

MINUTES – Board Meeting
Thursday, September 11, 2025
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 Siri Coleman, Dustin Hager, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Patti Stedman, Cory Steiner, Dena Venneman, and Superintendent Kristen Baesler. Jenny Bladow and Sheila Schlafmann were absent.

Also present were ESPB Executive Director Rebecca Pitkin, Mari Riehl, and Amy Bigelow from ESPB, Allyson Hicks from Office of Attorney General, Amy Flicek and Amber Haskell from NDUnited, and other online guests.

Introductions were held.

Motion to Include Additional Agenda Items – No additions to the agenda.

Motion to Ratify August Licensure List – Evan Kritzberger made a motion to ratify the August licensure list. Motion seconded by Patti Stedman. Board members who voted yes were Siri Coleman, Dustin Hager, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Patti Stedman, Cory Steiner, and Dena Venneman. None opposed. Motion carried.

CASES

Parsley, Brendon – Mr. Parsley has pled guilty to offenses that require automatic revocation of his license under NDCC 15.1-13-26. Assistant Attorney General Allyson Hicks has already drafted the order of revocation and that's been provided to the Board. Patti Stedman made a motion to revoke Mr. Parsley's license in accordance with NDCC 15.1-13-26. Motion seconded by Angela Nagel. Patti said it's a sad day when the board is required to revoke a license based on these kinds of offenses. Board members who voted yes were Siri Coleman, Dustin Hager, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Patti Stedman, Cory Steiner, and Dena Venneman. None opposed. Motion carried.

Berg, Benjamin – Mr. Berg has pled guilty to an offense that requires automatic revocation of his license under NDCC 15.1-13-26. Assistant Attorney General Allyson Hicks has already drafted the order of revocation and that's been provided to the Board. Evan Kritzberger made a motion to revoke Mr. Berg's license in accordance with NDCC 15.1-13-26. Motion seconded by Siri Coleman. Board members who voted yes were Siri Coleman, Dustin Hager, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Patti Stedman, Cory Steiner, and Dena Venneman. None opposed. Motion carried.

Regular meeting recessed at 8:11am

Administrative Subcommittee – Called to order at 8:11am by Administrative Subcommittee Chair Cory Steiner. Reviewed by Administrative Subcommittee of the Education Standards and Practices Board. Administrative Subcommittee members present were Dustin Hager, Sarah Lerud, Patti Stedman, Cory Steiner, and Dena Venneman. Sheila Schlafmann was absent.

Lund, Jeremy – At the August meeting the Administrative Subcommittee passed a motion to send a Request for Inquiry to Mr. Lund. His response has been received. Patti Stedman pointed out there is a lot of information submitted, and there is only one document that outlines the reasons for non-renewal. Cory Steiner clarified it's the subcommittee's job to look and see if any part of the Educator's Code of Ethics were violated by Mr. Lund. Under NDCC, any time a person is discharged for cause, it's required that information be reported to the board. The subcommittee isn't looking to see if he was appropriately discharged from his position. Cory also pointed out that had the district had met the timeline to non-renew, this likely never would have come before the subcommittee. Patti said in reading through all of the materials, she's not finding a violation of any rules or laws.

Cory Steiner made a motion to dismiss the case against Jeremy Lund. Motion seconded by Dustin Hager. Cory is struggling to find any part of principles that have been violated. Mr. Lund was placed on leave in February, and the dismissal didn't happen until June, so the district had plenty of time to non-renew. Dustin agrees with everything both Patti and Cory have stated. Administrative Subcommittee members who voted in favor of the motion were Dustin Hager, Sarah Lerud, Patti Stedman, Cory Steiner, and Dena Venneman. None opposed. Motion carried.

Administrative Subcommittee adjourned at 8:19am and the regular meeting resumed.

A letter received from Marcus Lewton, Superintendent at Dickinson Public Schools, has been included with the meeting materials. The Board reviewed the case in question in June and the motion passed was unanimous. It will not be revisited, as there is not a process for Board reconsideration. Allyson confirmed that if there were a process for this, the Board would constantly be going back and redoing cases.

Director's Report – Reminder of Joint Boards meeting on September 22nd. This is an all-day meeting and ESPB is the host this year. Mari shared that 914 individuals completed mandated reporter training in July, and 5037 did so in August. These are not all educators, but individuals who have completed ND Dept of Health and Human Services Mandated Reporter Training as a whole. Last month, Lisa Colon Durham from ETS presented information to the Board about Praxis Bridge to the board. Additional Praxis Bridge tests have been added, and Lisa present this update to NDACTE at their first fall meeting.

