

Title of Session: National Board Certification Support Group

Moderator: Gayle Britt

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Room: National Board Certification Group

AmyV joined the room.

GayleB: Hi Amy, are you here for National Boards discussion?

AmyV: Yes

GayleB: Are you a candidate?

AmyV: No, I am in a Master's Program and instead of a thesis I am opting to get certified.

GayleB: That's great!

AmyV: It is two years away so I wanted to get some info.

GayleB: Have you been to the website?

AmyV: No, I saw this group and wanted to see what you offered.

GayleB: It varies from group to group. Certainly we want to answer all questions.

BjB: Amy, Gayle leads this discussion every month on the last Monday

AmyV: What website are you speaking of?

GayleB: I'll give you the web site, but don't be surprised if it comes up

AmyV: thanks

GayleB: www.nbpts.org

BjB: hold down the ctrl key as you click on the url, Amy

AmyV: What do you suggest for me at this time?

BjB: I suggest you join this group, Amy...then you can take advantage of the other members' experiences

BjB . o O (as well as Gayle's)

BjB: joining the group will allow you to post to the group discussion board

GayleB: What do you teach, Amy?

AmyV: I definitely want to join the group. On the page that I went to to come to this discussion it said it was Public...where or who do I need to speak with about joining...I teach Chemistry and Physics in Orange County Calif.

BjB: Amy, above this chat window do you see the Welcome note?

AmyV: yes.

BjB: scroll down on the welcome note to the green i next to NBC Group

AmyV: ok

BjB: click on the green i to get the group ID page

BjB: at the top of the page is a place to join the group

AmyV: thank you

BjB: once you've joined, the group will be added to your favorite places menu

AmyV: I am now a group member.

BjB butts out and lets Gayle do her thing

BjB: Amy, Gayle may be multitasking....

BjB: have you participated in any of the science discussions?

AmyV: No, the times are during my class meeting for my Masters program.

AmyV: I am searching for other groups and came across this one.

BjB: ahhh....too bad. The archived transcripts are at www.tappedin.org/transcripts

AmyV: I am new to this online discussion and needed the practice. I have gotten many good contacts out of being a member though.

BjB: cool, Amy

AmyV: What do you teach? I have seen you on the site as a support provider.

BjB: I'm an art teacher in a male juvenile correctional facility

AmyV: WOW...what a great way of reaching the kids. I have a good family friend who worked in a juvenile correction facility in Las Vegas.

AmyV: Are you National Board Certified?

BjB: it's certainly never boring! No, I'm not.

BjB: I admire people who go through the rigorous procedure though

BjB: not only for the certification but also for the personal professional development that it provides

BjB: Gayle has put some resource materials in the group room

BjB: it's a new room. Hopefully, the resources and the collegial support will grow as the group matures

GayleB left the room (signed off).

BjB: Looks like Gayle is having some connection problems

AmyV: I figure whatever support I can get I will take...I read that Gayle is a mentor for students at Stanford...is that correct?

BjB: yes!

AmyV: Is the group not meeting?

BjB: looks like you are the only one present for this discussion, Amy.

BjB: I suggest that you post an introduction to the discussion board

AmyV: Will Gayle be available to answer any questions or do I email her?

BjB: some groups are more active in discussion...and Gayle should respond to the discussion board posts

AmyV: Thank you.

GayleB joined the room.

GayleB: I'm sorry I was interrupted...

BjB cheers...welcome back, Gayle

AmyV: No problem.

GayleB: Then I got kicked off....

GayleB sigh

GayleB: Thanks for your patience.

BjB . o O (I booted you thinking that perhaps your screen had frozen and you didn't realize it)

BjB: sorry about that

GayleB: Thanks, BJ. Amy, tell me what you teach

DavidWe joined the room.

DavidWe waves

AmyV: High School Chemistry and Physics.

DavidWe: Hi, Gayle

GayleB: National Board has something new this year

DavidWe . o O (free donuts?)

GayleB: It is called Take One

DavidWe smiles

GayleB: Hi David!

DavidWe: Only one?

DavidWe smiles

GayleB: Are you here for NB

GayleB smiles

DavidWe: We aim to please

DavidWe . o O (Tapped In-wise)

DavidWe: Yes, I'm here for NB

GayleB: Anyway, teachers can decide to just do one entry of the portfolio and send it in for scoring

GayleB: The teacher can then decide to use that score and just do the other entries (if they use it within 3 years.)

