

ABE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes 3/10/00

Members Attending: B. Ash, H. Chernow, J. Koss-Cole, K. DeJesus, M. Forry, J. McCarthy, J. McGovern, S. Martin, S. Waldron, P. Veysey

Members Absent: D. Branco, K. Skinner, L. Soricone

DOE Staff Attending: B. Bickerton, R. Derfler, M.J. Fay

DOE Staff Absent: M. Gillon

SABES Staff Attending: C. Reid

Minutes Compiled by: M.J. Fay

Agenda Item #:

1) Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve pending the following change:

-add the word "purposes" to Section I, #1 of competencies

Reminder: meeting minutes are a matter of public record; minutes will be posted on the web

Announcement re: meeting with Commissioner Driscoll and Deputy Commissioner Stotsky:

Bob, Ruth, and MJ met with the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner to discuss a probable time line for the ABE certification.

- ABE certification will be decoupled from the pre-K-12 certification proposal since its content is different.
- DOE will author a more formal interim report to be sent to all legislators with progress on the ABE certification to date, at which time there will be an informal public comment period (perhaps until the end of June.)
- The Commissioner will present Interim Report to key members of legislature.
- At some point between July and October, the ABE certification will be brought to the Board of Education at which time there will be a formal comment period and formal hearings.
- We will get an opinion from DOE legal as to whether the certification will have to go before the Board of Education for approval.

The Advisory Committee suggested that the discussion about a new timeline for certification should be clearly communicated to the field so people know that the certification is still in the works, and give an estimate of when that will occur. Several suggestions were made regarding mailing lists to be used for dissemination of the interim report (e.g. SABES, MCAE, ACLS, REB, etc.); web publications, Certification Updates should also be used.

2) Title of Certification

John reported that in the legislation, the term "adult basic education" was originally used, but the House legal counsel changed it to "adult education." It was never explained why it was changed to adult education.

- How does the process work to change the language? Ruth will call House legal counsel to see why it was changed and how we can get it amended.
- VOTE: Unanimous that it should be Adult Basic Education-- as long as it would not create a barrier to getting the certification in place.

3) Evidence of Sound Moral Character

2 Issues:

- 1) Evidence of Sound Moral Character: Any objections to including it as a condition of ABE certification? VOTE: Unanimous--no objections
- 2) Do we want to have our own application? Yes. We will create a separate application form for ABE.
- 3) What are the things that are important to know about the applicants?

Concerns:

- Concern that "evidence of sound moral character" would be used to discriminate against people based on sexual orientation. We should include a non-discrimination

statement. It was suggested that the State's anti-discrimination law be put onto the application.

- What would happen when some ABE teachers are certified and required to be mandatory reporters under 51A and others are not?
- We'll check with DOE legal counsel and ask if we will be required to be mandatory reporters under 51A? We won't take additional steps to change that status if we are. We'll bring information back to AC. What will ACLS need to do re: grant requirements because of mandatory certification?
- Clarify whether denial, revocation, suspension has been for teaching certification. (MJ will check on)

4) Bachelor's degree, or equivalent

The Advisory Committee had already voted to require "a bachelor's degree, or the equivalent."

Discussion: The field is concerned that if we don't have bachelor's degree it won't be taken seriously as a profession. Others in the field feel that requiring a bachelor's degree will exclude good teachers in the field.

Options for what might be the "equivalent:"

1) Waiver process is a given. The Commissioner has the power to waive the bachelor's degree requirement and has done so in the past.

2) Recommendation: Praxis plus # of years in ABE field

- However, is the Praxis intended to be a substitute for a bachelor's degree?
- Staff needs to flesh out more options, how Praxis is used in the 39 other states and what pre-k did.

We may need to revisit levels of certification discussion.

5) Streamlining

1) Does AC want to recommend a streamlining option? VOTE: Unanimous - Yes

2) Do we want this to be valid only for a length of time?

3) AC needs to make a decision as to whether it wants to recommend that an "inactive" K-12 certification count toward the streamlining process.

6) Assessing Proficiency

Moved to next meeting

7) Preparation for Upcoming Meetings

Does the AC want to continue to meet? Yes.

Next Meetings: 3/14/00 from 1-4 p.m. at Malden Public Library

4/4/00 from 1-4 p.m., site to be announced (Brockton Career Center)

4/18/00 from 9:30-12:30 p.m., site to be announced (Worcester site to be determined)

4/26/00 from 12:30-3:30 p.m., (placed to be determined)