

**MINUTES – Board Meeting**  
**Thursday, September 14, 2023**  
Teams Meeting

The Education Standards and Practices Board (ESPB) meeting was called to order at 8:00am by Board Vice Chair Kathy Lentz. Board members present were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Deb Follman, Sonya Hansana, Evan Kritzberger, Kathy Lentz, Angela Nagel, Patti Stedman, and Superintendent Kirsten Baesler.

Amber Fridley and Cory Steiner were absent.

Also present were ESPB Executive Director Rebecca Pitkin, Assistant Director Mari Riehl, and Amy Bigelow from ESPB, Allyson Hicks and Mark Openshaw from Office of Attorney General, Joe Kolosky from DPI, Amy Flicek from ND United, Michelle Griffin from UND, and other online guests.

Introductions were held.

**Additions/Changes to the Agenda** – Additions to the agenda include cases for Canisha Keo, Joshua Bowman, and an administrative case for Scott Klautd. Patti Stedman made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Evan Kritzberger. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

**Motion to Ratify June, July, and August Licensure List** – Siri Coleman made a motion to ratify the June, July, and August 2023 licensure list. Seconded by Deb Follman. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

**CASES**

**Coleman, Brady** – Mr. Coleman's file was reviewed due to self-disclosed background offenses that fall outside the scope of policy that allow Becky to issue a license without Board review. Patti Stedman made a motion to grant a license to Mr. Coleman. Motion seconded by Siri Coleman. Patti said he did everything he needed to do including wearing alcohol monitor, completing courses, ect. Board members who voted yes were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Deb Follman, Sonya Hansana, Evan Kritzberger, Kathy Lentz, Angela Nagel, and Patti Stedman. None opposed. Motion carried.

**Skogen, Christian** – Mr. Skogen's file was reviewed after he self-disclosed background offenses on his application for renewal. He had previous offense that was approved in 2019, but has now had a second offense that he disclosed with this renewal that falls outside the scope of policy that allows Becky to issue without Board review. Patti Stedman made motion to grant Mr. Skogen's application for renewal. Motion seconded by Sonya Hansana. Siri Coleman asked if the Board should require him to self-report any subsequent offenses. Patti amended her motion to include a requirement for Mr. Skogen self-disclose any new DUI or other charges. Sonya continued to second. Board members who voted in favor were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Deb Follman, Sonya Hansana, Evan Kritzberger, Kathy Lentz, Angela Nagel, and Patti Stedman. None opposed. Motion carried.

Patti Stedman asked Becky if cases like this keep coming up if she would let the Board know, so if the policy needs to be updated the Board can make that determination.

**Schoenwald, Lance** – Mr. Schoenwald's file is being reviewed after he self-disclosed

background offenses on his application for renewal. He does have a job in ND, so currently has a 40-day provisional license. Mr. Schoenwald has submitted a copy of an order granting early termination of his probation in Colorado. Siri Coleman made motion to grant Mr. Schoenwald's application for renewal. Seconded by Patti Stedman. Siri stated he met all requirements set forth by the courts and his probation has been terminated early with deferred imposition of sentence. Board members who voted yes were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Deb Follman, Sonya Hansana, Evan Kritzberger, Kathy Lentz, Angela Nagel, and Patti Stedman. None opposed. Motion carried.

**Meyhoff, Kaitlin** – Before discussion began Sonya Hansana disclosed that she knows Ms. Meyhoff personally. Sonya has requested that the Board vote as the neutral reviewer and has stated that she prefers to be recused from discussion and voting in this matter due to a personal relationship with the party in the case (NDAC 115-05-01-02(5)).

Evan Kritzberger made a motion to allow Sonya Hansana to be recused from this case. Seconded by Deb Follman. Board members who voted in favor were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Deb Follman, Evan Kritzberger, Kathy Lentz, Angela Nagel, and Patti Stedman. None opposed. Motion carried.

Ms. Meyhoff's file is being reviewed by the Board due to self-disclosed background offenses on her application for an interim substitute license. All offenses appear to be a number of years old, with the most recent being in 2014. Deb Follman made a motion to grant Ms. Meyhoff's license and to require her to self-disclose any subsequent offenses. Motion seconded by Angela Nagel. Deb stated Ms. Meyhoff been upfront about her struggles in the past and has continued to take healthy steps to support her sobriety. Board members who voted in favor were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Deb Follman, Evan Kritzberger, Kathy Lentz, Angela Nagel, and Patti Stedman. None opposed. Motion carried.

