

MINUTES

Thursday, December 14, 2017

Fort Totten Room, State Capitol, Bismarck

The Education Standards and Practices Board (ESPB) meeting was called to order at 9:02am by Chair Carly Retterath. Board members present were McNeff, Dinah Goldenberg, Bob Toso, Kim Belgarde, Andrea Fox, Ben Johnson, Karen Christensen, Carly Retterath and Brenda Tufte.

Board members absent were Jessica Rush, and Superintendent Kirsten Baesler.

Also present were Amy Folkestad, Becky Pitkin, and Mari Riehl from ESPB, Bob Marthaller from DPI, Gail Schauer from DPI, Patty Barrette from NDUnited, Levi Bachmeier from the Governor's Office, Kayla Effertz-Kleven from Olson Effertz Lobbying & Consulting, Erin Jacobson from Teacher Support System. Edward Erickson from Attorney General's Office, Blair Emerson from Bismarck Tribune, Dana Hillius from NDUnited and Russ Ziegler from NDCEL joined after lunch for the cases.

Introductions were held.

Additions to the Agenda – No new agenda items. Karen Christensen made a motion to accept the agenda as is. Motion seconded by Dinah Goldenberg. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

November Minutes, License, and Financial Report –

Dinah Goldenberg moved to approve the November 2017 minutes, license, and financial reports. Motion seconded by Bob Toso. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

The November 2017 financial report showed \$60,651.11 in total income received, \$59,552.74 in total expenses, with a net income of \$1,098.37. The November 2017 licensure report showed 834 total licenses issued.

Becky would like budget committee to meet in January 2018 to start working on a budget for the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

Governor's Innovation Task Force – Levi Bachmeier from the Governor's Office presented and gave an overview of the Governor's Innovation Task Force. The Task Force was formed as a result of the passing of SB 2186 on innovative education in the 2017 Legislative Session. The group is composed of teachers, administrators, parents, legislators and business people. They are working together to determine how education should look in the 2021. Two meetings have been held and they have determined the vision that will be used to guide the group. For their next meeting, the Task Force will be visiting Oakes High School to learn more about flex-mod scheduling that has been implemented.

ND DPI Strategic Plan: Update – Kayla Effertz-Kleven from Olson Effertz Lobbying &

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Consulting presented DPI's strategic vision and business process modeling project. A draft strategic vision framework has been developed and will continue to change as more information is gathered.

Teacher Support System – Erin Jacobson from TSS spoke about infield coaching, training for advanced mentors. Would like to pilot the program this year with a small group, with hopes that it can be implemented with a larger group next year. Erin has invited Board members to the instructional coaches symposium that will be held in January in Bismarck.

Erin and Becky attended the National Program Leaders Network (NPLN) conference hosted by The New Teacher Center. Erin also attended the National Learning Forward conference December 3-6 and had the opportunity to visit with program leaders from Canada and other states, as well as attended many mentoring sessions. She will be moving forward with advertising for assistant coordinator – would like to hire by end of April with a start date at the beginning of July 2018.

Licensure Reciprocity – Becky presented a report on Teacher Certification Reciprocity Guidelines for other states. Compared with other states, North Dakota has fewer licensure requirements for individuals who wish to transfer their license from another state.

Director's Report – ESPB has continued to have a survey on our website using the same questions that were on the previous DPI survey that was mandated by the legislature. ESPB Assistant Director Mari Riehl spoke about survey and the results we have been receiving. Overall, results have been very positive. Since we are now able to view survey results immediately and have capability to edit our own website, we are able to make changes to the website very quickly in response to feedback received. Becky would like the policy committee to take a look at the survey questions so we can refine them and make them more specific.

Becky attended a meeting in Atlanta with Code.org, an organization that works very closely with North Dakota on computer science. Many individuals from North Dakota attended representing different stakeholder groups including ESPB, DPI, CTE, and the legislature. Ideas that came out of that committee:

- Computer science credential – DPI would need legislative authority to issue these credentials.
- How are teacher education students being prepared with information on computer science? Can this be integrated into Introduction to Education courses?

