

MINUTES

Thursday, January 12, 2017

Van Gogh/Remington Room, Radisson Hotel, Bismarck

The Education Standards and Practices Board (ESPB) meeting was called to order at 10:00am by board chair Mary Eldredge-Sandbo. Board members present were Gary Thompson, Dinah Goldenberg, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Kim Belgarde, Karen Christensen, Paul Stremick, Amy Mann, and Mary Eldredge-Sandbo. Also present were Rebecca Pitkin and Amy Folkestad from ESPB, Superintendent Kirsten Baesler and Gail Schauer from DPI, and Patty Barrette from NDUnited. Laurie Stenehjem from TSS joined at 11:20am. Pam Krueger from DSU joined at 12:40. Edward Erickson from the Attorney General's office joined at 12:15pm. Amy Mann left the meeting at 2:40pm.

Board member absent from the meeting was Bob Toso.

Additions to the Agenda – An item added to the agenda was the Brian Nelson case. Dinah Goldenberg made motion to add the case and accept agenda. Motion seconded by Gary Thompson. All board members voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Administrative Rules Work –

The following changes were recommended to the rules:

- Take out the word “highly” in relation to qualified
- Delete the word “Praxis” and replace with a more generic term allowing for the possibility of another vendor
- Accept the changes to configuration from 1-6 to 1-8 for elementary and from 7-12 to 5-12 for secondary
- Consider changing the language in the Praxis endorsement to having taught one year instead of two
- Remove the word “mandatory” from the middle school endorsement
- Remove “elementary restricted special education license”
- Remove rural flexibility endorsement
- Remove physical disabilities special education endorsement
- Remove resource room plan on file
- Keep the composite degrees but to reduce the number of semester hours for the additional science/social studies content areas to what was previously required before No Child Left Behind.

Teacher Support System Discussion – Laurie Stenehjem presented information and Supt Baesler addressed the current status of DPI's budget bill, HB 1013. The Governor's budget is HB1073. At the time of the board meeting, the interim budget committee voted to not recommend the governor's budget.

Superintendent Baesler discussed that HB1013 currently contains DPI's 2015 budget minus any one time projects, meaning the funding for TSS was whole. Superintendent Baesler spoke to Senator Monson and this is what they planned to go forward with. At this

January 2017

Page 2

time, it's looking like 2015 budget minus 12%.

There is still talk of moving Teach Support System to the Regional Education Associations (REAs). If this would happen, some changes would need to happen, as North Dakota Century Code says TSS is under ESPB. If Teacher Support System services were provided through the REAs, Teacher's Fund for Retirement would need to be taken out of stipend checks.

Budget/Policy Committee Report – Carly Retterath reported on behalf of the budget/policy committee. She and Becky Pitkin pointed out that technology fees have increased significantly compared to what was budgeted. New office policies have been drafted and sent out to the board. Some of the policies include background checks for staff members, Executive Director evaluation, and continuing to work on employee handbook. Dinah Goldenberg asked how often policies should be reviewed. The committee has already discussed this and will set up a schedule.

The board talked about numbering of policies, a table of contents, and having the policy manual posted on our website. First reading of the policies that have been drafted will be presented in February.

Committee will meet again on February 7th.

Evaluation Committee Report – Dinah Goldenberg provided information that the Executive Director evaluation committee met January 11th. November evaluation was completed and went well. A simple survey has been developed and will be sent out to board and staff members for March. Committee has decided it will be the responsibility of the board president to send out the evaluation for feedback. Board will need to be determined where the evaluations will be stored after they are complete.

Committee would like an annual report in each of the areas the Executive Director is responsible for so they can use this to help with the evaluation. They would like to have received all information by the board retreat in June so it can be discussed then. An operational plan will be sent out and discussed in August so expectations are set for the year.

Dinah Goldenberg asked that this year, an extra month be given to complete the evaluation since this is a new process; that the plan be in place by March and the evaluation be completed in April.

January 2017

Page 3

CASES

Nathan, Timothy – Mr. Nathan's file was reviewed by the board due to his background check. Gary Thompson made a motion to grant Mr. Nathan's application for an Interim Substitute License. Motion seconded by Carly Retterath. Board members who voted in favor were Kim Belgarde, Karen Christensen, Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, Dinah Goldenberg, Amy Mann, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Paul Stremick, and Gary Thompson. None opposed. Motion carried.

