

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE STANDARDS BOARD

Minutes of Meeting Held

Friday, December 4, 2015

8:00 a.m.

A meeting of the Professional Licensure Standards Board (PLSB) was held in the PLSB board room at #1 Capitol Mall, Little Rock, AR, on December 4, 2015. Members of the Board present were Ms. Kathy Howell, Chair; voting members: Dr. Shelly Albritton, Dr. Susanne Bailey, Ms. Lisa Baker, Ms. Brenda Brown, Dr. Mary Gunter, Dr. Judy Harrison, Ms. Lillian Hemphill, Dr. Zaidy MohdZain, Dr. Greg Murry, Ms. Cindy Romeo, and Mr. Todd Sellers; non-voting members Darrick Williams, Ivy Pfeffer, and Tonya Williams. Members absent: Dr. Brad Baine. ADE staff members in attendance were Cheryl Reinhart, Wayne Ruthven, Eric James, Jean Robertson, Michael Rowland, Brenda Robinson, and Joan Luneau.

The board consisted of twelve (12) voting members and three (3) non-voting members, representing a quorum.

1. CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order by Ms. Howell, Chair.

2. SPECIAL REPORT – ETS UPDATE

Kathy Pruner, ETS, gave a presentation on new ETS assessments:

- ASL Proficiency Interview
- New computer science test launched in June
- Analysis of new ISLLC Standards (called PSEL 2015) to determine if ETS will regenerate the leadership assessment

The Board thanked Ms. Pruner for her presentation.

3. ACTION ITEMS

(Board took up agenda item 3c out of order)

c. Approval of American Sign Language Cut Score

Michael Rowland, ADE, discussed the recommendation for an ASL cut score of 170, which equals proficient, effective immediately. This would be a currently licensed teacher, adding to an existing license as an endorsement. Motion made by Lisa Baker to adopt the ASL PI; seconded by Dr. Gunter. Motion passed 11/0.

Dr. MohdZain asked how many other states are doing this. Mr. Rowland responded that he thought three other states were, but that it is expected to grow. The reason the ADE adopted this last year was that Act 328 of 2013, that allows school districts to use this as a foreign language credit. American Sign Language K-12 will be the name of the license.

a. Approval of the September 4, 2015, meeting minutes

Motion made by Brenda Brown to accept the minutes with one correction in board member names; Todd Sellers seconded. Motion approved 11/0.

b. Discussion of EdTPA and Other Performance Based Assessments

Joan Luneau, ADE Educator Preparation Unit, provided an update on the pilot that started in March, 2014, which will finish in May, 2016. The pilot provided the funding for schools to pay for the students to submit the Ed TPAs for national scoring. The pilot programs are located at Williams Baptist (already submitting for scoring) and Henderson State (have started submitting for scoring). Our APPEL program will submit 150 for scoring in the spring semester.

The ADE would like to recommend that we provide an option to use a nationally scored EdTPA in lieu of the PLT. The cost of EdTPA is \$300.00 per student; the PLT is \$147.00. The option would open up some flexibility down the road with these programs – those that want to use EdTPA can use it; others may want to use PPAT. The cut score used in the pilot is 1 SEM below the national recommended.

Motion by Dr. Harrison that candidates be allowed to use the EdTPA in lieu of the PLT with this recommended cut score; seconded by Lillian Hemphill. Motion carried 11/0.

d. Code of Ethics Rules Changes

Ms. Cheryl Reinhart, Director, PLSB, presented the proposed rule changes. Last September, the Board asked the Ethics Subcommittee to review the proposed rule changes and make recommendations before returning it to the Board for review. The Ethics Subcommittee did that. The staff also made some additional recommendations.

The Board discussed some concerns about incorporating the NASDTEC Model Code of Educator Ethics (MCEE) in the rule. Ms. Reinhart explained that the MCEE is not designed to be an enforcement model. It is designed for establishing professional norms.

Dr. Harrison stated that she shared the MCEE with her department heads, who were pleased with how it addresses responsibility to the profession (for professional competence) to students, and to the community; and the responsible and ethical use of technology.

Ms. Reinhart explained that the changes other than the incorporation of MCEE are procedural:

- The evidentiary hearing panel;
- Timing issues;
- Subpoenas, documents, evidentiary hearings;
- Use of a secure file link;
- A new Allegation of Violation form that will require notarization;
- A filing limitation of two (2) years;
- Removal of the Private Letter of Caution and making the Written Warning private (staff recommendation only);

Also, the Budget Subcommittee has recommended:

- New fees for licensure – including a nonrefundable application fee – all basically \$75;
- A minimum PLSB fine of \$100.

