

MINUTES – Board Meeting
Thursday, May 12, 2022
CTE Conference Room and Teams

The Education Standards and Practices Board (ESPB) meeting was called to order at 8:02am by Chair Carly Retterath. Board members present by in person were Siri Coleman, Carly Retterath, and Ben Johnson. Sonya Hansana, Kathy Lentz, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, Cory Steiner, Brenda Tufte, and Superintendent Kirsten Baesler joined by video conference.

Also present were ESPB Executive Director Rebecca Pitkin, Assistant Director Mari Riehl, and Amy Bigelow from ESPB, Carl Karpinski from Attorney General's Office, Jen Wallender from Western Governors University, Michelle Griffin from UND, Pam Johnson from Mayville State University, and other online guests.

Additions/Changes to the Agenda – Items to add to the agenda include a board case review for Emily Re and an Administrative Subcommittee case for Jason Germundson. Two disability waiver requests have been received and need to be added to the agenda. Becky would like to add 2022-2023 budget approval under action items and professional practices will be moved to discussion items. Cory Steiner made a motion to accept the agenda as amended. Seconded by Patti Stedman. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Motion to Ratify April Licensure List – Kathy Lentz made motion to ratify the April 2022 licensure list. Motion seconded by Brenda Tufte. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

CASES

Bjone, Kellen – Mr. Bjone's license was reviewed by the Board after a Request for Inquiry was filed by West Fargo Public Schools. Before discussion began, Patti Stedman disclosed that Mr. Bjone was employed by her school district, but she does feel she can vote impartially. No Board members expressed concern with Patti participating in discussion or voting on this case. Board members asked if law enforcement had been notified about the district investigation. They have been notified, but Board attorney Carl Karpinski confirmed that no charges have been filed to date. Mr. Bjone has resigned his position with West Fargo Public Schools.

Brenda Tufte asked for a review of actions the board could consider. Carl reviewed possible disciplinary actions – the Board could choose to do nothing, issue a settlement agreement that could include suspension or Mr. Bjone's license, impose a fine, include course requirements, or revocation of licensure. Mr. Bjone's license is now expired, so his license could be flagged and require Board review before he could renew.

Ben Johnson made a motion to flag Mr. Bjone's application if he reapplies for licensure in the future, since he doesn't currently have a valid license. Motion seconded by Sonya Hansana. Board members who voted yes were Siri Coleman, Sonya Hansana, Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, Cory Steiner, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Re, Emily – At the April meeting the Board motioned to ask Ms. Re and her administrator for more information on her role in the district. Letters have been received from Ms. Re and her administrator, Fr. Slovak with additional information. Ben Johnson

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made a motion to dismiss the case. Motion seconded by Siri Coleman. Board members who voted in favor were Siri Coleman, Sonya Hansana, Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, Cory Steiner, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

The regular meeting was recessed at 8:23am.

Administrative Subcommittee – Reviewed by Administrative Subcommittee of the Education Standards and Practices Board. Called to order at 8:23am by Administrative Subcommittee Chair Ben Johnson. Administrative Subcommittee members present were Sonya Hansana, Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner.

Germundson, Jason – At the March ESPB meeting, the Board voted to send a Request for Inquiry to Mr. Germundson for having an unlicensed teacher in the classroom from the beginning of the school year until December 21, 2021. Cory Steiner made motion to fine Mr. Germundson \$250. Motion seconded by Kathy Lentz. Administrative Subcommittee members who voted yes were Sonya Hansana, Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.

Larson, Chris – Mr. Larson's file was reviewed by the Administrative Subcommittee after a Request for Inquiry was received involving his district investigation against a former teacher. Carly Retterath made a motion to dismiss. Motion seconded by Cory Steiner. Administrative Subcommittee members who voted yes were Sonya Hansana, Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.

The Administrative Subcommittee meeting was adjourned at 8:29am and the regular meeting was resumed at 8:29am.

April Minutes, License, and Financial Reports – The April 2022 financial report showed \$58,385.76 in total income received, \$53,870.89 in total expenses, with a net income of \$4,514.87. The April 2022 licensure report documented 734 items issued. This number includes background checks, endorsements, late fees, and application fees.

