

Bill Walker, Governor

**Alaska State Professional Teaching Practices Commission**

550 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 1240

Anchorage, Alaska 99501

**APPROVED MINUTES**

February 26-28, 2018

**Call to Order** – Chair Melody Mann called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM on Monday, February 26, 2018.

**Members Present:** Chair Melody Mann, Vice Chair Maureen van Wagner, David DeVaughn, David Piazza, Kent Runion, David Legg; James A. Seitz, Executive Director and Patricia Truman, former Executive Director, were also present. Since 6 members were in attendance, there was a quorum.

**Members Absent:** Secretary Frances Roberts (attended second and third day of the meeting (2/27-28/18), Paul Prussing, and Diane Kardash (attended the hearing for PTPC Case no. 17-22 & 17-23, telephonically).

**Agenda Approval** – David DeVaughn moved and Maureen van Wagner seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Jim Seitz requested adding action item: **PTPC Case 18-30 (Approval of Reinstatement)** The agenda as amended was unanimously approved.

**Public Comment** – No one was present for public comment.

**DEED Report** – Sondra Meredith, Administrator of Teacher Certification (telephonically). Sondra reported on the following:

**Certification:**

- **World Language certification (Type W):** Proposed regulation: The department will issue a limited world language certificate (Type W limited) with an endorsement in the world language of expertise if the applicant: a) holds at least a bachelor's degree; b) passes an approved world language content area exam and the math portion of one of the approved basic competency exam; and c) is enrolled or has completed an approved teacher preparation program. Districts would only be allowed to employ an individual holding a limited world language teacher certificate to teach in the subject areas that the individual has earned an endorsement. Districts would also be required to provide individuals holding a limited world language teacher certificate a mentor for the first two years of employment. *The proposed regulation is out for Public Comment.*
- The **Office of Certification** is now fully staffed. Staff is being trained in the on-line payment system. The number of on-line applications has increased significantly each year. The on-line application option has been in place for five years. There has been no delay in processing applications for certification. Generally, the Certification Office processes 400 to 1000 applications per month.

### **Teacher Recognition:**

- Valerie Baalerud, a history teacher at Eagle River High School in Anchorage, received the 2017-18 **Alaska Milken Educator Award**, a prestigious national recognition.
- Mr. Ben Walker, a teacher at Romig Middle School in the Anchorage School District, has been named 2018 **Alaska Teacher of the Year**.
- Nominations for Teacher of the Year 2019 are now open. The nomination form can be found at: <https://education.alaska.gov/recognitionprograms/TOY/>

### **ESSA:**

- On September 18, 2017, DEED submitted its state plan to the U.S. Department of Education for how it intends to implement ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act). Alaska's state plan represents over a year's worth of stakeholder engagement and department preparation in creating a plan to implement ESSA requirements within the unique context of Alaskan education. DEED is currently in the process of providing more details to DOE specifically addressing teacher inequity and principal certification.

### **ATP:**

- The Office of Certification works closely with Alaska Teacher Placement to reach out to educators new to the state. Job Fair is March 16-17, 2018 at the Captain Cook. Sondra Meredith and Cecilia Miller will be working with personnel directors and educators in the application process and expectations.
- CAEP/NAEP were discussed in the context of educator preparation and the UA educator preparation program(s).

**Approval of Minutes** – It was moved by Maureen van Wagner and seconded by David DeVaughn to approve the October 3-4, 2017 and the February 6, 2018 special meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Executive Director's Reports**

- a. Financial Report – Currently the PTPC finances are on track to complete the fiscal year with a surplus.
- b. Case Report – The board was provided a summary of cases the PTPC office investigated since the last meeting.
- c. Activity Report – Executive Director Seitz will provide the commissioners with a summary of his activities at the meeting in April.

**Petition to the Commission (telephonically)** – Mr. Sonny Shields (PTPC Case 18-04) requested the Commission to reconsider the end date of the denial of his application for an Alaska Special Services Certificate to May 1, 2018.

**Executive Session** – A motion was made by David DeVaughn and seconded by David Piazza to move into Executive Session as permitted by AS 44.62.310(b) for purposes of discussing the cases as listed. The motion passed unanimously. The Commission moved into executive session.

**AS 44.62.310(b)** If permitted subjects are to be discussed at a meeting in executive session, the meeting must first be convened as a public meeting and the question of holding an executive session to discuss matters that are listed in (c) of this section shall be determined by a majority vote of the governmental body. The motion to convene in executive session must clearly and

with specificity describe the subject of the proposed executive session without defeating the purpose of addressing the subject in private. Subjects may not be considered at the executive session except those mentioned in the motion calling for the executive session unless auxiliary to the main question. Action may not be taken at an executive session, except to give direction to an attorney or labor negotiator regarding the handling of a specific legal matter or pending labor negotiations.

**Executive Session** - A motion was made by Maureen van Wagner and was seconded by David DeVaughn to move out of Executive Session. The motion passed unanimously.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **PTPC Cases**

PTPC Case No. 17-45: The commission conducted an administrative review of Commission’s staff’s decision to dismiss the case. The commission voted to uphold staff’s decision to dismiss the complaint and close the case.

Moved: Kent Runion Seconded: David Legg

### **AYE**

- Maureen van Wagner
- David Piazza
- Melody Mann
- Kent Runion
- David Legg
- Diane Kardash

### **NAY**

### **RECUSED:**

- David Devaughn

Motion passed 6-0.

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PTPC Case No. 18-04: The commission voted to change the end date of the denial of Sonny Shield’s application for an Alaska Special Services Certificate to **May 1, 2018**.

