

**ILLINOIS STATE TEACHER CERTIFICATION BOARD**

**Illinois State Board of Education  
Springfield, Illinois**

**Friday, September 5, 2003**

**MINUTES**

**Call to Order / Roll Call:**

Dr. Robert E. Schiller, Chairman, Illinois State Teacher Certification Board, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Mr. Dennis Williams, Interim Secretary, Illinois State Teacher Certification Board, called the roll. A quorum was present.

**Members Present:**

Dr. Robert E. Schiller, Chairman  
Dennis Williams, Interim Secretary

Kay Acklin  
Marsha Allen  
William E. Briggs  
Andrew Brulle  
Roger Chamberlain  
Deidre Dare  
Nina Dorsch  
Bruce Dennison

Connee Fitch-Blanks  
Nan Giblin  
Brenda Humphrey  
Elliott Lessen  
Laura Lipe  
Linda Malone  
Mary Jane Morris  
Linda Tafel  
Eugene Zalewski

**Members Absent:**

Barbara Eason-Watkins

Denise Williams

**Others Present:**

Laura Arterburn  
Lee Bartolini  
Laura Barwegen  
Lucille Buscher  
Deborah Curtis  
Nicole Gales

Tom Hannon  
Lee Patton  
Lou Ann Reichle  
Lynn Rhoades  
Susan Shea  
Linda Tomlinson

Mr. William E. Briggs moved to change the agenda of the Illinois State Teacher Certification Board to reflect the following:

- Item G (Informational Items) will be considered before Item F (Items for Discussion).
- The Board will enter into closed session between Items 2 (Title II Report) and 3 (Process for Defining Criteria for Endorsements and Subsequent Certificates).
- The two remaining items on the agenda (3 and 4) will be heard after the closed session.

Ms. Deidre Dare seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

The Minutes of the June 13 and August 7, 2003 Illinois State Teacher Certification Board meetings were presented for consideration. Dr. Elliott Lessen moved that the June 13, 2003 minutes be approved with the following changes:

- Ms. Mary Jane Morris was present at the June meeting so her name would be added to the list of "Others Present"; and
- The spelling of Ms. Brenda Humphrey would be corrected (from Brenda Humphries).

Dr. Elliott Lessen also moved to approve the August 7, 2003 minutes of the Illinois State Teacher Certification Board as presented. Brenda Humphrey seconded the motion. Both motions passed by unanimous vote.

### **Public Participation:**

None.

### **Facilitation Committee's Report:**

Mr. William E. Briggs outlined several items from the September 5, 2003 Facilitation Committee meeting. He indicated that the Committee spent time discussing recertification and came to the conclusion that the State Teacher Certification Board members need to discuss this issue in depth at a later date and offer recommendations.

**Item(s) for Immediate Action:**

Facilitation Committee Membership:

Mr. William E. Briggs announced proposed changes in the Facilitation Committee membership. The following nominations were presented:

Mr. William E. Briggs	Illinois Federation of Teachers (IFT)
Ms. Kay Acklin	Illinois Education Association (IEA)
Dr. Linda Tafel	(IACTE) Higher Education - Private Schools
Dr. Elliott Lessen	(IACTE) Higher Education - State Schools
Dr. Eugene Zalewski	Administration

Mr. Briggs moved that these individuals become members of the Facilitation Committee and Ms. Brenda Humphrey seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Briggs moved that Dr. Linda Tafel be named Chair of the Facilitation Committee. Ms. Brenda Humphrey seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Recommended Passing Scores for the Assessment of Professional Teaching and New Special Education Tests:

Ms. Pat Glenn presented background and recommendations for the “Recommended Passing Scores for the Assessment of Professional Teaching and New Special Education Tests.”

The State Teacher Certification Board discussion of this topic focused on three issues.

1. The proposed raw passing score for speech-language pathologist: teaching (57) is notably lower than the scores for the other areas, which are in the 60s. There is no obvious explanation for this lower recommendation, and Certification Board members agreed with staff that it would be appropriate to increase this score by one standard error of measurement. This would result in a raw passing score of 61.
2. Because of the importance of the APT tests and the fact that they represent completely new areas of assessment, the Certification Board members felt that passing scores for these tests should be reviewed next year.

3. The procedure used by the agency for setting passing scores typically calls for presentation of the pass rate data to the Bias Review Committee prior to its presentation to the Certification Board. Because scheduling problems made it necessary to reverse that order for this group of tests, Certification Board members emphasized that the State Board should give special attention to the conclusions of the Bias Review Committee. That group will meet on September 12, 2003 to review pass rate data by ethnic reporting groups for the four Assessment of Professional Teaching Tests and consider the impact the recommended passing scores would have on minority group members.

