

Title of Session: National Board Certification Support Group

Moderator: Gayle Britt

Title of File: 20060828nbc

Date: August 28, 2006

Room: National Board Certification Group

DavidWe: Hi, Laura. Welcome to Tapped In

GayleB: David is telling us a story...

DavidWe can wait on the story if Gayle wants to begin her discussion

GayleB: Well, you can tell it when we introduce ourselves, if you like.

GayleB: Laura, are you here to find out more about National Board Certification?

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

DavidWe: I help teachers learn more about educational technology, especially math teachers. I'm in New Jersey, near New York City

LauraGst6: actually, I'm here from Teacher Magazine. I'm working on a story about online professional development. I mostly just want to observe and see how these chats work

DavidWe: Hi, Laura. Didn't we speak last week?

LauraGst6: yes. Thanks for sending me the transcript!

DavidWe: You're welcome

DavidWe: If you sign up to be a member, you will get your OWN transcript

LauraGst6: good to know

GayleB: I'm a teacher in California and national board certified so I support new candidates

GayleB: Since teachers are just now returning to school we may not have a large group today

BJB2: archived transcripts from past discussions are at www.tappedin.org/transcripts
Laura

LauraGst6: oh, thanks. in case people don't show up for this chat, I'll check out some of the older ones

BJB2: the problem with NBC discussions is that the work is sooooo intense...

BJB2: and then the people who submit have to wait forever to get results

GayleB: As discussion leader, I'm always trying to improve and streamline the discussions

BJB2: Gayle, perhaps you could tell Laura what NBC involves?

GayleB: Sometimes we have several people asking many questions so the time is spent answering those questions

GayleB: Today I prepared an intro to NB

LauraGst6: great

GayleB: What is National Board Certification?

GayleB: The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS), a private, nonprofit, non-partisan, professional organization (governed primarily by teachers), has been assessing and certifying teachers throughout the United States since 1994. The rigorous assessment process includes a classroom-based portfolio and a set of performance assessment exercises. National Board Certification is a voluntary system designed to recognize accomplished practice (teachers must have at least three years of teaching experience in order to apply for National Board Certification). To date, approximately 47,500 teachers nationwide have achieved National Board Certification. National Board Certification has become widely known by local, state, and national policymakers as a mark of excellence in teaching.

LauraGst6: how many people do you generally get for chats like this?

GayleB: It varies greatly in this one

BJB2: I've noticed some challenges to NBC lately, Gayle. What do you feel is the most important benefit of going through the process?

DavidWe: Tough time of year

DavidWe: . o O (end of summer before school has begun in a lot of places)

GayleB: Sometimes I only have two or three, but...

GayleB: I offer to read entries and continue helping by email

LauraGst6: that's great.

GayleB: so this discussion may lead to more intense help

GayleB: Sometimes people come because they are curious about NB, but aren't interested in starting the process

GayleB: The reason I stay involved is because I always learn from other teachers

GayleB: During TI discussions teachers may give resources or tips, so it's great when a bunch of teachers are here.

BJB2: I think that is true of most of the discussion leaders in Tapped In

BJB2 . o O (and most active participants to the discussions)

LauraGst6: so it's definitely a two-way street

GayleB: Yes!

BJB2: all the discussion leaders are volunteers, Laura. We are very fortunate to have so many talented people in the community who are willing to donate their valuable time

BJB2 . o O (and expertise)

DavidWe: Gayle, of the 47,500 teachers that are NB certified, do they typically find "benefits"?

DavidWe . o O (increased salary, etc?)

GayleB: Yes, David, many districts give salary increases to NB teachers.

DavidWe: So, in addition to personal accomplishment, professionalism, there are tangible benefits

GayleB: So, true. Thank you for mentioning that.

LauraGst6: at Teacher Magazine, we've got a blog written by a guy who's working on certification

GayleB: I feel it was the best staff development I ever did

GayleB: Just going through the process made me reflect and improve my teaching

DavidWe: How much time was involved, Gayle?

GayleB: And that reflection and improvement cycle never stops

DavidWe nods

GayleB: For me, about 200-300 hours

GayleB: I revised my entries over and over again.

DavidWe: Over what period of time?

DavidWe . o O (1 year, 2 years?)

BJB2 . o O (bodacious amount of time!)

