

*MINUTES HAVE NOT BEEN APPROVED. ABTEL WILL RECEIVE
MINUTES AT ITS MARCH 20, 2000, MEETING FOR APPROVAL.*

**ADVISORY BOARD ON TEACHER EDUCATION
AND LICENSURE**

Minutes - January 24, 2000

Meeting Date and Location: January 24, 2000, Wyndham Garden Hotel
Richmond, Virginia

ABTEL Members Present: Mary Bicouvaris, Mychele Brickner, Susan Cook,
Brenda Duda, Mark Glaser, Jill Fox, Wayne Harris,
Holly Hawthorne, Lanny Holsinger, Mary McCauley,
Jane Massey-Wilson, Nancy Miller, Winston Odom,
John Shifflett, Donna Smith, and Susan Walton

ABTEL Members Absent: Sally Boese and Kimberly Loy

Board of Education Liaison: Susan T. Noble

Ex-Officio Members Present: Laura Ford and Wanda Smith

Department of Education Staff: Thomas A. Elliott, Paul Joseph, Byrd Latham, James
Laws, Patty Pitts, and Regina Thomas

Observer: Betty Lambdin

Guests: Janine Certo (VCU), Bart Perlman (ETS), and Lonnie
Schaffer (Va. Community College System)

Full Board Meeting

Brenda Duda, chair of the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure, called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m. at the Wyndham Garden Hotel, Richmond, Virginia.

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Review of Praxis II tests and the School Leaders Licensure Assessment

Thomas A. Elliott introduced Bart Perlman from the Educational Testing Service who provided the following secured tests for review by Advisory Board members: School Leaders Licensure Assessment, Middle School English Language Arts, Middle School Mathematics, Middle School Science, Middle School Social Studies, and Elementary Education Content Knowledge. Advisory Board members completed and signed nondisclosure and release forms and reviewed each of the six tests for approximately 10-15 minutes. Each member received test specifications for the middle and elementary content tests, the “1999-2000 Registration Bulletin for the School Leadership Series,” and the “1999-2000 Understanding Your School Leadership Series Scores.”

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

The agenda for the meeting was approved as presented.

Wayne Harris made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Donna Smith seconded the motion that was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item A - Praxis II Assessments

1. Follow-up Report on the Matching, Validation, and Standard-Setting Studies for the Middle School Content Tests and the School Leaders Licensure Assessment

Charts with the scaled score intervals and the percent of test takers scoring below each interval for the Middle School Content Tests and the School Leaders Licensure Assessment were provided to Advisory Board members. In addition, a chart was provided that shows the recommended Virginia qualifying scores compared with scores set by other states. Patty Pitts briefly presented the charts to Advisory Board members.

As a follow-up to an inquiry regarding the score report for the School Leaders Licensure Assessment posed at the November 15, 1999, meeting, Patty Pitts referred Advisory Board members to the document, “1999-2000 Understanding Your School Leadership Series Scores.” The brochure indicates that the score report does contain information about the test taker’s performance on the four sections of the assessment.

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This information can assist the test taker in identifying exercise types that offer the greatest opportunity to improve his/her scores.

Patty Pitts informed the Advisory Board members that Mark Glaser was provided the name of a representative from the Educational Testing Service to discuss several statistical inquiries posed at the November 15, 1999, meeting. Mark Glaser responded that the contact with the ETS representative was made, and he received the information requested.

2. Report on the Match Study of the Elementary Education Content Knowledge Test

Patty Pitts presented the results of the match study of the Elementary Education Knowledge Content Test. On December 9, 1999, twelve panel members consisting of teachers and teacher educators, six representing PreK-3 and six representing PreK-6, reviewed the test specifications and the competencies and made a judgment regarding the match between the Praxis II assessment of Elementary Education Content Knowledge and the competencies set forth in the licensure regulations for school personnel in the areas of PreK-3 and PreK-6.

The panelists responded to the question, "Considering all the information reviewed, to what extent do you think this assessment is an appropriate assessment for initial licensure in Virginia?" The panelists rated their responses from "Not very appropriate" to "Highly appropriate" on a scale of 1-5 (5 being "Highly appropriate"). The mean for the PreK-3 responses was 3.6, and the mean for the PeK-6 responses was 3.8.

