

Board Meeting Minutes

September 18, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Aho called the meeting to order at 9:30 am. Board Meeting was held in person and via WebEx.

Board members present:

Amy Aho, Board Chair
Dr. Gift Saloka
Dr. Kurt Stumpf (Virtual)
Jennifer Trask
Justin Hoelscher
Rochelle Dyer
Liana Lingofelt
Nathan Wood
Dr. Sapna Thapa
Abby Marta
Susie Kaufman

Board members absent:

Brandee Corgard
Glazell Espiritu

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
Kat Anthony-Wigle, Data and Policy 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. Wood seconded the motion.

VOTE: All aye.

RESULT: The motion passed.

ORAL ARGUMENTS

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

MOTION: Hoelscher 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 Aho announced Board action from Closed Session as follows:

1. **David Bezat (FFN 516040):** The Board adopted a stipulation agreement and consent order whereby David Bezat's teaching license is subject to a two year stayed suspension.
2. **Daniel Honigs (FFN 383796):** The Board adopted a stipulation agreement and consent order whereby Daniel Honigs's teaching license is subject to a one year stayed suspension.
3. **James Gillispie (FFN 1005842):** The Board adopted a stipulation agreement and consent order whereby James Gillispie's teaching license is revoked.
4. **Debra Luetmer (FFN 465700):** The Board adopted a stipulation agreement and consent order whereby Debra Luetmer's teaching license is revoked.
5. **Christina Mozey (FFN 417598):** The Board adopted a stipulation agreement and consent order whereby Christina Mozey's teaching licenses are subject to a one year stayed suspension.
6. **Brad Prochaska (FFN 1032923):** The Board adopted findings of fact, conclusions of law, and order, whereby Brad Prochaska's teaching license is suspended.
7. **Dimitri Russell (FFN 361746):** The Board adopted a stipulation agreement and consent order whereby Dimitri Russell's teaching license is revoked.
8. **Heidi Schwartz (FFN 1023411):** The Board adopted a stipulation agreement and consent order whereby Heidi Schwartz's teaching license is subject to a one year stayed suspension.
9. **Brooke Sloan (FFN 323410):** The Board adopted a stipulation agreement and consent order whereby Brooke Sloan's teaching licenses are subject to a two year stayed suspension.
10. **William Way (FFN 1009895):** The Board adopted findings of fact, conclusions of law, and order, whereby William Way's renewal application is denied.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

VOTE: All aye.

RESULT: The motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cherry Cramer

Voiced concerns on the closing of family and consumer sciences program at Minnesota State University-Mankato.

John Olson

Spoke on how temporary implementations are needed for middle school science teachers while new rulemaking is implemented.

Jeremie Bellenir

Noted that he will be assisting to present pilot updates at the October board meeting and spoke in favor of CPAST.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Speech Language Pathologist Rulemaking

Dr. Bailey, PELSB Executive Director, presented the proposed rule change to strike the tier 2 requirements.

MOTION: Trask moved to open rulemaking with the intention of striking the Tier 2 requirements for a Speech Language Pathologist license. Hoelscher seconded the motion.

VOTE: All aye.

RESULT: The motion passed.

Science Licensure

Steve Rollin, PELSB Rulemaking Attorney, outlined recent changes for science licensure and how current science teachers have reached out for the possibility to teach 5-8 science while rulemaking is in process.

NEW BUSINESS

Board-Adopted Performance Assessment Feedback

Dr. Caroline Maguire, Minnesota Association of Colleges for Teacher Education Executive Director, and Dr. Zane Sheehan, Lakes Country Service Cooperative Director of Teacher Education, presented concerns with the use of edTPA. The alternative of using CPAST was presented.

Parliamentarian called for point of order.

BOARD IN RECESS 11:30 – 11:41

Board Legislative Priorities

Dr. Bailey outlined what has passed and has not passed based on each of the four legislative priorities areas.

2026 Tiered Licensure & Permissions Report

Kat Anthony-Wigle, PELSB Data & Policy Specialist, demonstrated the new areas for information within the data center on the PELSB website.

REPORTS

COMMITTEES & SUBCOMMITTEES

i. Executive Committee

The committee met on September 8 to approve the board meeting agenda and outcome goals for the accreditation committee in terms of teacher prep assessment. The next meeting is on September 28.

ii. Licensing Committee

The committee met on August 20 and September 10 to approve cross-curricular delivery permissions, discretionary variances, out of field permissions, and tiered licenses. The next meeting is on September 30.

iii. Teacher Preparation Committee

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

iv. Legislative Committee

The committee met on August 17 to discuss legislative priorities and on September 14 to hear presentations from community partners. The next meeting is on October 5.

v. Increase Teachers of Color and Indigenous Teachers Committee

The committee is working to finalize the next meeting date.

vi. Standards and Rules Advisory Committee

No report.

