

MINUTES

Thursday, October 20, 2016

Fort Union Room, State Capitol, Bismarck

The Education Standards and Practices Board (ESPB) meeting was called to order at 3:00pm. Board members present were Carly Feiler, Mike McNeff, Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, Amy Mann, Paul Stremick, Dinah Goldenberg and Karen Christensen. Also present were Elizabeth Fischer and Edward Erickson from the Attorney General's office, Amy Folkestad and Rebecca Pitkin from ESPB, Kirsten Baesler from DPI and Cheryl Nielsen from Minot State University. Gail Schauer from DPI joined at 4:30. Board member Gary Thompson joined at 5:30pm.

Board member Kimberly Belgarde was absent from the meeting.

Additions to the Agenda – Items that will be added to the agenda are updates on Ploium case and closure to Janine Olson case. An update will also be provided on Recruitment and Retention Committee work. Motion made by Paul Stremick to include the additional agenda items. Seconded by Mike McNeff. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Elizabeth Fischer from the Attorney General's office provided an update on the Ploium case that will be heard by an administrative law judge on November 1st. Ms. Fischer is currently working to get additional witnesses and paperwork in place for the hearing.

CASES

McNeel, Holly – Ms. McNeel's file is being reviewed by the board because she has applied for a license in North Dakota and has a suspended teaching license in Idaho. Additional information has been received from Ms. McNeel's former school district. Carly Feiler made a motion to deny the application at this time, but that Ms. McNeel would be free to reapply after her suspension in Idaho is over. Seconded by Paul Stremick. Board members who voted in favor were Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, Carly Feiler, Amy Mann, Mike McNeff, and Paul Stremick. Dinah Goldenberg voted no. Motion carried.

Berg, Justin – Mr. Berg's file is being reviewed by the board, as a continuation from last month's meeting, because his license was not renewed in Minnesota due to a criminal offense. Paul Stremick made a motion to deny the application at this time. Seconded by Amy Mann. Board members who voted in favor were Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, Carly Feiler, Dinah Goldenberg, Amy Mann, Mike McNeff, and Paul Stremick. Motion carried. The board noted that Mr. Berg would be welcome to re-apply after it has been more than 5 years since the offense occurred.

ADMINISTRATIVE CASES

Olson, Janine – Paul Stremick made motion to dismiss the case, after additional information was received from DPI. Seconded by Carly Feiler. Administrative Board members who voted in favor were Paul Stremick, Mike McNeff, Dinah Goldenberg, and Carly Feiler. Motion carried.

Recruitment and Retention Update - NDUS will present at the Recruitment and Retention meeting so language changes to the teacher shortage loan forgiveness program can be discussed.

ESSA – The board established some guidelines to keep in mind while discussing the ESSA changes for licensure. They are:

1. No decisions will be based on money
2. Keep in mind what's best for kids
3. Respect the input of the content experts
4. Keeping excellence in the field of education

Survey question 1: More flexibility in license configuration would be beneficial for my school district. Mike McNeff made a motion to change configuration for elementary from 1-6 to 1-8 and to change secondary from 7-12 to 5-12. Motion seconded by Carly Feiler. Board members who voted yes were Karen Christensen, Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, Carly Feiler, Dinah Goldenberg, Amy Mann, Mike McNeff, and Paul Stremick. None opposed. Motion carried.

Survey question 2: Provide an alternative way for teachers to qualify for a teaching license in addition to making a cut score on the Praxis II test. Dinah Goldenberg made a motion to leave alternatives that are in place for those who are prepared as educators as they are. Seconded by Carly Feiler. After further discussion, Dinah Goldenberg chose to withdraw her motion. Carly Feiler then made a motion that we do not change Praxis requirement for new to the field teachers and that in the future we re-evaluate cut scores as needed. Seconded by Dinah Goldenberg. Board members who voted yes were Karen Christensen, Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, Carly Feiler, Dinah Goldenberg, and Amy Mann. Board members who voted no were Mike McNeff and Paul Stremick. Motion carried.

Survey **question 3** was skipped since it was addressed in discussion for question 2.

Survey question 4: Allow field experience hours to lead to licensure in Career and Technical Education Areas (FACS, Business, Health Careers, Ag). Paul Stremick made a motion to allow field experience/non-teaching experience to lead to licensure in CTE areas of Family and Consumer Science, Business, and Agriculture, and to work with CTE in this area to guide and define it. Seconded by Mike McNeff. Board members who voted yes were Karen Christensen, Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, Carly Feiler, Dinah Goldenberg, Amy Mann, Mike McNeff, and Paul Stremick. None opposed. Motion carried.

Survey question 5: Merge content area when possible. For example, “science” rather than biology, chemistry, and physics or “social studies” rather than history,

psychology, and sociology. Mike McNeff made a motion to keep the composite degrees but to reduce the number of semester hours for the additional science/social studies content areas to what was previously required before No Child Left Behind. Motion seconded by Carly Feiler. Board members who voted yes were Karen Christensen, Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, Carly Feiler, Dinah Goldenberg, Amy Mann, Mike McNeff, and Paul Stremick. None opposed. Motion carried.

Survey question 6: Allow teaching in a content area at the secondary level with a minor in that content area. Paul Stremick made a motion to approve that a previously licensed educator can teach in the content area they hold a minor or minor equivalency in without taking the Praxis. Motion seconded by Mike McNeff. Board members who voted yes were Karen Christensen, Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, Dinah Goldenberg, Amy Mann, Mike McNeff, Paul Stremick, and Gary Thompson. None opposed. Motion carried.

Question 7: Hire a teacher to teach special education if they have a bachelor's degree in education and a plan on file. Paul Stremick made a motion to keep the special education endorsement plan on file as it is, with added requirement that a letter from an administrator requesting the endorsement is required each year. Seconded by Karen Christensen. Board members who voted yes were Karen Christensen, Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, Dinah Goldenberg, Amy Mann, Mike McNeff, Paul Stremick, and Gary Thompson. None opposed. Motion carried.

Question 8: Allow teacher to teach kindergarten without a kindergarten endorsement. Gary Thompson made a motion to leave the kindergarten endorsement requirement as is. Seconded by Paul Stremick. Board members who voted yes were Karen Christensen, Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, Dinah Goldenberg, Amy Mann, Mike McNeff, and Gary Thompson. Paul Stremick voted no. Motion carried.

Mike McNeff made a motion to discuss teacher shortage language, a true alternate license, and having credentials taken care of by ESPB at the November meeting. Seconded by Amy Mann. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

The board meeting was adjourned at 6:15pm.