

# **ILLINOIS STATE TEACHER CERTIFICATION BOARD**

**Illinois State Board of Education  
State Board Room, Fourth Floor  
Springfield, Illinois**

**Thursday June 1, 2006**

## **Meeting Summary**

### **Call to Order / Roll Call:**

Dennis Williams, Secretary, Illinois State Teacher Certification Board, called the Illinois State Teacher Certification Board meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Dennis Williams proceeded to call the roll. A quorum was present.

### **Members Present:**

Mr. Dennis Williams, Secretary

Kay Acklin  
Denise Albrecht  
Richard Ammentorp  
Williams Briggs  
Andrew Brulle  
Lydia Bullock  
Deborah Curtis

Nina Dorsch  
Allen Ellington  
Lindy Greenlee  
Ascencion Juarez  
Elliott Lessen  
Linda Malone  
Dave Marshall

Sr. Colleen McNicholas  
Jo Ann Owens  
Denise Williams  
Eugene Zalewski

### **Members Absent:**

Dr. Randy J. Dunn, Chairman  
Muhammad Abdullah

### **Others Present:**

Debra Brackley  
Richard Campbell  
Julie Comingore  
Allan F. Cook  
Karen Dean  
Alan Gorr  
Linda Jamali  
Rita Jensen  
Phyllis Jones  
Carol Kennett  
Eileen Kolich  
Angela McDermott  
Lynn Smith  
Tom Smith

James Stamoolis  
Larry Stonecipher  
Linda Tomlinson  
Marti Woelfle

### **State Teacher Certification Board Audit Committee**

Marti Woelfle, Principal Consultant, Certification Division, provided the State Teacher Certification Board members with a review of the decision-making process and overall procedural process for the accreditation and program approval of higher education institutions.

Elliott Lessen was asked to serve as Chair of the Audit Committee and Kay Acklin was asked to serve as Recorder.

The Certification Board proceeded with the work before them. The institutional accreditation and program approval recommendations of the following institutions were reviewed and discussed:

- Benedictine University
- Illinois College
- Trinity International University
- University of Illinois at Springfield

Marti Woelfle introduced representatives from Southern Illinois University Carbondale. The following new program was discussed:

- Reading Specialist

The Audit Committee adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

# ILLINOIS STATE TEACHER CERTIFICATION BOARD

Illinois State Board of Education  
State Board Room, Fourth Floor  
Springfield, Illinois

Friday, June 2, 2006

## MINUTES

### **Call to Order / Roll Call:**

Dennis Williams, Secretary, Illinois State Teacher Certification Board, called the Illinois State Teacher Certification Board meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Dennis Williams proceeded to call the roll. A quorum was present.

### **Members Present:**

Mr. Dennis Williams, Secretary

Kay Acklin  
Denise Albrecht  
Richard Ammentorp  
Williams Briggs  
Andrew Brulle  
Lydia Bullock  
Deborah Curtis

Nina Dorsch  
Allen Ellington  
Lindy Greenlee  
Ascencion Juarez  
Elliott Lessen  
Linda Malone  
Dave Marshall

Sr. Colleen McNicholas  
Jo Ann Owens  
Denise Williams  
Eugene Zalewski

### **Members Absent:**

Dr. Randy J. Dunn, Chairman

Muhammad Abdullah

### **Others Present:**

Dave Alexander  
Debra Brackley  
Richard Campbell  
Laurel Gibler  
Alan Gorr  
Colleen Herald  
Mitch Hopper  
Linda Jamali  
Phylliss Jones  
Carol Kennett  
Eileen Kolich  
Marla Mallette  
Daryl Morrison  
Angela McDermott  
Dave Neal

Lynn Smith  
Larry Sondler  
Jim Stamoolis  
Lynn Steffen  
Larry Stonecipher  
Linda Tomlinson  
Renee Vilatte  
Karen Westerman  
Karen Williams  
Marti Woelfle

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

The minutes of the May 5, 2006 Illinois State Teacher Certification Board meeting were presented for consideration. William Briggs moved that the May 5, 2006 minutes be approved with the following corrections:

- Add William Briggs to the “Members Present” list for the May 5, 2006 meeting.
- Revise the STCB Calendar of Meetings because the dates from July 2006 – December 2006 are off by one day. The calendar will be revised as follows:

#### **2006**

July 7  
August 3 & 4  
September 8  
October 6  
November 3  
November 30 and December 1

#### **2007**

January 5  
February 2  
March 2  
April 13  
May 4  
May 31 and June 1

Denise Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

### **Public Participation:**

None.

