MINUTES – Board Meeting
Thursday, May 14, 2026
BPS Career Academy, Collaboration Room 305

The Education Standards and Practices Board (ESPB) meeting was called to order at 8:04am by Board Vice Chair Evan Kritzberger. Board members present were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Sheila Schlafmann, Patti Stedman, Dena Venneman, and Arlene Wolf. Dustin Hager joined the meeting at 8:19am by video conference. Cory Steiner was absent.

Also present were ESPB Executive Director Becky Pitkin, Mari Riehl, and Amy Bigelow from ESPB, Mark Openshaw from Office of Attorney General, Erin Jacobson from ND RISE, Amy Flicek from NDUnited, Ana Marie Fernandez, Lisa Colon Durham from ETS, Yvonne Cannon from Mayville State University, Loni Miller from University of Mary, Sonja Brandt from University of North Dakota, Jimmy Adams from NASDTEC, Eric Pietrzak from Minot State University, Levi Bachmeier from DPI, Evan Chrise and Alexandra Escobar from Teachers of Tomorrow, and other online guests.

Introductions were held.

Motion to Include Additional Agenda Items – Items to add to the agenda include cases for Michael Romans and Richard Frye. Siri Coleman made a motion to accept the agenda as amended. Seconded by Angela Nagel. Board members who voted in favor were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Sheila Schlafmann, Patti Stedman, and Dena Venneman. None opposed. Motion carried.

Motion to Ratify March and April Settlement Agreement Licensure Lists – Sarah Lerud made a motion to ratify the March and April licensure lists and settlement agreement. Motion seconded by Patti Stedman. Board members who voted yes were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Sheila Schlafmann, Patti Stedman, and Dena Venneman. None opposed. Motion carried.

Becky thanked the Board members for meeting in person today. Since the Board has not met in person in quite a while, she reviewed their non-negotiables: doing what is best for learners, keeping stakeholder input in mind, and that decisions are not made based on money.

<u>CASES</u>

Romans, Michael – Mr. Romans' license was suspended in January 2026 after he was charged with offenses that would require automatic revocation of his license under NDCC 15.1-13-26. Mr. Romans has pled guilty to Corruption or Solicitation of Minors, in violation of NDCC 12.1-20-05. Patti Stedman made a motion to revoke Mr. Romans' license, as required by NDCC 15.1-13-26. Motion seconded by Sheila Schlafmann. Patti and Sheila both agreed that Century Code is clear and requires that his license be revoked. Board members who voted yes were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Sheila Schlafmann, Patti Stedman, and Dena Venneman. None opposed. Motion carried.

Glanville, Guy – Mr. Glanville's file was reviewed after a Request for Inquiry was received from a parent. Bismarck Public Schools has had a conversation with Mr. Glanville about expectations related to technology and as a substitute teacher. Mark

Openshaw reminded the Board that this case is part of new grooming statute included in the Code of Professional Conduct for Administrators under Administrative Code 67.1-03-01 Principle 1 Section 7. Mark asked the Board to be sure when they make a motion to include the specific violation and why they believe the actions of the motion should be taken, with reference back to statute.

Siri Coleman asked Mark to read the statute 67.1-03-01-01.1(3). Mark read this for the Board. Patti Stedman asked if there have been cases where an educator has been accused of grooming as a first-time offender as opposed to a repeat situation. Grooming has been recently added to administrative code, so this is one of the first times the Board is reviewing a file under these rules. Mark said the Board has the full array of options available: dismiss, reprimand, suspension, revocation, education requirements, ect. If the Board does choose to issue a sanction it would be entered in the NASDTEC Clearinghouse. Patti asked if there is any education specific to grooming. ProEthica does address those behaviors, as does the NASDTEC ethics course. Patti wondered if those education options are “enough”. Becky isn’t sure.

