

MINUTES – Board Meeting

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Teams Meeting

The Education Standards and Practices Board (ESPB) meeting was called to order at 8:00am by Chair Carly Retterath. Board members present by video conference were Andrea Fox, Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Patti Stedman, Kraig Steinhoff, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. Joshua Standing Elk joined the meeting at 8:09am. Superintendent Kirsten Baesler joined the meeting at 8:41am.

Also present were ESPB Executive Director Rebecca Pitkin, Assistant Director Mari Riehl, and Amy Bigelow from ESPB, Tracy Becker from CTE as tech support, Allyson Hicks from Attorney General's Office, Marijke Leibel from Teacher Support system, Joe Kolosky from DPI, Ellie Shockley from NDUS, and Jen Wallender, Katherine Terras, and Terry Effertz.

Additions/Changes to the Agenda – Items to be added to the agenda include cases for Sean Lengenfelder and Seth Flemmer. All voted in favor of accepting the amended agenda. None opposed. Motion carried.

Motion to Ratify February Licensure List – Bob Toso motioned to accept the February licensure list. Motion seconded by Patti Stedman. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

February Minutes, License and Financial Reports – The February 2021 financial report showed \$63,071.62 in total income received, \$61,543.99 in total expenses, with a net income of \$1,527,63. The February 2021 licensure report documented 787 items issued. This number includes background checks, endorsements, late fees, and application fees.

Brenda Tufte moved to accept the February minutes, license, and financial reports. Seconded by Andrea Fox. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

ED Evaluation – Carly Retterath reviewed the results of ED evaluation. Kraig Steinhoff made a motion to accept the ED evaluation with all areas satisfactory as stated. He thanked her for her leadership and service to North Dakota. Seconded by Bob Toso. Board members who voted in favor were Andrea Fox, Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, Kraig Steinhoff, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

CASES

Villareal, Victor – Mr. Villareal's file was reviewed by the Board for teaching without a license. Andrea Fox made a motion to issue Mr. Villareal a letter of warning from ESPB and stressing the importance of having a license. Motion seconded by Kathy Lentz. Board members who voted in favor were Andrea Fox, Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, Kraig Steinhoff, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Billadeau, Megan – Ms. Billadeau's file was reviewed due to background offenses she self-disclosed on her application for licensure. Brenda Tufte made a motion to grant Ms. Billadeau's application for an interim substitute license and require that she self-report

any future offenses. Seconded by Jessica Rush. Board members who voted yes were Andrea Fox, Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, Kraig Steinhoff, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Triplett, Kara – Ms. Triplett self-disclosed on her application for licensure that she's had a past offense, but to date has provided no supporting documentation. Patti Stedman made motion to request official court documentation from Ms. Triplett. Seconded by Ben Johnson. Board members who voted yes were Andrea Fox, Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, Kraig Steinhoff, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Thompson, Ronald – Patti Stedman disclosed to the Board that Mr. Thompson was a West Fargo Public Schools employee and she is on their school board. She does feel that she can vote without bias. Bob Toso made a motion to allow Patti to vote on this case. Motion seconded by Ben Johnson. Board members who voted in favor were Board members who voted in favor were Andrea Fox, Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Joshua Standing Elk, Kraig Steinhoff, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Board attorney Allyson Hicks recommended that the board issue a settlement agreement to suspend Mr. Thompson's license until the outcome of the case, under the realization that he's not yet been convicted of a crime. If he is found guilty, his license will be revoked. If acquitted, Board will review again.

Ben Johnson made a motion to issue a settlement agreement to Mr. Thompson to suspend his license until the outcome of his trial. Motion seconded by Brenda Tufte. Board members who voted yes were Andrea Fox, Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, Kraig Steinhoff, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Flemmer, Seth – Ben Johnson made a motion to issue a settlement agreement to Mr. Flemmer to suspend his license until the outcome of his trial. Motion seconded by Kathy Lentz. Board members who voted yes were Andrea Fox, Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, Kraig Steinhoff, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Lengenfelder, Sean – Mr. Lengenfelder voluntarily surrendered his teaching license in Arizona in 2016 and this was not disclosed on application. The surrender was found through a search of the Clearinghouse after he submitted his application for North Dakota license renewal. His Arizona license was surrendered after his last renewal in North Dakota. Mr. Lengenfelder's ND license has expired and he is currently out of the classroom pending Board decision.

Ben Johnson made a motion asking Mr. Lengenfelder to self-disclose any issues. After

further discussion, he withdrew his motion.

