

## **MINUTES – Board Meeting**

**Thursday, March 9, 2023**

Teams Meeting

The Education Standards and Practices Board (ESPB) meeting was called to order at 8:00am by Vice Chair Andrea Fox. Board members present were Siri Coleman, Andrea Fox, Amber Fridley, Sonya Hansana, Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, Cory Steiner, and Superintendent Kirsten Baesler.

Board member Brenda Tufte was absent.

Also present were ESPB Executive Director Rebecca Pitkin, Mari Riehl, and Amy Bigelow from ESPB, Allyson Hicks from Office of the Attorney General, Joe Kolosky from DPI, Erin Jacobson and Marijke Leibel from Teacher Support System, Tara Brandner from Fargo Public Schools, Michelle Griffin from UND, Jen Wallender from Western Governors University, Dr. Meghan Salyers from University of Mary, Dr. Stacy Duffield from NDSU, and other online guests.

**Additions/Changes to the Agenda** – Additions to the agenda include a review of the cases from December 2022 for Kayla Knopp and February 2023 administrative committee decision for Dr. Rupak Gandhi. Meghan Salyers will present some proposed changes on behalf of NDACTE at 9am. Cory Steiner made a motion to accept the additions to the agenda. Seconded by Sonya Hansana. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

**Motion to Ratify February Licensure List** – Siri Coleman made motion to ratify the February 2023 licensure list. Motion seconded by Patti Stedman. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

### **CASES**

**Knopp, Kayla** – Ms. Knopp was issued a fine at the December 2022 meeting for teaching without a valid license. She was issued a settlement agreement that has not been returned. Attorney Allyson Hicks has been in discussion with Fargo Public Schools about questions they have about the case. Ms. Knopp's alternative access license expired September 16, 2022, and her initial license was not issued until October 7, 2022. The lapse in licensure was identified when her school district was attempting to enter Ms. Knopp's MIS03 and couldn't. Ms. Knopp had a previous interim substitute license that was still valid during that time.

Ben Johnson made a motion to rescind previous decision of issuing Ms. Knopp a \$100 fine and dismiss the case. Motion seconded by Cory Steiner. Board members who voted in favor were Siri Coleman, Andrea Fox, Amber Fridley, Sonya Hansana, Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.

The regular ESPB meeting was recessed at 8:12am and the Administrative Subcommittee meeting was called to order.

**Administrative Cases** – Reviewed by the Administrative Subcommittee of the Education Standards and Practices Board. Committee meeting was led by Cory Steiner and commenced at 8:12am. Administrative Subcommittee members present were Amber Fridley, Sonya Hansana, Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner.

**Ghandi, Rupak** – At the February 2023 meeting, the Administrative Subcommittee passed a motion to find Dr. Gandhi \$250 for having Kayla Knopp as an unlicensed teacher in a classroom. Ben Johnson made motion to rescind previous motion and dismiss the case. Motion seconded by Patti Stedman. Administrative Subcommittee members who voted yes were Amber Fridley, Sonya Hansana, Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.

The Administrative Subcommittee meeting adjourned, and the regular meeting resumed. Allyson Hicks left the meeting at 8:14am.

### **CASES**

**Riddle, Adam** – Mr. Riddle's file was reviewed due to potentially teaching without a valid license. The response received from Mr. Riddle states that someone was in his classroom with him while he was waiting for his license. Patti Stedman made a motion to dismiss. Seconded by Cory Steiner. Patti and Cory stated that since there was a licensed teacher in the classroom, they felt the case should be dismissed. Board members who voted yes were Siri Coleman, Andrea Fox, Amber Fridley, Sonya Hansana, Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.

**Medicine, Kolette** – Ms. Medicine disclosed a background offense on her application for an interim substitute license. Ben Johnson made a motion to grant Ms. Medicine's application for an interim substitute license. Motion seconded by Kathy Lentz. The motion to issue her license is being based on past practices when individuals have a similar offense. Board members who voted yes were Siri Coleman, Andrea Fox, Amber Fridley, Sonya Hansana, Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.

**Dionne, Isiah** – Mr. Dionne's file is being reviewed after he self-disclosed offenses on his application for licensure. This case has been brought before the Board because it's outside of the policy that allows a license to be issued without Board review. Siri Coleman made a motion to grant Mr. Dionne's license, as it's coming close to 5 years since the offenses occurred. Motion seconded by Sonya Hansana. Siri said she appreciates Mr. Dionne's transparency and taking responsibility for his offenses. Board members who voted yes were Siri Coleman, Andrea Fox, Amber Fridley, Sonya Hansana, Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.

