

## **MINUTES – Board Meeting**

**Thursday, April 8, 2021**

Teams Meeting

The Education Standards and Practices Board (ESPB) meeting was called to order at 8:00am by Chair Carly Retterath. Board members present by video conference were Andrea Fox, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, Bob Toso, Brenda Tufte, and Superintendent Kirsten Baesler.

Ben Johnson and Kraig Steinhoff were absent.

Also present were ESPB Executive Director Rebecca Pitkin, Assistant Director Mari Riehl, and Amy Bigelow from ESPB, Tracy Becker from CTE as tech support, Allyson Hicks from Attorney General's Office, Angel Lindseth, Jen Wallender, and Brent Jacobson.

**Additions/Changes to the Agenda** – Items to be added to the agenda include a disability waiver request for Nicole Blilie. Bob Toso made a motion to accept agenda as amended. Seconded by Patti Stedman. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

**Motion to Ratify March Licensure List** – Kathy Lentz motioned to accept the March licensure list. Motion seconded by Brenda Tufte. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

### **CASES**

**Munoz, Patricia** – Ms. Munoz's file was reviewed at the March meeting and the Board voted to ask for additional character references. This information has been provided for the Board. Bob Toso made a motion to grant Ms. Munoz's application for an interim substitute license. Motion seconded by Kathy Lentz. Board members who voted in favor were Andrea Fox, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

**Walls, Kurtis** – Mr. Walls's file was reviewed by the Board due to background offenses he self-disclosed on his application for licensure. Brenda Tufte made a motion to grant the license. Seconded by Jessica Rush. Board members who voted yes were Andrea Fox, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

The regular ESPB meeting was recessed at 8:08am.

Carly Retterath, acting Administrative Subcommittee Chair, called the meeting of the Administrative Subcommittee to order at 8:08am.

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

**Callender, Duane** – Mr. Callender's file was reviewed after a Request for Inquiry was received. Kathy Lentz made a motion to dismiss the case, with a reminder to Mr. Callender accurately report his qualifications. Motion seconded by Bob Toso.

Administrative Subcommittee members who voted yes were Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Patti Stedman, and Bob Toso. None opposed. Motion carried.

The Administrative Subcommittee adjourned, and the regular ESPB meeting resumed at 8:20am.

**Update on Seth Flemmer Settlement Agreement** – Board attorney Allyson Hicks has worked with Mr. Flemmer’s attorney on language of the settlement agreement and Mr. Flemmer will be signing and submitting. The settlement agreement will stipulate that he will surrender his license and it will be suspended, pending the outcome of his case.

Allyson Hicks left meeting at 8:20am.

**March Minutes, Special Meeting Minutes, License, and Financial Reports** – The March 2021 financial report showed \$69,005.54 in total income received, \$59,109.89 in total expenses, with a net income of \$9895.65. The February 2021 licensure report documented 899 items issued. This number includes background checks, endorsements, late fees, and application fees.

Overall licensure is down compared to the past few years, but the number of interim substitute licenses issued has greatly increased.

Jessica Rush moved to accept the March minutes, special meeting minutes, license, and financial reports. Seconded by Joshua Standing Elk. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

#### **Disability Waiver Requests –**

- **Aziz, Luma** – Andrea Fox disclosed that she has worked closely in her district with Ms. Aziz. She does feel like she can vote impartially. Board members expressed no concern about Andrea voting. Brenda Tufte made a motion to grant the disability waiver for Ms. Aziz. Seconded by Jessica Rush. Board members who voted yes were Andrea Fox, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.
- **Blilie, Nicole** – Bob Toso made a motion to grant the disability waiver for Ms. Blilie. Motion seconded by Patti Stedman. Board members who voted yes were Andrea Fox, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.
- **Riley, Devontae** – Brenda Tufte moved that disability waiver be granted, dependent on Mr. Riley successfully completing student teaching. Seconded by Patti Stedman. Board members who voted in favor were Andrea Fox, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Jessica Rush left the meeting at 8:41am.

