

MINUTES – Board Meeting

Thursday, April 16, 2020

Conference Call

The Education Standards and Practices Board (ESPB) meeting was called to order at 8:00am by Chair Carly Retterath. Board members present by phone were Andrea Fox, Kathy Lentz, Mike McNeff, Jessica Rush, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, Bob Toso, Brenda Tuft, and Superintendent Kirsten Baesler. Carly Retterath joined in person. Ben Johnson joined the meeting at 10:00am.

Also present were ESPB Executive Director Rebecca Pitkin, Mari Riehl and Amy Bigelow from ESPB, Allyson Hicks from Attorney General's Office, and Megan Davison. Erin Jacobson and Marijke Leibel from Teacher Support System, Joe Kolosky from DPI, and Ellie Shockley from DPI and NDUS joined the meeting at 9:15am.

Introductions were held.

Additions/Changes to the Agenda – The agenda item for 30-year licenses will be removed from the agenda. All voted in favor of accepting the agenda as amended, none opposed. Motion carried.

Motion to Ratify March Licensure List – Mike McNeff made a motion to ratify the March 2020 licensure list. Motion seconded by Brenda Tufte. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

CASES

Schroer, Andrew – Mr. Schroer's case was reviewed by the Board due to self-disclosed background offenses on his application for licensure. Andrea Fox made a motion to approve Mr. Schroer's application. Motion seconded by Kathy Lentz. Board members who voted in favor were Andrea Fox, Kathy Lentz, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Moreno, Luis – Mr. Moreno's file is being reviewed by the Board after it came to the Board's attention that he was working as a full-time teacher on an interim substitute license. Mike McNeff made a motion to send a cease and desist letter to Mr. Moreno and to initiate a Request for Inquiry on Mr. Moreno's administrator to seek response as to why they allowed this to happen. Mr. Schmidt, Mr. Moreno's administrator, will be added to the Administrative Subcommittee agenda. Mike also included in his motion to continue Mr. Moreno's case until the next meeting. Board members who voted yes were Andrea Fox, Kathy Lentz, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Davison, Megan – Ms. Davison's file is being reviewed by the Board after it came to the Board's attention that she was working as a full-time teacher on an interim substitute license. Ms. Davison has since resigned from the position. Bob Toso made a motion to send a Request for Inquiry to the school superintendent and to add the superintendent's name to the Administrative Subcommittee agenda. Motion seconded by Brenda Tufte. Board members who voted yes were Andrea Fox, Kathy Lentz, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Schwandt, Rachel – Ms. Schwandt's file was reviewed by the Board due to background offenses that were self-disclosed on her application for licensure. Bob Toso made a motion to approve. Motion seconded by Patti Stedman. Board members who voted in favor were Andrea Fox, Kathy Lentz, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Eckart, Christopher – Mr. Eckart's file was reviewed in May 2019 and at that time the board voted to suspend his license for one year, after a Request for Inquiry was filed against his license by Hillsboro Public Schools. Mr. Eckart has completed all requirements set forth by the Board and is asking to have his license reinstated. Bob Toso made a motion to approve Mr. Eckart's request to have his license reinstated. Motion seconded by Patti Stedman. Board members who voted in favor were Andrea Fox, Kathy Lentz, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

The regular ESPB meeting as adjourned at 8:26am

Mike McNeff, Administrative Subcommittee Chair, called the meeting of the Administrative Subcommittee to order at 8:26am.

ADMINISTRATIVE CASES – Reviewed by the Administrative Subcommittee of the Education Standards and Practices Board. Administrative Subcommittee members present were Kathy Lentz, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Patti Stedman and Bob Toso.

Administrative Subcommittee cases for Tom Schmidt and Beth Zietz will be added to the agenda.

Beck, Sarah – Ms. Beck's file was reviewed by the Administrative Subcommittee for placing an unlicensed teacher in the classroom. Patti Stedman made a motion to fine the Ms. Beck and issue her a letter of reprimand with a copy to the school board. Patti later rescinded her motion.

Bob Toso made a motion to fine Ms. Beck \$250 and issue a letter of reprimand to her with a copy to the school board. Motion seconded by Kathy Lentz. Administrative Subcommittee members who voted yes were Kathy Lentz, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Patti Stedman, and Bob Toso. None opposed. Motion carried.

