

Board Meeting Minutes

May 15, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Payne called the meeting to order at 9:32 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
Rochelle Dyer (Virtual)
Janie Yang (Virtual)
Liana Lingofelt
Nathan Wood

Board staff (present at various times):

Dr. Yelena Bailey, Executive Director
Caren Custer, Data and Compliance Specialist
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)

Board members absent:

Glazell Toledo

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 Mr. Ruben Aponte's license. The board was advised by Assistant Attorney General Nathan Hartshorn. Oral arguments were made by Assistant Attorney General David Cullen. Neither Mr. Aponte, or their attorney, were present.

The board heard oral arguments in the matter of Mr. Khalid Mutair S. Alruwaili's license. The board was advised by Assistant Attorney General Nathan Hartshorn. Oral arguments were made by Assistant Attorney General David Cullen. Neither Mr. Alruwaili, or their attorney, were present.

MOTION: Dyer 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.

REPORT OUT: DISCIPLINE MATTERS (Open Session)

Chair Payne announced Board action from Closed Session as follows:

1. **Khalid Mutair S. Alruwaili (FFN 1035821)**: The Board adopted findings of fact, conclusions of law, and order whereby Khalid Alruwaili's teaching licenses are revoked.
2. **Ruben Aponte (FFN 488773)**: The Board adopted findings of fact, conclusions of law, and order whereby Ruben Aponte's teaching licenses are revoked.
3. **James Hanse (FFN 1014571)**: The Board adopted findings of fact, conclusions of law, and order, whereby James Hanse's renewal application is denied.
4. **Sarah Johnson (FFN 477918)**: The Board adopted a stipulation agreement and consent order whereby Sarah Johnson's teaching licenses are voluntarily surrendered.
5. **Jennifer McMacken (FFN 1039260)**: The Board adopted a stipulation agreement and consent order whereby Jennifer McMacken's teaching license is subject to a one year stayed suspension.
6. **Desiree Richardson (FFN 504095)**: The Board adopted a stipulation agreement and consent order whereby Desiree Richardson's teaching licenses are suspended.
7. **Jonathan Zoellmer (FFN 299631)**: The Board adopted a stipulation agreement and consent order whereby Jonathan Zoellmer's teaching license is revoked.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Aho moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Trask seconded the motion.

VOTE: All aye.

RESULT: The motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Heritage Language Rulemaking

Dr. Yelena Bailey, PELSB Executive Director, outlined considerations and broad application implications that PELSB staff have been reviewing for heritage language standards.

Science Licensure Work Group

Dr. Bailey presented data that board members requested at the April meeting.

MOTION: Shoemaker moved to recommend the creation of a 5-12 Physical Science Licensure and a 5-12 Biological Science Licensure, as well as allowing legacy licenses to teacher 5-8 science. Aho seconded the motion.

MOTION: Lingofelt moved to amend the motion to keep 5-8 science license. Dyer seconded the motion.

VOTE: Aye: Dyer, Lingofelt, Payne, Saloka, Stumpf, Trask.

No: Aho, Wood, Hoelscher, Shoemaker, Yang.

RESULT: The motion passed.

MOTION: Stumpf moved to amend the amended motion to have the drafting group allow to explore no more than two licenses for physical and biological sciences and to report back before final drafting. Wood seconded the motion.

VOTE: Aye: Aho, Dyer, Wood, Lingofelt, Hoelscher, Chair, Saloka, Stumpf, Trask, Yang.

No: Shoemaker.

RESULT: The motion passed.

Role call vote on the amended main motion.

VOTE: All aye.

RESULT: The motion passed.

BOARD IN RECESS 11:35 – 11:45

NEW BUSINESS

Licensure Compliance Report

Caren Custer, PELSB Data and Compliance Specialist, presented STAR data, highlighting how it compares to the previous school year data.

Board Bylaws

Dr. Lucy Payne, PELSB Board Chair, presented a new election schedule draft within Board Bylaws.

