Alaska State Professional Teaching Practices Commission

550 W. 7th Avenue, Suite 1236

Anchorage AK 99501

UNADOPTED MINUTES

October 18-19, 2020 (Via Zoom)

**Call to Order:** Kent Runion called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. There were 8 members present on the conference call so there was a quorum.

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

**Members Absent:** Maureen van Wagner (Excused)

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

**Introductions/Updates from Communities**: Members re-introduced themselves and provided a brief update from their communities.

**Approval of Minutes:** It was moved by Diane Kardash and seconded by Jamie Burgess to approve the April 23-24, 2020 minutes. The motion passed.

**Department of Education Teacher Certification Report:**  Sondra Meredith provided a report highlighting the following items: issuance of approximately 200 emergency certificates during the COVID-19 pandemic and the fact that the Department was working on restarting the process to allow emergency certificates prior to the pandemic; currently working on filling one vacancy in the Teacher Certification office although current staffing is adequately handling the volume of requests to the office; discussed the status of the work by the recently formed Committee on Teacher Retention and Recruitment (Barbara Adams is Chair) to include an upcoming survey sent to all certificated individuals within the state by the end of October; First Day Vacancy reports are being processed as well as District Staff Accounting Reports; review of teacher certification regulations resulting in suggested modifications to be presented to the State Board of Education to streamline the certification process.

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

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

Activity Report: The number of investigations has begun to increase, with a focus on contractual obligations, given the impact of the pandemic on hiring for the 2020-2021 school year. Background checks are down slightly. District presentations are now more popular with the use of virtual platforms. Melody presented to the Yupiit and Northwest Arctic school district, and to 50 principal candidates via the ASD network thus far this year.

Melody is waiting for new records retention documents to determine what information she needs to keep, what needs to be archived, and what needs to be destroyed and how. There are a significant number of records in the office which are very old, and she is waiting for direction. Melody discussed the possibility that the PTPC’s office would be moved and less physical space would be available, but this action was put on hold due to the pandemic.

Melody was asked to participate in a survey in conjunction with the Teacher Certification Office for the federal government around Alaska laws and regulations which relate to Section 8546 of ESSA, which prohibits actions assisting an individual who has been accused of sexual misconduct to find a position in a different district or school. She was also invited to join a working group by the Alaska Association of School Boards regarding a new suggested school board policy on Professional Boundaries for educators. Discussion with Commission members followed regarding this topic.

Financial Report: The publishing of the Annual Report is slightly delayed, due to staffing changes in the State’s Finance Division. Melody sent a draft of the Report to the Commission for review. Melody also mentioned that it is unlikely for the Commission’s budget to see significant reductions since there is little room for cuts without compromising the Commission’s ability to function.

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

**EXECUTIVE/DELIBERATIVE SESSION**: Tammy van Wyhe moved and Janine Todd seconded to go into executive session as permitted by AS 44.62.310(d). The motion passed unanimously. The commission moved into deliberative session at 10:15 am.

**The meeting was recessed at 11:40am.**

**Chair Kent Runion called the meeting back into order in Executive Session at 12:35pm. Tony Graham was absent after the recess for the remainder of the meeting.**

**It was moved by Tammy Van Whye and seconded by Jamie Burgess to move out of deliberative session at 2:33 pm. The motion passed.**

**Action Items**

Professional Teaching Practices Commission Cases

PTPC Case 14-50: The Commission accepted the mediated stipulation accepting revocation of the Professional Teaching Certificate of Jeremy T. Anderson for life and authorized the chair to sign the order.

Moved: Diane Kardash Second: Tammy Van Wyhe

AYE

Kent Runion

Diane Kardash

Janine Todd

Tammy Van Wyhe

Lem Wheeles

Adam Reid

Jamie Burgess

NAY

Motion passed unanimously.

PTPC Case 19-42: The Commission accepted the stipulated agreement ordering a warning to an educator who holds a Professional Teaching Certificate.

Moved: Lem Wheeler Second: Adam Reid

AYE

Kent Runion

Diane Kardash

Janine Todd

Tammy Van Wyhe

Lem Wheeles

Adam Reid

Jamie Burgess

NAY

Motion passed unanimously.

PTPC Case 20-20: The Commission accepted the reprimand of the Professional Teaching Certificate and Administrative Certificate held by Michael Rath.

