

MINUTES

Thursday, February 9, 2017

Renoir/Russell, Radisson Hotel, Bismarck

The Education Standards and Practices Board (ESPB) meeting was called to order at 9:00am by board chair Mary Eldredge-Sandbo. Board members present were Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Paul Stremick, Dinah Goldenberg, Gary Thompson, Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, Amy Mann, Bob Toso, Kim Belgarde, and Karen Christensen.

Also present were Becky Pitkin and Amy Folkestad from ESPB, Pam Krueger from DSU Bismarck, Kirsten Baesler from DPI, Dr. David Flowers from West Fargo Schools, and Kathy Pruner from ETS. Edward Erickson from the Attorney General's office and Stacy Duffield joined after lunch.

Kim Belgarde left the meeting at 1:30pm. Mike McNeff and Paul Stremick left at 2pm.

Additions to the Agenda – A motion was made by Gary Thompson to add Kara Bender, Eugene Camara, Jordan Welle, Tracy Aronson, and K. Bryce Laxdal as board cases. Seconded by Amy Mann. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Our bill, HB1098, was heard again February 8th by the Senate Education Committee. Becky testified again and an emergency clause has been added. This would mean that as soon as the bill passes and is signed by the Governor, the law would go into effect. There has been positive response to the bill.

Board Education:

Licensure Types – At the last meeting, board members asked for clarification on differences between Teaching Alternative Flexibility Endorsement (TAFE) and Alternate Access License. What we have in North Dakota is different from alternative licenses in other states. Becky reviewed differences and similarities between TAFE and alternative access license.

There was much discussion on the options for other routes for alternative access licenses, including using a Praxis test to show content knowledge for those who already hold a bachelor's degree in the content area. Also discussion regarding developing an endorsement in teaching, which would include the pedagogy portion of the licensure requirements.

The licensure subcommittee of Carly Retterath, Mike McNeff, Kim Belgarde, and Gary Thompson will meet and will bring recommendations to the board on retreat topics for alternative access licenses.

Administrative Rules Work – Becky sent a sheet with recommended changes to rules that the board had agreed on at the last meeting.

Mike McNeff would like to see elimination of the Principles of Learning and Teaching test

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(PLT) for educators that are switching from elementary to secondary and secondary to elementary levels. Becky will provide board education on the PLT at the March meeting.

Proposals for changes in Administrative Rules–

- Changing rule for Praxis endorsement – yes
- Changing language on first 5 year license from 18 months of teaching to 18 months of contracted time – yes
- Endorsements will still be \$75 – yes
- Minor equivalency will be 16 semester hour minimum – yes. I

Gary Thompson reviewed that ESPB said the endorsements would work as minor equivalents and if we had an endorsement it would have the same status as a minor and meet the same standards. He shared that for VCSU the endorsement works better and makes more sense than having to go back in develop new minors since we pretty much eliminated their minors with NCLB.

Dr. Flowers: Ethics Presentation – Dr. Flowers from West Fargo Public Schools presented on ProEthica and an alignment study he participated in. ProEthica is an online ethics training and assessment offered through Educational Testing Service (ETS). The purpose of the study was to help ETS confirm alignment between the ProEthica curriculum with the Model Code of Ethics for Educators (MCEE).

Kathy Pruner ETS – Kathy Pruner gave an overview of ProEthica, along with some examples of case studies and scenarios that are included in the modules. There was much discussion regarding ProEthica and if should become a requirement in North Dakota. If we do make it a requirements for educators in North Dakota, it will need to be determined if it should be included at the university level, for licensure, or at the school district level.

Model Code of Ethics – Paul Stremick would like the board to look at different code of ethics options before choosing one to go forward with. Professional practices subcommittee of Paul Stremick, Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, Bob Toso, and Amy Mann will meet and bring recommendations to the board.

Cases

Sartain, Gene – Mr. Sartain's file was reviewed by the board in January due to a Request for Inquiry filed by Starkweather School District due to breach of contract. The board had asked for more information to see if Mr. Sartain had paid liquidated damages to district. To date, Mr. Sartain has not paid the fee. Carly Retterath made a motion to offer a settlement agreement to suspend his license until he pays the fee to school district. Seconded by Bob

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Toso. Board members who voted yes were Kim Belgarde, Karen Christensen, Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, Dinah Goldenberg, Amy Mann, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Paul Stremick, Gary Thompson, and Bob Toso. Motion carried.

