

MINUTES – Board Meeting
Thursday, December 14, 2023
Teams Meeting

The Education Standards and Practices Board (ESPB) meeting was called to order at 8:00am by Board Vice Chair Kathy Lentz. Board members present by video conference were Jenny Bladow, Amber Fridley, Deb Follman, Sonya Hansana, Evan Kritzberger, Kathy Lentz, Angela Nagel, Patti Stedman, and Superintendent Kirsten Baesler.

Siri Coleman and Cory Steiner were absent.

Also present were ESPB Executive Director Rebecca Pitkin, Assistant Director Mari Riehl, and Amy Bigelow from ESPB, Allyson Hicks from Office of Attorney General, Joe Kolosky from DPI, Ellie Shockley from NDUS, Amy Flicek from NDUnited, Erin Jacobson from Teacher Support System, and other online guests.

Introductions were held.

Additions/Changes to the Agenda – Additions to the agenda include cases for Brandon Foster and Alexis Wilson. The case for Mark Miller will be removed. Patti Stedman made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Evan Kritzberger. All voted in favor of the amended agenda, none opposed. Motion carried.

Motion to Ratify November Licensure List – Sonya Hansana made a motion to ratify the November 2023 licensure list. Seconded by Deb Follman. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

CASES

Hoffmann, Alex – Mr. Hoffmann's file was reviewed by the Board due to self-disclosed background offenses on his application for renewal. Patti Stedman made a motion to approve his application for renewal. Motion seconded by Angela Nagel. Patti stated it appears that Mr. Hoffmann has taken care of everything associated with the charges and he did self-report. Board members who voted yes were Jenny Bladow, Amber Fridley, Deb Follman, Sonya Hansana, Evan Kritzberger, Kathy Lentz, Angela Nagel, and Patti Stedman. None opposed. Motion carried.

Sagvold, Hannah – Ms. Sagvold's file was reviewed by the Board after a Request for Inquiry was filed by a former teacher in her school district for an alleged Code of Ethics violation. Patti Stedman asked if this is tied to another case that's currently in litigation. Attorney Allyson Hicks said it's not tied to that case and isn't a conflict of litigation but is all stemming from the same district. Patti also asked if this is related to a case that was previously dismissed. Allyson said this needs to be considered separately, as it's regarding a different person with different allegations. The case does have the same underlying factual basis. It's up to the Board to decide if Ms. Sagvold violated the Educator's Code of Ethics.

Evan Kritzberger made motion to dismiss the Request for Inquiry filed against Ms. Sagvold. Motion seconded by Jenny Bladow. Evan said there were three specific areas referenced in the RFI and he feels based on Ms. Sagvold's response that she addressed the concerns and did not violate the Code of Ethics. Jenny agrees with Evan and does not have anything to add. Patti Stedman commented that Ms. Sagvold did a great job of explaining in her response and laid out how she was within her rights to do

December 2023

Page 2

what she did. Board members who voted in favor of dismissing the case were Jenny Bladow, Amber Fridley, Deb Follman, Sonya Hansana, Evan Kritzberger, Kathy Lentz, Angela Nagel, and Patti Stedman. None opposed. Motion carried.

Permann, Lydia – Ms. Permann's file was reviewed for teaching without a valid license From August 23rd until August 30th. Evan Kritzberger asked for clarification on the notification process that a license has been issued. Applicants are emailed when their license is issued, and also notified by email when their payment does not go through. Patti Stedman asked what options the Board has – Allyson said the Board has normal options of a fine, education, letter of reprimand, ect. Angela Nagel made a motion to dismiss. Motion seconded by Patti Stedman. Angela feels Ms. Permann took care of the payment so her license could be issued within a short amount of time. Patti agreed. Sonya Hansana commented that it seems that seems convenient for applicants to state that they were unaware that the payment didn't go through, and she's seen that pattern in the past months. Board members who voted in favor of dismissing the case were Jenny Bladow, Amber Fridley, Deb Follman, Sonya Hansana, Evan Kritzberger, Kathy Lentz, Angela Nagel, and Patti Stedman. None opposed. Motion carried.

Quamme, Ashley – Ms. Quamme's file was reviewed for teaching without a valid license for the entire 2022-2023 school year without a valid license. Also had previous Board case in 2019 for teaching without a valid license. Documentation in Ms. Quamme's file shows that there was communication between her and the office and between her administrator and the office about need for her to pay the late fee in 2022 so her license could be renewed. Evan Kritzberger asked about the maximum amount that can be fined. The maximum amount that can be fined is \$250.

