

## Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators

*VSBPE: Ensuring a Caring, Competent, Highly Effective  
Educator in Every Vermont Classroom to Improve Student  
Learning*

### Draft Meeting Minutes

Meeting Place: Virtual Meeting | Microsoft Teams | Call-in # 802-552-8456 | Conference  
ID # 676 658 386# | Date: August 21, 2023

#### Members Present:

Amy Flannery, Amy Minor, Jennifer Clement, Christine Kurucz, Bernadette Cleland,  
Amanda Garces, Katie Revelle, William Lucci, Brenda Seitz, Amy Pickering

#### Members Absent:

Kate Fay, Bill Clark, Ellen Emery

#### Staff Present:

Ron Ryan, Andrew Prowten, Ryan McCormick, Deb Giles, Ellen Cairns, Suzanne  
Sprague

#### Members of the Public:

None

#### Others:

Leigh-Ann Brown, Richard Burbridge, Angela Sillars, Claudine Bedell, David McGough

#### Board Re-Organization:

R. Ryan called the meeting to order at 9:03 am. He welcomed new member Amy Pickering. He reviewed the member [term limits](#) and the officers' roles and duties. He took nominations for chair. B. Cleland nominated A. Minor. C. Kurucz seconded. The vote passed naming A. Minor as the chair.

A. Minor asked for nominations for vice chair. B. Seitz nominated C. Kurucz. J. Clement seconded. The vote passed naming C. Kurucz as the vice chair.

A. Minor asked for nominations for secretary. C. Kurucz nominated A. Garces. B. Seitz seconded. The vote passed naming A. Garces as secretary.

A. Minor asked for nominations for chair of the Program Approval Committee. C. Kurucz nominated E. Emery. A. Garces seconded. The vote passed naming Emery as chair of the committee.

A. Minor asked for nominations for chair of Licensing Committee. A. Garces nominated J. Clement. C. Kurucz seconded. The vote passed naming J. Clement as chair of the committee.

### **Approval of Agenda:**

There was no objection to adding the one additional waiver to the agenda if paperwork is received. Agenda approved by consensus.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

J. Clement moved to approve the [minutes from 07/11/2023](#). C. Kurucz seconded the motion. B. Seitz said she was absent from the meeting and should be listed as absent. Motion was approved with correction.

### **Public to be heard:**

None

### **Board Member Updates:**

A. Garces provided an update on the Act 1 Working Group. The standards framework was submitted to the State Board of Education on June 30, 2023. There is a recommendation for the VSBPE in the framework.

### **Staff Report:**

R. Ryan advised that Andrew Prowten was the new Assistant Director of the Educator Licensing Division. The AOE is working to fill the position formerly held by Amy Scalabrini. There have been some name changes to school districts. The State Board of Education was given a directive from Governor Scott to begin the search for a new Secretary of Education position. The licensing team is busy working on provisional license applications. The fingerprinting process with the Vermont Crime Information Center (VCIC) is taking 4 months, and in some cases longer, causing issues with hiring. The AOE is issuing letters of eligibility for many applicants until the fingerprinting report is received. Licensing board trainings continued over the summer. A. Prowten said that panel member contracts for Peer Review Panels have been delayed.

### **Praxis II Policy Review Second Reading:**

A. Prowten provided background on the [Praxis Changes Green Sheet](#) and reviewed the changes and updates. He offered explanations for each. B. Seitz made a motion to approve the policy with the changes and additions as discussed. C. Kurucz seconded. The motion passed.

### **Update on National Core Teaching Standards:**

A. Prowten provided an update. He said the current Core Teaching Standards are over 10 years old and don't address equity in the way they should at this time. He is hoping to revise the standards in the future. He will include the education preparatory programs and education stakeholders in the process.

A. Garces shared a draft of the Vermont's Iris Ethnic Studies Standards and Framework. She provided a brief summary on the development process and the domains contained in the document along with the foundations for implementation.

## **Waiver Requests**

### **Superintendent Waiver Request: Marissa Hebert**

B. Seitz moved to approve an Early Childhood Special Education Provisional One Year Extension to M. Hebert limited to the Barre Unified Union School District.

Seconded by C. Kurucz.

Motion approved.

