sections to reflect research-based best practice and to align the Options with a more current definition of professional development. Other requisite amendments address expired licenses, educators coming from other jurisdictions or who have been out of the profession for an extended period of time and renewal details. The State Board of Education Concurred to Publish on November 19, 2009. The amended certification appeared in the December 1, 2009 Delaware Register of Regulations. Final Action is before both the Professional Standards Board and the State Board of Education during their respective January meetings.
- At its meeting of October 1, 2009, the Board voted affirmatively for the Final Approval of amended 14 DE Admin. Code *1507 Alternative Routes to Licensure and Certification Program*. With changes by the General Assembly in 14 Del. C. § 1260 during the spring of 2009, it was imperative to amend the regulation to reflect current language in Code. The State Board of Education voted affirmatively on November 19, 2009 the approval of this regulation, which became effective on December 11, 2009.
- At its meeting of October 1, 2009, the Board voted affirmatively for the Final Approval of amended 14 DE Admin. Code *1512 Issuance and renewal of Advanced License*. Upon review, the Board amended a few sections of the regulation for clarity and accuracy, and to meet current formatting. The State Board of Education voted

affirmatively on November 19, 2009 the approval of this regulation, which became effective on December 11, 2009.

- **At its meeting of October 1, 2009, the Board voted affirmatively for the Final Approval of amended 14 DE Admin. Code *1590 Delaware Administrator Standards*. The regulation concerns the nationally recognized standards that describe leadership behaviors and skills established for Delaware school leaders, and serves as the foundation for the preparation and appraisal of school leaders. The State Board of Education voted affirmatively on November 19, 2009 the approval of this regulation, which became effective on December 11, 2009.**
- **In accordance with 14 Del.C. §1305(o) and 14 DE Admin Code *1501 Knowledge, Skills and Extra Responsibility Salary Supplements for Educators*, during the meeting of October 1, 2009, the Board voted affirmatively to approve the 2009 / 2010 professional development cluster listing. The State Board of Education voted affirmatively on November 19, 2009 the approval of this current and valid list.**
- **At its meeting of November 5, 2009 The Board continued in-depth discussions surrounding 14 DE Admin Code *1517 Permits Paraeducators*. As 14 DE Admin Code *1511 Issuance and Renewal of Continuing License* moved through the review process, it was noted that the options for a paraeducator to renew their permit paralleled those in the standing *1511 Issuance and Renewal of Continuing License* regulation, and therefore should be reviewed for appropriateness. Several amendments have been suggested by the Board, but the consensus agreed to by the Board was to wait until *1511 Issuance and Renewal of Continuing License* met Final Approval prior to requesting a Vote to Publish.**
- **At its meeting of November 5, 2009, the Board continued critical conversations surrounding 14 DE Admin Code *1510 Issuance of Initial License*. Several changes have been suggested to reflect amendments in 14 DE Admin Code *1511 Issuance and Renewal of Continuing License*, but the consensus agreed to by the Board was to wait until *1511 Issuance and Renewal of Continuing License* met Approval during Final Action votes by both Boards prior to moving this regulation forward for a Vote to Publish.**
- **At its meeting of November 5, 2009, the Board persisted in their rigorous review of 14 DE Admin Code *1503 Educator Mentoring*. It is critical that amendments in 14 DE Admin Code *1511 Issuance and Renewal of Continuing License* are reflected in *1503 Educator Mentoring*, and that references to outdated training venues and unsustainable requirements have been eliminated. With the previous assent of the Board, this regulation will be reviewed by the DOE for additional feedback in early January 2010, prior to a Vote to Publish in February.**

- **Over the course of many months, the Board has reviewed 14 DE Admin Code 1582 *School Nurse*. This regulation needed some formatting changes to be in synchronization with the language in the majority of other Standard Certificates and in references to 14 DE Admin Code 1505 *Standard Certificate*. The Board and the Department of Education are aware of an educator License implementation issue within the regulation and it has been communicated to the Board that the Department will be pursuing an amendment in 14 Del. C. in the spring of 2010.**
- **At its meeting of December 3, 2009, the Board reviewed amended 14 DE Admin. Code 1560 *Art Teacher*, 1563 *Music Teacher* and 1564 *Physical Education Teacher*. These regulations needed some formatting changes to be in synchronization with the language in the majority of other Standard Certificates and in references to 14 DE Admin Code 1505 *Standard Certificate*. It is anticipated that the Board will Vote to Publish these regulations in January, 2010.**
- **At its meeting of December 3, 2009, the Board voted affirmatively for the Approval of the *Delaware Professional Standards Board Access to Public Information: FOIA Procedures*. It should be noted that the PSB's timelines and procedures mirror those in the proposed HB 300, as introduced on December 10, 2009.**
- **The Board is looking closely at proposed 14 DE Admin. Code 1598 *Teacher Leader Standards*. Current validated research shows that effective Teacher Leaders can make a critical difference in a school's drive for academic improvement. Delaware has been intimately involved with the states of Ohio, Kentucky, Alabama and Kansas in developing the Teacher Leadership Curriculum based on cutting edge best practice. In Delaware the Professional Standards Board's Chair and Executive Director, as well as several Members, have been working closely with the University of Delaware's *Delaware Academy for School Leadership (DASL)* on this exciting project. Establishing appropriate Teacher leader Standards would be the initial step in contemplating the possibility of a Standard Certificate in this area.**
- **It is anticipated that in the near future the following additional Professional Standards Board regulations will be reviewed:**
 - *1583 School Psychologist*
 - *1584 School Social Worker*
 - *1553 Driver Education and Traffic Safety Education Teacher*
 - *1506 Emergency Certificate*
 - *1502 Professional growth Salary Increments*

Regulation review is an on-going process and may take several months before the regulations are moved forward for publication. Most of these certification regulations are being reviewed as part of the 5 year review cycle adopted by the Professional Standards Board.