Bender, Kara – Ms. Bender's file was reviewed by the board due to a Request for Inquiry filed by Standing Rock School District due to breach of contract. Mike McNeff made a motion to seek additional information on the case and find out if Ms. Bender paid liquidated damages to the district to be released from her contract. Seconded by Dinah Goldenberg. Board members who voted in favor were Kim Belgarde, Karen Christensen, Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, Dinah Goldenberg, Amy Mann, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Paul Stremick, and Gary Thompson. None opposed. Motion carried.

Sartain, Gene – Mr. Sartain's file was reviewed by the board due to a Request for Inquiry filed by Starkweather School District due to breach of contract. Carly Retterath made a motion to seek additional information from school district to find out if liquidated damages were paid and if Mr. Sartain was released from his contract. Seconded by Karen Christensen. Board members who voted in favor were Kim Belgarde, Karen Christensen, Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, Dinah Goldenberg, Amy Mann, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Paul Stremick, and Gary Thompson. None opposed. Motion carried.

Laxdal, K. Bryce – Mr. Laxdal's file was reviewed by the board due to a Request for Inquiry filed by Cavalier Public School District due to a new background check offense. Mr. Laxdal has since resigned from Cavalier Public Schools. Charge is still open and proceeding through the court system. Dinah Goldenberg made a motion to take no action on Mr. Laxdal's file until the criminal charge has been resolved. Seconded by Carly Retterath. Board members who voted in favor were Kim Belgarde, Karen Christensen, Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, Dinah Goldenberg, Carly Retterath, and Gary Thompson. Board members who opposed were Amy Mann and Mike McNeff. Paul Stremick abstained from voting. Motion carried.

Aronson, Tracy – A Request for Inquiry was filed by Lakota Public School District due to a new background check offense that occurred in November 2016. Mr. Aronson has since resigned from Lakota Public School. Kim Belgarde moved to revoke Mr. Aronson's Alternate Access License. The motion received no second. Mike McNeff made a motion to

January 2017

Page 4

wait to hear outcome of Mr. Aronson's court case. Seconded by Paul Stremick. Board member who voted in favor were Kim Belgarde, Karen Christensen, Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, Dinah Goldenberg, Amy Mann, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Paul Stremick, and Gary Thompson. None opposed. Motion carried.

Nelson, Brian – Mr. Nelson has submitted his driving abstract for renewal of his driver education endorsement. His abstract shows that had more than 3 moving violations within past 3 years, which is in violation of the renewal requirements. Carly Retterath made a motion to not renew Mr. Nelson's driver education endorsement. Seconded by Kim Belgarde. Board members who voted yes were Kim Belgarde, Karen Christensen, and Carly Retterath. Board members who voted no were Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, Dinah Goldenberg, Amy Mann, Mike McNeff, and Paul Stremick. Motion failed.

Dinah Goldenberg made a motion to extend the endorsement only thru the last day of driver education for this school year and to impose a fine of \$150. If there are any other driving offenses between now and the end of driver's education, the endorsement will immediately be revoked. Seconded by Gary Thompson. No board members voted in favor. Board members who opposed were Kim Belgarde, Karen Christensen, Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, Dinah Goldenberg, Amy Mann, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Paul Stremick, and Gary Thompson.

Carly Retterath made a new motion to not grant the endorsement renewal, and that a letter be sent to Mr. Nelson letting him know that if he has a clear driving record for 36 months, he may reapply for the endorsement. Seconded by Kim Belgarde. Board members who voted yes were Kim Belgarde, Karen Christensen, Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, Dinah Goldenberg, Amy Mann, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Paul Stremick, and Gary Thompson. Motion carried.

Proposed Bill 15.1-13-25.1 Discussion – The committee met January 4, 2017, regarding the temporary license suspension bill and a general overview of their comments indicate the bill does not express what was intended by the board's conversation last spring. In addition, committee members expressed that the bill is what school districts are doing already and the bill might be a step backwards in the move toward goodwill and collaboration that is being developed. Stakeholders surveyed express the same sentiments. The committee moved to have ESPB kill this bill. Seconded by Paul Stremick. Carly Retterath questioned if we should keep the concept and revisit it later. Those who voted in favor were Kim Belgarde, Karen Christensen, Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, Dinah Goldenberg, Amy Mann, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Paul Stremick, and Gary Thompson. Motion carried.

