

MINUTES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Wyeth/Rockwell Room, Radisson Hotel, Bismarck

The Education Standards and Practices Board (ESPB) meeting was called to order at 9:03am by board chair Mary Eldredge-Sandbo. Board members present were Amy Mann, Bob Toso, Gary Thompson, Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, Kimberly Belgarde, and Carly Retterath. Paul Stremick, Mike McNeff, and Dinah Goldenberg joined by conference call. Also attending the meeting were Rebecca Pitkin and Amy Folkestad from ESPB, Kirsten Baesler from DPI, and Laurie Stenehjem from Teacher Support System. Edward Erickson from the Attorney General's office and Gail Schauer from DPI joined after lunch.

Karen Christensen was absent.

Introductions were held. Board chair Mary Eldredge-Sandbo welcomed new board member Bob Toso, who is representing North Dakota school boards.

Additions to the Agenda – Items added to the agenda are cases Shane Primeau and Piper Thorpe, PAAC recommendations to ESPB, updated report from Janet Welk, and an update on the bill filed with ESSA changes. Kimberly Belgarde made a motion to accept the additions to the agenda. Motion seconded by Amy Mann. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Carly Retterath made a motion to accept the November minutes. Motion seconded by Gary Thompson. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Gary Thompson made a **motion to accept the November financial and licensure reports**. Motion seconded by Paul Stremick. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

The November 2016 financial report showed \$40,443.48 in total income received, \$85,919.25 in total expenses, with a net income of minus \$45,475.77. The November 2016 licensure report showed 692 total licenses issued.

Timeline Review – The board reviewed the timeline of goals they wanted to accomplish each month, as determined at the August board meeting. One of the topics discussed was developing an operational plan. The board's recommendation is that this ultimately be in place by July 1, 2017.

Budget/Policy Committee Report – Carly Retterath reported that the committee plans to have 5 policies developed by March. As these are being developed, the committee will be looking at school board policies as they are comparable. Becky sent out questions to the group to get feedback on what the board thinks the focus and priorities of policies should be, such as hiring, firing, a grievance policy, ect. The consensus of the board is that they would rather pay people who are currently working than paying them out at the end for accrued time. The policies will also be put on a schedule to be re-evaluated approximately

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every 3 years.

Teacher Support System Update – TSS Coordinator Laurie Stenehjem had sent out a survey to administrators who have teachers currently participating in the mentoring program, after discussion at the last meeting about asking districts to help pay for TSS program activities. The responses to this survey were reported to the board.

Superintendent Kirsten Baesler reported that the funding for TSS has been zeroed out in the Governor's budget that was presented on December 7, 2016. If TSS would go to the REAs, the REAs would need to absorb the cost. Mike McNeff expressed concern that if TSS does go to an REA, there may be inequities for small, rural schools. The REAs are aware of this concern and agree that the program should be run similarly to how it is now.

Paul Stremick made a motion for ESPB to support TSS and to testify to the legislature to fund the program adequately so that it can continue. Seconded by Gary Thompson. Superintendent Baesler asked for clarification if this support would be for TSS to be kept at ESPB or move to REA. It's currently in Century Code that TSS is housed at ESPB. It would have to be work in further sessions to move TSS to an REA. Board members who voted yes were Kimberly Belgarde, Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, Dinah Goldenberg, Amy Mann, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Paul Stremick, Gary Thompson, and Bob Toso.

Going in to the session, ESPB would like to emphasize teacher shortage, retention, and how this program is beneficial. Information will be provided to legislators with a cover sheet highlighting the program, along with data, and why support should continue. The board will need to identify people to testify in support of funding being provided for TSS.

Legislative Open House Discussion – In the past, we have invited legislators who have an education connection or are on a legislative committee to an open house the night before our January board meeting, January 11th. Bob Toso made a motion to host a legislative open house. Seconded by Amy Mann. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried. Kim Belgarde was absent for the vote.

Director's Report – The bill draft that contains the changes to grade level configuration for ESSA has been submitted for the upcoming legislative session. Becky has received a lot of feedback and questions on the proposed licensure changes, which wouldn't go into effect until after the session.

Recruitment and Retention Committee – Representative Nathe has drafted bill for loan forgiveness for rural areas. Definition of rural is based on NCES locale codes. Based on this, a rural territory is more than 25 miles from an urbanized area and also more than 10

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miles from an urban cluster.

Mike McNeff made a suggestion to Superintendent Baesler that the Title I paraprofessional credential requirement be similar to the WorkKeys test completed by students for the ND state scholarship. Superintendent Baesler will visit with her federal programs person to find out more information on this.

Report from Janet Welk– Janet has been working on collecting data on Teacher Support System Retention. She has also been prepping content experts for Spring semester for program reviews.

PAAC Recommendations – Gary Thompson reported on behalf of the Program Approval Advisory Committee.

