

MINUTES – Board Meeting
Thursday, January 14, 2021
Teams Meeting

The Education Standards and Practices Board (ESPB) meeting was called to order at 8:02am by Chair Carly Retterath. Board members present by video conference were Andrea Fox, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, Kraig Steinhoff, Bob Toso, Brenda Tufte, and Superintendent Kirsten Baesler.

Board member Ben Johnson was absent.

Also present were ESPB Executive Director Rebecca Pitkin, Assistant Director Mari Riehl, Amy Bigelow from ESPB, Tracy Becker from CTE as tech support, Allyson Hicks from Attorney General's Office, Erin Jacobson from Teacher Support System, Amy Flicek from NDUnited, Katherine Terras, and Tyler Schmidt.

Introductions were held.

Additions/Changes to the Agenda – Items to be added to the agenda include the reading minor equivalency, a case for Joshua Standing Elk, discussion on the Executive Director evaluation, and an update on policy. All voted in favor of accepting agenda as amended. None opposed. Motion carried.

Motion to Ratify December Licensure List – Kraig Steinhoff motioned to accept the December licensure list. Motion seconded by Brenda Tufte. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

December Minutes, License and Financial Reports – The December 2020 financial report showed \$59,548.56 in total income received, \$70,175.42 in total expenses, with a net income of minus \$10,626.86. The December 2020 licensure report documented 847 items issued. This number includes background checks, endorsements, late fees, and application fees.

Bob Toso moved to accept the December minutes, license, and financial reports. Seconded by Kathy Lentz. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Becky pointed out we are at 53% of income and 47% of expenses. One budget item that is currently being worked on is programming with Nexus Innovations. Becky is waiting to hear what the estimated cost would be to have a check of the NASDTEC Clearinghouse integrated into NDTeach.

30-year Life Licenses – A teacher has requested that the Board consider issuing a life license after 15 years of teaching instead of 30. Bob Toso made a motion to deny the request to change the life license. Motion seconded by Andrea Fox. Board members who voted in agreement were Andrea Fox, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, Kraig Steinhoff, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

CASES

Schmitz, Shannon – Ms. Schmitz's file was reviewed by the Board for teaching without a valid license. Kathy Lentz made a motion to issue Ms. Schmitz a letter of warning from ESPB noting the consequences of teaching without a license. Seconded by Patti

January 2021

Page 2

Stedman. Board members who voted yes were Andrea Fox, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, Kraig Steinhoff, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Schmidt, Tyler – Mr. Schmidt's file was reviewed by the Board after it was discovered that he submitted falsified documents with his renewal materials. Attorney Allyson Hicks reminded the Board that under NDCC 15.1-13-25, this could be grounds for denial of Mr. Schmidt's renewal application.

Patti Stedman disclosed that she is part of West Fargo School Board, the school district where Mr. Schmidt was employed. Allyson reminded the Board that if they feel Patti cannot vote in an impartial fashion, they can motion to have her recuse herself. She does feel she can be impartial, and the board showed no opposition to her voting.

Brenda Tufte asked Allyson to review what a letter of reprimand would be. This would be a formal disciplinary action, would be entered into the Clearinghouse, and would include a settlement agreement. A letter of warning from ESPB is not considered formal disciplinary action.

Kraig Steinhoff made a motion to renew Mr. Schmidt's license, issue a letter of reprimand, and require him to complete the NASDTEC ethics course at his own expense within 12 months. He will be required to report back to the board in one year to verify course completion. Motion seconded by Andrea Fox. Board members who voted in favor were Andrea Fox, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, Kraig Steinhoff, and Bob Toso. Kathy Lentz and Brenda Tufte voted no. Motion carried.

Stieg, Brenda – License was revoked in Minnesota and she did not disclose this on her last renewal application, though revocation had taken place before application. She was also non-renewed from Minot Public Schools in 2011. Under Administrative Rule 67.1-02-02-06 prior revocation is an authorized reason for denial.

A copy of Ms. Stieg's full response was not provided in Board materials, so Allyson Hicks recommended all documents be provided to Board and it be reviewed at the next meeting.

It is to be noted that action in North Dakota is not prohibiting her from teaching in another state. This item will be held until next meeting.

Standing Elk, Joshua – Mr. Standing Elk has self-disclosed an offense to the Board. Attorney Allyson Hicks reviewed Board's options of moving forward with a Request for Inquiry, waiting until case has proceeded through the court system, or to proceed on facts of action. She also advised that since Mr. Standing Elk is a member of this Board, the Board should make a motion to recuse him from all proceedings regarding this case.

Patti Stedman made a motion to recuse Mr. Standing Elk from proceedings regarding

January 2021

Page 3

his case. Motion seconded by Bob Toso. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Patti Stedman made a motion to take no action until the outcome of Mr. Standing Elk's court case. Motion seconded by Bob Toso. Board members who voted yes were Andrea Fox, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Patti Stedman, Kraig Steinhoff, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Reading Minor Equivalency – Currently many conversations are being held around the state about strengthening teacher's skill set to teach reading. One thing that could be used to assist teachers with this is the reading minor equivalency. We have had this in the past, but it became obsolete at one point because it was not being used, so it is not currently written into Administrative Rule. Brenda Tufte made a motion to write reading minor equivalency into rule and to align it. Seconded by Jessica.