Rott, Erica – Ms. Rott's file was reviewed by the board due to a self-disclosed background check offense that has occurred since she received her Interim Substitute License. Paul Stremick made a motion to grant an Initial 2-year License and have Ms. Rott's file be reviewed again when she renews her license. She would also need to self-report any subsequent offenses, if any occur. Seconded by Gary Thompson. Board members who voted yes were Kim Belgarde, Karen Christensen, Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, Dinah Goldenberg, Amy Mann, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Paul Stremick, Gary Thompson, and Bob Toso. Motion carried.

Whalen, James – Attorney Edward Erickson provided information that Mr. Whalen will plead guilty to charges against him. Sentencing will not occur until April and the court could reject his plea. Mr. Whalen's related case in Minnesota has been dismissed due to guilty pleas in North Dakota. Mr. Whalen surrendered license voluntarily last spring. Carly Retterath made a motion to revoke Mr. Whalen's ND Educator's Professional License. Seconded by Karen Christensen. Board members who voted yes were Kim Belgarde, Karen Christensen, Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, Dinah Goldenberg, Amy Mann, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Paul Stremick, Gary Thompson, and Bob Toso. Motion carried.

Bender, Kara – Ms. Bender's file was reviewed by the board in January due to a Request for Inquiry filed by Standing Rock School District due to breach of contract. The board had asked for additional information from the district to find out if Ms. Bender had paid liquidated damages to the district. To date, fees have not been paid. Mike McNeff made a motion to suspend Ms. Bender's license until the fee is paid. Seconded by Karen Christensen. Board members who voted yes were Kim Belgarde, Karen Christensen, Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, Dinah Goldenberg, Amy Mann, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Paul Stremick, Gary Thompson, and Bob Toso. Motion carried.

Camara, Eugene – Mr. Camara's file was reviewed by the board due to his background check. Gary Thompson made a motion to deny a license. Seconded by Carly Retterath. Board members who voted yes were Kim Belgarde, Karen Christensen, Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, Dinah Goldenberg, Amy Mann, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Paul Stremick, Gary Thompson, and Bob Toso. Motion carried.

Welle, Jordan – Mr. Welle's file was reviewed by the board due to his background check. Gary Thompson made a motion to grant an Interim Substitute License. Mr. Welle will need to self-report any subsequent offenses, should they occur. Seconded by Bob Toso. Board

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members who voted yes were Kim Belgarde, Karen Christensen, Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, Dinah Goldenberg, Amy Mann, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Paul Stremick, Gary Thompson, and Bob Toso. Motion carried.

Aronson, Tracy – Mr. Aronson's file was reviewed previously due to his background check and again when he had a new background check offense after his license was issued. The board was waiting for the outcome of his criminal case. Mr. Aronson has pled guilty to the charge and has resigned his position at Lakota Public School. Mike McNeff made a motion to suspend Mr. Aronson's license with the stipulation that he can reapply for a license in September 2018. At the time that he reapplies, Mr. Aronson must complete another background check and provide documentation that he has gone through a treatment program. Motion was seconded by Amy Mann. Board members who voted yes were Kim Belgarde, Karen Christensen, Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, Dinah Goldenberg, Amy Mann, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Paul Stremick, Gary Thompson, and Bob Toso. Motion carried.

Laxdal, K. Bryce – Mr. Laxdal's file was previously reviewed by the board due to a Request for Inquiry filed by Cavalier Public School due to a new background check offense. Board Attorney Edward Erickson has visited with the prosecuting attorney on the case and a deal has been reached that the charges against Mr. Laxdal will be deferred after restitution is paid. Bob Toso made motion to issue a settlement agreement with a letter of reprimand. Seconded by Carly Retterath. Board members who voted yes were Karen Christensen, Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, Dinah Goldenberg, Amy Mann, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Gary Thompson, and Bob Toso. Motion carried. Kim Belgarde and Paul Stremick abstained from voting.

