

MINUTES – Board Meeting
Thursday, September 19, 2019
Sakakawea Room, State Capitol, Bismarck, ND

The Education Standards and Practices Board (ESPB) board meeting was called to order at 9:01 am by Chair Carly Retterath. Board members present were Bob Toso, Kim Belgarde, Jessica Rush, Kathy Lentz, Brenda Tufte, Carly Retterath. Calling into the meeting were Dinah Goldenberg and Superintendent Kirsten Baesler. Ben Johnson joined the meeting at 10:15.

Board members absent were Andrea Fox and Mike McNeff

Also present were ESPB Executive Director Rebecca Pitkin and Assistant Director Mari Riehl from ESPB. Allyson Hicks from Attorney General's Office joined the meeting at 9:50 am.

Patty Barrette from ND United and Jim Upgren from DPI were present as well.

Introductions were held.

Additions/Changes to the Agenda – Stephanie Lindemann was added to agenda. Brenda Tufte made motion to accept the agenda as amended. Jessica Rush seconded. Kim Belgarde, Dinah Goldenberg, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Bob Toso and Brenda Tufte voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

August Minutes, License, and Financial Report – The August 2019 financial report showed \$114,544.10 in total income received, \$69,976.37 in total expenses, with a net income of \$44,576.73. The August 2019 licensure report showed 1445 total licenses issued. Bob Toso made a motion to approve the August minutes, license and financial report. Motion seconded by Jessica Rush. Kim Belgarde, Dinah Goldenberg, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Bob Toso and Brenda Tufte all voted in favor of accepting the August minutes, license, and financial report. None opposed. Motion carried.

October Board Meeting – Joint Boards Meeting will be October 7th and the ESPB meeting is also scheduled for October 7th. The ESPB meeting will begin at 8:00 and will be followed by the Joint Boards Meeting.

September PAAC Meeting update– Brenda Tufte updated the board on the PAAC's meeting this am. They approved the Lakota Language Program at UND. They also approved the Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College's accreditation journey. The college continues to work to meet the standards. Kim Belgarde motioned to accept the minutes from the May meeting. Bob Toso seconded. Kim Belgarde, Dinah Goldenberg, Kathy

Lentz, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Bob Toso and Brenda Tufte and all voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Computer Science Standards:

A group met in Jamestown to discuss and determine new standards for computer science. The standards were shared at NDACTE last week. Motion to approve the standards was made by Kathy Lentz and seconded by Jessica Rush. All members voted in favor, none opposed. The motion was carried.

Elementary Standards:

CAEP updated their elementary standards. The new standards brought an increase in family engagement and a focus on diversity. They do not specifically have physical education and art any longer in the CAEP standards. North Dakota felt we still wanted to have physical education and art as part of the elementary standards. Higher education has two years to adopt these new standards. NDACTE was given the new standards last week. Motion by Brenda Tufte to approve the standards and seconded by Kathy Lentz. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Joint Boards Meeting Agenda:

Becky mentioned DPI is hosting the Joint Boards Meeting this year. One focus of the meeting is youth mental health. ESPB meeting will be before the Joint Boards meeting. Joint Boards agenda was approved.

American Board:

American Board teachers are currently allowed to test into new content areas once they become a licensed teacher in North Dakota. The ESPB board has not determined if they can test into special education. Dinah Goldenberg asked Carly Retterath for her thoughts on having special education as a test-in area for American Board licensure. Carly Retterath explained the struggle to try to preserve the field but questioned if special education should be able to say it can be allowed for all other areas but not special education. Kathy Lentz motioned to allow teachers to test. Jessica Rush seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

Director's Report – Becky explained the disability rules. All these rules relate to changes the board has approved. Alyson Hicks (Attorney General's office) has also reviewed our rules and will provide information on the rationale for changes and board approval is needed to begin the process to amend the recommended changes. Additional board education will resume in November (October meeting corresponds with the Joint Board Meeting). American Board, HB 1531, and Out of Field: Information on the individuals receiving these types of licenses was discussed.

Out of Field Endorsement – Becky asked the board to consider next year and what

they want to do with this endorsement option. This will be something for ESPB to address next year and it will be discussed at the October meeting so some rules can be written which provide parameters.

Teacher Support System- 275 first year teachers are being mentored this year. The program closed August 6, and currently 55 teachers are on a waiting list. Erin continues to communicate with legislators regarding the capacity of their program and ideas of how they can serve the need of the state. 155 new mentors have been trained since the middle of August.

Also, the 11th Cohort of the Coaches Academy will be starting this year. This is a group of 40 applicants with currently 11 others are on a waiting list.

On July 31, August 1st teacher support did a two-day training for cooperating teachers in the Fargo area. Focus of the training was how to give constructive feedback. This was a first of its kind and they have received very positive feedback.

Allyson:

Administrative Rules Update:

There is a great deal of repetition in our administrative rules. This makes it very difficult to understand at times. She is working to remove some of the duplications. She also shared some situations are very detailed which can be limiting at times. Allyson then stated the large amount of time we spend on cases involving the Code of Ethics. She suggested we have a policy discussion about teacher involvement with their students. Alyson shared that some of her boards have it. When a teacher is in a situation where legally the system is pending, Alyson stated maybe we would like to have it in statutory rules that we could suspend a license for a period of time.

Most changes are administrative changes but there are a few procedural changes. It will involve an expense of legal fees. Motion was made by Brenda Tufte and seconded by Bob Toso to move ahead with Allyson's Administrative Rule cleanup. All members voted in favor and the motion passed.

Becky shared that Jason Eitner has filed a lawsuit against ESPB.

