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Action

Professional Practices Committee

Paper Screening of Applications for the Committee of Credentials

Executive Summary: The Professional Practices Committee will review applications for one (1) elementary teacher position on the Committee of Credentials. This position became vacant on June 30, 2004.

Recommended Action: Selection of qualified applicants to interview at the September 2004 Commission meeting.

Presenter: Mary Armstrong, Director
Division of Professional Practices

Paper Screening of Applications for the Committee of Credentials

Introduction

Staff was notified after the June 3, 2004 Commission meeting that the elementary teacher position on the Committee of Credentials had become vacant due to the retirement of the incumbent. Applications were prepared and distributed. A postmark date of July 16, 2004 as the deadline for the submission of applications was set.

The Professional Practices Committee is responsible for "receiving and evaluating" applications for appointment to the Committee. Following the review of the applications at the August 2004 Commission meeting, the most qualified applicants will be invited for personal interviews which will be conducted at the Commission's September 30, 2004 through October 1, 2004 meeting.

Staff respectfully recommends that members of the Professional Practices Committee review and evaluate the written applications for appointment in order to determine which of the applicants for the elementary teacher position to invite for personal interviews at the September 30, 2004 through October 1, 2004 Commission meeting.

Background

The Committee of Credentials (Committee) is a statutorily created body whose seven members are appointed by the Commission. By statute the Committee is responsible for initiating all investigations into allegations of misconduct by credential holders and applicants. In order to ensure a high level of public confidence in California teachers and other credentialed public school employees, the Commission and the committee monitor the moral fitness and professional conduct of credential applicants and holders.

While only the Commission can take any adverse action against a credential, jurisdiction to *initiate* disciplinary action is vested in the Committee by both statute and regulation. The statutes and regulations dealing with the Committee's operations allow the Committee to conduct investigations which result in a finding of whether probable cause exists to recommend adverse action to the Commission.

All Committee-recommended discipline is subject to challenge and appeal by the credential holder or applicant and final approval by the Commission.

Summary and Recommendations

Staff recommends that the Professional Practices Committee review and evaluate the written applications for appointment to the Committee of Credentials in order to determine which of the applicants for the elementary teacher position vacancy to invite for oral interviews at the September 30, 2004 through October 1, 2004 Commission meeting.

Fiscal and Workplan Impact

Costs associated with the selection process are part of the base budget of the Division of Professional Practices. These include the costs of travel and accommodations for interviewees.