

**MINUTES – Board Meeting**  
**Thursday, September 5, 2024**  
Teams

The Education Standards and Practices Board (ESPB) meeting was called to order at 8:00am by Board Chair Cory Steiner. Board members present by video conference were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Amber Fridley, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Sheila Schlafmann, Patti Stedman, Cory Steiner, and Superintendent Kirsten Baesler. Dustin Hager was absent.

Also present were ESPB Executive Director Rebecca Pitkin, Mari Riehl, and Amy Bigelow from ESPB, Allyson Hicks and Mark Openshaw from Office of Attorney General, Amy Flicek from NDUnited, and Michelle Griffin from UND.

Introductions were held. Cory welcomed Sheila Schlafmann to the Board as the new administrative representative.

**Motion to Include Additional Agenda Items** – Additions to the agenda include a request from Melanie Engel Unger, an update on the Luke Adams case from August, and review of attorney Allyson Hicks's letter regarding the NASDTEC interstate compact. Troy Thorson will be removed from the agenda. There are no disability waivers to review this month. Siri Coleman made a motion to accept the agenda as amended. Seconded by Evan Kritzberger. Board members who voted in favor were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Amber Fridley, Evan Kritzberger, Angela Nagel, Sheila Schlafmann, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Sarah Lerud was absent for the vote. Motion carried.

**Motion to Ratify August Licensure List** – Amber Fridley made a motion to ratify the August licensure list. Motion seconded by Evan Kritzberger. Board members who voted in favor were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Amber Fridley, Evan Kritzberger, Angela Nagel, Sheila Schlafmann, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Sarah Lerud was absent for the vote. Motion carried.

**CASES**

**Hunt, Randy** – Mr. Hunt's file was reviewed after he self-disclosed background offenses on his application for a CTE license. Patti Stedman made a motion to grant Mr. Hunt's license and to require that he self-report any future offenses. Motion seconded by Angela Nagel. Patti said this is consistent with what's been done in the past and Mr. Hunt has taken responsibility for his actions. Board members who voted yes were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Amber Fridley, Evan Kritzberger, Angela Nagel, Sheila Schlafmann, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Sarah Lerud was absent for the vote. Motion carried.

**Henderson, Shaun** – When Mr. Henderson contacted the office about obtaining a teaching authorization, he self-reported that he had been teacher of record in the past while holding an interim substitute license with the 30-day restriction. This is being reviewed by the board since it does not fall under any of the options for non-board review policy.

Evan Kritzberger made a motion to reach out to Mr. Henderson's former schools and administrator to obtain more information. Motion seconded by Siri Coleman. Evan does not feel the board has the needed information to take any action at this time. Board

members who voted yes were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Amber Fridley, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Sheila Schlafman, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.

**Sundstrom, Rebecca** – Ms. Sundstrom's file was reviewed due to self-disclosed background offenses on her application for a teaching permit. Siri Coleman made a motion to grant the permit with requirement that Ms. Sundstrom self-report any future offenses. Seconded by Angela Nagel. Siri stated she feels this is consistent with what's been done in the past and if Ms. Sundstrom has any new offenses will be brought to the board's attention. Evan Kritzberger asked if it was an automatic requirement that individuals self-report offenses as they occur. Attorney Allyson Hicks said this could be something adopted through administrative rule. At this time, it's practice that offenses are self-reported with renewal. Board members who voted in favor of granting the permit were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Amber Fridley, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Sheila Schlafman, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.

**Gregoire, Timothy** – Mr. Gregoire self-disclosed a third DUI offense on his application for renewal. Patti Stedman made motion to grant Mr. Gregoire's renewal with requirement that he self-disclose any further violations. Seconded by Sarah Lerud. Patti said Mr. Gregoire has satisfied everything set forth by the court and did disclose the offense on his application for renewal. Also, two of the offenses are more than 10 years old. Board members who voted in favor were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Amber Fridley, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Sheila Schlafman, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.

**Heard, Reagan** – Ms. Heard disclosed offenses on her application for an interim substitute license. Evan Kritzberger asked attorney Allyson Hicks how the board addresses things that are not disclosed on the application. If they are not disclosed, then only the letter of explanation can be considered. Anything on a background check report needs to be discussed in executive session. A search of Ms. Heard's name on NDCourts showed a number of offenses and a few were not addressed on her application for licensure. Allyson recommended the board table and ask for additional information. Evan Kritzberger made a motion to table the case to request information on 2013 offenses that were not addressed in her previous information. Motion seconded by Patti Stedman. Board members who voted in favor were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Amber Fridley, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Sheila Schlafman, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.

**Davis, Tawny** – Ms. Davis self-disclosed offenses on her application for an interim substitute license. Patti Stedman made motion to grant Ms. Davis's application for licensure with requirement that she self-disclose any future offenses. Motion seconded by Evan Kritzberger. Patti said again that this was consistent with past action and it's been a number of years since the offenses occurred. Board members who voted in

favor were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Amber Fridley, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Sheila Schlafman, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.

**Burke, Celeste** – Ms. Burke self-disclosed offense on her application for an interim substitute license. Allyson Hicks reminded the board this case is ongoing, is not a conviction at this time, that Ms. Burke has retained an attorney and pled not guilty to the charges. Trial is scheduled for October. Options would be to hold until criminal charges are resolved, can grant with condition that Ms. Burke update the board with the resolution of the court case and the board will address at that time and if convicted could take disciplinary action, or can deny the application for licensure.

Evan Kritzberger made a motion to grant a conditional license a with the stipulation that Ms. Burke update the board with the outcome of her case. Motion seconded by Patti Stedman. Evan felt Ms. Burke explained the situation well and he doesn't feel tabling the case for two months is the answer. Patti agreed. Board members who voted yes were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Amber Fridley, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Sheila Schlafman, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.