Schmidt, Tom – Carly Retterath made a motion to file a Request for Inquiry on Mr. Schmidt regarding Luis Moreno and placing an unlicensed teacher in the classroom full-time with interim substitute license. Motion seconded by Kathy Lentz. Administrative Subcommittee members who voted yes were Kathy Lentz, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Patti Stedman, and Bob Toso. None opposed. Motion carried.

Zietz, Beth – Kathy Lentz made a motion to file a Request for Inquiry on Ms. Zietz regarding Megan Davison and placing an unlicensed teacher in the classroom full-time with interim substitute license. Motion seconded by Patti Stedman. Administrative Subcommittee members who voted yes were Kathy Lentz, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Patti Stedman, and Bob Toso. None opposed. Motion carried.

The Administrative Subcommittee meeting was adjourned at 8:39am

ESPB meeting was reconvened at 8:40am.

There was much discussion on interim substitute licenses and how long is ok for someone to sub. Some interim substitute license holders have a 10-day restriction (less than 48 semester hours) and some do not (Bachelor's degree). ESPB will continue to work with NDCEL to help make administrators aware of their options. Language will also be drafted as a response when the office is asked length of time for subbing with interim substitute license.

Board attorney Allyson Hicks left the meeting at 8:52am.

March Minutes, License, and Financial Report – The March 2020 financial report showed \$60,260.03 in total income received, \$57,621.32 in total expenses, with a net income of \$2,638.71. The March 2020 licensure report documented 723 total issued. This number includes background checks, endorsements, late fees, and application fees. Patti Stedman made a motion to accept the March minutes, license, and financial report. Seconded by Brenda Tufte. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Becky pointed out that the impact of COVID-19 has not been reflected in the ESPB budget as of yet. Board expenses have been less this past year, as the Board has had less travel. The Budget Subcommittee will be meeting today, and their recommendations will be reported next month.

Going forward into next year, we have content experts that review and give feedback for university program reviews. Content experts are currently paid \$100 to do this. Becky would like to increase this to \$150.

PAAC minutes from March 26, 2020 – HB 1287 had permission for a state-approved alternative licensure program. Katherine Terras has brought forward Certification Central, a competency-based licensure program for those who already hold a bachelor's degree. PAAC approved the program and Certification Central is hoping to go live by July. PAAC also discussed revocation of Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College program and PAAC determined this revocation would take effect at the end of the Spring 2020 semester. NHSC was approved to begin the accreditation process again. NDSU has developed a business education program and this was approved by PAAC. Patti Stedman made a motion to accept the PAAC minutes from March 26, 2020.

Seconded by Mike McNeff. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Jessica Rush and Andrea Fox left the meeting at 9:01am.

Disability Waiver Request – Mike McNeff made a motion to approve the issuing of Breana Trottier’s application under the disability waiver. Motion seconded by Patti Stedman. Board members who voted in favor were Kathy Lentz, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

School Social Worker Request – ESPB has received a request from a social worker to have a “restricted” license, similar to school psychologists, so they can receive TFFR benefits. Mike McNeff spoke about a meeting he and Becky attended. This is a local issue and most districts will do PERS for non-licensed individuals. The question was also raised if ESPB would do this, would this negatively impact others. Bob Toso made a motion to deny the request. Motion seconded by Kathy Lentz. Board members who voted in agreement were Kathy Lentz, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Director’s Report – ETS has temporarily closed all testing centers, however, are hoping to offer remote proctoring for at-home test taking by mid-May. This currently happens with the GRE.

Attorney General’s office has recommended that we do not ask the Governor for any emergency waivers at this point, as we do have provisions within our law that we can use to continue with licensure in situation where someone doesn’t have a test or background check completed.

ESPB has received another health initiative grant, so we will receive a 1% reduction in our health insurance premiums.

A lot of travel/trainings are currently on hold or uncertain at this time. Mayville State CAEP visit was completed remotely via Zoom and went remarkably well.

Teacher Support System – Mentors completed their third and final webinars for the school year on March 24 and 25. If they were unable to attend live, they could access the recording at a later time. Erin and Marijke are discussing option for the 2-day trainings held in August and September. These trainings are typically face to face, but may be placed online.

Options are also being discussed for next year’s Coaches Academy. They are exploring moving the academy to September, November and January to the spring or delivering content online. Learning Forward reached out to Erin and Marijke about a ND coach to participate/be highlighted in a national webinar.

Teacher Support system learned that the article they were asked to submit for the Journal of Higher Education Theory and Practice was accepted and the final formatted

article has been submitted.

