



PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS BOARD

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Date: November 20, 2017

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

From: Nish Goicolea, PTSB Executive Director

RE: Background Procedural Changes, Digitizing Project, Online System (ECS), Computing Technology, Micro-Credentialing, Career and Technical Education (CTE), Virtual Education, Temporary Hardship Permit Option, PTSB Stakeholder Visits, Electronic Transcripts, and Upcoming Board Meetings

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

My goal as the Executive Director is to always have open communication and transparency within the agency, with my staff, my supervising Board of Directors, and all stakeholders. This is an update regarding our recent board meeting, changes, and projects PTSB is working on. Please contact me, or any member of the team for questions or more information.

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, US & WY Constitution Exams, Application fees, and Special projects	(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
Allie Leitzza	Licensing Specialist	Applicants whose Last Name begins with H-O and Processing application fees	(307) 777-7295 allie.leitzza@wyo.gov
Trisha Wright	Lead Licensing Specialist	Applicants whose Last Name begins with P-Z and Website management	(307) 777-2486 trisha.wright@wyo.gov
Jenny Woodard	Office Assistant	General Information, US & WY Constitution Exams, and Special projects	(307)-777-6261 jenny.woodard@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

BACKGROUND PROCEDURAL CHANGES

PTSB will no longer issue background checks to applicants requesting them due to findings resulting from a recent FBI audit. Per Federal guidelines, background checks are to be immediately destroyed upon completion and verification of an applicant’s background. Therefore, once a background has been utilized within the agency it will be immediately destroyed.

DIGITIZING PROJECT

PTSB is still digitizing all records and as of November 20, 2017, agency staff has scanned 9,171 of roughly 25,000 files.

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

PTSB Board Staff are working to finalize the new system with Enterprise Technology Services (ETS) and its vendor. The project is anticipated to go live in early 2018. Training and correspondence will be forthcoming as we move closer to the implementation date.

COMPUTING TECHNOLOGY

An exception authorization (EA) for “Computing Technology” is in the rules process. Once signed into rule, this EA would allow any 6-12 grade educator to teach a Computing Technology (Computer Science) course aligned to a district-approved professional development plan. The Board Office, in consultation with the greater Computer Science stakeholder group, is currently working on a document with a model plan and explicit instructions on the parameters of this new avenue for districts to utilize as a resource in anticipation of these rules being signed by the Governor.

MICRO-CREDENTIALING

Micro-credentialing is being researched by PTSB as a possible way to recognize professional development programs by awarding a badge to educator certificates. UW is working on implementing a couple of programs for this, and computer science fields are also being looked at to pilot this new idea.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE)

PTSB is looking into the requirements for CTE education licensing in order to identify if a more-accessible avenue is appropriate for CTE educators. Forward-thinking conversations between the Board and stakeholders are happening in order to better-meet Wyoming’s workforce needs.

VIRTUAL EDUCATION

Many discussions surrounding virtual education in Wyoming have been happening the past several months. Please note, Wyoming Statute explicitly states that any person receiving public funds for teaching must be certified through PTSB (W.S. §21-7-303).

TEMPORARY HARDSHIP PERMIT OPTION

PTSB is creating a stakeholder taskforce to investigate the need and parameters for a Temporary Hardship Permit that districts may be able to utilize for hard-to-fill-positions. This taskforce will meet and report at the January Board Meeting.

PTSB STAKEHOLDER VISITS

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 as a resource for your district needs.

ELECTRONIC TRANSCRIPTS

Electronic transcripts need to be sent directly from the college or university. They cannot be sent by the applicant or the school district. The email the electronic transcripts should be sent to by the college/university is ptsbtranscripts@wyo.gov.

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 December 5, 2017 4:00-4:30p.m. (virtual)**
- **January 22, 2018 from 3:00-5:00pm (virtual)**

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.