Siri Coleman made a motion to issue Mr. Glanville a settlement agreement for a letter of reprimand and to require completion of the NASDTEC ethics course at applicant expense with his essay back to the Board for being in violation of Administrative Code 67.1-03-01-02(7) and NDCC 15.1-13-25(j) and to suspend Mr. Glanville’s license until all requirements have been successfully completed. Motion seconded by Patti Stedman. Siri felt like in reading the documents submitted that flags went up when she read certain portions – special treatment, ect. She said if it feels “icky” it probably is. She feels the Board needs to stress the ethical boundaries and responsibilities as an educator. Patti agreed and said this educator needs to understand what is appropriate. Siri feels this hopefully sends the message that the Board is taking this allegation seriously. Evan Kritzberger expressed difficulty in wondering what the individual’s motivation is, which the Board may never have a clear picture of. The Board has heavy things to balance – an educator’s career and the protection of students. Board members who voted in favor of the motion were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Sheila Schlafmann, Patti Stedman, and Dena Venneman. None opposed. Motion carried.

McLagan, Timothy – Mr. McLagan’s file was reviewed after a Request for Inquiry was received from a parent. Even though there are similarities between this and the previous case reviewed today, Mark reminded the Board it’s important to consider the facts of each case individually. It is not required that because certain action was taken on a similar case that action on another case needs to be the same. Becky said she did receive a call from the administrator at the school where Mr. McLagan taught, letting her know that a possible Request for Inquiry would be coming previous to it being received. The school did allow Mr. McLagan to resign from his position and did not file a complaint.

Siri Coleman made a motion to issue Mr. McLagan a settlement agreement for a letter of reprimand and to require completion of the NASDTEC ethics course at applicant expense with his essay back to the Board for being in violation of Administrative Code 67.1-03-01-02(7) and NDCC 15.1-13-25(j) and to suspend Mr. McLagan's license until all requirements have been successfully completed. Motion seconded by Angela Nagel.

Siri stated she sees similarities to the previous case, including some things that seem overly personal and there appears to be a lot of dependence on the student. Angela said this case bothers her more than others, as it seems to have gone on for a longer period of time. Angela appreciated Mr. McLagan's letter and feels if this is the first time this type of activity has occurred, taking away his license immediately doesn't feel appropriate.

Jenny Bladow questioned some of the social media requests that seem to have occurred after Mr. McLagan was told to have no further contact with the individual. Appears to have happened twice after that. Patti said it's important that the Board has factual information, so she's thankful for the screenshots included in the Board materials. Evan Kritzberger added that in cases like this, the Board is establishing expectations that are clearer than those previously in place, which is also now in accordance with the law. He recognizes that it's difficult for the Board to make these decisions, but it's certainly not burdensome. He's a little disappointed the district gave the individual the opportunity to resign instead of filing a complaint. Board members who voted in favor of the motion were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Dustin Hager, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Sheila Schlafmann, Patti Stedman, and Dena Venneman. None opposed. Motion carried.

Hert-Triggs, Christine – Ms. Hert Triggs' file was reviewed after a Request for Inquiry was received from a parent for alleged violation of the Code of Professional Conduct for Educators. Patti Stedman asked if an investigation was completed by the school board, since Ms. Hert-Triggs' administrator is related to her. Yes, an investigation was completed by the school board. Patti Stedman stated the Board must determine whether the alleged conduct warrants disciplinary action being taken. She feels if the school board investigated and found no further action needed, it wouldn't be appropriate for the Board to take action. Jenny Bladow made a motion to dismiss the case for Ms. Hert-Triggs. Motion seconded by Dena Venneman. Jenny feels that the school board completed their investigation and felt no further action needed to be taken. Also, she feels there is perhaps not enough information for action. Board members who voted yes were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Dustin Hager, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Sheila Schlafmann, Patti Stedman, and Dena Venneman. None opposed. Motion carried.

