

## **MINUTES**

**Thursday, January 11, 2018**

Fort Totten Room, State Capitol, Bismarck

The Education Standards and Practices Board (ESPB) meeting was called to order at 9:02am by Chair Carly Retterath. Board members present were Jessica Rush, Ben Johnson, Kim Belgarde, Carly Retterath, and Superintendent Kirsten Baesler. Board members Karen Christensen, Andrea Fox, Dinah Goldenberg, Bob Toso, Mike McNeff joined by conference call.

Also present were Amy Folkestad, Becky Pitkin, and Mari Riehl from ESPB, Blair Emerson from Bismarck Tribune, Patty Barrette and Tom Gerhardt from NDUnited, Gail Schauer, Kelsie Howes, and Lea Kugel from DPI, Edward Erickson from Attorney General's Office, Brenda Zastoupil and Alexandria Bauer from North Dakota University System.

Introductions were held.

**Additions to the Agenda** – Chase Lee will be added as an Administrative Board case. Carly Retterath added Benjamin Ehrmantraut's board case from December as a discussion item. Ben Johnson made motion to accept the agenda as amended. Motion seconded by Jessica Rush. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

**December Minutes, License, and Financial Report** – The December 2017 financial report showed \$59,104.98 in total income received, \$54,330.70 in total expenses, with a net income of \$4,774.28. The December 2017 licensure report showed 775 total licenses issued.

Karen Christensen made a motion to accept the December minutes, license, and financial report. Motion seconded by Ben Johnson. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

## **CASES**

**Hanson, Lindsey** – Ms. Hanson's file was reviewed by the Board due to her background check. Karen Christensen made a motion to issue Ms. Hanson's license and stipulated that she would need to do another background check when she renews her license in 2 years. Motion seconded by Mike McNeff. Board member who voted in favor were Kim Belgarde, Karen Christensen, Andrea Fox, Dinah Goldenberg, Ben Johnson, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

**Turner, Kevin** – Mr. Turner's file is being reviewed by the Board due to a criminal charge that has now been resolved thru the court system. A Request for Inquiry was sent to Mr. Turner and a response has not been received. Dinah Goldenberg made a motion to table the case until a response is received from Mr. Turner. Motion seconded by Brenda Tufte. None voted in favor. Board members who voted no were Kim

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Belgarde, Karen Christensen, Andrea Fox, Dinah Goldenberg, Ben Johnson, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. Motion failed.

Bob Toso made a motion to suspend Mr. Turner's license until a response to the Request for Inquiry is received from him and the board can act upon it. Board member who voted yes were Kim Belgarde, Karen Christensen, Andrea Fox, Dinah Goldenberg, Ben Johnson, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

**Parisien, Ashley** – Ms. Parisien's file was reviewed by the Board due to a Request for Inquiry that was received. Kim Belgarde made a motion to dismiss the case. Motion seconded by Jessica Rush. Board members who voted in favor were Kim Belgarde, Karen Christensen, Andrea Fox, Dinah Goldenberg, Ben Johnson, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

**Lora, Meriel** – Mr. Lora's file was reviewed by the Board due to possibly teaching without a valid license. Mike McNeff made a motion to fine Mr. Lora \$100 and to also file a Request for Inquiry on the administrator, Cory Fleck, for placing the teacher in the classroom without a valid license. Motion seconded by Karen Christensen. Board members who voted in favor were Kim Belgarde, Karen Christensen, Andrea Fox, Dinah Goldenberg, Ben Johnson, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

**Jensen, Chelse** – Ms. Jensen's file was reviewed by the Board due to possibly teaching without a valid license. Bob Toso made a motion to fine Ms. Jensen \$100. Motion seconded by Kim Belgarde. Board members who voted yes were Kim Belgarde, Karen Christensen, Andrea Fox, Dinah Goldenberg, Ben Johnson, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Bob Toso made a motion to file a Request for Inquiry on Ms. Jensen's administrator at Children's Montessori Center for placing a teacher in the classroom without a valid license. Board members who voted yes were Kim Belgarde, Karen Christensen, Andrea Fox, Dinah Goldenberg, Ben Johnson, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

**Kroupa, Brad** – Mr. Kroupa's file was reviewed by the Board due to possibly teaching without a valid license. Dinah Goldenberg made a motion to fine Mr. Kroupa \$150 and to also file a Request for Inquiry on Mr. Kroupa's administrator for placing the teacher in the classroom without a valid license. Motion seconded by Karen Christensen. Board members who voted in favor were Kim Belgarde, Karen Christensen, Andrea Fox, Dinah Goldenberg, Ben Johnson, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

**Kittelton, Miranda** – Ms. Kittelson's file is coming back to the Board for review due to

a Request for Inquiry. At the December 2018 meeting the Board voted to table the case until more information could be gathered regarding the North Dakota Child Abuse/Neglect Index from the Department of Human Services.