Ben Johnson made a motion to accept the April minutes, license, and financial reports. Seconded by Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

2022-2023 Budget – The budget subcommittee met and approved a budget for 2022-2023. Becky pointed out that licensure drives everything. The budget does include \$1500 bonuses for office staff, which is allowed under NDCC 54-06-30. This requires a 3-pronged evaluation, which Becky does with staff every year.

Patti Stedman made motion to approve the 2022-2023 budget. Motion seconded by Cory Steiner. Board members who voted yes were Siri Coleman, Sonya Hansana, Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Patti Stedman, Cory Steiner, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Disability Waiver Requests – Disability waiver requests were reviewed for Kaycee Grochow and Jessica Edwards.

- **Grochow, Kaycee** – Brenda Tufte made motion to approve a disability waiver for Kaycee Grochow. Motion seconded by Siri Coleman. Board members who voted in favor were Siri Coleman, Sonya Hansana, Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Patti Stedman, Cory Steiner, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.
- **Edwards, Jessica** – Ms. Edwards' information was received late. Carly Retterath gave the Board the option to take action or wait until the June meeting. After discussion, Kathy Lentz made motion to the request for a disability waiver for Ms. Edwards. Motion seconded by Ben Johnson. Board members who voted yes were Siri Coleman, Sonya Hansana, Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Patti Stedman, Cory Steiner, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Director's Report – At the February 2022 meeting, the Board motioned to issue letters of reprimand to Aimee Zachrison and Patrick Meyer with additional coursework requirements. Both have completed all sanctions required by the Board which included completion of a Title IX course, mandatory reporter training and harassment training.

Lanny Gabbert has also completed all requirements set forth by the Board at the January 2022 meeting. As stipulated in his settlement agreement, his license will remain suspended until the end of July.

Kelsie Schmidt' administrative hearing will be held on June 30th. Becky and the office are working on gathering all information requested by Ms. Schmidt's attorney.

Higher Ed will be holding a teacher shortage summit in June to bring stakeholders together to try to find solutions. The Tennessee apprenticeship program model has gone viral – DPI and ESPB are trying to pull out pieces that might be applied and work in North Dakota. Superintendent Baesler asked the Board for continued support on this initiative.

Interstate compact has their final meeting next week and Becky will attend remotely. Our Board retreat will be in August at the Heritage Center, with the regular board meeting the next day in the CTE Conference Room.

Professional Practices – Some states cannot review a board case until a criminal offense has been committed. Two years ago, ESPB amended administrative rule that

addresses grooming to include electronic means. This is included in administrative code 67-1-03-01-02. There is a national movement to adopt legislation for things that don't reach the criminal level but cross boundaries. Currently, 52% of states have adopted similar rules/law that include grooming language.

Teacher Support System – First and 2nd year teacher mentoring enrollment has been opened. Requirements for 2nd year teachers have been developed, to not overwhelm teachers, but to still adequately support them. Surveys through KickUp have sent to all first-year teachers, mentors, and administrators. By working with KickUp, TSS is able to utilize KickUp's data analysis tools to get better information and feedback. North Dakota's Coaches Academy has been highlighted in The Learning Professional publication and Erin has provided a link to the article for the Board. Coaches Academy will be offered in a different format this year, with many trainings online and some face-to-face training at Bismarck State College.

Board Member Reports

NDACTE –

- NDACTE is hosting a Teacher Shortage Summit Update – June 8 from 8:30am-3:30pm at the Radisson. So far, we have approximately 62 attendees and planning for up to 150.
- NDACTE will send a representative to the AACTE State Leaders institute in Washington, DC June 6-8. They are going back to in person for the AACTE State Leaders Institute in Washington.
- All of the teacher prep programs have been informed of the recent changes in Praxis cut scores which come into effect 9/1/2022.

Association of Non-Public Schools – Nothing to report.

Association of School Administrators – Ben Johnson reported that administrators are still struggling to find teachers in all areas.

School Boards Association – Nothing to report.

NDUnited – Nothing to report.

DPI – ESSA meeting today at 9:30am.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08am.