Lohnes, Dani – Ms. Lohnes' file was reviewed due to background offenses disclosed on her application for an interim substitute license. Mark reminded the Board of things to consider – if the offenses have direct bearing on her ability to work as a substitute teacher and the amount of time since offenses occurred. Patti Stedman made a motion to grant an interim substitute license to Ms. Lohnes and to require her to self-report any further violations. Seconded by Angela Nagel. Patti stated Ms. Lohnes last offense was in 2022, she's taken care of all requirements set forth by the courts, and has taken responsibility for her offenses. Angela agreed. Board members who voted yes were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Dustin Hager, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Sheila Schlafmann, Patti Stedman, and Dena Venneman. None opposed. Motion carried.

Davis, Jason – Before discussion began Angela Nagel disclosed that she knows Mr. Davis because he works in her building and will recuse herself from this case. Mr. Davis' file was reviewed due to self-disclosed background offenses on his application for renewal.

Patti Stedman made a motion to grant a renewal to Mr. Davis and to require him to self-report any further violations. Seconded by Siri Coleman. Patti referenced his letter where he states he's paid his fines and is working thru his addiction. Siri agreed. Becky and Evan asked if the Board would want evidence of continued progress. Patti asked how this is different from other cases and how to verify that type of information. If it's due to a pattern of behavior, she believes that more than one DUI establishes a pattern and if the Board does that for this case, they need to do it for all alcohol related cases. Board members who voted in favor were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Dustin Hager, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Sheila Schlafmann, Patti Stedman, and Dena Venneman. None opposed. Motion carried.

Napton, Lacey – Ms. Napton's file was reviewed due to self-disclosed background offenses on her application for an interim substitute license. Mark asked the Board to look closely at her timeline of offenses and to consider if the recent offenses would impact her ability to perform her job be and if she's been sufficiently rehabilitated.

Siri Coleman made a motion to grant Ms. Napton's interim substitute license with the requirement to immediately report any additional offenses. Seconded by Patti Stedman. Siri stated based on the letter of explanation submitted from Ms. Napton she feels comfortable issuing a license but also feels it's necessary for her to self-report. Patti agreed and said perhaps this will be Ms. Napton's reminder to follow educator's code of conduct. Board members who voted in favor were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Dustin Hager, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Sheila Schlafmann, Patti Stedman, and Dena Venneman. None opposed. Motion carried.

Paciaroni, Ann – Before discussion began, Evan Kritzberger disclosed that he is an adjunct professor at Mayville State University, where the incident being reviewed occurred. Evan does not know this individual and hasn't been involved with any aspect of the case. Patti Stedman asked Evan if he believes he can be impartial. Yes, Evan believes he can be impartial. Patti Stedman made a motion to allow Evan Kritzberger to participate in the case. Seconded by Sarah Lerud. Patti stated that because Evan said he doesn't know this person and can be impartial, it's ok for him to participate. Board members who voted yes were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Dustin Hager, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Sheila Schlafmann, Patti Stedman, and Dena Venneman. None opposed. Motion carried.

Ms. Paciaroni's file was reviewed after a Request for Inquiry was received for alleged violation of NDCC 15.1-13-25(c). Attorney Mark Openshaw added that this is an open and ongoing court case. The offenses are not ones that would require automatic revocation; however, the Board does still have the option of suspending until outcome of case if that's what they choose to do.

Patti Stedman made a motion to continue this case until the conclusion of the court case. Seconded by Siri Coleman. Patti feels the case needs to be dealt with in the court system, and even after it's resolved, the Board may want to consider disciplinary action for conduct unbecoming a teacher. Becky will note that in the file. Jenny Bladow expressed concern about this individual potentially being in a classroom with students while the case plays out, due to the allegations and the fact that there are multiple written statements that support the actions. Dustin Hager voted in favor of the motion. Board members who voted no were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Sheila Schlafmann, Patti Stedman, and Dena Venneman. Motion failed.

Siri Coleman made a motion to issue Ms. Paciaroni a settlement agreement to suspend her license until conclusion of the court case case, at which time her file will come back to the Board for further review. Motion seconded by Sheila Schlafmann. Siri said the Board has reservations about this individual being in a classroom with students until they know how the case is coming, due to conduct unbecoming a teacher. Board members who voted yes were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Dustin Hager, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Sheila Schlafmann, Patti Stedman, and Dena Venneman. None opposed. Motion carried.