Update to Policy – Policy has been drafted in regard to a past marijuana charges and when the Executive Director can issue a license. Board will wait to take action on this until outcome of session and the proposed legalization of marijuana bill.

Board Retreat – Board is hoping to be able to hold a face-to-face retreat this summer. Carly Retterath asked Board members to email her with ideas for discussion at the retreat. One example is the Executive Director evaluation. The one that is currently being used was developed several years ago, with only one member of that group still serving on the Board.

Director's Report – The office has received an open records request from a Colorado agency for any licensure suspensions or revocations since January 1, 1990. Office staff is in the process of copying and redacting these files to send to the requestor. A legislator has contacted Becky about a discrepancy in what is charged to in-state vs out-of-state applicants. This originated from a 2011 bill and Becky is working to get back to legislators regarding this. Satisfaction survey results have been shared with the Board. Becky noted these are the first full survey results gathered while operating with staff working partially remote.

Alternate Access Licenses – ESPB Assistant Director Mari Riehl shared about permits, American Board, out-of-field endorsements. Data shows that these options are fulfilling a need within districts in the state. In total, 89 positions this school year are being filled with these alternate options.

ED Report: Stakeholder Input – In Becky's Director's Report, she has provided information about stakeholder input, and stressed that ESPB cannot do what it does without this input.

Teacher Support System – TSS Coordinator Erin Jacobson presented her report to

the Board. Mentors have been turning in stipends for Fall 2020 semester. TSS Assistant Coordinator Marijke Leibel has been working to offer Genius Hours as part of the first-year teacher course. Each Genius Hour focuses on topics that beginning teachers have expressed they would like to learn about more. Two Genius Hours have been held, with a 3rd coming upon January 25th. Erin has had the opportunity to testify for both HB 1114 and HB 1013. There may be an opportunity to grow the TSS program to a 2nd year. HB 1114 would be to increase the TSS program to fully fund all 1st year teachers to participate in the mentoring program and expand into a 2nd year. HB 1114 came out of House Education Committee with a Do Pass recommendation.

Legislative Session Update –

- **HB 1013 – DPI Budget** – Teacher Support System flow thru grant is included in this bill, as well as funding for National Board Certified Teachers.
- **HB 1114 Expansion of TSS to 1st and 2nd year** – Received a Do Pass recommendation out of committee.
- **HB 1166 Licensing of Foreign Practitioners** – This is an expansion of the military spouse law that was enacted in 2019 and adds any foreign practitioner and treats them the same as a military spouse. Fees would be waived. Board needs to determine how they would like Becky to testify – in favor, opposed, or neutral. Superintendent Baesler believes the Board should encourage Becky to be present for hearings and to provide information to the committees. Carly Retterath would like to push for clarification of “residency” in the bill, so we know how this applies to ESPB and that we may already have something in place like what this bill is proposing. Allyson Hicks pointed out this seems to replace the exact same process we already have for the OSEL. At this time, it seems best to testify neutral and provide information on what is currently being done.
- **HB 1188 General Special Education Technician**
- **Draft of Rural Teacher Residency** – This bill has been drafted, but no number assigned yet.

Once all bills are submitted, Becky will make up a chart for the Board to follow.

ED Evaluation – As the time for Becky’s formal evaluation approaches, additional feedback will be gathered from staff, most likely through a comment section on the online survey.

Board Member Reports

NDACTE -

- NDACTE received results of our Transition to Teaching Survey for all universities with teacher prep in North Dakota.
- The results were strong - 99% of supervisors agreed that our new teachers are prepared in their content and the ability to select teaching strategies.

- Creating a learning environment where difference are respected 97% agreement that our teachers are well prepared to do this.
- New teachers need to be coachable and open to feedback to improve. 95% agreement
- Working with diverse learning has been our area of greatest challenge (though we still score well). All items in the section trended up significantly. We have been working on this, especially in language needs and students living in poverty.
- A representative from NDACTE has been attending the K-12 Coordinating Council as an observer and learner and we are hoping to be granted a representative at some point since many of the issues pertain to teacher prep.
- Erica Carney from Northern Cass shared information on what they have learned from work on their literary grant which was helpful for integration into pedagogy courses.
NDACTE is tracking bills impacting licensure and teacher preparation during the legislative session.
- A bill has been drafted for rural student teachers, and would allow for scholarships to allow rural student teachers to have their student teaching paid for. This bill has not been assigned a number yet.

Association of Non-Public Schools – Nothing to report.

Association of School Administrators – Second round of CARES funding is approximately 4 times the amount as before, however, this time will be distributed to districts through DPI. Kraig Steinhoff attended a meeting and has learned that President-Elect Biden’s goals are to triple Title I funding, provide more money for infostructure, preschool for all, and free community college for all.

School Boards Association – Negotiations seminar coming up in the next month.

NDUnited – Nothing to report.

DPI – Not present.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00am.

Chair

Secretary/Executive Director