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## Action

### *Professional Practices Committee*

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

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**Executive Summary:** The Professional Practices Committee will review the availability of incumbents for reappointment to the Administrator and Public Representative positions on the Committee of Credentials and make its determination whether the positions shall be declared vacant as of June 2008 or to reappoint the incumbents.

**Recommended Action:** Staff recommends that the Commission reappoint the incumbents for additional terms.

**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.

March 2008

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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 appointment process.

## **Background**

The Commission and its appointed Committee of Credentials review individuals to determine their 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 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 school administrator member expires on June 6, 2008. The current incumbent in this position is Mark Rickabaugh. The term of the public representative member expires on June 6, 2008. The current incumbent in this position is Rita Bianchi.

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)]. The Policy Manual also provides that no member shall serve more than four successive two year terms [CTC Policy Manual 503(a)]. Pursuant to this provision, an inquiry regarding the availability of the eligible incumbents was sent on February 6, 2008. Ms. Rita Bianchi, one of the current Public Representatives has expressed her desire to serve an additional term. Ms. Bianchi has served on the Committee since her appointment in August 2002. Mr. Mark Rickabaugh, the current school administrator, has also indicated his willingness to serve an additional term. Mr. Rickabaugh has served on the Committee since his appointment in July 2004.

The remaining members of the Committee on Credentials and their terms are listed below:

**COMMITTEE OF CREDENTIALS  
MEMBERS**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>
WESLEY APKER, Chair	Public Representative	06-30-2009*
SYLVIA V. WHITLOCK	Public Representative	06-30-2009*
BARBARA KILPONEN	School Board Member	12-09-2009
DAVID BRADLEY	Elementary Teacher	10-06-2009
MARTIN LEDESMA, Vice Chair	Secondary Teacher	03-14-2009

\*not eligible for reappointment for additional terms

**Staff Recommendation**

Staff recommends that the Commission reappoint incumbents Mark Rickabaugh to an additional two year term as the school administrator member and Rita Bianchi to an additional two year term as a public representative. The terms will commence July 1, 2008.