

Alaska State Professional Teaching Practices Commission  
550 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 1236  
Anchorage AK 99501  
ADOPTED MINUTES  
April 14-15, 2022

**Call to Order:** Lem Wheelles called the meeting to order at 8:54a.m. There were 6 members present so there was a quorum.

**Members Present:** Secretary Jamie Burgess, Chair Lem Wheelles, Vice-Chair Adam Reid, Kim Bergey, Emma Melkerson, and Danette Peterson. Melody Mann, PTPC Executive Director was also present.

**Members Absent:** Jennifer Stafford, and Deborah Riddle.

**Agenda Approval:** Jamie Burgess moved and Kim Bergey 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:** New member Emma Melkerson introduced herself. All other members reintroduced themselves and shared something they have recently learned.

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

**Approval of Minutes:** It was moved by Kim Bergey and seconded by Adam Reid to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2022 meeting. No discussion. The motion passed.

**EXECUTIVE/DELIBERATIVE SESSION:** Jamie Burgess moved and Danette Peterson seconded to go into executive session as permitted by AS 44.62.310(d) solely to consider a proposed consent agreement resulting from a mediation. The motion passed unanimously. The commission moved into deliberative session at 9:14 am. The administrative law judge who served as mediator was invited to remain with the Commission during the deliberative session.

**It was moved by Danette Peterson and seconded by Kim Bergey to move out of deliberative session at 10:05am. The motion passed unanimously.**

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

Activity Report: Melody noted there were relatively few complaints submitted this year, with many inquiries. She continues to encourage individuals who inquire to exhaust all local remedies before filing complaints with the Commission. There may be changes with the attorneys working with the Commission due to some promotions. Melody noted potential concerns around funding for PTPC, as the budget comes out of applications for teacher certificates, which have been significantly lower in past years.

A downswing in the number of "hits" referred from the Certification Office has continued; most of these are from items which were not prosecuted, were dismissed or are old enough as not to cause concern. Barrier crimes (crimes involving children) have not been seen. Misdemeanor DUI is the most frequent "hit".

Melody made four different presentations in early 2022 – UAS Administration Leadership Students, Special Education Conference, HR Directors at the ALASBO Conference and Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Counselors.

Diane Kardash's replacement has still not been selected, but we welcome Emma Melkerson. Emma, Lem and Adam's confirmation hearings are not yet final.

Melody continues to work with insurers and AASB to encourage Alaska school districts to adopt and implement a Professional Boundaries policy. She does not have a count of districts with the policy, but recent outreach efforts are hopefully bearing fruit.

Financial Report: Melody reviewed the financial report. The Commission is likely to have one in-person meeting with the remainder virtual, but members asked Melody to request to have in-person meetings if at all possible.

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 Emma Melkerson 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 10:21 am.

**The meeting was recessed at 12:30pm for lunch. The meeting came back to order at 1:45pm.**

**The meeting was recessed at 3:58pm. The meeting came back to order at 8:27am Friday April 15th.**

**It was moved by Jamie Burgess and seconded by Danette Peterson to move out of deliberative session at 8:27am. The motion passed unanimously. Lem Wheelles called roll and quorum was affirmed.**

**Department of Education Teacher Certification Report**: Sondra Meredith joined at 8:29 am. Sondra informed the Commission that the Board had adopted some updates to regulations around teacher certifications and the office was preparing for the Governor to approve these regulations. There are some additional potential bills coming through the Legislature; these are being watched to see if they pass and then make it across the Governor's desk. These include certificates for Native Language Immersion teachers, Out of State Reciprocity, a Teacher Residency program with a student teacher certificate which allow a student teacher to be employed and paid as a teacher with retirement benefits, and alternative certification programs. Sondra is still working with the vendor for the online certification application platform, as well as planning for a potential physical relocation of the Certification Office in mid-July. Lem Wheelles asked for an update on the Master Teacher Certificate; Sondra stated that in response to public comment, that Certificate option was being reworked.

### **Action Items**

Professional Teaching Practices Commission Cases

PTPC Case 21-24: *The Commission accepted the warning of an educator.*

Moved: Kim Bergey

Second: Danette Peterson

AYE

Lem Wheelles

Adam Reid

Jamie Burgess

Danette Peterson

Emma Melkerson

Kim Bergey

NAY

Motion passed unanimously.

PTPC Case 22-14: *The Commission accepted the warning of an educator.*

Moved: Kim Bergey

Second: Emma Melkerson

AYE

Lem Wheelles

Adam Reid

Jamie Burgess

Danette Peterson

Emma Melkerson

Kim Bergey

NAY

Motion passed unanimously.

