

MINUTES – Board Meeting
Thursday, November 18, 2021
CTE Conference Room and Teams

The Education Standards and Practices Board (ESPB) meeting was called to order at 8:10am by Chair Carly Retterath. Board members present were Siri Coleman, Andrea Fox, Sonya Hansana, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, Cory Steiner, and Brenda Tufte.

Board members Ben Johnson and Superintendent Kirsten Baesler were absent.

Also present were ESPB Executive Director Rebecca Pitkin, Assistant Director Mari Riehl, and Amy Bigelow from ESPB, Carl Karpinski from Attorney General's Office, Tracy Becker from CTE as tech support, Pam Johnson, Michelle Griffin, Jen Wallender, Amy Flicek, and other online guests.

Joshua Standing Elk left the meeting at 8:25am.

Additions/Changes to the Agenda – Items to add to the agenda include information regarding Lanny Gabbert, a request to waive a late fee, and items Becky would like the board to consider including CTE 4-year degree individuals who have completed Transition to Teaching testing into new content areas, an Administrative Rules change to allow a 40-day provisional license for foreign applicants prior to receiving their social security number, and creating a minor equivalency endorsement for special education.

Sonya Hansana motioned to accept agenda as amended. Motion seconded by Patti Stedman. None opposed. Motion carried.

Motion to Ratify October Licensure List – Kathy Lentz made motion to ratify the October 2021 licensure list. Seconded by Cory Steiner. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

CASES

Thomas, Jordyn – Ms. Thomas was teaching under contract on an interim substitute license and was listed on a school's MOS03, before holding a regular teaching license. Patti Stedman made a motion to send a friendly reminder letter to Ms. Thomas about the importance of holding a valid license, to fine her \$100, and to send a Request for Inquiry to Ms. Thomas's administrator. Motion seconded by Andrea Fox. Board members who voted in favor were Siri Coleman, Andrea Fox, Sonya Hansana, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Patti Stedman, Cory Steiner, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Snow, Sasha – Ms. Snow's file is being reviewed by the Board due to teaching without a valid license. Brenda Tufte moved to send a letter to Ms. Snow reminding her of the importance of holding a license, to fine her \$100, and to send a Request for Inquiry to Ms. Snow's administrator. Motion seconded by Siri Coleman. admin. Seconded by Siri. Board members who voted in favor were Siri Coleman, Andrea Fox, Sonya Hansana, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Patti Stedman, Cory Steiner, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Bear, Jasmyne – Ms. Bear's file is being reviewed by the Board due to teaching without a valid license. Andrea Fox made a motion to fine Ms. Bear \$100, send a letter about

the importance of holding a valid license, and to send a Request for Inquiry to Ms. Bear's administrator. Motion seconded by Cory Steiner. Board members who voted in favor were Siri Coleman, Andrea Fox, Sonya Hansana, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Patti Stedman, Cory Steiner, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Evans, Ashley – Ms. Evans's file was reviewed at the October 2021 meeting, after she applied for renewal and it was discovered that her previous teaching license in California had been revoked. The Board motioned to ask for Ms. Evans to send a response. Her response has been received. Patti Stedman made a motion to renew Ms. Evans's North Dakota license. Motion seconded by Sonya Hansana. Board members who voted yes were Siri Coleman, Andrea Fox, Sonya Hansana, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Patti Stedman, Cory Steiner, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Lawson, Christine – Ms. Lawson's file was reviewed at the October 2021 meeting after she self-disclosed a background offense. At the October meeting, the board motioned to request character references from Ms. Lawson, including one from her school district and one from Mr. Welte. Character reference letters were received. Kathy Lentz made motion to issue Ms. Lawson's interim substitute license. Motion seconded by Brenda Tufte. Board members who voted yes were Siri Coleman, Andrea Fox, Sonya Hansana, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Patti Stedman, Cory Steiner, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Gordon, Lana – Ms. Gordon's file was reviewed after she self-disclosed background offenses on her application for an interim substitute license. Andrea Fox moved to grant Ms. Gordon's license. Motion seconded by Patti Stedman. Board members who voted in favor were Siri Coleman, Andrea Fox, Sonya Hansana, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Patti Stedman, Cory Steiner, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Kaiser, Andrew – Mr. Kaiser's file was reviewed after he self-disclosed background offenses on his application for an interim substitute license. Sonya Hansana motioned to grant Mr. Kaiser's license and to send him a reminder letter to self-report any future offenses. Motion seconded by Siri Coleman. Board members who voted yes were Siri Coleman, Andrea Fox, Sonya Hansana, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Patti Stedman, Cory Steiner, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Knopp, Kayla – Ms. Knopp's file was reviewed by the Board due to teaching without a valid license. Kathy Lentz made a motion to fine Ms. Knopp \$100 and to file a Request for Inquiry on her administrator. Motion seconded by Cory Steiner. Board members who voted yes were Siri Coleman, Andrea Fox, Sonya Hansana, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Patti Stedman, Cory Steiner, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