### **Facilitation Committee’s Report:**

Denise Albrecht, Chair of the Facilitation Committee, reported that there were no changes to the agenda.

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

#### **Institutional Accreditation and Program Approval Recommendations –**

##### **Benedictine University**

Elliott Lessen moved that the State Teacher Certification Board recommend to the State Board of Education that Benedictine University be assigned Continuing Accreditation based on the Board’s review of the documentation provided in the ISBE team report and institutional response [Section 25.125 (j) (1)]. William Briggs seconded the motion. Dennis Williams took a roll call vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Elliott Lessen moved that the State Teacher Certification Board recommend to the State Board of Education approval of the following programs at Benedictine University [Section 25.127 (j)(1)(A)].

- Elementary Education
- Business, Marketing, and Computer Education
- English Language Arts
- Foreign Language – Spanish
- Mathematics
- Science – Biology
- Science – Chemistry
- Science – Physics
- Social Science- History
- Learning Behavior Specialist I
- Reading Specialist
- General Administrative/Principal

Linda Malone seconded the motion. Dennis Williams took a roll call vote. The motion passed with one abstention.

#### Illinois College

Elliott Lessen moved that State Teacher Certification Board recommend to the State Board of Education that Illinois College be assigned Continuing Accreditation based on the Board's review of the documentation provided in the ISBE team report and institutional response [Section 25.125 (j) (3) (B)]. Deborah Curtis seconded the motion. Dennis Williams took a roll call vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Elliott Lessen moved that the State Teacher Certification Board recommend to the State Board of Education approval of the following programs at Illinois College [Section 25.127 (j)(1)(A)]:

- Early Childhood Education
- Elementary Education
- English Language Arts
- Foreign Language – French
- Foreign Language – German
- Foreign Language - Spanish
- Mathematics
- Music Education
- Physical Education
- Science – Biology
- Social Science – History
- Visual Arts

William Briggs seconded the motion. Dennis Williams took a roll call vote. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Trinity International University

Elliott Lessen moved that the State Teacher Certification Board recommend to the State Board of Education that Trinity International University be assigned Accreditation with Conditions with a focused visit addressing the unmet standard and additional areas for improvement within two years after the semester when the conditions were issued. This recommendation is based on

the Board's review of the documentation provided in the ISBE team report, institutional response, and team chair's response to the rejoinder [Section 25.125 (j)(2)(c)]. William Briggs seconded the motion. Dennis Williams took a roll call vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Elliott Lessen moved that the State Teacher Certification Board recommend to the State Board of Education approval of the following programs at Trinity International University [Section 25.127(o)(1)]:

- Elementary Education
- English Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Music Education
- Physical Education
- Science-Biology
- Social Science – History

Lydia Bullock seconded the motion. Dennis Williams took a roll call vote. The motion passed with one abstention.

#### University of Illinois at Springfield

Elliott Lessen moved that the State Teacher Certification Board recommend to the State Board of Education that the University of Illinois at Springfield be assigned Continuing Accreditation based on the Board's review of the documentation provided in the ISBE focused visit team report and institutional response [Section 25.125(j)(2)(e)]. Linda Malone seconded the motion. Dennis Williams took a roll call vote. The motion passed unanimously.

#### New Program Recommendation –

##### Southern Illinois University Carbondale – Reading Specialist

Elliott Lessen moved that the State Teacher Certification Board recommend to the State Board of Education provisional approval of the Southern Illinois University Carbondale Reading Specialist Type 10 program, thereby authorizing the educational unit to conduct the program and to recommend candidates for certification by entitlement until the time of the institution's next scheduled Accreditation Review [Section 25.145(d)(1)]. Denise Albrecht seconded the motion. Dennis Williams took a roll call vote. The motion passed with four abstentions.

