

**ADVISORY BOARD ON TEACHER EDUCATION
AND LICENSURE (ABTEL) MEETING**

MINUTES

November 17, 2003

Meeting Date and Location: November 17, 2003
Sheraton Richmond West Hotel
Richmond, Virginia

ABTEL Members Present:

Rene Ashjian	Bill Graves	Nancy Miller
Cynthia Baird	Margaret Shibley Gray	James Scott
Sharon Condrey	Rebecca Hill	Rita Thompson
Nancy Davenport	Mark Ingerson	Rena` White
Judy Davis-Dorsey	Linda Kelly	
Ron Diss	Cheryl Lightfoot	

ABTEL Members Absent: Suzanne Meyer
Dale Sander

Board of Education Liaison: Ella P. Ward

Ex-Officio Members: Toni Cleveland (absent)
Gary Krapf

Department of Education Staff: Thomas A. Elliott
Charles Finley
JoAnne Y. Carver
Michael Myers
Susan Noble
Patty Pitts

Guests: Marie Baker, Tidewater Community College
Betty Lambdin, Va. Education Association
Connie Smith, Fairfax County Public Schools

FULL BOARD MEETING

Linda Kelly, chair of the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure, called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m. and welcomed members and guests.

Dr. Thomas A. Elliott introduced the following new staff members in the Division of Teacher Education and Licensure, Department of Education:

Michael Myers, Director, Teacher Quality Enhancement Office
Susan Noble, Coordinator, Teacher Quality Enhancement Office

Dr. Elliott introduced Dr. Ella Ward, Board of Education Liaison to the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure. Dr. Ward is an administrator in Portsmouth City Schools and serves as a school board member in Chesapeake City Schools. Dr. Ward thanked the advisory board for their work and expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to serve as the Board of Education liaison to ABTEL.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Jim Scott made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Cheryl Lightfoot seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Rena` White made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2003, advisory board meeting. Ron Diss seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Dr. Elliott presented the following information for discussion by the advisory board:

Proposed Licensure Regulations for School Personnel: An Update
In June 2003, the Board of Education approved proposed revisions to the *Licensure Regulations for School Personnel* to proceed through the procedures of the Administrative Process Act (APA). Since that time, the Department of Education has received many comments regarding the proposal even though the proposed regulations have not yet been approved for public comment. Dr. Elliott briefly reviewed the procedures of the Administrative Process Act.

The proposed regulations included section 8VAC20-21-100 regarding highly qualified teachers. It is anticipated that the Board of Education will receive on November 19, 2003, for first review a recommendation to remove this section from the proposed regulations. The *No Child Left Behind Act* allows states to develop a High Objective Uniform State Standard of Evaluation (HOUSSE) for experienced teachers to become designated as highly qualified. The HOUSSE should be adopted by the Board of Education as board policy; therefore, section 8VAC20-21-100 does not need to be included in the licensure regulations.

Dr. Elliott reported that the Technical Assistance Corps, established by the U.S. Secretary of Education to assist states with the implementation of *No Child Left Behind*, met with Department of Education. The development of Virginia's High Objective Uniform State Standard of Evaluation (HOUSSE) was discussed in detail.

A proposed HOUSSE policy statement will be presented to the Board of Education in January 2004, and approval is anticipated in February 2004.

Dr. Elliott indicated that the additional proposed licensure revisions are being reviewed by the Department of Planning and Budget (DPB). The next steps in implementing the Administrative Process Act (APA) will be determined by DPB's reaction to the Board of Education's request to withdraw section 8VAC20-21-100.

PRESENTATION ON THE MERITORIOUS NEW TEACHER CANDIDATE: The Mid-Atlantic Regional Teachers Project

Dr. Elliott made a presentation on the Meritorious New Teacher Candidate (MNTC) Project. This is a regional collaboration to improve teacher quality and supply in a five-state area and the District of Columbia (Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Virginia). The project was founded in 1998 by the Laboratory for Student Success, the Maryland State Department of Education, and the Counsel for Basic Education. It is funded through grants from the Laboratory for Student Success and the Education Commission of the States.

The purpose of the project is to:

- (a) attract academically high-performing students into teaching;
- (b) encourage excellence in preparation;
- (c) enhance supply of teachers in Mid-Atlantic;

- (d) reduce attrition of academically talented new teachers; and
- (e) create a mechanism to reward placement in high poverty schools.

The credential is optional (voluntary), requires excellent performance across multiple domains, and includes fast-track response, and if granted, full regional reciprocity for the duration of the license.

