

Nebraska Council on Teacher Education

Educator Preparation Advisory Committee to the Nebraska State Board of Education

NCTE GENERAL MEETING

Friday, June 12, 2015

Country Inn & Suites – Lincoln room – 5353 N. 27th, Lincoln, NE

Present: HED – D. Acklie, N. Biggs, R. Bork, M. Crouse, S. Evanich, L. Forester, N. Ingraham, J. Janksy, D. Ponec, K. Rempp, B. Schnabel, P. Spethman, T. Wandzilak, D. White

NCCA –

NASB – J. Vlach

NCAPE – B. Schweiger

NCSA – M. Adler, D. Bird, B. Habrock, M. Lenihan, D. Ludwig, S. Smith

TSB – D. Freese, D. Harder

NSEA – S. Bartholomew, S. Brown, D. Casey, T. Coe, P. Ludeke, L. Mihm, D. Moss, S. Ptacek, C. Rice, M. Schlieder, M. Tebbe, J. Zbylut-Birky

NDE – S. Katt, K. Peters

Guests:

HED – P. Blundell, J. Crotty, B. Doll, C. Townsend-Frey, K. Wheeler

NCCA –

NSEA –

NDE – M. Beiermann, P. Madsen

OTHER – G. Banick, S. Feinstein

Absent Without Alternate Replacement:

HED – S. Alford, K. Mallette

NCCA – G. Smith

NASB – S. DeCamp

NCAPE –

NCSA – P. Bohn, K. Mathews, D. Wiseman

TSB –

NSEA – D. Jankovich, C. Gay

HED - Higher Education

NCCA-NE Community College Association

NASB-NE Association of School Boards

NCAPE-NE Council on American Private Education

NCSA-NE Council of School Administrators

TSB – Teachers State Board Appointed

NSEA - NE State Education Association

NDE – NE Dept. of Education

Meeting Called to Order – President-elect Adler, replacing D. Jankovich who is absent, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Opening Remarks – Dr. Gabrielle Banick, UNL Assistant Vice President, Nebraska P-16 Initiative. P-16 is designed to remove barriers and improve the transitions of students through education into the work force. Teacher education is looking at the whole role of education—trying to prepare students for the future, not just today. Every teacher has a responsibility in the economic future of students. P-16 started with 8 goals--NE has streamlined initiatives to fit the NE education system.

Reverse Transfer Project: National movement by community colleges (ACCS) to award students who attended community college and then transitioned to a 4-year college and completed more teacher education coursework. This

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initiative now allows reviewing the transcripts and the credits earned at the community college to determine if an associate degree could be awarded by the community college so that the person could get at least one credential. Students would then have an associate degree as well as a Baccalaureate degree. Two hundred (200) students have now received associate degrees by doing this.

Transfer Nebraska is another P-16 initiative used for transparency purposes in streamlining the work involved with transferring credits to other institutions. The Transfer Evaluation System (TES) software is used to determine course equivalencies for transfer.

Banick emphasized the need to get the word out about what is happening in teacher education. We need to publicize the work of NCTE and effectiveness of this group throughout the state, but especially to the legislature.

Declaration of Legal Meeting and Open Meetings Act – stated by President-elect Adler.

Public Comments – No comments were given.

Approval of March 20, 2015 General Session Meeting Minutes – Motion by Casey, seconded by Forester to approve minutes. Roll call vote taken. Minutes approved.

Report of May, 2015 Executive Committee Meeting – The minutes from the May 1, 2015 meeting were reviewed by Adler.

Rule Status Reports:

Rule 21 – Katt; Approved by State Board on May 8, 2015, now going through attorney general review. Early Childhood changes are a concern to be addressed in next version of Rule 21.

Rule 24 Endorsements – Madsen; Rule 24 (with Coaching supplemental and Special Education endorsement revisions) is currently at the attorney general and awaiting the governor's signature with expected implementation August 1, 2015.

