

Title of Session: National Board Certification Support Group

Moderator: Gayle Britt

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Room: National Board Certification Group

GayleB: Hi Krystal, welcome. We will be discussing National Board certification.

KrystalLC: Good Evening, Thanks

LillR joined the room.

ChiahsinL joined the room.

BJB2 cheers...I'm glad you could join the discussion, Lilli!

GayleB: Hi Lill and Chiahsin, welcome to the National Board discussion this evening.

GayleB: In a couple of minutes we'll do introductions.

GayleB: Please tell us where and what you teach and your interest in National Board

ChiahsinL: thanks

LillR: Hi, I'm grateful to be here. I need help with my entries.

BJB2: a suggestion if you are new to Tapped In to go to the ACTIONS menu in the top right of this chat window and click on DETACH

GayleB: Lill, I want to hear more about that. Are you working toward the March 30 deadline?

LillR: Yes, I am. I'm working on some entries but I don't have any input and I don't know if they are any good.

GayleB: OK. Let's introduce ourselves, and, Lill, be sure to tell us which certificate area you are working on.

LillR: Is there any way that I could send it to you via e-mail to get feed-back?

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

LillR: Middle School Generalist

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

GayleB: My name is Gayle Britt. I teach Middle School half day and am associate principal of curriculum and instruction at a new charter high school the other half.

GayleB: I certified in Social Studies/History in 2000 and have been a support provider at Stanford ever since.

GayleB: Krystal and Chiahsin, please introduce yourselves.

LillR: Just to get some sort of direction.

KrystalLC: I'm a senior at the University Of Houston graduating in May

GayleB: Are you going to teach after graduation?

KrystalLC: Yes ma'am, I will be certified for Pre-K through 4th

ChiahsinL: I'm working on my master degree in WV and I used to be a math teacher in Taiwan

BJB2 wonders if Gayle has some alternative solutions to people with Lilli's problem of finding a support group?

GayleB: Krystal, after three years teaching experience you might look into National Board certification.

KrystalLC: What exactly do you do?

GayleB: Where are you Krystal?

KrystalLC: Houston, TX

GayleB: Oh, yes, must be Texas!

GayleB: I teach 7th grade social studies mornings and mentor teachers, write curriculum afternoons.

GayleB: I must say teaching 7th grade is my favorite!

GayleB: Lilli, where are you located?

LillR: I work in Chicago and cannot always attend meetings due to a car accident.

KrystalLC: How often do you meet?

GayleB: Krystal, National Board certification involves a huge teaching portfolio and it is due March 30 so that is why Lilli is anxious.

KrystalLC: Oh, I see

GayleB: The requirements are very rigorous and based on national standards of what an exemplary teaching should look like.

GayleB: To go through it is the best staff development or teaching course I've ever experienced.

KrystalLC: That sounds neat

GayleB: Much self-evaluation and reflection is required and your teaching just keeps on improving.

GayleB: But with the portfolio due in four weeks this is crunch, panic time!

KrystalLC: Do you have a lot of teachers

GayleB: I lead this discussion the last Monday of every month.

BJB2 hands Lilli a soothing cup of hot tea

GayleB: Lilli, I'll try my best to get back to you asap, but at least by tomorrow morning.

LillR: Wonderful! Great news! I have never heard of this.

GayleB: Lilli, I just got your email at my smcoe account

LillR: I came across it on the internet by chance.

LillR: Wow!

BJB2 . o O (took the long way around, Gayle)

GayleB: Sometimes, there is no one here and other times it is crowded!

LillR: Oh, is that how it is? I'm glad it's not that way today, so I get more time.

GayleB: Perhaps next month people will want to review for the assessment center. I will send you some tips for that too, Lilli. But right now the portfolio...

LillR: What type of artifacts are appropriate to send with these entries. I am a little confused about that.

LillR: I did not know how draining this process was going to be.

GayleB: Each one is a bit different, but student work should show evidence of having met the standards the entry is looking for.

LillR: Sometimes I feel like this is my worst teaching year because all I do is worry about the entries/

GayleB: You know, I'm thinking...we may need to meet in Tapped In to discuss your entries once I have read them.

GayleB: I know what you mean.

LillR: When you send a checklist, do you send a blank one or one that a student has filled out?

