

MINUTES – ESPB Special Meeting

January 19, 2024

Teams Meeting

The Education Standards and Practices Board (ESPB) meeting was called to order at 8:00am by Chair Cory Steiner. Board members present by video conference were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Amber Fridley, Deb Follman, Sonya Hansana, Evan Kritzberger, Kathy Lentz, Angela Nagel, Patti Stedman, Cory Steiner, and Superintendent Kristen Baesler.

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

Marcellais, Rhawnie – Ms. Marcellais has been charged in federal court with multiple counts of child abuse. There is no indication that it was a student or occurred on school property. When a federal prosecutor feels they have enough information to bring charges, they move forward with an indictment. The case went before a grand jury so all information is sealed. Allyson isn't certain of the specific reason the case information is sealed at this time. The case is still ongoing as of yesterday with a trial is scheduled in May 2024. Ms. Marcellais is not reported as teaching in a North Dakota school district this year, but does currently have a valid license.

Superintendent Baesler said DPI has received some information about this case, as they are working with the school district on Be Legendary Leadership Institute. It's possible this is a family case related to custody. Sonya Hansana asked if because the information is sealed, if Ms. Marcellais would need to disclose the arrest on her application for renewal. Yes, she would need to disclose. The case itself isn't sealed, but the grand jury information is sealed.

Allyson recommended that the Board initiate a Request for Inquiry and request a response from Ms. Marcellais. Patti Stedman motioned to initiate a Request for Inquiry. Seconded by Deb Follman. Patti said at this time the Board doesn't have a lot of information and it would be helpful to seek a response from Ms. Marcellais and/or her attorney before making a decision. Deb agreed. Jenny Bladow clarified that this person could still be substitute teaching at this time. Board members who voted yes were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Amber Fridley, Deb Follman, Sonya Hansana, Evan Kritzberger, Kathy Lentz, Angela Nagel, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16am.

Chair

Secretary/Executive Director