Evan Kritzberger made a motion to issue Ms. Quamme a fine of \$250. Seconded by Deb Follman. Evan stated it's a privilege to teach and the fact there was a previous case of Ms. Quamme teaching without a license impacted his motion. Also, she stated that she wasn't willing to pay the late fee, which indicates to him that she was aware she was teaching without a license. Deb agrees that it's a privilege to teach and applicants shouldn't disregard that or the requirements. Patti Stedman asked if a Request for Inquiry could also be sent to the school administrator, as Ms. Quamme was teaching for an entire year. Evan added that a Request for Inquiry be sent to Ms. Quamme's administrator to his motion. Deb continued to second.

Patti asked if there is a disconnect between her North Dakota and Minnesota licenses, as Ms. Quamme states she has a valid MN license. Board members asked if any further disciplinary action could be taken. Attorney Allyson Hicks said if the fine is not paid, then further disciplinary action could be pursued. If Ms. Quamme doesn't sign the settlement agreement the case can move to litigation. Board members who voted yes were Jenny Bladow, Amber Fridley, Deb Follman, Sonya Hansana, Evan Kritzberger, Kathy Lentz, Angela Nagel, and Patti Stedman. None opposed. Motion carried.

Leggett, Sarah – Ms. Leggett’s file was reviewed due to a self-disclosed offense. Attorney Allyson Hicks provided background on this case and the disclosed offense. This was brought to the Board due to additional information that was received from the attorney who represented Ms. Leggett in her case in California.

Patti Stedman made a motion to dismiss the case and approve Ms. Leggett’s license application. Seconded by Amber Fridley. Patti stated that she’s comfortable with the information received regarding the past charges and offense. Amber agreed. Board members who voted yes were Jenny Bladow, Amber Fridley, Deb Follman, Sonya Hansana, Evan Kritzberger, Kathy Lentz, Angela Nagel, and Patti Stedman. None opposed. Motion carried.

Foster, Brandon – Mr. Foster’s file was reviewed after he self-disclosed background offenses on his application for renewal, one from 2021 and one from 2022. Patti Stedman made a motion to grant Mr. Foster’s application for renewal. Motion seconded by Sonya Hansana. Patti said Mr. Foster did a great job of satisfying all requirements set forth by the courts and his letters demonstrate a lot of self-reflection. Sonya Hansana agreed and said she appreciates his letter of explanation. Board members who voted yes were Jenny Bladow, Amber Fridley, Deb Follman, Sonya Hansana, Evan Kritzberger, Kathy Lentz, Angela Nagel, and Patti Stedman. None opposed. Motion carried.

Wilson, Alexis – Ms. Wilson’s application was reviewed by the Board due to self-disclosed background offenses on her application for an interim substitute license. Angela Nagel said she appreciates Ms. Wilson’s letter of explanation and background information. Angela Nagel made motion to grant Ms. Wilson’s application for an interim substitute license. Motion seconded by Evan Kritzberger. Patti Stedman asked if possession of a controlled substance is different from an alcohol charge. Allyson said yes, the charge is different, but it depends on what the outcome of the case was. Jenny Bladow had the same questions, but wondered if due to the recent changes in the law, how they would be viewed now. Allyson said since the charges were from 2010, if the Board wanted to deny a license, they would need to show how they believe Ms. Wilson has not been sufficiently rehabilitated.

Board members who voted in favor of issuing Ms. Wilson’s license were Jenny Bladow, Amber Fridley, Deb Follman, Sonya Hansana, Evan Kritzberger, Kathy Lentz, Angela Nagel, and Patti Stedman. None opposed. Motion carried.

Deb Follman left the meeting at 8:46am.

Administrative Subcommittee – Called to order at 8:46am by Board Vice Chair Kathy Lentz. Reviewed by Administrative Subcommittee of the Education Standards and Practices Board. Administrative Subcommittee members present were Deb Follman, Amber Fridley, Sonya Hansana, Kathy Lentz, and Patti Stedman. Cory Steiner was

December 2023

Page 4

absent.

Larson, Chris – A Request for Inquiry was filed by former teacher at Milnor Public School. Patti Stedman made motion to dismiss. Motion seconded by Sonya Hansana. Patti said Mr. Larson did a good job of explaining how he followed procedures as an administrator. Administrative Board members who voted in favor of dismissing the case were Amber Fridley, Sonya Hansana, Kathy Lentz, and Patti Stedman. None opposed. Motion carried.

Allyson Hicks left the meeting at 8:51am.

November Meeting Minutes, Special Meeting Minutes, License, and Financial Reports – The November 2023 financial report showed \$61,276.80 in total income received, \$79,533.77 in total expenses, with a net income of minus \$18,256.97. The November 2023 licensure report documented 838 items issued. This number includes background checks, endorsements, late fees, and application fees.