LillR: That would be great. If you let me know the time and date, I will be absent from work.

GayleB: You could send one that a student has filled out if that makes your point.

LillR: Ok, thank you.

GayleB: Ok. Let me go through everything and then I can have a better idea. I'll email you and we'll set up a time to meet here.

LillR: In one of my videos, the volume is not quite clear. Will the assessors take off points for that?

LillR: You are a Godsend. :)

GayleB: Is it all of it or just a section? Can they make it out if you also script it?

LillR: It is just a section. I think they can make it out if they put the volume up.

GayleB: Krystal, just pop in the conversation any time. Are you getting a picture of what this is like? Please visit the NB website for more info.

KrystalLC: Yes ma'am

GayleB: Oh, then that is good. They just have to know that nothing was cut purposely.

KrystalLC: We have to create a portfolio for school but I'm pretty sure it

KrystalLC: it's nothing compared to what Lilli is doing

GayleB: Maybe not, but it is still a large task.

GayleB: For the NB portfolio one has to submit two videos of their teaching.

KrystalLC: I can imagine

GayleB: And samples of student work showing evidence of meeting standards.

LillR: The process has been great and I have learned to reflect on my practice. It is just time consuming.

GayleB: The thing is, the assessors do not know the applicant so everything has to be written in detail.

GayleB: I often tell people I support that I know what they mean because I am talking to them, but the assessors don't have that privilege.

LillR: Is it true that it is best not to use prepositions when writing? I have had to use them, as you can see by my entries.

GayleB: I don't think they are assessing your writing.

GayleB: We all have different styles.

LillR: Ok, so I can use them?

LillR: Ok, understood. Thank you.

GayleB: I need to read your entries. I will make suggestions against the standards, but I can't tell you whether something is ok or not.

LillR: I understand that. I would just appreciate input.

GayleB: I'll probably ask a lot of questions.

GayleB: Just talking it over really helps.

GayleB: Is there no one else at your school who is going through this process?

LewisA joined the room.

LewisA: Greetings tonight

KrystalLC: Hello

GayleB: The year I went through there was someone else at my school, but hers was in art so we didn't read each others.

LillR: There is one teacher that did not make it and is retaking some sections. It is hard for her to read my entries because she is preparing her students for state tests and can never seem to find the time.

GayleB: Hi, Lewis.

GayleB admires Lilli

GayleB: A big welcome and our best to you! Are you interested in NB?

KrystalLC: How do you apply for NB?

LewisA: As a side interest. On my website, WebBased Resources at <http://ejw.i8.com> on the education websites page I have some certification sites and would happy to add more sites.

GayleB: Krstal, go to the NB website at: www.nbpts.org for application info. You have to have three years teaching experience before applying.

GayleB: But some people find a support group and sit through for a year to get ready to apply.

KrystalLC: Ok, I can give it to my sister she has been teaching for at 3+ years to see if she's interested

GayleB: It means a pay raise to many teachers...depending on the district

KrystalLC: she's in HISD

GayleB: The State of California gave me \$10,000 when I got mine. And if one teaches in a school with low test scores, he/she could get \$20,000

LillR: For anyone that finishes it, regardless of whether they pass, they are getting a \$1000 bonus. So even if I don't get it, I will still be up. And my practice will have improved.

GayleB: And, Lilli, you have three years to do retakes.

GayleB: Many think of it as a three year process.

LillR: I don't know if I could take the torment!

GayleB smiles

LillR: I dream about this stuff.

GayleB smiles

LewisA: Oh yes, on the grants page are some great sites

GayleB: If no one has any more questions, I think maybe we'll close the discussion.

GayleB: I'm anxious to get my dinner and curl up with Lilli's entries

LillR: I have to go write. Bye everyone. Nice meeting all of you. And Gayle, I hope to hear from you soon. Thank you for being there.

BJB2: Thanks, Gayle. Good luck, Lilli!

LillR) Thanks again!

GayleB: Krystal, bring your sister next time!

KrystalLC: I'll give my sister the website

GayleB: Bye Lilli.

KrystalLC: Yes ma'am and thanks for the information

LillR: Bye.

KrystalLC: Goodnite

BJB2: the next NBC discussion is March 27

BJB2 . o O (same time, same place)

GayleB: Hope to see you then.