Alaska State Professional Teaching Practices Commission

550 W. 7th Avenue, Suite 1236

Anchorage AK 99501

ADOPTED MINUTES

April 23-24, 2020

**Call to Order:** Diane Kardash called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. There were 8 members present on the conference call so there was a quorum.

**Members Present:** Vice Chair Diane Kardash, Tony Graham, Kent Runion, Janine Todd, Tammy Van Wyhe, Jamie Burgess, Lem Wheeles, Adam Reid. All members attended telephonically.

**Members Absent:** Chair Maureen van Wagner

**Agenda Approval:** Lem Wheeles moved and Tony Graham seconded to approve the agenda as presented. The agenda was unanimously approved.

**Introductions/Updates from Communities**: Members re-introduced themselves. Jamie Burgess and Adam Reid introduced themselves to the Commission as new members.

**Public Comment:** There was no public comment.

Judge Kennedy joined the meeting to adjudicate the hearing.

**DELIBERATIVE SESSION**: Tammy van Wyhe moved and Janine Todd seconded to go into deliberative session as permitted by AS 44.62.310 (b) and AS 44.62.310(d) for the purpose of making a decision in an adjudicatory matter, Case #19-45. The motion passed unanimously. The commission moved into deliberative session at 8:51 am.

It was moved by Jamie Burgess and seconded by Kent Runion to move out of deliberative session at 9:33 am. The motion passed.

PTPC Case 19-45: The Commission accepted the mediated stipulation accepting a 1 year suspension of the Professional Teaching and authorizing the vice-chair to sign the order.

Jamie Burgess expressed her desire to see students protected and that the actions of the Commission should reflect that mission.

Moved: Lem Wheeles Second: Kent Runion

AYE

Tony Graham

Kent Runion

Diane Kardash

Janine Todd

Tammy Van Wyhe

Lem Wheeles

Adam Reid

Jamie Burgess

NAY

Motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes:** It was moved by Tony Graham and seconded by Janine Todd to approve the January 30-31, 2020 minutes. The motion passed.

**Executive Director’s Reports:** Melody Mann delivered her reports in the following areas.

Melody explained the process of how orders are disseminated to the NASDETC, Department of Education, and the complainant. The orders are also available if requested through the PTPC office.

Activity Report: Melody gave a written report of her ongoing activities. She explained the process of determining how cases are investigated or if it is appropriate for the PTPC or another agency to investigate. She is continuing to investigate cases, although this process is slow due to the ongoing pandemic.

Background checks are continuing to be done. There are many fewer cases than at this time last year.

Melody has not done any presentations, but there are some scheduled for later in the spring and fall.

Financial Report: Melody presented the current financial report to the Commission. There have been few changes in the financial status of the Commission. There was a question about unused travel funds and Melody will find the answer.

Case Report: The commission was provided a summary of the cases the PTPC office has investigated since the last meeting.

A motion was made by Tony Graham and seconded by Jamie Burgess to move into Deliberative/Executive Session at 10:25 am. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Jamie Burgess and seconded by Tony Graham to move out of Deliberative/Executive Session at 2:53 pm. The motion passed.

**DEED Report:** Sondra Meredith reported on teacher certification. The office still has people working on certifications and answering questions. She reported that because of the ongoing crisis some regulations for certification will be waived. Competency exams, required classes, and other things will be waived for the next school year. Teachers may receive emergency certification during this time. Student teachings will be waived for students in the spring semester and teacher preparation programs can recommend them for certification. Teacher evaluation regulations are also temporarily suspended.

Sondra spoke about fingerprinting and certification. The department is working on a way to complete background checks without the need for fingerprints.

Sondra also will be meeting with human resource directors about opportunities for teacher recruiting.

A motion was made by Lem Wheeles and seconded by Tammy van Wyhe to move into Deliberative/Executive Session at 3:27 pm. The motion passed.

**The meeting was recessed at 3:42 pm.**

**Diane Kardash called the meeting back into order at 8:31 am**

**Members Present:** Vice Chair Diane Kardash, Tony Graham, Kent Runion, Janine Todd, Tammy Van Wyhe, Jamie Burgess, Lem Wheeles, Adam Reid

**Members Absent:** Chair Maureen van Wagner

A motion was made by Lem Wheeles and seconded by Tony Graham to move out of Deliberative/Executive Session at 1:07 pm. The motion passed.