Shortage Areas – Ellie Shockley from DPI and University Systems and Joe Kolosky from DPI presented on shortage areas. Methodology for this research has changed in recent years. They have cross-referenced data points to determine the top 5 critical need positions and shortage areas.

Mike McNeff made a motion to declare all areas as critical need for the 20-21 school year. Motion seconded by Brenda Tufte. Board members who voted in favor were Kathy Lentz, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Brenda Tufte expressed that NDACTE is diligently working to advise students that if they go into a content area that isn't as high of need, that they should be prepared to work in a rural district, earn a minor in another content area, or work to become qualified in another content area.

Superintendent Baesler requested to give an overview of what is being done regarding credential renewal/expiration dates at this time due to COVID-19.

Credential Renewal/Expiration Dates – The issue was brought to DPI to have Governor suspend credential requirements during COVID-19 event. Superintendent Baesler is wondering how the Board feels about suspending credential renewal requirements during this time. Board members asked that communication that is sent out clearly state that DPI's suspension of credential renewal requirements would not change teaching license renewal requirements. ESPB and DPI will work together to draft language.

Upcoming Legislative Session – Bills from last session made some significant changes to licensure and alternative licensure options. More data is needed on these licensure types going forward. There are currently some ideas regarding special education options in the works through universities. Becky presented data on permits she has gathered to date. She has learned that most individuals who currently hold a permit are enrolled or are planning to become enrolled in teacher education programs.

Unless the Board desires, there are not anticipated bills to draft at this time. NDACTE is working on a bill to ask the legislature for funding for teacher education candidates to go into rural areas. This would come in the form of scholarships. Once the bill is sponsored and edited, NDACTE will be asking ESPB for support.

Praxis Core Proposal – Stacy Duffield from NDSU spoke on behalf of NDACTE. NDACTE has submitted 2 different proposals to use in place of the basic skills tests used for licensure.

1. Request to Include the ACT as a Licensure Exam for Basic Skills – with minimum scores of: Composite score of 22, Mathematics score of 21, and English Language Arts score of 21.

Ben Johnson asked what information was used to determine the proposed cut scores. NDACTE looked at requirements from other states, including our neighbor Minnesota, who uses a score of 21 for math. This would be an increase in flexibility for licensure requirements and would require an administrative rule change. Nationally, almost every other state is doing this.

Mike McNeff suggested that with ACT, it could be aligned with Choice Ready framework. Choice Ready requires ACT scores of 18 for English, 22 in Reading, 21 in Math, and 23 in Science. There is no composite score for Choice Ready. Choice Ready does not include writing and students do not receive an ELA score unless writing is included.

Brenda Tufte made a motion to approve using the ACT as a licensure exam as presented by Stacy Duffield. Motion seconded by Kathy Lentz. Board members who voted yes were Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

2. Waiver for the Basic Skills Licensure Exam – NDACTE is requesting the option to grant an eligible candidate a waiver for the basic skills exam licensure requirement.

For a waiver to be granted by the educator preparation program, the teacher candidate must meet the following eligibility requirements: have made at least three attempts at the Praxis Core or ACT and have earned a grade of A or B in a general education math and English class. Note – a candidate may be granted a waiver for reading plus writing and/or math and only needs to make three attempts for the exam(s) for which a passing score is not achieved.

Educator preparation programs will determine if the waiver option is implemented and candidate eligibility.

Mike McNeff made a motion to approve the waiver for Basic Skills Licensure Exam as presented by Stacy Duffield. Motion seconded by Patti Stedman. Board members who voted yes were Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Board Member Reports

NDACTE –

- The spring NDACTE conference was cancelled due to COVID-19 and student teacher awards were mailed out to each institution's recipients across the state.
- The Praxis Core Work Group has proposed options for candidates unable to pass the Praxis Core and those will be presented today by the committee chair, Stacy Duffield, for ESPB approval.
- Data from 2016-2019 on teacher preparation in North Dakota (collected from student teachers and completers in the field was presented to the Board).

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Association of Non-Public Schools – Nothing to report.

Association of School Administrators – Nothing to report. All are trying to work together and collaborate in this time of distance learning.

School Boards Association – Nothing to report.

NDUnited – Nothing new at this time.

DPI – DPI holds a briefing each day. They continue to work with Attorney General's office and Governor's office. Superintendent Baesler encouraged individuals to continue to ask questions and reach out to DPI.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:54am.

Chair

Secretary/Executive Director