

Alaska State Professional Teaching Practices Commission
550 W. 7th Avenue, Suite 1236
Anchorage AK 99501
ADOPTED MINUTES
April 19-21, 2023

Call to Order: Lem Wheelles called the meeting to order at 9:15a.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, Deborah Riddle, Danette Peterson and Jennifer Stafford. Melody Mann, PTPC Executive Director was also present. Sondra Meredith with DEED was also present via Zoom.

Members Absent: None.

Agenda Approval: Kim Bergey moved and Emma Melkerson 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.

DEED Report – Sondra Meredith provided an update on the work the certification office has been doing in preparation for the requirements of the Alaska Reads Act. There is a link on the certification website to assist teachers who are working to ensure they meet the updated certification requirements. K-3 classroom teachers need to complete approved training or an approved exam; they will have two years to complete this requirement. Reading teachers, special education teachers, specialists and elementary school administrators also must complete these requirements. DEED is providing a number of no-cost training opportunities for educators. The fee to add the endorsement to a certificate will be \$50. If an educator chooses an exam option, there is no financial support for any associated costs. Regulations will be finalized shortly and the department can then publish a list of approved courses. Paraprofessionals are not required to take the training, but future opportunities will be offered. Reading teachers will need to take additional coursework/exams as well as demonstration of significant impact on reading achievement with students (certified at the school level), and receive a reading teacher endorsement.

Introductions/Updates from Communities: All members briefly re-introduced themselves, their role in education and shared the last book they read.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Approval of Minutes: It was moved by Kim Bergey and seconded by Emma Melkerson to approve the minutes of the February 2-3, 2023 meeting. Corrections were noted. The motion passed to adopt the amended minutes.

A brief break was taken at 10:07am.

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

Activity Report: Melody reviewed open case statistics; several cases are pending criminal cases. She wanted to remind educators to ensure they have exhausted local complaint options through their school district before filing a complaint with the PTPC. She has also been working with Susan Mitchell, AAG, regarding whether opening an investigation is appropriate on a few cases.

Background check results on new certificate applicants tend to be low-level issues, mainly DUIs. She noted requests from other state licensing offices regarding PTPC actions.

Melody reviewed her recent presentations to the House Education Committee, principals and special education teachers, and other organizations. She also did a recent presentation to a group of students.

She noted that Mary Carlson's appointment was recently confirmed by the Legislature, and discussed her attendance at a DEED/state director's meeting and learning about tribal compacting. She has been working with AKPEI to potentially bring up NASDTEC presenters for state conferences.

She is working to find time to collaborate with DEED regarding an educator ethics e-Learning module.

Financial Report: Melody reviewed the financial report. There was discussion around the benefits of in-person meetings versus online meetings.

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

EXECUTIVE/DELIBERATIVE SESSION: Kim Bergey moved and Danette Peterson seconded to go into deliberative session as permitted by AS 44.62.310(d) to address cases before the PTPC as well as evaluation of the Executive Director. The motion passed unanimously. The commission moved into deliberative session at 11:07am. Melody Mann left the room.

The Commission recessed for lunch at 12:25pm in executive session.

It was moved by Danette Peterson and seconded by Adam Reid to move out of executive session at 1:41pm. The motion passed unanimously. Roll call was taken to re-establish quorum. Note that Deborah Riddle left the meeting at 12:25 pm.

Action Items – PTPC Cases

PTPC Case 22-24: The Commission accepted the one-year suspension effective February 7, 2022 of the Professional Teaching and Administrative Certificate of Paul J. Gilbert.

Moved: Kim Bergey Second: Adam Reid

AYE
Lem Wheelles
Adam Reid
Emma Melkerson
Kim Bergey
Mary Carlson
Jennifer Stafford
Danette Peterson
Jamie Burgess

NAY

Absent: Deborah Riddle

Motion passed unanimously.

PTPC Case 23-19: *The Commission accepted the one-year suspension with conditions effective August 21, 2022 of the Professional Teaching Certificate of John W. Vlaun.*

Moved: Emma Melkerson Second: Danette Peterson

AYE
Lem Wheelles
Adam Reid
Emma Melkerson
Kim Bergey
Mary Carlson
Jennifer Stafford
Danette Peterson
Jamie Burgess

NAY

Absent: Deborah Riddle

Motion passed unanimously.

PTPC Case 23-25: *The Commission moved to table the motion until Friday.*

Moved: Danette Peterson Second: Kim Bergey

AYE
Lem Wheelles
Adam Reid
Emma Melkerson
Kim Bergey
Mary Carlson

Jennifer Stafford
Danette Peterson
Jamie Burgess

NAY

Absent: Deborah Riddle

Motion passed unanimously.

