

Buckheit, James

From: Buckheit, James
Sent: Thursday, December 14, 2006 3:32 PM
To: 'Betty McVeigh'
Subject: RE: Chapter 49.2 Proposed Changes

State Board of Education
 333 Market Street First Floor
 Harrisburg, PA 17126 0333
 December 14, 2006

RECEIVED
 2006 DEC 15 PM 2:25
 INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
 REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Sister Betty McVeigh:

Thank you for your letter received by the State Board of Education on December 11, 2006 regarding the proposed Chapter 49 Certification of Professional Personnel regulations.

Your letter is considered official public comment. As such copies are shared with each member of the State Board of Education, the chairs of the House and Senate Education Committees and Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC). Your letter is also considered a public document that may be publicly released upon request.

The Regulatory Review Act provides that notice regarding final regulations be provided to those who make official comment if requested. If you would like to receive a copy of the final-form regulation when it is submitted for final approval by the legislative committees and IRRC, please submit a written request to me at the address listed above.

Sincerely,

Jim Buckheit

Executive Director

-----Original Message-----

From: Betty McVeigh [mailto:mcveighb@neumann.edu]
Sent: Sunday, December 10, 2006 2:53 PM
To: j buckheit@state.pa.us
Cc: IRRC@irrc.state.pa.us
Subject: Chapter 49.2 Proposed Changes

To Whom It May Concern:

I am deeply grateful to all those involved in the process of updating Chapter 49.2. I can only imagine the time, talent, and effort put into this process over the past several years. I am also thankful for your request for comments. At the same time, I respectfully share my professional frustration of having the same questions and concerns un- answered as I (and many PAC-TE members) had over two years ago.

I want to express my strong support of strengthening programs for Early Childhood, Special Education, and English Language Learners, I realize the proposed changes to Chapter 49.2

are meant to improve these areas of teaching/learning. However, the proposed changes in reality may be the "death" of outstanding teacher education programs across our state.

There are several issues I want to highlight:

A. Timing of Implementation: To redesign or to add programs at the college level entails many steps in order to implement changes e.g Curriculum Proposal committee, Faculty Senate structure, budgetary process, advertizing and interviewing new faculty. Moving the date up to January 1, 2012 would afford us the time to implement needed changes

B. Portability Issues: The proposed changes will negatively impact the portability of PA certified elementary teachers and may encourage more future teachers to go out of state for their teacher preparation.

C. Staffing Concerns for school administrators: As a former elementary school principal for 19 years, I actually FEAR the staffing problems which will occur because of decreased certification flexibility in the public and private sectors. It also seems to limit the continued growth of teachers as human beings who may desire change for personal challenge and development.

D. Last - but actually first in my heart - is the "narrowing" of teacher preparation programs and its impact on our students. As coordinator of our First Year Students, coordinator of Field Experience from EDU 101 through EDU 461, and instructor of EDU 101: Teaching as a Profession at the beginning level as well as EDU 390: Math Methods at Neumann College in Aston, PA, I have witnessed over and over again how the students are SURE they know which grade or subject they want to teach only to see them change their perspective as they experience the breadth of school placements we offer our students e.g. Public, Private, Catholic, Charter, Special Ed classes and the various grade levels e.g. pre-school, primary, and middle. I believe that our students need BOTH breadth and depth in order to become outstanding teachers in today's inclusive classrooms. I am very concerned that we will be forcing our students to choose a "specialty" before they even know what options there are for them to focus on as they continue their professional development.

In advance, I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Sister Betty McVeigh, SSJ

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