

## **MINUTES – Board Meeting**

**Monday, October 7, 2019**

Fort Union Room, State Capitol

The Education Standards and Practices Board (ESPB) retreat was called to order at 7:30am by Chair Carly Retterath. Board members present were Mike McNeff, Andrea Fox, Kim Belgarde, Kathy Lentz, Dinah Goldenberg, Brenda Tufte, Bob Toso, Jessica Rush, Carly Retterath. Superintendent Kirsten Baesler was present by conference call. Ben Johnson joined at 8am. Allyson Hicks from AG's office joined at 8:30am.

Also present were ESPB Executive Director Rebecca Pitkin and Amy Folkestad from ESPB and Patty Barrette from NDUnited.

Introductions were held.

**Additions/Changes to the Agenda** – Discussion on the possibility of substitute licenses being issued to certified paraprofessionals was added to the agenda. Kim Belgarde made a motion to accept the agenda as amended. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

**September Minutes, License, and Financial Report** – Since the meeting this month is so early, no financial documents are available yet this month. Bob Toso made motion to approve the September ESPB minutes. Motion seconded by Brenda Tufte. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

**Program Approval Advisory Committee (PAAC)** – At their August meeting, PAAC motioned to ask Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College (NHSC) to have certain documents prepared and ready to present at the September PAAC meeting. The documents were submitted late, but they did have them ready to present by the meeting date. At the September meeting, PAAC voted to allow NHSC to continue to move forward with a list of artifacts they need to have ready for PAAC meeting in January 2020. Brenda Tufte made a motion to approve the PAAC report as read. seconded by Bob Toso. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

**Director's Report** – Becky would like the Board to consider options for continuation of the out of field endorsement. The Board voted to implement the endorsement for the 19-20 school year, but it will need to be written into rules to continue. Some things to keep in mind, in light of the endorsement, is that so far this year 3 people have been licensed using the American Board process, 10 teaching permits have been issued, and 25 out of field endorsements have been issued.

Some ideas to consider:

- Could the endorsement be valid for up to 3 years for the same person, but they need to show documentation that they've attempted to pass the test? If they haven't passed within 3 years, cannot continue within that content area.
- Allow them to reapply 1 time if they attempt the test within the first year but don't pass? If they score low on one section, file a plan with their administrator to gain more knowledge in that specific area. If they're going to reapply, need to submit some kind of plan to ESPB.
- Create a form for the 2<sup>nd</sup> years to show action plan – creates same uniform approach?

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- Possibility of allowing an educator to hold a maximum of 3 out of field endorsements for 3 separate content areas.
- Allow a school district to use an individual with an out of field endorsement to fill an open position for up to 3 years?

**Substitute Licenses for Paraprofessionals** – An administrator has asked ESPB to consider allowing those who have a paraprofessional certificate from DPI to be allowed to apply for a substitute teaching license. Becky would like the Board to consider this for further discussion next month.

**Accreditation/Program Approval Report** – Becky reviewed the overall process of accreditation. All educator preparation programs in North Dakota use Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) standards for state accreditation, and some programs are CAEP accredited at the national level. Becky also participates in CAEP visits to other states and universities. She will be attending site visits in November 2019 and April 2020.

### **CASES**

**Ekstein, Shaeli** – Ms. Ekstein's case was reviewed in September and the Board had asked for additional information. Ms. Ekstein has now provided the requested information. Dinah Goldenberg made a motion to grant Ms. Ekstein's application for a teaching permit. Motion seconded by Kathy Lentz. Board members who voted yes were Kim Belgarde, Andrea Fox, Dinah Goldenberg, Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

**Moore, Everest** – Kim Belgarde made a motion to revoke Mr. Moore's license. Motion seconded by Jessica Rush. Board members who voted in favor were Kim Belgarde, Andrea Fox, Dinah Goldenberg, Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried. License is revoked in accordance with NDCC 15.1-13-26 "...board shall immediately revoke the teaching license of an individual who has been found guilty of a crime against a child or a sexual offense."

Regular meeting was adjourned at 8:42am.

Mike McNeff, Administrative Subcommittee Chair, called the meeting of Administrative Subcommittee to order at 8:42am.

**ADMINISTRATIVE CASES** – Reviewed by the Administrative Subcommittee of the Education Standards and Practices Board. Administrative Subcommittee members present were Kathy Lentz, Dinah Goldenberg, Ben Johnson, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, and Bob Toso.

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**Bjerklie, Richard** – Mr. Bjerklie’s case was reviewed at the September meeting after a request for inquiry was received. At the September meeting, the Board motioned to request further clarification regarding the matter from Mr. Bjerklie. Additional information has been provided. Dinah Goldenberg made a motion to dismiss the case, with a letter of instruction to Mr. Bjerklie that he should be more transparent in the future when dealing with reduction in force hearings. Motion seconded by Carly Retterath. Administrative Subcommittee members who voted yes were Kathy Lentz, Dinah Goldenberg, Ben Johnson, Mike McNeff, Carly Retterath, and Bob Toso. None opposed. Motion carried.

Carly Retterath moved to adjourn the Administrative Subcommittee meeting. Seconded by Bob Toso. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Carly Retterath called regular board meeting back to order at 8:49am and motioned to add discussion item for Allyson to provide an update on Jason Eitner litigation. Jessica Rush seconded the motion. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Mr. Eitner filed an EEOC case against the Board. EEOC case has been denied, as EEOC is reserved for employee/employer issues and Mr. Eitner is not an employee of the Board. He does have 90 days to appeal.

### **Board Member Reports**

**NDACTE** – Nothing new to report. Have not met since last meeting.

**Association of Non-Public Schools** – Nothing new to report. Have not met since last meeting.

**Association of School Administrators** – Nothing new to report. Have not met since last meeting.

**School Boards Association** – Nothing new to report. Have not met since last meeting.

**NDUnited** – NDU is currently offering a wide variety of professional development opportunities. Their Fall membership numbers are up. NEA has helped 3 cohorts of students attend the VCSU STEM Academy. Two groups are from New Town and Trenton.

**DPI** – Not present at this time, but is running Joint Boards meeting today.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00am.

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Chair

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Secretary/Executive Director