

Alaska State Professional Teaching Practices Commission
1016 W. 6th Avenue, Suite 302
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
ADOPTED MINUTES

April 26-27, 2018

Call to Order – Chair Melody Mann called the meeting to order at 8:41 AM on Thursday April 26th AM.

Members Present: Chair Melody Mann, Vice Chair Maureen van Wagner, Tony Graham, Kent Runion, David DeVaughn, David Piazza, Diane Kardash, Francie Roberts, and James A. Seitz, Executive Director. Since 8 members were in attendance on April 26th, there was a quorum.

Members Absent: Paul Prussing was absent Thursday April 26, 2018.

Agenda Approval – Maureen van Wagner moved and David DeVaughn seconded to approve the agenda as presented. The agenda was unanimously approved.

Welcome – Tony Graham, principal of Soldotna High School was welcomed to the PTPC as its newest member.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

Approval of Minutes – It was moved by David DeVaughn and seconded by Maureen Vann Wagner to approve the February 26-28, 2018 meeting minutes as presented. The commission added a sentence on the February 28th part of the minutes as the commission. “The commission sent a name forward for final consideration.” The motion passed unanimously to approve the minutes as corrected.

Executive Director’s Reports

- a. Financial Report – Finances continue to be as expected but Executive Director Seitz cautioned next year’s budget will be a bit tighter.
- b. Case Report – The board was provided a summary of cases the PTPC office has investigated since the last meeting.
- c. Activity Report – Executive Director Seitz provided the commissioners with a summary of his activities during the past year. Commission Piazza mentioned he always presents the same information to the Alaska Superintendent

Executive Session – A motion was made by Maureen van Wagner and seconded by Francie Roberts 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 at 9:02 A.M.

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.

A motion was made by David DeVaughn and was seconded by David Piazza to move out of Executive Session at time 1:05 PM. The motion passed unanimously.

DEED Report – Sondra Meredith was present in the room for her report. Commissioners introduced themselves. Sondra explained her role with the PTPC. The Executive Director and Sondra’s division interact extensively regarding teaching certificates.

There is a World Language certificate, a type W, that will soon be available. The legislature is also considering a bill for a competency in Native Language certificate. This bill has passed the House and is in the Senate Education committee.

The GRE exam will now be accepted for the basic teacher competency exam. Several new Praxis II Exams will now be accepted for endorsements. There will be a new way of labeling schools as the Star rating is going away. Paraprofessional standards will be codified by DEED.

Action Items

a. PTPC Cases

PTPC Case No. 17-51 and 17-52: The commission accepted the Stipulated Agreement issuing a **reprimand** to **Jeffrey C. Baker**, who currently holds a Professional Teaching Certificate.

Moved: David Piazza Seconded: Maureen Van Wagner

AYE

- David Piazza
- Tony Graham
- Frances Roberts
- David DeVaughn
- Kent Runion
- Dianne Kardash
- Maureen van Wagner
- Melody Mann

NAY

Motion Passed Unanimously

PTPC Case No. 18-18: The commission accepted the Stipulated Agreement issuing a **one-year suspension** of the Professional Teaching Certificate of **Joni M Earp** effective **October 29, 2017**.

Moved: Francie Roberts Seconded: Diane Kardash

AYE

- David Piazza
- Tony Graham
- Frances Roberts
- David DeVaughn
- Kent Runion

- Dianne Kardash
- Maureen van Wagner
- Melody Mann

NAY

Motion Passed Unanimously

PTPC Case No.18-19 and 18-25: The commission accepted the **Voluntary Surrender** of the Initial Teaching Certificate of **Amy M. Arnold**.

Moved: David DeVaughn

Seconded: Francie Roberts

AYE

- Tony Graham
- Frances Roberts
- David DeVaughn
- Kent Runion
- Dianne Kardash
- Maureen van Wagner
- Melody Mann

NAY

RECUSED

- David Piazza

Motion Passed Unanimously

PTPC Case No.18-22 and 18-28: Commission accepted the Stipulated Agreement ordering a **three-year suspension** of the Initial Teaching Certificate of **Patricia Sullivan** effective December 1, 2017. This order also includes **denying** the right to renew her certificate during the three-year period of suspension.

