

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BOARD

Meeting of Monday, January 5, 2009

5:15 p.m.

Cabinet Room, Department of Education
2nd Floor South Wing, Townsend Building

MINUTES

Members Present: Joanne Christian, Marilyn Dollard, Karen Gordon, Cristy Greaves, Lori Hudson, David Kohan, Jill Lewandowski, Wendy Murray, Gretchen Pikus, Kathleen Thomas, Michael Thomas, and Cathy Zimmerman

Members Absent: Samtra Devard, Whitney Price, Karen Ross, and Carol Vukelich

Others Present: Charlie Michels, PSB Executive Director; Pearl Carrington, PSB Secretary; Paula Fontello, PSB Deputy Attorney General; Vicky Cairns, Delaware State Education Association; and Judi Coffield, Policy Analyst for the State Board of Education

I. Opening:

Call to Order: Ms. Thomas, Professional Standards Board Chair called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Mr. Kohan and seconded by Dr. Greaves to approve the Agenda. The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Ms. Murray and seconded by Ms. Zimmerman to approve the Board Meeting minutes of December 4, 2008. Ms. Gordon abstained during the vote as she was absent from the 12/4/08 PSB meeting. The motion carried.

II. Public Comment

None.

III. Executive Director's Report – 5:30 PM

- Mr. Michels indicated that the pending Revocation Hearing is in the process of being rescheduled for late February.
- Mr. Michels prepared a Memo to Governor Elect Markell's Transition Team stating the history of the PSB, who is represented on the Board, what the Board's responsibilities are and the relationships between the PSB, the Department of Education and the State Board of Education. Mr. Michels forwarded the Memo to

the Transition Team with the Department's Transition Notebook. Mr. Michels stated that Secretary Woodruff met with Markell's Transition Team on December 9, 2008, and Ms. Woodruff verified that the PSB Transition Memo was included in the DOE Notebook.

- Mr. Michels has been reviewing and drafting language for some of the regulations that are slated for the PSB-adopted 5 year review cycle: 1582 School Nurse and 1506 Emergency Certificate, 1511 Continuing License, 1513 Denial of Licenses and 1514 Revocation of Licenses and Certificates. The Board shared their concern with the licensure requirement for the School Nurse regulation and the student teaching requirement. Mr. Michels assured the Board that he is doing his best to not add a burden to those Health professionals seeking to be School Nurses.
- Mr. Michels prepared and distributed by email and/or hard copy the PSB Quarterly Legislative Report that is due January 1, 2009. Copies of the Report are in the January 5, 2009 PSB meeting Members' folders.
- Mr. Michels sent a formal request to previously-approved PSB hearing officers on December 15, 2008 to see who was still able to serve as a hearing officer. Five letters were sent out 4 individuals have indicated their willingness to support the PSB by being available to be hearing officers in the future.
- Mr. Michels share with the Board a discussion he had with the Department's Certification Office regarding Praxis II exams for Bilingual and ESOL certifications. Currently the Department is using the Praxis II exams for World Language Spanish and French to meet the proficiency requirements. The Department's question was whether or not the Mid Level or Secondary ELA Praxis II exams could be used for showing English proficiency, as required in the Certification. Mr. Michels is working on determining the legal and appropriateness of the current practice.

IV. Presentations

None.

Due to a last minute professional meeting with an education contingent of President Elect Obama's Transition team, Dr. Wilson will present to the PSB her workgroup's proposal for a Professional Certification for School Leaders during the February meeting.

V. Discussion

A. 1580 School Library Media Specialist

For Discussion

The State Board of Education Concurred to Publish this regulation during their December 18, 2008 and consequently this regulation was Published on January 5, 2009. No further concerns regarding this regulation were shared by the Board. This regulation will be before the Board for Final Approval on February 5, 2009.

B. 1597 Delaware Professional Teaching Standards

For Discussion

The State Board of Education Concurred to Publish this regulation during their December 18, 2008 and consequently this regulation was Published on January 5, 2009. No further concerns regarding this regulation were shared by the Board. This regulation will be before the Board for Final Approval on February 5, 2009.

C. 1511 Issuance and Renewal of Continuing License

For Conversation

The Board engaged in a critical and lengthy open discussion, led by Ms. Thomas and Mr. Michels regarding the DOE/DESS newly adopted and posted definition of professional development. Mr. Michels presented his research and drafts of a revised Option Chart within regulation 1511. Mr. Michels had shared the draft chart with several Department staff who were amenable to the changes. The Board was not asked to reach consensus on the chart, as it is still a dynamic document. The Board was, however, very much in favor of connecting the options within the chart, as much as possible, to the DPAS II Professional Responsibilities Component 4, as shared by Mr. Michels. Ms. Thomas and Mr. Michels will continue to refine 1511.

VI. Action Items

A. 1513 Denial of Licenses

For Publication

The presented draft of this regulation accurately reflects the amended language in DE Code. After another detailed review by Ms. Fontello and Mr. Michels and a subsequent discussion, a few minor changes were made regarding days in which an educator needed to request a hearing and further definition that ‘days’ in the regulation should be specified as ‘calendar days’. Ms. Fontello suggested a few minor changes that the Board accepted. Ms. Pikus moved and Ms. Gordon seconded a motion to Publish 1513 Denial of Licenses. The motion carried.

B. 1514 Revocation of Licenses and Certificates

For Publication

The presented draft of this regulation accurately reflects the amended language in DE Code. After another detailed review by Ms. Fontello and Mr. Michels and a subsequent discussion, a few minor changes were made including changing the term “educator” to “license holder” in several places. Ms. Hudson moved and Ms. Murray seconded a motion to Publish 1514 Revocation of Licenses and Certificates. The motion carried.

C. 1506 Emergency Certificate

For Publication

This regulation specifies the requirements for certification of individuals on an emergency basis. It was necessary to amend this regulation in order to clarify the application process, to indicate the employing district’s responsibilities to the educator and to set forth appropriate timelines. Ms. Pikus moved and Ms. Hudson seconded a motion to Publish 1506 Emergency Certificate. The motion carried.

VII. PSB Standing Committees

A. Licensure and Certification Criteria

The Licensure and Certification Criteria Committee has not met.

B. Professional Development and Associated Compensation.

The Professional Development and Associated Compensation Committee has not met.

VIII. Other

None

IX. Public Comment

None

X. Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Hudson and seconded by Ms. Zimmerman to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

During the course of this meeting, the Professional Standards Board may enter into Executive Session to consider strategy with respect to pending and potential litigation or with respect to personnel issues. The Professional Standards Board may also take breaks.

The times designated on the agenda are approximate and are listed for administrative purposes only. The Professional Standards Board reserves the right, pursuant to Section 10004(e) of the Freedom of Information Act, to hear any matter out of its order during the meeting.