Alaska State Professional Teaching Practices Commission

550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1270

Anchorage AK 99501

ADOPTED MINUTES

February 1, 2019

**Call to Order:** Maureen van Wagner called the meeting to order at 8:48 a.m. There were 8 members present so there was a quorum.

**Members Present:** Chair Maureen van Wagner, Vice Chair Diane Kardash, Tony Graham, David Piazza (by phone), Kent Runion (by phone), Janine Todd, David DeVaughn, Todd Smoldon

**Members Absent:** Tammy Van Wyhe, Semra Deaner

**Agenda Approval:** Diane Kardash moved and Janine Todd seconded to approve the agenda as presented. The agenda was unanimously approved.

**Welcome:** Todd Smoldon from Anchorage and Tammy Van Wyhe from Juneau were welcomed to the PTPC as its newest members.

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

**Approval of Minutes:** It was moved by Diane Kardash and seconded by David Piazza to approve the October 1-2, 2018 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Financial Report: Melody explained the spending in the commodities column, which included replenishing office supplies as well as the purchase of a laptop.

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

Activity Report: Melody reported attending the Professional Practices Institute was very helpful and she was able to learn from many experts and others in the field. Janine Todd also reported she learned much and appreciated being able to attend. Melody has made several presentations around the state to various groups.

Winter 2019 Newsletter: The newsletter highlights the newest revisions to the PTPC Code of Ethics. The updated Code of Ethics is also available on the PTPC website.

**Executive Session:** David DeVaughn moved and Tony Graham seconded to go into executive session as permitted by AS 44.62.310(b) for the purposes of discussing the cases as listed. The motion passed unanimously. The commission moved into executive session at 9:14 am.

**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.

A motion was made by David DeVaughn and seconded by Tony Graham to move out of Executive Session at 10:34 am. The motion passed unanimously.

**Action Items**

Professional Teaching Practices Commission Cases

PTPC Case 18-21: The Commission accepted the Stipulated Agreement issuing a reprimand to Rachel Webb who holds a Professional Teaching Certificate.

Moved: Diane Kardash Second: David Piazza

AYE

Tony Graham

David Piazza

Kent Runion

Diane Kardash

Janine Todd

Maureen van Wagner

Todd Smoldon

David DeVaughn

NAY

Motion passed unanimously.

PTPC Case 19-04: The Commission accepted the Stipulated Agreement issuing a reprimand to Lori A. Kurka who holds a Professional Teaching Certificate.

Moved: Tony Graham Second: David DeVaughn

AYE

Tony Graham

David Piazza

Kent Runion

Diane Kardash

Janine Todd

Maureen van Wagner

Todd Smoldon

David DeVaughn

NAY

Motion passed unanimously.

PTPC Case 19-12: The Commission rejected the stipulated agreement ordering a 6-month suspension of the Professional Teaching Certificate of a teacher. The Commission directed PTPC staff to pursue a 1-year suspension for breach of contract.

Moved: Todd Smoldon Second: Janine Todd

AYE

Tony Graham

David Piazza

Kent Runion

Diane Kardash

Janine Todd

Maureen van Wagner

Todd Smoldon

NAY

RECUSE

David DeVaughn

Motion passed unanimously.

PTPC Case 19-14: The Commission accepted the stipulated agreement ordering a one-year suspension of the right to renew an Initial Teaching Certificate of Louann Rau effective September 18, 2018.

Moved: David DeVaughn Second: Diane Kardash

AYE

Tony Graham

David Piazza

Kent Runion

Diane Kardash

Janine Todd

Maureen van Wagner

Todd Smoldon

NAY

Motion passed unanimously.

PTPC Case 19-15: The Commission accepted the stipulated agreement ordering a one-year suspension of the Initial Teaching Certificate of Sally Spellman effective September 25, 2018.

Moved: Tony Graham Second: Todd Smoldon

AYE

Tony Graham

David Piazza

Kent Runion

Diane Kardash

Janine Todd

Maureen van Wagner

Todd Smoldon

David DeVaughn

NAY

Motion passed unanimously.

Statement on Contractual Issues Revision:

Addition of language for clarification to Section I, Part B to include:

*Authority: 4AAC 18.010. Teachers’ and administrators’ contracts*

*(12) (d) Contracts may be terminated by mutual consent of both parties upon 30 days’ written notice by either party and the written assent of the other party; a teacher failing to give the written notice, or who leaves a position following the notice without having the written assent of the employing board, may be liable to revocation of certificate for breach of contract.*

Motion: David DeVaughn Second: Diane Kardash

Motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion Items**

DEED Report:Sandra Meredith updated the Commission on regulations that will soon be available for public comment. One regulation involves the expansion of tests that will fulfill the requirements for basic competency exams. This regulation also includes a provision that allows DEED to accept other tests that states may develop. It also removes the requirement for some Type M certificate holders to take a basic competency exam. There was some discussion questioning why this requirement was removed from some Type M certificates. Sandra said this was a relatively new requirement for some Type M certificates and this would be a return to previous standards.

Ms. Meredith also updated the Commission on the accreditation status of Alaskan universities teaching programs. The teaching program at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks was certified for accreditation. The teaching program at the University of Alaska-Anchorage did not receive accreditation. There was a question regarding the status of students graduating from that program. The State Board of Education will need to develop a plan for the UAA program and students graduating from that program. There were also questions about accreditation standards and agencies. Sandra explained the different types of accreditation a university may receive and how it affects different programs.

Sandra talked about changes in positions and personnel in the Department of Education under the new administration. The Commissioner of Education has remained the same, while several other positions have changed within the department.

Tammy Van Wyhe was able to participate in the phone conference and introduced herself to Commission as the Department of Educations representative.

Alaska Teacher Placement/District Applications: The requested update from last meeting to the Alaska Teacher Placement Application has taken place, although it may not be visible unless an applicant is logged in.

Highly Qualified Policy: The current policy lists highly qualified teacher, while the regulations are no longer in effect. The Commission may wish to further discuss how to adopt its policies to reflect this change.

Social Media Policy: Melody gave examples of several educators who have lost their positions due to social media use. There was some discussion about how social media platforms should be properly used by educators.

Open Discussion: There was some discussion about how Type M certificates fit in among other certified positions within different districts in Alaska. There was also some discussion about basic competency exams and how they affect certifications. It was suggested if anyone has comments regarding the regulation they should submit public comment to the Alaska Board of Education.

Melody Mann asked for suggestions to improve PTPC business or meetings. It was suggested to provide documents before meetings to allow commissioners to better prepared.

Adjournment: Tony Graham moved and David Devaughn seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved. Maureen van Wagner adjourned the meeting at 12:12 pm.

Submitted by,

Kent Runion

February 1, 2019