Siri Coleman stepped out of the meeting at 9:45am.

Fernandez, Ana Marie – Before discussion began Evan Kritzberger disclosed that he also works for Grand Forks Public Schools, however he works at the secondary level and this case is at the elementary level. Has never met or interacted with Ms. Fernandez and is now aware of the facts of the case. He does feel he can be impartial. Jenny Bladow made motion to allow Evan to participate in this case. Motion seconded by Angela Nagel. Board members who voted in favor were Jenny Bladow, Dustin Hager, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Sheila Schlafmann, Patti Stedman, and Dena Venneman. None opposed. Motion carried.

Sarah Lerud disclosed that she's on NDUnited board. Ms. Fernandez had brought her case to NDUnited Board asking for legal representation. It is NDUnited's policy that for them to provide legal representation, an individual needs to follow legal counsel's guidance. Ms. Fernandez did not follow guidance, so was not represented by NDUnited. Ms. Fernandez did share quite a bit about her case when she asked for legal representation. After further discussion, Sarah stated she would recuse herself from the case.

Ms. Fernandez's file is being reviewed due to a letter received from Grand Forks Public Schools stating she was discharged for cause and being reported to ESPB in accordance with NDCC 15.1-15-11. Angela Nagel asked what the Board is looking at in this case. Mark Openshaw pointed out some key components of the case including incidents that supported her being dismissed for cause. Mark reminded the Board they need to focus on teacher conduct and the complaint. Angela said as a special education teacher, she sees details outlined in this case should have never happened.

Patti Stedman made a motion to issue a settlement agreement to revoke Ms. Fernandez's license for violations of NDCC 15.1-13-25(c,j), Administrative Code 67.1-03-01-02(1, 3), and 67.1-03-01-03(1). Motion seconded by Jenny Bladow. Evan asked Becky for a reminder of what happens with a revocation. If Ms. Fernandez signs the settlement agreement, the revocation is the entered into the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and she has the opportunity to reapply for licensure in two years. If she does not sign the settlement agreement, then she has the option to proceed to administrative hearing.

After reading through the plethora of documents submitted, Patti Stedman feels Grand Forks Public Schools completed a very thorough, well documented, investigation. She stated if the district hadn't been so thorough the Board's job would be more difficult. Angela Nagel said not following an IEP, the physical piece, and not following protocol for restraint influenced her decision. Evan asked if the Board can decide to remove a qualification from an individual's license. Ms. Fernandez is licensed to teach both secondary science and special education. Could the Board remove special education from her license? The Board has restricted grade levels in the past. Evan wonders if not allowing this person to teach special education would help in the situation. Patti agreed it may be something to consider. Jenny Bladow said there is so much evidence in the materials, she worries about safety of students around this individual.

Board members who voted yes to the motion were Jenny Bladow, Dustin Hager, Evan Kritzberger, Angela Nagel, Sheila Schlafmann, Patti Stedman, and Dena Venneman. None opposed. Motion carried.

Frye, Richard – Angela Nagel disclosed that she has children who have attended the school where Mr. Frye teaches, but she isn't even sure if her children have had Mr. Frye as a teacher. She stated she does not know this individual and feels she can be impartial. Patti Stedman made a motion to allow Angela Nagel to participate in the case. Seconded by Sheila Schlafmann. Board members who voted yes were Jenny Bladow, Dustin Hager, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Sheila Schlafmann, Patti Stedman, and Dena Venneman. None opposed. Motion carried.

