

## **MINUTES**

**Thursday, May 9, 2018**

Fort Totten Room, State Capitol, Bismarck

The Education Standards and Practices Board (ESPB) meeting was called to order at 9:02am by Chair Carly Retterath. Board members present were Ben Johnson, Kim Belgarde, Carly Retterath, Board members who joined by conference call were Dinah Goldenberg, Bob Toso, Mike McNeff, Brenda Tufte, Jessica Rush, Andrea Fox, and Karen Christensen.

Also present were Amy Folkestad and Becky Pitkin from ESPB, Patty Barrette from NDUnited, Gail Schauer from DPI, Erin Jacobson from Teacher Support System, and Edward Erickson from Attorney General's office.

Introductions were held.

**Additions/Changes to the Agenda** – Items that need to be added to the agenda include Teacher Support System report, narrow licensure that the Alternate Access Committee has been discussing. In Becky's director's report, she has included a letter asking for a waiver on the Core Academic Skills math test. The Budget Committee report will also be shared with the board.

Kim Belgarde made a motion to add items to the agenda. Motion seconded by Ben Johnson. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

### **April Minutes, License, and Financial Report –**

The April 2018 financial report showed \$64,909.86 in total income received, \$70,656.22 in total expenses, with a net income of minus \$5,746.36. The April 2018 licensure report showed 860 total licenses issued. All voted in favor of accepting April minutes, license, and financial reports. None opposed. Motion carried.

Becky shared that the budget is looking good for the year.

**Director's Report** – Becky received a call from Midwestern Higher Education Compact and they are having a conference next week in Ohio that she will be attending. Becky continues to work with universities as they prepare for their accreditation visits in Fall 2018 and Spring 2019.

The Board reviewed a letter from Ashley Holcomb who has requested a waiver for the math score on her Core Academic Skills test. After much discussion, it was determined that it would be communicated back to Ms. Holcomb that the testing requirement is in the law and we do not have the authority to waive the law.

**Teacher Support System Report** – In May, TSS Coordinator Erin Jacobson attended mentoring institute in Washington DC, where she gathered new resources and ideas. Many of these things will be implemented into North Dakota's program in Fall 2018. Mentoring enrollments for first-year teachers have started coming in for next school year and are currently ahead of last year's numbers. Instructional Coach's Academy registration is open and some applications have been received.

Erin presented at the ND PLC Summit on April 23rd about mentoring. The presentation was well attended and an effective way to receive important feedback from stakeholders.

May 2018

Page 2

On May 2-4, Erin and Becky attended National Program Leaders Network conference in Chicago where the focus was infield coaching. North Dakota has been running a pilot for the past year to update video and peer coaching and will continue to do that in the coming year.

Interviews for TSS Assistant Coordinator position were held on April 25<sup>th</sup>, with four individuals interviewed. The TSS Assistant Coordinator position was offered to Marijke Leibel and she has accepted. She will start July 1.

**Retreat** – ESPB's annual retreat has been set for June 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> in Fargo. Lunch will be provided on the 13<sup>th</sup> and meeting will start shortly after. Traditional board meeting with cases will begin at 8am Thursday and is anticipated to be completed by noon.

**Narrow License Areas** – Mike McNeff covered the idea of a narrow license area that has been discussed in the Alternate Access Committee. CTE has shown interest in working with ESPB on this. For example, if someone has an accounting degree, they are only allowed to teach that area. If the applicant later wanted to complete additional coursework and expand license to be able to teach additional areas, they could. Mike would like to see this move beyond CTE areas and apply to content areas like biology, math, textiles, ect. He would like to look at this being offered in a bootcamp or academy-type style. Alternate access committee will continue discussion on this topic and work to develop some questions and answers.

## **CASES**

**Casteel, Katie** – Ms. Casteel's file was reviewed due to a Request for Inquiry that was filed by Wilmac Multidistrict Special Education Unit for breach of contract. The letter sent to Ms. Casteel asking for her response to the Request for Inquiry was returned to ESPB as unclaimed, so no response has been received from her. Dinah Goldenberg made a motion to suspend Ms. Casteel's license in North Dakota until she pays liquidated damages to district. Motion seconded by Ben Johnson. Board members who voted in favor were Kim Belgarde, Karen Christensen, Andrea Fox, Dinah Goldenberg, Ben Johnson, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

**Martinez, Christy** – Ms. Martinez's file was reviewed by the Board in October and December 2017 after receipt of a Request for Inquiry that was filed by Mandaree School for breach of contract. The case was tabled until after her liquidated damages were due/paid. Liquidated damages were not paid by the due date and a complaint was file with the Department of Labor. In December 2017, the Board voted to table the case until the Department of Labor had completed their investigation. The Department of Labor has concluded their investigation and has determined that they are unable to conclude that a violation of statues has occurred. In light of this, Mike McNeff made a motion to suspend Ms. Martinez's license until liquidated damages has been paid.

