

April 24, 2007

To: BOCES, Superintendents, HR Directors, Child Development Centers, Private schools:
From: Dr. Connie J. Pollard

I will try and clarify some of the current issues PTSB is addressing regarding upcoming changes in certification.

1. In 1992 PTSB passed the requirement that all **Speech Language Therapists and School Social Workers** would be required to have completed an MA or its equivalency by January 2008 in order to renew.

a. Our records show a total of 79 certificates for Sp/L and SSW were issued in error. These individuals rec'd certificates that show expiration dates past the January 2008 deadline - and did not meet the requirements of having completed an MA or its equivalency. **These certificates will be honored through the expiration date of the certificate.** Upon the renewal dates of these certificates these individuals will be required to have completed an MA or its equivalency.

b. The equivalency requirements for renewal are attached.

c. Our records indicate a total of 16 Sp/L therapists & SSW are up for renewal prior to January 2008 and have not yet submitted documentation that they will have completed an MA or its equivalency upon their renewal date.

d. The PTSB board will consider allowing individuals to apply for an Exception Authorization if they do not meet the requirements of having an MA or its equivalency when they renew. **This issue is in discussion with the Board - no decisions have been made at this time.** I will keep you posted.

e. **Reminder: Exception Authorizations will be new beginning June 1, 2007 - they are not yet available.**

f. **PLEASE send me the names and current contact information of any SSW or Sp/L therapist in your district who has not completed an MA or equivalency program. These individuals need to review the attached equivalency program and determine how they will meet the 1992 requirements; either with an MA or Equivalency Program (EQP), and which option they believe they will complete Or if they do not plan to renew their Sp/L certification.**

Name Contact Info MA or EQP Which EQP option OR if they do not plan to renew

2. April 16, 2007, PTSB approved fee increases. **Fee increases** are warranted based on the following:

a. PTSB is adding two new positions in response to the increase in applications and the added work load due to NCLB highly qualified requirements.

1. PTSB experienced a 147% increase of in-state applications & an 89% increase in out-of-state applications in 2006.

b. The last fee increase was January 2002 - since that time, PTSB has incurred 5 cost of living raises.

c. PTSB is self-supporting; we do not receive any monies from the WY legislature

d. Comparison with other professional licenses: Nurses, Speech Pathologists, Social Workers, and Counselors pay \$100/yr, cosmetologists pay \$36/year. Given the current fee increases teachers will pay \$30-\$40/year.

e. PTSB provides Professional Development Renewal Credits for free. These credits assist teachers in moving over on the salary schedule. Without this service, teachers would be required to earn university credits to move over on the salary schedule; one hr of graduate credit at UW costs \$159.00

3. We are moving steadily closer to adopting PRAXIS exams in specific content areas, Special Education, and Middle Level. We hope to have these up and running by June 1, 2007. One major change will be that new content teaching majors will NOT be required to take a PRAXIS exam. I will keep you apprized of the situation. This will also be posted on our website, <http://ptsb.state.wy.us> as soon as final Board approval is obtained and the required process with the Educational Testing Services (ETS) is completed.

4. Please remind anyone who is making an application to PTSB that PTSB will no longer accept incomplete application packets. **All incomplete application packets will be returned with a letter indicating what is missing.**

Unfortunately, I just learned that one of our evaluators, Deb Wilson, will be leaving us; she has taken a job in Denver. She will be leaving May 4th. This will undoubtedly, once again, impact our response time to your questions and applications. Once again, we ask for your patience. PTSB is in process of some major changes, we have no doubt that the work we are doing now will create a much more responsive agency to our customers' needs in the near future.

Please allow PTSB staff to answer your questions regarding these issues. If they feel it needs to go further they will send it on to me.

I hope this provides you with some timely and valuable information. Thanks, Connie