

**MINUTES – Special Meeting**  
**Wednesday, February 5, 2025**  
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, Amber Fridley, Dustin Hager, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angel Nagel, Sheila Schlafmann, Patti Stedman, Cory Steiner, and Superintendent Kirsten Baesler. Siri Coleman was absent.

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

**SB 2341** – Senate Bill would create a new chapter to NDCC 15.1 to allow for an interstate compact for school psychologists. So far two states have joined the compact and at least 7 are needed to move forward with the compact. Becky provided a list of concerns with the compact. A number of years ago ESPB adopted a no-cost license for active military members and military spouses. Our OSEL rule is more open than this proposed compact. There are currently multiple unknowns, most specifically related to cost, because fees are paid based on the number of states that join and this information is not known yet.

Attorney Mark Openshaw said he found in researching the compact, there are concerns especially as it pertains to closed meetings as outlined in the bill. Becky pointed out another concern is that the individual would be required to maintain their home state license, which is not required under the OSEL. The compact also outlines the number of internship hours required, 1200, and this could be less than what is currently required with a specialist degree.

Cory Steiner asked Amber Fridley her thoughts, as she is a school psychologist. Amber reached out to some school psychologists in her district and the feedback she received was that a lot of ND school psychs are in-state and they're not planning to go anywhere. Additional feedback was the cost wouldn't be beneficial. The National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) requires the 1200 hours, so that does align. Cory said he doesn't believe this is solving anything and he isn't a fan of legislating things that don't seem to be a problem. Amber's research found that the costs haven't been determined yet and that will be determined by the states joining the compact.

Superintendent Baesler said it seems that this year, bad bills aren't just being killed and good bills aren't just being passed, they're very much being amended. She asked if it would be wise to have a conversation as a state about compacts as a whole, instead of based on different occupational areas. Attorney Allyson Hicks said there are a few things happening this session. In the past few sessions there has been push from military commission to assist military spouses/families with licensure portability. This bill is not coming from the military commission. Individual associations and community members have been also pushing compacts. Compact don't become effective until a certain number of states sign on, and that number hasn't been reached yet. There is also a push to deregulate licensure, as seen in SB 2395.

Senate Bill 2308 is proposing a board review task force. Allyson isn't sure if that task force would look at compacts. The medical Board compact took multiple attempts to

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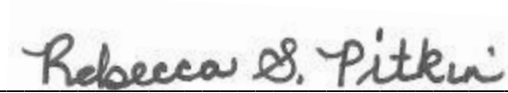
pass, and the PA compact failed this session. She also stated compact bills cannot be amended. Changes have to go back to Counsel of State Governments (CSG) and they have to propose them with other states also considering the compact.

Becky said ESPB has worked well with the ND School Psych Association in the past.

Cory Steiner made a motion for Becky to testify in opposition of SB 2341. Motion seconded by Evan Kritzberger. Evan said he believes ESPB should oppose the bill given the unknowns and lack of ability to amend. He feels it's drilling a hole to fix a leak. Cory agreed and doesn't like the unknown and doesn't believe a compact is always a solution. He feels the board has been good at finding ways to work within established rule. Doesn't anticipate this will solve a problem but, instead, will create some. Board members who voted yes were Jenny Bladow, Amber Fridley, Dustin Hager, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angel Nagel, Sheila Schlafmann, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28am.

  
Chair

  
Secretary/Executive Director