

MINUTES – Board Meeting

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Teams

The Education Standards and Practices Board (ESPB) meeting was called to order at 8:02am by Board Chair Cory Steiner. Board members present by video conference were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Amber Fridley, Dustin Hager, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Patti Stedman, Cory Steiner, and Superintendent Kirsten Baesler.

Sheila Schlafmann was absent.

Also present were ESPB Executive Director Rebecca Pitkin, Mari Riehl, and Amy Bigelow from ESPB, Mark Openshaw and Allyson Hicks from Office of Attorney General, Joe Kolosky from DPI, Ellie Shockley from NDUS, Amy Flicek from NDUnited, Alyssa Martin, Jessica Enderson, and Kaitlyn Allen from Center for Distance Education, and other online guests.

Introductions were held.

Motion to Include Additional Agenda Items – Additions to the agenda include cases for Jaden Radcliffe, Brittany Srnsky, approval of January 7 special meeting minutes, draft administrative rules proposed by ND CDE, and a disability waiver for Danielle Brown Otter. Jenny Bladow made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Evan Kritzberger. Board members who voted in favor were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Amber Fridley, Dustin Hager, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.

Motion to Ratify December Licensure List – Siri Coleman made a motion to ratify the December licensure list. Motion seconded by Angela Nagel. Board members who voted in favor were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Amber Fridley, Dustin Hager, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.

CASES

Brown-Joshua, Lorena – Ms. Brown-Joshua's application was reviewed by the board after she self-disclosed background offenses on her application for licensure. Patti Stedman made a motion to grant the license. Motion seconded by Evan Kritzberger. Patti said it's been a number of years since the charges occurred and she appreciated Ms. Brown-Joshua's letter of explanation and its thoroughness. Board members who voted yes were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Amber Fridley, Dustin Hager, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.

Schmidt, Kelsie – Ms. Schmidt's license was previously revoked in 2020 and she reapplied for licensure in 2022. In December 2022 the board offered Ms. Schmidt a settlement agreement that allowed for reinstatement of her license with stipulations, including quarterly reports from her administrators. Ms. Schmidt's 2-year license will be expiring soon, and she's submitted her renewal application. She has been very diligent about submitting her administrative reports, as well as submitting other items as required in her settlement agreement. Siri Coleman made a motion to grant Ms.

Schmidt's renewal with the requirement to self-report any future offenses. Motion seconded by Patti Stedman. Siri said she was pleased with Ms. Schmidt's faithfulness of submitting reports and based on those reports, it sounds like she's made some great improvements. Patti agreed, and that Ms. Schmidt has done everything asked by the board. Board members who voted yes were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Amber Fridley, Dustin Hager, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.

Radcliffe, Jaden – At the November 2024 Siri Coleman and Sarah Lerud disclosed that they were familiar with Mr. Radcliffe but did not have personal relationships with him and felt they could be unbiased. The board voted to allow both Siri and Sarah to participate in this case. At that meeting the board passed a motion to ask Mr. Radcliffe to submit documentation of completion of treatment. Attorney Mark Openshaw said it is documented in NDCourts that Mr. Radcliffe has completed required treatment.

Patti Stedman made a motion to grant Mr. Radcliffe's application for an interim substitute license. Motion seconded by Sarah Lerud. Patti said the only thing the board wanted to see after much discussion was completion of treatment and that is now here. Board members who voted yes were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Amber Fridley, Dustin Hager, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.

Srnsky, Brittany – Ms. Srnsky self-reported a background offense to ESPB between licensure periods. Mark Openshaw reviewed the terms under NDCC 12.1-33-02.1 that outline the terms the board needs to consider in determining if a person has been sufficiently rehabilitated after their offense. Ms. Srnsky's license is due to be renewed at the end of this month.

Evan Kritzberger made a motion to grant Ms. Srnsky's license renewal. Motion seconded by Jenny Bladow. Evan feels Ms. Srnsky been open and honest about her situation, and it appears she's taken care of all terms set forth by the court. Board members who voted in favor were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Amber Fridley, Dustin Hager, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.

