

MINUTES – Board Meeting
Thursday, December 12, 2019
Fort Union Room, State Capitol

The Education Standards and Practices Board (ESPB) meeting was called to order at 8:01am by Vice Chair Brenda Tufte. Board members present were Andrea Fox, Joshua Standing Elk, Kathy Lentz, Patti Stedman, Jessica Rush, Brenda Tufte. Bob Toso and Mike McNeff joined by phone.

Absent were Ben Johnson, Carly Retterath, and Superintendent Kirsten Baesler.

Also present were ESPB Executive Director Rebecca Pitkin, Mari Riehl and Amy Bigelow from ESPB, Allyson Hicks from Attorney General's Office, Amy Flicek from NDUnted, Erin Jacobson from Teacher Support System, and Matt Scherbenske from DPI.

Introductions were held. Joshua Standing Elk, teacher representative, and Patti Stedman, school board representative, have been appointed to serve on the Board and were welcomed.

Additions/Changes to the Agenda – Cases for Timothy Wegscheid, Kathleen Adams-Holden, and Kelsie Schmidt will be added to the agenda. Kathy Lentz moved to accept the agenda as amended. Seconded by Andrea Fox. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Motion to Ratify November Licensure List – EPB staff has authority to issue licenses, as long as all requirements are met. At the next meeting each month, the Board will be provided with a list of licenses issued and needs to ratify the action. Bob Toso made a motion to ratify licenses issued in November 2019. Motion seconded by Andrea Fox. Those who voted in favor were Andrea Fox, Kathy Lentz, Mike McNeff, Jessica Rush, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Before cases began, attorney Allyson Hicks reviewed the guidelines for conflicts of interest with the Board. If a Board member believes they have a conflict of interest related to a certain case, it should be disclosed to Allyson as soon as possible. A conflict of interest would be a direct and substantial, personal, or pecuniary relationship. At the meeting, the conflict of interest will be disclosed to the Board and the Board will discuss and vote if the person with the conflict of interest should be allowed to vote. If the Board passes a motion that a vote should be cast and you choose not to, your vote will go with the majority.

CASES

Brandt, Evan – Mr. Brandt's case was reviewed by the Board after he self-disclosed background offenses on his application for an Interim Substitute License. Mike McNeff made a motion to grant Mr. Brandt's license. Motion seconded by Kathy Lentz. Those who voted in favor were Andrea Fox, Kathy Lentz, Mike McNeff, Jessica Rush, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Beherns, Ryan – Mr. Beherns's case was reviewed by the Board after he self-disclosed background offenses on his application for a 5-year Other State Educator License. Kathy Lentz made a motion to approve the license application. Motion seconded by

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Andrea Fox. Those who voted in favor were Andrea Fox, Kathy Lentz, Mike McNeff, Jessica Rush, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Kohler, Kelly – In December 2015, Ms. Kohler's license was suspended for 4 years, with additional terms. Ms. Kohler has submitted an application for renewal, along with documentation related to the terms of her suspension. Andrea Fox made motion to reinstate Ms. Kohler's license. Motion seconded by Bob Toso. Board members who voted yes were Andrea Fox, Kathy Lentz, Mike McNeff, Jessica Rush, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Wegscheid, Timothy – Mr. Wegscheid's file is being reviewed by the Board due to a self-disclosed background offense. Kathy Lentz made motion to approve Mr. Wegscheid's application for renewal. Motion seconded by Jessica Rush. Board members who voted yes were Andrea Fox, Kathy Lentz, Mike McNeff, Jessica Rush, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Adams-Holden, Kathleen – Ms. Adams-Holden's case is being reviewed by the Board because she self-disclosed background offenses on her application for a 5-year Other State Educator License. Mike McNeff made a motion to approve the license application. Motion seconded by Patti Stedman. Those who voted in favor were Andrea Fox, Kathy Lentz, Mike McNeff, Jessica Rush, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Schmidt, Kelsie – At the November 2019 meeting, the Board voted to seek a response to the Request for Inquiry that was sent to Ms. Schmidt in February 2019 and to request records from Beulah School District related to their investigation of Ms. Schmidt's case. Ms. Schmidt's response and the records from Beulah Public Schools have been received. There was much discussion on the ethical violations involved in this case.

Mike McNeff made a motion to offer Ms. Schmidt a settlement agreement to her revoke license and she can re-apply in 2 years. Motion seconded by Bob Toso. Settlement agreement is being offered as the Board believes Ms. Schmidt has violated NDCC 15.1-13-25(c), 15.1-13-25(j) and Administrative Code 67.1-03-01-02(3), (4), and (6). Those who voted in favor were Andrea Fox, Kathy Lentz, Mike McNeff, Jessica Rush, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

The regular ESPB Board meeting was adjourned at 8:59am.

Meeting of the Administrative Subcommittee was called to order at 8:59am by Administrative Subcommittee Chair Mike McNeff.

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ADMINISTRATIVE CASES - Reviewed by the Administrative Subcommittee of the Education Standards and Practices Board. Administrative Subcommittee members present were Kathy Lentz, Mike McNeff, Patti Stedman, and Bob Toso.

Bjerklie, Richard – Mr. Bjerklie's file is being reviewed by the Administrative Subcommittee due to a self-disclosed background offense on his application for renewal of his Educator's Professional License. Kathy Lentz made a motion to issue Mr. Bjerlie's renewal. Motion seconded by Patti. Administrative Subcommittee members who voted in favor were Kathy Lentz, Mike McNeff, Patti Stedman, and Bob Toso. None opposed. Motion carried.

Bob Toso moved to adjourn Administrative Subcommittee portion of the meeting. Seconded by Patti Stedman. The Administrative Subcommittee meeting adjourned at 9:02am.

