

Title of Session: National Board Certification Support Group

Moderator: Gayle Britt

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Room: On Tap Café

GayleB: Let's start intros

GayleB: Are you both NB candidates?

KarenDec: I am Speech/Language Pathologist by training

BJB2 waves hi. My main connection to NBC is Gayle and my brother

JeffC: Previously I was the Education Technology Specialist for the College of Education at Pacific University. I was laid off due to budget cuts. I've volunteered on Helpdesk at Tapped In since it started in 1997.

KarenDec: State of Louisiana is/will be considering our ASHA accreditation as NBC

BJB2 likes to surround herself with brilliant people hoping it will rub off

GayleB: What is ASHA accreditation?

KarenDec: American Speech and Hearing Association Requires Masters degree...countless preparations and continuing ed hours, etc.

KarenDec: Many feel that ASHA-CCC certified people have done more than is necessary to be considered as candidates for National Certification

GayleB: I can certainly see that.

KarenDec: To earn CCC (Certificate of Clinical Competence) you must not only earn Masters at accredited universities, but also pass national exam, which is pretty tough. You must complete countless clinicals.

JeffC . o O (lots of work)

KarenDec: CCC is required for entry into many job places

JeffC will probably never be national board certified in anything.

GayleB: Jeff, tell us of your interest in NB

JeffC: I'm interested in helping educators reach their full potential.

KarenDec: I have a question

JeffC: I can help here at Tapped In and elsewhere with any issues relating to technology and curriculum integration and transformation.

GayleB: When I went through the NB process I felt it was the best staff development I've ever done.

GayleB: I had to hold myself against national standards and self evaluate.

GayleB: It was very powerful.

GayleB: Karen, please ask any questions.

KarenDec: For us, the standards are set. That is one difference I guess. But this self-evaluation seems to be the way things are going these days.

KarenDec: However, I have worked for a few decades with people who do not have standards and I just wonder how they would fair

JeffC: Have you thought about creating an online portfolio Karen?

GayleB: Yes, the National teaching standards are very similar to California teaching standards

KarenDec: Not really. I am so very busy as a principal right now...and also function as an athletic director, curriculum coordinator, disciplinarian, development director and even coach

KarenDec: that if I can manage to get home by 10 at night, I am doing VERY good

JeffC: Right... everything is extremely time consuming.

KarenDec: Don't mean to complain

KarenDec: It is just that I can't put myself first right now.

KarenDec: Come June, that will be easier and I might actually do that.

GayleB: But, I guess I hadn't really held my teaching up to teaching standards in depth until I did NB

KarenDec: Here is my question: Why did it say "Jeff will probably never be national board certified in anything." after I typed my comment. I didn't say that, but it was below my name.

KarenDec: Yes, Gayle, I do agree that for ethical and conscientious teachers, NB is a great tool for self-development and most of all, accountability

KarenDec: When we were ASHA certified, we did not participate in the process as you describe. Rather, someone else defined it for us. But I must say that I have rarely met a professional who did not hold very high standards if they had earned their CCC.

JeffC: I typed it Karen ... preceded by a colon : ... ex: Jeff waves :waves

JeffC waves

KarenDec: Then why doesn't your name come out in BLUE?

JeffC: because it's an action instead of a comment.

KarenDec: ok

GayleB: Karen, I can certainly relate to the lack of time.

KarenDec: Is there someone here who is the facilitator?

KarenDec: Or is this just some people who looked at the name of a topic and chose to see what others say?

JeffC: Gayle is the facilitator today.

KarenDec: For example, who is BJB

KarenDec: I saw that this topic was put together by someone,,,was that Gayle?

JeffC: Click her name in the "Here" tab and click the little "i" in the green circle.

BJB2: BJB is a helpdesk volunteer for Tapped In, Karen. Yes, Gayle leads this discussion each month.

JeffC: She's BJ Berquist

KarenDec: I clicked the I and it doesn't do anything

JeffC: Highlight her name first.

KarenDec: Did that too...highlighted the name

BJB2 doesn't think that bjb 2 has much of a description

JeffC: Click Bjb in the Online tab, then click the little "i"

KarenDec: nothing

KarenDec: maybe I have a problem

KarenDec: Earlier I did see someone else's page come up

JeffC: could be

GayleB: Speaking of time...I'm at school and students keep coming over to ask questions. I think they are settled now.

BJB2 . o O (school would be ok if the kids would stop bothering the teachers!)

GayleB laughs

GayleB: Let's go to the topic of NB. What would you all like to know?

JeffC: ok

KarenDec: I'd like to know what you know about NBC for Speech Therapists

KarenDec: If it passes in Louisiana, then not only teachers, but also Speech Therapists would be eligible

JeffC: Well... for me... I'm unemployed and not in any position to jump through the hoops for national certification. Unless there's a program for unemployed techies who know how to facilitate online learning.

