

Minutes from Professional Licensure Standards Board
January 13, 2009

A meeting of the Professional Licensure Standards Board was held in the auditorium of the Arkansas Department of Education, on January 13, 2009. Members of the Board present were Brenda Brown, Dr. Peggy Doss, Dr. Mitch Holifield, Kathy Howell, Sheila Jacobs, Don McGohan, Mona Moore, Donna Morey, Andrew Tolbert, Ron Tolson and Beverly Williams. Members who could not attend were: Dr. John Beineke, Michelle Hayward, Dale Query, and Dr. Tony Finley. Guests in attendance were Phyllis Stewart from AAEEA, Elizabeth Vaught Neely from UALR, Dr. Mary Gunter from Arkansas Tech, Barbara Gordon from AEA, Richard Hutchinson from AEA and Norma Justice who refused to sign in.

There were nine (9) voting members present, representing a quorum and two non-voting members present.

I Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. and the agenda was distributed. Ms. Williams thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

Ms. Williams stated the Board needed to finish the agenda as early as possible today before proceeding with the agenda items. The sub-committee has a lengthy agenda to cover.

II. Approval of the Minutes

Ms. Williams asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes? Kathy Howell made a motion to approve the minutes as recorded. Brenda Brown seconded the motion. A vote was called. The motion passed unanimously. Minutes are approved as recorded.

III. Budget Report

Ms. Williams reported that as of January 1, 2009 there was a balance of \$236,368.24. This was the amount from Finance.

IV. Update on the Code of Ethics:

- a) **Update on the Video** – Video script has been sent to the sub-committee for edits, notes and comments. The committee should have any comments or edits to Beverly by Thursday. She will be meeting with the company and would like to have all comments before that. At this time the color brochure for the Code of Ethics was distributed to each member.

- b) **Approve the Packaging of the Video** – The packaging and duplication budget options from Heathcott and Associates were distributed. Beverly had a sample of the different packaging options. There were five options listed. There was discussion about who would be receiving the video, Beverly said that every building in every school district; every college and co-op; and private schools. There are about 1400 buildings for distribution. This video needs to be as accessible as possible. This would possibly be a one time purchase. The video needs to be available to affiliate groups. A question was asked if a video could be purchased by an individual or by institutions wishing to give one to their students. There was discussion about receiving permission to reproduce this video or have it available for download.

Kathy Howell made a motion to purchase the packaging in Option 5 which is a Standard DVD Case with Outwrap and Insert page at a cost of \$5,851 for 2,000 dvds.

Dr. Peggy Doss seconded the motion. A vote was called and the motion passed.

- c) **ARIDEAS – Professional Development Proposal** – this item is on the agenda to remind the board that there is still work to be done on this item but nothing ready for today's meeting.

V. ADE adoption of the 2008 ISLLC Standards – ADE has asked Dr. Mary Gunter, Executive Director of the Center for Leadership and Learning at ATU and a Research Panel member to present this agenda item. Dr. Gunter made a PowerPoint presentation. The last two or three years the ISLLC standards have been reviewed and revised by the Educational Leadership Program. Dr. Gunter recommended we adopt these standards. The National Policy Board is responsible for the performance indicators.

Dr. Peggy Doss recommended adopting the Revised ISLLC Standards as Arkansas State Standards. Dr. Mitch Holifield seconded the motion. A question was asked about professional development and was answered that there are three broad areas for professional development and the standards give the framework. Question was called. Board voted unanimously to adopt the Revised ISLLC Standards.

VI. Define the word Teacher regarding experience requirements for administrative licensure – Mitch Holifield Ms Williams explained that the definition of teacher is defined by ADE. There has recently been an Attorney General's Opinion declaring the ADE has the right to define teacher and shows ADE correctly and consistently applies rules with the same definition of teacher. The AG's Opinion refers to teaching experience for administrative licensure.

There followed more discussion. Kathy Howell was bothered by the fact that elementary media specialist have all the same criteria as regular elementary teachers. Andrew Tolbert said that not all schools are the same. There is a difference in elementary and secondary media specialist and counselors responsibilities.

Ron Tolson said the Department is pro-active in this issue and after the session dismisses there will be a study of counselors and media; how much are they required to teach and how consistent is that throughout the state.

Dr. Doss would like more discussion about this issue at a more appropriate time. Don McGohan agrees that more discussion is needed. There needs to be more flexibility to look at individual situations. He is hopeful that at the April meeting they will have something to look at.

