

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

**Moderator:** Gayle Britt

**Title of File:** 20041129nbc

**Date:** November 29, 2004

Room: On Tap Café

**BJB2:** We usually start all discussions in Tapped In with introductions

**BJB2:** I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania and a helpdesk volunteer for Tapped In

**TheresaV:** I am a preservice teacher in Texas

**StephenieH:** I am a pre service teacher at the University of Houston

**KarinaJC:** I'm a UH pre service teacher

**BeckyAF:** I am a preservice teacher at the University of Houston as well

**TheresaV:** I am at u of h too

**TheresaV:** hi guys!

**BJB2** smiles. Thanks!

**StephenieH:** I guess we are all in the same class

**BJB2:** so, I don't suppose any of you are planning on becoming board certified in the near future?

**StephenieH:** not sure what I plan on doing with my life yet

**TheresaV:** is it a different test than the one we take for the state?

**BJB2** nods to Stephenie

**GayleB** joined the room.

**BJB2** cheers wildly

**BJB2** waves hi to Gayle

**KarinaJC:** Hi **GayleB**

**BJB2:** everyone introduced themselves, Gayle

**GayleB:** Hi Everyone! Sorry...my mom from Texas was here over the holiday and I took her to the airport!

**BJB2:** you have a group of preservice teachers from the U of Houston

**StephenieH:** hi

**BeckyAF:** hi

**AnneBe** joined the room.

**AngelaJW:** Hello, sorry I'm a beginner. I'm a first grade teacher in California and I'm getting my masters at SDSU

**GayleB:** Whew! I made it. Hi! Are you interested in learning more about National Board?

**BJB2:** Hi, Anne. Welcome

**KarinaJC:** yes

**TheresaV:** yes

**BeckyAF:** sure

**StephenieH:** please

**AnneBe:** Thank you BJ

**StephenieH:** and what it is all about

**AnneBe:** I heard it's really a ton of work to become National certified.

**GayleB:** National Board certification means a teacher can teach in any state in the nation.

**GayleB:** Yes, it is very rigorous...like lawyers going for their boards.

**AngelaJW:** Do you have to take classes for that? or is it just a test?

**StephenieH:** oooooo

**GayleB:** It is a portfolio and a test in your subject area.

**KarinaJC:** when can you do that?

**TheresaV:** what it you teach elementary...lots of subjects

**BeckyAF:** were in the process of doing something similar here for undergrad

**GayleB:** The web site is [www.nbpts.org](http://www.nbpts.org)

**StephenieH:** what Becky?

**KarinaJC:** the portfolio

**StephenieH:** ooooooooooooo

**AngelaJW:** I teach language arts, math, science, social studies, and physical education (art if they don't catch us)

**BeckyAF:** for our degree we have a portfolio presentation and we have to take the state test

**GayleB:** Yes, the portfolio is examining one's own teaching against national teaching standards and providing evidence of having met the standard

**GayleB:** Two video tapes of teaching a lesson and student work are part of the portfolio

**LindseyLW** joined the room.

**BJB2:** Hi, Lindsey. Welcome

**TheresaV:** what else does it include?

**LindseyLW:** thank you

**GayleB:** It was the best "staff development" I have ever had

**BeckyAF:** where is this held?

**AngelaJW:** At SDSU I had to a portfolio covering 8 disciplines to get my bachelors and then last year I had to take the CSET to be No Child Left Behind certified. A portfolio is a lot of work