#### Proposals for Activities That Meet Requirements for Standard Certificate Eligibility

William Briggs moved that the "Proposals for Activities That Meet Requirements for Standard Certificate Eligibility" dated May 30, 2006, be approved. Richard Ammentorp seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (See Attachment)

### Renewal of Standard / Master Certificates (Group B List)

Dennis Williams reported there are no non-renewals on the Group B List at this time.

### Amendments to Rules for Certification

None.

### **Closed Session:**

Eugene Zalewski moved that the State Teacher Certification Board enter into closed session under the exceptions set forth in the Illinois Open Meetings Act of the State of Illinois as follows:

Section 2(c)(11) for the purpose of discussing pending litigation; and

Section 2(c)(21) for the purpose of discussing minutes of meetings lawfully closed under the Open Meetings Act.

Dr. Zalewski also moved that the Board request that Renee Vilatte, staff attorney at ISBE; Dennis Williams, Secretary; Angela McDermott, Recorder; and Mitch Hopper, Multi-Media Specialist, be present at the closed session. Andrew Brulle seconded the motion. Dennis Williams took a roll call vote. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Return to Open Session:**

Eugene Zalewski moved that the State Teacher Certification Board adjourn from closed session and return to open session. Linda Malone seconded the motion. Dennis Williams took a roll call vote. The motion passed unanimously.

### Release of Closed Session Minutes

Eugene Zalewski moved that the following Closed Session Minutes be approved by the State Teacher Certification Board:

December 2, 2005  
March 3, 2006  
May 5, 2006

Elliot Lessen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Eugene Zalewski moved that the State Teacher Certification Board, according to [Section 2.06(d)] of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, has reviewed the minutes of its closed sessions, September 9, 2005, October 7, 2005, December 2, 2005, March 3, 2006, May 5, 2006 and hereby certifies that the need for confidentiality still exists for the closed session minutes.

Andrew Brulle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### Request for Approval of District U-46 and CUSD 300 Para Educator Course

Dennis Williams asked Renee Vilatte, staff attorney, State Board of Education, to clarify what role and authority the State Teacher Certification Board has in the relationship of the request for approval of School District U-46 (Elgin) and Community Unit School District 300 (Carpentersville) Para Educator Course. Ms. Vilatte stated that the State Teacher Certification Board's role is dependent upon what the school districts request of the Board.

Dennis Williams welcomed Dave Neal, Illinois Education Association (working with School District U-46, Elgin); Dave Alexander; Illinois Education Association (working with Community Unit School District 300, Carpentersville); Karen Westerman, Para Educator, School District U-46 (Elgin); and Daryl Morrison, Illinois Education Association.

Dave Neal shared his concerns with the State Teacher Certification Board regarding teachers in Districts 300 and U-46 who are trying to meet the State and NCLB requirements for Paraprofessionals. Mr. Neal would like to request retroactive approval of the course Basic Skills I & II.

Dave Alexander presented a programmatic overview to the State Teacher Certification Board. Mr. Alexander informed the members that there was a grant from the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) to Elgin Community College for the Basic Skills I & II Program that has been renewed three times. He stated that the curriculum of the Basic Skills II is ICCB's curriculum with some specific adaptations in terms of subject matter to the specifics of each of the districts.

The completion of Basic Skills I & II involves 128 hours of classroom work, equating to roughly eight semester hours of credit in terms of time. Each unit of study is tested, there is a final exam administered and grades are given in the course. The efficacy of Basic Skills I & II is supported by the testing experiences of those who have taken the course and then taken the ETS test. There has been a success rate of those taking the test of about 90%. Most recently, there were 116 individuals who took the ETS test, 12 did not pass and of those 12, 8 were in a subset of individuals, who would have a language barrier.

Dennis Williams reviewed the following history of the proposal. Representatives from IEA, District U-46, and the Elgin school district presented the paraprofessional program "Basic Skills I" to the Illinois State Board of Education in an informal meeting on May 30, 2005. The federal guidance for paraprofessionals was new and still being interpreted, but it did not appear that the course had sufficient rigor or was equivalent to 30 semester hours as required for the community college preparatory course. The districts had already offered the course to the first cohort of paraprofessionals and were asking that the course and assessment be approved retroactively. Apparently, candidates had received some assurance from the district that the course would be approved and there was no need for them to do anything else. The Illinois State Board of Education took no further action because the course did not appear to be sufficient. In response to a letter from Ginger Reynolds, Dave Neal from the Illinois Education Association requested bringing the course to the State Teacher Certification Board for approval.

