MINNESOTA
PROFESSIONAL EDUCATOR
LICENSING AND STANDARDS BOARD

Board Meeting Minutes

January 23, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Payne called the meeting to order at 9:31 am. Board Meeting was held in person and via WebEx.

Board members present:

Dr. Lucy Payne, Board Chair
Amy Aho
Brandee Shoemaker
Dr. Gift Saloka
Dr. Kurt Stumpf (Virtual)
Jennifer Trask (Virtual)
Justin Hoelscher (Virtual)
Glazell Toledo (Virtual)
Rochelle Dyer
Janie Yang (Virtual)

Board members absent:

Nathan Wood
Liana Lingofelt

Board staff (present at various times):

Dr. Yelena Bailey, Executive Director
Erin Doan, Director of Educator Preparation and Pathways
Caren Custer, Data and Compliance Specialist (Virtual)
Tanwaporn Chino, Communications Specialist
Maria Zaloker, Teacher Ethics Attorney (Virtual)
Katherine Oswald, Office Manager

Attorney General's Office:

Nathan Hartshorn, Assistant Attorney General (Virtual)
David Cullen, Assistant Attorney General (Virtual)
Carly Rasmussen, Assistant Attorney General (Virtual)
Allan Aguilar, Assistant Attorney General (Virtual)

APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING AGENDA

MOTION: Aho moved to approve the Agenda with flexibility. Shoemaker seconded the motion.

VOTE: Aye: Payne, Aho, Shoemaker, Saloka, Stumpf, Hoelscher, Toledo, Dyer, Yang.
Trask did not vote due to technical difficulties.
RESULT: The motion passed.

ORAL ARGUMENTS

The board heard oral arguments in the matter of Ms. Lindsey Liu's license. The board was advised by Assistant Attorney General Nathan Hartshorn. Oral arguments were made by Assistant Attorney General Allan Aguilar. Neither Ms. Liu, or their attorney, were present.

The board heard oral arguments in the matter of Mr. Dylan Smallidge's license. The board was advised by Assistant Attorney General Nathan Hartshorn. Oral arguments were made by Assistant Attorney General Carly Rasmussen. Neither Mr. Smallidge, or their attorney, were present.

MOTION: Dyer moved to enter Closed Session. Saloka seconded the motion.
VOTE: All aye.
RESULT: The motion passed.

DISCIPLINE MATTERS (Closed Session)

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 13D.01, subdivision 2, the Board moved into closed session for the purposes of disciplinary proceedings.

REPORT OUT: DISCIPLINE MATTERS (Open Session)

Chair Payne announced Board action from Closed Session as follows:

1. **Aaron Dimock (FFN 489479):** The Board adopted a stipulation agreement and consent order Aaron Dimock's teaching licenses are subject to a one year stayed suspension.
2. **Christian Givot (FFN 492451):** The Board adopted findings of fact, conclusions of law, and order, whereby Christian Givot's license renewal application is denied.
3. **Dereck Grosskurth (FFN 394153):** The Board adopted a stipulation agreement and consent order whereby Dereck Grosskurth's teaching licenses are surrendered.
4. **Davionna Hernandez (FFN 1026542):** The Board adopted findings of fact, conclusions of law, and order, whereby Davionna Hernandez's license renewal application is denied.
5. **Kevin Holm (FFN 452083):** The Board adopted a stipulation agreement and consent order whereby Kevin Holm's teaching licenses are subject to a two year stayed suspension.
6. **Thipp Kommavang (FFN 444642):** The Board adopted a stipulation agreement and consent order whereby Thipp Kommavang's teaching license is subject to a two year stayed suspension.
7. **Lindsey Liu (FFN 1024728):** The Board adopted findings of fact, conclusions of law, and order, whereby Lindsey Liu's teaching licenses are suspended.
8. **Marisa Luskey (FFN 1006911):** The Board adopted a stipulation agreement and consent order whereby Marisa Luskey's teaching license is subject to a one year stayed suspension.
9. **Sarah Ramos (FFN 1033928):** The Board adopted a stipulation agreement and consent order whereby Sarah Ramos's teaching license is subject to a one year stayed suspension.
10. **Katherine Rennicke (FFN 459658):** The Board adopted a stipulation agreement and consent order whereby Katherine Rennicke's teaching license is surrendered.

11. **Paul Senechalle (FFN 517018):** The Board adopted a stipulation to cease practice whereby Paul Senechalle cannot be in a position that requires a teaching license.

12. **Dylan Smallidge (FFN 512537):** The Board adopted findings of fact, conclusions of law, and order, whereby Dylan Smallidge's teaching licenses are revoked.

