

## **MINUTES**

**Thursday, April 12, 2018**

Fort Totten Room, State Capitol, Bismarck

The Education Standards and Practices Board (ESPB) meeting was called to order at 9:03am by Chair Carly Retterath. Board members present were Jessica Rush, Mike McNeff, Bob Toso, Andrea Fox, Dinah Goldenberg, Brenda Tufte, Carly Retterath. Kim Belgarde joined by conference call. Superintendent Kirsten Baesler joined at 9:27am.

Karen Christensen and Ben Johnson were absent.

Also present were Amy Folkestad, Mari Riehl, and Becky Pitkin from ESPB, Matt Scherbenske and Gail Schauer from DPI, Ann Longie from Mandaree School District, Patty Barrette from DPI, Edward Erickson from Attorney General's Office, Mark Wagner and Tracy Becker from CTE, Aimee Copas from NDCEL and Dr. Steve Johnson from Lisbon School.

Introductions were held.

**Additions/Changes to the Agenda** – A few agenda items will be moved around to accommodate schedules. Board cases will be heard earlier in the meeting. Erin Jacobson has prepared a video report and this will be viewed before lunch. Items to add to the agenda include a board case for Benjamin Ehrmantraut and driver education re-education credits.

Dinah Goldenberg made a motion to accept the changes to the agenda. Motion seconded by Bob Toso. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

### **March Minutes, License, and Financial Report** –

The March 2018 financial report showed \$67,152.91 in total income received, \$64,815.47 in total expenses, with a net income of \$2,337.44. The March 2018 licensure report showed 958 total licenses issued. Bob Toso made a motion to accept the March minutes, license, and financial reports. Motion seconded by Dinah Goldenberg. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

**Program Approval Advisory Committee (PAAC)** – Becky has received some follow-up information from universities, as requested after the last PAAC meeting. All voted in favor of accepting PAAC report as read. None opposed. Motion carried.

**Shortage Areas** – Used information from Alternate Access license report and DPI MIS03 information. Shortage areas presented to board. All content areas have been declared critical shortage areas, except for physical education, for the 2018-2019 school year.

Mike McNeff expressed concern with the new guidelines of the Teacher Shortage Loan Forgiveness program, the timelines, and determining content areas for each district that would qualify.

Brenda Tufte moved to accept shortage areas as identified by DPI. Motion seconded by Bob Toso. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

**Director's Report** – Mission and vision will be discussed at retreat in June. Information on electronic licenses has been included in Becky's report and will be discussed later in the meeting. ESPB has received a cost estimate from Nexus Innovations for this

programming.

**Matt Scherbenske from DPI:TEALS and Code.org** – Presentation on state planning centered around computer science and cybersecurity. He gave an overview to help show a larger picture of what's going on behind the scenes and DPI's comprehensive plan. According to a Gallup Poll, 90% of parents want their students to learn computer science, but only 40% of schools are teaching it. In December 2017, a work group from ND attended a meeting with Code.org to begin developing a state plan for computer science in ND. In January 2018, task force developed on cybersecurity for K-20W.

**Dr. Steve Johnson, Lisbon Public Schools: Rural Schools** – Dr. Johnson spoke to ESPB about some ways to strengthen recruitment and retention of teachers in rural school districts. He gave an overview of beliefs that may prevent educators from being attracted to and staying in rural districts including salary, lack of inclusion, and social and economic opportunities. Examples of Rural Teacher Corps from Missouri, California, and Alabama were also reviewed.

## **CASES**

**Smith, Christopher** – Mr. Smith's file was reviewed by the Board due to a Request for Inquiry filed by Minnewaukan Public School District. Criminal charges against Mr. Smith have been dismissed. Bob Toso made a motion to dismiss the case. Seconded by Mike McNeff. Board members who voted yes were Kim Belgarde, Andrea Fox, Dinah Goldenberg, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

**Schweitzer, Luke** – Mr. Schweitzer's file was reviewed by the Board at the March 2018 meeting due to his background check. He had answered no on the application when asked if he had ever been arrested, charged, or convicted of an offense. At the March meeting, the Board tabled the case and asked for Mr. Schweitzer's response to answering no on the application. He has provided an additional statement to the Board. Dinah Goldenberg made a motion to grant Mr. Schweitzer an interim substitute license for one year, require that he self-report any subsequent offenses, and complete a background check when he reapplies for his license. Motion seconded by Bob Toso. Board members who voted yes were Kim Belgarde, Andrea Fox, Dinah Goldenberg, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

**Kroupa, Brad** – At the January 2018 meeting, Mr. Kroupa was fined \$150 for teaching without a valid license. His administrator later provided information showing that his contract was not issued and signed until November 3, 2017, the date his license was issued. Dinah Goldenberg made a motion to dismiss Mr. Kroupa's case and rescind the fine. Motion seconded by Brenda Tufte. Board members who voted yes were Kim Belgarde, Andrea Fox, Dinah Goldenberg, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush,

Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

**Dahl, Bryton** – ESPB received a letter from Williston Public School District stating they would no longer hire Mr. Dahl as a substitute teacher because he had been arrested and charged with corruption of a minor. There has not been a formal Request for Inquiry filed, but the case has appeared in the news. Mike McNeff made a motion to file a Board Initiated Request for Inquiry. Motion seconded by Dinah Goldenberg. Board members who voted in favor were Kim Belgarde, Andrea Fox, Dinah Goldenberg, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