December Meeting Minutes, PAAC Minutes, January Special Meeting Minutes, License and Financial Reports – Jenny Bladow reviewed the PAAC minutes from December 12, 2024. Angela Nagel made a motion to approve the December meeting minutes, PAAC minutes, January special meeting minutes, December license and financial reports. Seconded by Amber Fridley. Board members who voted in favor were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Amber Fridley, Dustin Hager, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.

The December 2024 financial report showed \$65,948.96 in total income received, \$104,033.90 in total expenses, with a net income of minus \$38,084.94. The December 2024 licensure report documented 810 items issued. This number includes background checks, endorsements, late fees, licensing fees, and application fees.

Disability Waiver Request –

- **Brown Otter, Danielle** – Ms. Brown Otter's request was first reviewed at the December 2024 meeting and the board voted to request a letter from Ms. Brown Otter's healthcare provider and then revisit. A letter has been received and provided to the board. Ms. Brown Otter has requested a waiver of the Elementary Education and Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT) tests. Jenny Bladow made a motion to approve the waiver request. Motion seconded by Angela Nagel. Board members who voted yes were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Amber Fridley, Dustin Hager, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.
- **Day, James** – Mr. Day has requested waiver of his Praxis II Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT) test. All required documents have been submitted. Mr. Day was granted a waiver of Core Academic Skills tests from his university. Siri Coleman made a motion to grant the waiver request. Seconded by Evan Kritzberger. Board members who voted in favor were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Amber Fridley, Dustin Hager, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.
- **Reeves, Jennifer** – Ms. Reeves has requested waiver of Elementary Education and PLT tests. All required documents have been submitted. Core waiver from university. Angela Nagel made a motion to grant the waiver request. Motion seconded by Jenny Bladow. Board members who voted yes were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Amber Fridley, Dustin Hager, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.

Director's Report – A complete overview of bills affecting ESPB was reviewed. It sounds like the interstate compact bill that had been proposed is not moving forward. A NASDTEC presentation proposal by Laurie Matzke and Lynn Hammonds has been accepted. Possible retreat dates for 2026 will be discussed. A list of potential 2025-2026 meeting dates has been provided to the board.

Administrative Rules Proposed by Center for Distance Education – Alyssa Martin from ND Center for Distance Education presented their proposed administrative rule changes that would allow for military program teacher requirements. Through discussions with DPI and after learning what other states are doing, ND CDE wanted to propose a military pathway that would also help meet the military pathway in the Choice Ready framework. Courses have already been developed with DPI for 2.5 credits.

Dustin Hager made a motion to approve the proposed military rules. Motion seconded by Sarah Lerud. Board members who voted in favor were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman,

Amber Fridley, Dustin Hager, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.

Board Member Reports

NDACTE – NDACTE has not met.

Association of Non-Public Schools – Preparing for legislative session and hoping to learn more about what's in store for private schools.

Association of School Administrators – Cory Steiner reviewed some legislative issues that school administrators have been watching including transportation issues, school vouchers, homeschool, ect.

School Boards Association – Nothing to report.

NDUnited – Beginning work for legislative session.

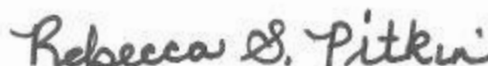
DPI – Yesterday the joint education committees met and were presented with foundational information. There are several new members to the committees and the legislature as a whole. Supt. Baesler thanked everyone for the partnership in the state – licensing, apprenticeships, Choice Ready, ect. At 10am this morning, DPI will be presenting their budget proposal. Joe Kolosky also updated the board about the ND Critical Need and Shortage Report and what will be reported on the federal level. He and Ellie Shockley work together to continually try to improve the unfilled teacher reporting. The number of individuals who have completed mandated reporter training has significantly increased this year. Some districts have required all district employees to complete the training.

Becky shared that she'll be testifying in favor of SB 2043, a bill drafted that would include federal offenses in NDCC 15.1-13-26. As of this time federal offenses are not included.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15am.



Chair



Secretary/Executive Director