MINNESOTA
PROFESSIONAL EDUCATOR
LICENSING AND STANDARDS BOARD

Board Meeting Minutes

February 20, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Payne called the meeting to order at 9:34 am. Board Meeting was held in person and via WebEx.

Board members present:

Dr. Lucy Payne, Board Chair (Virtual)
Amy Aho (Virtual)
Brandee Shoemaker
Dr. Gift Saloka
Dr. Kurt Stumpf (Virtual)
Jennifer Trask (Virtual)
Justin Hoelscher
Glazell Toledo (Virtual)
Rochelle Dyer (Virtual, left after closed session)
Janie Yang (Virtual, left during 12:24 pm recess)
Liana Lingofelt
Nathan Wood

Board staff (present at various times):

Dr. Yelena Bailey, Executive Director
Steve Rollin, Rulemaking Attorney
Caren Custer, Data and Compliance Specialist
Maria Zaloker, Teacher Ethics Attorney (Virtual)
Katherine Oswald, Office Manager

Attorney General's Office:

Nathan Hartshorn, Assistant Attorney General (Virtual)
Allan Aguilar, Assistant Attorney General (Virtual)
Theresa Flahaven, Assistant Attorney General (Virtual)
David Cullen, Assistant Attorney General (Virtual)

APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING AGENDA

MOTION: Toledo moved to approve the Agenda with flexibility. Saloka seconded the motion.
VOTE: All aye.
RESULT: The motion passed .

ORAL ARGUMENTS

MOTION: Dyer moved to move the Chair from Payne to Shoemaker. Aho seconded the motion.
VOTE: All aye.
RESULT: The motion passed.

The board heard oral arguments in the matter of Ms. Courtney Wiley's license. The board was advised by Assistant Attorney General Nathan Hartshorn. Oral arguments were made by Assistant Attorney General Theresa Flahaven. Ms. Wiley was present.

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.

MOTION: Saloka moved to enter Closed Session. Wood 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.

BOARD IN RECESS 11:39 – 11:44

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (Open Session)

D. Arts Steering Committee Update

Kevin Huseth, Cloquet High School Instrumental Music Teacher, presented concerns on the three options considered by the music advisory group.

REPORT OUT: DISCIPLINE MATTERS

Chair Payne announced Board action from Closed Session as follows:

1. Donald Allen (FFN 489329): The Board adopted a stipulation agreement and consent order whereby Donald Allen's teaching license is subject to a one year stayed suspension.

2. Mitchell Armstrong (FFN 499136): The Board adopted a stipulation agreement and consent order whereby Mitchell Armstrong's teaching licenses are subject to a one year stayed suspension.

3. Ryan Denzer-Johnson (FFN 480783): The Board adopted findings of fact, conclusions of law, and order, whereby the Board affirms the automatic revocation of Ryan Denzer-Johnson's teaching license.

4. Nicholas Flattum (FFN 481996): The Board adopted a stipulation agreement and consent order whereby Nicholas Flattum's teaching license is subject to a one year stayed suspension.

5. Tyler Kondos (FFN 386090): The Board adopted a stipulation agreement and consent order whereby Tyler Kondos's teaching licenses are subject to a two year stayed suspension.

6. Richard Michalak (FFN 419391): The Board adopted a stipulation agreement and consent order whereby Richard Michalak's teaching licenses are subject to a one year stayed suspension.

7. Jason Valentine (FFN 465123): The Board adopted a stipulation agreement and consent order whereby Jason Valentine's teaching license is subject to a two year stayed suspension.

8. Lindsey Liu (FFN 1024728): The Board granted the Educator Ethics Committee's reconsideration motion and reduced the penalty the Board imposed on Lindsey Liu's license last month from an active suspension ending January 23, 2027, to a stayed suspension ending January 23, 2027.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Arts Steering Committee Update

Steve Rollin, PELSB Rulemaking Attorney, presented the music advisory group deliberations and concerns for the three options. Options based on the music advisory group's findings were outlined.

MOTION: Payne moved to pursue the creation of a single PK-12 Music license with specialization embedded in the standards in alignment with the Board's rulemaking calendar. Wood seconded the motion.