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The board will have a work day as part of the April 2018 meeting.

Model Code of Ethics for Educators – Dinah Goldenberg shared about the first committee meeting that was held on the Model Code of Ethics for Educators on December 13th. The meeting had strong support from stakeholders and the group felt the existing code of conduct is still important. Becky will review both documents in relation to other states and determine what points from each may need to be combined into one new document. Hoping to have a recommendation to ESPB by June so that any legislative change that might be necessary could be developed.

CASES

Martinez, Christie – Ms. Martinez’s file was reviewed by the board in October 2017 due to a Request for Inquiry that was filed by Mandaree School due to breach of contract. At that meeting, the case was tabled until after Ms. Martinez’s liquidated damages were due/paid. To date, liquidated damages have not been paid, but the Department of Labor will be investigating the case. Mike McNeff made a motion to suspend Ms. Martinez’s license until liquidated damages have been paid or the end of her contract, whichever comes first. Seconded by Bob Toso. Board members who voted yes were Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, and Bob Toso. Board members who voted no were Kim Belgarde, Karen Christensen, Andrea Fox, Dinah Goldenberg, and Ben Johnson. Motion failed.

Dinah Goldenberg then made a motion to table the case until the Department of Labor has concluded their investigation, which may take around 5 months. If ESPB has not heard back in five months, the case will be reviewed again. Board members who voted yes were Kim Belgarde, Karen Christensen, Andrea Fox, Dinah Goldenberg, Ben Johnson and Bob Toso. Board members who voted no were Mike McNeff and Carly Retterath. Motion carried.

DeCoteau, Terry – Mr. DeCoteau’s file was reviewed by the Board due to a Request for Inquiry that was submitted. Mike McNeff made a motion to dismiss the case. Motion seconded by Karen Christensen. Board members who voted yes were Kim Belgarde, Karen Christensen, Andrea Fox, Dinah Goldenberg, Ben Johnson, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. Motion carried.

Pimentel, Lisa – Ms. Pimentel’s file was reviewed by the Board due to her background check. Kim Belgarde made a motion to dismiss the case. Motion seconded by Brenda Tufte. Board members who voted yes were Kim Belgarde, Karen Christensen, Andrea

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Fox, Dinah Goldenberg, Ben Johnson, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. Motion carried.

Mardikian, Virginia – Ms. Mardikian’s file was reviewed due to teaching without a valid license. Dinah Goldenberg made a motion to fine Ms. Mardikian \$100 and to ask for a response from her administrator as to why she was employed as an educator without a valid license. Motion seconded by Kim Belgarde. Board members who voted yes were Kim Belgarde, Karen Christensen, Andrea Fox, Dinah Goldenberg, Ben Johnson, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. Motion carried.

Schaffner, Paul – Mr. Schaffner’s file was reviewed by the Board due to a new background check offense. Bob Toso made a motion to suspend Mr. Schaffner’s license for five years. If he chooses to reapply for licensure after the five years, he will need to show completion of an educator ethics course and appropriate counseling. If it is discovered that the charge involved a minor or if Mr. Schaffner is a registered sex offender, the case will come back to the board. Motion seconded by Dinah Goldenberg. Board members who voted yes were Kim Belgarde, Karen Christensen, Andrea Fox, Dinah Goldenberg, Ben Johnson, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. Motion carried.

Ehrmantraut, Benjamin – Mr. Ehrmantraut’s file was reviewed by the Board due to a self-disclosed background offense. Brenda Tufte made a motion to dismiss the case and require Mr. Ehrmantraut to report any future offenses to the Board. Motion seconded by Ben Johnson. Board members who voted yes were Kim Belgarde, Karen Christensen, Andrea Fox, Dinah Goldenberg, Ben Johnson, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. Motion carried.

