

MINUTES – Special Meeting

Monday, November 28, 2022

Teams Meeting

The Education Standards and Practices Board (ESPB) meeting was called to order at 8:02am by Chair Brenda Tufte. Board members present by video conference were Andrea Fox, Amber Fridley, Sonya Hansana, Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, and Brenda Tufte.

Board members Siri Coleman, Cory Steiner, and Superintendent Baesler were absent.

Also present were ESPB Executive Director Rebecca Pitkin, Mari Riehl, and Amy Bigelow from ESPB and Allyson Hicks from Office of the Attorney General.

Schmidt, Kelsie – Ms. Schmidt’s file is being reviewed after the findings of administrative law hearing were modified. At this time, the Board must consider all information submitted, including the things Ms. Schmidt has done since her license was revoked to rehabilitate herself. She is currently working as a paraprofessional and has completed NASDTEC ethics course.

Ben Johnson brought up that the event that caused her license to be revoked happened when she was teaching high school students. She was allowed to do this because of her math content minor. Ben asked if the scope of her license could be limited only allow her to work with elementary students, as the dynamic of elementary students is different from students at the high school level. Board attorney Allyson Hicks reminded the Board that any parameters set forth on Ms. Schmidt’s license would be done through a settlement agreement. This is allowed by law.

Ben Johnson saw the reference letter from Ms. Schmidt’s pastor and Allyson reminded the Board that she did complete the NASDTEC ethics course in 2020. Ben asked if any counseling was completed. If there was, that information was not included in the materials provided to the Board. Ben could see the board offering to issue license but with limited grade levels for two years so she could be monitored. Sonya Hansana agreed that perhaps Ms. Schmidt be monitored quarterly, with a possible renewal if her monitoring is favorable.

Since our elementary education license is for grades 1-8, if issued Ms. Schmidt’s license itself would be issued for grades 1-8, but the parameters of the settlement agreement would only allow her to teach whatever grades the board stipulated. Sonya asked what happens if she doesn’t agree to settlement agreement. Allyson reminded the board that if she doesn’t agree to stipulations (grade level), license would be denied.

Ben Johnson made a motion to grant Ms. Schmidt a two-year license with conditions of only being able to teach grades 1-5. Ms. Schmidt’s administrator must provide quarterly reports that everything is going well with no concerns. She must complete continued ethics courses, one each year, at her expense. Ms. Schmidt must meet with a mental health professional for an evaluation within her first year of holding a license, with a letter or release of records to Board after her evaluation is completed. Ms. Schmidt may apply for renewal after a two-year period, at which time her file will go back to the Board for consideration of reducing or lifting conditions on license. All stipulations would begin at the time of the signing of the settlement agreement. Motion seconded by Patti Stedman. Board members who voted yes were Andrea Fox, Amber Fridley, Sonya

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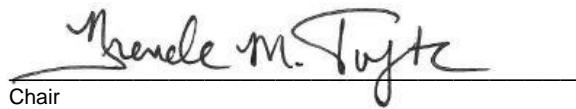
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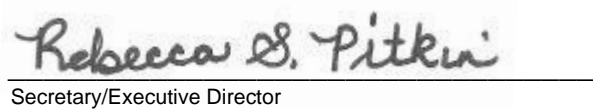
Hansana, Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Bill Draft – Board attorney Allyson Hicks has drafted a bill that would exempt information that would identify a minor child in disciplinary records of ESPB. Right now, under open records and meetings law, there is nothing that protects minors: names, images, videos, ect. Considering some of the information the Board receives, it's troubling that there is no way to protect minors. This bill would protect minors and their identifying information.

Becky has been in correspondence with legislators and has a bill carrier. Bill needs to be filed by December 8th. Andrea Fox made a motion to approve the bill as written. Seconded by Sonya Hansana. Board members who voted yes were Andrea Fox, Amber Fridley, Sonya Hansana, Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31am.


Chair


Secretary/Executive Director