

**Title of Session:** National Board Certification Support Group

**Moderator:** Gayle Britt

**Title of File:** 20050523nbc

**Date:** May 23, 2005

Room: On Tap Café

**BarbaraWo** joined the room.

**GayleB:** Hi Barbara,

**BJB2:** Hi, Barbara. Welcome

**BarbaraWo:** Hi

**GayleB:** Are you here for National Board

**BarbaraWo:** yes I am

**GayleB:** Great

**BarbaraWo:** thanks

**GayleB:** Are you a candidate?

**BarbaraWo:** Not yet

**BarbaraWo:** this is my first chat

**BarbaraWo:** are you the moderator?

**GayleB:** Yes, I am.

**GayleB:** We'll wait a couple of minutes for formal intros

**BarbaraWo:** how many people typically join these chats?

**BJB2:** depends on the phase of the moon, Barbara

**GayleB:** Since this discussion is usually last Monday of the month and was changed I don't think we'll have many today

**GayleB:** While waiting for others to come you may want to check out the National Board website at <http://www.nbpts.org/>

**GayleB:** Barbara, let's start. I'm Gayle Britt, a National Board certified teacher, and am the moderator for this discussion.

**BJB2:** do you need that url again, Barbara?

**BarbaraWo:** I will get it later, thanks.

**BJB2:** Barbara, go to the actions menu in the top right of the chat window and click on DETACH

**BJB2:** that will make it easier for you to read the chat

**BarbaraWo:** ok, thanks.

**GayleB:** Please tell us of your interest in National Board.

**BarbaraWo:** This is my ninth year teaching and I have already received a masters degree. However, I don't think that did much to improve my teaching.

**AnthonyRe** joined the room.

**GayleB:** What subject and grade do you teach?

**GayleB:** Hi Anthony

**AnthonyRe:** Hello

**GayleB:** Are you here for National Board? We are just introducing ourselves.

**BarbaraWo:** I have taught 8th grade physical science for 7 years. This year I am teaching 7th grade Language Arts.

**AnthonyRe:** Yes, I am just curious about this chat. I teach middle school social studies.

**GayleB:** Great. I teach 7th grade language arts and social studies.

**GayleB:** My National Board certification is in Early Adolescent History/Social Studies.

**BarbaraWo:** I have spoken to a couple of people who have become certified and they said that it was a lot of work but well worth it.