Wilder, Cynthia – Ms. Wilder’s file was previously reviewed due to information in the news. At the June 2017 Board meeting, the case was tabled. Ms. Wilder has since entered Alford pleas in her criminal case. Mike McNeff made a motion to revoke Ms. Wilder’s teaching license. Seconded by Dinah Goldenberg. Board members who voted yes were Kim Belgarde, Karen Christensen, Andrea Fox, Dinah Goldenberg, Ben Johnson, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. Motion carried.

Kittelson, Miranda – Ms. Kittleson’s file was reviewed by the Board after a Request for Inquiry was received. Dinah Goldenberg made a motion to table the case until next month and have Board attorney Edward Erickson research the North Dakota Child Abuse/Neglect Information Index from the Department of Human Services and to find out if a person’s name is on this index, if they are still eligible to be licensed as a child care provider in North Dakota. Motion seconded by Ben Johnson. Board members who

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voted yes were Kim Belgarde, Karen Christensen, Andrea Fox, Dinah Goldenberg, Ben Johnson, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tuffe. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE CASES

Longie, Ann – Ms. Longie’s file was reviewed by the Administrative Board due to a request for inquiry and placing unqualified teachers into classrooms. Bob Toso made a motion to fine Ms. Longie \$250 for each incident, noting two incidents. Motion seconded by Karen Christensen. Administrative Board members who voted yes were Karen Christensen, Dinah Goldenberg, Ben Johnson, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, and Bob Toso. Motion carried.

Campbell, Michael – Mr. Campbell’s file was reviewed by the Administrative Board due to a Request for Inquiry. Karen Christensen made a motion to dismiss the case. Motion seconded by Carly Retterath. Administrative Board members who voted yes were Karen Christensen, Dinah Goldenberg, Ben Johnson, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, and Bob Toso. Motion carried.

Germundson, Jason – Mr. Germundson’s file was reviewed by the Administrative Board due to a Request for Inquiry. Karen Christensen made a motion to dismiss the case. Motion seconded by Bob Toso. Administrative Board members who voted yes were Karen Christensen, Dinah Goldenberg, Ben Johnson, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, and Bob Toso. Motion carried.

Board member reports

NDACTE –

- The Superintendent of Lisbon, Dr. Steven Johnson spoke to NDACTE about a group called the Rural Core that seeks to solve the critical teacher shortages in rural districts. Last summer there was a gathering of this group in Mitchell, SD. that centered around the inquiry question: “How do we work together to strengthen the recruitment and retention of outstanding rural leaders?”
- There are continued efforts in to get more computer science teachers in the classroom and Mayville State is developing an online teaching endorsement
- NDACTE is analyzing the math content cut scores (Math 5161) and if we should adjust that. Right now, ND students are 7 percentage points above the national average in the Praxis.
- Dr. Jonas reported on the ESSA committee – post secondary ready, work force ready, and military ready. Composite score of 22 or higher. Are they post-secondary ready if they have one low qualifying sore? Initial reactions from

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those in attendance at the December NDACTE board meeting was that most of our institutions don't require these scores and concerns about labeling students and possibly limiting their opportunities.

School Administrators – Mike reported that in the eastern part of the state, there are a number of retirements upcoming.

School Boards Association – Nothing to report. School Boards Association has not met since their state convention in October.

NDUnited – Discussion about listening tour to see what educator's needs are.

NDUnited has started a podcast and the episode featuring Ted Dintersmith is receiving a lot of good feedback.

DPI – DPI is working on ESSA implementation. They also have a new contract with an assessment vendor. DPI and Higher Ed have been working together on teacher loan forgiveness. Districts will now be applying for vacant/hard to fill positions that are in critical shortage areas. The application will open the beginning of February and districts can apply for 2 spots. Teachers that are hired in those positions will be eligible for the loan forgiveness after they have taught the school year. The dollar amount of loan forgiveness depends on if the position is in a shortage area or critical need area. Once the teacher is hired, they are eligible for forgiveness for up to 4 years.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:39pm.

Chair

Secretary/Executive Director