Kraig Steinhoff moved to grant Mr. Lengenfelder's application for renewal. Seconded by Patti Stedman. Board members who voted yes were Andrea Fox, Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, Kraig Steinhoff, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

The next items on the agenda are the files for Patricia Munoz and Lisa Pederson. These items must be discussed in executive session. Legal authority for closing this portion of the meeting is NDCC 12-60-24 and NDCC 44-04-19.2 (1). The topic or purpose of this executive session is criminal history record check review. Executive session began at 8:44am and was attended by Andrea Fox, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, Kraig Steinhoff, Bob Toso, Superintendent Kirsten Baesler, Allyson Hicks, Rebecca Pitkin, and Amy Bigelow. The Executive session ended at 9:04am.

Munoz, Patricia – Ms. Munoz applied for an interim substitute license. Andrea Fox made a motion to seek additional information regarding rehabilitation from Ms. Munoz. The Board would like Becky to explain circumstances to Ms. Munoz and for her to provide recent documentation of rehabilitation. Motion seconded by Patti Stedman. Board members who voted in favor were Andrea Fox, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, Kraig Steinhoff, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried. Motion carried.

Pederson, Lisa – Kathy Lentz made motion grant Ms. Pederson's application for an alternate access license. Motion seconded by Andrea Fox. Board members who voted in favor were Andrea Fox, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, Kraig Steinhoff, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried. Motion carried.

Allyson Hicks left meeting at 9:08am.

Director's Report – Staff continues alternating remote work schedule, until approximately the end of April. Becky has provided a tentative meeting schedule for 2021-2022 and is currently working to determine Joint Boards meeting date. ESPB will host the Joint Boards meeting in 2021.

NASDTEC is updating their prevention and correction course to reflect the increase of technology boundary violations. They will provide a reduced rate for states who require this as a requirement for initial licensure.

Teacher Support System – TSS is finishing mentor webinars this week. So far, feedback looks great and mentors feel breakout rooms have been very valuable. Final webinars for first-year teacher course will be held the last week of March.

TSS funding has made it through House with no cut in budget. HB 1114 failed, which would have allowed TSS to open enrollment to all first-year teachers in the state. As of

now, they are able to support about 52% of first year teachers in North Dakota. HB 1114 would have also included dollars for an optional 2nd year.

Planning for next year and going forward with online trainings. This will allow them to rearrange their budget and ultimately serve more first year teachers in ND.

Substitute Licenses – Executive Order 2020-42 removed the 10-day restriction for interim substitute licenses issued based on less than a bachelor's degree. A stakeholder group has asked the Board to consider changing the restriction. This will be discussed further at future meetings.

Shortage Areas – Ellie Shockley and Josef Kolosky presented their findings on data from the 2020-2021 MIS03. ESPB will work to determine shortage areas for the 2021-2022 school year in April. Alternate access license information for the current school year are provided in this month's Board materials.

Legislative Session Update – Many of the bills we have been watching have received Do Not Pass recommendations. Some National Board funding has been provided, but not sure how that will look moving forward.

SB 2332, the bill that addresses American Board, had special education included but it has since been removed.

Becky is meeting with Rep. Michelle Strinden on 3/12/21 about Praxis as a requirement for licensure. We have instituted the disability waiver and also allowed higher ed to use the ACT in place of Core Academic Skills.

HB 1166 – Hearing will be held tomorrow, March 12th. Becky will be testifying neutral and asking for clarification on many aspects of the bill.

Board Member Reports

NDACTE –

- At our February NDACTE meeting, NDACTE discussed the Model Code of Ethics modules that are currently being used for boundary violations and could possibly be required for new teachers coming out of the university settings.
- There was discussion about the importance of Special Education not being included in SB 2332.
- A conversation about licensing was asked. There is no distinction on the license indicating the licensed teacher has gone through an alternate route.
- Rural Student teacher Residency bill proposed by Stacy Duffield and several NDACTE members was not successful during the 2021 session. We hope to develop it further next session.
- Our annual state conference will be held virtually on April 9th.

Association of Non-Public Schools – Nothing to report.

Association of School Administrators – Not present.

School Boards Association – Nothing to report.

NDUnited – Not present.

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DPI – Update HB 1013 that includes National Board and Teacher Support System has hearing scheduled for next Thursday, March 18. Trying to restore NBPTS funding. TSS budget was held-harmless and is not required to be reduced by 15%. House defeated \$3 million additional investment. Will work with senate on that. Yesterday HB 1416 and 1466 were heard – significant investment in early childhood education and feedback was very positive and supported.

SBs 2141 and 2147 House defunded state payment for ACT exams for all 11th graders. Requirement for all 11th graders to complete ACT was also removed.

A \$1.9 trillion stimulus package has been passed by Congress and is waiting to be signed by President Biden. This package includes almost \$425 million to deliver to K-12 schools.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:29am.

Chair

Secretary/Executive Director