Action Items – Election of Officers

Lem Wheelles was nominated and accepted as Chair of the Commission by unanimous vote. Adam Reid was nominated and accepted as Vice-Chair of the Commission by unanimous vote. Jamie Burgess was nominated and accepted as Secretary of the Commission by unanimous vote.

Discussion Items

Calendar Meetings for FY24

Fall Meeting - October 5-6, 2023

Winter Meeting – February 1-2, 2024

Spring Meeting – April 11-12, 2024

The Commission asked Melody to request a budget for three in-person meetings, with the potential of moving to Zoom as needed.

Kim Bergey moved to set the dates for the 2023-2024 PTPC meetings as shown above. Jamie Burgess seconded the motion. No discussion; motion passed unanimously.

Contractual Obligations Policy

Melody requested that the Commission revisit the policy, since breach of contract is the single-most common topic for a complaint or request for information that she receives. The Commission did not recommend a change in the policy, but stated that help or tip sheets for both educators and district administrators would be very useful documents to create and share, given the current hiring climate in education.

Information Items –

E-Learning Module

Melody reiterated that she is working on development of this in conjunction with DEED.

Privacy of Sanction Information

The Commission asked Melody what information could be requested by a school district who was considering hiring of a sanctioned educator. Melody said that in most cases, the stipulated agreement would be available if requested, but no other documentation. However, if an administrative hearing had been held, any documentation entered into evidence would be available pursuant to a public records request.

Emma Melkerson moved and Danette Peterson seconded for the meeting to recess until 8:30am on Thursday April 20th. The meeting recessed at 2:45pm.

Call to Order: Lem Wheelles called the meeting to order at 8:45am on Thursday April 20th. Roll call was taken; 9 members were present and a quorum was established. Melody Mann and ALJ Mandala were also present.

ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING: At 9am, Kevin Higgins and Reine Loebbs joined the meeting. In the matter of Reine Loebbs OAH #21-1763PTP, PTPC Case #21-11, an administrative hearing, Administrative Law Judge Cheryl Mandala presiding, was held. Judge Mandala gave a brief overview of the process prior to the hearing. Kevin Higgins is attorney for the Executive Director, and Ms. Loebbs represented herself.

DELIBERATIVE SESSION: Kim Bergey moved and Jamie Burgess seconded to go into deliberative 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 6:05 pm. Judge Mandala was in the deliberative session.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05pm in deliberative session.

Call to Order - The meeting was called to order by Chair Lem Wheelles at 8:36am in deliberative session. Roll call was taken. 9 members were present. A quorum was established. Judge Mandala is present in the session.

It was moved by Kim Bergey and seconded by Danette Peterson to move out of deliberative session at 10:16am. The motion passed unanimously. Roll call was taken; all 9 members are present and a quorum was established. Judge Mandala, Kevin Higgins and Melody Mann were present.

Action Items - Administrative Hearing

OAH #21-1763PTP, PTPC Case 21-11: *The Commission orders the revocation of the Professional Teaching Certificate of Reine Loebbs.*

Moved: Emma Melkerson

Second: Kim Bergey

AYE

Lem Wheelles

Adam Reid

Jamie Burgess

Emma Melkerson

Kim Bergey

Mary Carlson

Deb Riddle

Jennifer Stafford

Danette Peterson

NAY

Motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE/DELIBERATIVE SESSION: Kim Bergey moved and Emma Melkerson seconded to go into deliberative session as permitted by AS 44.62.310(d) to address PTPC Case 23-25 and to finalize the evaluation of the Executive Director. The motion passed unanimously. The commission moved into deliberative session at 10:19am. Judge Mandala, Kevin Higgins and Melody Mann left the room.

It was moved by Kim Bergey and seconded by Jamie Burgess to move out of executive session at 10:50am. The motion passed unanimously.

PTPC Case 23-25: *The Commission accepted the one year suspension effective January 12, 2023 of the Professional Teaching Certificate of James D. Bagnaschi.*

Moved: Emma Melkerson

Second: Deborah Riddle

AYE

Lem Wheelles

Adam Reid

Emma Melkerson

Kim Bergey

Mary Carlson

Jennifer Stafford

Danette Peterson

Jamie Burgess

Deborah Riddle

NAY

Motion passed unanimously.

Commission Comments: Lem Wheelles thanked everyone for their work during the longer meeting this week, as well as Melody Mann's work.

Adjournment: Emma Melkerson moved and Jamie Burgess seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved. Lem Wheelles adjourned the meeting at 10:53 am.

Submitted by,

Jamie Burgess