

MINUTES – Special Meeting

Thursday, August 14, 2025

Teams Meeting

The Education Standards and Practices Board (ESPB) meeting was called to order at 8:00am by Board Chair Cory Steiner. Present by video conference were Dustin Hager, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Cory Steiner, Dena Venneman, and Superintendent Kristen Baesler. Board members Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Sheila Schlafmann, and Patti Stedman were absent.

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

The next item on the agenda is for Jaydin Underwood. This item must be addressed in executive session in accordance with NDCC 44-04-19.1. The topic or purpose of the executive session is discussion of exempt records. The executive session began at 8:04am and was attended by Dustin Hager, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Cory Steiner, Dena Venneman, Kirsten Baesler, Mark Openshaw, Rebecca Pitkin, and Amy Bigelow. Executive session adjourned at 8:10am.

Underwood, Jaydin – Ms. Underwood has been charged with endangerment of a child or vulnerable adult, child neglect – parental care, and domestic violence – bodily injury. Board Chair Cory Steiner asked Mark and Becky for additional information. Ms. Underwood's attorney did notify the office that he's representing her and wanted ESPB to know that Ms. Underwood has scheduled a chemical dependency evaluation and plans to follow through with any recommendations. She is also exploring other counseling and is willing to comply with anything ESPB deems appropriate.

Cory asked Mark to review options available to the board. Mark said there is a criminal case pending. The first option is to request additional information from the licensee, however Ms. Underwood does have a right to not incriminate herself prior to court proceedings. Normally what is done with violations of this nature is to send a settlement to suspend the individual's license until the outcome of the case. Ms. Underwood's current charges do not meet the requirements in statute for automatic revocation of her license. The board could also offer a settlement for courses and/or suspension for certain length of time. Mark added that without a settlement agreement, Ms. Underwood's license does remain active, which would allow her to seek employment elsewhere.

Evan Kritzberger asked if a settlement agreement is offered to revoke a license, what is the amount of time before they can reapply. They can reapply after 2 years.

Evan Kritzberger made a motion to issue Ms. Underwood a settlement agreement for revocation of her license. The motion did not receive a second and was defeated.

Dustin Hager made a motion to issue Ms. Underwood a settlement agreement to immediately suspend her license until the outcome of the criminal charges and to re-evaluate at that time. The board finds her to be in violation of NDCC 15.1-13-25(1)(c). Motion seconded by Angela Nagel. Angela believes this is the best option at this moment. Evan added that he doesn't disagree with this motion, but feels due to the nature of the charges, two years is the minimum amount of time he feels is appropriate.

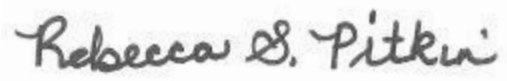
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Cory Steiner shares Evan's sentiments but is reassured that the case will come back to the board. Dustin agreed and said the board needs to allow the legal aspect play out, and then can determine their steps going forward. Mark clarified that regardless of the outcome of the criminal case, it will come back before the board and they can choose if they want to take disciplinary action at that time. Board members expressed that does make them feel more at ease. Board members who voted in favor of the motion were Dustin Hager, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Cory Steine, and Dena Venneman. None opposed. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23am.


Chair


Secretary/Executive Director