

Board Meeting Minutes

April 17, 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 – left during new business)
Jennifer Trask
Justin Hoelscher
Rochelle Dyer (Virtual)
Janie Yang (Virtual)
Liana Lingofelt
Nathan Wood (Virtual)

Board members absent:

Glazell Toledo

Board staff (present at various times):

Dr. Yelena Bailey, Executive Director
Debby Odell, Licensing and Operations Manager
Erin Doan, Director of Educator Preparation and Pathways
Steve Rollin, Rulemaking Attorney
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)

APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING AGENDA

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

VOTE: All aye.

RESULT: The motion passed.

MOTION: Aho 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. Christopher Ashton (FFN 1037716): The Board adopted findings of fact, conclusions of law, and order, whereby Christopher Ashton's renewal application is denied.
2. Leonard Cain (FFN 517726): The Board adopted findings of fact, conclusions of law, and order, whereby Leonard Cain's renewal application is denied.
3. Joshua Colvin (FFN 436993): The Board adopted a stipulation agreement and consent order whereby Joshua Colvin's teaching license is subject to a one year stayed suspension.
4. Dawn Hinrichs (FFN 349958): The Board adopted a stipulation agreement and consent order whereby Dawn Hinrich's teaching licenses are subject to a two year stayed suspension.
5. Kevin Sommers (FFN 482266): The Board adopted a stipulation agreement and consent order whereby Kevin Sommers's teaching licenses are subject to an 18 month stayed suspension.
6. Edward Song (FFN 515261): The Board adopted a stipulation agreement and consent order whereby Edward Song's renewal application is denied.
7. Kelsey Tacheny (FFN 477085): The Board adopted a stipulation agreement and consent order whereby Kelsey Tacheny's teaching license is subject to a one year stayed suspension.
8. Mylai Tenner (FFN 377319): The Board adopted findings of fact, conclusions of law, and order, whereby Mylai Tenner's renewal application is denied.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

VOTE: All aye.

RESULT: The motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kate Lynne Snyder, Education Minnesota

Voiced concerns for the proposed legislative language of Tier 2 licensure pathway allowing teacher preparation programs approved by states other than Minnesota.

Laura Mogelson, MN Association of Colleges for Teacher Education

Requested assistance to remove proposed bill language allowing Tier 2 licensure candidates to enroll in out of state teacher preparation programs that have not been approved by Minnesota.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Rulemaking Schedule Update

Steve Rollin, PELSB Rulemaking Attorney, presented the updated rulemaking schedule.

MOTION: Trask moved to approve the schedule as presented. Aho seconded the motion.

VOTE: All aye.

RESULT: The motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Science Licensure Work Group

Mr. Rollin outlined the work group discussions for the different science licenses and proposed recommendations.

Five members of the working group gave comments outlining their professional connection to the licensure field and the impacts of potential change. Those that spoke included:

- Rob Danneker, Director of Human Resources, Monticello Public Schools
- Kent Gordon, Board Member-MN Earth Science Teachers' Association, Earth Science Teacher, North St. Paul Maplewood Oakdale
- Haley Kalina, Instructional Coach, Alexandria Public Schools/ President, Minnesota Science Teachers Association
- John Olson, Science Education, Metro State Univ., retired from MDE
- Dana Smith, MnSTA Earth & Space Science Discipline Director; ESTEP Coordinator

Board members discussed the circumstances for teachers that teach multiple topics would either need multiple licenses or a general science license. They also discussed how the general science licensure route would require undergraduate programs to be reworked.

BOARD IN RECESS 11:24 – 11:34

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Heritage Language Rulemaking

Alex Vitrella, Education Evolving, and Deqa Muhidin, ESL teacher, spoke on work pertaining to heritage language rulemaking, first highlighting the work that has already been done and then proposing to create a new heritage language license.

Board members asked questions on how the license would fit in with existing licenses.

REPORTS

COMMITTEES & SUBCOMMITTEES

i. Executive Committee

The committee met on April 8 to discuss the board meeting agenda and review the June retreat agenda draft. The next meeting is on May 6.

ii. Licensing Committee

The committee met on April 14 to review discretionary variance requests and tier licenses. The next meeting is on May 5.

iii. Teacher Preparation Committee

The committee met on April 6. All items are on the consent agenda. The next meeting is on May 4.

iv. Legislative Committee

No report.

v. Increase Teachers of Color and Indigenous Teachers Committee

The committee met on April 1.

vi. Standards and Rules Advisory Committee

The next meeting is on May 1. Representative Mueller will attend to present proposed language for paid student teaching.

