Alaska State Professional Teaching Practices Commission

550 W. 7th Avenue, Suite 1236

Anchorage AK 99501

APODTED MINUTES

January 30-31, 2020

**Call to Order:** Maureen van Wagner called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. There were 9 members present so there was a quorum.

**Members Present:** Chair Maureen van Wagner, Vice Chair Diane Kardash (by phone), Tony Graham, Kent Runion, Janine Todd, David DeVaughn, Tammy Van Wyhe, Chris Reitan, Lem Wheeles

**Members Absent:** None

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

**Introductions/Updates from Communities**: Members re-introduced themselves. They spoke about issues in their communities, districts, and schools. Topics discussed included: staff reductions and turnover, contract negotiations, teachers leaving the profession, state funding, reductions in the Alaska Maritime Highway, the Legislative session, the teacher education programs in the UA system, the Alaska Reads Act, new professional development opportunities, and social-emotional learning.

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

**Approval of Minutes:** Three corrections were made: meeting dates, suite number, and total members in attendance were adjusted to be accurate. It was moved by Lem Wheeles and Tony Graham seconded by to approve the October 10, 2019 minutes with corrections. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Financial Report: Melody presented the current financial report to the Commission. There have been few changes in the financial status of the Commission. There is planning for two upcoming hearings and so the Services line item has an increase in expenditures. These hearings will likely occur in April and October.

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

Activity Report: Melody gave a written report of her ongoing activities, including handling questions about the Commission and giving presentations.

She attended the NASDTEC PPI Conference in Texas and shared her insights from the conference. Melody described a case that was presented at the conference, how the case was handled in that incident, and how that could be applied to cases in Alaska.

Melody commented on her investigative process and making sure complaints are thoroughly investigated. She wants to make sure due diligence is being followed and that witnesses or people with information are being contacted. Some recent complaints have also been filed with multiple agencies and has made the investigative process more complicated. With complainants, Melody has worked to explain the process involved in a PTPC case. She also works to ensure that respondents have information regarding their options so they can make an informed decision.

Melody has done several outreach events including NEA-AK Delegate Assembly and the state psychologist conference. She plans to present to superintendent candidates in March and teacher candidates next fall. She is also working with districts on providing professional development.

Melody is continuing to review background checks, investigate new complaints, and address questions that are brought to her office.

**DEED Report:** Sandra Meredith reported that staffing in certification is steady and they are working to be more efficient and to update the certification website to make it more user-friendly.

Sandra is working with a state school board committee in areas of certification to update regulations to make Alaska’s requirements more in line with other states. For example, Alaska requires a notary on every application; many states only require a copy of a state ID. Another example is the updating of accepted basic competency exams from other states.

They have also introduced a regulation around emergency licensure requirements. Emergency licensures are issued for 1 year with the assumption that the applicant will meet the requirements for full certification within that time. The goal is not to have people continue on emergency certificates for an extended time.

The Alaska Reads Act was introduced in the Alaska Legislature. This could cause a major change in how the department and districts operate.

There have been changes in how background checks are reported from the Alaska Department of Public Safety and the FBI. There are more processes in place to protect the private information of individuals that does not apply to their certification application.

**EXECUTIVE/DELIBERATIVE SESSION**: David DeVaughn moved and Tammy Van Wyhe 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. The motion passed unanimously. The commission moved into deliberative session at Thursday, January 30 at 9:21 am.

The meeting resumed Friday, January 31 at 8:30 am in Executive Session.

**Members Present:** Chair Maureen van Wagner, Vice Chair Diane Kardash (by phone), Tony Graham, Kent Runion, Janine Todd, Tammy Van Wyhe, Chris Reitan, Lem Wheeles, David DeVaughn

A motion was made by Chris Reitan and seconded by David DeVaughn to move out of Executive Session at 8:44 am on Friday, January 31. The motion passed.

**Action Items**

Professional Teaching Practices Commission Cases

PTPC Case 20-02, 20-09: The Commission accepted the surrender of the Initial Teaching Certificate of Ryan B. Patzwald.

Moved: David DeVaughn Second: Janine Todd

AYE

Tony Graham

Kent Runion

Diane Kardash

Janine Todd

Maureen van Wagner

Tammy Van Wyhe

Lem Wheeles

David DeVaughn

Chris Reitan

NAY

Motion passed unanimously.

PTPC Case 20-04: The Commission accepted the surrender of the Limited Teaching Certificate of Leroy J. Hessner

Moved: Lem Wheeles Second: Chris Reitan

AYE

Tony Graham

Kent Runion

Diane Kardash

Janine Todd

Maureen van Wagner

Tammy Van Wyhe

Lem Wheeles

Chris Reitan

NAY

RECUSE

David DeVaughn

Motion passed unanimously.

PTPC Case 20-07: The Commission rejected the stipulated agreement issuing a reprimand to an educator and directed staff to pursue a 1-year suspension.

Moved: Tammy Van Whye Second: Tony Graham

AYE

Tony Graham

Kent Runion

Diane Kardash

Janine Todd

Maureen van Wagner

Tammy Van Wyhe

Lem Wheeles

David DeVaughn

Chris Reitan

NAY

Motion passed unanimously.

