

Item 16:**Consider and Take Appropriate Action on Request to Approve Educator Preparation Advisory Committee Members****DISCUSSION AND ACTION**

SUMMARY: This item provides the State Board for Education Certification (SBEC) with an opportunity to approve Educator Preparation Advisory Committee (EPAC) members. The SBEC is statutorily authorized to approve members of advisory committees. The committee members selected for the EPAC are representative of the diverse types of educator preparation programs (EPPs) in the state. The committee will meet at least quarterly each year to provide input on issues related to EPPs in Texas.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: The statutory authority for the appointment of advisory committee members is Texas Education Code, §21.040(3).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND JUSTIFICATION: The SBEC is statutorily authorized to approve members of advisory committees. The EPAC was initially approved at the March 2006 SBEC meeting and became part of the SBEC Board Operating Policies and Procedures. The EPAC is the only standing SBEC advisory committee. The committee members for 2006-2007 were approved at the May 2006 meeting. The 2014-2015 committee members were approved at the August 1, 2014 meeting. When the 2014-2015 committee was formed, members were assigned one, two, or three-year terms. The 2015-2018 committee members were approved at the August 7, 2015 meeting.

The committee meets at least quarterly each year to provide input on issues related to educator preparation programs (EPPs) in Texas. The committee members selected for the EPAC are representative of the different types of EPPs in the state. A board member of the Consortium of State Organizations for Texas Teacher Education (CSOTTE) and school district representatives have traditionally been members of the committee. At the recommendation of the SBEC, four teacher representatives and a counselor representative were invited to committee meetings during the 2015-2016 academic year. Because many EPP representatives are members of CSOTTE and it has been difficult for school district, teacher, and counselor representatives to participate in committee meetings consistently, TEA staff recommends that EPP representatives be appointed to the committee. TEA staff will engage other stakeholders through their professional organization events (conferences, workshops, board meetings, etc.) and invite representatives to EPAC meetings or portions of meetings as appropriate. TEA will also include the broad cross-section of stakeholders in other stakeholder meetings.

Nomination forms for EPAC membership were sent to SBEC members and subscribers of the Educator Preparation mailing list. This mailing list is the primary way that TEA staff communicates general information to EPPs and others who are interested in EPP issues. The deadline for EPAC nominations was after the publishing deadline for this item. Recommendations for EPAC members will be presented to the SBEC at its December 2017 meeting.

PUBLIC AND STUDENT BENEFIT: The public and student benefit anticipated as a result of the approval of the committee members would be to strengthen the EPPs in the state to ensure that students have highly effective educators.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION: I recommend that the State Board for Educator Certification:

Approve the appointment of the Educator Preparation Advisory Committee members as presented.

Staff Members Responsible: Tim Miller, Director
Educator Preparation and Program Accountability

Tam Jones, Director
Educator Preparation

Attachment: Statutory Authority

ATTACHMENT

Statutory Citations Related to Educator Preparation Advisory Committee

Texas Education Code §21.040, General Powers and Duties of Board (excerpt):

The board shall:

- (3) appoint the members of any advisory committee to the board;