Dr. Nan Giblin moved that the Illinois State Teacher Certification Board recommend that the State Board of Education:

- set the passing score for the four Assessments of Professional Teaching, Teachers of Students Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired, Teachers of Students Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, Early Childhood Special Education, Speech-Language Pathologist: Non-teaching and the Learning Behavior Specialist II tests at the panel-based recommended raw passing scores;
- set the passing score for the Speech Language Pathologist –Teaching test at 1 SEM above the panel-based recommended raw passing score (61);
- address any concerns raised by the Bias Review Committee in its review of the passing scores; and
- review the APT passing scores in one year and make changes as warranted.

It was noted that if the State Board adopted these recommendations, and unless otherwise indicated by the report of the Bias Review Committee, the passing scores would be as follows:

Final Certification Board Recommendations

Test	Multiple-Choice Raw Score	Constructed- response Raw Score
APT: Early Childhood	63 out of 104	12 out of 16
APT: Elementary	63 out of 104	11 out of 16
APT: Secondary	66 out of 104	11 out of 16
APT: Special	68 out of 104	12 out of 16
Teachers of Students Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired	62 out of 100	N/A
Teachers of Students Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing	66 out of 100	N/A
Early Childhood Special Education	61 out of 100	N/A
Speech-Language Pathologist: Teaching	61 out of 100	N/A
Speech-Language Pathologist: Non-Teaching	64 out of 100	N/A
LBS II: Behavior Intervention Specialist	N/A	18 out of 24-case study 18 out of 24-stand alone
LBS II: Bilingual Special Education Specialist	N/A	16 out of 24-case study 16 out of 24-stand alone
LBS II: Curriculum Adaptation Specialist	N/A	18 out of 24-case study 18 out of 24-stand alone
LBS II: Deaf-Blind Specialist	N/A	15 out of 24–case study 14 out of 24-stand alone
LBS II: Multiple Disabilities Specialist	N/A	18 out of 24-case study 17 out of 24-stand alone
LBS II: Technology Specialist	N/A	17 out of 24-case study 17 out of 24-stand alone
LBS II: Transition Specialist	N/A	18 out of 24-case study 18 out of 24-stand alone

This would also mean that the State Board would join the Certification Board in committing to a review of the APT passing scores after the first year of implementation.

## **Informational Item(s):**

### **Secretary's Report:**

Ms. Lou Ann Reichle, Assistant Legal Advisor, commented on the status of the rules for the new Visiting International Teaching Certificate. She indicated that the period of public comment ended on August 25, 2003 and one important issue had been raised. Ms. Reichle reported that when these rules were drafted, it was understood that the Visiting International Teaching Certificate would be for persons who would be teaching academic subjects. However, because many Visiting International Teachers want to be authorized to teach bilingual education, language has been drafted to modify the rules to specify the requirements for becoming eligible to teach bilingual education. This change would require that candidates meet all of the other qualifications and also pass a written English proficiency exam. The State Board will act on this recommended change, as well as another language change elsewhere in this set of proposed rulemaking, during its September meeting.

Mr. Dennis Williams, Interim Secretary, Illinois State Teacher Certification Board, provided information in regard to the Online Teacher Information System (OTIS). Teachers can now access information regarding their certificates, endorsements, tests and all that they would need to have.

He also reported that the Certification Division continues to process priority certificates daily and those applications are current. Work on the backlog of applications has moved forward, with staff now working on applications received after April 29, 2003. He emphasized that the five remaining transcript reviewers are working as efficiently as possible.

## **Item(s) for Discussion:**

### **Certificate Renewal System – Second Year Evaluation Report:**

Highlights from the second year evaluation report were disseminated.

Mr. William E. Briggs indicated that there may be some misinformation on the Teacher Recertification System Evaluation – July 25, 2003 document. On Page 8, under D-1, third paragraph, “Only 14% of LPDC Chairs indicate that they have paid clerical or paraprofessional assistants, and 34% of LPDCs provide extra compensation to teachers who serve on these committees.” The next sentence, “these expenses are borne solely by school districts.” That statement is not true. Mr. Dennis Williams stated that this evaluation is based only on a sample and may not reflect all situations.