Mr. Frye's file was reviewed after a Request for Inquiry was received from a parent for alleged violation of Administrative Code 67.1-03-02 and 67.1-03-01-04. Angela Nagel made a motion to dismiss. Motion seconded by Dena Venneman. Angela read through the information submitted, and being a teacher herself and being in situations with parents, she feels this is more of a parental opinion and it's not worth any type of penalty for this teacher. Dena felt the same and stated dismissing the case seems appropriate. Patti Stedman also feels this should be handled at the school level and the parent seems to have skipped that process. Board members who voted yes were Jenny Bladow, Dustin Hager, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Sheila Schlafmann, Patti Stedman, and Dena Venneman. None opposed. Motion carried.

Attorney Mark Openshaw provided an update on the Malaun Nelson case. Mr. Nelson is still in custody at the Grand Forks jail. In December 2025 a settlement agreement was issued to Mr. Nelson to suspend his license and as of today no signed settlement agreement has been received. The state case has been dismissed and federal charges filed. A Request for Inquiry has been sent to Mr. Nelson for response. The allowed response time of 20 days has not yet lapsed. The Board will likely review at the July meeting.

The regular meeting recessed at 10:39am.

Administrative Subcommittee – Called to order at 10:39am and reviewed by Administrative Subcommittee of the Education Standards and Practices Board. Administrative Subcommittee members present were Dustin Hager, Sarah Lerud, Sheila Schlafmann, Patti Stedman, and Dena Venneman.

Simmons, Jeff – Before discussion began Dena Venneman disclosed that is originally from the community where this school is located and she knows the individuals listed to substantiate but does not know Mr. Simmons or the person who submitted the complaint. She feels she can be impartial. Sarah Lerud made motion for Dena Venneman to be allowed to participate in this case. Motion seconded by Sheila Schlafmann. Sarah said because Dena doesn't know Mr. Simmons and has been away from Killdeer for a number of years that it is ok for Dena to participate. Administrative subcommittee members who voted yes were Dustin Hager, Sarah Lerud, Sheila Schlafmann, and Patti Stedman. None opposed. Motion carried.

A Request for Inquiry was received regarding Mr. Simmons due to district positions being eliminated because of budget deficits.

Dena Venneman made a motion to dismiss the case. Seconded by Sheila Schlafmann. Dena said she feels the person who submitted the complaint shouldn't have been teaching full-time anyway, as they hold an interim substitute license. If the action in question was due to reduction of a teaching position it seems warranted. Sheila added that the school district has worked with their attorney to follow proper procedures. Administrative subcommittee members who voted yes were Dustin Hager, Sarah Lerud, Sheila Schlafmann, Patti Stedman, and Dena Venneman. None opposed. Motion carried.

Triggs, Chris – Two Requests for Inquiry were received from different individuals; however, the complaints are related to the same situations. The complaints allege violations of Administrative Code 67.1-03-01 and sections of the Model Code of Ethics for Educators related to Commitment to the Profession and Commitment to the Community. This has not been reviewed by the school board of the district.

Patti Stedman stated in the information submitted it appears that the administrator followed district procedure. Sarah Lerud made a motion to dismiss the cases. Seconded by Dena Venneman. Sarah said it appears the district did their due diligence and followed district policy. Administrative Subcommittee members who voted yes were Dustin Hager, Sarah Lerud, Sheila Schlafmann, Patti Stedman, and Dena Venneman. None opposed. Motion carried.

Administrative Subcommittee adjourned at 10:47am and the regular meeting resumed.

Interstate Teaching Compact – Attorney Mark Openshaw is going to review Interstate Teaching Compact again with questions legal counsel had and contained in the letter that was written in 2024. The elements of the teaching compact have not changed since two years ago. Mark encouraged Board members to read the letter written by Assistant Attorney General Allyson Hicks from 2024 and response from NASDTEC's legal counsel. Agreeing to the compact is essentially giving up some of North Dakota's autonomy and power when it comes to educator licensure.
Mark has developed many questions and will review those later in the meeting today when Jimmy Adams from NASDTEC joins the meeting. He pointed out a number of items in the compact conflict with North Dakota statute. The compact cannot change and needs to be passed as the same version in every state.