Moved: David DeVaughn

Seconded: Kent Runion

AYE

- David Piazza
- Tony Graham
- Frances Roberts
- David DeVaughn
- Kent Runion
- Dianne Kardash
- Maureen van Wagner

NAY

RECUSED

- Melody Mann

Motion Passed Unanimously

PTPC Case No.18-24: Commission accepted the Stipulated agreement for a **reprimand** of **Hessy L. Bateman**, who holds an Initial Teaching Certificate.

Moved: Tony Graham Seconded: David DeVaughn

AYE

- David Piazza
- Tony Graham
- Frances Roberts
- David DeVaughn
- Kent Runion
- Dianne Kardash
- Maureen van Wagner
- Melody Mann

NAY

Motion Passed Unanimously

PTPC Case No.18-26: The commission accepted the **Voluntary Surrender** of the Professional Teaching Certificate of **Briana J. Coulon**.

Moved: Diane Kardash Seconded: Kent Runion

AYE

- David Piazza
- Tony Graham
- Frances Roberts
- David DeVaughn
- Kent Runion
- Dianne Kardash
- Maureen van Wagner
- Melody Mann

NAY

Motion Passed Unanimously.

PTPC Case No.18-32: The commission accepted the Stipulated Agreement ordering a **reprimand** of **Colby D. Root**, who holds a Professional Teaching Certificate.

Moved: Maureen Van Wagner Seconded: David Piazza

AYE

- David Piazza
- Tony Graham
- Frances Roberts
- David DeVaughn
- Kent Runion
- Dianne Kardash
- Maureen van Wagner
- Melody Mann

NAY

Motion Passed Unanimously.

PTPC Case No.18-42: The commission accepted the Stipulated Agreement ordering a **reprimand** of **Kevin S. Hamrick**, who holds a Professional Teaching Certificate.

Moved: Diane Kardash Seconded: Francie Roberts

AYE

- David Piazza
- Tony Graham
- Frances Roberts
- David DeVaughn
- Kent Runion
- Dianne Kardash
- Maureen van Wagner
- Melody Mann

NAY

Motion Passed Unanimously.

PTPC Case No.18-14: The commission **upheld** the decision of PTPC staff to dismiss the case.

Moved: Kent Runion Seconded: David DeVaughn

AYE

- David Piazza
- Tony Graham
- Frances Roberts
- David DeVaughn
- Kent Runion
- Dianne Kardash
- Maureen van Wagner
- Melody Mann

NAY

Motion Passed Unanimously.

PTPC Case No.18-15: The commission **upheld** the decision of PTPC staff to dismiss the case.

Moved: Kent Runion Seconded: David DeVaughn

AYE

- David Piazza
- Tony Graham
- Frances Roberts
- David DeVaughn
- Kent Runion
- Dianne Kardash

- Maureen van Wagner
- Melody Mann

NAY

Motion Passed Unanimously.

PTPC Case No.18-17: The commission **upheld** the decision of PTPC staff to dismiss the case.

Moved: David Piazza Seconded: Kent Runion

AYE

- David Piazza
- Tony Graham
- Frances Roberts
- David DeVaughn
- Kent Runion
- Dianne Kardash
- Maureen van Wagner
- Melody Mann

NAY

Motion Passed Unanimously.

Discussion Items

- Meeting Dates for Next School Year** – October 1-2, 2018, January 31 - February 1, 2019, and April 25-26, 2019
- Selection of PTPC Executive Board** – Chair: Maureen Van Wagner, Vice-chair: Diane Kardash and Secretary: Kent Runion
- Model Code of Ethics for Educators** – Executive Director Seitz presented the NASDEC Model Code of Ethics for Educators (MCEE) to the Commission. This code has been adopted by several states. Director Seitz encouraged the commission to carefully read and consider utilizing this code. Commissioners asked about a side-by-side comparison of the State of Alaska document and this document, to understand differences between the two documents. There is a video that accompanies this code that may be useful.
- District Alaska Teacher Placement (ATP) Applications** – The general Alaska application form for teacher placement does not currently include questioning about reprimands or warnings. After some discussion, Commissioners felt it would be wise to pursue changing the wording to “sanctioned” instead of “revoked or suspended”.

Action Items

- Approval of travel for Executive Director to attend the Professional Practices Institute October 17-19, 2018 in Portland, Maine** – David DeVaughn moved and Maureen Van Wagner seconded to approve the travel and expenses for the Executive Director and one other commissioner to attend the Professional Practices Institute October 17-19, 2018 in Portland, Maine. Motion passed unanimously.