PAAC recommended to ESPB for University of Mary to have interim approval for their Early Childhood Master of Education – Licensure Track program.

PAAC recommended to ESPB to grant interim approval for Master of Education Physical Education - Athletic Administration.

PAAC recommended to ESPB to grant interim approval on Master of Education – Special Education Strategist.

At the June 2016 meeting, PAAC had asked Mayville State to revise the syllabus for EDUC 540, the methods course used in their Master of Arts in Teaching program, to include discipline-specific methods. Mayville State has submitted an updated syllabus with the recommended changes, which were approved by PAAC.

Gary Thompson made a motion to accept PAAC recommendations to ESPB. Seconded by Amy Mann. After further discussion, Paul Stremick made a motion to table the recommendations until board receives recommendations in writing. Board members who voted yes were Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, Dinah Goldenberg, Amy Mann, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Paul Stremick, Gary Thompson, and Bob Toso. Kimberly Belgarde voted no. Motion carried.

CASES

Aronson, Tracy - Mr. Aronson's file was reviewed by the board due to a new background check offense. His file was previously reviewed by the board in September 2016 due to prior background check offenses. Paul Stremick made a motion to table the case and ask for Mr. Aronson's superintendent to fill out Request for Inquiry form, then wait for court date on this new offense. Seconded by Gary Thompson. Board members who voted yes were Kimberly Belgarde, Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, Dinah Goldenberg, Amy Mann, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Paul Stremick, Gary Thompson, and Bob Toso.

Primeau, Shane – Carly Retterath made a motion to grant an Initial Interim Substitute

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License with the stipulation that the board review Mr. Primeau's file again when he reapplies for another his license and that he self-report any new offenses. Seconded by Amy Mann. Board members who voted yes were Kimberly Belgarde, Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, Dinah Goldenberg, Amy Mann, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Paul Stremick, Gary Thompson, and Bob Toso. None opposed. Motion carried. Mr. Primeau's file was reviewed by the board due to his background check.

Thorpe, Piper – Information only. Attorney Edward Erickson has received Ms. Thorpe's signed settlement agreement. As voted on at the May 2016 board meeting, Ms. Thorpe's license will be revoked.

Proposed Bill 15.1-13-25.1 Discussion – This proposed bill aligns with what the board currently does for those who have a sex offense charge against a child. The bill would allow the board to temporarily suspend a license of an educator accused of a crime against a child or a sexual offense. If the criminal case would be resolved with a not guilty verdict, the suspension would be lifted and the board would review the file again. If the case would result in a guilty verdict, the license would then be revoked using the current laws that are in place. This process would still give the educator a chance to appeal the charge going through due-process in the court system.

At the November 2016 board meeting, the board asked Becky to get feedback from stakeholders. She sent out informaton on the proposed bill to North Dakota Council of Educational Leaders (NDCEL) and School Board Association. Mike McNeff gave info on some of the feedback he received. There are concerns regarding if a teacher is placed on administrative leave they can still get paid, but if their license is suspended, they cannot. Also, through the court system, a person is innocent until proven guilty.

Carly Retterath made a motion to postpone for further discussion and development on proposed bill 15.1-13-25. Seconded by Mike McNeff. Board members who voted yes were Kimberly Belgarde, Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, Dinah Goldenberg, Amy Mann, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Gary Thompson, and Bob Toso. Paul Stremick voted no. Motion carried.

Board members Bob Toso, Karen Christensen, Paul Stremick, along with Becky, will meet to go over the bill further and bring recommendations back to the board at the January meeting. The last date to have senators introduce bills is January 23rd. If the recommendation from the group is to go forward with the bill, the board will also need to approach a senator who would be willing to bring the bill forward.

Administrative Rules Process – Becky gave an overview of this process and will send out the key points to board members. Since this is such an involved process, the board will work on this when everyone is together at the meeting in January 2017.

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Mike McNeff suggested that the word Praxis be removed from administrative rules to keep it general in case things change in the future and the board works with a different testing vendor. He would also like the board to look at the current requirement of requiring 2 years of licensure before a person can add a testing endorsement for a new content area, in addition to eliminating the PLT for the Praxis endorsement when an applicant is switching grade levels.

Board Member Reports

NDACTE – Gary Thompson was absent from the last NDACTE meeting, so he asked Becky to report. There is no new information that effects ESPB. Standards for higher education will need to be revised in Spring 2017, since ESSA and licensure configuration has been revised.

School Administrators – Next meeting is next Thursday, December 15, a week from today.

School Boards – Bob Toso has been appointed to ESPB by the Governor.

NDUnited – Ethics course dates are coming up.

DPI – DPI has been inundated with weather and school closings and what schools can and can't do with snow days. Many changes with ESSA including defining effective teachers and how ESSA will effect high poverty/minority schools. Discussion will be ongoing. Next ESSA meeting is Dec 20th.

The board meeting was adjourned at 1:36pm .

Chair

Secretary/Executive Director