The ESPB meeting re-adjourned at 9:07am.

Board Education – Becky provided a copy of the Model Code of Ethics for Educators (MCEE) to Board members. She will be meeting with NDUnited to see where things are at with MCEE in districts. MCEE has been integrated into teacher education programs, so pre-service teachers are exposed to it. Becky hopes to work with School Boards Association to educate them on MCEE, so that angle is covered as well.

November Minutes, License, and Financial Report – The November 2019 financial report showed \$52,280.96 in total income received, \$65,596.20 in total expenses, with a net income of minus \$13,315.24. The September 2019 licensure report showed 732 issued in November. This number includes background checks, endorsements, late fees, and application fees.

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

2020 Board Retreat – Bob Toso volunteered to organize the Board retreat again. Board members should check their calendars and see if June or August dates would work best.

Disability Administrative Rules – Information is included with Director's Report of two more individuals applying for disability waiver.

Bob Toso made a motion to approve the issuing of Alexis Windjue's application under the disability waiver after the approval of the disability waiver in administrative rules. Motion seconded by Andrea Fox. Board members who voted yes were Andrea Fox, Kathy Lentz, Mike McNeff, Jessica Rush, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tuft. None opposed. Motion carried.

Jessica Rush made a motion to approve the issuing of Teresa Imsland's application under the disability waiver after the approval of the disability waiver in administrative rules. Motion seconded by Kathy Lentz. Board members who voted yes were Andrea Fox, Kathy Lentz, Mike McNeff, Jessica Rush, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Director's Report – Two individuals from North Dakota have been chosen by ETS to participate in a standard setting study for the Praxis Reading Specialist test. Becky also reported that since the new Core math has been offered, scores have increased from a 25.84% pass rate to 78.57% pass rate for Native American students. In all other populations, the pass rate went from 70% to 87%.

Mari Riehl from ESPB talked to the Board about Other State Educator Licenses and what we are seeing coming from other states. She provided a background on the OSEL and if someone has completed a regular teacher education program, has a regular license in another state, and has completed that state's testing, an OSEL is issued. If an applicant has completed an alternate pathway in another state and has a license in another state, they are required to complete ND tests, and when tests are successfully completed, a license is granted.

Brenda Tufte asked the Board to consider discussion of requiring a mentored clinical experience/internship for individuals who have completed an alternative program in another state. This will go on the agenda in the future.

Teacher Support System – Erin Jacobson from TSS provided an update on the Teacher Support System program. First round of webinars for mentor teachers has been completed. Erin and Teacher Support System Assistant Coordinator Marijke Leibel were invited to present at the Learning Forward National Conference. They had 71 participants in their session from across the country. Feedback was very positive.

TSS Legislative Update – Chairman Monson has asked Erin to present to the Interim Education Policy Committee on January 7th.

Mike McNeff left the meeting at 9:58am.

Matt Scherbenske, DPI – Matt Scherbenske from DPI provided information on the proposed draft of administrative rules to the Board related to Computer Science and Cybersecurity Credentials developed by DPI.

Matt stated the intent of the credentials was to not be constraining. He stated most states have focused on computer programming, while the credential focuses on cybersecurity, at the request of the Governor. Credentials include both cybersecurity and computer science together. Training in one area, such as computer science, would

allow them to do both areas. Credentials are offered at Levels 1, 2, or 3, with Level 1 being the highest. Level 3 is an introductory level and would not allow for additional courses to be taught but would allow a teacher to integrate their knowledge into existing courses taught. Matt expressed that DPI's goal is to not have a mandate to any school to require anyone to obtain credential. They would like to see 1 credentialed teacher for every 160 students across the state. All credentials are designed for licensed teachers in any content area.

These proposed rules are currently in public comment period. Board members asked many questions related to the draft of rules and Matt encouraged them to reach out to Jim Upgren with any changes/questions recommended. The public comment period will end December 19th.

Board Member Reports

NDACTE –

- DPI reminded the NDACTE Board that they have Resources for licensed teachers and administrators in the field.
- Details of the formation of the Student Teacher Residency program:
A working group from NDACTE is writing a bill with Senator Kyle Davidson for a Rural Student Teaching Residency that would give student teachers going to rural areas a \$10,000. Stipend. They are applying for approximately 1 million from the state. Elroy Berkel from Small Schools Organizations and Steve Johnson from Lisbon are consultants. The group discussed characteristics of a school that would qualify and what resources they would be responsible for. Some possible items include being a Title I school and serving students in poverty. In addition, availability of Childcare services, presence of salary disparities was also discussed. Some possible ways for school districts to have some skin in the game such as assuring that housing is available, providing breakfast and lunch to the student teacher. scholarships, student loan repayment, etc.
- An NDACTE subcommittee is discussing alternatives to the Praxis Core. One possibility discussed is if candidates can't pass the Praxis core, it could be waived if the student earned an A or B in a college general ed English or math class (the level of those particular classes have not been determined yet). Also, the state could accept either the ACT or the Praxis Core for that entry test. In order to sub the ACT, a student would need a 22 composite with a 21 ELA (combined score of English and writing) and a 21 Math. This proposal is still in discussion but it aims to honor that we don't need to over-test our students and we can accept if they have shown proficiency on a valid and reliable test.

Association of Non-Public Schools – Nothing to report.

Association of School Administrators – Not present.

School Boards Association – Nothing to report.

NDUnited – NDUnited is offering Trauma Informed and ParaSharp through August. Trauma Informed offers videos and other tools to help all school personnel understand

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how to better serve the needs of children. ParaSharp is a set of videos and discussion guides that focus on topics to help paraeducators be the best informed that they can be to help service children.

DPI – Not present.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:03am.

Chair

Secretary/Executive Director