The regular board meeting recessed at 8:23am and Administrative Subcommittee meeting was called to order.

**Administrative Cases** – Reviewed by the Administrative Subcommittee of the Education Standards and Practices Board. Committee meeting was led by Cory Steiner

March 2023

Page 3

and commenced at 8:23am. Administrative Subcommittee members present were Amber Fridley, Sonya Hansana, Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner.

**Biermaier, Michael** – Mr. Biermaier's file was reviewed by the Administrative Subcommittee due to teaching without a valid license. Mr. Biermaier is working as an athletic director in Grand Forks and is being reported to TFFR. There was much discussion regarding contracts for athletic directors and if it was required that they have a teaching license. It's not required that athletic directors hold a license and they can be reported to PERS instead of TFFR. Ben Johnson made a motion to dismiss. Motion seconded by Kathy Lentz. Since it seems to be a district decision to offer Mr. Biermaier TFFR instead of PERS, based on a teaching contract, that isn't under ESPB purview. Administrative Subcommittee members who voted yes were Amber Fridley, Sonya Hansana, Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.

The Administrative Subcommittee meeting ended at 8:29am and the regular ESPB meeting resumed.

**February Minutes, Special Meeting Minutes, License and Financial Reports –**

The February 2023 financial report showed \$77,126.86 in total income received, \$88,203.59 in total expenses, with a net income of minus \$11,076.73. The February 2023 licensure report documented 848 items issued. This number includes background checks, endorsements, late fees, and application fees.

Patti Stedman moved to accept the February minutes, special meeting minutes, license, and financial reports. Motion seconded by Amber Fridley. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Becky is holding off on presenting a budget to the Board as we are waiting for the outcomes of some legislative bills to see how that may affect the budget. ESPB has not yet to be paid the 5% administrative fee from Teacher Support System and that will come later in the year. Budget items to notice – attorney fees are increasing significantly. We are also waiting to hear outcome of 30-year life license to 20-year life license bill. This could fiscally impact ESPB around \$25,000 a year.

Ben Johnson asked if next session it may be possible to propose a bill to allocate additional funding for ESPB. Perhaps this could be a retreat discussion. Becky appreciated Ben's comments and has noted this for a retreat agenda item. She also reminded Board members that she is looking for another member of the budget committee.

Ben Johnson left the meeting at 8:37am.

**Shortage Areas** – A few months ago, Joe Kolosky and Ellie Shockley presented

numbers on unfilled positions from the MIS03. Additional information has been presented to the Board on alternative access license numbers and permits. Based on the information, Becky would recommend that all content areas be shortage again. Kathy Lentz made a motion to designate all content areas as shortage for the 2023-2024 school year. Motion seconded by Cory Steiner. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

**Board Meeting Dates** – The Board reviewed possible dates for 2023-2024 meetings. ESPB meeting dates will be August 9 and 10 (retreat), September 14, October 12, November 9, December 14, January 11, February 8, March 14, April 11, May 9, and June 13. Siri Coleman made a motion to approve meeting dates as listed. Motion seconded by Joshua Standing Elk. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

**Disability Waiver** – A disability waiver request has been submitted from Samantha White Bull. Sonya Hansana made a motion to approve Ms. White Bull's request for a disability waiver. Motion seconded by Patti Stedman. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

**Kolette Medicine Extension Request** – Ms. Medicine has submitted a request for an extension to her reciprocal license, as she has not yet completed all requirements. She was granted the allowed two reciprocal licenses (4 years) and was also granted a final one year extension in 2021. That license has now expired. The office has communicated with Ms. Medicine that her option for renewal at this time is an interim substitute license until all reciprocal requirements are completed.

Cory Steiner made the motion to deny the request for extension. Motion seconded by Patti Stedman. Cory said he feels for Ms. Medicine and her situation, but also sees that she's already been granted a final extension for one year and she has continued to not meet requirements. Cory and Patti both stated the Board needs to stand firm on what is required, so a precedent isn't set to allow extensions for all situations. Board members who voted in agreement were Siri Coleman, Andrea Fox, Amber Fridley, Sonya Hansana, Kathy Lentz, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.

