

MINUTES – Board Meeting
Thursday, September 8, 2022
Teams Meeting

The Education Standards and Practices Board (ESPB) meeting was called to order at 8:01am by Chair Carly Retterath. Board members present by video conference were Siri Coleman, Andrea Fox, Sonya Hansana, Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Patti Stedman, Cory Steiner, and Brenda Tufte.

Board members Joshua Standing Elk was absent.

Also present were ESPB Executive Director Rebecca Pitkin, Assistant Director Mari Riehl, and Amy Bigelow from ESPB, Carl Karpinski from Attorney General's Office, Dana Hillius and Amy Flicek from NDUnited, Jen Wallender from Western Governors University, Erin Jacobson and Marijke Leibel from Teacher Support system, and additional online guests.

Additions/Changes to the Agenda – Items to be added to the agenda include a disability waiver request from Amanda Zehr, a case regarding Tamera Alkire, and administrative subcommittee case for Josh Johnson. Kathy Lentz move to accept the agenda as amended. Motion seconded by Cory Steiner. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Motion to Ratify August Licensure List – Brenda Tufte made motion to ratify the August 2022 licensure list. Seconded by Sonya Hansana. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

CASES

Hager, Justin – Two cases were reviewed for Mr. Hager in August and at that time the Board motioned to ask Mr. Hager for additional information. The Board also motioned to table the Request for Inquiry that was filed by Williston Basin School District until the additional information was received from Mr. Hager. Mr. Hager has responded, and his response has been provided to Board members for review. Ben Johnson made a motion to dismiss the case initiated by ESPB. Motion seconded by Patti Stedman. Board members who voted yes were Siri Coleman, Andrea Fox, Sonya Hansana, Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Patti Stedman, Cory Steiner, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Based on the information received and previous motion, Ben Johnson made a motion to dismiss the Request for Inquiry filed by Williston Basin School District on Mr. Hager. Motion was seconded by Sonya Hansana. Board members who voted in favor were Siri Coleman, Andrea Fox, Sonya Hansana, Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Patti Stedman, Cory Steiner, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Kennedy, Kevin – Mr. Kennedy's file was reviewed by the Board due to a Request for Inquiry that was received from Fargo Public Schools. Mr. Kennedy was dismissed for cause and his case went through an Administrative Law Judge process through Fargo Public Schools.

Ben Johnson stated he sees some ethics violations that need to be addressed, but he doesn't see a revocation or long suspension to be in order. Some things the Board has done in the past in similar situations include suspension until courses/requirements

have been completed. Once a suspension has been in place, the person would need to disclose this on any application for licensure.

Ben Johnson made a motion to suspend Mr. Kennedy's license pending completion of ethics training at applicant expense, with reflective essay to come back to the Board. Motion seconded by Andrea Fox. Board members who voted yes were Siri Coleman, Andrea Fox, Sonya Hansana, Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Patti Stedman, Cory Steiner, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Wiest, Zachary – Mr. Wiest's file is being reviewed due to two self-disclosed background offenses on his application for licensure. Attorney Cark Karpinski looked online and did find another offense that was dismissed due to completion of requirements through the courts and the case sealed. Because this has been cleared from public record, he wouldn't necessarily be required to disclose this offense.

Andrea Fox made a motion to grant a license with the condition that Mr. Wiest self-disclose any subsequent offenses and a new FBI/BCI background check required upon renewal. Motion seconded by Siri Coleman. Board members who voted yes were Siri Coleman, Andrea Fox, Sonya Hansana, Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Patti Stedman, Cory Steiner, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried. Motion carried.

