

Alaska State Professional Teaching Practices Commission  
550 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 1236  
Anchorage AK 99501  
ADOPTED MINUTES  
October 6-7, 2022  
Via Zoom

**Call to Order:** Lem Wheelles called the meeting to order at 8:31a.m. There were 9 members present so there was a quorum.

**Members Present:** Secretary Jamie Burgess, Chair Lem Wheelles, Vice-Chair Adam Reid, Kim Bergey, Emma Melkerson, Mary Carlson, Jennifer Stafford, Deborah Riddle and Danette Peterson. Melody Mann, PTPC Executive Director, and Judge Christopher Kennedy was also present. Participants for the administrative hearing are also present.

**Members Absent:** None.

**Agenda Approval:** Kim Bergey moved and Deborah Riddle seconded to approve the agenda as presented. No discussion or amendments were proposed. The agenda was unanimously approved. Lem noted some items may be taken out of order.

**Introductions/Updates from Communities:** All members briefly introduced themselves, their role in education and their number of years working in the education field.

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

**ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING:** In the matter of Samantha Hinton OAH #22-0364PTP, PTPC Case #22-12, an administrative hearing, Administrative Law Judge Christopher Kennedy presiding, was held. Judge Kennedy gave a brief overview of the process prior to the hearing. Susan Mitchell is attorney for the Executive Director, and Jason Weiner is attorney for Ms. Hinton.

**EXECUTIVE/DELIBERATIVE SESSION:** Danette Peterson moved and Kim Bergey seconded to go into executive session as permitted by AS 44.62.310(d) solely to consider a decision on the administrative hearing referenced above. The motion passed unanimously. The commission moved into deliberative session at 7:16 pm. Judge Kennedy and Judge Toussaint as observer were in the deliberative session.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm in executive session.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Lem Wheelles at 8:38am in executive session.

**It was moved by Kim Bergey and seconded by Kim Danette Peterson to move out of executive session at 8:39am. The motion passed unanimously.**

Roll call was taken. All 9 members were present and a quorum was established.

**Approval of Minutes:** It was moved by Jamie Burgess and seconded by Kim Bergey to approve the minutes of the April 14-15, 2022 meeting. No discussion. The motion passed.

**EXECUTIVE/DELIBERATIVE SESSION:** Kim Bergey moved and Deb Riddle 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 8:45 am.

**It was moved by Emma Melkerson and seconded by Kim Bergey to move out of deliberative session at 10:42am. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### **Action Items**

Professional Teaching Practices Commission Cases

PTPC Case 21-02: *The Commission accepted the revocation of the Professional Teaching Certificate of Lon D. Gillas.*

Moved: Kim Bergey

Second: Emma Melkerson

AYE

Lem Wheelles

Adam Reid

Jamie Burgess

Danette Peterson

Emma Melkerson

Kim Bergey

Mary Carlson

Deb Riddle

Jennifer Stafford

NAY

Motion passed unanimously.

PTPC Case 22-15: *The Commission accepted the surrender of the Professional Administrative and Teaching Certificates of Joshua R. Hinds.*

Moved: Adam Reid

Second: Danette Peterson

AYE

Lem Wheelles

Adam Reid

Jamie Burgess

Danette Peterson

Emma Melkerson

Kim Bergey

Mary Carlson

Deb Riddle

Jennifer Stafford

NAY

Motion passed unanimously.

PTPC Case 22-20: *The Commission rejected the stipulation and ordered a warning against the Initial Teaching Certificate of Nicole I. Diaz.*

Moved: Jamie Burgess    Second: Deb Riddle

AYE

Lem Wheelles

Adam Reid

Jamie Burgess

Danette Peterson

Emma Melkerson

Kim Bergey

Mary Carlson

Deb Riddle

Jennifer Stafford

NAY

Motion passed unanimously.

PTPC Case 22-22: *The Commission accepted the reprimand of the Professional Teaching and Administrative Certificates of Regis (Brett) Stirling.*

Moved: Danette Peterson

Second: Adam Reid

AYE

Lem Wheelles

Adam Reid

Jamie Burgess

Danette Peterson

Emma Melkerson

Kim Bergey

Mary Carlson

Deb Riddle

Jennifer Stafford

NAY

Motion passed unanimously.

*PTPC Case 22-29: The Commission accepts the surrender of the Professional Teaching Certificate of James D. Doering.*

Moved: Kim Bergey

Second: Mary Carlson

AYE

Lem Wheelles

Adam Reid

Danette Peterson

Emma Melkerson

Kim Bergey

Mary Carlson

Deb Riddle

Jennifer Stafford

NAY

RECUSED

Jamie Burgess

Motion passed unanimously.

