

TEUPAC Meeting Minutes – March 20, 2023 on Zoom 3:00-4:00 pm

In Attendance: Patty Recchio, Keli Garas-York, Sherri Weber, Heather Lyon, Jim Maloney, Raquel Schmidt, Rosemary Arioli, Andrew Hashey, Michelle Gallagher, Fran Paskowitz, Corinne Kindzierski, Aakta Patel, Pixita del Prado Hill, Joe Zawicki, and Wynnie Fisher.

- I. PDS Updates
 - a. Leadership Change – Sherri Weber and Pixita del Prado Hill will be the PDS co-directors.
 - b. PDS Meeting on May 3 – 9:30-11:30 at Erie 1 BOCES
 - c. PDS Conference (10-4-24) Call for Proposals – Due June 1st
 - d. Rosemary Arioli – Requesting CTLE credit for all upcoming PD sessions.
 - i. PDS Co-directors can check out the Teacher Certification website for more information.
- II. Feedback Professional Certification Proposal
 - a. Establish multiple, rigorous pathways for teachers to meet the education requirement for the Professional Certificate. The pathways would be:

An acceptable master’s degree in pedagogy, the subject area of the certificate sought, or a related area, OR

A National Board certificate in the subject area of the certificate sought, OR

Graduate level courses and/or NYSED-approved credentials in pedagogy, the subject area of the certificate sought, and/or a related area, that total at least 450 clock hours (3 SH = 45 clock hours). The credentials would be issued by a NYS school district, BOCES, or IHE with a teacher preparation program.

 - i. Patty Recchio helped to clarify a question about the National Board Certification as an option for professional certification from Heather Lyon
 - ii. Heather Lyon – an advocate of choice, but the passing of this proposal will potentially fundamentally change teachers’ contracts for school districts.
 - a. Conversation about the 450 clock hours in option three not being close to the approximately 700 hours required by the state and approximately 1200 hours adhered to by SUNY.
 - iii. Jim Maloney discussed how it seems the state is taking teachers down a few notches as professionals with this proposal. Small schools will have difficulty planning PD required with option three and the state may not be timely in assisting with programs and how they will be evaluated or approved. We can count on BOCES somewhat, but this could be very destructive for the teaching profession. Higher education has to go through all sorts of things like accreditation. In Maryvale, teachers were always putting in requests for professional development hours. This could prove to be very laborious for district curriculum offices that have to approve and/or develop and implement PD. Approval of this proposal will also cause issues with salary scales.
 - iv. Fran Paskowitz asked why the state was doing this. Raquel Schmidt cited NYC’s acute teaching shortage and that she was concerned that this would cause more inequities by having teachers with master’s degrees going to

more affluent school districts while other districts may end up with less prepared teachers. Patty Recchio shared the official objectives listed with the proposal (November 6, 2023):

- a. Department is now considering potential changes to the certification system that would:
 - i. • Further simplify the certification process;
 - ii. • Remove significant barriers to certification that have accrued over generations;
 - iii. • Expand pathways to certification that will welcome qualified individuals of diverse backgrounds into the profession;
 - iv. • Expand opportunities for practice of pedagogical and content knowledge; and
 - v. • Ensure teacher and leader preparation and continuing professional development supports a sustainable educator pipeline and is aligned with the urgent need to lift student achievement and achieve equity in our learning environments.
- v. Heather Lyon discussed how their district gives teachers PD credit for a book study, but that would not be equivalent to a master's course. She wondered about the infrastructure and who would create it.
- vi. Patty Recchio pointed out that a teacher has to have a master's degree for administrative certification, so this might discourage people from wanting to be school administrators.
- vii. Fran Paskowitz noted that the only way she sees this working is with school district/higher education partnering because school districts are not equipped to handle this. Fran also wondered what we could do.
- viii. Raquel Schmidt was concerned that the listening tours were not really taking suggestions into consideration and mentioned the importance of making parents aware of this.
- ix. Heather Lyon wanted to know why this was happening and where this was coming from. She stated that was to help the teacher shortage, that it didn't make sense to do away with the master's degree requirement as teachers do not typically quit the profession because they have to get a master's degree, but more so that they are feeling unprepared or unsupported, but a master's degree would help with that.
- x. Fran discussed the benefits of Buffalo State's MITTC program.
- xi. Andrew Hashey shared this if people want their voices to be heard regarding this topic: Just wanted to make you aware that NYACTE posted its call for endorsing [its position statement](#) regarding NYSED's proposed revisions to the certification regulations yesterday. Fill out the [endorsement form](#).

III. Feedback on School Literacy Programs

- a. Heather Lyon – Most districts are moving away from Units of Study to programs with greater levels of phonics and phonemic awareness. However, in the transition it has been noticed that while the Units of Study were writing intensive, newer programs are not as intense in the area of writing and it is more embedded. Many families have advocated for change.
- b. Aakta Patel – Kindergarten, First, Second Grades – Orton Gillingham – core program - comprehension questions included with decodable texts. RTI is provided at different rates – OG – skill-based. Step Up to Writing is also used.

IV. Feedback for PDS

- a. No feedback