



PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS BOARD

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Date: June 30, 2017

To: Superintendents, Directors (HR, Special Education, Curriculum, Business Services, Other Educational Entities), and Principals

From: Nish Goicolea, PTSB Executive Director

RE: Staff and Board Member Updates, Applications Updating, Electronic Transcripts, Online System, School Nurse Licensure, Computer Science Discussion, PRAXIS Changes, Stakeholder Visits, Workshop Information, Upcoming Board Meetings

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As the new Executive Director for the Professional Teaching Standards Board (PTSB), I am pleased to join the team, and I would like to emphasize it has been, and will continue to be our goal at the PTSB to support the work of Wyoming School Districts and other stakeholders. Below is a list of PTSB staff members, their position and responsibilities, and updated contact information. We are fortunate to welcome new Board and staff members and some transitioning positions. We encourage our stakeholders to utilize our staff as a resource for any questions and concerns.

Staff Member	Position	Responsibilities	Contact Information
Nish Goicolea	Executive Director	Leadership and oversight of agency operations, Board representative to legislature and public	(307) 777-6256 nish.goicolea@wyo.gov
Nicholas Bellack	Assistant Director	Overall application process and Board Policy	(307) 777-1926 nicholas.bellack@wyo.gov
Ashley Graham	Executive Assistant	DCI Background checks, investigations, and Board logistics	(307) 777-6222 ashley.graham@wyo.gov
Nicole Donbraska	Receptionist	General Information and US & WY Constitution Exams	(307) 777-7291 nicole.donbraska@wyo.gov
Nannette Tardif	Licensing Specialist	Applicants whose Last Name begins with A-G and Professional Development Workshop Approval	(307) 777-7294 nannette.tardif@wyo.gov
Jessie Craver	Licensing Specialist	Applicants whose Last Name begins with H-O and Processing application fees	(307) 777-7295 jessie.craver@wyo.gov
Trisha Wright	Licensing Specialist	Applicants whose Last Name begins with P-Z and Website management	(307) 777-2486 trisha.wright@wyo.gov
Allie Leitza	Office Assistant	General Information and US & WY Constitution Exams	(307)-777-6261 allie.leitza@wyo.gov

More resources for our stakeholders are the PTSB Board Members who each represent different areas of the Wyoming education community. Our current Board Members are:

Board Member	Position
Rachel Gibson	Elementary Teacher
Shawn Peck	Elementary Teacher
Jennifer Schultze	Secondary Teacher
Liesl Sisson	Secondary Teacher
Jason Wheeler	Secondary Teacher
Dan Mayer	Auxiliary Professional Services
Leslie Rush	Approved Programs Faculty
Ray Reutzel	College of Education Dean
Aaron Jensen	Community College Faculty

Liann Brenneman	Elementary Principal
Tracy Ragland	Secondary Principal (Board Chair)
John Lyttle	Central Office Administrator
Janice Marshall	School Board Member

APPLICATIONS UPDATE

All six application forms have been reviewed and updated in order to better serve applicants, provide necessary information updates, and increase efficiencies in the licensing process. The updated applications can be found on PTSB’s website at: <http://ptsb.state.wy.us/Applications/tabid/94/Default.aspx>.

ELECTRONIC TRANSCRIPTS

In order to better serve its applicants, the Wyoming Professional Teaching Standards Board began exploring the possibility of accepting electronic transcripts in January and found the trial period to be successful. PTSB is now accepting electronic transcripts from all colleges and universities. Applicants who would like more information on submitting electronic transcripts may follow the following link: <http://ptsb.state.wy.us/Licensure/BecomingLicensed/OfficialTranscripts/tabid/154/Default.aspx>.

ONLINE SYSTEM: EDUCATOR CREDENTIALING, ASSIGNMENT VALIDATION, AND REPORTING SYSTEM

PTSB Board Staff are continuing to train and finalize the new system throughout the summer with Enterprise Technology Services (ETS) which marks the initial phase of merging into the new online system. The Board Office will continue receive training, build guidance/training documents for districts, and phase into the system throughout the remainder of the year.

SCHOOL NURSE LICENSURE

The Board has been exploring making rule changes for School Nurse Licensure and the process is near completion. This topic has been added to the agenda of the special PTSB Board meeting scheduled in August and changes are anticipated to be recommended at that time.

CODING/COMPUTER SCIENCE

PTSB has formed a stakeholder group to explore greater flexibility in the computer science endorsement area. The aforementioned special PTSB Board meeting in August will include this topic on the agenda. This has been an ongoing conversation with the Wyoming Department of Education, who are also forming a taskforce to research possibilities, with both groups having overlapping members to maintain collaboration. During the June Joint Education Committee meeting, a motion passed requiring WDE and PTSB to have a timeline and plan to increase offerings in computer science by September.

PRAXIS CHANGES

There are two significant changes to report regarding Wyoming PTSB PRAXIS testing requirements that were voted on in the June PTSB Board meeting. These changes took effect June 13, 2017 and are listed as follows:

- (1) The PTSB Board voted to change the cut score adopted for the Special Education Core Knowledge and Applications, which was set at 173 to 158, which is more aligned with the national average. This change is

relevant to applicants who wish to add the SPED Generalist Endorsement via the Demonstration of Competency route.

- (2) The PTSB Board also voted to replace the current Special Education Teacher of Record Test requirement: PRAXIS Mathematics: Content Knowledge (5161) by adopting the PRAXIS Middle School Mathematics (5169) test with a cut score of 165. This change is relevant to applicants already holding a SPED Generalist Endorsement who wish to be the Teacher of Record for Math 6-12. Applicants must hold licensure at the appropriate grade level.

PTSB STAKEHOLDER VISITS

Representatives from the PTSB staff will be at the upcoming Coaches Clinic, July 20, 2017 in Casper, WY. If your district would like PTSB staff to visit in person or virtually, please contact the PTSB office at 307-777-7291. The staff members at PTSB are always available for your district needs.

WORKSHOP REMINDERS AND INFORMATION

- Please submit complete workshop and/or facilitator requests to PTSB via email to ptsbworkshoprequests@wyo.gov, via fax to 307-777-8718, or mail to our office at 1920 Thomes Avenue, Suite 400, Cheyenne, WY 82002.
- The link for this information is found on the PTSB website here <http://ptsb.state.wy.us/ProfessionalDevelopment/tabid/216/Default.aspx>.
- Also a reminder that on the webpage there is the list of pre-approved workshops <http://ptsb.state.wy.us/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=9QgXCL3-zUM%3d&tabid=216>.
- Lastly there is a link to help educators make informed decisions about what is considered professional development for their endorsement area(s) with a “Questions to ask yourself” section <http://ptsb.state.wy.us/ProfessionalDevelopment/Questionstoaskyourself/tabid/223/Default.aspx>.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

The following PTSB Meetings have been scheduled. Other meetings may be scheduled as necessary to conduct Board business. To receive notice of Board Meetings and agendas, contact Ashley Graham at ashley.graham@wyo.gov.

- **Special Board Meeting August 14, 2017** 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Virtual
- **October 30, 2017** Casper, WY (time TBD)

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS/CONCERNS

We are available and open to all discussions that fall within the agency parameters of program approval, discipline, and licensure. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns you would like to share with PTSB, please do not hesitate to contact our office. The PTSB is actively working to improve dialogue, implement changes proactively, be a resource, and plan for the future to meet our mission “to ensure that every student is served by competent, ethical educators, who meet rigorous performance standards” in Wyoming. Thank you for your continued support and partnership.