Accreditation/Program Approval – Next week is CAEPCon, the higher education conference in Washington DC. All EPPs are engaged in a 7-year continuous improvement process. Next week Becky will be going to CAEP for state training. ESPB has received a letter from a licensed teacher regarding adaptive PE. Next summer PE standards will be reviewed, and this individual will be invited to participate in that process.

August Meeting Minutes, Special Meeting Minutes, August License and Financial Reports – Siri Coleman made a motion to approve the August meeting minutes, special meeting minutes, license and financial reports. Motion was seconded by Angela Nagel. Board members who voted in favor were Siri Coleman, Dustin Hager, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Patti Stedman, Cory Steiner, and Dena Venneman. None opposed. Motion carried.

The August 2025 financial report showed \$169,398.97 in total income received, \$86,441.05 in total expenses, with a net income of \$82,957.92. The August 2025 license/financial items totaled 1873. This number includes background checks, endorsements, late fees, licensing fees, and application fees.

Cory Steiner asked how many of the new 25-year lifetime licenses have been issued since ND Century Code changed on August 1, 2025. There were 143 lifetime licenses issued in August.

Applicant Request – Tim Gregoire has submitted a letter to the board asking if he would be able to obtain driver education endorsement. Administrative rules state the applicant must provide “a complete abstract of the applicant's driving record for the past thirty-six months from a state driver's licensing office evidencing a satisfactory driving record free from any conviction that would constitute the basis for suspension or revocation on the instructor's operator's license, and not more than three moving traffic violations.” In the past, the Board has approved someone to proceed with one DUI that was more than 5 years old. Mr. Gregoire has had more than one offense, so that's why he's written to the board.

Before discussion continued, Evan Kritzberger disclosed that he also works for Grand Forks Public Schools, where Mr. Gregoire is employed. Evan does not know this individual and has never met them. He does feel like he can be impartial. Siri Coleman made a motion to allow Evan Kritzberger to participate. Motion seconded by Patti Stedman. Board members who voted in favor were Siri Coleman, Dustin Hager, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Patti Stedman, Cory Steiner, and Dena Venneman. None opposed. Motion carried.

Evan asked what the timeline is for obtaining the driver education endorsement, if ESPB hasn't received a formal application for the endorsement. Coursework for the driver education endorsement must be completed before a person can obtain the endorsement, so the applicant doesn't want to spend the time and money to complete the coursework if they don't qualify based on their previous driving record.

Patti Stedman suggested the Board look at these administrative rules going forward to see if they should be reevaluated. Patti Stedman then made a motion to deny the request from Mr. Gregoire. The motion was seconded by Angela Nagel. They both

agree that rules may need to be re-evaluated going forward. Board members who voted in favor of the motion were Siri Coleman, Dustin Hager, Evan Kritzberger, Sarah Lerud, Angela Nagel, Patti Stedman, Cory Steiner, and Dena Venneman. None opposed. Motion carried.

ND RISE – Currently enrollment is around 600 and averaging about 10 more enrollments each day. New Mentor Training is being offered this year in three different formats, online in six 2-hour sessions, in-person, or online in two 6-hour sessions. Feedback has continued to be extremely positive. Beginning Teacher Network grants have been awarded to 10 districts/REAs across the state to support teachers.

Board Member Reports

NDACTE – NDACTE's first meeting for the school year will be held at the end of September.

Association of Non-Public Schools – Siri's school, Shiloh Christian, will partner with ESPB on the food pantry/drive in October. This is schoolwide, K-12.

Association of School Administrators – Regional meetings are upcoming. Cell phone ban went into effect in August. Cory noted it has been a game changer in districts.

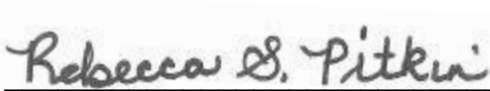
School Boards Association – State convention coming up in early October.

NDUnited – No updates.

DPI – DPI is preparing to work with ESPB to determine critical shortage areas to report to the Feds. Para-to-Teacher and apprenticeship programs are helping to fill some of those shortage areas. ND's Lead Teacher program is the first in the nation to request and be granted approval for a Registered Lead Teacher apprenticeship program.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:01am.


Chair


Secretary/Executive Director