Mr. Williams clarified that the State Teacher Certification Board may only make a recommendation to the State Board of Education for approval and does not have sole authority to approve the course. Furthermore, the assessment may be used without "approval" from the state if the districts believe it is rigorous and meets federal guidelines. There were some questions about a course and assessment previously approved by the State Teacher Certification Board for East St. Louis. The State Teacher Certification Board acted in good faith



upon recommendation from the Illinois State Board of Education Legal staff to take action at that time, but it was later determined that the State Teacher Certification Board should only have approved the course and not the local assessment.

We have reached the point where the Elgin Districts U-46 and Community Unit School District 300 are asking the State Teacher Certification Board to recommend approval for the course so that the paraprofessionals who have completed it will be both state and federally qualified. After June 30, 2006 all paraprofessionals must be qualified so this "approval" will basically help only that group if allowed to apply retroactively, and has little relevance to future paraprofessionals.

Several points were clarified for the State Teacher Certification Board by the Illinois State Board of Education staff and those presenting the program for approval. The request for approval includes those participants who completed the program prior to initial submission for approval in May 2005. The presenters had not yet asked ICCB for approval. All programs thus far have been presented to ICCB and the State Teacher Certification Board has considered only the East St. Louis/Illinois Federation of Teachers program, which was not taken to the Illinois State Board of Education for a final decision. There have been no changes in the program now presented for approval. The State Teacher Certification Board was advised that it has no authority to approve a program retroactively unless expressly stated in statute or rule. Here, there is no express authority. It is not clear how many paraprofessionals participated in the program who did not take or did not pass the ETS. However, some paraprofessionals in Elgin U-46 and Carpentersville Community Unit School District 300 currently are not qualified under NCLB and therefore may lose their jobs.

Mr. Neal expressed concerns regarding the difference between two documents that were posted on the Illinois State Board of Education's website, ISBE Form 73-95 and the revised ISBE Form 73-95, both describe the requirements necessary to meet State and NCLB requirements for Paraprofessionals. Dennis Williams explained that the interpretation from our Legal Department determined that Option 4 alone on the initial document would not have met the federal requirements so revisions were necessary. Renee Vilatte asked what guidance can staff provide that has not been provided already. Denise Albrecht stated that those presenting would have to determine what help they need from the Illinois State Board of Education staff.

After a lengthy discussion, specifically revolving around item, 4) *Met a rigorous State-approved local academic assessment that conforms to federal guidelines* on ISBE Form 73-95 *Requirements for Both State- And NCLB-Approved Paraprofessional*, Denise Albrecht moved that the State Teacher Certification Board table the U46/CUSD 300 Para Educator Program Approval until the August 2006 Certification Board meeting to determine the role of the State Teacher Certification Board and to ensure that Illinois State Board of Education staff are available to provide technical assistance to the district. William Briggs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Marti Woelfle thanked the State Teacher Certification Board members for participating in training that was held on Wednesday, May 31, 2006. She also thanked Julie Comingore and Linda Tomlinson for serving as presenters during the training.

Ms. Woelfle informed the members that in December 2006 there would be six accreditation reviews and suggested several tentative dates for training. Official training dates and times will be forthcoming in the near future.

Dennis Williams updated the STCB members in regards to a HOUSSE announcement that was distributed by Becky Watts, ISBE.

### **Items for Information:**

#### **Renewal of Standard Master Certificates (Report – Group A List)**

Dennis Williams reported that there were 4,947 recommendations for Standard / Master Certificates renewed in Group A for the period of May 6, 2006 through May 30, 2006.

(Note: Due to the size of the printout, the report is not attached to these minutes. If an individual would like to obtain a copy of the approved recommendations, please contact Dennis Williams, Secretary, Illinois State Teacher Certification Board.)