Board members also asked about committee appointments.

Board Elections

Addressed board elections business item during previous business item.

REPORTS

COMMITTEES & SUBCOMMITTEES

i. Executive Committee

The committee met on May 6 to approve the board meeting agenda and finalize the board retreat agenda. The next meeting is on June 17.

ii. Licensing Committee

The committee met on May 8 to review cross-curricular delivery permissions and discretionary variance requests. The next meeting is on June 16.

iii. Teacher Preparation Committee

The committee met on May 4. All items are on the consent agenda. The next meeting is on June 15.

iv. Legislative Committee

No report.

v. Increase Teachers of Color and Indigenous Teachers Committee

No report.

vi. Standards and Rules Advisory Committee

The committee met on May 1 to discuss paid student teaching. Representative Mueller, Representative Mary Frances Clardy, and Senator Boldon were in attendance.

Staff Report

Dr. Bailey highlighted community engagement within the last month, board members attending the Senate Confirmation Hearing, and that teacher surveys would be sent out.

Chair Report

Chair Payne outlined information for the June board meeting.

ADJOURN

Chair Payne adjourned the meeting at 12:06 pm.

Appendix A: CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVE MINUTES

Approve Minutes from April 17, 2026, board meeting.

UNIT APPROVALS

	Unit	Review Team Recommendation
i	Gustavus Adolphus College	Continuing Approval with Focus
ii	St. Catherine University	Continuing Approval

PROGRAM APPROVALS

Bethel University

	Program	Staff Recommendation
i	Elementary Education (CAPS/GS)	Initial Approval

Concordia University St. Paul

	Program	Staff Recommendation
i	Communication Arts and Literature	Continuing Approval
ii	Early Childhood Education	Continuing Approval
iii	Elementary Education	Continuing Approval
iv	Elementary Education	Continuing Approval
v	English as a Second Language	Continuing Approval
vi	Health	Continuing Approval
vii	Mathematics	Continuing Approval
viii	Physical Education	Continuing Approval
ix	Science: Chemistry	Continuing Approval
x	Science: Life Science	Continuing Approval
xi	Social Studies	Continuing Approval
xii	Classroom and Instrumental Music	Continuing Approval
xiii	Classroom and Vocal Music	Continuing Approval
xiv	Visual Arts	Continuing Approval

Crown College

	Program	Staff Recommendation
i	Communication Arts and Literature	Continuing Approval
ii	Elementary Education	Continuing Approval
iii	Middle Level Communication Arts and Literature	Continuing Approval
iv	Middle Level Math	Continuing Approval
v	Middle Level Science	Continuing Approval
vi	Middle Level Social Studies	Continuing Approval
vii	Preprimary	Continuing Approval
viii.	Social Studies	Continuing Approval

St. Catherine University

	Program	Staff Recommendation
i	Early Childhood Education	Continuing Approval

University of Minnesota Duluth

	Program	Staff Recommendation
i.	Early Childhood (undergraduate)	Initial Approval
ii.	Elementary Education (undergraduate)	Continuing approval with focus (accept interim report)
iii.	Special Education: Academic and Behavioral Strategist (undergraduate)	Continuing approval with focus (accept interim report)

University of Minnesota Twin Cities

	Program	Staff Recommendation
i.	Early Childhood	Continuing approval (accept interim report)
ii.	Elementary (DLL Program, Immersion)	Continuing approval with focus (interim report accepted)
iii.	Elementary (Elementary PostBac)	Continuing approval (accept interim report)
iv.	Elementary (MNGOT- MN Grow Your Own Teachers)	Continuing approval (accept interim report)
v.	Special Education: Deaf Hard of Hearing	Continuing approval (accept interim report)
vi.	Special Education: Oral Aural	Continuing approval (accept interim report)

LICENSES AND PERMISSIONS

None

TEACHER PREPARATION – DISCRETIONARY VARIANCES

None