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## Action

### *Professional Practices Committee*

#### **Committee of Credentials: Expiration of Terms and Declaration of Vacancy**

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**Executive Summary:** This agenda item presents information on the availability of incumbents for reappointment to the Secondary Teacher and two of the public representative positions. The Commission will determine whether the positions shall be declared vacant or the incumbent(s) reappointed.

**Recommended Action:** Staff recommends that the Commission reappoint the Secondary Teacher incumbent for an additional term and declare the two public representative positions vacant as of June 30, 2009.

**Presenter:** Mary Armstrong, Director, Division of Professional Practices

**Strategic Plan Goal: 1**

**Promote educational excellence through the preparation and certification of professional educators.**

- ◆ Evaluate and monitor the moral fitness of credential applicants and holders and take appropriate action

December 2008

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# Committee of Credentials: Expiration of Term and Declaration of Vacancy

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## **Introduction**

The obligations of the Professional Practices Committee and the Commission relative to the Committee of Credentials are set forth in the Commission's Policy Manual. This item summarizes those obligations and presents information concerning the vacancy, application and selection process utilized in prior years.

## **Background**

The Commission and its appointed Committee of Credentials review individuals for fitness to receive and/or retain credentials. In addition, the Commission distributes information regarding the actions taken to all public and private schools and school districts in California and every other state in the nation.

The Committee of Credentials is required by law to investigate all allegations of misconduct against credential applicants and holders. It is comprised of seven members appointed by the Commission and consists of one elementary teacher, one secondary teacher, one school board member, one school administrator, and three public representatives.

The Committee of Credentials meets three days each month at the offices of the Division of Professional Practices in Sacramento. Members review more than 600 cases at various levels of review each month.

The Commission's Professional Practices Committee is responsible for informing "the Commission when vacancies occur or may be expected to occur on the Committee of Credentials." [CTC Policy Manual, section 500] *The term of the secondary teacher member expires on March 14, 2009. The current incumbent in this position is Martin Ledesma. The terms of two of the three public representatives expire on June 30, 2009.*

The Commission's Policy Manual states that "Prior to publicly announcing a vacancy, the Committee shall inquire, in writing, as to the availability of incumbents to serve an additional term" [CTC Policy Manual, section 500(a)]. Pursuant to this provision, an inquiry regarding the availability of the eligible incumbent was sent on October 23, 2008. Mr. Ledesma has served one two-year term and has expressed his willingness to serve an additional term.

The Policy Manual also provides that no member shall serve more than two successive two-year terms [CTC Policy Manual 503(a)]. Both of the public representatives, Dr. Sylvia Whitlock and Dr. Wesley Apker, whose terms expire on June 30, 2009, have each served four two-year terms. The Policy Manual's term limits were previously waived because there had been several unexpected vacancies on the Committee and the

Commission indicated that the Committee would benefit from the continuity and experience of the incumbents. The current composition of the Committee and the terms are as follows:

### **Committee of Credentials Members**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Term Expires</b>
WESLEY APKER	Public Representative 06-30-2009
DAVID BRADLEY	Elementary Teacher 10-06-2009
BARBARA KILPONEN	School Board Member 06-30-2010
MARK RICKABAUGH	School Administrator 06-30-2010
SYLVIA V. WHITLOCK	Public Representative 06-30-2009
RITA BIANCHI	Public Representative 06-30-2010
MARTIN LEDESMA	Secondary Teacher 03-14-2009

Because both Dr. Whitlock and Dr. Apker have exceeded the term limits currently provided for in the Policy Manual. Inquiries were not made about their availability for further appointment.

#### **Staff Recommendation**

In order to provide continuity on the Committee, staff recommends that the Commission reappoint incumbent Martin Ledesma for an additional two-year term as the secondary teacher member and declare the two public representative positions vacant. Staff should be directed to begin the process of advertising for candidates for these positions who will be interviewed by the Ad Hoc Committee in March, 2009.