

**Professional Licensure Standards Board
Friday, December 1, 2023
PLSB Full Board Minutes**

A meeting of the Professional Licensure Standards Board held its quarterly meeting via Zoom and in person for those who could attend on **December 1, 2023**. Voting members of the Board present were, Chair Dr. Donny Lee, Dr. Tiffany Bone, Hosea Born, Brandi Cheers, Kathy Howell, Annette Hux, Dr. Harold Jeffcoat, Karen Lasker, Wendy Peer, Dr. Victoria Groves-Scott, Melissa Speers, Dr. Phong Tran, Dudley Webb, III, and Karen Gibbs.

ADE staff members present: Whitney James, Sarah Banker, Cheri Rolett, Maria Lockhart, Shannon Rostad, Vikki Jennings, Melissa Hamric, Rhina Odom, Laura Shelton, Kimberly Mundell, and Mary Perry.

Voting members not present: Mary Jane Bradley, Brenda Brown, and J. D. Keeling
Non-voting members present: Karli Saracini (ADE) and Matthew Sutherlin (ADE)

1. Call to Order – Dr. Donny Lee - Chair

Dr. Lee called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2.

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Jeffcoat made a motion to approve the September 8, 2023, PLSB Full Board minutes; seconded by Ms. Kathy Howell.
Motion passed. None opposed.

3. Rules Update

Presenters: Whitney James, PLSB Managing Attorney & Karli Saracini, Assistant Commissioner for Educator Effectiveness & Licensure

Whitney James and Karli Saracini gave an update on the rules. Ms. Saracini explained that there were six sets of rules that Ms. James was currently working on. New procedures say that the rules must be approved at the governor's office prior to release to anyone. Once those rules have been approved at the governor's office, we will send them to the full board.

Ms. Saracini has been involved in three work groups including the one on merit pay. There was discussion on how merit pay will be distributed and to whom. The questions asked were:

1. Does it have to go to the district?
2. Can it be paid directly to the teacher?

To qualify for the merit pay, they may have to have had a summative evaluation in the past

two years. Dr. Jeffcoat stated this was going to be a substantial change for the districts.

Ms. Saracini talked about the budget and how PLSB's budget has been greatly impacted by both waiving licensure fees for incoming teachers for five months and due to a revamp of AELS. Ms. Saracini discussed that we would be better able to tell the full impact by the end of January after renewals have been completed. Board members requested to see the budget. Ms. Saracini said that she would have it for them at the March meeting. Board members requested to start seeing the budget at each quarterly meeting.

Dr. Lovins said that he had only been on the subcommittee a brief time but had noticed quite a few special education cases involving paperwork. Board members asked if there was a way to pull data to see if there was a rise. Ms. Saracini said that Ms. Banker could pull the data and have a report in March. Ms. Banker asked what all they would like to see and took notes as to what key areas the board wished to view in March. Ms. Jennings pointed out that the data was utilized in the making of the trainings as we watched trends.

4. Introduction of new PLSB Full Board Member (non-voting) – Dr. Matthew Sutherlin, DESE Director of Educator Licensure

Presenter: Karli Saracini, Assistant Commissioner for Educator Effectiveness and Licensure

Ms. Saracini introduced Dr. Matthew Sutherlin as the new Director of Licensure and non-voting member of the Full Board.

A motion was made by Dr. Jeffcoat to approve Dr. Sutherlin as an alternate to the ESC if a quorum is not available.

Seconded by Ms. Peers.

Motion passed. None Opposed.

5. Action Items –

a. Recommendation for TNTP Approved Pathway for Lead Professional Designation

Presenter: Karli Saracini, Assistant Commissioner for Educator Effectiveness and Licensure

TNTP (The New Teaching Program) was discussed and there was a lot of discussion on how this was going to work and what supports were going to be put into place by the program. There were a lot of concerns raised about this company.

Ms. Kathy Howell made a motion to approve; Seconded by Karen Lasker (Conway HR). Tiffany Bones, Wendy Peers, and Victoria Grove-Scott voted against it.

All others voted for it.

The meeting was adjourned. The next PLSB Full Board meeting will be on Friday, March 1, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.