McNeely, Reanna – Ms. McNeely's file was reviewed by the Board after she self-

disclosed background offenses on her application for an interim substitute license. Patti Stedman made a motion to grant Ms. McNeely's license. Motion seconded by Kathy Lentz. Board members noted that all character references were positive and it's been more than 5 years since the offenses occurred. Board members who voted yes were Siri Coleman, Andrea Fox, Sonya Hansana, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Patti Stedman, Cory Steiner, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Flemmer, Seth – Mr. Flemmer has pled guilty to Corruption or Solicitation of Minors and Indecent Exposure – Any Electronic Means to Minor. Under NDCC 15.1-13-26, the Board is required to revoke his license. At the March 2021 meeting, the Board motioned to suspend Mr. Flemmer's license until the outcome of his trial. Cory Steiner made a motion to revoke Mr. Flemmer's license, in accordance with NDCC 15.1-13-26. Motion seconded by Andrea Fox. Board members who voted in favor were Siri Coleman, Andrea Fox, Sonya Hansana, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Patti Stedman, Cory Steiner, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Gabbert, Lanny – Information brought to the Board's attention by a reporter. The Board will need to decide if they would like to file a Request for Inquiry on Mr. Gabbert. Mr. Gabbert has resigned from three school districts in recent years.

Patti Stedman asked if the Board could request information from the school districts. Board attorney Carl Karpinski told the Board that if a Request for Inquiry was filed, ESPB could reach out to districts to request information from a legal standpoint. Cory Steiner made a motion to issue a Request for Inquiry to Mr. Gabbert and to request responses from his past school districts. Motion seconded by Brenda Tufte. Board members who voted in favor were Siri Coleman, Andrea Fox, Sonya Hansana, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Patti Stedman, Cory Steiner, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE CASES – Reviewed by the Administrative Subcommittee of the Education Standards and Practices Board. Administrative Subcommittee members present were Sonya Hansana, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner.

Sjol, David – Mr. Sjol's file was reviewed by the Administrative Subcommittee after a Request for Inquiry was received. The subcommittee members agreed that this seemed to be an issue that would fall under local control. Patti Stedman made a motion to dismiss the case. Motion seconded by Sonya Hansana. Administrative Subcommittee members who voted in favor were Sonya Hansana, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.

Tunseth, Francine – At the October meeting, the Board initiated a Request for Inquiry against Ms. Tunseth for having an unlicensed teacher in the classroom. Patti Stedman made a motion to fine Ms. Tunseth \$100 for having an unlicensed teacher in the

classroom. Motion seconded by Kathy Lentz. Administrative Subcommittee members who voted in favor were Sonya Hansana, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.

Fox, Wayne – At the October meeting, the Board initiated a Request for Inquiry for having a teacher without a valid license or permit in the classroom for an entire school year. No response was received from Mr. Fox. Cory Steiner made a motion to fine \$250 for allowing teacher in classroom for a full school year without a license or permit. Motion seconded by Patti Stedman. Administrative Subcommittee members who voted in favor were Sonya Hansana, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.

Larson, Chris – At the October meeting, the Board initiated Request for Inquiry for having an teacher in the classroom who did not have a valid license or permit. Sonya Hansana moved to fine Mr. Larson \$100. Motion seconded by Kathy Lentz. Administrative Subcommittee members who voted in favor were Sonya Hansana, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.

October Minutes, License, and Financial Reports and Special Meeting Minutes – The October 2021 financial report showed \$80,345.62 in total income received, \$73,174.24 in total expenses, with a net income of \$7,171.38. The October 2021 licensure report documented 1044 items issued. This number includes background checks, endorsements, late fees, and application fees.

