

ABE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes 10/30/00

Members Attending: B. Ash, H. Chernow, J. Koss-Cole (late), J. McCarthy, J. McGovern, S. Martin, K. Skinner (late), L. Soricone, P. Veysey, S. Waldron

Members Absent: D. Branco, K. DeJesus, M. Forry

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: Approved, subject to clarifications that people may submit in the next day. No clarifications received.

Meeting minutes are a matter of public record: minutes will be posted on the web

2) Announcements:

a) Network Conference

Suzanne Martin, Lisa Soricone, and John McGovern participated in a question and answer session on the ABE Certification. While the session itself was not well attended (even though 35 participants were signed up), many people did stop by the certification table to ask questions. The Committee members felt that the session went well and that people are responding positively to the certification model.

b) Representative John Binienda, Sr.

John McGovern reported that he spoke with the Representative who sponsored the legislation who said that there must be no more delays and the certification must go to the Board of Education in January.

3) Needs Survey Update

We've received over 600 to date. Please distribute and request that programs complete and return them. Even though the deadline is October 31, additional surveys will be accepted until November 27th, at which point data collection will cease.

4) Review of Deputy Commissioner Sandy Stotsky's Recommendations

(The following report on the meeting with the Deputy Commissioner is interspersed with the ABE Certification Advisory Committee's motions and votes in response to her recommendations.)

On September 28th Bob, Ruth, and Mary Jayne met with Deputy Commissioner Sandra Stotsky, Associate Commissioner Ann Duffy, and Associate Commissioner Carole Thomson to present them with recommendations regarding the ABE Teacher's Certificate. This first meeting went very well and we are happy to report that the substance of the Committee's recommendations is being supported. The Deputy Commissioner suggests that to the maximum feasible extent that we align the terminology of this certificate with the pending preK-12 regulations. In order to do so, she recommends we begin with the following changes:

- 1) The certificate should be called a “license,” in order to align with the new term for all other preK-12 licenses.
Committee Motion: The Committee will adopt whatever term that preK-12 uses for the ABE Teacher’s Certification
Vote: 8-0

- 2) The teacher competencies should be called “Standards.”
Motion: The Committee will adopt whatever term that preK-12 uses for their competencies.
Vote: 7-2 abstentions

- 3) The first seven “Standards” should be considered *Subject Matter Knowledge*, and these Standards may become part of the ABE Subject Matter Test.
Committee Discussion: There was much discussion about the subject matter knowledge and whether or not the Committee should revisit its earlier vote to require a subject matter test for novice ABE practitioners. Issues such as breadth and depth, cost, reasonableness of requiring 2 tests for ABE licensure (the Communication and Literacy Skills test will be required for new and novice ABE teachers), and how parallel ABE wants to be or should be to the preK-12 regulations were raised.
Motions and Votes: A motion was made to separate the votes as follows:
 - a) **require no subject matter test** -- 1 vote
 - b) **the subject matter test be considered one way to demonstrate subject matter for standard #2** -- 3 votes
 - c) **the subject matter test be required for routes 1 and 2 for standard #2 only** -- 5 votes
 - d) **the subject matter test be required for all 7 standards included in the October draft of the Regulations** -- 0 votes

- 4) The remaining Standards be the *Professional Standards*.
Committee Discussion: Discussion centered on various alternative configurations, but the members felt that important ABE emphases might be lost if the preK-12 configuration was used.
Motion: To keep the categories of the standards as they were originally recommended by the Advisory Committee
Vote: 10-0

- 5) The streamlining routes should become permanent routes to this license, and there should be no deadline for accumulating hours of experience toward these routes.
Motion: To adopt streamlining routes as permanent routes to licensure
Vote: 8-1 abstention

The Deputy Commissioner also recommended that the ABE documents be separated into “regulations” and “guidelines.” The regulations are what will be published in response to the legislation and have the power of law. Regulations require a substantial public process to become approved and to be changed. The guidelines, on the other hand, are the purview of the Department. They are more flexible and they can be revisited and revised as needed, with the Commissioner’s approval. (First drafts of the regulations and

guidelines were provided for the Committee's review. Due to time considerations, the Committee focused solely on the issues and not the specific wording of the drafts.)

Committee responses:

- incorporate which competencies need to be fulfilled within each route into the Regulations rather than the Guidelines;
- references to induction and mentoring should be removed; if this issue is raised again by DOE, let the Committee review once again; and
- until the new preK-12 regulations are approved, remove all boiler plate language from the drafts of these Regulations and Guidelines (which may occur at the November 28th Board of Education meeting).

The Deputy Commissioner suggests that the Committee consider adding a first level to the license, one that will be parallel to the proposed preK-12 Provisional license. The Provisional license would require possession of a bachelor's or a master's degree and a passing score on the communication and literacy skills test. The Deputy Commissioner feels that the Provisional license would allow school district-based programs to hire ABE practitioners who are working toward their ABE license. (Note: In the October draft of the ABE Regulations, unlike the preK-12 regulations, there is no requirement to hold the Provisional license prior to attaining the Professional license; therefore, the spirit of the Advisory Committee's earlier vote for one level of licensure is preserved.)

Motion: to adopt an entry-level license whose term is equivalent to the entry level license for preK-12:

Vote: 10-0

Committee members were encouraged to send specific comments on the drafts of the Regulations and Guidelines to Mary Jayne so they may be considered in the redrafting of documents for the December meeting.

5) **Specialty Licenses**

Given the number of responses from the field regarding specialty licenses, the Committee discussed whether or not to revisit the issue of specialty licenses:

Motion: If further study confirms that ABE should develop additional certifications, it should be revisited at that time.

Vote: 6-2

6) **Next Meeting**

December 8th, at DOE, from 10-2 p.m. in room 3A.

Note: The January Board of Education meeting is 1/23/00. Time and location forthcoming.