

CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

1430 N Street, Suite 5111
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 319-0827
(916) 319-0175 (fax)



December 22, 2003

To: State Board of Education Members

From: Screening Committee
Joe Nuñez, Chair
Suzanne Tacheny
Nancy Ichinaga (Curriculum Commission Liaison)

Subject: Item 23, January 2004 Agenda
Appointments to the Curriculum Development and Supplemental
Materials Commission

The Screening Committee met on December 19, 2003, at Animo Leadership High School in Inglewood, California, to interview a number of applicants for appointment to the Curriculum Development and Supplemental Materials Commission (Curriculum Commission). We were highly impressed with these applicants, both as a group and as individuals. Each would have brought unique strengths and talents to the Curriculum Commission. It is our view that the following would be the best combination of individuals to meet the Curriculum Commission's needs (and the requirements of statute for teacher representation) at this particular time. We recommend the individuals for appointment as indicated below.

- Richard Wagoner, to complete the balance of a currently vacant position, the term of which ends December 31, 2005.

Mr. Wagoner is a mathematics teacher at San Pedro High School in the Los Angeles Unified School District. He is a graduate of the University of California, Los Angeles, having majored in economics. He completed his teaching credential and postgraduate study at California State University, Dominguez Hills. Joseph Scollo, Director of Instruction for District K (within Los Angeles Unified) wrote, "Mr. Wagoner's knowledge and mathematics background was always welcomed at the various committees he participated in. His voice of experience lent credibility to the work the different committees were engaged in."

- Wendy Levine, for a four-year term ending December 31, 2007.

Ms. Levine teaches third grade at Hudnall Elementary School in the Inglewood Unified School District. She is a graduate of the University of Colorado, Boulder (*magna cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa). She earned a master's in business administration at Golden Gate University, and a teaching credential (including CLAD) at National University.

Curriculum Commission member Norma Baker (who is former principal of Hudnall Elementary School) wrote, “[Ms. Levine] is an outstanding teacher with a clear focus of ensuring academic success for ALL students. [Her] contribution to the Commission would be extensive knowledge of Content Frameworks and California Content Standards, a varied background in the utilization of reading programs, and the experience of teaching a diverse group of students. [She] would bring the needed perspective of an ‘in the field practitioner’ to the Commission...She is task oriented, and given any assignment or responsibility, one can be assured that it will be done efficiently and expeditiously!”

- Mary-Alicia McRae, for a four-year term ending December 31, 2007.

Ms. McRae is a mentor teacher on special assignment in the Salinas City Elementary School District. She is a graduate of the College of New Rochelle, having majored in English literature. She earned her master’s in elementary education at Northeastern University. Robert Slaby, Superintendent of the Salinas City Elementary School District, wrote, “[Ms. McRae]...is an outstanding educator and one of the best reading teachers with whom I have ever been associated...Being a former bilingual resource teacher she is able to assist our majority migrant population in making the smooth transition to becoming fluent English learners. She started an inservice program for instructional aides that has significantly improved the reading instruction that occurs in the classroom daily. [She] also redesigned our remedial summer school program to [enable] specially trained aides to [provide] one-on-one instruction to students who have academic difficulties...[She] is one of the finest educators in California...”

- Charles Munger, for a four-year term ending December 31, 2007.

Charles Munger is a retired experimental physicist, having served on the faculty of the University of California, Irvine, and the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center. He is currently associated with Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory. He is a graduate of Stanford University, having majored in physics. He earned his Ph.D. in physics from the University of California, Berkeley. He served on the Curriculum Framework and Criteria Committee that drafted the current Science Framework, and has contributed greatly to the development and refinement of assessment items for California Standards Tests. He has authored and contributed to numerous professional papers. Stanley Broadsky, Professor of Theoretical Physics, Stanford University, wrote, “Dr. Munger is a highly talented and unusually innovative physicist, who has been a very fine asset to the experimental and theoretical high energy physics programs at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center and the Fermi National Laboratory. He has remarkable insight into the science underlying the physical world, and I believe he would be an outstanding member of the Curriculum Commission.”

- Jose Velasquez, for a four-year term ending December 31, 2007.

Mr. Velasquez is a mentor teacher assigned as a Reading First Literacy Expert within the Los Angeles Unified School District. He is a graduate of Occidental College, and earned his master's in adult education at Regis College (Denver, Colorado). James Morris, Assistant Superintendent of the Los Angeles Unified School District, wrote, "[Mr. Velasquez] is sensitive to the needs of all children and is an advocate for providing all children with equal opportunities for educational excellence and all teachers with the resources they need to help students succeed. Students' needs are always his first priority...His knowledge of current instructional practices and strategies to make theoretical practices meaningful to classroom practitioners, classified staff, and parents, has served LAUSD students by promoting clear community among and between stakeholder groups...[He] also possesses many personal qualities that enhance his success in working collaboratively with others to provide quality instruction for students and outstanding instructional leadership for school leaders."

- Rebecca Brown, for a four-year term commencing January 1, 2005, and ending December 31, 2008, but with the understanding that should an unanticipated vacancy occur on the Curriculum Commission during 2004, she be appointed to complete the balance of the term of the vacated position.

Ms. Brown is a school improvement coordinator in the Sacramento City Unified School District, focusing on elementary language arts and Reading First implementation. She is a graduate of the University of California, Los Angeles, majoring in Spanish. She earned her master's in education and education administration at California State University, Sacramento, along with her teaching credential. She earned her reading certificate at the University of California, Davis. Kathleen Cooper, Associate Superintendent for Instruction and Learning Support Services, Sacramento City Unified, wrote, "[Ms. Brown] is a perfect candidate for this role. She has been an exemplary classroom teacher, a reading coach, a certificated reading specialist, and is now a district curriculum coordinator. [She] understands curriculum in California today [and] is very conversant with California Content Standards and the State Accountability System. She understands teachers and their needs for materials and support. She has both the knowledge and the people skills to support teachers and principals in their efforts to better their student achievement."

With this recommended group of appointees, the State Board will have more than satisfied the minimum requirement for the appointment of classroom teachers or mentor teachers as set forth in Education Code Section 33530.

Attachments

Cc: CDE Executive Staff