GayleB: Many feel overwhelmed trying to do the National Board portfolio in one year.

GayleB: Information is on the website.

GayleB: Amy and David, where are you located?

AmyV: OC, California

DavidWe: I'm in New Jersey, Gayle, near New York City

DavidWe: I'm not a classroom teacher

DavidWe: Bj and I are among a group of Tapped In HelpDesk volunteers

DavidWe: I've been helping teachers learn more about technology for math and science, especially, over the past 12 years

GayleB: There is news that California will budget the incentive award this year.

GayleB: Sorry, David, just didn't recognize you!

GayleB smiles

DavidWe: I was wearing a hat...

AmyV: I heard about that. A colleague went through the process and was paid for the program.

GayleB: Yes, when I received certification in 2000 I received \$10,000.

AmyV: Did you complete the process in a year?

GayleB: Also, if a teacher works in a low performing district...API under 500 the award is \$20,000.

GayleB: Yes, but I must say it was difficult

AmyV: What is the time limit?

GayleB: I ended up sleeping on my living room floor so I could work every time I woke up with an idea.

GayleB: Didn't want to disturb my husband.

GayleB: Three years, I believe.

AmyV: What was the most difficult part about the certification process?

GayleB: For me it was writing the portfolio entries.

AmyV: Have you benefited from having the certificate?

GayleB: The scorers don't know how one teaches so the writing must articulate well what happens in the classroom

GayleB: I had to write and rewrite.

AmyV: It would benefit me to know the Ap English teachers at the school.

GayleB: Yes, I have benefited. My district gave me a raise like they give for a masters

AmyV: This certificate allows you to teach within any district and any state is that correct?

GayleB: Yes.

GayleB: There may be one or two states that don't recognize it, but that's all.

AmyV: Did this help you to become a better teacher?

GayleB: Most definitely. That, I think, is the biggest benefit of all.

AmyV: In what ways?

AmyV: If you have a set program to teach I can stop my questions and ask later...

GayleB: Examining my own teaching against standards helped..

GayleB: me reflect and improve.

GayleB: I'm here to answer questions. No set program.

GayleB: I'm still improving!

AmyV: What are some of the activities you participated in while getting the certification?

GayleB: There are 4 portfolio entries which are a little different for each subject area.

GayleB: But basically, in one entry you'll be looking at student work over time.

GayleB: In another you will submit a video tape of your leading a whole group discussion.

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GayleB: The 4th is an entry about how you communicate with parents, collaborate with other professionals, etc.

GayleB: For each entry you must write about 12 pages which include description, analysis, and reflection.

GayleB: The student work, video tapes, etc. are evidence of having met the teaching standards.

AmyV: The evidence seems like the easy part...the writing I now see will be the "kicker".

GayleB: The portfolio binder is very specific in telling you what to submit and which standards each entry addresses.

AmyV: IS there support providers in the area to assist with the process?

GayleB: I work at the support provider group which meets at Stanford one Saturday a month.

AmyV: How do I locate one in this area...not that I am against a once a month trip up North.

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GayleB: It is: <http://nbro.stanford.edu>

AmyV: Thanks...

GayleB: I think others in California are listed on that website.

GayleB: Click on partner programs and see if there is one in your area.

GayleB: No, sorry, that was just Bay Area.

GayleB: I know I've seen a list. Also look on the NB site as well.

AmyV: Do you suggest I attend a seminar as listed on the site?

GayleB: Yes, I think it would be helpful to you.

GayleB: My email is gbritt@smcoe.k12.ca.us

AmyV: I plan to do some research and I will email you ones I find to see what you may think if that is ok?

GayleB: I'll see if I can find a list of what's available in southern CA.

GayleB: Ok. That'd be great.

DavidWe: Is there a web site for that?

GayleB: Will have to do some searching.

AmyV: Gayle thank you for answering the questions I had. I do plan to attend future meetings with you at this site. Kids are calling me to feed them.

GayleB: Amy, stay in touch.

DavidWe smiles

BjB waves goodnight.

AmyV: Thank you I will

GayleB: Bye now.