Schloesser, Neil – Mr. Schloesser's license was suspended at the September 2019 meeting, with reinstatement possible after three years and evidence that he's completed the educator ethics course. Documentation of course completion has been received. Brenda Tufte made a motion to grant Mr. Schloesser's license. Motion seconded by Cory Steiner. Board members who voted in favor were Siri Coleman, Andrea Fox, Sonya Hansana, Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Patti Stedman, Cory Steiner, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Alkire, Tamera – At the August 2022 meeting, the Board voted to issue Ms. Alkire a second probationary license for one year, upon verification that she's registered for at least one course toward her re-education requirements. At least four credits must be completed within one year. Over the past month Becky has reached out to both Ms. Alkire and her administrator, but has received no response after sending certified letters and attempting to teach them by phone. School has started and Ms. Alkire still does not have a valid license. Becky is seeking guidance.

Andrea Fox made motion to do Request for Inquiry on Ms. Alkire for teaching without a license. Motion seconded by Ben Johnson. Board members who voted in favor were Siri Coleman, Andrea Fox, Sonya Hansana, Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Patti Stedman, Cory Steiner, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Discussion regarding Ms. Alkire's license also included adding her administrator to the

Administrative Subcommittee agenda.

The regular ESPB meeting was recessed at 8:37am and the Administrative Subcommittee meeting was called to order by Administrative Subcommittee Chair Ben Johnson.

Administrative Cases – Reviewed by the Administrative Subcommittee of the Education Standards and Practices Board. Administrative Subcommittee members present were Sonya Hansana, Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner.

Johnson, Joshua – Before discussion began, Kathy Lentz disclosed that Mr. Johnson is her superintendent. No subcommittee members expressed concern with Kathy participating in discussion or voting on the case.

At the August meeting, the Board voted to have Mr. Johnson respond to why the case regarding Mr. Zinke was not brought to board sooner. Mr. Johnson has provided a response. Cory Steiner made motion to dismiss the case against Mr. Johnson. Motion seconded by Patti Stedman. Administrative Subcommittee members who voted yes were Sonya Hansana, Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.

Lawrence, Linda – Carly Retterath made a motion to issue Request for Inquiry on Ms. Lawrence for having Tamera Alkire teaching without a license. Motion seconded by Kathy Lentz. Administrative Subcommittee members who voted yes were Sonya Hansana, Ben Johnson, Kathy Lentz, Carly Retterath, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.

The Administrative Subcommittee meeting ended at 8:49am and the regular ESPB meeting resumed.

Board attorney Carl Karpinski sent a legal memo to Becky regarding breach of contract. Typically a breach is considered cured if liquidated damages are paid, however, the Board could still take action on a license for the facts that surround the breach as a whole.

Teacher Support System – In previous years, 1st year teacher mentoring enrollment was closed after about 325 teachers had been enrolled. This year, there are approximately 640 beginning teachers enrolled. GEER II funding has allowed this enrollment to remain open for 1st and 2nd year teachers. Currently, 192 2nd year teacher are enrolled in mentoring.

In August, Coaches Academy was held online and in September will meet in person. This is the first in person meeting since January 2020.

Carly Retterath and Kathy Lentz left the meeting at 8:59am. Board Vice-Chair Brenda Tufte took over leading the meeting.

Director's Report – Much work was done at the Board retreat in August. Becky has received notification that our administrative rules hearing is scheduled for September 12th. Board retreat for 2023 will be held August 9-10, 2023. Becky will work with Board members to see if someone would be interested in hosting.

The Administrative Law Judge hearing requested by Kelsie Schmidt was held on August 22, 2022, and no information has been received as of this date.

Becky provided an update on past Board case Tyler Schmidt. In January 2021 he was issued a letter of reprimand and required to complete ethics training within one year. He has submitted documentation that ethics training has been completed and has applied for license renewal.

A number of board members need to step away from the meeting. Board members still present are Brenda Tufte, Andrea Fox, Siri Coleman, Sonya Hansana, and Patti Stedman.

Administrative Rules – No new administrative rules have been drafted at this time.

