

MINUTES

Thursday, March 10, 2016

Peace Garden Room, State Capitol, Bismarck

The Education Standards and Practices Board (ESPB) meeting was called to order at 9:03 am by board chair, Mary Eldredge-Sando. Board members who attended were Karen Christensen, Carly Feiler, Dinah Goldenberg, Mike McNeff, Laura Mihalick, Paul Stremick, Gary Thompson and ex-officio board member Kirsten Baesler. Others who attended the meeting were Mari Fridgen, Laurie Stenehjem, Diane Weber and Janet Welk from ESPB, Edward Erickson from the AG's Office, Fern Pokorny from ND United, Gail Schauer and Mary McCarvel-O'Connor from DPI.

Kim Belgarde and Amy Mann did not attend the meeting. Mike McNeff and Paul Stremick left the meeting at 11:30.

Introductions were held.

A motion was made by Gary Thompson to add Marissa Deslauriers, Travis Elesperger, Anna Knutson, Nancy Painter, Luke Stenson, James Whalen and Garrett Wible as additional board cases. Second by Karen Christensen. Motion carried. Board members who voted in favor were, Karen Christensen, Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, Carly Feiler, Dinah Goldenberg, Mike McNeff, Laura Mihalick, Paul Stremick and Gary Thompson.

Prior to getting started with board case discussion and review, Edward Erickson provided an overview regarding when board members are contacted by the media. Once again, the board member can listen but should encourage the individual to call the central office. All board decisions must be done collectively and at a board meeting.

CASES

DELAURIERS, MARISSA

Edward Erickson updated the Board on the status of the settlement. Via her attorney, Ms. Deslauriers has agreed to voluntarily surrender her license.

ELSPERGER, TRAVIS

A motion was made by Paul Stremick to renew the five-year license. Second by Carly Feiler. Motion carried. Board members who voted yes were Karen Christensen, Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, Carly Feiler, Dinah Goldenberg, Laura Mihalick, Paul Stremick and Gary Thompson. Mike McNeff

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did not vote. Mr. Elsperger's license renewal was before the Board because he self-reported a disorderly conduct charge from 2010. He is employed with at Devils Lake Public Schools as an elementary teacher.

GROTH, TANNER

Gary Thompson made the motion to grant an initial, one-year sub license. Second by Mike McNeff. Motion carried. Board members who voted in agreement were Karen Christensen, Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, Carly Feiler, Dinah Goldenberg, Mike McNeff, Laura Mihalick, Paul Stremick and Gary Thompson. Mr. Groth's license is before the Board because of his background check.

KNUTSON, ANNA

Mike McNeff made the motion to grant, the renewal of a two-year OSEL. Second by Carly Feiler. Motion carried. Board members who voted in favor were Karen Christensen, Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, Carly Feiler, Dinah Goldenberg, Mike McNeff, Laura Mihalick, Paul Stremick and Gary Thompson. Ms. Knutson's license was before the Board because she self-reported a DUI which was received in 5/2015.

OLSON, ANNA MARIE

A motion was made by Karen Christensen to grant and an initial, one-year sub license. Second by Paul Stremick. Motion carried. Board members who voted yes were Karen Christensen, Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, Carly Feiler, Dinah Goldenberg, Mike McNeff, Laura Mihalick, Paul Stremick and Gary Thompson. Ms. Olson's application was before the Board due to here background check.

PAINTNER, NANCY

The Board would like to have a response from Ms. Paintner and would like to have response from the Griggs County Central Public Schools regarding their policy and procedures regarding employee discipline. Ms. Paintner's file will be brought to the next board meeting.

STENSON, LUKE

A motion was made by Mike McNeff to grant an initial, two-year license upon receiving the signed settlement agreement. Second by Gary Thompson. Motion carried. Board members who voted in agreement were Karen Christensen, Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, Carly Feiler, Dinah Goldenberg, Mike McNeff, Paul Stremick and Gary Thompson. Laura Mihalick did not vote. Mr. Stenson's license was before the Board due to his background check. At Mr. Stenson's next renewal, the renewal request will go before the Board.

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SWINSON, MELISSA

Ms. Swinson's license was before the Board for potential violation for teaching without a current license. *NDCC 15.1-13-25(1)(h) and 15.1-13-17(1)* Karen Christensen made the motion to proceed with formal disciplinary action and offer a settlement agreement of a \$250 fine. Second by Mike McNeff. Motion carried. Board members who voted in favor were Karen Christensen, Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, Carly Feiler, Dinah Goldenberg, Mike McNeff, Laura Mihalick, Paul Stremick and Gary Thompson. Ms. Swinson is employed at Eight Mile School in Trenton as an elementary education instructor. Karen Christensen then made a motion to contact the principal, Kay Cavanaugh, at Eight Mile School District for her response as to why Ms. Swinson was hired prior to a license being issued. Second by Carly Feiler. Motion carried. Board members who voted yes were Karen Christensen, Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, Carly Feiler, Dinah Goldenberg, Mike McNeff, Laura Mihalick, Paul Stremick and Gary Thompson.