**Lunde, Christopher** – Before discussion began, Kathy Lentz disclosed that she knows Christopher Lunde but does feel she can participate in this case and be impartial. Mr. Lunde is from the same community as Kathy and is friends with one of her family members. Kathy states she has no personal or pecuniary interest. She would like the Board to act as neutral reviewer to determine if her disclosed conflict of interest would appear as a reasonable bias to an outside individual. Patti Stedman made a motion to allow Kathy Lentz to participate in discussion and voting on this case. Seconded by Sonya Hansana. Board members who voted yes were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Deb Follman, Sonya Hansana, Evan Kritzberger, Angela Nagel, and Patti Stedman. None opposed. Motion carried.

Mr. Lunde's case is being reviewed by the Board after he self-disclosed background offenses on his application for renewal. Evan Kritzberger made a motion to grant Mr. Lunde's renewal contingent on self-reporting any subsequent offenses. Motion

seconded by Siri Coleman. Evan stated he feels this is consistent with others the Board has discussed today. Siri agreed and said Mr. Lunde has done all things set forth by the courts and was upfront about his past offenses. Board members who voted yes were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Deb Follman, Sonya Hansana, Evan Kritzberger, Kathy Lentz, Angela Nagel, and Patti Stedman. None opposed. Motion carried.

**Meier, Mitch** – Mr. Meier’s case was reviewed at the April 2023 meeting after a Request for Inquiry was received from Dickinson Public Schools. At that time the Board voted to suspend Mr. Meier’s license until he completed the NASDTEC Model Code of Ethics course at his own expense, with his final essay to come back to the Board. A settlement agreement was sent to him and has not been returned. Becky has made contact with Mr. Meier.

Attorney Allyson Hicks said there are a few pathways the Board can choose to go down: they could choose to dismiss and nothing further happens. Allyson doesn’t suggest this as the Board has already determined there has been a violation of the code of ethics. The Board could continue to pursue settlement agreement. This option will just drag out the situation. The third option is to pursue litigation, which is the route Allyson recommends. A formal complaint would be issued to take action against Mr. Meier’s license. Action included in settlement agreement is what would be pursued. He can negotiate the settlement agreement, but if he doesn’t sign or respond a default judgement would be issued.

Sonya Hansana asked how long it’s been since settlement agreement was issued. It has been several months.

Evan Kritzberger made a motion to move forward with litigation as stated by Allyson. Seconded by Patti Stedman. Evan said the other options just seem to prolong things. Board members who voted yes were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Deb Follman, Sonya Hansana, Evan Kritzberger, Kathy Lentz, Angela Nagel, and Patti Stedman. None opposed. Motion carried.

**Keo, Canisha** – Ms. Keo’s file is being reviewed due to self-disclosed background offenses on her application for an interim substitute license. Deb Follman made a motion to grant with the requirement that Ms. Keo self-disclose any new background offenses. Seconded by Patti Stedman. Board members who voted yes were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Deb Follman, Sonya Hansana, Evan Kritzberger, Kathy Lentz, Angela Nagel, and Patti Stedman. None opposed. Motion carried.

**Bowman, Joshua** – Attorney Allyson Hicks asked if Patti Stedman needed to recuse herself since this is a Fargo area case. Patti stated that she does not know this individual or any facts of the case. Sonya Hansana made a motion to allow Patti to participate in voting and discussion. Motion seconded by Deb Follman. Board members who voted in favor of allowing Patti Stedman to participate in the Bowman case were

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Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Deb Follman, Sonya Hansana, Evan Kritzberger, Kathy Lentz, and Angela Nagel. None opposed. Motion carried.

Mr. Bowman has been arrested for an offense that, if convicted, would require revocation of his license under NDCC 15.1-13-26. Allyson recommended the Board suspend Mr. Bowman's license until the outcome of case with automatic revocation if he pleads guilty, is found guilty, or plead nolo contendere to any of the charges.

