

Board Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Payne called the meeting to order at 9:30 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
Glazell Toledo (Virtual)
Rochelle Dyer (Virtual)
Liana Lingofelt
Nathan Wood

Board members absent:

Janie Yang

Board staff (present at various times):

Dr. Yelena Bailey, Executive Director
Debby Odell, Licensing and Operations Manager
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)
Drew Bredeson, Assistant Attorney General
(Virtual)
David Cullen, Assistant Attorney General (Virtual)

APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING AGENDA

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

VOTE: All aye.

RESULT: The motion passed.

ORAL ARGUMENTS

The board heard oral arguments in the matter of a license application. The board was advised by Assistant Attorney General Nathan Hartshorn. Oral arguments were made by Assistant Attorney General Drew Bredeson. Neither the applicant, or their attorney, were present.

MOTION: Aho moved to enter Closed Session. Shoemaker 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)

MOTION: Trask moved to move the Chair from Payne to Aho. Stumpf seconded the motion.

VOTE: All aye.

RESULT: The motion passed.

Acting Chair Aho announced Board action from Closed Session as follows:

1. **Mitchell Armstrong (FFN 499136):** The Board adopted an updated stipulation agreement and consent order to fix a clerical error.
2. **Bryan Willis Elyea-Wheeler (FFN 496640):** The Board adopted a stipulation and consent order whereby Bryan Elyea-Wheeler's teaching license is voluntarily surrendered.
3. **David Kelsey (FFN 455082):** The Board adopted a stipulation and consent order whereby David Kelsey's teaching license is subject to a one year stayed suspension.
4. **Tonopah Nee (FFN 500361):** The Board adopted a stipulation agreement and consent order whereby Tonopah Nee's teaching license is subject to a one year stayed suspension.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Saloka moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Wood seconded the motion.

VOTE: All aye.

RESULT: The motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Johanna Huang, We as One Education

Requested support for increasing retention of Chinese language teachers as well as identifying challenges currently impacting teachers like budget reductions and cuts.

Tasha Zerna, We as One Education

Spoke of benefits for children enrolled in language immersion schools.

Alfredo Duplat, Minnesota State University

Requested to form coalition to protect jobs of world language teachers and support dual licensure path for world languages programs.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Fiscal Year 2027 Calendar

Dr. Yelena Bailey, PELSB Executive Director, presented the proposed dates for Fiscal Year 2027 monthly board meetings.

MOTION: Trask moved to adopt the calendar as presented. Shoemaker seconded the motion.

VOTE: All aye.

RESULT: The motion passed.

Legislative Update

Dr. Lucy Payne, PELSB Board Member, presented legislative priorities that have been reviewed and priorities currently up for review at the capitol during the legislative session.

NEW BUSINESS

Rulemaking Schedule Update

Steve Rollin, PELSB Rulemaking Attorney, outlined current and future rulemaking projects.

Board members discussed the Speech Language Pathology license and how it is affected by a recent change to the Minnesota Department of Health's Speech Language Pathology Assistant license. Board members also asked about the Social Studies licensure review being so far out.

REPORTS

COMMITTEES & SUBCOMMITTEES

i. Executive Committee

The committee met on March 11 to approve the board meeting agenda. The next meeting is on April 8.

ii. Licensing Committee

The committee met on March 17 to approve cross-curricular delivery permissions discretionary variances. The next meeting is on April 14.

iii. Teacher Preparation Committee

The committee did not meet as only one item on the consent agenda had precedent and was moved forward. The next meeting is on April 6.

iv. Legislative Committee

No report.

v. Increase Teachers of Color and Indigenous Teachers Committee

The committee is working to schedule the next meeting.

vi. Standards and Rules Advisory Committee

No report.

Staff Report

Dr. Bailey highlighted community engagement within the last month.

Chair Report

Acting Chair Aho restated the active engagement of Dr. Bailey and Dr. Payne during the current legislative session.

ADJOURN

Acting Chair Aho adjourned the meeting at 10:43 am.

Appendix A: CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVE MINUTES

Approve Minutes from February 20, 2026, board meeting.

UNIT APPROVALS

None

PROGRAM APPROVALS

Southeast Service Cooperative

	Program	Staff Recommendation
i.	English as a Second Language	Initial Approval (second cycle)

LICENSES AND PERMISSIONS

None

TEACHER PREPARATION – DISCRETIONARY VARIANCES

	Unit/Program	Rule	Staff Recommendation
a.	Southwest Minnesota State University	8705.1010, Subp 3 (B) (Cooperating teacher qualifications)	Approve