**Ehrmantraut, Benjamin** – Mr. Ehrmantraut's file has been reviewed in December 2017 and January 2018 due to previous background offenses. At the January 2018 meeting, the Board voted to table the case until the outcome of Mr. Ehrmantraut's court case had been determined. The case has since been finalized. Bob Toso made a motion to revoke Mr. Ehrmantraut's substitute teaching license with the option to reapply after 2020. Motion seconded by Andrea Fox. Board members who voted in yes were Kim Belgarde, Andrea Fox, Dinah Goldenberg, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE CASES**

**Longie, Ann** – At the December 2017, the Administrative Board voted to fine Ms. Longie \$250 for two separate incidents of placing an unqualified teacher in the classroom. Ms. Longie has submitted a letter asking the Administrative Board to reconsider the fine, and documenting efforts to place qualified and licensed teachers in the classroom. After much discussion, Dinah Goldenberg motion to rescind the fines. Motion seconded Carly Retterath. Administrative Board members who voted yes were Dinah Goldenberg, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, and Bob Toso. None opposed. Motion carried.

**Driver Education** – Mari Riehl from ESPB presented on driver education renewal. Every 5 years, driver education instructors are to earn 2 credits specific to driver education. ESPB Administrative Rule does not specifically address or exempt educators with a life license or the expectation for them to continue earning driver education credits. In DPI administrative manual, it says that life license holders are exempt from credits. The office is looking for Board guidance. Bob Toso made the motion to give driver education instructors with a life license a grace period of 2 years to earn their driver education credits. This would allow them until April 2020 to complete the necessary re-education credits. Motion seconded by Mike McNeff. Board members who voted in yes were Kim Belgarde, Andrea Fox, Dinah Goldenberg, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

## **Board member reports**

### **NDACTE –**

- Higher education is discussing ways to move forward with the Model Code of Ethics.
- Teacher prep programs continue to explore ways to integrate and include computer science curriculum.
- Important to get legislative support to allow access to school and student data relevant to program needs. Need to know many institutions put in the request for SLEDS? And, what is the protocol for data requests?
- There is concern about the possible shift at ETS to no longer accept a composite score for the Praxis. Education Programs accept a composite score for student teaching and ESPB for licensure.
- Passing scores were not reported as per composite definition of passing for ND. 2014-2015 pass rates were 94%, 2015-2016 92%, 2016-2017 75% passing. ETS calculated core RWM as individual scores. ND uses the composite definition. ESPB was informed that ETS will not calculate manually, therefore, in the Title II published report, our state pass rate would be significantly lower.
- The state NDACTE Conference will be held April 12 and 13 in Grand Forks.

**Association of Non-Public Schools** – Nothing to report.

**ND Association of School Administrators** – Lots of movement at this time. Nothing further to report.

**School Boards Association** – Nothing to report.

**NDUnited** – Delegate Assembly will be held this weekend, April 13 and 14. Registration has been opened for professional growth institute. Released courses for that will be available from now until December 2018. Micro-credentials will be offered for credit through UND. Valley City and Sheyenne school districts will be participating in district-wide ethics training.

**Teacher Support System** – TSS Coordinator Erin Jacobson was unable to attend the meeting, but provided a video update for the Board on TSS. Interviews will be held at the end of April for TSS Assistant Coordinator position.

Many changes have been made to the mentor training materials in response to trainer and mentor feedback. Erin will be attending a three-day Mentoring Institute April 18 to 20. This will allow her to network to explore additional possibilities and learn about additional mentoring materials that might be available to the program.

Erin continues to work with Learning Forward to expand the Coaches Academy and offer a Coaches Academy Part 2.

### **Board Workshop**

The meeting broke for lunch at 12:00pm, then resumed at 12:30 in the cafeteria meeting room.

**Budget Committee** – The Budget Committee met before the regular board meeting

today where Becky presented where ESPB is at with current budget. If income follows trends, the budget will be about even for the year. At the retreat, the committee will have a formal proposal of a budget for the coming year.

Background checks – BCI/FBI has dropped their processing fee to \$40. ESPB will keep our fee at \$44.50 and charge the \$4.50 as a processing fee.

P-Card – Becky and Lacey from the office have done significant research on obtaining a P-Card and found it would require procurement training for all staff and would significantly increase paperwork and turnaround time in processing. Board members agreed that we should keep our process as-is.

**Electronic Licenses** – ESPB has received a quote from Nexus Innovations, the contractor for NDTeach, that it would cost approximately \$5000 to do the initial programming to go forward with electronic licenses. After everything is in place, this would save approximately \$800 to \$1000 per month. The Board instructed Becky to go forward with the programming.

**Fine Structure** – There was much discussion on what is appropriate fine/fee for those with an expired teaching license. History has showed consistency in fines that have been imposed. No changes will be made at this time.

**Alternate Access Committee** – Mike McNeff provided an overview of topics the Alternate Access Committee has covered including the idea of a narrow license area. CTE is interested in working with ESPB on this idea. This would possibly allow individuals who are qualified in a specific area such as accounting, textiles, ect, to become licensed for just that area. Office staff is working to be more specific with administrators in what needs to be included in request letter for alternate access licenses.

**Strategic Plan** – Superintendent Baesler has brought groups together to share strategic plan. She has asked interest groups to align their strategic plan with DPI's. This will be discussed further at the June retreat.

**June Retreat** – EPB's annual retreat will be held in Fargo in June. If there are topics board members want to discuss at that time, please make Carly aware so topics can be included on the agenda. At the retreat, Patty Barrette from NDUnited will provide a condensed version of her Model Code of Ethics course so Board members can experience it and hopefully give an endorsement.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:02pm