Patti Stedman made motion to issue a settlement agreement to Mr. Bowman to suspend his license until the outcome of his case with automatic revocation if he pleads guilty, is found guilty, or plead nolo contendere to any of the charges. Motion seconded by Siri Coleman. Board members who voted in favor were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Deb Follman, Sonya Hansana, Evan Kritzberger, Kathy Lentz, Angela Nagel, and Patti Stedman. None opposed. Motion carried.

Regular meeting recessed at 8:45am.

**Administrative Subcommittee** – Called to order at 8:45am by Kathy Lentz. Reviewed by Administrative Subcommittee of the Education Standards and Practices Board.

Administrative Subcommittee members present were Deb Follman, Sonya Hansana, Kathy Lentz, and Patti Stedman.

**Klaudt, Scott** – Mr. Klaudt's file was originally reviewed in November 2022 due to a Request for Inquiry that was received from New Salem-Almont School District after he was charged with a Class C felony in North Dakota. The Administrative Subcommittee voted to suspend Mr. Klaudt's license until the end of the school year, June 30, 2023. A settlement agreement was issued to him, with proof that he received it, but the signed settlement agreement has not been returned. Allyson recommended that like the Meier case reviewed earlier today, the Administrative Subcommittee could move to litigation. Mr. Klaudt currently working as an administrator in South Dakota. The SD licensure agency is aware and waiting for an outcome from our Board.

Allyson reminded the Board Mr. Klaudt was issued a settlement agreement and had the option to move to administrative hearing if he rejected settlement agreement. The Board should consider that he's working as an administrator in another state, but has many of the same responsibilities that he did in North Dakota.

Sonya Hansana asked if since the suspension date has passed if there's still something Board can do. Allyson said yes and she would recommend that the Board not choose a specific date for the settlement to end, but to choose an amount of time, such as one year. Mr. Klaudt has had over a year to sign the settlement agreement and has not. Sonya expressed her frustration over this case and stated he is avoiding it. Deb Follman made a motion to suspend Mr. Klaudt's license for one year through litigation. Seconded by Patti Stedman. Administrative Subcommittee members who voted yes

were Deb Follman, Sonya Hansana, Kathy Lentz, and Patti Stedman. None opposed. Motion carried.

**Lewton, Marcus** – This has been an ongoing case. Dickinson Public Schools had two teachers teaching all of the 22-23 school year with interim substitute licenses that included a 30 day restriction. Originally the Board issued a Request for Inquiry to DPS Assistant Superintendent Keith Harris and that was ultimately dismissed. Discussion was who's ultimately responsible for ensuring that properly licensed teachers are in classrooms?

After much discussion, Patti Stedman made a motion to fine Mr. Lewton \$250 for having teachers in the classroom who were not properly licensed. Motion seconded by Deb Follman. Patti stated it's important that the district have licensed individuals in the classrooms. Administrative Subcommittee members who voted yes were Deb Follman, Sonya Hansana, Kathy Lentz, and Patti Stedman. None opposed. Motion carried.

The Administrative Subcommittee meeting was adjourned at 8:59am and the regular meeting was resumed at 8:59am.

**Teacher Support System** – As of today, 658 beginning teachers enrolled in the mentoring program. Out of those, 238 are second-year teachers. In July, August, and September TSS has been working to train new mentors in ND. So far this year 112 new mentor teachers have been trained. A new option is being offered to allow mentors to do a self-study training. Patti Stedman stated she is interested to see how that turns out, in comparison to in-person training. She also asked about Solution Tree and the costs associated to be a part of that – Erin believes it's \$50 to sign up and be a part of the Solution Tree program.

**Director's Report** – Becky attended a Central Region meeting in Minneapolis yesterday. She learned many states don't require a substitute license with a background check and expressed that she is very thankful ND does require this.

The Grow your Own program is receiving a lot of attention. Becky has been able to share all around the US about what's been happening in ND. Becky and our consultant Lynn Hammond will be presenting next week in Washington DC. The Joint Board meeting will be held on September 26<sup>th</sup> at the capitol. All Board members are invited to attend. Next month Becky will upload a NASDTEC prevention and correction essay received from Stephen Adams. His license suspension has been lifted, per his settlement agreement.

