

MINUTES – Special Meeting

Tuesday, February 24, 2026

Teams Meeting

The Education Standards and Practices Board (ESPB) meeting was called to order at 8:00am by Board Chair Cory Steiner. Present by video conference were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Dustin Hager, Sheila Schlafmann, Patti Stedman, Cory Steiner, Dena Venneman, and Arlene Wolf.

Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, and Angela Nagel were absent.

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

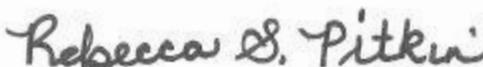
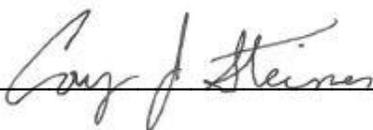
Marks, Amie – Ms. Marks has been charged with an offense and has been placed on leave from Bismarck Public Schools as of yesterday. Assistant Attorney General Mark Openshaw had no additional information to provide. He did review violations and options the board has available to them. Mark stated this would not be part of statute that would require automatic revocation, however would fall under NDCC 15.1-13-25(c). If Ms. Marks pleads guilty or is found guilty of any of the charged offenses, or based on other underlying facts of the case, there could be additional areas of North Dakota Century Code that would apply. The board has the option treat this like other cases in the past to suspend until outcome has been determined by the courts. Mark said that normally a Request for Inquiry would be sent to the effected educator, however, in a case like this it is not likely that a response would be received as it could admit guilt. Patti Stedman asked if there have been cases like this in the past. Yes, there have and they did not involve children in the classroom, but rather the educator’s own child. In those cases, a settlement agreement was issued to suspend until the case had been resolved.

Patti Stedman made a motion to issue a settlement agreement to suspend Ms. Marks’s license until the outcome of her criminal case under NDCC 15.1-13-25(c). Seconded by Siri Coleman. After the outcome of the case, this will come back to the board for further review. Becky asked about suspension and if this affects an educator’s pay, if the license is suspended. Cory Steiner said from a district perspective, if a person is put on leave with pay, that remains unless a license is revoked. Sheila Schlafmann said her district would do the same, in consultation with their attorney.

Board members who voted yes were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Dustin Hager, Sheila Schlafmann, Patti Stedman, Cory Steiner, and Dena Venneman. None opposed. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12am.

Chair



Secretary/Executive Director