**AnthonyRe:** Is this chat for teachers wanting to become certified or wishing to help others become certified?

**GayleB:** Or for those who just want some info.

**GayleB:** Have either of you checked out NB before?

**BarbaraWo:** I briefly checked out the website a month or so ago.

**GayleB:** Barbara, I believe the NB certification process is the best staff development I've ever done.

**BarbaraWo:** That is what I hear. It also sounds like you can't skate through it, like other programs out there.

**GayleB:** I mentor other teachers going through the process and have watched huge changes happen.

**BarbaraWo:** My understanding is that it involves a lot of introspection of ones teaching styles and strategies.

**GayleB:** Teachers examine their own teaching against national standards

**BarbaraWo:** Is it specific to what you teach or more about how you teach?

**GayleB:** On the website you can find standards for your specific subject area.

**GayleB:** It seems that you could choose science or LA

**GayleB:** Or even general

**BarbaraWo:** I am more comfortable with the science at this point. General, huh? That also sounds interesting.

**BarbaraWo:** It takes about a year, correct?

**GayleB:** Yes, General is K-8

**BarbaraWo:** I guess I have you all to myself.

**GayleB:** While science would either be early adolescent (ages 11 to 15) or

**BarbaraWo:** Does your district count this as a master's degree?

**GayleB:** AYA - for high school

**GayleB:** Yes, my district gave me a salary raise for getting NB in addition to the one I already had for a master's

**BarbaraWo:** Is the program all online, or do you meet with actual people?

**GayleB:** Each district is different. Which state are you from

**BarbaraWo:** I am in California, where are you?

**GayleB:** You can do it all by yourself, but many candidates attend local support groups.

**GayleB:** I'm in CA too - in the SF Bay Area and you?

**BarbaraWo:** I am in Cupertino

**GayleB:** There's a support group that meets at Stanford

**BarbaraWo:** That would work.

**GayleB:** They are just about to start a new group. If you give me your email I'll email you the info

**BarbaraWo:** Does having this make it easier to move from state to state?

**GayleB:** Yes. It is recognized by most states.

**BarbaraWo:** Did you say you earned yours in Social Studies?

**GayleB:** There is an informational meeting coming up soon so I'll email you tonight.

**BarbaraWo:** That would be great!

**BarbaraWo:** Is it more about your styles than your content?

**GayleB:** No. When you go to the NB website, look at the 5 propositions of good teaching.

**BarbaraWo:** Ok. How long have you been teaching? What made you want to do this?

**GayleB:** Good teachers know their subject area and how to teach it.

**GayleB:** I've been teaching 20 years. I am always looking for new ways to improve my teaching.

**GayleB:** Even now I work at the Stanford support group mentoring candidates, because I learn so much from the candidates.

**EmilyW** joined the room.

**BarbaraWo:** I am in the middle of a pilot technology program for language arts, but I will probably be back in science next year. It gets frustrating when you don't get the time to get good at something and then get moved.

**GayleB:** Hi Emily

**BarbaraWo:** Hello Emily

**EmilyW:** Hi

**GayleB:** I know what you mean, Barbara.

**GayleB:** Emily, are you here for NB discussion?

**EmilyW:** yes, but I am not really sure what it is about

**BJB2:** Emily, National Board Certification is for teachers

**GayleB:** I'm Gayle Britt, the moderator for this discussion. I'm NB certified in History/Social Studies.

**GayleB:** Yes, instead of a State teaching certificate...you can earn a national board teaching cert.

**EmilyW:** oh ok

**GayleB:** You have to have been teaching for three years (so people have State certification) to be able to apply for NB.

**BarbaraWo:** Who do you report to while you are in the program.

**EmilyW:** I wasn't sure what NB does

**EmilyW:** or was

**GayleB:** The NB sends you a box with all your instructions for your portfolio. You work at your own pace, but everything is due mid March.

**GayleB:** Then you sign up at a testing center to take an exam.

**GayleB:** That window is usually March-June.

**BarbaraWo:** I understand that for the most part it involves videotaping yourself teaching and analyzing how you teach. Is this correct?

**BarbaraWo:** Is the test on content, theory, or both?

**GayleB:** There are some other dates as well. These are the ones I'm most familiar with.

**GayleB:** Yes, Barbara you are correct. It is nice to go to a support group because we give each other feedback. The test is on both.

**BarbaraWo:** How many people are usually in the support group?

**GayleB:** It also keeps people moving forward.

**GayleB:** Because we set goals for each monthly meeting

**GayleB:** Depends on the subject area.

**BarbaraWo:** I see.

**GayleB:** In my social studies group I had 3

**BarbaraWo:** ok.

**GayleB:** In Language Arts there were nine.

**GayleB:** There were also a lot in science this year.

**BarbaraWo:** In reality, how much time (per week, per month etc.) would you need to spend on this? I tend to over commit myself and would have to extricate from some things I imagine.

**GayleB:** I have to say...the portfolio took me more than 200 hours.

**GayleB:** It is rigorous.

**BarbaraWo:** who judges? Do people usually pass?

**GayleB:** The NB has assessors who score the portfolios against the standards.

**GayleB:** About 50% pass in one year.

**BarbaraWo:** What if you cannot finish in one year?

**EmilyW:** this session is not for me, so I am leaving

**GayleB:** You must turn in the whole portfolio to get it scored

**BarbaraWo:** can you take more than a year to finish your portfolio?

**GayleB:** The second year you resubmit the ones you didn't pass.

**EmilyW** left the room.

**GayleB:** Yes. But there is a cost for resubmission.

**GayleB:** Barbara, have your main questions been answered?

**BarbaraWo:** I see. So they check for the 5 propositions?

**BarbaraWo:** I think so.

**GayleB:** Yes, those are in the standards.

**GayleB:** I am still at school, but when I get home I'll send you the info about the support group at Stanford

**BarbaraWo:** ok, thanks for all of your help.

**GayleB:** Thank you for coming. This discussion is usually last Monday of the month

**GayleB:** Our next one will be end of August

**GayleB:** Hope you'll come again.

**BarbaraWo:** Thanks again. I will.

**BarbaraWo:** I am trying to figure out to log off of the chat.

**GayleB:** BJ, see you in August.