There was one comment received regarding our Administrative Rules hearing regarding the school psychology scope of practice being included in ESPB's rules. This scope of practice came from the school psychology group and was vetted by them.

Patti Stedman made a motion to acknowledge the comment regarding school psychology scope of practice in Administrative Rule. Motion seconded by Evan Kritzberger. Board members who voted in agreement were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Deb Follman, Sonya Hansana, Evan Kritzberger, Kathy Lentz, Angela Nagel, and Patti Stedman. None opposed. Motion carried.

The Director's Report also included two request letters from applicants:

- Dennis Carpenter – Requesting Board consideration for credits to not be required for him to move into his life license. License doesn't expire until 2026 and he does not have 6 new credits to satisfy the license he currently holds. This will be revisited in October.
- Chad Thomas – Requesting a fourth alternate access license while he completes American Board. Has attempted American Board but has not yet successfully completed it. Due to some personal hardships, Mr. Thomas is asking for another year. Jenny Bladow asked if a 6-month extension could be granted. Siri Colman asked if 6 months would be granted, would that be for registration or American Board completion. It would be for completion. Evan Kritzberger made a motion to grant Mr. Thomas a 6-month extension to complete American Board, with verification of test enrollment. Seconded by Jenny Bladow. Board members who voted yes were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Deb Follman Sonya Hansana, Evan Kritzberger, Kathy Lentz, Angela Nagel, and Patti Stedman. Motion carried.

**Pre-Service Teacher Authorization** – Becky has provided a list of pre-service teacher authorizations that have been granted. These are issued for one semester. Data will be collected. The letters from the district have been amazing and the field is very thankful. Other states are doing similar things, but not with as tight of a net as we have here in North Dakota. At this time there are approximately 16 teaching authorizations that have been issued.

**Accreditation/Program Approval** – Becky gave an overview of the accreditation process and pathway to continuous improvement.

Patti Stedman left the meeting at 9:43am.

**August Meeting Minutes, Special Meeting Minutes, July and August License and Financial Reports** – The July 2023 financial report showed \$152,931.46 in total income received, \$95,184.98 in total expenses, with a net income of \$57,746.48. The August 2023 financial report showed \$164,040.09 in total income received, \$93,178.67 in total expenses, with a net income of \$70,861.42.

The July 2023 licensure report documented 1209 items issued and the August 2023 report documented 2120. This number includes background checks, endorsements, late fees, and application fees.

Siri Coleman moved to accept the August meeting minutes, special meeting minutes, July and August license and financial reports. Seconded by Sonya Hansana. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

**Disability Waivers** – The Board has received requests for disability waivers from Agata Mrozik, Ashley Gillis, Rebecca Boltz, Shanna McCloud, and Sydney Laxdal. Siri Coleman made a motion to grant disability waivers for Agata Mrozik, Ashley Gillis, Rebecca Boltz, Shanna McCloud, and Sydney Laxdal. Seconded by Evan Kritzberger.

- **Agata Mrozik** – Waiver granted for art Praxis II test.
- **Ashley Gillis** – Waiver granted for Principles of Learning and Teaching: Grades K-6.
- **Rebecca Boltz** – Waiver granted for science Praxis II test.
- **Shanna McCloud** – Waiver granted for Elementary Education: Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Praxis II.
- **Sydney Laxdal** – Waiver granted for Core reading test.

### **Board Member Reports**

**NDACTE** – Have not started meeting yet this school year, but several work groups over the summer. Alternatives to Praxis Core and that is up and running across the state. Pre-service teacher authorization rubric. Education mixer tonight at University of Mary put on by NDACTE, with many groups being represented.

**Association of Non-Public Schools** – Nothing new to report.

**Association of School Administrators** – Have not had first meeting yet this school year, so nothing new to report at this time.

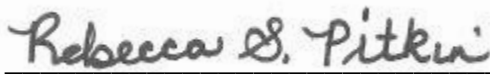
**School Boards Association** – Annual meeting next month.

**NDUnited** – Not present.

**DPI** – This afternoon is a literacy conference this afternoon at University of Mary. Competencies will be developed to be in accordance with the law. Hope to develop work groups at the end of the conference today.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:54am.

  
Chair

  
Secretary/Executive Director