PTPC Case 20-12: The Commission accepted the stipulated agreement ordering a warning to an educator who holds a Professional Teaching Certificate.

Moved: Chris Reitan Second: Kent Runion

AYE

Tony Graham

Kent Runion

Diane Kardash

Janine Todd

Maureen van Wagner

Tammy Van Wyhe

Lem Wheeles

David DeVaughn

Chris Reitan

NAY

Motion passed unanimously.

PTPC Case 20-13: The Commission accepted the stipulated agreement ordering a 1-year suspension of the Initial Teaching Certificate of Shannon Drew Inman effective August 19, 2019.

Moved: Janine Todd Second: David DeVaughn

AYE

Tony Graham

Kent Runion

Diane Kardash

Janine Todd

Maureen van Wagner

Tammy Van Wyhe

Lem Wheeles

David DeVaughn

Chris Reitan

NAY

Motion passed unanimously.

PTPC Case 20-15: The Commission accepted the surrender of the Professional Teaching Certificate of John W. Mann.

Moved: Lem Wheeles Second: Tony Graham

AYE

Tony Graham

Kent Runion

Diane Kardash

Janine Todd

Maureen van Wagner

Tammy Van Wyhe

Lem Wheeles

David DeVaughn

Chris Reitan

NAY

Motion passed unanimously.

PTPC Case 20-19: The Commission accepted the surrender of the Professional Teaching Certificate of Mark W. Chapin.

Moved: Tammy Van Whye Second: Kent Runion

AYE

Tony Graham

Kent Runion

Diane Kardash

Janine Todd

Maureen van Wagner

Tammy Van Wyhe

Lem Wheeles

Chris Reitan

NAY

RECUSE

David DeVaughn

Motion passed unanimously.

Uncontested Hearing PTPC Case 19-50: The Commission accepted the Decision and Order of a 1-year suspension of the Initial Teaching Certificate of Jimmy McGill effective October 11, 2019

Moved: Lem Wheeles Second: Janine Todd

AYE

Tony Graham

Diane Kardash

Janine Todd

Maureen van Wagner

Tammy Van Wyhe

Lem Wheeles

David DeVaughn

Chris Reitan

Kent Runion

NAY

Motion passed unanimously.

Administrative Review PTPC Case 19-16: The Commission upheld staff’s decision to dismiss the case.

Moved: Tony Graham Second: Chris Reitan

AYE

Tony Graham

Diane Kardash

Janine Todd

Maureen van Wagner

Tammy Van Wyhe

Lem Wheeles

David DeVaughn

Chris Reitan

NAY

RECUSE

Kent Runion

Motion passed unanimously.

Administrative Review PTPC Case 19-26: The Commission overturned the staff decision to dismiss the case and directed PTPC staff to pursue a reprimand.

Moved: Lem Wheeles Second: David DeVaughn

AYE

Tony Graham

Diane Kardash

Janine Todd

Maureen van Wagner

Tammy Van Wyhe

Lem Wheeles

David DeVaughn

Chris Reitan

NAY

RECUSE

Kent Runion

Motion passed unanimously.

Administrative Review PTPC Case 20-01: The Commission upheld staff’s decision to dismiss the case.

Moved: Kent Runion Second: David DeVaughn

AYE

Tony Graham

Janine Todd

Maureen van Wagner

Tammy Van Wyhe

Lem Wheeles

David DeVaughn

Chris Reitan

Kent Runion

NAY

ABSTAIN

Diane Kardash

Motion passed unanimously.

Administrative Review PTPC Case 20-08: 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

Maureen van Wagner

David DeVaughn

Lem Wheeles

NAY

Motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion Items**

October 2020 Meeting Dates: Dates for the October 2020 meeting were set for October 19-20, 2020.

Model Code of Ethics and eLearning Modules: Melody asked the Commission if there was a preference for length of an eLearning Module on ethics. She wanted Commission input on how a course could be implemented as a possible mandatory training, optional course, or a CEU credit option. One possible solution is a short mandatory training with an option for a longer CEU option.

2020 PTPC Newsletter: Melody asked for Commission direction on what should be included in the 2020 PTPC Newsletter. She suggested including a Cybertraps for Educators. Other suggested topics included: political activities by educators and contract issues.

Future Project Ideas: It was suggested at the last meeting to update some policies regarding teacher certification and teaching outside of endorsed subject areas. Melody will look further into this issue.

Commission Appointments: Attorney Erin Egan addressed the Commission regarding commission appointments and term limits. Many other boards and commissions are also dealing with this issue. According to statute, a commissioner can serve until a successor is appointed. There is the option to resign but there would be the possibility of the PTPC not having a full commission.

Future Meeting Dates: The Spring meeting will be held April 23-24, 2020.

Adjournment: David DeVaughn moved and Lem Wheeles seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved. Maureen van Wagner adjourned the meeting at 10:11 am.

Submitted by,

Kent Runion

January 31, 2020