Patti Stedman moved to accept the October minutes, license, and financial reports and October Special Meeting minutes. Seconded by Sonya Hansana. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Becky pointed out a few negatives that show on the balance sheet. These are due to audits and the office is working with auditors to have them corrected. There will be some increases to PAAC budget, due to program reviews and payment to content experts. If a review comes back with areas that are not met, content experts review again.

Disability Waivers – Disability waiver request were reviewed for David Pena and Nicole Berger.

- **Berger, Nicole** – Siri Coleman made a motion to grant a disability waiver to Nicole Berger. Seconded by Andrea Fox. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.
- **Pena, David** – Patti Stedman made a motion to grant Mr. Pena's request for a disability waiver. Seconded by Kathy Lentz. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Policy – Updated policy regarding possession of marijuana or marijuana paraphernalia

has been provided to the Board. Sonya Hansana moved to accept the updated policy. Seconded by Andrea Fox. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

North Dakota PK-12 Education Vision – Each agency is asked to update what they are doing. Brenda Tufte, Cory Steiner, and Becky met and have updated ESPB's portion of the PK-12 Education Vision. A motion is needed to approve the update, so Becky can submit to DPI. Kathy Lentz moved to approve ESPB's updates to the PK-12 Education Vision. Seconded by Siri Coleman. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Carly thanked those who worked on this.

Request to Waive a Late Fee – Becky read an email she received requesting waiver of late fee due to a lapsed license. Cory Steiner made a motion to deny the request for waiver of the late fee. Seconded by Patti Stedman. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Director's Report – Becky celebrated that we have now had the Free Little Pantry outside the office for two years. Assistant Director Mari Riehl works together with local middle and high school teams to help supply the pantry, which is heavily utilized.

Becky continues to work with universities on accreditation. North Dakota has been invited to be a part of a Learning Policy Institute group to discuss the role of social/emotional learning in teacher preparation programs. Possible outcomes would be to add requirements to teacher prep standards.

Licensure Report – Becky presented a report of ND licensure trends over the past few years. The permit, American Board, and out-of-field endorsement options have helped, but there is still a teacher shortage.

Items for Board Consideration – Becky reviewed items for the Board to consider. These items will be brought back to the Board at the November meeting.

1. CTE 4-year degree individuals who have completed Transition to Teaching testing into new content areas.
2. 40-day provisional license option for foreign applicants who do not yet have a SSN.
3. If someone has a special education minor, they are allowed to teach in their minor content area. Some applicants have completed a significant amount of special education coursework, but they don't have a transcribed minor. Looking at the option of creating a special education minor equivalency endorsement.
4. Becky will bring some information next month on ethical misconduct and possible administrative rules that relate to this.

National Council for Teacher Quality Report – Research and policy group supported

primarily by Walton Foundation. Their most recent report is about diversifying workforce. They have reviewed how many students of color do not pass elementary education Praxis II on the first attempt. We have learned that our number in ND is so small, there is not much data on it. Data shows that if students of color don't pass the first time, the likelihood that they will leave teaching after first non-passing attempt is very high. Report for ND is inconclusive, as numbers lower than 10 are not reported. Passing rate on elementary test is 95%. In the report, it's been noted that VCSU is more difficult to be accepted into the teacher education program, but higher pass rate for students of color at 89%.

ED Evaluation – Carly will be sending ED evaluation out to Board members after this meeting and asks that it be completed and returned by November 30th.

Board Member Reports

NDACTE –

- Teacher prep programs continue to gather and report information about undergraduate coursework on SEL, Mental Health, Trauma Sensitive Schools which has been implemented by all teacher prep programs and are in the process of ensuring that all required elements of HB 1388 are being taught. Syllabi are due Dec. 2021 and implementation in July of 2022.
- NDACTE is updating the joint state board strategic plan themes which was started as a collaborative group to have a better picture of what is being done in different organizations based on different Strategic Themes.
- A national group gathered to discuss making changes to the InTASC Standards, and there is clarity that is needed moving forward and Multiple partners have signed onto many of these groups.

Association of Non-Public Schools – Nothing to report.

Association of School Administrators – Not present.

School Boards Association – Nothing to report.

NDUnited – Nothing to report.

DPI – Not present.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20am.