PTPC Case 22-17: *The Commission accepted the surrender of the Limited Type M Teaching Certificate of Richard Yon.*

Moved: Adam Reid

Second: Jamie Burgess

AYE

Lem Wheelles

Adam Reid

Jamie Burgess

Danette Peterson

Emma Melkerson

Kim Bergey

NAY

Motion passed unanimously.

PTPC Case 22-18: *The Commission accepted the one-year suspension of the Professional Teaching Certification of Norman Ayagalria, effective November 24, 2021.*

Moved: Emma Melkerson

Second: Kim Bergey

AYE

Lem Wheelles

Adam Reid

Jamie Burgess

Danette Peterson

Emma Melkerson

Kim Bergey

NAY

Motion passed unanimously.

Lem Wheelles made a comment that it is important for educators to reach out to their District to discuss if they need to leave during the school year to attempt to avoid a breach of contract situation.

PTPC Case 22-19: *The Commission accepted the warning of an educator.*

Moved: Danette Peterson

Second: Adam Reid

AYE

Lem Wheelles

Adam Reid

Jamie Burgess

Danette Peterson

Emma Melkerson

Kim Bergey

NAY

Motion passed unanimously.

PTPC Case 20-20: *The Commission rejected the request to replace the sanction of a reprimand with a warning.*

Moved: Danette Peterson

Second: Emma Melkerson

AYE

Lem Wheelles

Adam Reid

Jamie Burgess

Danette Peterson

Emma Melkerson

Kim Bergey

NAY

Motion passed unanimously.

### **Administrative Reviews**

PTPC Case 20-17: *The Commission upholds the staff decision to dismiss the complaint in PTPC Case 20-17.*

Moved: Jamie Burgess

Second: Kim Bergey

AYE

Lem Wheelles

Adam Reid

Jamie Burgess

Danette Peterson

Emma Melkerson

Kim Bergey

NAY

Motion passed unanimously.

PTPC Case 22-21: *The Commission upholds the staff decision to dismiss the complaint in PTPC Case 22-21.*

Moved: Adam Reid

Second: Danette Peterson

AYE

Lem Wheelles

Adam Reid

Jamie Burgess

Danette Peterson

Emma Melkerson

Kim Bergey

NAY

Motion passed unanimously.

### **Bylaws Amendments**

Emma Melkerson moved to amend the Bylaws by adding **Article V: Amendments**, which would read **“These bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the Commission by a two-third vote, provided that the amendment has been submitted in writing at the previous regular meeting.”** Kim Bergey seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Danette moved to amend Article II, Section 4 of the Bylaws by striking “1971 edition” and replacing it with “Newly Revised”. Kim Bergey seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Discussion Items**

#### PTPC FY23 Meeting Schedule:

Discussion was held around meeting dates for the 2022-2023 school year. The following dates were selected: October 6-7, 2022, February 2-3, 2023, and April 20-21, 2023. The April meeting dates will be held in-person. Melody asked about availability of Commission members in May of 2022 for an administrative hearing. A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to adopt the selected dates.

#### PTPC Contractual Issues Policy Discussion:

Melody presented a draft of potential changes to the Contractual Issues section of the PTPC Policy Brochure. Discussion was held with the Commission members, with some additional changes suggested. Melody will incorporate the changes, with the final draft planned to be presented at the next meeting for adoption by the Commission.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Danette Peterson moved and Adam Reid seconded to go into executive session for the purposes of the performance evaluation for the Executive Director. The motion passed unanimously. The commission moved into executive session at 9:59 am.

**It was moved by Kim Bergey and seconded by Jamie Burgess to move out of executive session at 10:44am. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### Election of PTPC Executive Officers:

Adam Reid moved and Emma Melkerson seconded to nominate Lem Wheelles as Chair of the Commission. Kim Bergey moved and Danette Peterson seconded to nominate Adam Reid as Vice-Chair of the Commission. Adam Reid moved and Danette Peterson seconded to nominate Jamie Burgess as Secretary of the Commission. Danette Peterson moved and Emma Melkerson seconded to elect the slate of officers as nominated for the 2022-2023 school year. There were no objections. Motion carried.

### **Information Items**

#### Newsletter:

Melody Mann shared a draft of the 2022 Newsletter. It includes an article on Professional Boundaries. Melody discussed other potential items to include in her draft.

Adjournment: Jamie Burgess moved and Kim Bergey seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved. Lem Wheelles adjourned the meeting at 11:03 am.

Submitted by,  
Jamie Burgess