Teacher candidates who earn this designation will have demonstrated exemplary levels of performance at every stage of preparation. The criteria fall into three categories: verbal skills, content knowledge, and professional preparation.

Verbal Skills: Candidates must score in the upper quartile of students nationally on the verbal portion of the SAT, GRE, or ACT.

Content Knowledge: Candidates must score in the upper quartile of students nationally on the Praxis II content knowledge test for their area of certification. They must have earned a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.5. Middle and high school teachers must have an academic major in the subject they will teach with a minimum GPA in that major.

Professional Preparation: Candidates must complete a state-approved teacher preparation program (regular or alternate route), including at least 400 hours of supervised clinical hours of supervised clinical experiences, and meet the faculty's highest standard on student teaching and overall commitment to high expectations and high quality teaching.

After discussion, this item was referred to the Teacher Education Committee for review and to outline procedures for implementation in Virginia.

PRESENTATION ON PRAXIS I ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES

Currently, the Board of Education has approved a composite score for Praxis I, and the *Licensure Regulations for School Personnel* allow experienced teachers with two years of successful, full-time teaching experience in kindergarten-grade 12 in an accredited public or nonpublic school in a state other than Virginia to be exempted from Praxis.

Dr. Elliott provided ABTEL members a copy of the study, *Report of Virginia PPST (Pre-Professional Skills Test) Exemption Study: Exemption based on SAT Scores*, from the Educational Testing Service (ETS). Dr. Elliott noted that the study does state that the SAT score scale was revised in April 1995; therefore SAT scores earned before that time are not directly comparable to those earned since April 1995.

This initiative was submitted to the Licensure Committee for a recommendation to the full advisory board. Dr. Elliott suggested that the committee review the SAT as an alternative, as well as consider American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence (ABCTE) testing; establish an appeals process; and consider other such alternatives.

Dr. Elliott introduced Charles Finley, assistant superintendent for accountability in the Department of Education. Dr. Elliott thought it may be helpful to review an appeals process available to school boards for students who are not successful in passing history and science Standards of Learning assessments for verified credit for high school graduation. A school board may choose to review other achievement measures for students who have not passed the SOL end-of-course assessment in history or science if the student has taken the test twice (and not passed) and scored at least 375 on the assessment.

The advisory board members discussed this initiative and indicated that any recommendation needs to be reviewed for legal defensibility.

STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Teacher Education Committee, chaired by Dr. Ron Diss, and the Licensure Committee, presided by Dr. Judy Davis-Dorsey (in the absence of chair Dale Sander) met from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. (including a working lunch).

FULL BOARD

The full board reconvenes at 2 p.m. Linda Kelly, ABTEL chair, presides.

Teacher Education Committee Report

Dr. Ron Diss, chair of the Teacher Education Committee, presented the committee's report.

1. The Virginia Reading Instructional Assessment Initiative

Dr. Diss reported that the Virginia Reading Instructional Assessment is being developed. The Bias, Content, and Match Committees have met.

2. School Leaders Preparation Program Initiative

Dr. Diss reported that the Legislative Commission on School Leaders was meeting today. He further reported that Dr. Driscoll, a consultant with the Department of Education, was working with the Department of Education on

school leaders preparation revisions. The committee will continue to monitor the work on this initiative.

3. Career Switcher Longitudinal Study

The Career Switcher Longitudinal study will be conducted. Staff in the Office of Teacher Quality Enhancement has been in conversation with SRI International to evaluate the current programs first implemented during the summer of 1999.

4. Meritorious New Teacher Candidate Project

The Teacher Education Committee recommended that the Meritorious New Teacher Candidate Project be approved for implementation with the graduating approved program candidates for 2004. The advisory board approved the recommendation unanimously (vote of 14-0). The committee established a subcommittee composed of the following ABTEL members to work on the project, specifically to prepare a questionnaire for colleges and universities to determine their level of interest in participating in the project:

Rene Ashjian
Rena` White
Gary Krapf
Cindy Baird

5. Teacher Preparation Programs

Dr. Diss announced that program review training would be conducted January 5-8, 2004, for interested college and university faculty, and training will be held for teachers in June.

Licensure Committee Report

Dr. Judy Davis-Dorsey presented the Licensure Committee Report by initiative.

1. Review and make recommendations regarding revisions in the *Licensure Regulations for School Personnel* as the regulations proceed through the procedures of the Administrative Process Act;

Dr. Davis-Dorsey reported that Dr. Elliott provided an update in the meeting earlier today, and the public comment period has not yet

commenced. The regulations are in the review process, in accordance with the APA procedures.