Discussion ensued and it was agreed that it was important to develop recommendations for improving the system. The members of the Certification Board believe that certificate renewal requirements are “here to stay”, but the cumbersome process requirements are creating some serious problems. This system was designed to model career-long professional development and the Certification Board is dedicated to its implementation.

To move forward with improvements to the system in the absence of a third-year evaluation report, the Certification Board agreed on the following actions:

- ISBE staff will prepare a list of process issues and possible solutions. That list will designate which potential solutions can be implemented by policy and which would require legislative and/or rule change.
- ISBE staff will survey Certification Board members to elicit their perceptions of policy issues and possible solutions, and consult with other individuals and groups as appropriate. These perceptions will be included in the list above.
- The Facilitation Committee of the Certification Board will develop questions that need further study, even if funds are not available. The Committee may even identify some areas for a study (either by the MGT firm or more likely by graduate students, etc.) around the area of professional development.
- The letter to the General Assembly regarding cancellation of the evaluation contract will emphasize the need to move ahead with system improvements and the intent of the Certification Board and the State Board to do so.
- The letter will also indicate that providing funds for the third year evaluation would be very helpful in making meaningful improvements.

The Certification Board asked that the materials described above be ready for discussion at the November 2003 meeting. The goal is to be ready to make recommendations for action as quickly as possible.

Dr. Robert Schiller moved to recess the meeting until 10:30 a.m.

#### Title II Report:

Following the recess and reconvening of the meeting, State Board staff member Ms. Marti Woelfle provided information regarding the Title II Report. She indicated that the 2003 Title II Report Card, which is due October 7, 2003, was still being developed. She indicated that the State Board would be asked to

authorize completion and submission of the report (a procedure followed in each of the previous years) and if there are policy issues that need further discussion by either the State Board or the Certification Board, they would be presented in October.

**Closed Session:**

Dr. Linda Tafel moved that the Illinois State Teacher Certification Board go into closed session under the exceptions set forth in the Open Meetings Act of the State of Illinois (5 ILCS 120/2(c)) as follows:

Section 2(c)(11) for the purpose of discussing probable litigation, and

Section 2(c)(15) for the discussion of professional ethics in a teacher certification matter.

Dr. Linda Tafel also indicated that the Board wanted Lou Ann Reichle, Assistant Legal Advisor, to be present at the closed session. Mr. William E. Briggs seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

**Open Session:**

Dr. Linda Tafel moved that the Illinois State Teacher Certification Board return to open session. Mr. William E. Briggs seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

The next Certification Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 3 and a possible hearing would extend the meeting through Saturday, October 4, 2003. Note: A hearing officer will facilitate the hearing.

Dr. Linda Tafel moved that the State Teacher Certification Board “request the State Superintendent of Education to appoint an attorney licensed to practice law in Illinois to serve as a hearing officer to conduct the hearing in the revocation proceedings involving the certificates of Mark Keller and Cary Knox, pursuant to Section 480.70 of Title 23 Illinois Administrative Code. In connection with said hearings, the hearing officer would be authorized to question witnesses, make rulings on motions and objections, submit proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law, and to perform any other lawful duties as required to conduct a full, fair and impartial hearing.” Dr. Andrew Brulle seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

It was requested material for the hearing should be sent via overnight “Express Mail” to the Certification Board members.

## **Item(s) for Discussion (Continuation):**

### Process for Defining Criteria for Endorsements and Subsequent Certificates:

#### Certification Board Hearings:

The State of Illinois is nearing the end of its transformation of educator preparation, certification and professional development, moving from a course-based system to one that is based on standards.

One of the key remaining policy issues is the criteria to be used for awarding endorsements on existing certificates and for issuing subsequent certificates. Both of those processes are now based primarily on a review of transcripts against a list of specific courses and an aggregate amount of course credit.

The question before the State is “What should be the criteria in a standards-based system and in relation to the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act?”

To answer this question, staff have developed a plan which calls for the following:

- Development of a brief background paper describing the current criteria and procedures;
- Development of three-four options for criteria that could be used in a standards-based system;
- Distribution of the background paper and options to a broad audience with a request for public comment;
- Regional meetings/hearings to secure input from specific groups, with Certification Board and State Board members’ participation when possible; and
- Aggregation of input and development of policy recommendations for the two Boards’ consideration.

The Certification Board discussed this action plan, and the members agreed to make themselves available to attend hearings or meetings in their respective geographic areas.

**Adjournment:**

Mr. William E. Briggs moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Brenda Humphrey seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

APPROVED

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Chairman

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Secretary