

CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

ADVISORY COMMITTEE for EDUCATOR CERTIFICATION REGULATION REVISION

Thursday, September 25, 2008

8:30am – 1:00pm

ITBD

New Britain, CT

MINUTES

Members Present

Mark McQuillan, Moderator: Paula Schwartz, Karen Baldwin, Earle Bidwell, Linette Branham, Carol Clifford, Jackie Colon, Ania Czajkowski, Joanne Ellsworth, Janet Finneran, Margaret Mary Fitzgerald, Roch Girard, Linda Goodman, Bob Hale, Robert Hiscox, Margaret Liu, Kelly Lyman, V. Everett Lyons, Edward Malin, John Mattas, John Mattered, Mary Monroe-Kolek, Teddy Sablon-Tauris, Jay Voss, Jacqueline Wasta, Jonas Zdanys

Members Absent

Steven Adamowski, David Erwin, Andrew Lachman, Marion Martinez, Carole Pannozzo

Staff Present

Lol Fearon, Sharon Fuller, Jacqui Kelleher, Georgette Nemr, Katherine Nicoletti, Nancy Pugliese, Anne Louise Thompson

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:45am

Overview of Meeting Agenda

Moderator Paula Schwartz welcomed the Advisory Group and discussed the purpose of the advisory group to review and comment on revisions to teacher and administrator certification regulations. She introduced the protocol for meeting participation including attendance at the meetings and giving all participants an opportunity to speak. Agenda for the day's meeting was reviewed.

Presentation by the Commissioner of Education

Commissioner McQuillan presented slides framing an overview of certification proposal as it relates to State Board of Education priorities as they relate to the Five-Year Comprehensive Plan, Secondary School Reform and the work of the Early Childhood Cabinet. He indicated that teacher quality is an important factor in student success.

A question and answer period followed the commissioner's powerpoint presentation. Questions raised included: whether or not new regulations would replace current certification regulations; when these regulations would go into effect (July 1, 2014); concern raised that the public needs to understand the change and be willing to financially support the plans and be aware that under the Education Enhancement Act of 1986 the mandated and originally funded professional development, that funding is now coming from local districts; and need to get support from teachers including an understanding of the new competencies required of them.

Presentation of the Connecticut Educator Continuum Context and Certification Proposals

Georgette Nemr presented a graphic description of the Educator Continuum and described who the stages of the continuum interconnect. Paula Schwartz gave an overview of student statistics and educator statistics of our state. Data was requested on the categories of special education students placed across the continuum of placements and the categories represented in the regular education classroom and related performance data. Data on durational shortage area permits (DSAPs) by districts was also requested.

Nancy Pugliese presented major certification proposals including: changes to the levels of certification; proposed requirement for 150 hours of professional development while serving under provisional and professional certificates; and proposed requirement for a minimum of 30 graduate credits or a master's degree to qualify for the professional with teaching endorsements.

Discussion followed including concerns that professional development was not of a high quality in some districts or not as focused on literacy as they should be. Others voiced support that if embedded activities were connected to student outcomes and teacher evaluation that there would be improvement in the overall system. It was noted that recent training efforts are more focused on student performance than previous efforts over the years. Others suggested that teachers need to be afforded the opportunity to identify their own professional development needs. It was suggested that guidelines for professional development be developed and that state money be increased to support this effort. It was agreed that districts where programs are working should be identified and information shared with other districts. It was pointed out that in 2009, 17,000 teachers were coming up for renewal. The colleges are willing to participate and offer more professional development opportunities for teachers.

Georgette Nemr presented the proposed new requirements pertaining TESOL and Bilingual certification endorsements. She further presented the proposal of a new Literacy Specialist endorsement which will consolidate remedial reading and reading consultant. It was noted that current reading specialists roles/job descriptions in Connecticut public schools are not substantially different for the two endorsements provided in current regulations (Remedial Reading/Remedial Language Arts and the Reading Consultant endorsements).

Next Meeting:

Next meeting will be held October 16, 2008, at ITBD in New Britain at 8:30 a.m. The meeting will concentrate on the proposed integrated endorsements and special education endorsements.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Schwartz