Siri Coleman returned to the meeting at 11:04am.

Teachers of Tomorrow – Evan Chrise and Alexandra Escobar from Teachers of Tomorrow joined the meeting. Teachers of Tomorrow is AAQEP accredited and have been in operation since 2005 in over 10 states. They offer two pathways, essentials and advanced. The advanced pathway includes a higher number of hours of coursework and increased support for candidates. It is their desire to become an approved alternative pathway to licensure in North Dakota under the provisions of NDCC 15.1-13-10. Becky and Mari will be meeting with Teachers of Tomorrow on Monday to ask questions and gather more information.

Reading Legislation Updates – ESPB has been implementing reading legislation and ND institutions have been doing the work to ensure that North Dakota teachers are prepared to teach reading. Yvonne Cannon from Mayville State University, Loni Miller from University of Mary, and Sonja Brandt from University of North Dakota joined the meeting to share about what is being done. All universities have been working together to implement reading requirements. When the bill was enacted, EPPs knew that there needed to be more evidence of what was being done. Phase I was developing North Dakota standards for teaching of reading. These standards were integrated into courses and included in syllabi.

Loni Miller shared the rubric and self-evaluation tool EPPs are using. Sonja Brandt added that they looked section by section to see what teacher preparation programs were doing to prepare teachers and how they moved forward with how that fit with the rubric developed. They continued to ask what evidence was being used to demonstrate that these things were being implemented. This will be rolled out at literacy conference this summer.

Becky thanked Loni, Sonja, and Yvonne for their work.

Pro-Ethica Presentation – Lisa Colon Durham from ETS presented Pro-Ethica. Pro-Ethica is online professional development modules that support ethical decision making using relatable scenarios to examine professional risks. Currently regenerating Pro-Ethica to enhance it with updated content, module addressing ethics and AI. Pro-Ethica takes approximately 10 hours to complete. Pro-Ethica has multiple integration options including with teacher preparation programs, a possible requirement for alternative pathways to licensure, and/or used as district professional development.

Angela Nagel left the meeting at 12:00pm.

Common Metrics – Eric Pietrzak from Minot State talked about the Common Metrics Surveys. NDACTE uses this information for their continuous improvement process. Common Metrics changed hands this year from being housed at NDSU to Minot State. The schedule of when surveys are sent was altered a bit this past year.

NASDTEC Interstate Compact – Jimmy Adams from NASDTEC joined online to answer some of the questions the board has about the compact.

The compact helps facilitate mobility of teachers across state lines. Approximately 35% of teachers become mobile and the compact allows them to move around more freely. The incoming license must be unencumbered, the applicant needs to have completed an approved licensure program, and have no disciplinary action in the past or pending. Compact will have data exchange system for documents. Mark asked about costs. Jimmy stated cost may range anywhere from $2000 to $7000 annually. Utilizing the data exchange will hopefully cut costs drastically.

Becky asked if there would be a set of administrative rules that would govern the compact. Yes, rules would be developed by the commission as the governing party. This year they met virtually. Commissioners are made up of one member of each member state that is an employee of the licensure agency in that state. Each state has a voice/vote when creating those rules. The Department of Defense has given their full support to the compact and has paid all fees regarding the compact up until this point, including legal fees.

Jimmy stated that each member state determines which licenses qualify for the compact. The compact helps a person obtain a license in a new state, but once the license is issued, the compact doesn't apply, because the educator then has a license in North Dakota with all applicable ND laws and rules in place.

For the compact to be in force it requires at least 10 member states – currently 13 states are signed on, and bills were introduced in four additional states this year. Compact license is not about where teacher prep program was completed, it's about the current license that a person holds.

Becky thanked Jimmy for taking the time to meet with the Board today.

ND RISE – ND RISE continues to support new teachers across the state. They are current wrapping up the 2025-2026 supports while launching enrollment for the 2026-2027 year. There were 658 beginning teachers supported during the 2025-2026 school year with 43 teachers already enrolled for 2026-2027. Spring mentor stipends are going out, with additional batches to be processed through June.