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

Activity Report:

Ms. Mann referred to her submitted report. She mentioned that she had recently done several presentations for educator programs. She mentioned an increase in the number of complaints regarding breach of contract, and that more individuals are reaching out to her with questions regarding situations. There is more outreach and work around adoption of a Professional Boundaries Policy for school districts.

Financial Report: Melody reviewed the financial report. She noted that funding for three in-person meetings has been approved.

Case Report: The commission was provided with a summary of the cases the PTPC office has investigated since the last meeting. Lem Wheelles commented that the Commission wished to ensure that it is clear when communicating to complainants and respondents that initial decisions are made by PTPC staff and ensure that they are aware of future appeals or actions that they have recourse to.

**Information Items**

PTPC Website Updates: The website has been updated incorporating some prior suggestions from the Commission.

Annual Report: The Annual Report will be released soon; Melody made some final minor revisions and thanked Kim Bergey for providing the photo for the cover of the report.

PTPC Legislation: Melody discussed a recently passed law that would allow a revocation for life of certificates for educators convicted of the possession or distribution of child pornography. This takes effect January 1, 2023.

PPI Conference: Melody discussed planned attendance at the Professional Practices Institute; however, due to lack of funding, she is unable to attend in person. The conference is fully recorded, so she plans to watch the recorded sessions for professional development for her work.

### **Discussion Items**

The possibility of developing eLearning modules on DEED's eLearning websites for educators was discussed, to support better understanding of the PTPC process for both potential complainants and respondents. In addition, developing eLearning modules for the current trainings Melody provides to districts was also discussed.

**EXECUTIVE/DELIBERATIVE SESSION:** Kim Bergey moved and Adam Reid 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 11:20 am. The Commission recessed for lunch at 11:23am. The Commission reconvened at 12:00pm still in executive session.

**It was moved by Kim Bergey and seconded by Deb Riddle to move out of deliberative session at 2:24pm. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **Administrative Hearing**

PTPC Case 22-12: *The Commission orders the suspension of the Initial Teaching Certificate of Samantha Hinton for six months effective November 6, 2021.*

Moved: Kim Bergey

Second: Deb Riddle

AYE

Lem Wheelles

Adam Reid

Jamie Burgess

Danette Peterson

Emma Melkerson

Kim Bergey

Mary Carlson

Deb Riddle

Jennifer Stafford

NAY

Motion passed unanimously.

**Commission Comments:** Lem Wheelles thanked the Commission members for their hard work during the hearing process, Judge Kennedy for his support during the process, and Melody Mann for her work as well.

Ms. Mann reviewed the number of complaints for breach of contract compared to overall complaints for the past several years.

**Adjournment:** Chair Lem Wheelles appointed Adam Reid, Emma Melkerson and Deborah Riddle along with himself to conduct an administrative review of PTPC Case 22-23 after the adjournment of the regular meeting. Jamie Burgess moved and Kim Bergey seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved. Lem Wheelles adjourned the meeting at 2:29 pm.

### **Administrative Review Meeting**

**Call to Order:** Lem Wheelles called the meeting to order at 2:31pm.

Members Present: Chair Lem Wheelles, Vice-Chair Adam Reid, Emma Melkerson, and Deborah Riddle. Melody Mann, PTPC Executive Director, Melody Mann, was also present. There were at least 3 members of the commission present, as required by law to conduct an administrative review.

**EXECUTIVE/DELIBERATIVE SESSION:** Emma Melkerson moved and Deborah Riddle seconded to go into executive session as permitted by AS 44.62.310(d) solely to consider the staff decision to dismiss a complaint. The motion passed unanimously. The commission moved into deliberative session at 2:33 pm.

**It was moved by Emma Melkerson and seconded by Deborah Riddle to move out of deliberative session at 2:55pm. The motion passed unanimously.**

**PTPC Case 22-23:** The Commission upholds the staff decision to dismiss the complaint in PTPC Case 22-23.

Moved: Deborah Riddle Second: Emma Melkerson

AYE

Lem Wheelles

Adam Reid

Emma Melkerson

Deborah Riddle

NAY

Motion passed unanimously.

**Adjournment:** Emma Melkerson moved and Deborah Riddle seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved. Lem Wheelles adjourned the meeting at 2:55pm.

Submitted by,  
Jamie Burgess