

MINUTES – Board Meeting
Thursday, January 17, 2019

Renior/Russell Room, Radisson Hotel, Bismarck

The Education Standards and Practices Board (ESPB) meeting was called to order at 9:00am by Chair Carly Retterath. Board members present in person were Andrea Fox and Carly Retterath. Kim Belgarde, Dinah Goldenberg, Kathy Lentz, Mike McNeff, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte joined by conference call.

Also present were Mari Riehl, Amy Folkestad, and Becky Pitkin from ESPB, Allyson Hicks from Attorney General's Office, Patty Barrette, Amy Flicek, and Kevin Stankiewicz from NDUnited, and Joe Kolosky from DPI.

Introductions were held.

Additions/Changes to the Agenda – Gina Holman will be added to the agenda, as her past board case has come to a conclusion. Brenda Tufte made a motion to accept the agenda as amended. Motion seconded by Andrea Fox. All members voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

December Minutes, License, and Financial Report –

The December 2018 financial report showed \$55,541.86 in total income received, \$61,476.33 in total expenses, with a net income of minus \$5,934.47. The December 2018 licensure report showed 742 total licenses issued.

Kim Belgarde made a motion to accept the December minutes, license, and financial report. Motion seconded by Dinah Goldenberg. All voted in favor of accepting the December minutes, license, and financial report. None opposed. Motion carried.

Becky pointed out that at this point in the fiscal year, the budget is at 49% of income and 49% of expenditures.

CASES

Hartleib, Courtney – Before discussion began, Brenda Tufte disclosed to the Board that Courtney is her advisee at University of Mary. Ms. Hartleib's file is being reviewed by the board for teaching without a valid Educator's Professional License. Bob Toso made a motion to dismiss the case. Motion seconded by Dinah Goldenberg. Kathy Lentz and Bob voted yes. Kim Belgarde, Andrea Fox, Dinah Goldenberg, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath and Brenda Tufte voted no. Motion failed.

Andrea Fox then made a motion to fine Ms. Hartleib \$100 and to begin a Board initiated Request for Inquiry against Ms. Hartleib's administrator. Motion seconded by Mike McNeff. Board members who voted yes were Kim Belgarde, Andrea Fox, Dinah Goldenberg, Kathy Lentz, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. Motion carried.

Nelson, Taylor – Ms. Taylor's file is being reviewed by the Board due to a self-disclosed background offense on her application for her Initial teaching license. Board attorney Allyson Hicks pointed out that under NDCC 15.1-13-25 that for ESPB to discipline, the applicant needs to have been convicted, pled guilty to, or pled nolo

contendere to an offense that would have direct bearing on an applicant's ability to teach. She cautioned that taking action against Ms. Nelson's file may be premature and should be addressed after her case has been dealt with in court system. Allyson recommended that this Board case be held over until we have disciplinary documents from courts. Mike McNeff made a motion to table. Motion seconded by Dinah Goldenberg. Board members who voted yes were Kim Belgarde, Andrea Fox, Dinah Goldenberg, Kathy Lentz, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. Motion carried.

Holman, Gina – Ms. Holman's case was reviewed in December 2018 and the Board voted to offer Ms. Holman a settlement agreement that she settle matters with her school district within 60 days. If not settled within 60 days, her license would then be suspended for the remainder of the contract. Ms. Holman has provided a receipt from Standing Rock School District showing that she has paid liquidated fees to school district. Dinah Goldenberg made a motion to accept the documentation that liquidated damages have been paid to school district, after it's been verified by phone. Motion seconded by Kathy Lentz. Board members who voted yes were Kim Belgarde, Andrea Fox, Dinah Goldenberg, Kathy Lentz, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. Motion carried.

Becky Pitkin and Allyson Hicks left the meeting at 9:19am.

Carly Retterath informed the Board that special meetings will most likely be needed every other week throughout Legislative session to discuss bills. The first meeting will be January 23rd from 4 to 5:30. The previously scheduled policy meeting will not be held on this date.

Alternate Access Committee Proposal – When committee last met, looked at some options to explore for alternate access licenses regarding Praxis testing. Andrea Fox made a motion to accept the recommendation from the alternate access subcommittee and to explore options for alternate licensure exams. Motion seconded by Dinah Goldenberg. Board members who voted yes were Kim Belgarde, Andrea Fox, Dinah Goldenberg, Kathy Lentz, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. Motion carried.