First Hearing Endorsements - Madsen

- **Health Sciences (Supplemental)** - Carol Ringenberg, NDE Health Sciences Content Specialist and Chair of Health Sciences *Ad Hoc* Committee presented. This replaces current Health Occupations endorsement. Health Sciences is part of the Career and Technical Education endorsements area. It is a 15-hour endorsement. Nationally, states are looking at Nebraska, as no other state has a Health Sciences teaching endorsement. Ringenberg explained the health sciences career field courses that would be taught at the high school level under this endorsement.

Middle Grades Endorsements - Katt explained the two Middle Grades endorsements now under consideration since the Executive Committee met in May.

- **Middle Level (Field)** (First Hearing) - Grade Levels 5-8; Content preparation is becoming less important, but skill levels are more emphasized nationally. Reviewed the hours needed.
- **Middle Level (Supplemental)** (First Hearing) - Grades 5-8; Section 006.40C explains that this must be attached to a subject or field endorsement.

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Key discussion points—Field endorsement:

- Grade level of 5-8 seems to fit best with most Nebraska school districts.
- Credit hours are decreased from 66 credit hours to 54 credit hours.
- Core academic areas have been narrowed to include only English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Science. (Career education endorsements are now 6-12, so there is no need to include them; Art and HPE are K-12.
- Is 18 credit hours in two different content areas adequate preparation? Many seem to think not, especially with added content being pushed down to the middle level.
- Should 006.40D, option 2 (18 credit hours in two different content areas) be eliminated? (This is a carry-over from the current endorsement.)
- Should option 3 require a minimum of 21-24 credit hours in one core academic area and either ESL (15 credit hours) or Reading and Writing (18 credit hours) supplemental?
- Attaching a Middle Level supplemental to an Elementary endorsement is a concern. Could a proposed 30 credit hours (rather than 36 credit hours) of basic coursework be taken with the institutions having the flexibility to require 18-21 credit hours of Middle Grades pedagogy?
- It is likely that a Praxis II would be required for the Middle Level field endorsement. A committee would be called to review available options, make a selection based on the endorsement configuration, and establish a passing score. The test requirement would most likely not go into effect until one year after the endorsement is in Rule 24.
- Is a Middle Grades endorsement needed/necessary? Administrators now hire secondary or elementary education endorsed teachers to teach Middle Grades because it provides more flexibility for hiring as indicated in Rule 10.

Endorsements Ready for Final Approval at Second General Session – Madsen; no further changes since the version presented at the March 20 meeting

- **Music (Field)** - is now PK-12 endorsement; the number of hours has not changed; *ad hoc* committee made a recommendation to eliminate the Instrumental Music endorsement.
- **Vocal Music (Subject)** - now is PK-12 with language changes to align with Music field endorsement as much as possible. Kept Vocal Music to allow an additional option for districts, as it is many times difficult to find a Music-field endorsed teacher.

NDE Updates –NDE Staff

- **1st Year Teacher Employer Follow-Up Survey** – Katt; Sent out on May 18; closes June 15; 55% response rate to date.
- **Clinical Practice Co-Teaching Workshop, June 17 & 18** – This is a chance for all institutions and school partners to learn more about the co-teaching model, rather than traditional student teaching. Workshop is for institutions and school partners, with a few spaces still available.

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- **Early Childhood Certification Discussion update** – Discussion continues to seek appropriate alternatives to accommodate the need for Early Childhood educators. It is anticipated representatives of NCTE will be called to participate in further discussion.
- **Teacher Supply** – Continues to be a significant issue nationally and in Nebraska. Many states are creating alternative routes which are vastly different from the routes recognized by Nebraska for licensure. Maintaining appropriate licensure standards balanced with meeting the needs of an effective and adequate workforce will continue to be a point of discussion for NCTE.
- **CORE Testing and Praxis II Content Testing update/preliminary data** – The CORE Academic Skills Tests (basic skills) were adopted in NE effective September 1, 2014, which replaced the PPST. Average pass rates are higher in NE than across the nation in all three areas, and NE candidates should show improvement in the future, as pass rates are not as high as the PPST pass rates. Most institutions have required Praxis II tests this year, even though the requirement is not effective until September 1, 2015. Preliminary pass rates show about 15 content areas with pass rates below 90%. World Language Spanish and Mathematics are among the lowest pass rate percentages. Candidates do need to be encouraged to take the Praxis II test seriously, and to prepare for the test. ETS has test preparation materials available.
- **Equity Plan submitted to USDE by June 1** – Thank you to NCTE for input provided.
- **Reports regarding 2014-2015 State Approval**
UNO addressed concerns identified during the State Off-Site Review at a rejoinder meeting held just prior to the NCTE meeting. Letter will be issued by NDE that states a rejoinder was done with documentation showing that issues in the Superintendent, Music, and Reading Specialist programs are addressed or a plan is substantially underway. The final component of the State Program Approval process will be the onsite approval visit held in conjunction with the national accreditation onsite visit in November.