BOARD IN RECESS 10:20 – 10:25

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Aho moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Shoemaker seconded the motion.
VOTE: All aye.
RESULT: The motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Special Education Licensure Advisory Group Update

Dr. Yelena Bailey, PELSB Executive Director, gave an update on the advisory group's final report summary as well as recommendation. The official recommendation will be presented at the February board meeting. Board members asked about the viability in relation to budgetary issues as well as how it affects renewal requirements across all licenses. There were also questions on renewal requirements.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Karla Stone, University of Minnesota

Requested to reinstate flexibility for teacher candidate programs. The variance would allow implementation of alternative assessment process in lieu of EdTPA.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

CPAST Update

Erin Doan, PELSB Director of Educator Preparation and Pathways, reported initial data on the use of the two-year CPAST pilot. The pilot has been an active implement for one semester, so data is limited. Board members asked about seeing the demographic trends.

NEW BUSINESS

Microcredentials

Chair Payne presented the current national landscape for microcredentials and the questions to consider for PELSB's potential role in microcredentials. Board members asked about potential financial and/or workload demands.

Student Teaching & Online Learning

Chair Payne outlined a resolution to allow student teachers flexibility to complete teacher training programs during times of uncertainty or safety in Minnesota. The resolution would address current rules for number of hours face-to-face and weeks.

MOTION: Aho moved to adopt the resolution as presented. Trask seconded the motion.
VOTE: All aye.
RESULT: The motion passed.

REPORTS

Committees & Subcommittees

i. Executive Committee

The committee met on December 3 to discuss the January board meeting agenda and training retreat. The next meeting is on February 11.

ii. Licensing Committee

The committee met on December 16 and January 15 to approve cross-curricular delivery permissions, tiered, and discretionary variances. The next meeting is on February 16.

iii. Teacher Preparation Committee

The committee met on January 5; all items were on the January board meeting consent agenda. The next meeting is on February 6.

iv. Legislative Committee

No report.

v. Increase Teachers of Color and Indigenous Teachers Committee

No report.

vi. Standards and Rules Advisory Committee

The committee's next meeting is on February 5.

Staff Report

Dr. Bailey highlighted the past month's work group and community partner engagement.

Chair Report

Chair Payne reminded board members to complete the yearly economic interest form. Additionally, NASDTEC has released a podcast episode featuring Dr. Bailey and Chair Payne discussing literacy work in Minnesota. The June board retreat will be held in St. Cloud.

ADJOURN

Chair Payne adjourned the meeting at 11:24 am.

Appendix A: CONSENT AGENDA

I. APPROVE MINUTES

Approve Minutes from December 12, 2025, board meeting.

II. UNIT APPROVALS

	Unit	**Review Team Recommendation**
i.	University of Minnesota Twin Cities	Continuing approval
ii.	Walden University	Continuing approval

III. PROGRAM APPROVALS

Bemidji State University

	Program	Staff recommendation
i.	Elementary Education, Field-Based (residency, RTAP)	Initial Approval

Capella University

	Program	Staff recommendation
i.	Reading	Continuing approval (accept interim)

Metropolitan State University

	Program	Staff recommendation
i.	Elementary Education (residency, RTAP)	Continuing approval with focus
ii.	Preprimary (residency, RTAP)	Continuing approval

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Minnesota State University Mankato

	Program	Staff recommendation
i.	Autism Spectrum Disorders (graduate)	Continuing approval (accept interim report)
ii.	Developmental Disabilities (graduate)	Continuing approval (accept interim report)
iii.	Early Childhood Special Education (graduate)	Continuing approval (accept interim report)
iv.	Emotional Behavioral Disorders (graduate)	Continuing approval (accept interim report)
v.	Learning Disabilities (graduate)	Continuing approval with focus (accept interim report)

Minnesota State University Moorhead

	Program	Staff recommendation
i.	Health	Continuing approval

Southwest Minnesota State University

	Program	Staff recommendation
i.	Reading	Continuing approval (accept interim)

IV. LICENSES AND PERMISSIONS

None.

V. TEACHER PREPARATION – DISCRETIONARY VARIANCES

	Unit/Program	Rule	TPC Recommendation
a.	MSU Moorhead	8705.1010 Subp. 3G	Approve
b.	TNTP	8705.1010, Subp. 4F, 8705.2200, Subp. 2.A.2(board-adopted teacher performance assessment)	Approve with conditions
c.	University of Minnesota Twin Cities (World Languages and Cultures)	8705.1010, Subp. 3B1 (cooperating teacher qualifications)	Approve with conditions
d.	University of Minnesota Twin Cities (Earth and Space)	8705.1010, Subp. 3B1 (cooperating teacher qualifications)	Approve
e.	Walden University	8705.1010, Subp. 1B3 (Minnesota academic standards)	Approve with conditions