VOTE: Aye: Payne, Saloka, Stumpf, Toledo, Wood, Lingofelt, Trask, Yang, Hoelscher.
No: Shoemaker, Aho.
RESULT: The motion passed.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Toledo moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Shoemaker seconded the motion.

VOTE: All aye.
RESULT: The motion passed.

BOARD IN RECESS 12:24 – 12:45

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

SPED Advisory Group

Dr. Yelena Bailey, PELSB Executive Director, outlined the licenses reviewed for potential change by the Special Education Licensure Advisory Group, licenses that had the most interest, and the advisory group's recommendations.

MOTION: Shoemaker moved to pursue the creation of a moderate-to-severe/profound, cross-categorical special education license in alignment with the Board's rulemaking calendar. Saloka seconded the motion.

VOTE: Aye: Payne, Saloka, Shoemaker, Stumpf, Toledo, Wood, Lingofelt, Trask, Aho, Hoelscher. Yang did not vote.
RESULT: The motion passed.

Microcredentials

Chair Payne presented that the topic of microcredentials has been increasing in education and related fields, higher education institutions, and policy making in other states.

MOTION: Shoemaker moved to add support for a microcredentials task force to the Board's 2026 legislative priorities. Toledo seconded the motion.
VOTE: All aye.
RESULT: The motion passed.

Board Training Summary

Amy Aho, PELSB Vice Chair, gave a summary of the January 22 board member retreat training sessions. Session topics included: Building a High-Performance Board, Microcredentials, and Public Relations.

NEW BUSINESS

Fiscal Year 2027 Calendar

Dr. Bailey presented the proposed fiscal year 2027 board meeting dates.

REPORTS

COMMITTEES & SUBCOMMITTEES

i. Executive Committee

The committee met on February 11 to approve the board meeting agenda. The next meeting is on March 11.

ii. Licensing Committee

The committee met on February 17 to approve cross-curricular delivery permissions, discretionary variance requests, and deny one tiered license. The next meeting is on March 17.

iii. Teacher Preparation Committee

The committee met on February 6. All items are on the consent agenda. The next meeting is on March 9.

iv. Legislative Committee

Chair Payne noted that Dr. Bailey presented the Annual Agency Update to the Senate Policy Committee.

v. Increase Teachers of Color and Indigenous Teachers Committee

The committee will be discussing the recent MDE report, Summary Report: Increasing Teachers of Color and American Indian Teachers in Minnesota.

vi. Standards and Rules Advisory Committee

The committee met on February 5 to discuss microcredentials as well as MDE's recent report.

Staff Report

Dr. Bailey highlighted community partner meetings from the previous month and noted that the legislative session has begun.

Chair Report

Chair Payne noted NASDTAC held a webinar on February 13 featuring Minnesota's work in teacher preparation and literacy.

ADJOURN

Chair Payne adjourned the meeting at 1:25 pm.

Appendix A: CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVE MINUTES

Approve Minutes from January 23, 2026, board meeting.

UNIT APPROVALS

	Unit	Teacher Preparation Committee Recommendation
a.	Concordia College Moorhead	Continuing approval with focus

PROGRAM APPROVALS

Martin Luther College

	Program	Teacher Preparation Committee Recommendation
i.	Communication Arts and Literature	Probationary
ii.	Mathematics	Probationary
iii.	Instrumental and Classroom Music	Probationary
iv.	Vocal and Classroom Music	Probationary
v.	World Languages and Cultures: Modern: Spanish K-12	Probationary
vi.	Special Education: Academic and Behavioral Strategist	Probationary
vii.	Special Education: Learning Disabilities	Probationary

LICENSES AND PERMISSIONS

None.

TEACHER PREPARATION – DISCRETIONARY VARIANCES

	Unit	Rule	Teacher Preparation Committee Recommendation
a.	Augsburg University	8705.0200 (field experience definition)	Approve with conditions
b.	Gustavus Adolphus College	8705.1010, Subp. 3D(2) (split into no more than two placements)	Approve with conditions
c.	University of Minnesota Twin Cities	8705.1010, Sub. 4F (Board-adopted performance assessment)	Approve