**Shortage Areas** – The Board reviewed shortage area information presented by Josef Kolosky and Ellie Shockley from the last meeting, in addition to American Board, out-of-field endorsements, and teaching permit data. Bob Toso made a motion to declare all areas as shortage areas for the 2021-2022 school year. Motion seconded by Brenda. Board members who voted in favor of all areas being declared shortage areas were Andrea Fox, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

**Substitute Licenses** – The Board has been asked to review the interim substitute license issued based on less than a bachelor's degree. Currently this license shows a 10-day restriction. The Board has been asked to extend or remove this all together. After much discussion, Andrea Fox made a motion to change the 10-day restriction to a 30-day restriction for someone who has less than a bachelor's degree. Seconded by Bob Toso. Board members who voted in favor were Andrea Fox, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Becky reminded the Board this change would need to go through the administrative rules process and most likely wouldn't take effect until Fall 2021.

**Program Approval Committee Membership (PAAC)** – A number of years ago, PAAC membership was determined and written into policy. Katherine Terras has submitted a request that since Certification Central has been state-approved as an alternative preparation program, that representation from an alternative preparation program be appointed to PAAC.

Patti Stedman made a motion to approve representation of an additional PAAC member from an alternative preparation program that is ESPB state-approved. Motion seconded by Bob Toso.

Superintendent Baesler expressed concern about current alternative preparation programs making decisions about other alternative preparation programs that might come in the future. DPI is being required to provide study data to the legislature on student performance under teachers who have completed an alternative program.

Board members who voted in favor of adding another member to PAAC to represent at state-approved alternative teacher preparation program were, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. Andrea Fox voted no. Motion carried.

**Director's Report** – Staff continue rotating remote work schedules. We have met with our programmers at Nexus Innovations to request some changes and are waiting for an estimate.

**Legislative Session – Foreign practitioner bill did not move on.**

- **SB 2332** – Special education has been added back into this bill, which covers American Board and other alternative teacher preparation programs. At this time, clinical experience and mentoring have been removed. Different entities have voice concern, especially about removal of mentoring/supports for first-year teachers. Superintendent Baesler does believe that this bill will go back to Conference Committee to add Teacher Support system mentoring back in.
- **HB 1388** – Senator Schaible has offered many amendments. Section 8 does involve ESPB and requires assurance that reading competencies have been met. Many institutions already offer this coursework. At this time, the bill states that K-12 majors must have 3SH of reading in the content area. Those who apply for initial licensure without these things will have 2 years to complete the requirement.
- **HB 1013** – This is the DPI budget bill and includes pass through funding for Teacher Support System.

**Board Member Reports**

**NDACTE –**

- Dr. Cheryl Nielsen from Minot State will be retiring, so we will be bringing forward a new nominee to serve on PAAC.
- The special education addition and removal of student teaching and program approval in Senate Bill 2332 was discussed as a major concern, but there was no opportunity to testify as these additions were added later.
- The NDACTE Board discussed the use of the Praxis as a requirement to licensure. Discussion included that many use the test into teaching. Many districts are taking advantage of this. The board requested that NDACTE be allowed to have a conversation about the Praxis or choosing another assessment that would align with CAEP requirements and time to find an alternative if required to do so.
- The question was asked if institutions could continue to require the Praxis. Brenda stated that we have to be careful about not being open to change. Superintendent Baesler was wondering if we could consider looking at what other states are doing. There was a recommendation to create a taskforce to look at other options states are using.
- NDACTE discussed the need to have higher education faculty present and be more involved in the Governor's Innovative Education Summit. Someone will be reaching out to positively share that we appreciate the opportunity to attend.
- This month, NDACTE is honoring our outstanding preservice teachers. Our spring conference: Decolonization: Intersections with Education and Culturally Responsive Teaching will be hosted by TMCC in April.

**Association of Non-Public Schools** – Not present.

**Association of School Administrators** – Watching legislative session.

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

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**NDUnited** – Not present.

**DPI** – Superintendent Baesler provided kudos to Becky and the Board for being responsive to legislative concerns in the interim and taking action on these concerns through administrative rules and policy.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:47am.

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Chair

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Secretary/Executive Director