

MINUTES – Board Meeting
Thursday, September 10, 2020
Video Conference

The Education Standards and Practices Board (ESPB) meeting was called to order at 8:00am by Chair Carly Retterath. Board members present by video conference were Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, Kraig Steinhoff, Bob Toso, Brenda Tufte, and Superintendent Kirsten Baesler.

Board members absent were Ben Johnson, Andrea Fox, and Kathy Lentz.

Also present were ESPB Executive Director Rebecca Pitkin, Assistant Director Mari Riehl and Amy Bigelow from ESPB, Allyson Hicks from Attorney General's Office, Deborah Secord from Dickinson State University, and Amy Flicek from NDUnited.

Introductions were held. Kraig Steinhoff, the newly appointed administrative representative to the board, introduced himself and was welcomed.

Additions/Changes to the Agenda – Items to be added to the agenda include emergency administrative rule, cases Danielle Sheridan and Eric Standing, a disability waiver request from Nina Lincoln, and a request for extension for credits from Kerri Davis.

Becky would also like the Board to review initial licenses and reeducation credits, as well as testing into content areas for restricted licenses. All voted in favor of accepting the agenda as amended, none opposed. Motion carried.

Motion to Ratify August Licensure List – Brenda Tufte made a motion to ratify the August licensure list. Motion seconded by Jessica Rush. Board members who voted in favor were Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, Kraig Steinhoff, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

CASES

Belin, Jeffrey – Mr. Belin's file was reviewed by the Board after he self-disclosed background offenses on his application for licensure. Bob Toso made a motion to grant Mr. Belin's license. Motion seconded by Patti Stedman. Board members who voted in favor were Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, Kraig Steinhoff, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Henry, Lacey – Ms. Henry's file was reviewed by the Board after a Request for Inquiry was received from Dunseith Public Schools due to breach of contract. Patti Stedman made a motion to issue Ms. Henry a formal letter of reprimand. Motion seconded by Jessica Rush. Board members who voted yes were Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, Kraig Steinhoff, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

DeKrey, Robert – Mr. DeKrey's file was reviewed by the Board due to a self-disclosed background offense on his application for licensure. Patti Stedman made a motion to dismiss the case and approve Mr. DeKrey's license. Motion seconded by Kraig Steinhoff. Board members who voted in favor were Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, Kraig Steinhoff, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Lund, Olivia – Ms. Lund’s file was reviewed by the Board after she self-disclosed background offenses on her application for licensure. Patti Stedman made a motion to approve Ms. Lund’s application for licensure. Motion seconded by Jessica Rush. Board members who voted yes were Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, Kraig Steinhoff, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Sheridan, Danielle – Ms. Sheridan’s file was reviewed by the Board due to a self-disclosed background offense on her application for licensure. Jessica Rush made a motion to approve Ms. Sheridan’s application for licensure. Motion seconded by Joshua Standing Elk. Board members who voted in favor were Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, Kraig Steinhoff, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Standing, Eric – In 2017, Mr. Standing’s file was reviewed by the Board due to breach of contract. The Board motioned that his license should be suspended until he paid liquidated damages to the school district. The district has now waived its claim for liquidated damages and has submitted a letter to the Board documenting this. Patti Stedman made a motion to remove the sanctions from Mr. Standing’s license. Motion seconded by Jessica Rush. Board members who voted in favor were Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, Kraig Steinhoff, Bob Toso, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Emergency Administrative Rule – Board attorney Allyson Hicks reviewed the emergency administrative rules process with the Board. An agency may have emergency rule effective on the date it’s filed with Legislative Council and under NDCC 28-32-10, it can be an interim rule valid for 6 months.

The Board does not know if these licenses will be needed for 6 months or longer, since it’s unknown when the pandemic will end. Legislative Council recommended that entire emergency rule process be followed due to this. The emergency rule will have a sunset clause and automatically end once executive order 2020-03 declaring the state of emergency is rescinded by the Governor.