Strong survey data from administrators and mentors continues to show the strength and impact of ND RISE. Responses from beginning teacher surveys will be collected in May.

Director's Report – All ND agencies are working on becoming ADA compliant. We recently received notice from the federal government that the deadline for compliance has been moved to April 2027. Higher Ed and ESPB continue to complete federal Title I reports.

Higher Education Variance – NDACTE asked to implement a pilot study to use basic skills competency alternative menu starting in Spring 2023. NDACTE is requesting two additional years (Fall 2026 to Spring 2028) to collect data on the basic skills alternative menu.

Patti Stedman made a motion to approve the request from NDACTE. Motion seconded by Siri Coleman. Patti appreciates this option being available and thanked Jenny Bladow for working on this. Board members who voted in favor were Jenny Bladow, Siri

Coleman, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Sheila Schlafmann, Patti Stedman, and Dena Venneman. None opposed. Motion carried.

ESPB is also requesting a basic skills variance to offer an alternative menu of options for applicants educated in teacher preparation programs outside North Dakota. Patti Stedman made a motion to approve this option. Seconded by Jenny Bladow. Board members who voted yes were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Sheila Schlafmann, Patti Stedman, and Dena Venneman. None opposed. Motion carried.

Holly Peterson from Minot State has asked ESPB to write a letter to get on US Department of Education list of approved state entities that can approve programs. This will help to allow Minot State University to be eligible for a Pipeline Grant at the federal level and may assist in accepting Certification Central coursework as transfer credits instead of Prior Learning Activities. Sheila Schlafmann made a motion to approve the request for a letter from ESPB to the Department of Education. Seconded by Patti Stedman. Board members who voted in favor were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Sheila Schlafmann, Patti Stedman, and Dena Venneman. None opposed. Motion carried.

March and April Minutes, License and Financial Reports – Siri Coleman made a motion to approve the March and April meeting minutes, license, and financial reports. Motion seconded by Sarah Lerud. Board members who voted in favor were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Sheila Schlafmann, Patti Stedman, and Dena Venneman. None opposed. Motion carried.

The March 2026 financial report showed $84,102.51 in total income received, $77,273.25 in total expenses, with a net income of $6,829.26 The January 2026 license/financial items totaled 938. This number includes background checks, endorsements, late fees, licensing fees, and application fees.

The April 2026 financial report showed $60,459.06 in total income received, $137,452.87 in total expenses, with a net income of minus $76,993.81 The April 2026 license/financial items totaled 721. This number includes background checks, endorsements, late fees, licensing fees, and application fees.

Board Meeting Dates – Meeting dates for 2026-2027 have been provided to the Board. All dates are the second Thursday of each month, as has been done in the past. Angela Nagel made a motion to approve the 2026-2027 meeting dates as written. Motion seconded by Sarah Lerud. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Board Member Reports
NDACTE – Continuing to work on basic skills variance. Statewide discussions between EPPs about classroom management.

Association of Non-Public Schools – Closing out the school year. Groups are gearing up for legislation for the upcoming year.
Association of School Administrators – Biggest thing on everyone's mind is the move to Infinite Campus. Districts are working to fill positions for the upcoming school year. Also anticipating upcoming legislative session.
School Boards Association – Association is developing a new superintendent evaluation tool.
NDUnited – Preparing for upcoming session.
DPI – Superintendent Bachmeier joined from DPI and provided an update. They are working hard to support school districts as they prepare for July 1 cutover to Infinite Campus. He shared preliminary data gathered about what individuals feel make great schools. This will be further synthesized and shared in the future. Arlene Wolf shared that DPI and ESPB will be meeting tomorrow in preliminary discussions the option of credentials being issued by ESPB. Members from ESPB, DPI, and legal representatives will be present.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:22pm

Evan M. Fritzberger
Vice- Chair

Rebecca S. Pitkin
Secretary/Executive Director