

MINUTES – Special Meeting

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Teams Meeting

The Education Standards and Practices Board (ESPB) meeting was called to order at 8:02am by Board Chair Cory Steiner. Present by video conference were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Amber Fridley, Dustin Hager, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Sheila Schlafmann, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. Angela Nagel was absent.

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

Eslick, Larry – The board has received a Request for Inquiry regarding Mr. Eslick. Attorney Mark Openshaw said as of the present time there are no charges pending. Becky has sent a copy of the RFI to Mr. Eslick but has not received a response.

Patti Stedman asked what options the board has. Legal options could include a written warning, reprimand, suspension, or revocation. There is a police report where Mr. Eslick has admitted to the conduct. Mark said disciplinary action under NDCC 15.1-13-26 is not available since there are no criminal charges. The board could issue a settlement agreement citing violation of NDCC 15.1-13-25(1)(b, c, or j). Evan Kritzberger said he feels 1b would be most applicable. Patti Stedman agrees. Even though there are no criminal charges, board members don't feel comfortable allowing Mr. Eslick to continue to be in a school with students.

If a settlement agreement is drafted, it could state that Mr. Eslick has the right to respond, however based on the submitted request for inquiry and police report, there is reasonable cause to issue the settlement agreement. If he responds, the board can consider that response. The board can also see if Mr. Eslick is willing to voluntarily surrender his license. This is drafted like a regular settlement agreement. In the case that the board motions to issue a suspension of Mr. Eslick's license, the board must consider his renewal application if he chooses to apply for renewal at the end of the suspension.

Superintendent Baesler asked if the board does issue a settlement agreement with a suspension and then Mr. Eslick is then charged with an offense, if that would change the case. Attorney Allyson Hicks said yes, then the facts of the case would change and become essentially a whole new disciplinary action.

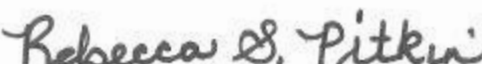
Evan Kritzberger made a motion to issue a Mr. Eslick a settlement agreement to revoke his license under NDCC 15.1-13-25(1)(b). Seconded by Patti Stedman. Evan said the settlement agreement should make it clear that Mr. Eslick has the opportunity to respond, but the information reported states he admitted to the conduct. Patti Stedman and Cory Steiner expressed concerns about Mr. Eslick being in a classroom with any students. Board members who voted yes were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Amber Fridley, Dustin Hager, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Sheila Schlafmann, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22am.

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Chair


Secretary/Executive Director