Information Items

- Diane Kardash, Kent Runion and Tony Graham were approved by the State Legislature for full **3-year terms** March 1, 2018-February 28, 2021.

- b. Tony Graham, principal of Soldotna High School, is the new **principal representative** on the Commission (March 1, 2018 – February 28, 2021)
- c. **Transition plan with new PTPC Executive Director.** As of April 25th, Melody Mann has been selected as the new Executive Director. Jim Seitz has postponed his retirement until July 1st so he and the Melody can work together.
- d. **Code of Ethics Revisions** – They are currently being reviewed by the Department of Law and Seitz expects it will be returned soon.
- e. **Annual PTPC Newsletter** was just sent to the printer.
- f. **Travel reimbursements** – Commissioners felt the new system was working well.

Executive Session – A motion was made by Maureen van Wagner and seconded by Tony Graham to move into Executive Session as permitted by AS 44.62.310(b) for purposes of discussing case 16-52. The motion passed unanimously. The Commission moved into executive session at 3:10 P.M.

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.

A motion was made by David Piazza and was seconded by Tony Graham to move out of Executive Session at time 3:28 PM. The motion passed unanimously.

Action Item

c. Decision after oral arguments in PTPC Case 16-52

Administrative Law Judge Cheryl Mandala was present for the hearing. Attorneys Erin Egan and Molly Gallagher joined the commission meeting. Confidentiality and privacy issues were discussed prior hearing the attorney’s arguments.

Attorney Molly Gallagher presented an argument on behalf of the teacher respondent. She discussed section (b7) and compared it to (b4). She also argued there was no facts presented to support grooming. Attorney Erin Egan argued section (b7) does apply to this situation. She stated grooming behavior did happen. Judge Mandala asked Attorney Egan to show where in the record grooming behavior is evidenced. Attorney Egan said though it was not in the record, if it went to hearing it could be shown.

Ms. Gallagher responded to Ms. Egan’s comments.

Executive Session – A motion was made by Maureen van Wagner and seconded by Diane Kardash to move into Executive Session as permitted by AS 44.62.310(b) for purposes of deliberating case 16-52. The motion passed unanimously. The Commission moved into executive session at 4:14 P.M.

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.

A motion was made by Maureen Van Wager and was seconded by Kent Runion to move out of Executive Session at time 4:28 PM. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Tony Graham and seconded by Diane Kardash to adopt the Administrative Law Judge's March 5, 2018 order granting summary adjudication, and to dismiss Accusation No. 16-52 for the reasons stated in that order.

AYE

- David Piazza
- Tony Graham
- Frances Roberts
- David DeVaughn
- Kent Runion
- Dianne Kardash
- Maureen van Wagner
- Melody Mann

NAY

The motion passed unanimously.

Recessed - Chair Mann recessed the PTPC meeting for April 26th, 2018 at 4:31 PM. The commission will convene Friday, April 27th at 8:30 AM.

April 27th, 2018

Call to Order - Chair Melody Mann reconvened the PTPC meeting at 8:33 AM April 27th, 2018. All members were present, including Paul Prussing.

Information Items

- a. Recognition of service: Commissioner Francie Roberts, March 1, 2013- May 31, 2018
- b. Recognition of service: Commissioner Melody Mann, March 1, 2013- May 31, 2018

Executive Director's Farewell Address – Jim Seitz spoke to the commission regarding his tenure at the Professional Teaching Practices Commission. He thanked current and past commissioners for their support. He encouraged the group to think about what role PTPC should play if districts do not address concerns. Director Seitz encouraged continued outreach programs for educators. The last issue is breach of contract between contract signing and June 30th.

Discussion

The commission discussed the pros and cons of penalizing teachers for signing a contract in the spring and then cancelling the contract before June 30th. Suggestions included training for educators about this issue and changing the date of penalty by the PTPC. Another suggestion was to publish guidelines and procedures for educators that have a contract and wish to move on. A booth at ASTE was also suggested. Are superintendents and principals held to the same standards?

Adjournment - Maureen van Wagner moved and David DeVaughn seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved. Melody Mann adjourned the meeting at 10:02 AM.

Submitted by,
Francie Roberts
May 3, 2018