

MINUTES
COUNCIL ON TEACHER EDUCATION MEETING
March 18, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ekaterina Arshavskaya, Carrie Bala, Jessica Baxter, Curtis Benjamin, Lacey Boschetto, Jeni Buist, Steven Camicia, Greg Cox (for Lisa McLachlan), Marilyn Cuch, Amanda Dawson, Dennise Gackstetter, Sharla Hart, Tom Higbee, Jana Johnson (for Peter Mathesius), Brynja Kohler, Jessica Koltz, Max Longhurst, Kelli Munns, Lauri Nelson, Sylvia Read, Jessica Rivera-Mueller, Marla Robertson, Lynette Tervort, Nate Trauntvein, Greg Wheeler

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Paul Barr, Nichelle Frank, Spencer Holmgren, Chloe Richmond, Allison Riddle

GUESTS: Bobbi Crabtree, Jayne Gold, Julia Lyman, Darcie Peterson

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Approval of Minutes: <https://usu.box.com/s/c3pzig1buw86kvili2nv2xs7e2b17vzck>
Minutes for February 2024 were approved as written.

Information/Discussion Items:

1. USBE Updates – *Greg Cox*

Pedagogical Performance Assessment

Sylvia Read said that during the legislative session, House Bill 208 was passed, and that bill called on the State Board of Education to explore other pathways to licensure including ones that might be degree agnostic or competency based. Inside that bill was language stating that USBE could no longer require a pedagogical performance assessment. What they meant by that was a paid third party performance assessment that costs money; in our case the PPAT. Therefore, we will not be requiring the PPAT going forward this fall. There will be procedures put in place so that we can get an alternative approved by the state Superintendent. Sylvia said she already has a draft going for a work sample/capstone that would replace the PPAT. Brynja Kohler asked if the work sample would be handled in TEAL or in the disciplines, or a combination of both. Sylvia said it would be a combination because we know that it is important that those in the disciplines be connected to students and student teaching and know the outcomes of their students. It would also be beneficial to have the disciplines included to balance out the workload, especially if they have their own student teaching seminar. Sylvia said the state came out with 37 general teacher preparation competencies, so she has gone through them and matched every single one of those competencies either to an observation instrument or to a work sample. Once we get these teacher work samples developed, they will be sent to Jennifer Prince at the USBE for the Superintendent's approval. Sylvia said her intention is to create something that doesn't require as much time and emotional energy in student teaching seminar as the PPAT did, so there is time to teach about other topics such as educator ethics, classroom management, and interviewing for jobs. There is an expectation that we will have one central instrument with common measures. We may need additional rows on a rubric for some programs/majors, but we do need to have some common measures. So far, it will basically include lesson plans, assessment data to inform their instruction, and critical reflection about how it went. We may want to add in a professional growth plan so they are setting goals for their future, so that it mirrors the new assessment that will be out there for teachers in Utah, which is going to be very much goal oriented and growth oriented. There are pieces of it that they might be able to complete just prior to student teaching. We need to make sure we have a common data collection point, so we don't miss any of the

data for state approval, licensure, and accreditation. Marilyn Cuch, Jessica Rivera-Mueller, and Lacey Boschetto expressed interest in serving on the work sample committee.

Greg Cox shared that they have been having conversations with APPEL programs and LEA's trying to figure out what is going to be best for them as well as trying to figure out when this is implemented, what schools still plan to use the PPA as a tool and what competencies that PPA would work towards. Once they develop those competencies, they will be able to have a better pathway forward as to what we can do in place of the PPAT. They have been thinking about micro credentials, but a lot of things are still up in the air right now and they are still trying to decipher what the legislature really wants from this. Greg indicated Malia Hite said the USBE will be accepting PPAT exams without a cut score for the 2023-2024 academic year as a basis for licensure recommendations. Sylvia said our students will still need to complete Task 4 of the PPAT this semester because they must complete the entire assessment, even if there is no cut score.