Sonya Hansana moved to accept the November meeting minutes, special meeting minutes, license, and financial reports. Seconded by Amber Fridley. Board members who voted yes were Jenny Bladow, Amber Fridley, Sonya Hansana, Evan Kritzberger, Kathy Lentz, Angela Nagel, and Patti Stedman. None opposed. Motion carried.

Becky said ESPB is still on track for budget income and expenses, though November is a slower month.

Teacher Support System Budget – Patti Stedman and Cory Steiner on the Budget Subcommittee have reviewed. Evan Kritzberger made motion to accept the Teacher Support System budget. Motion seconded by Jenny Bladow. Board members who voted yes were Jenny Bladow, Amber Fridley, Sonya Hansana, Evan Kritzberger, Kathy Lentz, Angela Nagel, and Patti Stedman. None opposed. Motion carried.

Director's Report/Stakeholder Interaction– Reading group approved standards and will work to develop a matrix. ESPB's Administrative Rules hearing was held with no comment. Teaching authorizations have been coming in for Spring 2024 semester. Updated continuing education chart has been provided to the Board, and this will be discussed further in April at our face-to-face meeting. The Department of Labor report is being completed and an individual will be coming to the April meeting to visit with Board members about that report and to gather additional information.

Mari, Becky, and Jenny Bladow went with stakeholder group to AZ. They learned about a team-teaching approach that is being used with all teachers on a team working with the same group of students – much of the learning was project based. They heard from student panels who were either in the team currently or were previously part of the team. The program is called the Next Education Workforce and is run through Arizona

State University.

Becky has been visiting schools and individuals who are currently on teaching authorizations. There were 17 for the first semester. She is finding if the school has wraparound support for the preservice teacher, the program is working. She has also visited some individuals who are in the para to teacher program.

Mari visited Williston, Watford City, and Dickinson to visit with various administrators and human resources departments about options available for hiring and licensure. She found districts had utilized most of the options available. It was well worth the time to go out and visit schools.

Disability Waivers – The Board has received a request for a disability waiver from Bailey Lamoureux asking for waiver of the Praxis Core reading and writing tests. Evan Kritzberger made a motion to grant the disability waiver. Seconded by Amber Fridley. Necessary documentation has been submitted along with attempts at the tests. Each score has been very close. Board members who voted in favor of granting the waiver were Jenny Bladow, Amber Fridley, Sonya Hansana, Evan Kritzberger, Kathy Lentz, Angela Nagel, and Patti Stedman. None opposed. Motion carried.

Teacher Shortage Areas – Joe Kolosky from DPI and Ellie Shockley from NDUS shared information on teacher shortage areas. ESPB uses this information together with our own data to determine shortage areas each spring. Alternative access, out-of-field endorsement, and permit data will be shared next month.

Becky asked what irregular means in terms of the report, which is broadly defined by the federal government. Mari asked if someone completes a Praxis and uses that to add an endorsement permanently to their license, will this always be considered irregular? Kathy Lentz asked about the data and rule changes that have allowed additional people in the classroom and to teach additional content areas. Is there any part of the data that shows this is helping? At this time the data hasn't been compared, but doesn't appear to be getting better.

Evan Kritzberger wondered if there is any retention data. Ellie said at this time no, there is not and there's no information to show if the position was open due to a retirement, resignation, ect. She said there is a lot open to interpretation. Retention research does happen but needs to be done very thoughtfully. They don't have the ability to link shortage data and retention data directly together.

Board Member Reports

NDACTE – NDACTE did not meet in December. An NDACTE subcommittee meeting was held to brainstorm about what practicums, apprenticeship, ect could look like. Also looking at student teaching that has 2 placements – K-12 people need both an elementary and secondary placement. Early childhood education majors need PreK or K and grades 1-3 placements. They are looking at options for those who maybe are on

December 2023

Page 6

alternative access or a teaching authorization and what can be done to allow them to satisfy requirements while they are teaching at a specific grade level. The subcommittee will bring to NDACTE, then to ESPB.

Association of Non-Public Schools – Not present.

Association of School Administrators – Not present.

School Boards Association – Patti Stedman is participating in teacher retention task force along with Jenny Bladow and Erin Jacobson. Will report more as more meetings are held.

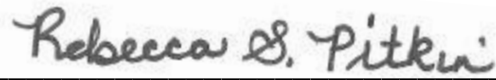
NDUnited – Not present.

DPI – Joe Kolosky reported that DPI is working on end of year reports. They are also a part of teacher retention and recruitment task force. A lot going on at DPI and Joe will provide additional information to the board in writing.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:51am.



Chair



Secretary/Executive Director