**Action Items**

Professional Teaching Practices Commission Cases

PTPC Case 19-45: The Commission accepted the one-year suspension of the Professional Teaching Certificate held by Matthew A. Willette effective August 1, 2019.

Moved: Tammy van Wyhe Second: Kent Runion

AYE

Tony Graham

Kent Runion

Diane Kardash

Janine Todd

Tammy Van Wyhe

Lem Wheeles

Adam Reid

Jamie Burgess

NAY

Motion passed unanimously.

PTPC Case 20-03: The Commission accepted the one-year suspension of the Professional Teaching Certificate held by Jennifer Heisler.

Moved: Janine Todd Second: Jamie Burgess

AYE

Tony Graham

Kent Runion

Diane Kardash

Janine Todd

Tammy Van Wyhe

Lem Wheeles

Adam Reid

Jamie Burgess

NAY

Motion passed unanimously.

PTPC Case 20-21: The Commission accepted the stipulated agreement ordering a warning to an educator who holds a Professional Teaching Certificate.

Moved: Lem Wheeles Second: Kent Runion

AYE

Tony Graham

Kent Runion

Janine Todd

Tammy Van Wyhe

Lem Wheeles

Adam Reid

NAY

Jamie Burgess

Diane Kardash

Motion passed.

Jamie Burgess and Diane Kardash voiced concern that a warning was not a sufficient sanction.

Administrative Review PTPC Case 20-25: The Commission upheld staff’s decision to dismiss the case.

Moved: Tammy Van Wyhe Second: Tony Graham

AYE

Tony Graham

Kent Runion

Diane Kardash

Janine Todd

Tammy Van Wyhe

Lem Wheeles

Adam Reid

Jamie Burgess

NAY

Motion passed unanimously.

Administrative Review PTPC Case 20-26: The Commission upheld staff’s decision to dismiss the case.

Moved: Jamie Burgess Second: Kent Runion

AYE

Tony Graham

Kent Runion

Diane Kardash

Janine Todd

Tammy Van Wyhe

Lem Wheeles

Adam Reid

Jamie Burgess

NAY

Motion passed unanimously.

Administrative Review PTPC Case 20-28: The Commission upheld staff’s decision to dismiss the case.

Moved: Tammy van Wyhe Second: Lem Wheeles

AYE

Tony Graham

Kent Runion

Diane Kardash

Janine Todd

Tammy Van Wyhe

Lem Wheeles

Adam Reid

Jamie Burgess

NAY

Motion passed unanimously.

Administrative Review PTPC Case 20-37: The Commission upheld staff’s decision to dismiss the case.

Moved: Lem Wheeles Second: Janine Todd

AYE

Kent Runion

Diane Kardash

Janine Todd

Tammy Van Wyhe

Lem Wheeles

Adam Reid

Jamie Burgess

NAY

RECUSE

Tony Graham

Motion passed.

Administrative Review PTPC Case 20-38: The Commission upheld staff’s decision to dismiss the case.

Moved: Tammy van Wyhe Second: Jamie Burgess

AYE

Kent Runion

Diane Kardash

Janine Todd

Tammy Van Wyhe

Lem Wheeles

Adam Reid

Jamie Burgess

NAY

RECUSE

Tony Graham

Motion passed.

Administrative Review PTPC Case 20-39: The Commission upheld staff’s decision to dismiss the case.

Moved: Janine Todd Second: Adam Reid

AYE

Kent Runion

Diane Kardash

Janine Todd

Tammy Van Wyhe

Lem Wheeles

Adam Reid

Jamie Burgess

NAY

RECUSE

Tony Graham

Motion passed.

**Discussion Items**

Future Meeting Dates: The fall meeting will be October 19-20, 2020. The Winter meeting will be held January 28-29, 2021. The Spring meeting will be held April 15-16, 2021.

Executive Board Election: The following officers were chosen to take positions on the executive board: Chair Kent Runion, Vice Chair Lem Wheeles, and Secretary Jamie Burgess.

Executive Director Evaluation: The evaluation was discussed in executive/deliberative session.

PTPC Newsletter 2020: The 2020 newsletter has been published. Melody has updated the newsletter to change the number of sanctions issued. She asked for feedback regarding any changes or additions that may be made.

Departing Members: Maureen van Wagner was thanked for her service on the Commission and as chair.

Adjournment: Lem Wheeles moved and Tony Graham seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved. Diane Kardash adjourned the meeting at 2:01 pm.

Submitted by,

Kent Runion

April 24, 2020