Legislative Update – Money has been appropriated for those teachers receiving Board Certification through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). Funds will be administered through Rule 22 Master Teacher Regulations. Moss provided an overview (in the absence of J. Sears) of education related legislation during the 2015 Legislative Session.

Election of President-Elect – Adler; Phyllis Spethman was nominated for president-elect. No additional nominations. Roll call vote; Spethman was elected as NCTE President-Elect. Her term will begin August 1, 2015.

Recognition of Members Retiring from NCTE – Adler; The following voting members are retiring from NCTE and were presented with a certificate: Margaret Crouse, Nissa Ingraham, Ed Scantling, Becky Schnabel, Suzan DeCamp, Barbara Schweiger, and Debra Harder. Retiring Alternate members were also recognized: Lynne Houtz, Kay Hegler, Doug Phelps, Y. J. Moses, Janelle Uffelman, Rev. Lawrence Stoley, and Linda Hix.

Announcements - Adler

- **On-site visits** – Peru State College – September 27-29, 2015
University of Nebraska Omaha – November 1-3, 2015

Working Lunch – Break at 11:50 p.m.

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Standing Committee Session – met at 12:15.

Second General Session – Resumed at 1:50 p.m.

Standing Committee Reports:

- **Committee 'A'** – Adler; Supported Health Sciences endorsement; supported P-16 Initiative; thanked those retiring committee members for their service to NCTE.
- **Committee 'B'** – Smith; The committee recommended sending both proposed Middle Grades endorsements back to the *ad hoc* committee. Topics discussed by Committee B included if there is still a need for a Middle Grades endorsement? If so, perhaps it should be an 18-24 hour supplemental endorsement.
- **Committee 'C'** – Moss; P-16 initiative was discussed; Early Childhood and certification issues and the market for Early Childhood Inclusive field—how do you attract people to this endorsement? The committee liked the Health Sciences endorsement. Liked NCTE lunch together and liked more discussion time in the morning. Thanked Debra Harder for her work on Committee C.

Full Council Discussion and/or Action related to Standing Committee Reports:

- **Music (Field)** - Motion by Forester to approve; second by Moss. Roll Call Vote. Motion carried.
- **Vocal Music (Subject) endorsements** – Motion by Ponec to approve; second by Moss. Roll Call Vote. Motion carried.
- **Middle Level (Field) and Middle Level (Supplemental) endorsements** – Return to *ad hoc* committee for additional work.
- **Health Sciences (Supplemental) endorsement** – Motion by Vlach to approve; second by Evanich. Roll Call Vote. Motion carried.
- **NCTE recommendation to the Commissioner for State Approval:**
 - Grace University—Motion by Forester for approval by NCTE; second by Biggs. Roll Call Vote. Motion carried.
 - Midland University—Motion by Moss for approval by NCTE; second by Acklie. Roll Call Vote. Motion carried.

Transfer of Presidency – In the absence of President Jankovich, this will be done at the October NCTE meeting.

Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

UPCOMING MEETINGS – 2015

NCTE Executive Committee – Friday, August 21, 2015 – Ralston Public Virginia Moon Adm. Center

NCTE Full Council Meeting – Friday, October 9, 2015 – The Cornhusker, 333 S. 13th Street, Lincoln

NCTE Executive Committee – January 22, 2016 – TBA

NCTE Full Council Meeting – March 18, 2016 – Country Inn & Suites, Lincoln

NCTE Executive Committee – April 22, 2016 – TBA

NCTE Full Council Meeting – June 10, 2016 – Country Inn & Suites, Lincoln