Staff Report

Dr. Bailey welcomed new staff joining the PELSB team: Dani Thomas (Director of Data & Policy).

Chair Report

Chair Aho thanked PELSB staff for their hard work over summer, welcomed the new board staff, and announced Susie Kaufman as the public member.

ADJOURN

Chair Aho adjourned the meeting at 12:21 pm.

Appendix A: CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVE MINUTES

Approve Minutes from August 14, 2026, board meeting.

UNIT APPROVALS

None

PROGRAM APPROVALS

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

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

St. Cloud State University

	Program	Staff Recommendation
i	School Counseling	Approval

LICENSES AND PERMISSIONS

	Teacher	Rule	Board Licensing Committee Recommendation	District
a.	Marisa Sabolik	8710.0320 Out of Field subp. 2. A.	Approve	West Central Area
b.	Angela Cardinal	8710.0320 Out of Field subp. 2. A.	Approve with conditions	Watertown-Mayer
c.	Tracee Foote-Adams	8710.0320 Out of Field subp. 2. A.	Approve	Minneapolis Public
d.	Carlee Wolf	8710.0320 Out-of-Field Permission Subp. 6.	Approve	Barnum Public Schools
e.	Julie Nicklason	8710.0320 Out-of-Field Permission Subp. 6.	Approve	Nevis School District
f.	Elizabeth Langlois	8710.0320 Out-of-Field Permission Subp. 6.	Approve	Spring Lake Park
g.	Jaxson Rohman	8710.0320 Out-of-Field Permission Subp. 6.	Approve	Martin County West
h.	Alicia Slagle	8710.0320 Out-of-Field Permission Subp. 6.	Approve	Red Wing
i.	Shauntel Zeman	8710.0320 Out-of-Field Permission Subp. 6.	Approve	Kelliher Public School
j.	Justine Reinhardt	8710.0320 Out-of-Field Permission Subp. 6.	Approve	St. Charles Public
k.	Courtney Wilkinson	8710.0320 Out-of-Field Permission Subp. 6.	Approve with Conditions	North Shore Community
l.	Regina LaPenta	8710.0320 Out-of-Field Permission Subp. 6.	Approve	Eden Prairie
m.	Markayla Schorr	8710.0320 Out-of-Field Permission Subp. 6.	Approve	Kasson-Mantorville
n.	Jackie Larson	8710.0320 Out of Field subp. 2. A	Approve	Windom Public
o.	Jamie Olson	8710.0320 Out of Field subp. 2. A	Approve with Conditions	Belle Plaine Public
p.	Kelly Lillibridge	8710.0320 Out of Field subp. 2. A	Approve	South Washington County
q.	Lina Mraz	8710.0320 Out of Field subp. 2. A	Approve with Conditions	Spring Lake Park
r.	Lisa Pavel	8710.0320 Out of Field subp. 2. A	Approve with Conditions	Minnesota Connections Academy
s.	Keri Nestler	8710.0320 Out of Field subp. 2. A	Approve	Rochester Public

t.	Jessica Matt	8710.0320 Out of Field subp. 2. A	Approve	Windom Public
u.	Austin Thom	8710.0320 Out of Field subp. 2. A	Approve	Cannon Valley
v.	Brittany Wentzel	8710.0320 Out of Field subp. 2. A	Approve	Cannon Valley
w.	Colin Wilson	8710.0320 Out of Field subp. 2. A	Approve	Windom Public
x.	Courtney Wilinon	8710.0320 Out of Field subp. 2. A	Approve	North Shore
y.	Tracey Holecek	8710.0320 Out of Field subp. 2. A	Approve with Conditions	Duluth Public
z.	Kara Brink	8710.0320 Out of Field subp. 2. A	Approve	Sartell-St. Stephen
aa.	Cassandra Tody	8710.0320 Out-of-Field Permission Subp. 6.	Approve	South Washington County
bb.	Madeline Hill	8710.0320 Out-of-Field Permission Subp. 6.	Approve	Intermediate School District 287
cc.	Tiffany Flesner	8710.0320 Out-of-Field Permission Subp. 6.	Approve	Benton Sterns

TEACHER PREPARATION – DISCRETIONARY VARIANCES

	Unit/Program	Rule	Teacher Preparation Recommendation
a.	Hamline University	8705.1010, Subp. 3B1b	Approve
a.	Minnesota State University Mankato	8705.1010, Subp. 3C2	Approve with conditions
b.	St. Cloud State University	8705.1010, Subp. 5	Approve with conditions
c.	Walden University	8705.1010, Subp. 3C1b	Approve