Foundations of Reading Test

Sylvia Read shared that we now have a Foundations of Reading cut score, and it is 240. Students who are graduating spring semester 2024 and are going to be recommended for licensure before September 1, 2024 just need to have taken the exam. If students graduate after August 31, they will be required to pass the exam with a score of 240 or higher. There will be three options for bringing up their score if it is below 240. The first one is retaking the whole Foundations of Reading test again. The second option is a flex option where Pearson allows a student to resubmit the essay portion of the Foundations of Reading test, and get that portion rescored to increase their score. Malia Hite will be working on getting this option activated for Utah. The third option is a set of micro credentials that Jen Thronson would like to have set up so that we could look at their sub scores on the Foundations of Reading test and determine which micro credential they needed to do according where their scores showed weakness.

Programs will be evaluated for their performance on reaching a 75% pass rate on the Foundations of Reading test based on the 2024-2025 school year data, not on the data that has been collected while there was no cut score. The data will be disaggregated by programs for special education, early childhood education, and elementary education, so each program will be looked at separately.

2. Updates to the student teaching evaluation are about to begin. The new version will be aligned with the 2022 version of the Utah Effective Teaching Standards as well as the General Teacher Preparation Competencies. Julia Lyman and Sharla Hart are on the committee to revise our student teaching observation instrument. Sylvia Read is chairing that committee, which includes representation from other university-based teacher preparation programs in Utah.
3. District Feedback – *Jeni Buist, Lynette Tervort*

Jeni Buist said the main thing going on for them right now is they are getting close to that period of time for educators that involves retirement, renewal, non-renewals, resignations, transfers, etc. She said it didn't look like, as far as special education goes, they would be doing a lot of hiring. She thought it was similar in the rest of their departments. Their teachers seem to be staying with them for a while longer.

Lynette Tervort said they have a lot of kindergarten round up activity going on. She said not too many teachers are leaving her school. Sylvia Read asked if all of the teachers in Box Elder District had completed the LETRS program. She said most of the teachers were about done. Sylvia asked if she was hearing any conversation changes in relation to the LETRS program. Lynette said they talk about it quite often in their group and their coaches bring it up frequently as well. She also pushes it in her own teams.

4. Northern Utah UniServ Updates – *Curtis Benjamin*

Curtis Benjamin shared information about HB 221, regarding the stipend for student teachers. He appreciated our students who came and testified before the committee concerning this bill and it made a big difference. A lot of people he talked to after the bill passed said that we should have done this sooner.

HB 285 was also a big priority for them. It was concerning public sector labor unions. It would have taken away payroll deduction as a method of paying dues. It got tailored back to just having their members announce once per year that they would like to have that happen. It would also restrict or at least put them in parity with other groups for use of the building. That would make things interesting for him and their representatives to coordinate use of the building. HB 285 would have also had our locals recertify every 5 years to bargain on behalf of educators. Talking about a bill so specific to unions and associations is important to future educators to ensure that it is easier not harder to belong and have their voices heard.

He also gave information concerning SB 173 which was about the performance pay component in market-based salaries. Teachers in the top 25% would receive additional money according to their performance. Each district will have to decide if they want to participate, design their rubric and what their high demand subjects would be. Curtis was not sure what it was going to look like strategically. UEA was opposed to it. He also said they were in support of giving Speech Language Pathologists \$4,100 per year.

Curtis said the association just announced their official position against SJR 10, which is the constitutional amendment we will be voting on in November to decide whether or not income tax revenue will be used for all other expenses of the government rather than just public education, higher education, special needs, and children. Curtis said he didn't know what that will look like rolling out, but the UEA Board decision was unanimous. Curtis said he also works with individuals who have received non-renewal letters or transfers and walking them through the process of where to go next.

5. Educator Licensing Newsletter for March 2024:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mhjSMVjqWdAyf2hPOXdTWK8SL9u8FG5WYEFi9I5VKjg/edit>

Next meeting: April 15, 2024