

Minnesota Association of Colleges for Teacher Education

Dr. Rhonda Bonnsetter, President
rhonda.bonnsetter@smsu.edu 507-227-1459

Bob Utke, Executive Assistant
bobjutke@gmail.com 612-759-7878

MACTE Minute – September 2019

MACTE is excited to work collaboratively with PELSB in support of their goals of growing and strengthening Minnesota’s educator workforce, increasing the racial and ethnic diversity of the educator workforce, and incorporating the voices of diverse stakeholders in advancing board work and initiatives. We will continue to provide input on revisions to the unit standards and the Standards of Effective Practice, and we look forward to the opportunity to work with other stakeholders to create high quality program standards that elevate the teaching profession.

One of our legislative priorities for the coming year will be to seek a change to Tiered Licensure to close the loophole allowing for those with three years of teaching experience on a Tier 2 license (with no improvement plan) to move to a Tier 3 professional license without ever documenting that the candidate has met the standards of this board. We find it unconscionable that the legislature would ask PELSB to issue a license to any candidate without documentation of meeting professional standards; this is not allowed for other professions, from doctors and lawyers to cosmetologists, and should not be an option for those teaching our students in PreK-grade 12 classrooms. We believe that candidates who are teaching on a Tier 2 license for two years with up to three renewals have ample opportunity to provide documentation of meeting licensure standards through the licensure by portfolio pathway, if they choose not to work through a traditional or alternative preparation program. This is contrary to the board’s stated goals of strengthening the educator workforce while elevating the profession. MACTE is also concerned that this provision will put Minnesota in jeopardy of losing federal Special Education funding. As part of the application completed annually for IDEA part B funding, states must assure that all teachers are professionally licensed. If emergency hires are teaching students with disabilities, the state must provide assurance that all Tier 1 licensed special educators hold a bachelor’s degree and are enrolled in a preparation program by the end of their first year. This means that a Tier 1 license cannot be renewed, and a Tier 2 license must move to a Tier 3 within three years, if Minnesota districts are to retain IDEA part B funding in the future. Thus, PELSB may need to consider revising Tier 2 licensure to one renewal to stay within this federal timeframe.

MACTE will advocate that PELSB seek changes in rule that would allow candidates to use PELSB approved passing scores on the edTPA (Teacher Performance Assessment) as an option to meet the assessment requirements for the pedagogy standards. The edTPA has a solid research base to show that candidates who score well on this performance assessment will be effective in the classroom. Minnesota candidates face some of the highest costs in the nation for assessment and licensure; allowing passing edTPA scores to meet the pedagogy requirement would provide some financial relief to our candidates.

We know that PELSB has a challenging year ahead as it tackles important updates to standards in teacher preparation; our MACTE members are “ready, willing, and able” to offer our experience and expertise as stakeholders in support of this important work.