

## **MINUTES – Special Meeting**

**Tuesday, January 17, 2023**

Teams Meeting

The Education Standards and Practices Board (ESPB) meeting was called to order at 8:00am by Chair Brenda Tufte. Board members present by video conference were Andrea Fox, Amber Fridley, Kathy Lentz, Patti Stedman, Cory Steiner, Brenda Tufte, and Superintendent Kirsten Baesler.

Also present were ESPB Executive Director Rebecca Pitkin, Mari Riehl, and Amy Bigelow from ESPB,

Board members Siri Coleman, Sonya Hansana, Ben Johnson, and Joshua Standing Elk were absent.

**House Bill 1304** – This is written into the permit bill and would be a two plus two flipped model for special education. The proposed changes would add section to allow an individual to teach special education with a permit, not to exceed two years. To obtain the permit they must be enrolled in a bachelor's program in special ed, have completed all professional education and special education coursework, have student taught, and have passed required tests.

Current pathways for someone to teach special education if they haven't completed a degree in special education include an alternative access for those with a bachelor's and at least 30 semester hours of coursework in special education, a plan on file for regularly licensed educators if they meet the pre-requisites, or testing into special education with a Praxis.

ESPB has worked closely with the special education department on this proposal and would write rules together with DPI if the bill would pass. The Board can choose to have Becky testify in favor, against, or neutral. Superintendent Baesler did let the Board know that so far this session legislators are looking for testimony in favor or against a bill, not neutral testimony unless it's been arranged in advance for the agency to provide information.

Cory Steiner made a motion to support HB 1304. Motion seconded by Patti Stedman. Board members who voted yes were Andrea Fox, Amber Fridley, Kathy Lentz, Patti Stedman, Cory Steiner, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

**House Bill 1329** – House Bill 1329 relates to reducing the years required for a teacher to qualify for a life license from 30 years to 20 years. Two of the Board's non-negotiables are doing what's best for kids and not making decisions solely based on money. That being said, the fiscal impact of this change would be about \$40,000 a year.

The other portion that needs to be considered is the 10 year period where a person wouldn't be renewing their license. In the last two years, 57% of board cases were things that were disclosed on an application for renewal that would fall within the 10 year period that a person wouldn't be renewing if this change would occur. An educator also wouldn't have any re-education required after the life license would be issued.

Both Patti Stedman and Kathy Lentz commented that education changes too much and it's necessary to give teachers opportunities to seek out re-education that would be

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beneficial to them. Kathy states she is all about helping teachers but doesn't feel this is the way to do it.

Kathy Lentz made a motion to oppose HB 1329. Motion seconded by Patti Stedman.

Kathy thinks this has bigger impacts than the supporters of the bill realize. Brenda Tufte added that her greatest concern is not getting the self-disclosures on applications, due to case history. That's a long period of time to not have self-reporting and this Board's job is to protect children. Becky believes NDUnited's intent behind the bill is genuine.

Board members that voted yes to oppose HB 1329 were Andrea Fox, Amber Fridley, Kathy Lentz, Patti Stedman, Cory Steiner, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23am.

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Chair

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Secretary/Executive Director