

**MINUTES – Board Meeting**  
**Thursday, August 8, 2024**  
BPS Career Academy

The Education Standards and Practices Board (ESPB) meeting was called to order at 8:01am. Board members present were Amber Fridley, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, and Cory Steiner. Jenny Bladow, Dustin Hager, and Patti Stedman joined by video conference.

Board member Siri Coleman were absent.

Also present were ESPB Executive Director Rebecca Pitkin, Mari Riehl, and Amy Bigelow from ESPB, Allyson Hicks and Mark Openshaw from Office of Attorney General, and other online guests.

Introductions were held. Becky welcomed Sarah Lerud, the board's new teacher representative.

**Motion to Include Additional Agenda Items** – Additions to the agenda include a case for Luke Adams with executive session under 44-04-19.2(1) and 12-60-24, disability waiver requests from Anna Hoover, Amanda Pond, Roxanne Klein, Chelsi DeCoteau, Kara Mandich, and Morgan Alexander, review of a possible settlement agreement from Heidi Whitney, requests from Paula Bandy and Daryl Azure, and administrative rule information. Evan Kritzberger made a motion to accept the agenda with amendments. Seconded by Amber Fridley. Board members who voted yes were Jenny Bladow, Amber Fridley, Dustin Hager, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.

**Motion to Ratify June and July Licensure Lists** – Amber Fridley made a motion to ratify the June and July licensure lists. Motion seconded by Angela Nagel. Board members who voted in favor were Jenny Bladow, Amber Fridley, Dustin Hager, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.

**CASES**

**Whitney, Heidi** – Ms. Whitney's license was reviewed by the board due to the possibility of teaching without a valid license. Patti Stedman made a motion to issue Ms. Whitney a \$250 fine and to send a Request for Inquiry to her administrator. Board members who voted in favor were Jenny Bladow, Amber Fridley, Dustin Hager, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.

**Frueh, Molly** – Ms. Frueh's file was reviewed due to self-disclosed background offenses disclosed on her application for renewal. Attorney Allyson Hicks reminded the board that the 2024 charge has not been resolved so is not considered a conviction at this point. Due to this, the board does have the option of holding it over and issuing a conditional license until the outcome has been determined. She wondered if that happened, would the board's decision be different?  
Evan Kritzberger made a motion to grant Ms. Frueh's renewal with the stipulation that she self-report any future violations and follow all court recommendations. Seconded by Sarah Lerud. Board members who voted yes were Jenny Bladow, Amber Fridley, Dustin

Hager, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.

**Adams, Luke** – Before discussion began Patti Stedman stated she did not receive the information on this case so would recuse herself.

This item must be discussed in executive session. Legal authority for closing this portion of the meeting is NDCC 44-04-19.1 (2) and 12-60-24. The topic or purpose of this executive session is criminal history record check. Executive session began at 8:28am. Executive session included discussion of confidential information. Executive session closed at 8:46am.

Allyson's recommendation is to move forward as discussed in executive session and to request additional information from Mr. Adams. Evan Kritzberger made a motion to move forward with Allyson's recommendation and to request additional information from Mr. Adams. Motion seconded by Angela Nagel. Board members who voted yes were Jenny Bladow, Amber Fridley, Dustin Hager, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.

Regular meeting recessed at 8:50am.

**Administrative Subcommittee** – Called to order at 8:50am by Administrative Subcommittee Chair Cory Steiner. Reviewed by Administrative Subcommittee of the Education Standards and Practices Board. Administrative Subcommittee members present were Amber Fridley, Dustin Hager, Sarah Lerud, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner.

**Hirning, Sherlock** – This item must be discussed in executive session. Legal authority for closing this portion of the meeting is NDCC 44-04-19.2(1), 44-04-18.10(5), and 50-25.1-11. Executive session began at 8:54am and ended at 9:04am.

Attorney Allyson Hicks reminded the subcommittee that they have a number of disciplinary options, if they find them appropriate. They could dismiss, issue a conditional license with educational requirements and when completed it would be dismissed, a settlement agreement to complete education, fines, fees, letter of reprimand, suspension, or revocation. These all would be recorded in the NASDTEC Clearinghouse.

Patti Stedman asked if there is specific training related to confidentiality of 960 reports. Allyson believes the Department of Health and Human Services does have something like this.

Patti Stedman made a motion to issue Mr. Hirning a conditional dismissal with the provision that Mr. Hirning completes a 960 reporting training, the DHHS mandatory

reporter class. Seconded by Amber Fridley. Cory Steiner stated he isn't sure that he is in support of this and believes there needs to be a letter of reprimand, at minimum. There should never be indication of knowing who filed a 960 report, as it is confidential information. Patti appreciates Cory's opinion and believes it's a he-said-she-said situation. After further discussion Patti withdrew her motion.