The Board was called into executive session at 9:41am. The topic/purpose for the executive session was to discuss a confidential child abuse/neglect report. The executive session ended at 9:53am. (NDCC 44-04-19.1)

Bob Toso made a motion to suspend Ms. Kittleson's license for the length of time her name is on the Department of Human (DHS) Services Child Abuse/Neglect Index. Motion seconded by Karen Christensen. Board members who voted yes were Karen Christensen, Andrea Fox, Dinah Goldenberg, Mike McNeff, Jessica Rush, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. Board members who voted no were Kim Belgarde, Ben Johnson, and Carly Retterath. Motion carried.

After much further discussion, Ben Johnson then made a motion to suspend action on previous motion until a representative from DHS can provide further information on the Child Abuse/Neglect Index. The Board will revisit case prior to April with ability to consult someone from DHS so they can better understand how list affects individuals whose name appears on the list. Motion seconded by Dinah Goldenberg. Board members who voted yes were Kim Belgarde, Karen Christensen, Andrea Fox, Dinah Goldenberg, Ben Johnson, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

**Ehrmantraut, Benjamin** – Mr. Ehrmantraut's file was reviewed by the Board in December 2017 because he had self-disclosed a background offense. The Board voted to issue his license and required that he self-report any future offenses. It has been brought to the Board's attention that Mr. Ehrmantraut has had a subsequent offense. Carly Retterath made a motion to file a Request for Inquiry considering last month's motion. Seconded by Ben Johnson. Board members who voted yes were Kim Belgarde, Karen Christensen, Andrea Fox, Dinah Goldenberg, Ben Johnson, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE CASES**

**Poitra, Cheryl** – Ms. Poitra's file was reviewed by the Administrative Board due to a Request for Inquiry that was filed by Circle of Nations School. Carly Retterath made a motion to dismiss the case. Motion seconded by Dinah Goldenberg. Administrative Board members who voted yes were Karen Christensen, Dinah Goldenberg, Ben Johnson, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, and Bob Toso. None opposed. Motion carried.

**Lee, Chase** – Mr. Lee's file was reviewed by the Administrative Board for placing a teacher in a classroom without a valid license. Karen Christensen made a motion to fine Mr. Lee \$250. Motion seconded by Dinah Goldenberg. Administrative Board members

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who voted yes were Karen Christensen, Dinah Goldenberg, Ben Johnson, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, and Bob Toso. None opposed. Motion carried.

**Teacher Loan Forgiveness** – Brenda Zastoupil from North Dakota University System presented to the Board on the new Teacher Shortage Loan Forgiveness program that was revamped in the 2017 Legislative Session. The new program is designed to help school districts recruit new teachers into shortage areas, retain qualified teachers in these areas, and reduce loan indebtedness for these qualified recruited teachers. Ms. Zastoupil covered the key differences between the old program and the new and talked about the types of financial awards available depending on school district and shortage type.

**Director's Report** – Much time has been spent preparing for accreditation visits that will take place Fall 2018, as well as those happening in the next year. Colleges of Education begin completing their program reviews 2 years prior to their onsite visit.

Some of the things to begin thinking about for the Board work day in April: reviewing the Request for Inquiry process, looking at emergency suspension bill that was discussed in the past, and examining shortage area data for critical shortage declaration. ESPB mission and vision will also be discussed.

Becky recently attended the NASDTEC Winter Symposium where the topic was teacher retention. Linda Darling Hammond, CEO of the Learning Policy Institute at Stanford, was the keynote speaker. She shared a policy brief on why teachers enter and leave the profession, policy recommendations, and other data. A copy of the policy brief will be provided to the Board.

### **Board member reports**

**NDACTE** – NDACTE will be meeting January 12<sup>th</sup>, so no additional information now. Brenda will be sharing the question with NDACTE about alternate plans of study, "If we transition into accepting a Bachelor's Degree in the content area in which a candidate is applying for licensure as fulfilling the content requirements (has to be the exact degree, not a related degree), is it possible for the candidate to take the education coursework at a university if that university does not have an education major in that content area?" Nothing has been officially decided regarding the question at this time.

**Non-Public Schools** – Have not met since last ESPB meeting, so nothing new to report.

**School Administrators** – Ben Johnson talked about how Bismarck Public Schools now has ability to offer an Intro to Education course to high school students and is working on getting dual credit courses set up so the students can earn university credit. The idea is for school districts may begin to "grow your own" teachers. The courses will be available to high school students next year.

**School Boards Association** – NDSBA has not met recently. Their next event will be negotiations training in February. Becky provided an ESPB update and the article was

in December 2017 School Board Association Bulletin.

**NDUnited** – NDU is in the midst of listening tours, getting input from teachers and public employees across the state. CuttingEd podcast is in episode 8 and going very well. NDU is preparing for upcoming negotiations in some districts.

**DPI** – DPI has been working with the Choice Ready portion of ESSA and trying to determine what it should look like. Students will need to meet 2 of 3 criteria – College Ready, Choice/Career Ready, and Military. The Dashboard has been launched and is available for viewing on DPI website. The Innovative Learning implementation team is working on personalized learning and individual instruction. Student Engagement Assessment was given in November.

DPI's Strategic Vision is moving forward and some changes have occurred since it was presented to the board in December, based on stakeholder input. Superintendent Baesler asked that as ESPB develops a strategic plan, that the DPI plan is considered so all educational organizations will be working under the same vision.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:04pm.

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Chair

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Secretary/Executive Director