The Board discussed changing the background check section to include submitting documentation that district has completed FBI background check. The Board would like to remove the section that states an individual must be currently employed by a district. The individual would need to complete a statewide background check.

Kraig Steinhoff made a motion to approve the emergency rule as written and amended. Motion seconded by Brenda Tufte. Board members who voted in favor were Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, Kraig Steinhoff, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

August Minutes, License and Financial Reports – The August 2020 financial report showed \$114,690.41 in total income received, \$65,908.01 in total expenses, with a net income of \$48,782.40. The August 2020 licensure report documented 1404 items issued. This number includes background checks, endorsements, late fees, and application fees.

Jessica Rush moved to accept the August minutes, license, and financial report. Seconded by Patti Stedman. All voted in favor of accepting the August license and financial reports, none opposed. Motion carried.

Approval of August 2020 PAAC Minutes – Brenda Tufte reviewed the PAAC minutes from August 2020. Jessica rush motioned to approve as reported, seconded by Joshua Standing Elk.

Board members who voted in favor were Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, Kraig Steinhoff, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Policy First Reading – The policy on Executive Director review and approval of background offenses, originally approved in August 2019, was reviewed for a possible update. Currently, the policy states that the Executive Director may issue a license without Board approval when an individual has one minor in possession, minor in consumption, or one DUI that is over 10 years old. All other charges and all charges involving a child are taken to the Board.

Patti Stedman made a motion to remove the statement that the charge “is over 10 years old.” Motion seconded by Jessica Rush. Board members who voted in favor were Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, Kraig Steinhoff, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Waivers –

Nina Lincoln – Disability waiver. Brenda Tufte made motion to approve Ms. Lincoln’s request for a disability waiver, seconded by Jessica Rush. Board members who voted in favor were Carly Retterath, Jessica Rush, Joshua Standing Elk, Patti Stedman, Kraig Steinhoff, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Kerri Davis – Medical extension for credits. The Board authorized Becky to handle this in the office.

Josh Standing Elk and Jessica Rush left the meeting at 10:09am. Since there is no longer a quorum, the items added to review initial licenses/reeducation credits and testing into content areas for restricted licenses cannot be discussed, as these items will require a vote.

Alternate Access Licenses –

Teacher Support System Budget – On August 18th, enrollment for the mentoring program was closed. There are 374 first-year teachers currently enrolled in the program. All mentor training has been moved online and overall, there has been much positive feedback.

In addition, all 86 applicants were accepted into the Coaches Academy. TSS was able to fund more applicants because all training will be online this year and they are not having to pay travel and hotel costs. All 12 modules of the mentor training will be offered during the school day and coaches will have the opportunity to choose the cohort group that best fits their schedule.

The Teacher Support System budget for 2020-2021 is included in the TSS report for review. Since a quorum is needed for a vote, this will be voted on at the next meeting.

Director's Report – The hearing for our administrative rules is September 15th. The definition of “grooming” is currently a hot topic across the nation. North Dakota has been proactive in adding this definition into its rules.

The NASDTEC Central Region meeting was held on August 19th and minutes from that meeting have been provided in your meeting materials.

Becky has provided a letter received from license holder Taylor Nelson. Her file was a board case in March 2019 and part of her requirements were to self-report any new offenses. She has contacted the office to disclose a new offense. This information will be reviewed when she submits an application for renewal of her license.

Testing into other areas with restricted license – Individuals with a restricted license, such as speech language pathology or school psychology, cannot currently test into new content areas. Think about this going forward and if it's something we should change rules to allow.

Credits for initial licensed teachers – Becky would like the Board to consider allowing initial licensed 2-year teachers use credits they earn during that time toward their 5-year renewal (so eventually 7 or 8 years to earn 6 credits).

Board Member Reports

NDACTE – Has not met.

Association of Non-Public Schools – Nothing to report.

Association of School Administrators – Nothing to report.

School Boards Association – Have not met recently. Seminar in October will be held online.

NDUnited – Not present.

DPI – Not present.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20am .

Chair

Secretary/Executive Director