

**STATE TEACHER CERTIFICATION BOARD
MINUTES
March 18, 2002
V-Tel Room
Illinois State Board of Education
Springfield and Chicago, Illinois
(Via V-Tel and Phone)
3:30 p.m.**

Members Present:

**Kay Acklin
Ronald Babcock
Robert Blade
Dr. Andrew Brulle
Dr. Cozette Buckney
Dr. Richard Chamberlain**

**Connee Fitch-Blanks
Dr. Elizabeth Hitch
Dr. Linda Tafel
Camille Taylor
Denise Williams
Dr. Eugene Zalewski**

Members Absent:

**Marsha Allen
William Briggs
Deidre Dare
Bruce Dennison**

**Brenda Humphrey
Dr. Barbara Nourie
Linda Tomlinson**

Roll Call: Dr. Robert Sampson, Secretary, called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. and called the roll. A quorum was present.

Others Present:

Susan Shea
Dr. Steve Tozer
Dennis Williams
State Board of Education staff.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Dr. Susan Shea, Illinois Education Association, spoke briefly to the Board and stated that the Board members should not take an official position or they might find themselves on the wrong side of a bill.

Dr. Steve Tozer, faculty member, University of Illinois at Chicago, agreed with Dr. Shea and commented that the Board should not take a resolution too soon, but continue to explore all options. He cautioned not to abandon the language of the law.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

None presented.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

None presented.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

Dr. Sampson introduced Dr. Christopher Koch, Director of Teaching and Learning, State Board of Education, attending from the Chicago State Board office via the agency's V-Tel system, who presented a recently developed proposal for establishing requirements from moving from the Initial to the Standard certificate. Dr. Koch commented that the purpose of the meeting was to solicit the consultation of the State Teacher Certification Board relative to the proposal for the Standard teaching certificate examination prior to his presentation of the proposal to the State Board of Education on Wednesday and Thursday. He stated that the proposal was different than what had been presented to them by Frank Llano and Lee Patton at earlier meetings and that the proposal was in part, developed as a result of a recent legislative proposal which seeks to, among other things, eliminate the term examination from the current legislation.

After a presentation of the proposal, Dr. Koch asked for comments from the Board members.

Mr. Blade questioned why the proposal had been developed since the State Teacher Certification Board had previously commented that options presented by Mr. Llano and Lee Patton at earlier meetings seemed satisfactory. He commented on his concern regarding the difficulty in verifying "4 months in good standing" in the NBPTS process.

Ms. Fitch-Blanks commented that the paperwork associated with the NBPTS process was being reduced by going on-line.

Ms. Williams stated that a teacher could be enrolled in the process but not working very hard.

Mr. Blade commented that the State Teacher Certification Board had agreed with the State Board's position that the portfolio process would be accompanied by a statewide mentoring and induction system and that this proposal was not being true to that agreement since it required portfolio production without the mentoring system.

Dr. Zalewski asked for clarification about the legislative proposal that triggered this new set of requirements being proposed by the State Board.

Ms. Taylor reviewed the legislative proposal while reading from the amendment. She supported the proposed amendment to the current legislation since it seeks to reduce the number of CPDU's, in part because the Initial certificate is a four-year certificate rather than five-years for the Standard certificate; she commented that there is reflective practice during a Master's degree program, etc.

Dr. Brulle asked if the proposal excludes other entities from offering the coursework and Ms. Taylor asked if unions were included as providers.

Dr. Koch commented that unions, ROE's and other organizations in partnership with higher education institutions could offer the coursework.

Dr. Brulle commented that if offered only through the colleges and universities then access to the coursework might be limited in some parts of the state. He reminded the Board that all graduate courses include some reflection.

Mr. Blade commented that giving current Initial certificate holders an additional year to complete the required coursework is unfair since it puts more pressure on teachers.

Ms. Williams agreed and offered that in her school there are about 7 new teachers that would be impacted by this proposal and with the added pressure, they might leave teaching.

Mr. Blade, when asked for an alternative solution, stated that Initial certificate holders' requirements should be pro-rated to lessen the pressure. He added that the State Board should abandon the portfolio if mentoring is not available.

Dr. Brulle stated that the core of the proposal was having teachers learn reflection and teachers could learn reflection while doing CPDU's and LPDC's could be involved in the process. He added that the State Board's proposal forgot the importance of content standards.

Mr. Blade commented that the State Board should allow community colleges to offer coursework.

Ms. Taylor asked how the funding was determined for support of college coursework development.

Mr. Blade asked other Board members to describe how much time is needed to establish such coursework.

Dr. Hitch commented that Eastern Illinois University has two two-hour courses currently that contain reflection and the development required about one year to complete. She

stated that the development team included NBPTS teachers. She added that with current State budget cuts, some universities will be cutting back on course offerings and some may not be able to add such coursework.

Dr. Tafel commented that many higher education institutions integrate mentoring into several courses and developing mentoring into a single course such as recommended by the latest State Board proposal might be contrary to good course design.

Ms. Taylor asked how the proposal would be presented to the State Board of Education.

Dr. Koch stated that he would offer the recommendation and suggest that further deliberation about the proposal with stakeholders would be necessary.

Ms. Taylor commented that it would be necessary to provide the State Board of Education a copy of the proposed legislative amendment so that the Board could be given the opportunity to compare it with this proposal.

Mr. Babcock stated that this proposal was similar to Connecticut's system only with little funding, that the decision for certification is left to the higher education institutions and that it was not a good solution for Initial certificate holders.

Ms. Taylor reminded the State Board that it is necessary to offer several options to teachers rather than one heavily invested in higher education.

Ms. Fitch-Blanks stated that the option for NBPTS must be stricken from the proposal.

Ms. Acklin commented that she could not support the proposal but would support the Cronin legislation.

Mr. Blade commented that the first groups of Initial certificate holders must be given a pass.

Several members agreed with Mr. Blade's comment and added that the pass should be given for the next four years.

Ms. Taylor reminded the Board that special education teachers have already experienced major changes in rules and requirements and therefore it would be a much cleaner system if Initial certificate holders during the next four-years would be required to meet the appropriate proportion of the requirements based on the time they have remaining.

Ms. Williams asked Dr. Koch to notify the State Teacher Certification Board of the outcome of the discussion of the State Board of Education on this proposal.

Ms. Taylor asked that copies of Senator Cronin's bill be sent to the State Teacher Certification Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

APPROVED

Chairman

Secretary