Cory Steiner made a motion to issue Mr. Hirning a settlement agreement that he complete the Department of Health and Human Services mandatory reporter training and to issue a letter of reprimand. The course will need to be completed with 60 days of the date the settlement agreement is signed. Motion seconded by Patti Stedman. Administrative subcommittee members who voted in favor were Amber Fridley, Dustin Hager, Sarah Lerud, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.

Administrative Subcommittee was adjourned at 9:15am

**Approval of ESPB Budget** – The budget subcommittee includes Cory Steiner, Patti Stedman, and Siri Coleman. A copy of the proposed budget has been provided to the board for review. The subcommittee made the recommendation to approve. Motion by Angela Nagel to approve. Seconded by Sarah Lerud. Board members who voted in favor were Jenny Bladow, Amber Fridley, Dustin Hager, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.

**Interstate Teaching Compact** – The board had reviewed the Interstate Teaching Compact proposal a few years ago. This will be brought back this next legislative session. Jimmy Adams from NASDTEC has joined the meeting today to provide additional information. The interstate teaching compact would create reciprocity among states for teacher licensure. Becky will bring to the board for further review with additional information. Allyson will also draft a letter with the board's stance that they can review at the next meeting.

Dustin Hager left at 10:12am.

**June Meeting Minutes, License, and Financial Reports** – The June 2024 financial report showed \$158,206.13 in total income received, \$126,733.78 in total expenses, with a net income of \$31,472.35. The June 2024 licensure report documented 819 items issued. This number includes background checks, endorsements, late fees, and application fees. Amber Fridley made a motion to accept the June meeting minutes. Seconded by Evan Kritzberger. Board members who voted in favor were Jenny Bladow, Amber Fridley, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.

Angela Nagel made a motion to accept the June license and financial reports. Seconded by Sarah Lerud. Board members who voted in favor were Jenny Bladow, Amber Fridley, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Patti Stedman, and Cory

Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.

#### **Disability Waivers –**

- **Anna Hoover** – Request for waiver of Early Childhood and PLT Praxis II tests. Multiple attempts at the tests and UND waived core. Evan Kritzberger made motion to Ms. Hoover's request. Seconded by Angela Nagel. Board members who voted in favor were Jenny Bladow, Amber Fridley, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.
- **Amanda Pond** – Requesting waiver of PLT and Elementary Education Praxis II tests. Has attempted elementary education test three times and the PLT twice. Motion by Evan Kritzberger to grant the waiver request. Motion seconded by Amber Fridley. Board members who voted in favor were Jenny Bladow, Amber Fridley, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.
- **Roxanne Klein** – Requesting waiver of Core Math test. She has attempted test three times. Motion by Angela Nagel to grant the waiver request. Motion seconded by Sarah Lerud. Board members who voted in favor were Jenny Bladow, Amber Fridley, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.
- **Chelsi DeCoteau** – Requesting waiver of PLT and Elementary Education Praxis II tests. Ms. DeCoteau attempted each test at least three times. Evan Kritzberger made a motion to grant the waiver request. Seconded by Angela Nagel. Board members who voted in favor were Jenny Bladow, Amber Fridley, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.
- **Morgan Alexander** – Requesting waiver of Elementary Education Praxis II. Amber Fridley made motion to approve the waiver request. Motion seconded by Sarah Lerud. Board members who voted in favor were Jenny Bladow, Amber Fridley, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.
- **Kara Mandich** – Requesting waiver of Core Math and Elementary Education Praxis II. Sarah Lerud made a motion to grant the waiver request. Seconded by Evan Kritzberger. Board members who voted in favor were Jenny Bladow, Amber Fridley, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.

#### **Applicant Requests –**

- **Tammy Linn** – Ms. Linn has written to the board requesting additional time to complete her re-education credits. Her license is currently valid until December 2024. Evan Kritzberger made a motion to extend Ms. Linn's license for one year to allow time to complete her required credits. Motion seconded by Angela Nagel. Board members who voted yes were Jenny Bladow, Amber Fridley, Evan

Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.

- **Paula Bandy** – Ms. Bandy has written to the board requesting an additional six months to complete her re-education credits to satisfy the requirements of her probationary license. Her current license is valid until January 2025. Motion by Amber Fridley and second by Evan Kritzberger to extend Ms. Bandy's license expiration date until June 30, 2025, to allow her additional time to complete her re-education credits. Board members who voted yes were Jenny Bladow, Amber Fridley, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.
- **Daryl Azure** – Mr. Azure has written asking for one additional year to complete re-education requirements to satisfy probationary license requirements. His license expired August 2, 2024. Cory Steiner made a motion to require evidence of enrolment in four continuing education credits (received within the next two weeks), to review his file again upon completion in six months and if complete, then extend for an additional six months with documentation of enrollment in four final credits. Motion seconded by Angela Nagel. Board members who voted in favor were Jenny Bladow, Amber Fridley, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.
- **DeEtte Hovde** – Ms. Hovde has written requesting an extension in time to complete her re-education credits. She has five credits completed and her probationary license expired in January 2024. At that time, she stepped down to an interim substitute license. She's been in communication with Becky and has registered for the last three credits needed. Angela Nagel made a motion to grant Ms. Hovde an extension for six months. Seconded by Evan Kritzberger. Board members who voted yes were Jenny Bladow, Amber Fridley, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.

