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Action

Professional Practices Committee

Committee of Credentials Vacancies for 2009-10 and Proposal to Adjust Terms of Appointment

Executive Summary: The Committee will review the terms of the current members of the Committee of Credentials and determine whether to reappoint, extend or declare vacancies for the school board member, public representative, administrative employee and elementary school teacher positions.

Recommended Action: Staff recommends that the Commission extend the terms of the secondary and elementary school teacher members, school board member and administrative employee member and declare the public representative and elementary school teacher positions vacant effective June 30, 2010.

Presenter: Mary Armstrong, Director, Division of Professional Practices

Strategic Plan Goal(s): 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

August 2009

Committee of Credentials Vacancies for 2009-10 and Proposal to Adjust Terms of Appointment

Introduction

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

Background

The Commission and its appointed Committee 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 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 administrative employee, and three public representatives.

The Committee 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, § 500] The term of the elementary teacher member expires on October 30, 2009. The current incumbent in this position is David Bradley. The terms of one of the three public representatives (Rita Bianchi) and the administrative employee (Mark Rickabaugh) expire on June 30, 2010. All three of these members have served multiple terms. The term of the School Board Member Barbara Kilponen, expires on December 30, 2009. Ms. Kilponen has served one term.

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, § 500(a)]. Pursuant to this provision, an inquiry regarding the availability of the eligible incumbent was sent on October 23, 2008. Ms. Kilponen has served one two-year term and has expressed her willingness to serve an additional term. She was also asked if she would be willing to extend her reappointed term to a June 30, 2012 end date. An inquiry was also sent to Mr. Bradley and Mr. Ledesma asking if they would each be willing to extend their terms to a June 30, 2010 and June 30, 2011 end date, respectively.

The Policy Manual also provides that no member shall serve more than two successive two-year terms [CTC Policy Manual § 503(a)]. The Policy Manual's term limits have

been waived in the past when the Commission determined that the Committee would benefit from the continuity and experience of incumbents. Ms. Bianchi, the public representative, whose term expires on June 30, 2010, is in her fourth two-year term. Mr. Rickabaugh, the administrative employee and current Chair of the Committee, is in his third two-year term. In each case the term limits were waived due to the vacancies of other members of the Committee.

Previously the terms of the Committee Members expired on June 30. However because several past members were unable to serve complete terms, Ms. Kilponen, Mr. Ledesma and Mr. Bradley were all appointed mid-term and have different term ending dates. The Policy Manual also provides in § 503 that “At least one new member shall be appointed each year, but in the interest of continuity and stability, not more than three members should be replaced in one year (§ 503(b)) and that “terms of appointment shall commence on July 1 and shall expire on June 30, except that an appointment to fill an unexpired term may be made effective upon the first day that a position becomes vacant.”

Staff proposes to bring the composition of the Committee in conformance with the Policy Manual. In order to accomplish this, the terms of the elementary school teacher and the secondary school teacher would be extended to a June 30 end date in 2010 and 2011 respectively. The term of the administrative employee member would be extended one year to provide continuity on the Committee.

Committee of Credentials Members

The current and proposed composition of the Committee and the terms are as follows:

Name	Current Term	Proposed Term
DAVID BRADLEY Elementary Teacher	10-30-2009	Extend to 06-30-10 Declare Vacant as of 07-01-2010
BARBARA KILPONEN School Board Member	12-30-2009	Extend to 06-30-2010 Reappoint until 06-30-2012
RITA BIANCHI Public Representative	06-30-2010	Declare vacant as of 07-01-2010
MARK RICKABAUGH Administrative Employee	06-30-2010	Extend to 06-30-2011
MARTIN LEDESMA Secondary Teacher	03-14-2011	Extend to 06-30-2011
MICHAEL KAUFFMAN Public Representative	06-30-2011	
RODONNA VAN PELT Public Representative	06-30-2011	

Staff Recommendation

In order to provide continuity on the Committee, staff recommends that the Commission (1) extend the terms of Mr. Bradley and Mr. Ledesma to June 30, 2010 and 2011 respectively and declare the position of the elementary school teacher currently held by Mr. Bradley vacant effective July 1, 2010; (2) extend the term of incumbent school board member Barbara Kilponen to June 30, 2010 and reappoint her to a second two-year term effective July 1, 2010; and (3) extend the current appointment of the administrative

employee, Mark Rickabaugh, to June 30, 2011 and declare the public representative position currently held by Ms. Bianchi vacant effective July 1, 2010.

Staff should be directed to begin the process of advertising for candidates for the vacant positions and to schedule interviews for the Ad Hoc Interview Committee in June, 2010.