

MINUTES – ESPB Special Meeting

Monday, October 4, 2021

Zoom Video Conference

The Administrative Subcommittee of the Education Standards and Practices Board (ESPB) special meeting video conference was called to order at 8:00am.

Board members present were Carly Retterath, Kathy Lentz, Ben Johnson, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner.

Also present by video conference were Executive Director Rebecca Pitkin, Assistant Director Mari Riehl and Amy Bigelow from ESPB, Allyson Hicks from Attorney General's office, Corinne Chruszch, Joe Kolosky, Justene Gjermundson, Troy Knudsvig, and other online guests.

Knudsvig, Troy – Attorney Allyson Hicks asked the subcommittee to consider if Mr. Knudsvig willfully excluded the information that he was being investigated from his application for licensure in North Dakota. They should also consider the underlying conduct as outlined in NDCC 15.1-13-25. Patti Stedman had concerns that we don't really know what happened, and Becky stated that Mr. Knudsvig may not have been aware of California investigation was occurring until North Dakota submitted an open records request.

Precedent has been established the past from someone purposefully not disclosing information on their application for licensure. There are many questions on the timeline of investigations and if Mr. Knudsvig was aware that an investigation was being conducted in California.

Ben Johnson made a motion to dismiss the case. Seconded by Patti Stedman. Ben feels that what ESPB is tasked with, that there was no intentionality to provide inaccurate information on Mr. Knudsvig's application for ND licensure. He doesn't believe it's in the Board's purview to consider the underlying conduct. Board members who voted yes were Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.

Karen Heinzen Administrator RFI – Ms. Heinzen's file was reviewed by the Board at the September meeting, as she was teaching for the 2020-2021 school year without a valid license or permit. She documented in her information to the Board that she asked her administrator to write a letter requesting the permit, but it was never received.

Ben Johnson made a motion to ask for clarification from Ms. Heinzen's administrator, Anthony Esquibel. Motion seconded by Kathy Lentz. Administrative subcommittee members who voted yes were Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39am.