Hickel, Joseph – Mr. Hickel's file was reviewed by the board due to a Request for Inquiry that had been filed. Paul Stremick made a motion to dismiss the case. Seconded by Carly Retterath. Board members who voted yes were Kim Belgarde, Karen Christensen, Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, Dinah Goldenberg, Amy Mann, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Paul Stremick, Gary Thompson, and Bob Toso. Motion carried.

Administrative Cases

Larson, Arley – Mr. Larson's file was reviewed by the administrative board due to a Request for Inquiry that was filed. Paul Stremick moved to dismiss the case. Seconded by Dinah Goldenberg. Administrative board members who voted yes were Paul Stremick, Mike McNeff, Dinah Goldenberg, Carly Retterath, and Bob Toso. Motion carried. Mr. Larson is an administrator at Ray Public School.

Schafer, Ben – Mr. Schafer's file was reviewed by the administrative board due to a Request for Inquiry that was filed. Carly Retterath moved to dismiss the case. Seconded by

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Bob Toso. Administrative board members who voted yes were Paul Stremick, Mike McNeff, Dinah Goldenberg, Carly Retterath, and Bob Toso. Motion carried. Mr. Schafer is an administrator at Ray Public School.

Committee Reports

Evaluation Committee – Dinah Goldenberg provided information on the work the Executive Director Evaluation Committee has been working on. A copy of the summative assessment was provided to board. This includes questions and satisfactory/unsatisfactory. Executive Director evaluation guidelines were also provided. A scoring rubric will be developed for board members, so that after all reports that board has asked for have been provided, scoring can be completed.

Budget/Policy Committee – First Reading of Policy Paul Stremick reported that the committee has been working on developing an employee handbook.

Paul Stremick made a motion to accept the policy that has been received. First reading of the policy to include amendments proposed for the Executive Director Evaluation. Seconded by Dinah Goldenberg. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Dr. Stacy Duffield – Report on Teacher Education Matrix – Last year Dr. Duffield and NDSU received a grant from ESPB that allowed them to provide surveys that were given to students at the end of student teaching, transition to teaching survey for program completers one year after graduation, and supervisor survey for first year teacher supervisors.

This year, they are asking for \$3000 to continue completing this work and administering surveys. Universities need this data to complete their CAEP accreditation. Gary Thompson made a motion that we fund this project with \$3000, seconded by Karen Christensen. Gary and Karen withdrew their motion until next meeting, when more board members will be present, since this is an action item.

Minutes, Financial, and Licensure Reports – January 2017 –

Amy Mann made a motion to accept the January minutes. Motion seconded by Gary Thompson. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Carly Retterath made a **motion to accept the January financial and licensure reports**. Motion seconded by Dinah Goldenberg. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

The January 2017 financial report showed \$76,521.27 in total income received, \$111,137 in total expenses, with a net income of minus \$34,615.81. The January 2017 licensure

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report showed 1042 total licenses issued.

Teacher Support System Update – We are fortunate this session that TSS is in Century Code and that it is outlined in law that ESPB needs to provide this service. TSS Coordinator Laurie Stenehjem has requested that a committee be developed to determine what will happen with the program long term such as timelines, factors to consider, ect. The committee will look into pros and cons and make a recommendation if TSS should stay housed at ESPB or move to an REA. Since this has budgetary implications, the budget/policy committee will work on this.

Director's Report – Becky would like to look at substitute teacher licensure options in March and see what we could be doing in the future. She's also done a survey of higher education to find out how they're meeting the mental health competency requirements. In March, she will also provide information about the Program Approval Advisory Committee (PAAC) and how it's formed.

Board Member Reports

NDACTE – Will be meeting February 10th. Nothing to report at this time.

Non-Public Schools – Nothing to report.

School Boards Association – Negotiations seminar February 10th in Bismarck.

NDUnited – NDU leadership is in Washington DC. They are getting ready for additional professional development and the bargaining conference coming up. Will be presenting at a conference for pre-service teachers.

DPI - Teacher loan forgiveness bill has gone back to appropriations committee. Testimony has been in favor of the bill. ESSA committee had final meeting February 8th. They are expecting to put out first official draft for comment Feb 14th, which will later be submitted to Department of Education. As of now, dollars for the mentoring program are back in the DPI budget bill.

The board meeting was adjourned at 3:04pm.

Chair

Secretary/Executive Director