**GayleB:** Because I had to examine myself.

**GayleB:** You do the portfolio on your own, but there are support groups that meet in various places.

**TheresaV:** so it is not an actual class?

**GayleB:** Then you have to go to a test center for the exam.

**GayleB:** No, there are no classes, but many people join a support group because it is quite a task.

**TheresaV:** ok

**BeckyAF:** who do you present the portfolio to?

**GayleB:** I'm also trying to get a discussion group started in TI.

**TheresaV:** do you register on the website you provided us earlier?

**GayleB:** Please join us.

**BJB2:** Is everyone familiar with groups in Tapped In?

**StephenieH:** yes

**TheresaV:** yes

**KarinaJC:** yes

**LindseyLW:** yes

**BeckyAF:** yes

**GayleB:** The portfolio is sent to National Board.

**BJB2** smiles...wow...good group!

**GayleB:** I should tell you that the cost is \$2500.

**StephenieH:** where do you get the guide lines for the project?

**BeckyAF:** where is that located?

**AngelaJW:** Do you have to teach for a certain number of years before becoming nationally certified

**KarinaJC:** wow that's a lot

**GayleB:** There are scholarships available and my school district paid my fee.

**TheresaV:** that's always nice

**BJB2:** I think Gayle has enough questions to keep her busy for a couple minutes

**KarinaJC:** how long does it take for the board to review the portfolio?

**BJB2:** . o O ( some schools also give a bonus to teachers who complete nbc )

**GayleB:** When I got mine, in California, four years ago the state was giving \$10,000 to everyone who certified.

**StephenieH:** why

**GayleB:** with the budget crunch California has frozen that award.

**GayleB:** Because studies have shown that NB certified teachers teach very well.

**StephenieH:** ooooooo

**GayleB:** You have to had taught for three years before you can go for it.

**KarinaJC:** oh

**AngelaJW:** How long did it take you to complete the process?

**GayleB:** Then the process makes one examines his/her own teaching and make improvements

**GayleB:** Many do it in one year. Some take two.

**GayleB:** The portfolio took me...I'd say...about 200 hours.

**StephenieH:** wow

**KarinaJC:** oh wow

**TheresaV:** congratulations!

**AngelaJW:** Is the portfolio divided into different subject areas if you're an elementary teacher?

**LindseyLW:** do you ever have to renew the national certification?

**GayleB:** I help teachers in the support group that meets at Stanford U. and they started in August and their portfolio will be due in March and then they'll take the test between April and July.

**GayleB:** NB certification is for ten years.

**TheresaV:** can all of this info be found on the site you gave us earlier

**GayleB:** Elementary teachers do the generalist.

**KarinaJC:** does it matter if the elementary teacher is bilingual ed?

**GayleB:** On the NB website you can get information for each area. [www.nbpts.org](http://www.nbpts.org)

**TheresaV:** thanks

**GayleB:** No, they also have a cert. for teaching Eng. as a new lang. You would choose which you want to go for.

**KarinaJC:** oh ok

**StephenieH:** what should we do as pre service teachers to help us on the road to getting the nc

**GayleB:** I did mine in adolescent history/social studies, but I also teach English lang. arts so I could have gone for that one.

**GayleB:** Some support groups allow teachers to join even if they aren't candidates that particular year.

**GayleB:** Some teachers sit in a year to see hat it is all about knowing that sometime in the future they will want to do it.

**StephenieH:** how do we find a local group in our area?

**GayleB:** You might check the NB website. Where are you?

**GayleB:** Look under resources.

**StephenieH:** like most of us, in Houston Texas at u of h

**GayleB:** There are many places that don't have support groups which is why I'd like to get something started in TI.

**StephenieH:** cool

**GayleB:** If you'd like, I'll check, and can email you.

**BJB2:** one of the advantages to the TI group will be that you can use the threaded discussion board if you have questions between real time meetings

**BeckyAF:** I would like to get more information as well

**BJB2:** . o O ( and the group will provide resources )

**BJB2:** . o O ( I think everyone should join the group )

**BJB2:** then Gayle can just send one post to the discussion board

**KarinaJC:** me too, I would like more info

**GayleB:** Yes, and, when a person is a candidate and has to write their entries, we read each others. I sometimes do this by email, but it would be great if we can discuss.

**GayleB:** OK. I'll check and post to the discussion board.

**BJB2:** to join the group click on the SEARCH tab in the top right of your screen

**TheresaV:** sounds good

**BJB2:** . o O ( you may need to attach your chat first )

**BJB2:** then click on GROUPS

**AnneBe:** My computer just kicked me off, can someone please tell me what Gayle will be posting?

**BJB2:** Enter NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION

**StephenieH:** are we going to finish our chat in this room first?

**GayleB:** Information on the location of support groups is what I'll post.

**BJB2:** that will get you to a link for the group room information...and a place to join the group

**AngelaJW:** Okay. Thanks

**BJB2:** . o O ( you can join and not go to the group room )

**AnneBe:** OK, great

**GayleB:** I'll need a little time to do some research so perhaps we can meet there another time.

**GayleB:** I want to try to get some candidates in to chat with us too.

**AnneBe:** How long does certification take? A year...or longer?

**GayleB:** They are going through it now.

**StephenieH:** I was hoping for some great insight on being board cert

**KarinaJC:** ok

**GayleB:** From August to March.

**GayleB:** I think NB is now allowing people to start in January.

**AnneBe:** How much time is dedicated to the certification per day?

**AnneBe:** Start in Jan. and end when?

**GayleB:** Anne, that is a good question. I think that is why people use support groups. It is easy to go a few weeks and do nothing, but a support group helps keep one working on it.