Motion seconded by Kim Belgarde. Board members who voted in favor were Kim Belgarde, Karen Christensen, Andrea Fox, Dinah Goldenberg, Ben Johnson, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

**Watts, Elizabeth** – Ms. Watts' file was reviewed due to a Request for Inquiry that was filed by North Boarder School District for breach of contract. Bob Toso made a motion to suspend Ms. Watts' license until liquidated damages have been paid. Motion seconded by Mike McNeff. Board member who voted yes were Andrea Fox, Dinah Goldenberg, Ben Johnson, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. Kim Belgarde and Karen Christensen voted no. Motion carried.

**Fiechtner, Heidi** – Ms. Fiechtner's file was review by the Board after a Request for Inquiry was received. Dinah Goldenberg made a motion to dismiss the case. Motion seconded by Karen Christensen. Board members who voted in favor were Kim Belgarde, Karen Christensen, Andrea Fox, Dinah Goldenberg, Ben Johnson, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

**Budget Committee** – A budget will be ready for Board review at the June retreat. The committee would like to use dollars from a money market account to purchase a new copy machine and printer for the office that are many years old. The committee will draft a policy for review in June addressing use of investments for one-time expenses. Kim Belgarde made a motion to use funds from the Capital Credit Union money market account to purchase a new copy machine and printer. Motion seconded by Dinah Goldenberg. Board members who voted in favor were Kim Belgarde, Karen Christensen, Andrea Fox, Dinah Goldenberg, Ben Johnson, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

### **Board member reports**

- **NDACTE** – Universities are beginning to examine the minor (many dropped minors when No Child Left Behind was implemented).
- Collaboration has been occurring with Directors of Special Education, Instructors of Special Education programs and parent advisory groups recently with the many changes that has been occurring in special education programming throughout preK-12. The group moved forward to set up a formalized ad hoc group of the NDACTE to support advocacy work which was passed. Kathryn Terras will lead the ad hoc

A focus for discussion was on SPED minors: minors do not go through program approval as minor programs are not structured to meet CEC standards. How ESSA and IDEA laws interact with each other will be reviewed as well as examining data on grad rates for students with special needs, data on student

progress, SPED teaching data, and stronger communication structure when decisions are made that affect support for students in special education

- Exam pass rates on the CORE Academic Skills Exam from ETS without attention to the composite score passing definition were reported despite objection by NDACTE. In the past ETS manually calculated the reporting data. ETS would not calculate using the composite this year. The window for resolution closed and data was reported as calculated. Because this influences the Title II reporting and year to year comparisons, it is concerning since the reporting does not reflect the agreed upon definition of using the composite pass rate of 466. They will add the contextual information on the Title II report to add a common statement about the composite score used for passing and the pass rates reported to raise awareness of the fact that the definition for ND composite pass rate was not used to calculate pass rates. It may provide more support for change if all institutions send this common message. A statement was shared that could be used in the contextual information area:  
*2016-2017 pass rates reported for test takers of North Dakota institutions do not represent the composite qualifying score communicated by ND institutions, the ND Education Standards and Practices Board, and the Education Testing Service for the Core Academic Skills for Educators.*
- At the next NDACTE meeting in May, options for determining pass rates will be discussed. Models will be shared for the committee to review.

**Association of Non-Public Schools** – Have not met, so nothing to report.

**ND Association of School Administrators** – DPI's proposed changes to principal credentials is concerning to the group.

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

**NDUnited** – Professional Growth Institute coming up. Vice President of NEA has recognized ND's ethics training at their national board meeting.

**DPI** – DPI is working on changing principal credentialing. Much feedback has been received. Teacher Shortage Loan Forgiveness has turned out to be challenging to work with, as funding was not able to be provided to all districts or all shortage content areas.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:36am.