- 2. Recommend an assessment for native speakers or candidates who have learned a foreign language without formal academic credit to demonstrate competency in the foreign language endorsement area;**

The committee is reviewing the American Council on Teaching Foreign Language (ACTFL) Proficiency Tests as the test to replace the Modern Language Association (MLA) Proficiency Test. The committee will make a recommendation to the full board regarding the use of this test and the proficiency level at the January 26, 2004, ABTEL meeting.

- 3. Review the Standard-Setting Study for the Praxis II test, Education of Exceptional Students: Core Content Knowledge, and recommend an assessment and qualifying scores for special educators seeking initial licensure;**

- 4. Validate and conduct match studies on Praxis II assessments for mental retardation and emotional disturbances, review studies conducted for the Praxis II learning disabilities test, and make recommendations on the use of the assessments for individuals in mild/moderate disabilities to add additional endorsements by examinations;**

The committee received the validation and standard-setting studies for the special education tests from the Educational Testing Service. The committee will review this information in detail as well as other state's qualifying scores. The committee recommended that it would be helpful to invite a representative from the Educational Testing Service to attend the January 26, 2004, meeting to respond to questions regarding the study.

- 5. Develop proposals for Praxis I Alternate Assessment Procedures;**

The Licensure Committee recommends that ABTEL recommend to the Board of Education the following:

- (1) That the SAT be approved as an alternate assessment for Praxis I (Reading, Writing, and Mathematics). The committee further recommends that the Board of Education consider the following in developing the policy:

- (a) A qualifying score would be established; however, a minimum qualifying score should be established for each subtest (verbal and mathematics);
- (b) The SAT would be taken prior to postsecondary education (Programs offered in high school, such as Advanced Placement courses, International Baccalaureate, would be considered part of the high school curriculum.); and
- (c) SAT scores earned before April of 1995 would not be considered as the SAT score scale was revised at that time.

**Since the recommendation will be submitted to the Board of Education in January 2004 for first review, Dr. Davis-Dorsey indicated that the committee would recommend a score (or range of scores) as guidance to the Board of Education. The committee does support a single cut score, but the guidance of a range may be helpful to the board in establishing Virginia's score. In providing this guidance, the committee plans to investigate whether certain additional information is available, such as the number of teachers this could impact, the states using the SAT as an alternative to Praxis I and their qualifying scores.*

- (2) That an appeals process for Praxis I be approved by the Board of Education. The committee further recommends that the Board of Education consider the following in developing the policy:
 - (a) The appeals process would be considered for individuals within 1 standard error of measurement on only one subtest;
 - (b) The individual should have completed at least one year of successful teaching experience in Virginia under a provisional license issued by the Board of Education;
 - (c) A recommendation should be received from the Virginia superintendent (or designee) or director of a nonpublic school;
 - (d) The request must include documented professional development plan (such as classes, tutorials) to meet the Praxis I requirement;
 - (e) The individual should have taken the Praxis I (Reading, Writing, and Mathematics) tests at least three times and not met Virginia's qualifying scores.
 - (f) The appeals process should not be retroactive; and
 - (g) The appeals should be presented to the Board of Education at a schedule they establish.
- (3) That the Board of Education continue the composite score for Praxis I;

- (4) That the Board of Education Licensure Regulations for School Personnel continue to allow individuals who have completed a minimum of two years of full-time, successful teaching experience in an accredited public or nonpublic school (kindergarten through grade 12) in a state other than Virginia to be exempted from the professional teacher's assessment requirement.

The advisory board approved the committee's recommendation unanimously (vote of 14-0).

6. Monitor continued development of a blueprint to design a multi-tiered licensure system for ABTEL's recommendation and Board of Education approval.

Dr. Judy Davis-Dorsey reported that the Teacher Quality Forum would be held November 20-21, 2003. This would be a follow-up to the Teacher Quality Forum held March 20-21, 2003.

LIAISON REPORTS

Representatives from the Virginia Community College System and the Council of Higher Education for Virginia were not present during the afternoon session; therefore, liaison reports were not presented.

Department of Education

Michael Myers and Susan Noble presented the "Teacher Quality Enhancement Initiatives" resulting from the 2002 Governor's Teacher Quality Enhancement Grant.

Advisory Board members were invited to participate in the Great Virginia Teach In to be held at the Richmond Convention Center on April 3-4, 2004.

ADJOURNMENT

Linda Kelly thanked the ABTEL members for their dedication and hard work. Linda Kelly, ABTEL chair, adjourned the meeting at 2:50 p.m.