The elementary test focuses on content knowledge in English, social studies, mathematics, and science. All panelists agreed that the competencies related to the teaching of reading were not addressed in this assessment.

The follow-up report on the matching, validation and standard-setting studies for the Middle School Content tests and the School Leaders Licensure Assessment was provided for information. Dr. Elliott advised that the Department staff will provide, for first review at the March meeting, a recommendation on qualifying scores for the Middle School Content Tests and the School Leaders Licensure Assessment. He also indicated that a recommendation regarding the reading module would be presented for first review in March. The Advisory Board will take final action on the staff recommendation at its April meeting.

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Brenda Duda requested and received the Advisory Board members' consensus to advise the Department staff to proceed with the validation and standard-setting studies of the Elementary Content Knowledge Test.

Agenda Item B - The Initial Report of the U. S. Secretary on the Quality of Teacher Preparation

James Laws gave a brief update on the Initial Report of the U.S. Secretary on the Quality of Teacher Preparation. James Laws shared copies of excerpts from this initial report of the U.S. Secretary.

The 1998 amendments to section 207 of Title II of the Higher Education Act require annual report cards on the performance of each state's teacher preparation program. Each state's initial report to the U.S. Secretary of Education was submitted on April 7, 1999, and this data was summarized in the recently published report.

The first full report due date is anticipated in November 2000. Specific due dates for the institutional report card, state report card, and the Secretary's report cannot be finalized until the definitions and reporting methods are established. The Title II requirements also direct states to establish procedures for identifying "low performing" teacher preparation programs and a system for ranking preparation programs. This requirement will need to be developed with the advice and guidance of the Advisory Board.

Agenda Item C-Report on the Advisory Board's Task Force on Critical Teacher Shortages

Jill Fox, Professor at Virginia Commonwealth University and ABTEL member, and Janine Certo, Metropolitan Educational Research Consortium (MERC) Fellow at VCU, presented their work, "Recruiting and Retaining Teachers: A Review of the Literature." A copy of the paper was provided to Advisory Board members. Jill Fox and Janine Certo will continue the second phase of this research project and share their findings with the Advisory Board.

National Board Certification Achievement – Roanoke City Schools

Brenda Duda congratulated Wayne Harris on Roanoke City Schools' accomplishment of becoming second in the state for the number of National Board Certified teachers. The article appearing in the Roanoke Times highlighting this accomplishment was included in the Advisory Board's meeting packet.

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Agenda Item D-Discussion of the Use of Community College Course Work to Meet Professional Studies Requirements

Patty Pitts introduced Agenda Item D relative to the use of community college course work to meet professional studies requirements. Historically, courses in professional development (human growth and development, curriculum and instructional procedures, foundations of education, and reading) have been taught at the upper division – junior, senior, and graduate levels – by four-year colleges and universities with approved teacher preparation programs.

In recent months, personnel in the Division of Teacher Education and Licensure have received numerous requests from individuals to complete the professional studies course work through the Virginia Community College System. The Acting Vice Chancellor of the Virginia Community College System, Lonnie Schaffer, attended the Advisory Board meeting. She stated that the community colleges generally do not offer teacher preparation courses; however, it appears that some courses are offered through “topics courses” in response to specific requests.

Dr. Elliott stated that Department of Education and Community College personnel will review this issue, including the background on the specific requests, articulation agreements, and course content related to licensure competencies. Staff will present the results of its work and offer a recommendation to the Advisory Board at its March meeting.

Agenda Item E-Convene ABTEL Meetings at Colleges and Universities with Approved Teacher Preparation Programs

Department staff suggested that ABTEL members convene at least two of its five meetings annually at colleges and universities with teacher preparation programs. **Jill Fox made a motion to convene meetings at colleges and universities. Mary Bicouvaris seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.** It was agreed that the first meeting of ABTEL at a teacher preparation institution would be at Christopher Newport University in March. A portion of the meeting will focus on requirements of the revised approved program regulations including associated tasks, systems, and procedures for implementing the program regulations.

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Adjournment

The Advisory Board meeting was adjourned.