

CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

ADVISORY COMMITTEE for EDUCATOR CERTIFICATION REGULATION REVISION

Thursday, November 6, 2008

8:30am – 1:00pm

ITBD

New Britain, CT

MINUTES

Members Present

Moderator: Paula Schwartz, Karen Baldwin, Earle Bidwell, Linette Branham, Carol Clifford, Jackie Colon, Joanne Ellsworth, David Erwin, Janet Finneran, Margaret Mary Fitzgerald, Roch Girard, Bob Hale, Robert Hiscox, Andrew Lachman, Margaret Liu, Kelly Lyman, V. Everett Lyons, Edward Malin, Marion Martinez, John Mattas, John Mattera, Mary Monroe-Kolek, Carole Pannozzo, Jay Voss, Jacqueline Wasta, Jonas Zdanys

Members Absent

Steven Adamowski, Ania Czajkowski, Linda Goodman, Mark McQuillan, Teddy Sablon-Tauris

Staff Present

Lol Fearon, Sharon Fuller, Jacqui Kelleher, Georgette Nemr, Katherine Nicoletti, Nancy Pugliese, Jen Widness,

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:45am

Overview of Meeting Agenda

Moderator Paula Schwartz welcomed the advisory group back and had everyone introduce themselves and organization affiliation since some members did not attend the first meeting. The agenda for the meeting was distributed.

Review of Minutes from October 28, 2008

Minutes were approved by all in attendance with a few revisions.

Discussion after minutes

Grade Span of K-6 Elementary/6-12 Secondary: Discussion was resumed with changes involving the K-6 elementary and 6-12 Secondary with elimination of middle grades endorsements. Concerns shared about ensuring that school have the flexibility to assign either an elementary K-6 or a secondary 6-12 teacher to grade 6. Principals should be allowed to decide how best to form the 6th grade teams with a combination of both. Others concerned that there be no overlap and direct alignment with the secondary school reform proposal. The majority of the group (all but 4 present) supported ensuring that there was flexibility to assign either elementary or secondary teachers to grade 6. Linette concerned about losing the middle grades endorsement and ensuring training in adolescent development of those who will be teaching in middle school.

Special education and intervention specialist: group recommended only one endorsement. concern that this endorsement will be required for working with low-functioning. RESCs do not need specialists to work directly with low functioning student but to oversee and train paraprofessionals who work with and support these students. Others in the group supported this recommendation.

Teacher Leader Endorsement: concerns raised around incentive and/or the requirement to hold the teacher leader endorsement. May be too restrictive when applied to all serving in a “coach” or leadership role. Need to insure that instructional leadership is covered under the intermediate administrator requirements. Some saw the new endorsement as a career opportunity for growth especially for those not interested in completing

administrator program or serving as an administrator. When department heads or team leaders are rotated, the endorsement may be too limiting. Need to distinguish between formal and informal teacher leadership. Larger districts with resources may offer their own programs for teacher leader. Makes sense if part of continuum from teacher leader to intermediate administrator; allow flexibility to school districts in who and when required to hold teacher leader.

Intermediate Administrator: one year internship once hired under initial certificate will be a logistical challenge; concern about how district and higher education supervision will align; concern about insufficient training/field experiences prior to issuance of initial; support program is like BEST for administrators.

Superintendent: keep requirement for service as assistant superintendent certificate at intermediate administrator level.

Elementary subject area major: group agreed that a subject area major or interdisciplinary major should be required, not a major in professional education (e.g., elementary education).

Credits allowed before admission: need safeguards to ensure that community college students understand what requirements are met or not when transferring to 4-year institutions; group supported increasing allowable credits but institutions will not be required to do it if they choose otherwise.

Grandfathering: we will need to identify how many educators will be grandfathered. “Grandfathering” proposals supported by the group.

New endorsement Proposals:

Gifted and Talented: do not require the endorsement, but make it available. Integrated endorsement should cover some training for gifted and talented.

Birth to 3 cross-endorsement: no comments.

Continuation of Discussions on Nov 18:

We will pick up with remaining new endorsement and testing proposals on Nov. 18.

Next Meeting:

Next meeting will be held Nov 18, 2008, at ITBD in New Britain at 8:30 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Schwartz