Meeting Minutes of the Professional Standards Council (PSC) November 11, 2020

Members Present:

Andrea Pasqualucci, Dana Ryan, Lisa Elliot, Kim Marsolek, Tracy Dobkoski, Mitra Fallahi, Lori St. Germain, Barbara Herzog, Rosanne Hahn

Members Not Present:

Matthew Wigdhal

Nonmembers:

DPI Attendees:

Sheila Briggs, David DeGuire, and Will Cannon

Meeting called to order at 9:05am by Kim Marsolek, PSC Chair. Will Cannon confirmed that the meeting had been properly noticed. The agenda was reviewed and unanimously approved.

The Chair welcomed the new members and referred everyone to the list of primary duties of the Council.

Assistant State Superintendent Sheila Briggs gave opening remarks, acknowledging that this is the most challenging time we have experienced in education and that she continues to be amazed by people's perseverance and creativity. She encouraged the Council to think about how to advise the State Superintendent, especially "outside the box" ideas when it comes to increasing our pipeline, how to best address the unique needs during COVID, and how education should be different after.

The election of Vice-Chair and approval of minutes from the Council's May 29, 2020, meeting were tabled due to lack of a quorum.

The Council discussed the updated Strategic Plan and a letter to the State Superintendent regarding meet and confer sessions. It was felt that the updates were correct. There was much discussion about the letter, including:

- It looks great and can be sent as is (several members)
- Not being able to support the part about having a teacher as a non-voting member on boards of education
- The value of teachers having full autonomy over their own professional development
- The difficulty in trying to legislate good leadership
- Nothing about kids is mentioned in this letter
- During the last meeting the Council approved sending the letter
- Feels like we are taking steps backwards

The Council decided to have the Chair make some edits to the letter and to schedule a 30 minute meeting to review and approve the revised letter.

David DeGuire, Director of the Teacher Education, Professional Development, and Licensing team provided an update on a coming PI 34 Emergency Rule:

- Emergency rules, once published, are in effect for 150 days. DPI can request 60-day extensions from the Legislature 2 times.
- Allow pre-student teaching to happen in non-school settings
- Provide flexibility on who can observe pre-student teaching and what those observations look like.
- Provide flexibility on who can be a cooperating teacher
- Remove requirement that at least one student teaching observation be in person
- Provide flexibility on written evaluations of student teachers.
- Allow short-term substitute assignments to be extended beyond 45 days if there is an evaluation of the assignment and consultation with the person in it.

Council members shared examples of school and district successes during the current pandemic.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:32 a.m.