DavidWe writes down "B O D A C I O U S"

GayleB: One can do it in one year which I did, but the last month was intense

BJB2 winks at David

DavidWe smiles

DavidWe: Were you teaching full-time, Gayle, while you were doing this?

GayleB: A little less than 50% do it in one year.

GayleB: Most take two.

GayleB: Yes I was.

GayleB: My family didn't see much of me that year.

DavidWe: How do you spend the time? In classes/workshops, etc. or in other ways?

GayleB: Mainly, it is putting together the portfolio.

DavidWe nods

GayleB: The requirements are area specific.

GayleB: Mine is in social studies so...for example

DavidWe: okay

GayleB: Entry 1 was "teaching reasoning through writing"

GayleB: So I had to collect student work, analyze it, and

GayleB: show evidence that my teaching practice met the national standards

DavidWe: We've done that with math teachers to try and get them to think about what students are doing/thinking, etc.

GayleB: For other entries video tapes of my teaching were required

BJB2: do you think NCLB has had an effect on NBC candidates, Gayle?

GayleB: For each portfolio entry a person describes his/her practice, analyzes it, and reflects on improvements...

GayleB: I think the NB process fits NCLB very well

BJB2: I agree. Unfortunately, what I'm also seeing is older teachers who don't meet the highly qualified requirements are leaving the profession

BJB2: . o O (rather than pursuing additional classes)

DavidWe smiles

DavidWe: NBPTS has a huge board of directors

GayleB: Yes, you're right, BJ. Hmm, David, I haven't looked at the board of directors lately

DavidWe: http://www.nbpts.org/about_us/board_of_directors

DavidWe: At least 45 people

DavidWe counts again and gets 53

DavidWe: I always get a bit concerned when boards are THAT big

BJB2: why is that, David?

DavidWe: Well, it's an ungainly number of people to try to fit around a table

GayleB: I was just looking down the list...

GayleB smiles at David's comment

DavidWe: It's also names of people I've not run into in other educational fields (for me, mostly math and technology)

DavidWe: I think there are so many pulls and pushes in education - geographical, subject-area, etc.

GayleB: True

DavidWe: I'm assuming you were pretty motivated to go through the process, Gayle

DavidWe: I'm guessing not everyone wants to work that hard

GayleB: I'm an over achiever...can't help it

GayleB: And I love it, but I'm guessing David and BJ are in the same boat.

DavidWe isn't a classroom teacher

BJB2 nods.

DavidWe: Doing teacher professional development has been an interesting challenge for me, Gayle

BJB2: I think what Gayle is discussing doesn't necessarily have to do with being a classroom teacher, David

BJB2: it's the professional development and the lifelong learner aspect

DavidWe: Often it's easier to get students excited about new things; teachers are more wizened and curmudgeonly, sometimes

GayleB: That's right, BJ.

GayleB laughs at David's comment

DavidWe bases his comment on 13 years of experience with some curmudgeonly and wizened teachers

GayleB LOL

DavidWe: Ever been to the Hershey Hotel, Gayle, Laura?

GayleB: No, where is it?

DavidWe: Where do you think?

LauraGst6: is it in Hershey, PA?

DavidWe . o O (think chocolate?)

GayleB: Well, if it is chocolate...

DavidWe gives Laura a big bar of chocolate

DavidWe: That's where I met Bj for the first time to demo Tapped In

LauraGst6: I took a bunch of high school students to Hershey a few summers ago. It was a madhouse

DavidWe smiles

BJB2 chuckles

DavidWe: Smells good, though, right?

LauraGst6: yep!

GayleB: I think I must go there!

DavidWe: Sorry to leave you out of the tourist destination, Gayle

DavidWe: We'll be happy to meet you, Gayle

GayleB: Deal!

DavidWe smiles

BJB2: you don't have to go to the park. They have a really nice tour of how chocolate is made...and REALLY good cookies

DavidWe: Well, I'm glad we got THAT accomplished

DavidWe will bring the coffee if Bj brings the cookies

BJB2: deal!

GayleB: I'm getting fat thinking of it

DavidWe: You can jog back to California, Gayle

GayleB: Laura, this has been a great discussion you've sat in on!

DavidWe: Thanks for joining us, Laura

BJB2: Gayle, I'm sorry that you didn't have more participants for your discussion. You still on for September?

BJB2 . o O (25)

GayleB: Let's do it!

BJB2: thanks.

GayleB: I've enjoyed chatting with you and David and Laura.

LauraGst6: thank you all. it was very informative