WELNEL, CARRIE

Ms. Welnel's license was before the Board for potential violation for teaching without a current license. *NDCC 15.1-13-25(1)(h) and 15.1-13-17(1)* Dinah Goldenberg made the motion to proceed with formal disciplinary action and offer a settlement agreement of a \$100 fine. Second by Carly Feiler. Motion carried. Board members who voted in favor were Karen Christensen, Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, Carly Feiler, Dinah Goldenberg, Mike McNeff, Laura Mihalick, Paul Stremick and Gary Thompson. Ms. Welnel is employed Nedrose Public School in Minot as a business education instructor. Paul Stremick then made the motion to research to see who has signed off on the MISO3 and contact that person for a response as to why Ms. Welnel was hired prior to a license being issued. Second by Mike McNeff. Motion carried. Board members who voted yes were Karen Christensen, Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, Carly Feiler, Dinah Goldenberg, Mike McNeff, Laura Mihalick, Paul Stremick and Gary Thompson.

WHALEN, JAMES

Paul Stremick made a motion to have Mr. Whalen voluntarily surrender his teaching license. Second by Dinah Goldenberg. Motion carried. Board members who voted yes Karen Christensen, Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, Carly Feiler, Dinah Goldenberg, Mike McNeff, Laura Mihalick, Paul Stremick and Gary Thompson. Mr. Whalen has resigned from Grand Forks Public Schools. He is being charged with two counts of corruption/solicitation of a minor. One of these two charges is a class B felony and the other is a class C felony. Mr. Whalen taught biology.

WIBLE, GARRETT

Mr. Wible's license has been suspended until March 23. Mr. Wible has completed the requirements that the Board has asked of him. Carly Feiler then made the motion to have Mr. Wible's license reinstated. Second by Gary Thompson. Motion carried. Board members who voted yes were Karen Christensen, Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, Carly Feiler, Dinah Goldenberg, Laura Mihalick, Paul Stremick

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and Gary Thompson. Mike McNeff did not vote. The office will write a letter to Mr. Wible when his license has been reinstated. Mr. Wible is employed with Westhope Public School as a physical/health instructor.

STATHIS, TIMOTHY, ADM

A motion was made by Mary Eldredge-Sandbo to have Mr. Stathis provide a response to the nonrenewal of his contract and have the administrator provide copies of his personnel file, evaluations, investigations or decision regarding the nonrenewal. Second by Paul Stremick. Motion carried. The administrative board who voted yes were Karen Christensen, Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, Dinah Goldenberg, Mike McNeff, Laura Mihalick and Paul Stremick. Mr. Stathis' contract with Griggs County Central School in Cooperstown will not be renewed when it expires in June, 2016.

A motion was made by Karen Christensen to approve the **February minutes, financial and licensure reports**. Second by Gary Thompson. Motion carried. Board members who vote yes were Karen Christensen, Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, Carly Feiler, Dinah Goldenberg, Laura Mihalick and Gary Thompson. The February 2016 financial report showed \$62,172.27 in total income received, \$66,091.14 in total expenses with a net income of minus \$3,918.87. Janet Welk pointed out that \$5000.00 of expenses dealt with the 2013 audit. The 2016 licensure report showed 933 total licenses issued. Janet informed the Board of the high number of sub licenses that continue to be incurred.

The Board reviewed the 2013 Audit report. Dinah Goldenberg made the motion to approve the report as submitted. Second by Carly Feiler. Motion carried. Board members who voted yes were Karen Christensen, Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, Carly Feiler, Dinah Goldenberg, Laura Mihalick and Gary Thompson.

A motion was made by Gary Thompson to approve the emergency administrative rules to Administrative Code 67.1 related to the community expert letters of approval for teacher shortages and teacher education approval standards for school counselors and special education/exceptional child (CEC). Second by Laura Mihalick. Motion carried. Board members who voted yes were Karen Christensen, Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, Carly Feiler, Dinah Goldenberg, Laura Mihalick and Gary Thompson. Any administrative rules need to be changed, would happen again in 2017.

Janet Welk informed the group that the CAEP Agreement have been approved for North Dakota.

The executive director subcommittee report was provided by Dinah Goldenberg. The subcommittee consists of Karen Christensen, Mike McNeff and Gary Thompson. Dinah thanked Janet for her years of service, her early notification of her retirement and continued board support. The subcommittee

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is dedicated to do what is in the best interest of the organization as well as Janet's best interest.

The proposed timeline is as follows:

- Advertise for the position, April 1st
- Conduct interviews May 11, day before scheduled May board meeting
- Have new executive director start in July/August
- New executive director train with Janet Welk for 2 weeks in July or August
- That Janet Welk work at home and be on call from 8:00-5:00, Monday thru Friday
- That Janet Welk work on special projects as needed at her home
- That Janet Welk remain on payroll thru December 31, 2016 and be paid the health benefit until January 30, 2017
- Advertising for the executive director's position will be done through higher education, national organizations that current director is involved with, with North Dakota state boards, etc.
- Have ESPB legal counsel review the job description for any changes, legal issues, etc.

Mari Fridgen presented board information on various plans on file for special education endorsements and pathway to licensure.

Mary Eldredge-Sandbo appointed the following Board members to these sub-committees:

Program Approval Advisory Committee-stays the same

Licensure-Carley Feiler, Mike McNeff, Kim Belgarde, Gary Thompson

Professional Development-Dinah Goldenberg, Carley Feiler, Mike McNeff, Mary Eldredge-Sandbo

Professional Practices: Laura Mihalick, Amy Mann, Paul Stremick, and Mary Eldredge-Sandbo

Administrative Practices: Wait until fall

Executive Committee: Chair and Vice-chair.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:45 pm.

Chair

Secretary/Executive Director