

MINUTES – Special Meeting

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

Teams Meeting

The Education Standards and Practices Board (ESPB) meeting was called to order at 8:00 am by Chair Cory Steiner. Board members present by video conference were Jenny Bladow, Dustin Hager, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. Siri Coleman, Amber Fridley, Angela Nagel, Sheila Schlafmann, and Superintendent Kirsten Baesler were absent.

Also present were ESPB Executive Director Rebecca Pitkin, Assistant Director Mari Riehl, Mark Openshaw from Office of Attorney General, and Donna Fishbeck from DPI.

Patti Stedman disclosed a parent of Mr. Nelson works at West Fargo School District where Patti is a school board member. Evan Kritzberger made the motion to allow Patti to vote and the motion was seconded by Sarah Lerud. Board members who voted in favor to allow Patti to participate in the vote were Jenny Bladow, Dustin Hager, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.

Jenny Bladow also disclosed she knows the family that is directly involved in this case. She preferred to recuse herself from voting. ESPB will complete the form for the Ethics Commission. No vote was taken by the board.


Zachary Nelson – He was charged with possession of certain materials prohibited Felony C and Luring minor by computer-defendant 22 or older, believes victim 15-17. ESPB did not receive a Request for Inquiry from the district but the charge was in the news and therefore, it was brought to the board.

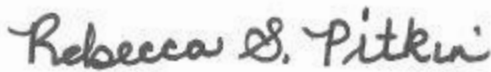
Patti expressed concern that there was not a complaint filed from the district. Becky agreed and shared that this topic of reporting/not reporting by districts would be added to the ESPB August agenda.

Attorney Mark Openshaw reviewed for the board previous board action with similar cases.

Patti made a motion to issue Mr. Nelson a settlement agreement to suspend the license until the case is complete under NDCC 15.1-13-25 (c, j) and NDAC 67.1-03-01-02 (3,4). If found guilty of any charge based on the underlying facts of the case his license would be immediately revoked. If acquitted the case would come back before the board. Seconded by Evan Kritzberger. Board member who voted yes were Dustin Hager, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. Jenny Bladow recused herself from voting. None opposed. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 am.


Chair


Secretary/Executive Director