#### **Basic Skills Test: Effect of Increasing Minimum Allowable Score for Mathematics Subarea from 35% of Items Correct to 40%, 45% or 50% of Items Correct**

Laurel Gibler, Principal Consultant, Certification Division, updated members on *Basic Skills Test: Effect of Increasing Minimum Allowable Score for Mathematics Subarea from 35% of Items Correct to 40%, 45% or 50% of Items Correct*. Ms. Gibler stated that at the March 3, 2006, State Teacher Certification Board meeting, members had requested that National Evaluation Systems (NES) conduct additional studies on the effects of raising the minimum allowable score (MAS) for the mathematics subarea scores on the Basic Skills test.

The methods of the supplemental study were the same as those used for the initial study, which showed the effects of raising the minimum allowable score in mathematics from 35% of items correct, as it is currently, to 50% of items correct. Data was obtained for both the September 17, 2005, and October 29, 2005, Basic Skills test administrations.

The consequences of moving from a mathematics MAS of 35% to one of 40% or 45% would be less adverse for Basic Skills test candidates than moving to a MAS of 50%.

Kay Acklin inquired as to whether or not there was anything compelling that would require the State Teacher Certification Board to make an immediate decision. Ms. Acklin suggested that the Certification Board should continue to reflect on this issue and not make a recommendation at this time.

Ms. Gibler was asked to return sometime during the FY07 State Teacher Certification Board meetings to report any additional information that might help the Certification Board make a decision that can go on record regarding this issue.

In addition, Ms. Gibler provided information that was thought to be incorrect at a previous State Teacher Certification Board meeting. She wanted to clarify that committees would indeed meet on June 20, 2006, to aid in determining recommended passing scores for the Social Science:

History test and the Special Education General Curriculum test. She also provided information from NES that was requested by the Certification Board in regards to separating the results of the APT tests from the results of the Content Area tests. NES stated they would be able to do this for future testing, but it would be extremely difficult to retroactively make this change.

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

Dennis Williams updated the members of the FY07 STCB Member Nominations that will be presented to the Illinois State Board:

1. For Dr. Andrew Brulle  
**Dr. Janet Pierce-Ritter** – Associate Dean, Loyola University Chicago – **IACTE Representative** – Nominated by Laura Barwegen – Wheaton College – First three-year term
2. For Dr. Eugene Zalewski  
Dr. Walt Warfield notified Dennis Williams that Brent Clark, the new Executive Director will submit a name after the IASA Retreat (mid-July 2006) – **IASA Representative** – Nominated by Brent Clark
3. For Ms. Lydia Bullock  
**Ms. Lydia Bullock** – Appointed to a first three-year term – **IFT Representative** – Nominated by James Dougherty (Note: Completed second term of former STCB member Marsha Allen who resigned June 6, 2005.)
4. For Ms. Linda Malone  
**Ms. Tamara Smith** – Special Education Teacher, Silvis School District – **IEA Representative** – Nominated by Ken Swanson – First three-year term
5. For Ms. Kay Acklin  
**Ms. Linda Malone** to complete the second-year term for Kay Acklin who notified the STCB of her resignation June 30, 2006. Ms. Malone will be retiring June 30, 2007 – **IEA Representative** – Nominated by Ken Swanson
6. For Mr. Richard Ammentorp  
**Mr. Richard Ammentorp** – Appointed to a first three-year term – **IEA Representative** – Nominated by Ken Swanson (Note: Completed first term of former STCB member Mary Jane Morris who resigned August 31, 2004.)

On behalf of the State Superintendent Randy J. Dunn, Dennis Williams presented Kay Acklin, Eugene Zalewski, and Andrew Brulle with Certificates of Appreciation for their service on the State Teacher Certification Board. Karen Williams, Illinois Federation of Teachers, was also presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for her work with the State Teacher Certification Board.

**Adjournment:**

With no further business, William Briggs moved that the State Teacher Certification Board meeting adjourn. Kay Acklin seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. The State Teacher Certification Board meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

APPROVED

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

**ATTACHMENT**

**PROPOSALS FOR INDUCTION AND MENTORING PROGRAMS  
TO MEET REQUIREMENTS  
FOR THE STANDARD CERTIFICATE**

Recommended for Approval  
by State Board Staff  
June 2006

Arcola Schools (Douglas County)