

## **MINUTES – Special Meeting**

**Friday, February 17, 2023**

Teams Meeting

The Education Standards and Practices Board (ESPB) special meeting was called to order at 8:05am by Vice Chair Andrea Fox. Board members present were Siri Coleman, Andrea Fox, Amber Fridley, Sonya Hansana, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, and Superintendent Kirsten Baesler.

Also present were ESPB Executive Director Rebecca Pitkin and Amy Bigelow from ESPB and Allyson Hicks from Office of the Attorney General.

Board members absent were Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Cory Steiner, and Brenda Tufte.

**Tarno, Amy** – Ms. Tarno is a teacher in Jamestown and has been arrested for several drug charges including methamphetamine, THC, and other controlled substances. The search warrant showed some evidence of intent to deliver. Ms. Tarno was not charged with distribution. Search warrant also stated that Ms. Tarno said that if she was drug tested, she would most likely test positive for both methamphetamine and THC.

Patti Stedman asked what has been done in the past with cases like this and since she's not been found guilty, is the normal process to suspend until outcome of the case? Board attorney Allyson Hicks said yes, and suggested the Board set a time period after which Ms. Tarno can re-apply for licensure. The default is two years. Allyson suggested that Ms. Tarno can reapply after two years and that at the time she reapplies she will need to submit evidence that she's rehabilitated herself (counseling, substance abuse treatment, ect.) and the Board can make an assessment at that time.

Patti Stedman made a motion to suspend Ms. Tarno's license pending investigation and outcome of the criminal case. If she is found guilty of any of the offenses she's been charged with or any offenses that may come as an outcome of the investigation, that her license be revoked for two years. At that time, she can reapply and provide evidence of rehabilitation to the Board. Motion seconded by Sonya Hansana.

Patti Stedman stated that she feels the Board needs to take this action, especially since Ms. Tarno did say she would test positive for methamphetamine and THC and it's not alright to have that person in the classroom. Sonya added that she is shocked and saddened by the situation.

Board members who voted in favor were Siri Coleman, Andrea Fox, Amber Fridley, Sonya Hansana, Joshua Standing Elk, and Patti Stedman. None opposed. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14am.

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Chair

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Secretary/Executive Director