**GayleB:** We set deadlines and discuss our work at our monthly meetings.

**StephenieH:** how does being board cert vary from being non cert?

**TheresaV:** is there a big difference in the pay?

**GayleB:** It depends on your district.

**TheresaV:** that makes sense

**GayleB:** I get around \$2000 a year more.

**StephenieH:** wow, that is great

**TheresaV:** kind of like a masters

**BeckyAF:** I guess it really frees you up to teach anywhere you want

**GayleB:** Yes, like a masters.

**GayleB:** Yes, others states will honor the NB.

**StephenieH:** besides the pay is there any other reason to be NB

**BeckyAF:** I know this is national certification, but is this helpful in trying to teach overseas or does that really matter if you have national certification from the U.S.

**GayleB:** We have around 100 teachers in the support group that meets at Stanford each year and most would say that they may have started because of the money, but they ended

**GayleB:** because of the benefits to their teaching

**StephenieH:** how

**GayleB:** You look at yourself and hold yourself to high standards and your teaching improves.

**StephenieH:** cool

**GayleB:** No one is saying to teach one way or another, but you examine yourself

**AnneBe:** Is there a possibility that being certified would make it harder to get a job because principals know that they would have to pay you more?

**GayleB:** Anne, that is a good question...like being over qualified. But it really depends on the district.

**GayleB:** Mornings I teach middle school and afternoons I am vice principal of a charter high school.

**StephenieH:** how should we approach our district if we want to become NB

**BJB2:** I would think with NCLB, nbc would be a very good thing to have

**GayleB:** We wrote into our charter that we want to eventually have every teacher we hire go through NB or be NB certified.

**StephenieH:** what a busy schedule

**AnneBe:** Is there a chance that you can go through NB and then NOT become certified in the end?

**GayleB:** Yes, it happens. But...

**GayleB:** you can't look at it as pass/fail

**AnneBe:** How often does it happen?

**GayleB:** Some don't do it in one year...they get their scores and then have to repeat some entries in their portfolios or their test. They get three years.

**GayleB:** Remember, I said it is rigorous....Scores just came out so I haven't checked this year, but in years past about 50% do it in one year

**AnneBe:** Is there a set amount of time that you have to be a teacher before you can apply to become board certified?

**AnneBe:** Whoa, only 50%? Wow.

**StephenieH:** yes 3 years

**GayleB:** But, when they re do some of the entries they pass in two years. It doesn't mean they aren't good teachers.

**AnneBe:** True.

**GayleB:** It just means they didn't present themselves in their portfolio.

**StephenieH:** what does that mean

**GayleB:** The scorers don't know them so the writing for the portfolio has to be very detailed.

**StephenieH:** oooooo

**AnneBe:** What if you change subjects, are you Nationally certified in everything or just what you presented in your portfolio?

**GayleB:** For example...You have to describe, analyze, and reflect on your teaching. Sometimes when I read someone's entry I see that they've spent most of their page limit describing.

**GayleB:** Just the area you choose. Mine is in adolescent history/social studies.

**GayleB:** There are a few people who achieved cert. in two or more areas. (Whew!!)

**AnneBe:** I only teach special ed. 3rd grade LD language Arts and Math, it's very specialized and that would be the only thing I could be certified in?

**GayleB:** You would go for the cert. in sp. ed.

**GayleB:** I do not teach Am. history, but I studied it for the test because I'm cert. in history

**GayleB:** You would have to know more than just what you teach.

**AnneBe:** Would it only be elementary? or special ed across the board?

**AngelaJW:** You said an elementary school teacher would take the generalist. Are you certified to teach elementary in any state?

**GayleB:** Elementary

**GayleB:** Yes..I think so...I

**GayleB:** would need to check to see if that is every state.

**GayleB:** Time is getting away from us. You all sound so interested. That's great.

**GayleB:** If you have time to check out the NB website and then..

**StephenieH:** should we check the board in about a week

**BJB2:** thanks so much for taking time out of your busy schedule to be here, Gayle!

**GayleB:** we can discuss some more

**TheresaV:** thank you

**BJB2:** . o O ( if you join the group you'll get any posts to the discussion board in your email )

**AngelaJW:** Thanks Gayle

**BeckyAF:** thanks

**KarinaJC:** Thanks Gayle, you gave us really good info:)

**GayleB:** Yes, I will definitely check that discussion board. Leave me questions.

**StephenieH:** this was one of the most informational tapped in sessions I have been in and I am glad to learn some thing new

**StephenieH:** thanks, Gayle

**GayleB:** Hope to see you all again.

**GayleB:** Thanks, Stephenie

**BJB2:** can I quote you on that, Stephenie?!

**KarinaJC:** Thank you

**StephenieH:** yes!!!!!!!!!!!!!!1

**BJB2** . o O ( great quote for the newsletter )

**StephenieH:** lol

**StephenieH:** good night, dinner time

**AnneBe:** That would be good enough.

**BeckyAF:** thanks again have a good night