

**Education Quality Team**  
*Staff Report for September 17, 2020*

*From the Education Quality Division: Patrick Halladay*

It has actually been a relatively quiet month in the Education Quality Division. While the Licensing Team has been hard at work processing renewals coming late due to various COVID-related delays, new licenses due to a flurry of last-minute hires, and provisional licenses for similar reasons, they have been able to keep up with demand due to the teams' great organization and knowledge. Ron Ryan provides a more detailed summary below.

Over the summer, the board indicated an intent to not extend the OTS provisional licenses for teachers teaching in intentional remote settings past 31 December 2020. This will require a great number of provisional licenses, but not a number that is insurmountable. We have already begun to reach out to superintendents so that they understand their responsibility in this matter. It will also require substantial coordination with VTVLC to ensure that they have the capacity to enroll provisionally-licensed OTS educators in their course sequence starting in the new year.

Over the course of the summer, ROPA has continued to conduct virtual reviews and prepare for more come autumn. We welcomed the review and corresponding discussion with the Higher Education Collaborative that provided a new and fertile soil for ROPA to till.

Finally, I would like to welcome three new members to the Standards Board:

**Amy Minor, Superintendent representative**—Amy is currently the superintendent for Colchester School District and had been with the district in various capacities for over 20 years.

**Cheryl Niedzwiecki, Teacher Representative**—Cheryl teaches in the Business and Hospitality program at the Burlington Technical Center and has been heavily involved in her Local Standards Board. With Erik Remmers's and Cindy Cole's terms expiring at the end of the year, Cheryl also provide CTE and Chittenden County perspectives on the board into the future.

**Amy Flannery, Teacher Representative**—Amy is an Intensive Needs Special Educator in Caledonia Central. Her experience in special education and the northeast (if not quite Kingdom) portion of the state will provide fresh perspectives to the board.

While we have not yet been able to get confirmation that our new members' have received their formal appointments, the governor's office has offered their assurance that they are to be our representatives. If their formal appointments are not processed in advance of the September meeting, our new members will be able to participate, but not vote until the October meeting.

*From the Licensing Team: Ron Ryan, Education Programs Manager*

School Districts have been submitting more temporary licenses as the school opening date approaches. More of the Provisionals have been for the online teaching specialist because of the information that went out to Superintendents regarding the online waiver approved by the VSPBE Board through December 31, 2020. A few districts have begun submitting Provisionals for their teaching staff for the online teacher specialist endorsement because they are working on putting in place remote online academies, where their teachers will need to have the endorsement for online teaching. Continued acknowledgement to the licensing team for responding promptly to emails, phone calls and questions.

Out of the 5282 renewals that were sent electronically on January 7, 2020, the AOE has received approximately 3473 renewals as of August 31, 2020 and have approved approximately 3311 renewals as of August 31st. The AOE continues to receive a few renewal applications daily. Specialists continue to process payments and wait for completed Criminal Record Reports to request payments to complete the 2020 renewal cycle.

L/RSB: D. Giles continues to focus on Completed Board Reports. All Boards have been informed of educators who have yet to submit their renewal application to the AOE or who have not responded to requests from Specialists.

42/58 Grant Agreements for the 2020-2021 year have been forwarded to Finance.

Reminders were sent to Boards who have yet to submit an Annual Report and /or a Grant Application.

The contact list for the 2020-2021 L/RSB Chairs has been updated for the AOE website and was submitted to the VSA & VPA for the ED Directory.

Board members are being updated in ALiS for the upcoming year and Deb is verifying with Board Chairs.

Deb also continues to address questions and concerns from L/RSBs and educators mostly regarding 2020 renewals.

Current Work Queue per application type as of 9-3-2020: *Applications in the work queue are in various stages of processing from just received to waiting for payment from applicant.*

Application Type	Total
Initial	246
Reinstatement	15
Renewal	136
Retired	4
Temporary	66
1 Yr. Temporary – extenuating circumstance	2
Transcript Review – Initial	75
Transcript Review – Add endorsement	61
Peer Review - Initial	49
Peer Review – Add endorsement	12