Loan Forgiveness Bill Update and Teacher Shortage Areas – DPI found out that the

January 2017

Page 5

formula they were using to identify shortage areas was outdated. This has been updated and numbers are much more in line with ESPB's numbers in shortage areas. ESPB and DPI will need to work together to decide what criteria will be used to determine a critical shortage areas, using a formula that combines unfilled positions and % of vacancy. Up to 5 areas can be designated for critical shortage and allow people in those content areas to qualify for loan forgiveness and TEACH grants.

Locale codes used for loan forgiveness have also been updated. The definition that's being used for the bill qualifies remote areas and student school populations of 1000 or less. Urban areas can qualify for critical need. The bill hasn't been filed yet because it may become part of HB1030.

Paul Stremick made a motion to accept the **December minutes**. Motion seconded by Kim Belgarde. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Mike McNeff made a **motion to accept the December financial and licensure reports**. Motion seconded by Karen Christensen. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

The December 2016 financial report showed \$41,284.89 in total income received, \$70,199.02 in total expenses, with a net income of minus \$28,914.13. The December 2016 licensure report showed 645 total licenses issued.

Director's Report –Becky had a conference call with a UND professor who asked that we have a mental health certificate/endorsement. She also met with UND to discuss their efforts to recruit more science teachers by working with those who were in the engineering program. UND has developed a proposed list of engineering classes that could help these students transition into the science education program. This will be further addressed by PAAC as it will need to be verified that coursework meets the science education standards.

As previously discussed, technology fees have increased significantly. Right now the technology budget includes three fees: NDTeach, ITD, and internet speed. Becky is working with ITD to get a breakdown of each fee we are being charged.

PAAC Report – Paul Stremick would like to see Century Code or Administrative Rules that give authority to PAAC. Carly Retterath made a motion to approve the recommendations of the PAAC Committee. Seconded by Gary Thompson. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

University of Mary Master of Education in Early Childhood Education (Licensure Track) –

January 2017

Page 6

This program geared toward those who already hold a bachelor's degree in child development or non-teaching early childhood. PAAC would like to see alignment of syllabi to standards on each course syllabus. Penny Veit-Hetletved made a motion to approve the program and give interim approval with revisions and asked that the revisions that were asked for in the meeting be put into writing and submitted to Becky. Ben Schafer seconded. PAAC members who voted yes were Kim Belgarde, Ben Schafer, Kim Knodle, Brenda Seehafer, and Gary Thompson. Rod Jonas abstained from voting. Motion carried.

University of Mary Master of Education in Physical Education Athletic Administration – Syllabus for ED 567 diversity course needs to be aligned to standards. Kim Belgarde made a motion to approve PE Athletic Administration MED for interim approval. Brenda Seehafer seconded. PAAC members who voted yes were Penny Veit-Hetletved, Kim Belgarde, Ben Schafer, Kim Knodle, Brenda Seehafer, and Gary Thompson. Rod Jonas abstained from voting. Motion carried.

University of Mary Master of Education for Special Education Strategist – An outline of how the standards from University of Mary's existing intellectual disabilities and learning disabilities programs are being met is needed. Carmelita Lamb will send revisions to Becky.

Syllabi need to be aligned to standards and InTASC principles should be addressed. Kim Belgarde made a motion to give interim approval with revisions, with clarification that was asked for submitted in writing to Becky. Penny Veit-Hetletved seconded. PAAC members who voted yes were Kim Belgarde, Ben Schafer, Kim Knodle, Brenda Seehafer, and Gary Thompson. Rod Jonas abstained from voting. Motion carried.

Mayville State Edit to Methods Course – Revision to the syllabus has been received. Kim Knodle made motion to approve. Seconded by Brenda Seehafer. PAAC members who voted yes were Kim Belgarde, Ben Schafer, Kim Knodle, Brenda Seehafer, Rod Jonas, and Gary Thompson. Motion carried.

Board Member Reports

NDACTE – Met on December 9, 2016, and went over statewide employer survey. Discussed ESPB licensure configuration changes. They will meet again January 13, 2017.

School Administrators – Tracking legislative bills. The association met and prioritized budget items.

School Boards – Annual negotiations seminar will be next month.

January 2017
Page 7

NDUnited – Ethics training this weekend, January 14th and 15th. Next weekend is NDU board meeting, then advocacy conference.

DPI – ESSA plan will be released today. Standards group will be meeting again in February with new standards ready to be adopted in March. A bill regarding computer science classes was filed. The passing of this bill would allow computer science to count as one credit of math for high school students.

The board meeting was adjourned at 3:36pm.

Chair

Secretary/Executive Director