Moved: Lem Wheeles Second: Jamie Burgess

AYE

Kent Runion

Diane Kardash

Janine Todd

Tammy Van Wyhe

Lem Wheeles

Adam Reid

Jamie Burgess

NAY

Motion passed unanimously.

PTPC Case 20-34: The Commission accepted the one-year suspension with conditions of the Professional Teaching Certificate of John Cochrane effective February 25, 2020.

Moved: Janine Todd Second: Diane Kardash

AYE

Kent Runion

Diane Kardash

Janine Todd

Tammy Van Wyhe

Lem Wheeles

Adam Reid

Jamie Burgess

NAY

Motion passed unanimously.

PTPC Case 20-36: The Commission accepted the one-year suspension of the Professional Teaching Certificate of Teresa Wishart effective February 29, 2020.

Moved: Tammy Van Whye Second: Janine Todd

AYE

Kent Runion

Diane Kardash

Janine Todd

Tammy Van Wyhe

Lem Wheeles

Adam Reid

Jamie Burgess

NAY

Motion passed unanimously.

PTPC Case 20-44: The Commission accepted the voluntary surrender of the Limited Teaching Certificate of Paul Brodale.

Moved: Diane Kardash Second: Jamie Burgess

AYE

Kent Runion

Diane Kardash

Janine Todd

Tammy Van Wyhe

Lem Wheeles

Adam Reid

Jamie Burgess

NAY

Motion passed unanimously.

PTPC Case 21-03: The Commission accepted the stipulated agreement ordering a warning to an educator who holds a Professional Teaching Certificate.

Moved: Tammy Van Wyhe Second: Kent Runion

AYE

Kent Runion

Diane Kardash

Janine Todd

Tammy Van Wyhe

Lem Wheeles

Adam Reid

NAY

RECUSE

Jamie Burgess

Motion passed unanimously.

Uncontested Hearing PTPC Case 19-26: The Commission accepted the reprimand of the expired Initial Teaching Certificate held by Steven R. Weber.

Moved: Diane Kardash Second: Jamie Burgess

AYE

Diane Kardash

Janine Todd

Tammy Van Wyhe

Lem Wheeles

Adam Reid

Jamie Burgess

NAY

RECUSE

Kent Runion

Motion passed unanimously.

Administrative Review PTPC Case 20-40: The Commission upheld staff’s decision to dismiss the case.

Moved: Lem Wheeles Second: Adam Reid

AYE

Kent Runion

Diane Kardash

Janine Todd

Tammy Van Wyhe

Lem Wheeles

Adam Reid

Jamie Burgess

NAY

Motion passed unanimously.

Administrative Review PTPC Case 20-41: The Commission upheld staff’s decision to dismiss the case.

Moved: Jamie Burgess Second: Janine Todd

AYE

Kent Runion

Diane Kardash

Janine Todd

Tammy Van Wyhe

Lem Wheeles

Adam Reid

Jamie Burgess

NAY

Motion passed unanimously.

Administrative Review PTPC Case 20-42: The Commission upheld staff’s decision to dismiss the case.

Moved: Tammy van Wyhe Second: Diane Kardash

AYE

Kent Runion

Diane Kardash

Janine Todd

Tammy Van Wyhe

Lem Wheeles

Adam Reid

Jamie Burgess

NAY

Motion passed unanimously.

Administrative Review PTPC Case 20-43: The Commission upheld staff’s decision to dismiss the case.

Moved: Adam Reid Second: Lem Wheeles

AYE

Kent Runion

Diane Kardash

Janine Todd

Tammy Van Wyhe

Lem Wheeles

Adam Reid

Jamie Burgess

NAY

Motion passed.

**Discussion Items**

Annual Report: Asked Commission members for any final comments so that the Report can be sent to the Commissioner and published on website. Pandemic has slowed down the process; was published last year in August.

PTPC Handbook: Updated flowchart regarding complaint/investigative/sanction process. Now available on PTPC website.

Commission Seat Expiration: Kent Runion requested a review of the process regarding expiring seats. Melody reviewed how she works with various entities regarding nominations to fill expiring seats.

Upcoming Meeting Dates: The Winter meeting will be held January 28-29, 2021. The Spring meeting will be held April 15-16, 2021.

Adjournment: Tammy Van Wyhe moved and Diane Kardash seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved. Kent Runion adjourned the meeting at 3:24 pm.

Submitted by,

Jamie Burgess

October 19, 2020