Some things to think about going forward are how many attempts the Board would like to see on the Praxis test. The Board was asked to brainstorm some ideas of what they would be comfortable with using in place of the Praxis. If they are comfortable accepting alternate licensure exams, this could possibly be worked into SB 2199. Also, think about if this would apply to just content area Praxis II tests or also the Core Academic Skills in reading, writing, and math.

Executive Director's Report: Stakeholder Input – ESPB Assistant Director Mari Riehl reviewed ESPB's customer service survey results from September to December

2018. Results were overwhelmingly positive, with only 3 of 464 replies to questions being below average. Many positive comments about staff. Carly Retterath thanked office staff for their outstanding work.

In January's Board packet, Becky has also provided a report that shows her stakeholder involvement over the past year.

Director's Report – Youth mental health data for September 2018 to December 2018 was reviewed. Responses show that those who marked “no” to receiving training are most often Other State Educator Licenses (OSEL) or Career and Technical Education (CTE).

The Board was provided with university program completer information from 1994 to present. Number of program completers have remained steady, with the exception of a dip between 2010 and 2012. This mirrors a national trend. Teacher shortages continue to be an issue and have shown to be a “regional” challenge.

Legislative Update – Mari walked the Board through current standing of bills related to ESPB. The Attorney General office recommendation is to oppose each bill as written, to gather stakeholder group input, report input to the Board, then meet in special meetings to develop a plan. Session ends in May with Administrative Rules written over the summer so additional meetings will also need to take place at that time.

- HB 1228 – Bill regarding local control of education. Becky testified on Wednesday, January 16th. Interest groups were opposed.
- HB 1287- Option of using American Board as an alternative pathway for licensure. Currently no update. Becky has been unable to reach bill sponsor.
- SB 2013 – DPI appropriations bill. Erin Jacobson from TSS testified, as TSS funding is a flow-thru grant with DPI.
- SB 1347 - Probationary teacher contracts. At this time, no updates to offer.
- SB 2025 - Regarding statewide education strategic vision. Becky testified on January 8th in support of continued work and having outside facilitator gather information from all entities to continue working together to go forward with the strategic vision.
- SB 2199 - Relating to individuals who are unable to pass Praxis due to a documented disability. The question was raised if it be important to have university's recommendation of this person for licensure.
- SB 2126 - Foreign practitioners, referring to individuals licensed in another state. Becky is testifying today. This bill may not go any further, as it may be combined with another bill dealing with military spouses (SB 2306).
- SB 2158 - Exemption from continuing education credits for lifetime licensed teacher who holds a driver education endorsement. Mari and Becky continue to have communications with Jim Keller from driver education group and Senator Oban. Possibility of ESPB continuing with this in Administrative Rules instead of through a legislative bill. Do not pass recommendation

- out of committee.
- Bill XXX - As of today, this bill has not been filed. Waiting to see if/when this comes out. It would propose allowing someone without a teaching license to teach driver education upon meeting certain criteria.
- HB 1531- Allows individuals without a license to teach non-core areas (community expert). Mari asked the Board to spend some time thinking between now and Wednesday, when our special meeting is held, about which bill Board is most comfortable with – this or American Board (HB 1287). What is the Board willing to do.
- HB 1523 - Relating to operating fund balances and carryover of funds. Carryover cannot exceed \$250,000 or an amount equal to the annual expenses of the agency. Becky will clarify about investments.
- HB 1461 - Dyslexia screenings and training for teachers and other staff. This bill was brought to our attention to be aware of. In Century Code, the credentials are still listed as being with DPI, though all Administrative Rules for this were transferred to ESPB in 2008. Will continue to monitor.
- SB 2306 - Potentially blends foreign licensure and military spouse bill. Will continue to keep Board updated.

Board member reports

NDACTE – Nothing new to report.

Association of Non-Public Schools – not present

School Administrators – not present

School Boards Association – Nothing to report. Very busy with session and bills.

NDUnited – Patty Barrette from NDU shared. Kicking off spring courses, with many book studies being offered. Planning for 2019 Professional Growth Institute is picking up. This will take place in June and NDUnited is looking to do two pre-conference sessions on Praxis and National Board, in addition to the conference.

DPI – DPI has been very busy with legislative session and is currently tracking over 300 bills. Student engagement survey going on right now and schools get points for each student that reports being engaged.

Carly Retterath is going to have attorney Allyson Hicks discuss breach of contract in February as Board Education. If Board members have other things they would like Allyson to cover, please email Carly. Carly will also get information from Becky and Allyson on how Board members should communicate feedback they receive on bills, so they will not be in violation of open meeting laws.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:57am.

Chair

Secretary/Executive Director