### **Superintendent Waiver Request: Jennifer Evans**

C. Kurucz moved to approve a Special Education Provisional One Year Extension to J. Evans limited to the Barre Unified Union School District.

Seconded by B. Seitz.

Motion approved.

### **Superintendent Waiver Request: Noel Campise**

B. Seitz moved to approve a Second One Year Emergency License Request for Elementary Education Endorsement to N. Campise limited to the Rutland City School District.

Seconded by C. Kurucz.

Motion approved.

### **Superintendent Waiver Request: Carolyn Pomeroy**

B. Cleland moved to approve a One Year Special Education Provisional Waiver for C. Pomeroy limited to the Rutland City School District contingent upon the successful submission of her portfolio by March 1, 2024 and no additional waivers will be granted.

Seconded by C. Kurucz.

Motion approved.

### **Superintendent Waiver Request: Karen Davidson**

B. Seitz moved to approve a One Year Special Education Provisional Waiver to K. Davidson limited to the Rutland City School District.

Seconded by A. Flannery.

Motion approved.

### **Superintendent Waiver Request: Nicole Adams**

C. Kurucz moved to approve a One Year Special Education Provisional Waiver to N. Adams limited to the Rutland City School District.

Seconded by A. Flannery.

Motion approved.

**Superintendent Waiver Request: Richard Burbridge**

B. Seitz moved to approve the One Year Special Education Provisional Waiver to R. Burbridge limited to the Windham Northeast Supervisory Union.  
Seconded by C. Kurucz.  
Motion approved.

**Educator Waiver Request: Janelle Smith-Wilfong**

B. Seitz moved to approve a Second One Year Emergency License Request for Art Endorsement to J. Smith-Wilfong limited to the Windham Northeast Supervisory Union.  
Seconded by C Kurucz.  
Motion approved.

**Educator Waiver Request: Laurence Lawson**

C Kurucz moved to approve a Second One Year Emergency License Request to waive Bachelors of Arts for French Endorsement for L. Lawson limited to the Burlington School District.  
Seconded by B. Seitz.  
Motion approved.

Paperwork for the additional waiver not received during the meeting. The waiver will be considered once the waiver request is received. This is tabled and R. Ryan will contact the superintendent. Approved by consensus.

**Subcommittee Work**

A. Minor asked if any VSBPE members wished to change committees. Pickering asked to be part of the Licensing Committee.

Licensing Committee

Committee members are J. Clement, A. Garces, A. Flannery, A. Minor, C. Kurucz and A. Pickering.

A. Prowten reviewed this [Final Math Specialist Competencies document](#). He explained the changes and updates made to the document. C. Kurucz made a motion to accept the document with the changes discussed. B. Seitz seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

R. Ryan provided a provisional license update and said there is an influx of provisional license requests and 1-year extensions. The requests have increased from last year.

R. Ryan provided a special education provisional license update and said requests have increased.

D. Giles provided a renewal update and said that they are 91% approved. Criminal record checks are holding up the process in many cases.

Program Approval Committee

Committee members are E. Emery, B. Cleland, B. Clark, W. Lucci, K. Fay and K.

Revelle.

C. Bedell provided an EPIC VLP update and shared information on their [annual report](#). The report includes six non-substantial edits, and they are seeking the board's approval of the edits. They are also seeking input on how the calibration system works for the ROPA process. They are additionally seeking permission to be creative with the portfolio and begin a pilot program of different ideas and approaches to the portfolio. A vote will be taken at the September meeting.

E. Cairns gave a background on the NVU/VTSU substantive change request that was originally discussed at the May meeting. She said they have shown where all the endorsement competencies are met through their curriculum map. A. Sillars discussed play in early childhood education and how it relates to content areas. She explained how the social studies content competencies are met through the course sequence. J. Clement made a motion to accept the change request. A. Flannery seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### **2023-2024 Meeting Schedule**

The meeting schedule is [here](#). The executive committee will meet on September 6. The next meeting of the full VSBPE is September 14. Agenda items include waivers, legal update, EPIC VLP discussion and vote, endorsement revisions update, work plan for the year, and a discussion on equity and inclusion.

B. Seitz made a motion to adjourn. C. Kurucz seconded. The meeting adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

Minutes recorded by Suzanne Sprague.