Dr. Harrison made a motion to adopt the rules with the incorporation of the MCEE. The motion died for lack of a second.

After further discussion, the Board agreed on the following changes to the rules:

- Strike the written warning and use the private letter of caution in all places;
- Where the rules discuss subcommittee member recusal, use “shall recuse” and define the relationship;
- In the revision to Standard 2, use “the educator maintains professional and ethical behavior along with competence regarding his or her...”

The Board agreed that before approving the rules, they should be shared by each of the members with their representative organizations and asked Ms. Reinhart to prepare a summary that board members can use with the rules. Board members will bring feedback to the March 2016 meeting.

4. REPORT ITEMS

a. PLSB Budget

Ms. Reinhart summarized the work of the Budget Subcommittee on a report handed out to the Board. The Board discussed:

- The fine structure will change. PLSB cannot go above \$100.00 and the Budget Subcommittee recommended \$100.00 for all fines. PLSB will need to seek a change in the law in order to go above \$100.00. The Board needs to start no later than March to consider legislative proposals and have a draft legislation ready for the June meeting. The Board asked that this be placed on the March 2016 agenda.

- The budget includes \$275,000 for capital improvements, which we do not have to use. It is appropriated by the legislature.

b. Report on the Strategic Planning Session for Elevating Professionalism

Ms. Reinhart reported that most of the board members attended the meeting. The PLSB will be setting up meetings and working through some of these strategies.

c. Discussion of Professional Standards for Educational Leaders (PSEL 2015)

Ms. Ivy Pfeffer presented information (in the Board's packet) that this is going to replace the ISLLC Standards. The standards have been expanded from six (6) ISLLC standards to ten (10) standards. The new standards will place a heavy emphasis on meaningful partnerships, engagement with families and the community. These standards have just been released and each state will have to adopt. At the March meeting the PLSB would want to look at these standards and decide if the board wants to recommend adoption to the State Board. It will require some program changes.

d. Update on Equitable Access to Excellent Educators

Ms. Pfeffer provided documents regarding the three strategies being implemented - building teacher leadership capacity, designing our critical shortage predictor model, and using existing resources such as BloomBoard to further an educator's professional practice. A written narrative on these strategies was provided. The draft memorandum of understanding between the ADE and the University of Arkansas at Monticello was shared with the State Board last month. This is a non-traditional/traditional approach to encourage para-professionals to become licensed. They would be able to complete an online program that would be a bachelor's degree in education in elementary, mid-level or secondary; just not a full licensure degree. The ADE will provide them with a provisional license for the first year while they complete a residency.

e. Educator Preparation Program Approvals

Joan Luneau, ADE Educator Preparation Programs Unit, reported that there are thirty-four (34) program approvals currently in progress at various stages. Letters of Intent for new programs were due on December 1, and have there are eight (8) new programs that have submitted, including:

- MAT Special Education (conditional)
- K-6, 7, 12 special education resource license endorsement
- 3-4 endorsement
- Dyslexia Program
- A new non-traditional program

- Life Science Program
- Computer Science teaching program.

f. Educator Preparation Program Audits

Ms. Luneau reported that the PLSB Task Force work was suspended because the federal regulations have never been finalized. The PLSB audit process will start with the fall, 2016, and will be every seven (7) years to follow the accreditation visit. Harding will be the first audit.

g. PLSB Director's Report

Ms. Reinhart reported that the State Board approved the final rules for TESS, LEADS, and background checks. The rules are going through the legislative process right now.

The evidentiary hearing panel held its first meeting and that seems to be a good change.

h. PLSB Chief Investigator's Report

Wayne Ruthven, PLSB Chief Investigator, reported that for this school year, 2015-2016, total allegation forms received is sixty-five (65); in those 65 allegation forms there were seventy-four (74) separate allegations and 321 separate allegations. Additional information was included in the handout.

Mr. Ruthven added that his last day with the ADE is next Friday, and expressed that it has been a pleasure to work collectively and individually with the PLSB members.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Reinhart reported that three of our members – Dr. Baine, Ms. Howell, and Dr. Bailey – will be meeting with the State Board next Thursday night. The purpose is to explain the process, go through a typical case, give the Board a chance to ask questions face to face, and hopefully establish a better working relationship.

There being no further business, motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Sellers; seconded by Dr. Albritton, carried unanimously.

Next meeting date: Friday, March 4, 2015; time 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.