**Director's Report** – Becky and Mari attended the NASDTEC Central Region virtual meeting in February. This gives states an opportunity to see what others are doing and gather new ideas for things that may work in North Dakota.

Becky feels like it's critically important that we raise fees by \$5. Legal and programming fees have significantly increased. We've had to hire additional staff to help with projects such as the apprenticeship model, The Hunt Institute, and new administrative rules will need to be written, with some being emergency rule that needs to be completed right away. As we look at the possible passing of House Bill 1329 (20-year Life License), a breakdown of the number of life licenses issued per year since the 2014-2015 fiscal

March 2023

Page 5

year has been provided to the Board. This will also affect the budget if passed. Board members asked for a spreadsheet of fees for next meeting so Board members can determine if a \$5 increase is enough or if it should be more.

Kevin Bennefeld, who's file was reviewed in January and February 2023, has surrendered his license and has been entered into the NASDTEC Clearinghouse. Apprenticeship work is ongoing.

**Dr. Meghan Salyers: Changes in Higher Education** – Higher Ed, with support from Becky and ESPB, will pilot a program that will allow each university to use coursework that they will identify, to be used in place of the correlating Core Academic Skills exam with a B- or higher. They will take approximately 2 years to compile data, but hoping this window will be a little wider. Board members had many questions for Dr. Salyers on how different areas were determined in the proposal.

Joshua Standing Elk left the meeting at 9:34am.

**Legislative Update** – Becky provided an update in legislative bills and testimony she has provided.

**Teacher Support System** – Erin Jacobson reviewed legislative bills that relate to TSS. Senate Bill 2250, which would have expanded the mentoring program to years three and four failed to pass. Senate Bill 2013 includes the TSS flow-through grant funding. Testimony will be given tomorrow, March 10<sup>th</sup> to House Appropriations.

Erin is working with the Governor's Office to see if GEER II funding can be allocated into 2024. This would allow the 2<sup>nd</sup> year mentoring program to be open through the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years.

Erin provided the Board with upcoming March events for both the mentoring program and Coaches Academy.

**Dr. Stacy Duffield Common Metrix** – Dr. Stacy Duffield from NDSU presented. In 2009, the Common Metrics survey was developed. Three of the four surveys are used in North Dakota – the Exit Survey for student teachers, Transition to Teaching Survey one year after Exit Survey, and around the same time as the Transition to Teaching Survey, the Supervisor Survey is sent to the supervisors of first-year teachers. Dr. Duffield shared the top ten answers from each survey - Exit Survey, Transition to Teaching Survey, and Supervisory Survey. There is a lot of consistency between the three.

Also identified were the lowest 10 answers from the surveys. Students felt the least prepared in differentiating instruction for different groups of students, accessing resources for students with diverse needs, classroom management with student

behaviors. Again, many of the answers overlapped.

When this was developed in 2009, it was highly supported by the Bush foundation with funding and their tools.

**Board Member Reports**

**NDACTE** – Not present.

**Association of Non-Public Schools** – Nothing new to report today. Watching legislation.

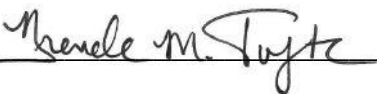
**Association of School Administrators** – A couple different bills they are watching. One in particular is the library bill (SB 2360). This could significantly impact not only school libraries for students, but also teacher libraries. This is a trend nationally and being seen in many states. Also watching the school voucher bill. North Dakota is one of a few states in the US that doesn't have a voucher system and feels it's eventually coming. Cory Steiner stated schools and administrators need to work together to figure out how it will happen instead of continuing to push back.

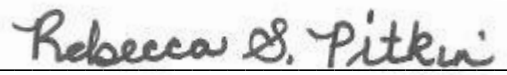
**School Boards Association** – Nothing to report.

**NDUnited** – Not present.

**DPI** – DPI still has about 128 bills they're still watching. In the past, there has been about 48% of bills that were killed in their original chamber and didn't make it to crossover. This year about 11 to 12% of bills did not make it to crossover. At the end of March, Superintendent Baesler has been asked to testify to a national committee about teacher retention. Superintendent Baesler asked that information that can be shared with her that she can, in turn, present to the committee be provided to her. Also, please communicate with her about barriers Board members might have seen that could be addressed at the federal level.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:59am.

  
Chair

  
Secretary/Executive Director