

MINUTES

Thursday, March 9, 2017

Renoir/Russell, Radisson Hotel, Bismarck

The Education Standards and Practices Board (ESPB) meeting was called to order at 9:01am by board chair Mary Eldredge-Sandbo. Board members present were Carly Retterath, Dinah Goldenberg, Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, Paul Stremick, Amy Mann, Bob Toso, Karen Christensen, and Superintendent Kirsten Baesler from DPI. Mike McNeff joined the meeting for the administrative rules discussion by phone at 12:45.

Board members absent were Kim Belgarde and Gary Thompson.

Also present were Becky Pitkin and Amy Folkestad from ESPB, Dana Hillius and Goeff Greenwood from NDUnited, Gail Schauer from DPI, and Laurie Stenehjem from TSS.

Additions to the Agenda – Karen Christensen made a motion to accept the changes to the agenda with flexibility and to add the Executive Director’s evaluation, board case Kim Dickens, and an update on an item that has been in the news. Amy Mann seconded the motion. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

ND Common Metrics Survey (Action Item) – Dr. Stacy Duffield presented an update on this project at the February board meeting. She has asked the board to continue supporting the project with an additional \$3000 in funding. Last year, ESPB provided \$5000 for the project. Higher education uses this data to meet part of their accreditation requirements. Also used for Title II reports. Dinah Goldenberg made a motion to authorize \$3000 to be provided to Dr. Duffield and NDSU to continue the Common Metrics Survey, seconded by Bob Toso. Board members who voted in favor were Karen Christensen, Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, Dinah Goldenberg, Amy Mann, Carly Retterath, Paul Stremick, and Bob Toso. Motion carried. Paul Stremick asked that we let Dr. Duffield know that funding may not be ongoing.

Teacher Support System (TSS) – Budget subcommittee met and discussed if TSS should be kept at ESPB or moved to the REAs. TSS being under ESPB is in state law, so the committee recommended that it stay at ESPB. Laurie Stenehjem testified for the legislature on March 8th and didn’t receive a lot of feedback. The updated state revenue forecast is supposed to be released today.

HB1013 passed out of appropriations – interim committee will study REAs, ESPB, and CTE.

Becky and Laurie have worked together on a timeline for advertising and screening applicants for TSS Coordinator position. Since program funding is up in the air and won’t be determined until the end of the session, the board has asked that interviews be conducted in May, in conjunction with the board meeting.

Joint Service Transcript (Action Item) – An applicant for an interim substitute teaching

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license has submitted a Joint Service transcript with credit recommendations received from the military. This is not a transcript from a college or university that has issued credits. Dinah Goldenberg made a motion to allow for this to be considered for an interim substitute license, on a case by case basis. Seconded by Karen Christensen. Board members who voted in favor were Karen Christensen, Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, Dinah Goldenberg, Amy Mann, Carly Retterath, Paul Stremick, and Bob Toso. Motion carried.

Cases

Poock, Lindsey – Ms. Poock's file was reviewed by the board due to a Request for Inquiry filed by West Fargo Schools. West Fargo schools has met and recommended Ms. Poock for non-renewal. She has been on administrative leave since the incident occurred. Paul Stremick made a motion to table until more information is received about the outcome of the non-renewal hearing from the school district. Motion seconded by Bob Toso. Board members who voted in favor were Karen Christensen, Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, Dinah Goldenberg, Amy Mann, Carly Retterath, Paul Stremick, and Bob Toso. Motion carried.

McCleary, Kyle – Mr. McCleary's file was reviewed by the board in May 2015 and his license was suspended until August 31, 2015. The board also stipulated that an ethics course would need to be completed before his license could be reinstated. Mr. McCleary has applied for renewal and has submitted documentation of completion of NDUnited's ethics training. Karen Christensen made motion to approve the renewal of Mr. McCleary's license. Motion seconded by Paul Stremick. Board members who voted in favor were Karen Christensen, Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, Dinah Goldenberg, Amy Mann, Carly Retterath, Paul Stremick, and Bob Toso. Motion carried.

Ploium, Corey – A hearing was held regarding Mr. Ploium's case with an Administrative Law Judge. The recommended order from the Administrative Law Judge was that the board does not have authority to permanently revoke Corey Ploium's teaching license. There was much discussion on the recommendation and if this directs the board to let Mr. Ploium keep his teaching license. Bob Toso made a motion to accept the findings of the Administrative Law Judge. Seconded by Paul Stremick. Board members who voted in favor were Karen Christensen, Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, Dinah Goldenberg, Amy Mann, Carly Retterath, Paul Stremick, and Bob Toso. Motion carried.

Dinah Goldenberg asked the minutes show that the board has asked that in the future, the attorney verify that witnesses are willing to testify before a case would go to an Administrative Law Judge. The board does not agree with the findings in this case. Amy Mann thanked Mary Eldredge-Sandbo for being the board representative at the hearing.

Dickens, Kim – Ms. Dickens' file was reviewed by the board due to a Request for Inquiry

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file by Parshall Public School in regard to a breach of contract. Carly Retterath made a motion to offer a settlement agreement to suspend Ms. Dickens' North Dakota Educator's Professional License for the remainder of her contract in North Dakota. Motion seconded by Bob Toso. Board members who voted in favor were Karen Christensen, Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, Dinah Goldenberg, Amy Mann, Carly Retterath, Paul Stremick, and Bob Toso. Motion carried.

Administrative Cases

Morin, Charles – Mr. Morin's file was reviewed due to a Request for Inquiry. Bob Toso made a motion to get additional information from Circle of Nations School Board on what was found during their hearing. Seconded by Dinah Goldenberg. Administrative Board members who voted yes were Dinah Goldenberg, Carly Retterath, Paul Stremick, Bob Toso, and Karen Christensen. Motion carried.