CASES

Hintz, Tania – Request to apply for license after suspension. Terms of probation have all been fulfilled. It was suspended in 2016 pending her fulfillment of obligations. Dinah Goldenberg made a motion to approve. Seconded by Brenda Tufte. Members who voted in favor were: Kim Belgarde, Dinah Goldenberg, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Bob Toso and Brenda Tufte. Ben Johnson opposed. Motion carried.

Ashley Dawson – Case from August. Board motioned to ask Attorney General's Office to investigate offenses. Currently has a 40-day license. Ben Johnson motioned to issue a 2-year license and she is to self-report any further offenses. Bob Toso seconded. Kim

Belgarde, Dinah Goldenberg, Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Bob Toso and Brenda Tufte all voted in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

Neil Schlosser – Request for inquiry from West Fargo Public Schools. Bob Toso motioned to suspend license for 3 years with evidence of completion of Educator Code of Ethics training at individual's expense. Seconded by Brenda Tufte. Members who voted in favor were: Kim Belgarde, Dinah Goldenberg, Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Bob Toso and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Tucker Meidinger – Self-disclosed background offense. Currently has a 40-day license. Bob Toso motioned to approve a 2-year license where Tucker is to self-disclose any future offenses. Seconded by Jessica Rush. Members who voted in favor were: Kim Belgarde, Dinah Goldenberg, Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Bob Toso and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Joshua Sackman– Self disclosed background offenses. Currently has a 40-day license. Bob Toso motioned to grant a 2-year license where Joshua is to self-disclose any future offenses. Seconded by Jessica Rush. Members who voted in favor were: Kim Belgarde, Dinah Goldenberg, Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Bob Toso and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Nathaniel Sand – Self-disclosed background offense. Currently has a 40-day license. Kim Belgarde motioned to grant the license. Seconded by Kathy Lentz. Members who voted in favor were: Kim Belgarde, Dinah Goldenberg, Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Bob Toso and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motioned carried.

Margaret Yellowbird – Self-disclosed background offense. Bob Toso motioned to approve a 2-year license and requested Margaret to self-disclosure of future violations. Ben Johnson seconded. Kim Belgarde, Dinah Goldenberg, Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Bob Toso and Brenda Tufte all voted in favor and none opposed. Motioned carried.

Shaeli Ekstein- The next item on the agenda is for Shaeli Ekstein. This item must be discussed in executive session. Legal authority for closing this portion of the meeting is NDCC 15.1-13-14. The topic or purpose of this executive session is criminal history record check review. Executive session began at 10:40am and ended at 10:45am and was attended by Board members Kim Belgarde, Dinah Goldenberg, Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. Also present were ESPB Executive Director Becky Pitkin, Assistant Director Mari Riehl, and legal counsel Allyson Hicks.

Dinah Goldenberg motioned to request further explanation from Shaeli Ekstein. Kathy Lentz seconded. Members who voted in favor were: Kim Belgarde, Dinah Goldenberg, Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Bob Toso and Brenda Tufte.

None opposed. Motion carried.

Paul Kosienski-Self disclosed background offense. Currently has a 40-day license. Ben Johnson motioned to grant the license. Seconded by Kim Belgarde. Members who voted in favor were: Kim Belgarde, Dinah Goldenberg, Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Bob Toso and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Stephanie Lindamann-Self Disclosed background offense. Kim Belgarde motioned to grant license. Seconded by Kathy Lentz. Members who voted in favor were: Kim Belgarde, Dinah Goldenberg, Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Bob Toso and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Administrator Cases

Jeffrey Thake: Parent request for inquiry. Carly Retterath motioned to dismiss. Ben Johnson seconded. Kathy Lentz, Dinah Goldenberg, Ben Johnson, Carly Retterath, and Bob Toso all voted to dismiss. None opposed. Motion carried.

Ben Schafer: Former staff request for inquiry. Dinah Goldenberg motioned to dismiss. Seconded by Kathy Lentz. Kathy Lentz, Dinah Goldenberg, Ben Johnson, Carly Retterath, and Bob Toso all voted in favor to dismiss. Non opposed. Motion carried.

Richard Bjerklie: Request for inquiry. Carly Retterath motioned to dismiss. Kathy Lentz seconded. Ben Johnson then motioned to have current motion tabled and requested further clarification from Richard Bjerklie. Dinah Goldenberg seconded. Kathy Lentz, Dinah Goldenberg, Ben Johnson, Carly Retterath, and Bob Toso all were in favor of motion. None opposed. Motion carried. This will be an October agenda item.

Board Member Reports

NDACTE – Brenda shared the group met in Sept and talked about the Computer Science and Elementary Standards. They also talked about what Praxis tests the students should be taking to help with the Title Reports. The reinstatement of the Reading Credential from DPI was discussed. Kathryn Terras also presented to the NDACTE board about her program that is in the development stages. It is a competency-based program for preparing Special education teachers.

Deb Koolbeck – Presented to their group about working with legislators. Good tips about staying in touch, even with allies.

Jim Upgren – Rural School Summit is next week. Wednesday, Cost is \$25. Keynote speaker is Ben Winchester – Rewriting the Rural Narrative. 9:00 start time for

Wednesday.

Association of Non-Public Schools – Jessica said they are meeting in Oct.

Association of School Administrators – NDCEL Conference is coming up Oct 16-18. Reps from large schools gathered at Grafton. Continue to strategize for next session. Also continue to look at the teacher shortage and the teacher loan forgiveness changes/removal. There are several items on the table and administrators wanting to work with teachers and families to solve issues.

School Boards Association – Bob shared their School Board conference is end of October in Bismarck.

ND United – Trainings in ethics in several communities. Book Studies are ongoing and a few districts are still in negotiations.

DPI – Jim Upgren discussed the current rules process and the upcoming DPI conference.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:36 am.

Chair

Secretary/Executive Director