

**PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS BOARD (PTSB)  
WEN VIDEOCONFERENCE – MULTI-SITE  
JANUARY 12, 2015**

**CALL TO ORDER – 2:37 P.M.**

Present: Board: Jon Abrams, Brent Bacon, Diane Beffert, Shawn Peck, Michael Day, Jason Wheeler, Aaron Jensen, Molly Kinsey, Molly Potas, Tracy Ragland, and Janice Marshall; Staff: Andrea Bryant, Nicholas Bellack, Morgan DiNoble, and Trisha Wright; Attorney General's Office: Mackenzie Williams; University of Wyoming: Leslie Rush; American Sign Language (ASL) Standards Review Committee Member: Gail Schenfisch; Wyoming Education Association: Kathy Scheurman; Guest: Robin Holbrock (WDE), Verba Ehols and Ann Tollefson (Natrona County School District #1), Thea True-Wells, Nichole Collier, Peter Timbers, & Jessica Stahl (parents from Natrona #1 DLI Program)

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Moved by Shawn Peck and seconded by Janice Marshall to adopt the agenda. Motion carried.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Moved by Shawn Peck and seconded by Tracy Ragland to adopt the minutes from October 27, 2014 with no changes. Motion carried.

**TEACHERS OF AMERICAN INDIAN CHILDREN (TIAC) PROGRAM REVIEW**

Moved by Jon Abrams and seconded by Diane Beffert to grant the request to extend the program review submission to September 15, 2015. Motioned carried.

**ASL TEST ADOPTIONS FOR THE DEMONSTRATION OF COMPETENCY**

Andrea Bryant reviewed the requirements for the DOC and explained why an applicant would need to complete these recommended tests. The American Sign Language (ASL) Standards Review Committee recommended that the Board adopt two tests and give the applicants the option of passing one or the other test; the test options are either the American Sign Language Proficiency Interview (ASLPI) or the Sign Language Proficiency Interview (SLPI). It was stated and discussed that the two recommended test scores are not equal based on an evaluation by the American Sign Language Teachers Association (ASLTA); the recommended score of Level 3 on the ASLPI would show one rating below "fluency" whereas the recommended score of Advanced Plus on the SLPI: ASL would show "fluency." Andrea Bryant expressed concern that whichever scores are adopted, should be approximately equivalent to each other.

Moved by Jon Abrams and seconded by Shawn Peck to adopt the American Sign Language Proficiency Interview (ASLPI) with a passing score of Level 3 and the Sign Language Proficiency Interview (SLPI): American Sign Language (ASL) with a passing score of Advanced. Candidates will have the option of passing either test. Motion carried.

**CHAPTER 6 RULE CHANGES DISCUSSION**

**Visiting Foreign Teacher Permit**

Andrea Bryant presented the different options that the staff at PTSB had researched to provide more flexibility and less ambiguity to districts employing teachers on a Visiting Foreign Teacher Permit. Option I would continue with the validity period of the permit as one year, but allow it to be renewable for a total validity of three

years. Option II would extend the validity period to three years, but the Rules would clearly state that it is non-renewable. Three years is the maximum time that a person's original J-I Visa can be valid, though it is often for less time. If an educator is planning to return to the US or to become a permanent resident, then that educator would need to qualify under the requirements for a Standard License. Verba Echols requested for the Board to go with Option II. This option was considered more reasonable for the district and PTSB.

Verba stated that this year proved to be more challenging than Natrona #1 had anticipated because they were not prepared to have Natrona #1's applicants submit transcripts for evaluation; they had international exchange companies screen their applicants' backgrounds. Molly Potas suggested that we may want to use specific verbiage stating that if the applicant isn't hired from a specific hiring company that they have to have their transcripts evaluated. Andrea explained that transcript evaluation companies will not evaluate and translate a license or certificate. The companies researched by PTSB staff only evaluate and translate transcripts. The transcript evaluations can serve as a proxy for the translated license or certificate by verifying the applicant completed a teacher preparation program that could lead to licensure in that country. One of the requirements for the Visiting Foreign Teacher Permit is that the applicant must be "experienced and certified or licensed in their home country." Ann Tollefson shared her belief that the Hanban is a very trustworthy program because it is essentially the Chinese government. The PTSB staff will research the Hanban and review its process for screening applicants to see if it covers all the areas necessary for the Visiting Foreign Teacher Permit, as well as to determine the quality of the Hanban's transcript evaluations.

Michael Day asked about Teton #1's Dual Language Immersion (DLI) program and how any changes considered would impact it. Andrea explained that Teton #1's program currently has U.S. prepared teachers only, but that this permit is available for them to utilize as well. Andrea agreed to specifically solicit input from Teton #1 staff regarding these discussed changes before the next Board Meeting.

It was clarified that the Rule Change process takes a minimum of five months and potentially longer. Peter Timbers asked why the Board would put an expiration on the permit at all and not just leave it to the districts to manage. Andrea explained to him that it is part of our role as the Professional Teaching Standards Board to ensure that educators continue to meet requirements. If someone is a visiting foreign teacher, it suggests the person would not be in Wyoming for an unlimited amount of time and that person should meet the requirements for a Standard License if their intention is to stay for a long time period. Three years aligns with the parameters of a J-I Visa given to visiting teachers.

Moved by Jon Abrams and seconded by Shawn Peck to begin the process to change the Chapter 6 Rules to reflect Option II of Attachment 7a so that PTSB would issue the Permit for three years, and would clearly state that the Permit is non-renewable. Motion carried.

### **Lifetime Substitute Permit**

Andrea Bryant informed the Board members of the time limit currently set by PTSB Rules to apply for a Lifetime Substitute Permit is five (5) years after retirement. The Board discussed the possible rationale for why the timeframe of applying within five years after retirement was adopted by PTSB. Diane Beffert gave some perspective about why she thought this requirement may have been put into place. In her summation, she stated that this (the time period in which this rule was set) was the time that everything was getting a five year requirement (such as time limits surrounding Highly Qualified requirements). However, she could not see a substantive reason for the timeframe related to this permit.

Moved by Shawn Peck and seconded by Tracy Ragland to start the process to amend the Chapter 6 Rules regarding the Lifetime Substitute Teacher Permit by removing the time limit of applying within five years after retirement. Motion carried.

#### **FUTURE MEETINGS**

The Board has scheduled a Board meeting for Monday, March 9, 2015 at 3:30 p.m. via WEN Videoconference. The Board's Regular Board Meeting is set for Monday, June 15, 2015 and Tuesday, June 16, 2015 in Cody, Wyoming.

#### **EVALUATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

Aaron Jensen discussed the proposed evaluation instrument and informed the Board that a draft was sent out by him. The evaluation will consist of set goals, a self-evaluation, evaluations from the Board, as well as outside input. Aaron requested all members of the Board to review the draft evaluation instrument and respond directly to him with any changes or suggestions.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments were made.

#### **MEETING ADJOURNED**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:24 p.m.