#### **Administrative Rules –**

- Administrative rules regarding elementary education. The board had reviewed information earlier this year about the possibility of changing the elementary education license to be issued at the K-8 grade level instead of the 1-8 grade level, as it is now. Amber Fridley made a motion to leave elementary education 1-8 administrative rules as is. Seconded by Evan Kritzberger. Cory agreed and doesn't believe the requirement of a kindergarten endorsement is too much of a barrier. Board members who voted in favor were Jenny Bladow, Amber Fridley, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.
- 30-year life license. A subcommittee of Evan Kritzberger, Cory Steiner, and Siri Coleman met and talked about options for the life license. Evan stated the subcommittee discussed how it's concerning to let individuals get a license and not have to go through the ethical section of the licensure application, which also includes disclosing any background offenses. They also talked about retention

and, if the profession is asking to be held in higher regard, it doesn't make a lot of sense for people to say they're not returning to the profession because of the need for re-education credits. They especially pointed out how this relates to technology and how much that aspect of education is always changing. There are no other professions that give a time period of when it's ok to be done learning. Cory reported that there were no changes the subcommittee found as being plausible. Cory made a motion to make no changes to the 30-year life license administrative rule. Seconded by Evan Kritzberger. Board members who voted in favor were Jenny Bladow, Amber Fridley, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.

- Collegiate License. This has already been approved by the board and the title has just been updated.
- Alternate Access License – Cleanup of language related to alternate access licenses issued for testing. Jenny Bladow made a motion to approve the edits to administrative rule regarding testing. Seconded by Angela Nagel. Board members who voted in favor were Jenny Bladow, Amber Fridley, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.
- Attorney Allyson Hicks provided updates on the grooming administrative rules based on feedback received from the board at the June meeting. In section 7 the board would like to remove the last half that begins with "The prohibitions..." Motion by Angela Nagel to approve the updates. Motion seconded by Amber Fridley. Board members who voted in favor were Jenny Bladow, Amber Fridley, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.

**ND RISE** – Erin Jacobson and Marijke Leibel presented to the board showing what they do, provided information on mentoring program requirements, Beginning Teacher Network grants, and enrollment.

Mentoring enrollment continues to grow. In 2022-2023 enrollment was open to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year teachers. The enrollment has doubled since that time (includes 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year teachers). Coaches Academy has graduated over 700 Instructional Coaches in ND. Marijke presented the ND RISE teacher retention study – those involved with mentoring versus those not involved in mentoring in ND. The retention report is helpful and needed for legislative session going forward, when it comes to continued funding. Cory Steiner also suggested that they try to find information to include regarding student outcomes.

**Licensure Report** – ESPB Assistant Director Mari Riehl shared licensure trends over the past three fiscal years. Initial in-state licenses have declined slightly. Applicants from outside ND continue to increase. Fortunately we are seeing most categories with an increase in numbers.

**Director's Report** – The meeting today has covered most of the information included in Becky's report. This year the Joint Boards meeting will be held October 29, 2024. Board training will be held in October. If any board members would like to attend, please let Becky know.

Becky and Jenny are on a Multicultural Plan committee. US Department of Education and The Hunt Institute hosted a meeting in Chicago that was geared toward addressing educator shortage and that is where this committee was developed. The plan is to leverage SB 2032 funds to prioritize Native American paraprofessionals enrollment in the para to teacher program. Sashay Schettler has agreed to lead this project. This work is ongoing.

### **Board Member Reports**

**NDACTE** – Nothing to report, as they have not met over the summer.

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

**Association of School Administrators** – Information from NDCEL about the Keep it Local campaign and to be sure they are sharing accurate information. Cory Steiner was part of statewide literacy taskforce that is looking at modifications and additions to Science of Reading requirements. Seems that there will not be any non-funded mandates. Cory is also part of school choice taskforce. There has been language drafted addressing charter schools for next legislative session. There will also be significant legislation on education savings accounts to be used toward private schools or educational services (ex: special education services.)

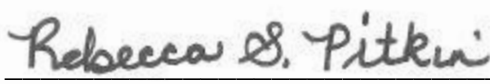
**School Boards Association** – Have not met this summer. Amy DeKok has been hired as the new Executive Director and a new attorney has been hired.

**NDUnited** – Sarah Lerud is on the NDUnited Board of Directors. NDUnited is very involved with the Keep it Local campaign and looking at that to help retain teachers.

**DPI** – Not present.

Meeting adjourned at 12:32pm.

  
Chair

  
Secretary/Executive Director