

MINUTES – Board Meeting

Thursday, March 21, 2019

Conference Call – ESPB Conference Room, Bismarck

The Education Standards and Practices Board (ESPB) meeting was called to order at 4:00pm by Chair Carly Retterath. Board members present were Dinah Goldenberg, Kathy Lentz, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, and Bob Toso. Brenda Tufte, Superintendent Baesler, and Ben Johnson joined the meeting after it began.

Board members absent were Kim Belgarde and Andrea Fox.

Also present were ESPB Executive Director Rebecca Pitkin and Amy Folkestad from ESPB and Allyson Hicks from Attorney General's Office.

Introductions were held.

Additions/Changes to the Agenda – Items to be added to the agenda include approval of the February meeting minutes, discussion items of a legislative update and Executive Director evaluation. Dinah Goldenberg moved to accept the agenda as amended. Seconded by Bob Toso. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

February Minutes – Dinah Goldenberg made a motion to accept the February minutes. Motion seconded by Jessica Rush. All voted in favor of accepting the February minutes. None opposed. Motion carried.

Grant Request: Student Teacher Observation Tool – In the past, ESPB has provided a grant to Dr. Stacy Duffield at NDSU to continue the work that is being done to collect data with the Student Teacher Observation Tool. Qualtrics is used to collect the data then later used by universities across the state for accreditation. This grant has been built into ESPB's budget and is \$1000. Grant money is used to help pay a research assistant to clean and process data after it's been collected. Bob Toso made a motion to approve a grant to Dr. Stacy Duffield and NDSU for the STOT. Motion seconded by Dinah Goldenberg. Board member who voted yes were Dinah Goldenberg, Kathy Lentz, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, and Bob Toso. None opposed. Motion carried.

Approval of March 11 Special Meeting Minutes – Kathy Lentz moved to approve the special meeting minutes from March 11, 2019. Motion seconded by Jessica Rush. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

ED Summative Evaluation – Board Chair Carly Retterath will be sending information on Monday March 25 to Board members and office staff to collect feedback for Executive Director evaluation. She will compile results to present at the April meeting.

Legislative Update – Becky has met with Senator Rust and there has been much deliberation on House Bill 1287. She has also met with Superintendent Baesler, Senator Rust, Senator Schaible to visit about different factors impacting the bill. Becky did provide agency testimony as instructed by the Board. She has also learned that the area of special education has been removed from House Bill 1531.

Jason Morris – Mr. Morris currently holds an interim substitute license. Due to charges that have been presented in the media, Fargo Public Schools has sent information to

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ESPB stating they will no longer hire Mr. Morris as a substitute teacher in their district.

Bob Toso made a motion to initiate a Request for Inquiry regarding Jason Morris. Seconded by Brenda Tufte. Board members who voted yes were Dinah Goldenberg, Kathy Lentz, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. Motion carried.

Driver Education Laws and Rules – The next item on the agenda is Driver Education Laws and Rules. This item may be discussed in executive session. Legal authority for closing this portion of the meeting is NDCC 44-04-19.1. The topic or purpose of this executive session is attorney consultation. Dinah Goldenberg made a motion to enter executive session. Seconded by Mike McNeff. Board members who voted in favor of entering executive session were Dinah Goldenberg, Kathy Lentz, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. Motion carried.

Executive session began at 4:11pm and was attended by Board members Dinah Goldenberg, Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. Also present were ESPB Executive Director Becky Pitkin, Allyson Hicks, legal counsel from Attorney General's Office, and Amy Folkestad, ESPB staff and meeting secretary. Executive session adjourned at 4:25pm.

Permanent driver's education endorsement – Brenda Tufte made a motion to acknowledge that ESPB could not require continuing education credits or a driving abstract for individuals who had a permanent driver education credential previously issued by DPI, effective immediately. For those with a lifetime driver education endorsement, ESPB will verify each year that they have a valid license. Motion seconded by Bob Toso. Board member who voted yes were Dinah Goldenberg, Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte.

Dean Strand – Mr. Stand has a permanent driver education credential that he's provided to ESPB. Previous motion has addressed his concern. Board attorney Allyson Hicks will respond to Mr. Stand.

CASES

Sivertson, Todd – Mr. Sivertson's file is being reviewed by the Board after a Request for Inquiry was filed by Minot Public Schools. Bob Toso made a motion to suspend Mr. Sivertson's license until the current expiration date, in 2022. Motion seconded by Kathy Lentz. Board member who voted in favor were Dinah Goldenberg, Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Gerving, Alisha – Before discussion began, Ben Johnson disclosed that Ms. Gerving is a teacher within his district. Brenda Tufte disclosed that Ms. Gerving is one of her

former students. Ms. Gerving's file is being reviewed by the Board after a Request for Inquiry was filed by Bismarck Public Schools. Mike McNeff moved to continue the case until after Ms. Gerving's court case has been resolved. Seconded by Bob Toso. Board member who voted yes were Dinah Goldenberg, Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Nelson, Taylor – Ms. Nelson's file was previously reviewed by the Board in January 2019 due to self-disclosed background offense. At that time, the Board decided to wait to take action until her case had been resolved through the court system, which has now occurred. Mike McNeff moved to dismiss the case and to have Ms. Nelson self-report any subsequent offenses. Board member who voted yes were Dinah Goldenberg, Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Spencer, Jonathan – Becky read a statement received from Mr. Spencer by fax at 4:36pm on the date of the meeting. Mr. Spencer's file is being reviewed after he self-disclosed background offenses on his renewal application. Ben Johnson made a motion to renew Mr. Spencer's license and ask him to self-report any future offenses. Seconded by Bob Toso. Board member who voted in favor were Dinah Goldenberg, Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Quamme, Ashley – Ms. Quamme's file was reviewed by the Board, as she had been teaching without a valid license. Mike McNeff moved to fine Ms. Quamme \$250. Motion seconded by Ben Johnson. Board member who voted yes were Dinah Goldenberg, Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Foster, Brandon – Mr. Foster's file was reviewed at the February 2019 meeting for teaching without a valid license and he was fined \$100. Additional information was submitted by Mr. Foster's administrator letting the Board know the nature of Mr. Foster's duties and that he was not the only educator in the classroom. There was no motion to modify the fine from February 2019.

Meeting of Administrative Subcommittee began at 5:05pm.

ADMINISTRATIVE CASES – Reviewed by the Administrative Subcommittee of the Education Standards and Practices Board. Administrative Subcommittee members present were Kathy Lentz, Dinah Goldenberg, Ben Johnson, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, and Bob Toso.

Morin, Charles – Attorney Allyson Hicks visited with the Department of Human Services and learned that no 960 report, Report of Suspected Child Abuse or Neglect,

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had been filed. She also visited with Labor Department and in their investigation, they did not find probable cause. Bob Toso moved to dismiss the case. Motion seconded by Carly Retterath. Administrative Subcommittee members who voted in favor were Kathy Lentz, Dinah Goldenberg, Ben Johnson, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, and Bob Toso. None opposed. Motion carried.

Administrative Subcommittee adjourned at 5:07.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:08pm.

Chair

Secretary/Executive Director