News Item – Lukas Kostecky's file was reviewed by the board in August 2016 due to his background check. His license was granted, with the stipulation that he self-disclose any additional background check offenses that may occur in the future. His name was in the news this past week for an offense he was arrested for in New Town. New Town School Board met March 8, 2017, and discussed the case. Our board will wait for outcome at the district level and further information will be presented to the board at the April meeting.

Committee Reports

Evaluation Committee – Dinah Goldenberg reported on the Executive Director Evaluation Committee. Policy has been made more concise and a rubric will be developed. Committee will continue to work together to finalize the procedure portion of Executive Director Evaluation.

Budget/Policy Committee – Committee has talked about the Teacher Support System and decided that since Century Code stipulates that TSS is under ESPB, it needs to remain at ESPB.

Professional Practices Committee – Becky met with board members on the Professional Practices Committee, Paul Stremick, Amy Mann, Bob Toso, and Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, on March 7, 2017 to discuss the Model Code of Ethics for Educators. The recommendation of the group was to continue discussion on the possibility of adopting the MCEE. Becky provided some examples of what other states use as their code of ethics. Dinah Goldenberg asked that MCEE be sent out with April board packet so all board members can be sure to read it. She also asked that it be sent to stakeholders to get feedback before the April meeting. Becky will include examples of states that use the MCEE and have condensed it down to key points. Board members stressed that we need

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to distinguish the difference between a code of conduct and a code of ethics. Also asked if MCEE would do justice to teachers if it was made shorter and condensed down to key points.

First Reading Policy –

- PAAC – Program Approval Advisory Committee reviews and recommends adoption of standards. A section will be need to be added that lists the representation of members that make up PAAC. Will come back for first reading next month.
- The section that addresses strategic plan should be called operational plan.
- Dinah Goldenberg made a motion to accept Executive Director Evaluation policy document that was handed out at the meeting as a first reading. Motion seconded by Carly Retterath. All board members voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.
- Paul Stremick made a motion to approve all sections except advisory committee and PAAC, with corrections. Seconded by Dinah Goldenberg. All board members voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Second Reading Policy – Paul Stremick made a motion to approve the first 3 policies: Procedure for Adopting Policy, Performance Evaluation Criteria, and Recruitment, Hiring, & Background Checks for New Personnel. Motion seconded by Karen Christensen. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Director's Report – Executive Director's evaluation has been completed. Dinah Goldenberg made a motion to accept the evaluation as written, with all board members giving the Executive Director a satisfactory evaluation. Seconded by Amy Mann. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

A logo design contest was held and a winner has been chosen. The credential group will be meeting again after the legislative session is over. CAEP training will be coming up this summer and Becky will be attending.

Becky has met with Jordan Pope from Nexus Innovations, our contractor for NDTeach, regarding changes that will need to take place due to HB1098. The changes will not be overly involved and we will be able to use pieces of programming that have already been developed. A PowerPoint has been created that addresses changes in licensure with HB1098. After the law has passed, this will be sent to educators and administrators on the listserv to notify them of changes.

Overall, we are on track with the budget, but with some challenges. Becky is looking at

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hiring someone to help update all forms and has someone in mind. Employment would be project based and not an ongoing, full-time, position.

Some additional board retreat topics will be alternate access licensure and determining if someone teaching with an expired license becomes a board case.

Administrative Rules Discussion – The board discussed the Principles of Learning and Teaching test and if we should continue requiring this test to move from one level to another (secondary to elementary or elementary to secondary). South Dakota is discussing having those move from secondary to elementary take the K-6 PLT, but not those moving from elementary to secondary. They are in the process of changing their administrative rules.

Substitute Teacher License Discussion – Becky presented information on possible changes to the interim substitute license. She asked board members to think about this more and will have it on the agenda for a vote in April.

Minutes, Financial, and Licensure Reports – February 2017 –

Dinah Goldenberg made a motion to accept the February minutes. Motion seconded by Karen Christensen. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Dinah Goldenberg made a motion to accept the February financial and licensure reports. Motion seconded by Carly Retterath. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

The February 2017 financial report showed \$55,091.15 in total income received, \$60,415.47 in total expenses, with a net income of minus \$5,324.32. The February 2017 licensure report showed 816 total licenses issued.

Board Member Reports

NDACTE – n/a

Non-Public Schools – Nothing at this time.

School Administrators – Nothing new at this time. Meeting at 11am today, March 9, 2017.

School Boards Association – School Boards Association held a negotiations seminar in February, as this is a negotiations year.

NDUnited – NDUnited is working on negotiations, Teach Forward, and getting calls on the ethics course they offer. They will be holding a professional development conference in Medora this summer.

DPI – Greg Gallagher has retired after being with DPI for 27 years. New standards will be done April 1. At the federal level, Congressional Review Act (CRA) was passed as of this

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morning – all of regulations that were in process of being approved or adopted under Obama's ESSA by the Department of Education are null and void. A new template will be released by Department of Education next week. Teacher Preparation Regulations that were included in Higher Education Act have also been rescinded. SB2243, the bill addressing student loan forgiveness, will be heard by the appropriations committee.

Retreat Discussion -

Board will give guidance to Becky to plan a schedule for board retreat. Dinah Goldenberg asked for topics that have been suggested so board members can give feedback on what topics need to be addressed and if background work needs to be done on those subjects.

Retreat will start at noon on June 14th.

The board meeting was adjourned at 1:48pm.

Chair

Secretary/Executive Director