GayleB: Frankly, I did not know there was one available. At Stanford where I mentor candidates we have not had a Speech Therapist. Do you know if one is available? The list is on the NB website and I will certainly go look.

GayleB: Jeff, there is NB certification in technology/career, I believe.

KarenDec: Once again, what is happening in Louisiana is that SLP's are trying to get the state to agree that they automatically should be certified.

JeffC: Yeah... but I'm unemployed... no Masters... just knowledge.

KarenDec: Of course, this is all tied into a pay raise, which is why it is an issue

KarenDec: 10 year certificate

KarenDec: \$5000 salary supplement

KarenDec: I don't know if that is per year or per decade

JeffC: wouldn't be much of a raise if it were per decade.

GayleB: California gives an incentive of \$10,000

JeffC: that's cool

KarenDec: Application fee is \$2300. State offers grant of \$2000. In California, is that \$10,000 per year?

GayleB: the website is: <http://www.nbpts.org/>

JeffC: probably a one time stipend

KarenDec: Would have to be at the end of a season

KarenDec: There is no way that would be paid up front and then a person quits

GayleB: Yes, but many school districts give a small salary increase for it?

JeffC: they should

GayleB: There is a window open now to sign up.

GayleB: Used to people had to wait until Fall, but now people can start in the Spring and have the summer to write

GayleB: People who started last Fall must submit their portfolio by March 30

KarenDec: I went to that website

KarenDec: nbpts.org

KarenDec: Is this an organization that 'approves' what is necessary for certification?

JeffC: There's a site that facilitates online portfolio creation... <http://www.theospi.org/>

GayleB: Whether or not a teacher attains a certain level of excellence as established by national teaching standards determine certification

KarenDec: Who makes final decision?

GayleB: The 4 point rubric is based on the national teaching standards and one must score 2.75 to certify.

GayleB: The portfolios are scored by peers

GayleB: At least seven different people score.

KarenDec: Would the scorers be from the candidate's school? Administrator? County supervisors? Who is part of the team?

GayleB: Teachers apply to be scorers and go through some training before spending several days scoring.

KarenDec: But there must be 'teams' set up in each school system, right?

GayleB: No, not at schools. This is a national process.

GayleB: I was the first teacher at my school to be NB certified.

GayleB: The district did pay the application fee.

JeffC: You could have your district team meet here Karen.

JeffC: In your office, with threaded discussions, and transcripts from the meetings.

GayleB: But

GayleB: at some schools a group of teachers go for it together

GayleB: It is good to do it with a group.

KarenDec: How subjective is this?

KarenDec: Our CCC assessment was very objective

KarenDec: That only makes it fair

KarenDec: And things are even across the board

GayleB: I don't believe it is subjective.

KarenDec: So how much \$\$\$ do you get?

GayleB: In my candidate groups we support each other by viewing video tapes and reading each other's entries.

GayleB: We only comment in conjunction with the standards.

JeffC: Do you meet online Gayle?

GayleB: No, we meet at Stanford. I was hoping to get something going here in TI.

JeffC nods

GayleB: There are two parts to submit

GayleB: One is the portfolio

KarenDec: So I presume the standards being national, are very standardized so gathering online could be beneficial?

GayleB: The other is an assessment.

GayleB: When the portfolio is done in March we begin studying for the assessment

GayleB: I work with the social studies group so we review history

JeffC: Gayle, have you heard about the Social Studies Forum here? You might want to join that.

GayleB: There will be six 30 minute exercises: Documents, Population Movements, Systems, Social Movements, Resources, Conflict

GayleB: Jeff, I will let the candidates know about that

JeffC: The facilitator, Michael Hutchison... was national teacher of the year.

GayleB: Exercise 1 - Documents: Teachers will identify and analyze the topic of an historical document, issues relevant to the creation of the document, and the motivation of the author for creating the document

JeffC: Check out MichaelH 's profile if you want more info.

KarenDec: What percentage of candidates fail the assessment...you said that you study?

KarenDec: It seems like there is real life review of a portfolio

GayleB: About 50% gain certification in one year

KarenDec: And then there is this 'test'?

GayleB: Others will retake sections with scores less than 2.75

GayleB: It isn't really failing. It just takes longer for some. By doing the process a teacher improves her/his teaching

GayleB: Yes, NB has two parts: a teaching portfolio, and an exam

GayleB: It is a very rigorous process

KarenDec: You passed the first time

GayleB: The portfolio takes from 200 to 400 hours

JeffC: ouch

KarenDec: I am participating in this discussion as part of a class I am taking in Educational Technology

KarenDec: They indicated that the discussion would last for an hour

KarenDec: Will all of us receive a transcript of it?

GayleB: Yes, I hope it was helpful

KarenDec: Thanks for your input

GayleB: Karen and Jeff, I hope you'll pursue NB certification.

BJB2: thanks, Gayle!

GayleB: See you in April

KarenDec: Good bye