Moved: Maureen van Wagner                      Seconded: David Legg

### **AYE**

- David DeVaughn
- David Piazza
- Maureen van Wagner
- Melody Mann
- Kent Runion

- David Legg
- Diane Kardash

**NAY**

Motion Passed 7-0.

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PTPC Case No.18-08: Commission accepted the Stipulated Agreement ordering a **one-year suspension** of the teaching certificate of **Brittany Coppola** effective **July 17, 2017**.

Moved: David Piazza Seconded: Kent Runion

**AYE**

- David DeVaughn
- Maureen van Wagner
- Melody Mann
- Kent Runion
- David Legg
- David Piazza
- Diane Kardash

**NAY**

Motion Passed 7-0.

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PTPC Case No.18-40 (13-44): The Commission moved to order the **reinstatement** of the right of Richard J. Rau to apply for certification effective immediately.

Moved: David DeVaughn Seconded: Melody Mann

**AYE**

- David DeVaughn
- Diane Kardash
- Maureen van Wagner
- Melody Mann
- Kent Runion
- David Legg

**NAY**

**RECUSED**

- David Piazza

Motion Passed 6-0.

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**PTPC Code of Ethics:** Director Seitz reviewed three proposed revisions to the Code of Ethics. The commission moved to approve all three revisions as written.

Moved: David DeVaughn      Seconded: David Piazza

**AYE**

- Kent Runion
- David Legg
- David Devaughn
- Diane Kardash
- David Piazza
- Maureen van Wagner
- Melody Mann

**NAY**

Motion passed 7-0.

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**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- Director Seitz discussed his work status as he recovers from medical issues. He said he appreciates the assistance of Patricia Truman, former PTPC Executive Director and will assess continued help in the next few weeks.
- Director Seitz recognized the service of Commissioner David Legg, March 1, 2015-February 28, 2018.
- Tony Graham, principal of Soldotna High School, will be the new principal representative on the Commission.
- Next Commission meeting: April 26 & 27, 2018.
- Francie Roberts is resigning effective June 1, 2018; a secretary will be needed for next year.
- Commissioner van Wagner asked about new COE posters. Director Seitz agreed new posters should be ordered once the new regulations are in place.

Commission took a lunch break. Reconvened at 2:00 p.m.

**HEARING:** A formal hearing was conducted in the matter of PTPC Case 17-22 and PTPC Case 17-23. Administrative Law Judge Chris Kennedy presided over the proceedings. Administrative Law Judge Cheryl Mandala observed. Assistant Attorney General Erin Egan represented commission staff.

**Executive Session** – A motion was made by David DeVaughn and seconded by David Piazza to move into Executive Session as permitted by AS 44.62.310(b) for purposes of discussing the cases PTPC Case 17-22 and 17-23. The motion passed unanimously. The Commission moved into executive session.

**AS 44.62.310(b)** If permitted subjects are to be discussed at a meeting in executive session, the meeting must first be convened as a public meeting and the question of holding an executive session to discuss matters that are listed in (c) of this section shall be determined by a majority

vote of the governmental body. The motion to convene in executive session must clearly and with specificity describe the subject of the proposed executive session without defeating the purpose of addressing the subject in private. Subjects may not be considered at the executive session except those mentioned in the motion calling for the executive session unless auxiliary to the main question. Action may not be taken at an executive session, except to give direction to an attorney or labor negotiator regarding the handling of a specific legal matter or pending labor negotiations.

The Commission left for the evening at 7:00 p.m.

### **February 27, 2018**

The Commission continued in Executive Session.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR INTERVIEWS. The Commission interviewed three candidates for the position of the Executive Director of the Professional Teaching Practices Commission.

A motion was made by David Piazza and seconded by David Legg to move out of Executive session at 3:00 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

PTPC Case 17-22: The Commission ordered a **one-year suspension** of the Initial Teaching Certificate of Janelle M. Orsolits effective **January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018**.

Moved: David DeVaughn      Seconded: David Piazza

### **AYE**

- David DeVaughn
- Maureen van Wagner
- Melody Mann
- Kent Runion
- David Legg
- David Piazza
- Diane Kardash

### **NAY**

Motion Passed 7-0.

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PTPC Case 17-23: The Commission ordered a **one-year suspension** of the Initial Teaching Certificate of Joshua R. Emery effective **January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018**.

Moved: David DeVaughn      Seconded: David Piazza

**AYE**

- David DeVaughn
- Maureen van Wagner
- Melody Mann
- Kent Runion
- David Legg
- David Piazza
- Diane Kardash

**NAY**

Motion Passed 7-0.

The Hearing in the above cases was concluded.

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**Executive Session** – A motion was made by David DeVaughn and seconded by Maureen van Wagner to move into Executive Session as permitted by AS 44.62.310(b) for purposes of discussing the hiring of the new Executive Director of the PTPC. The motion passed unanimously. (Melody Mann was absent.) The Commission moved into executive session.

**AS 44.62.310(b)** If permitted subjects are to be discussed at a meeting in executive session, the meeting must first be convened as a public meeting and the question of holding an executive session to discuss matters that are listed in (c) of this section shall be determined by a majority vote of the governmental body. The motion to convene in executive session must clearly and with specificity describe the subject of the proposed executive session without defeating the purpose of addressing the subject in private.

The Commission left for the evening at 7:00 p.m.

**February 28, 2018**

A motion was made by David Piazza and seconded by David Legg to move out of Executive session at 9:15 a.m. The motion passed unanimously.

The Commission sent a name forward for final consideration to fill the upcoming PTPC Executive Director vacancy.

Francie Roberts moved and Kent Runion seconded to adjourn. Motion passed and Vice-Chair Maureen van Wagner adjourned the meeting at 9:17 a.m.