**Marcellais, Rhawnie** – At the June 2024 meeting the board voted to move to litigation to revoke Ms. Marcellais's license by publication after unsuccessfully trying to serve her with her settlement agreement a number of times. Since that meeting, Ms. Marcellais did go to trial and was convicted of a federal child abuse charge. NDCC 15.1-13-26 that gives authority for automatic revocation does not apply since this is a federal case. Allyson asked that the Board modify the prior motion to send the case to litigation and include revocation under NDCC 15.1-13-25(1)(d) – that the individual has been convicted of an offense having direct bearing on a person's ability to perform as a teacher or administrator.

Siri Coleman made a motion to accept Allyson Hicks's recommendation to add revocation under NDCC 15.1-13-25(1)(d), in addition to the prior citations for violation of NDCC 15.1-13-25(1)(c) and 15.1-13-25(1)(j). Motion seconded by Sheila Schlafmann. Board members who voted yes were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Amber Fridley, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Sheila Schlafman, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.

**Adams, Luke (Update)** – Last month the board had requested additional court records from Colorado and that request is being processed. Mr. Adams currently has a 40-day provisional license, and it will be renewed so he may continue to teach while we wait for the additional information.

**Attorney Update** – Allyson Hicks provided information on an agency bill to be pre-filed regarding state cases/federal cases. Century Code addresses state law but doesn't

address when cases are moved to federal court. If anyone has questions about the Interstate Compact response letter to LTC Sheldon please reach out to Allyson.

**Director's Report** – August was very busy in the office. Becky expressed her thankfulness for getting through the month and to ESPB office staff. Becky welcomed Sheila Schlafmann for joining the board. The Hunt Institute had their final meeting and their recommendations have been provided to the board. Joint Board meeting will be October 29<sup>th</sup> and will be face-to-face and virtual. October ESPB meeting will be held virtually.

**Accreditation/Program Approval** – Becky reviewed CAEP/state program approval process. Dickinson State University and Minot State University have their national site visits this fall. Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College had a 2-year focus visit in March 2024. Turtle Mountain Community College has submitted their program reports and content experts have completed their reviews. All educator preparation programs are always in the process of program approval.

**30-year License** – Last month the subcommittee shared, and the board voted to maintain the current requirements for the life license. NDUnited had asked the board to reconsider and would like to see the requirement changed from 30 years to 20 years.

**Interstate Compact Letter** – A letter from legal counsel Allyson Hicks has been provided to the board in response to the interstate compact. Evan Kritzberger made a motion to have Allyson forward the letter to LTC Sheldon. Seconded by Jenny Bladow. Board members who voted yes were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Amber Fridley, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Sheila Schlafman, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.

**Request from Melanie Engel Unger** – Ms. Engel Unger has written to the board asking for additional time to complete the credits needed to satisfy her probationary license requirements. She has completed 5 credits and needs 3 more. Cory Steiner made a motion to grant an extension until December 31, 2024, with verification of enrollment in the remaining needed credits. Motion seconded by Siri Coleman. Board members who voted in favor were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Amber Fridley, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Sheila Schlafman, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.

**August Meeting Minutes, Special Meeting Minutes, July and August License and Financial Reports –**

- **August Minutes** – Siri Coleman made a motion to approve the August minutes. Seconded by Sheila Schlafmann. Board members who voted yes were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Amber Fridley, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Sheila Schlafman, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.

- **August 15, 2024, Special Meeting Minutes** – Jenny Bladow made a motion to approve the August 15, 2024, special meeting minutes. Board members who voted yes were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Amber Fridley, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Sheila Schlafman, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.
- **August 23, 2024, Special Meeting Minutes** – Evan Kritzberger made a motion to approve the August 23, 2024, special meeting minutes. Seconded by Sarah Lerud. Board members who voted yes were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Amber Fridley, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Sheila Schlafman, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.
- **July and August License Reports** – Angela Nagel made a motion to approve the July and August license reports. Seconded by Siri Coleman. Board members who voted in favor were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Amber Fridley, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Sheila Schlafman, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.
- **July and August Financial Reports** – Patti Stedman made a motion to approve the July and August financial reports. Motion seconded by Sheila Schlafmann. Board members who voted yes were Jenny Bladow, Siri Coleman, Amber Fridley, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Sheila Schlafman, Patti Stedman, and Cory Steiner. None opposed. Motion carried.

The July 2024 financial report showed \$141,476.37 in total income received, \$95,874.86 in total expenses, with a net income of \$45,601.51. The August 2024 financial report showed \$162,662.61 in total income received, \$81,803.97 in total expenses, with a net income of \$80,858.64. The July 2024 licensure report documented 1099 items issued and the August 2024 licensure report documented 1831 items issued. This number includes background checks, endorsements, late fees, and application fees.

### **Board Member Reports**

**NDACTE** – Nothing to report.

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

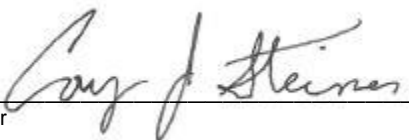
**Association of School Administrators** – Tomorrow a legislative meeting is being held. Main topics discussed will be property tax bill and school choice. Preparing for legislative session.

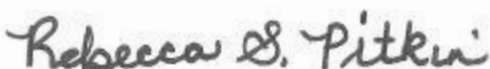
**School Boards Association** – The NDSBA conference will be held in October.

**NDUnited** – Nothing to report.

**DPI** – Not present.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45am.

  
Chair

  
Secretary/Executive Director