VII Dual Licensure Programs that include Special Education Endorsements – Mitch Holifield The question was asked about the panel discussion that was to be held concerning the special education programs. Ms. Williams reported that Dr. Lucas has no update at this time. There was discussion about the blended program and the birth to four test.

At this time the meeting adjourned for lunch.

Before getting back to agenda items there was discussion and advice from the legal department about the sub-committee meetings being open or closed to the public. What are the reasons for executive session being closed? Level 1, 2, and 3 of the procedures of investigation of an allegation is 1) Allegation is made and verified, 2) Probable Cause decided and 2) a recommendation of probable cause accepted or asking for evidentiary hearing. – These three steps are important to keep confidential and protect the educator. The last two steps, 4) Evidentiary Hearing and 5) the State Board hearing are open to the public.

VIII Alternative Licensure Programs in Arkansas – Mitch Holifield
This item was passed on due to agenda item X.

IX Adding Speech Endorsement to secondary teaching license – Don McGohan
Proposal to add speech or drama licensure to a current secondary licensure by testing out. Other areas may be added to the same grade level license by testing out. Speech or Drama should be treated the same way. Speech is part of the required curriculum to graduate and drama is not.

There was discussion about programs of study vs. testing out of an area; the difference in licensure area and endorsement; added endorsements and specialty areas. Pros and cons were discussed.

Don McGohan made a motion that secondary teachers adding to an existing standard licensure area be able to add the area of speech to their license by testing out. Andrew Tolbert seconded the motion. A call for discussion was made. There was discussion about should speech be a stand alone licensure area?

Don McGohan made an amendment to his motion to allow Speech and allow Drama to become separate licensure areas and to allow initial licensure in either program. Call for vote. Board voted and motion passed unanimously.

X. Non-Traditional Licensure Questions – Kathy Howell

- a) What data has been kept on the Non-Traditional program?**
- b) Interest and conflicting values of alternative licensure need to be discussed and resolved.**
- c) Interest and conflicting values of alternative licensure need to be discussed and resolved**
- d) Interest and conflicting values of alternative licensure need to be discussed and resolved.**
- e) Is there a difference in the level of skills or quality of the teacher depending on the program they go through?**
- f) Do NTLP students have different skills than a University program student?**
- g) Teaching skills and ability to help students score well.**

She would like to know about the effectiveness and longevity of the program. Mr. Tolson said that since 2000 demographics and tracking of how licenses were obtained. Ms. Williams reported that the Office of Teacher Quality has a retention matrix which tracks teachers in the NTLP. The retention rate is about 97% of NTLP teachers. The average age of NTL students is 30 to 35 whereas the average age of traditionally trained students is 22 to 25.

The fact that ADE NTLP does not have to meet NCATE standards as the University NTL students do. Dr. Holifield said that from an university perspective they are held at a higher standard than ADE NTLPs. He stated it costs lots of money for universities to uphold these standards but the ADE provides a “back-door route” where they do not have to meet NCATE standards or accreditation standards.

The Deans stand is that the universities would like to assume the responsibility for all non-traditional students in the state. A meeting was held with Dr. James, Ms. Williams and a representative group of Deans where a proposal was presented to take that responsibility. Dr. James was totally opposed to the proposal saying that timing is not the best at this time.

There was more discussion concerning the state NTL by-passing the standards and that the biggest issue is that all programs should be held to the same standards. Don McGohan agrees and prefers traditionally trained teachers but smaller and rural school

districts have to fill positions with licensed teachers or face accreditation issues. There was no resolution on this issue at this time.

XI. Other Agenda Items

Michelle Hayward is unable to attend any meetings on Tuesday's because of staff meetings at her school which are mandatory. We will try to see if everyone can meet on the second Thursday of each month. Ms. Williams office will be in contact by email to work this out.

The issue concerning the sub-committee meeting being open or closed was addressed at this time. Legal advises that if the sub-committee is purely advisory and the committee is not made up of anyone involved in the final recommendation then the meeting may be open or closed at the wishes of the Professional Licensure Standards Board. Ms. Williams asked how the Board wished the sub-committee to meet – open or closed meetings?

Don McGohan made a motion that the sub-committee meetings prior to a hearing be closed. Andrew Tolbert seconded the motion. The question was called. The Board voted and the motion passed with 6 yes and 1 no.

XII. Adjournment

Dr. Doss made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Sheila Jacobs seconded. Vote was taken and the meeting was adjourned at 1:18 p.m.