Staff Report

Dr. Bailey highlighted community partner meetings from the previous month.

Chair Report

Chair Payne recognized additional work board members do each month besides attending board meetings.

ADJOURN

Chair Payne adjourned the meeting at 12:22 pm.

Appendix A: CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVE MINUTES

Approve Minutes from March 20, 2026, board meeting.

UNIT APPROVALS

None.

PROGRAM APPROVALS

Bemidji State University

	Program	Staff Recommendation
i	Communication Arts and Literature (Baccalaureate)	Continuing approval
ii	Communication Arts and Literature (Post Baccalaureate)	Continuing approval
iii	Health (Baccalaureate)	Continuing approval
iv	Health (Post Baccalaureate)	Continuing approval
v	Physical Education (Baccalaureate)	Continuing approval
vi	Physical Education (Post Baccalaureate)	Continuing approval

Bethel University

	Program	Staff Recommendation
i	Communication Arts and Literature (CAPS/GS)	Continuing approval
ii	Middle Level Communication Arts and Literature	Continuing approval
iii	Middle Level Math	Continuing approval
iv	Middle Level Social Studies	Continuing approval
v	Special Education: ABS (CAPS/GS)	Continuing approval
vi	Special Education: ASD (CAPS/GS)	Continuing approval
vii	Special Education: DD (CAPS/GS)	Continuing approval
viii	Special Education: EBD (CAPS/GS)	Continuing approval
ix	Work Based Learning	Continuing approval

College of St. Benedict and St. John's University

	<i>Program</i>	<i>Staff Recommendation</i>
<i>i</i>	<i>Communication Arts and Literature</i>	<i>Continuing approval</i>
<i>ii</i>	<i>Elementary Education</i>	<i>Continuing approval</i>
<i>iii</i>	<i>English as a Second Language</i>	<i>Continuing approval</i>
<i>iv</i>	<i>Mathematics</i>	<i>Continuing approval</i>
<i>v</i>	<i>Middle Level Communication Arts and Literature</i>	<i>Continuing approval</i>
<i>vi</i>	<i>Middle Level Math</i>	<i>Continuing approval</i>
<i>vii</i>	<i>Middle Level Science</i>	<i>Continuing approval</i>
<i>viii</i>	<i>Music – Instrumental and Classroom</i>	<i>Continuing approval</i>
<i>ix</i>	<i>Music – Vocal and Classroom</i>	<i>Continuing approval</i>
<i>x</i>	<i>Science - Chemistry</i>	<i>Continuing approval</i>
<i>xi</i>	<i>Science – General Science</i>	<i>Continuing approval</i>
<i>xii</i>	<i>Science – Life Science</i>	<i>Continuing approval</i>
<i>xiii</i>	<i>Science - Physics</i>	<i>Continuing approval</i>
<i>xiv</i>	<i>Social Studies</i>	<i>Continuing approval</i>
<i>xv</i>	<i>Visual Arts</i>	<i>Continuing approval</i>
<i>xvi</i>	<i>World Languages and Cultures: K-8: Spanish</i>	<i>Continuing approval</i>
<i>xvii</i>	<i>World Languages and Cultures: K-12: Spanish</i>	<i>Continuing approval</i>

Minnesota State University Mankato

	<i>Program</i>	<i>Staff Recommendation</i>
<i>i</i>	<i>Elementary Education (undergraduate)</i>	<i>Continuing approval</i>

St. Cloud State University

	Program	Staff Recommendation
i	Early Childhood Education	Continuing approval with focus (accept interim report)

University of St. Thomas

	Program	Staff Recommendation
i	Reading	Continuing approval (accept interim report)

LICENSES AND PERMISSIONS

None.

TEACHER PREPARATION – DISCRETIONARY VARIANCES

	Unit/Program	Rule	Teacher Preparation Recommendation
a.	Bethel University	8705.1010, Subp. 3C(2)a (Face to face student teaching)	Approve as requested
b.	Southeast Service Cooperative	8705.1010, Subp. 6A(2) (administer program as approved)	Approve with conditions
c.	University of Minnesota Twin Cities (Music)	8705.1010, Subp. 3C(1)a	Approve as requested