Election of Officers – Andrea Fox nominated Brenda Tufte for Board Chairperson. Seconded by Patti Stedman. Sonya Hansana moved for nominations to cease. Seconded by Patti Stedman. Those who voted in favor of Brenda Tufte for Board Chairperson were Siri Coleman, Andrea Fox, Sonya Hansana, Patti Stedman, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Vice-Chairperson nominations – Patti Stedman made a motion to nominate Andrea Fox for Board Vice-Chairperson. Motion seconded by Siri Coleman. Patti Stedman made a motion to cease nominations. Seconded by Sonya Hansana. Those who voted in favor of Andrea Fox for Board Vice-Chairperson were Siri Coleman, Andrea Fox, Sonya Hansana, Patti Stedman, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

Board members thanked Carly Retterath for her time on the Board and commended her for leading the Board the past few years.

Disability Waivers – A disability waiver request has been received from Amanda Zehr. Andrea Fox made a motion to approve the disability waiver. Motion seconded by Patti Stedman. Board members who voted yes were Siri Coleman, Andrea Fox, Sonya Hansana, Patti Stedman, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried.

August Minutes, Special Meeting Minutes, License, and Financial Reports – The

August 2022 financial report showed \$150,187.30 in total income received, \$71,387.01 in total expenses, with a net income of \$78,800.29. The August 2022 licensure report documented 1468 items issued. This number includes background checks, endorsements, late fees, and application fees.

Audit is happening and we have received a bill for this.

Andrea Fox moved to accept the August minutes, special meeting minutes, license, and financial reports. Seconded by Siri Coleman Board members who voted yes were Siri Coleman, Andrea Fox, Sonya Hansana, Patti Stedman, and Brenda Tufte. None opposed. Motion carried

ESPB received a letter from Steven Holen, who was fined last month for employing an unlicensed teacher. He's written in response to the settlement agreement and language used, which states that he knowingly employed a person without a license. He let the Board know he did not do this knowingly. The letter is provided to the Board for review.

Board Member Reports

NDACTE – Following the NDACTE Teacher Shortage Summit this summer, NDACTE has formed work groups to actively address the shortage in the following areas: Retention, Raising the Profession, Recruitment, Innovative Practices, and Licensure (which includes sub-work groups on dual credit, tuition support, and Praxis). All of the groups will be reporting at our meeting tomorrow. Part of the Praxis work group report will be looking at the Montana model that is centered around multiple pathways including GPA, a Portfolio, and the Praxis which all count toward a composite score for teaching candidates (giving some flexibility on the Praxis without throwing it out as a valid, reliable, and objective measure of content knowledge).

In preparation, Dr. Pitkin and I met with 2 Education Preparation Programs to learn more about their experience with the model. It was helpful to hear how they have been able to, in most cases, meet accreditation standards when all Pathways are required (which has been the case up until this year. They are currently trying to adapt to a state mandate that replaced the word “and” with “or” to address what they perceived as a problematic unintended consequence of the state granting candidates who were prepared out of state a license with only the Praxis. So, EPP's have to decide if they will continue to stay with “and” (which seems to be possible – they can have higher standards than the minimum set by the state). We will present the information to NDACTE on Friday, September 9th.

Association of Non-Public Schools – Nothing to report this month. With legislative session coming soon, may have new things in the future.

Association of School Administrators – Not present.

School Boards – Western Region meeting coming up in Fargo, many states will be attending.

NDUnited – Not present.

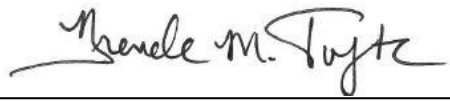
DPI – DPI's administrative rules hearing is being held today. ESPB continues to work

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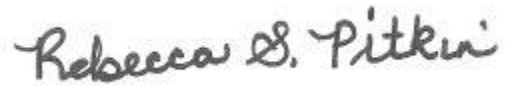
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with DPI on the apprenticeship model.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:27am.



Chair



Secretary/Executive Director