

MINUTES – Board Meeting
Thursday, April 14, 2022
Teams

The Education Standards and Practices Board (ESPB) meeting was called to order at 8:02am by Chair Carly Retterath. Board members present by video conference were Siri Coleman, Andrea Fox, Sonya Hansana, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Joshua Standing Elk, Brenda Tufte, and Superintendent Kirsten Baesler.

Also present were ESPB Executive Director Rebecca Pitkin, Assistant Director Mari Riehl, and Amy Bigelow from ESPB, Carl Karpinski from Attorney General's Office, Jen Wallender from Western Governors University, Michelle Griffin from UND, Pam Johnson from Mayville State University, and other online guests.

Additions/Changes to the Agenda – Items to add to the agenda include board cases for Tara Fox and Ellen Anderson. Becky would also like to add approval of new Praxis cut scores. Sonya Hansana made a motion to accept agenda as amended. Seconded by Andrea Fox. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Motion to Ratify March Licensure List – Brenda Tufte made motion to ratify the March 2022 licensure list. Seconded by Kathy Lentz. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

CASES

Black Cloud, Ron – Mr. Black Cloud's license was reviewed after a Request for Inquiry was received from a district due to breach of contract. Brenda Tufte disclosed that she is familiar with Mr. Black Cloud, but does feel she can vote objectively. No board members expressed concern with Brenda voting. Sonya Hansana made a motion to dismiss the case. Motion seconded by Kathy Lentz. Board members who voted yes were Siri Coleman, Andrea Fox, Sonya Hansana, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Joshua Standing Elk, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Re, Emily – Ms. Re's file was reviewed by the Board for possibly teaching without a valid license. Superintendent Baesler clarified that non-public schools still need to sign off on the school approval report, stating that they have qualified teachers. Andrea Fox made a motion to file a Request for Inquiry on Ms. Re's administrator, and to ask Ms. Re for more information on her role in the school. Motion seconded by Siri Coleman. Board members who voted yes were Siri Coleman, Andrea Fox, Sonya Hansana, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Joshua Standing Elk, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Anderson, Ellen – Ms. Anderson's file was reviewed after she self-disclosed background offenses on her application for an interim substitute license. Kathy Lentz made motion to issue Ms. Anderson's license. Motion seconded by Sonya Hansana. Board members who voted yes were Siri Coleman, Andrea Fox, Sonya Hansana, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Joshua Standing Elk, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Fox, Tara – Ms. Fox's license was reviewed after a Request for Inquiry was received from a district due to breach of contract. Andrea Fox made a motion to dismiss the case. Seconded by Brenda Tufte. Board members who voted yes were Siri Coleman, Andrea Fox, Sonya Hansana, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Joshua Standing Elk, and

Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

March Minutes, License, and Financial Reports – The March 2022 financial report showed \$83,402.11 in total income received, \$72,138.24 in total expenses, with a net income of \$11,263.87. The March 2022 licensure report documented 1031 items issued. This number includes background checks, endorsements, late fees, and application fees.

Becky noted that the audit is a couple years behind. National Board is a flow-through grant and there is both input and output. No fees have been paid for administrative rules yet, but those have been submitted for review.

Siri Coleman made a motion to accept the March minutes, license, and financial reports. Seconded by Andrea Fox. None opposed. Motion carried.

Permit Feedback and Recommendations – Becky would like the board to review this the next time the Board meets face to face. She is still waiting for some survey feedback and believes Dr. Steiner, who is not present at the meeting today, has information to provide. Becky would like to roll this to May when she hopes to meet face to face.

Disability Waiver Request – Ms. Leonor Pacheco has submitted a request for a disability waiver. Kathy Lentz made a motion to grant Ms. Pacheco's request for a disability waiver. Seconded by Andrea Fox. Board members who voted yes were Siri Coleman, Andrea Fox, Sonya Hansana, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Joshua Standing Elk, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Praxis Cut Scores – Becky has provided information on the standards setting studies for a number of new Praxis tests. Praxis makes a recommendation to states about cut scores, based on these standards setting studies and multi-state validations. Brenda Tufte moved to adopt the new cut scores based on the recommendation of Praxis. Seconded by Andrea Fox. Board members who voted yes were Siri Coleman, Andrea Fox, Sonya Hansana, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Joshua Standing Elk, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Scores will go into effect at the end of the summer and Becky will bring this to NDACTE.

Administrative Rules Process – Administrative rules have been submitted and the statement of intent to adopt administrative rules has been submitted to state newspapers for publishing. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Frontline has been completed and we hope to get that on our website soon, so applicants know they may begin the background check in preparation for being issued an interim substitute license based on Frontline training completion.

Director's Report – Becky attended the Pre-Service Teacher's Conference April 7 and

8 at Mayville State University. Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College and United Tribes Technical College site visits have been completed. Erin and Marijke from Teacher Support System are looking for some Board members to be a part of a “critical friends” group to provide feedback on the program, help provide new ideas, and examine data.

Board had asked for the essay on the NASDTEC Prevention and Correction course come back to them and that’s been provided from one individual. At the March 2022 meeting, the Board voted to deny Kelsie Schmidt’s application for renewal. She did not sign the settlement agreement and has asked for an administrative hearing. The case has been assigned an attorney and Becky anticipates the hearing to be held in May.

ESPB Assistant Director Mari Riehl report that ESPB will be working with School Boards Association to provide live webinars regarding different opportunities and pathways for people to become teachers through alternative access licensure, American Board, or interim substitute licensure.

Board Member Reports

NDACTE – NDACTCE held their state conference and pre-service teacher awards at Mayville State University. NDACTE continues to research and discuss models and strategies to get more teacher into the pipeline and licensed without lowering standards.

Association of Non-Public Schools – Nothing to report.

Association of School Administrators – Not present.

School Boards Association – National convention last weekend in San Diego.

Wonderful speakers and presentations.

NDUnited – Not present.

DPI – Before Covid, Minot State rolled out the para to teacher pathway. Special education dollars were used to help fund scholarships. A 2nd grant was provided with Covid dollars. First cohort of para to teacher pathway teachers are student teaching this semester. Currently, there are 70 paras in this program, working as paras while they complete their program to become a special education teacher. The program was so successful that another grant opportunity was opened for regular education teachers. Universities were able to apply, and that program will start this summer. Additional universities were given feedback on items to update and to apply again for a grant. Superintendent Baesler will be meeting with Department of Commerce in ND about Department of Labor apprenticeship funds.

For the first time, North Dakota has adopted statewide aspirational goals for learning. This is a re-formatting of the PK-12 Strategic Vision Framework. The vision remained the same and 6 outcome goals were identified, with 5 strategic themes. The K12 Coordination Council determined outcomes, measures, and goals. The long-term aspirational goals/long-term outcomes are:

- Increase student who graduate Choice Ready

- Increase students who demonstrate reading proficiency in 3rd grade
- Increase students who meet expected learning gains each year
- Reduce the disparity in achievement for students with disabilities, living in poverty, and for Native American students.
- Increase students who engage in learning
- Increase students who enter kindergarten prepared to learn, and increase number of kindergarten classrooms that meet the needs of every learner

Superintendent Baesler asked that each Board member bring this back to their respective groups. Student outcomes will not change unless everyone joins together to help these goals be reached.

Becky reminded the board that the retreat is scheduled for August 10th and 11th in Bismarck. Joint Boards will be September 19, 2022.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04am.

Chair

Secretary/Executive Director