1	STATE OF IOWA
2	BOARD OF EDUCATIONAL EXAMINERS
3	701 E. Court Ave., Suite A
4	Des Moines, Iowa 50309
5	
6	Minutes
7	January 17, 2025
8	
9	The Board of Educational Examiners (Board or BoEE) held a meeting on January 17,
10	2025. Chad Janzen, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Members
11	attending were Kathy Behrens, Pam Bleam, Miranda Brus, Davis Eidahl, Eric St Clair,
12	Daniel Zylstra, Paige Thorson and Jennifer Sammons. Also in attendance was Mike
13	Cavin, Executive Director, Beth Myers, Attorney/Investigator, Diane Dennis, Lori
14	Lavorato, William Rector and Matthew Barron, Investigators, and Marc Elcock,
15	Assistant Attorney General.
16	
17	Eric St Clair moved, with a second by Kathy Behrens, to approve the agenda.
18	MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
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20	Director Cavin introduced new Board members, Paige Thorson and Jennifer Sammons
21	and Board members introduced themselves.
22	
23	Kathy Behrens with a second by Daniel Zylstra to approve the consent agenda
24	(minutes for December 13, 2024). MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
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26	Eric St Clair moved, with a second by Kathy Behrens, that the Board go into closed
27	session for the purpose of discussing closed session minutes whether to initiate
28	licensee disciplinary proceedings, the decision to be rendered in a contested case,
29	confidential health information, and mental health information, pursuant to Iowa
30	Code sections 21.5(1) (a), (d), and (f). Roll call vote: Behrens – yes; Bleam – yes; Brus –
31	yes; Eidahl – yes; Janzen – yes; St Clair – yes; Zylstra – yes; Thorson – yes; Sammons –
32	yes; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
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- 1 The Board returned to open session at 11:28 a.m.
- 2
- 3 Eric St Clair moved, with a second by Miranda Brus, that in **case number 24-185**, the

4 Board find probable cause to establish a violation of the Code of Professional Conduct

and Ethics, 282 IAC rules 25.3 (1) e (1), 25.3 (6) c, 25.3 (8) a & b, and order the Board 5

- 6 staff to proceed with the case. Roll call vote: Behrens – yes; Bleam – yes; Brus – yes;
- 7 Eidahl - no; Janzen - yes; St Clair -yes; Zylstra - no; Thorson- abstain; Sammons -
- 8 abstain; MOTION CARRIED
- 9
- 10 Eric St Clair moved, with a second by Kathy Behrens, that in **case number 24-219**,

the Board finds that the evidence gathered in the investigation, including witness 11

- 12 statements and the documentary evidence, does not substantiate the allegations in the
- 13 complaint, and that the Board therefore lacks probable cause to proceed with this

14 matter. Roll call vote: Behrens - no; Bleam - yes; Brus - yes; Eidahl - yes; Janzen -

15 yes; St Clair -yes; Zylstra - yes; Thorson- yes; Sammons - yes; MOTION CARRIED 16

17 Davis Eidahl moved, with a second by Daniel Zylstra, that in **case number 24-207**,

the Board find probable cause to establish a violation of the Code of Professional 18

19 Conduct and Ethics, 282 IAC rules 25.3 (2) b, and order the Board staff to proceed

20 with the case. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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22 Miranda Brus moved, with a second by Davis Eidahl, that in **case number 24-241**,

23 the Board find probable cause to establish a violation of the Code of Professional

24 Conduct and Ethics, 282 IAC rules 25.3 (2) b, and order the Board staff to proceed

25 with the case. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

26

27 Miranda Brus moved, with a second by Davis Eidahl, that in **case number 24-242**,

the Board find probable cause to establish a violation of the Code of Professional 28

29 Conduct and Ethics, 282 IAC rules 25.3 (2) b, and order the Board staff to proceed

with the case. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 30

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32 Eric St Clair moved, with a second by Miranda Brus, that in **case number 24-178**, the

Board find probable cause to establish a violation of the Code of Professional Conduct 33

and Ethics, 282 IAC rules 25.3(3)e and order the Board staff to proceed with the case.
Roll call vote: Behrens – yes; Bleam – yes; Brus – yes; Eidahl – yes; Janzen – yes; St
Clair -yes; Zylstra – abstain; Thorson- yes; Sammons – yes; MOTION CARRIED
Kathy Behrens moved, with a second by Miranda Brus, that in <u>case number 24-204</u>,

the Board finds that the evidence gathered in the investigation, including witness
statements and the documentary evidence, does not substantiate the allegations in the
complaint, and that the Board therefore lacks probable cause to proceed with this

o complaint, and that the board therefore lacks probable cause to proceed w

## 9 matter. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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11 Kathy Behrens moved, with a second by Miranda Brus, that in <u>case number 24-205</u>,

12 the Board finds that the evidence gathered in the investigation, including witness

13 statements and the documentary evidence, does not substantiate the allegations in the

14 complaint, and that the Board therefore lacks probable cause to proceed with this

### 15 matter. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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17 Kathy Behrens moved, with a second by Miranda Brus, that in <u>case number 24-206</u>,

18 the Board finds that the evidence gathered in the investigation, including witness

19 statements and the documentary evidence, does not substantiate the allegations in the

20 complaint, and that the Board therefore lacks probable cause to proceed with this

## 21 matter. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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23 Eric St Clair moved, with a second by Kathy Behrens, that in **case number 24-211**,

the Board finds that the evidence gathered in the investigation, including witness

25 statements and the documentary evidence, does not substantiate the allegations in the

26 complaint, and that the Board therefore lacks probable cause to proceed with this

### 27 matter. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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29 Davis Eidhal moved, with a second by Kathy Behrens, that in **<u>case number 24-208</u>** 

30 the Board find probable cause to establish a violation of the Code of Professional

Conduct and Ethics, 282 IAC rule 25.3 (6) m and order the Board staff to proceed with

- 32 the case. Roll call vote: Behrens yes; Bleam yes; Brus yes; Eidahl yes; Janzen –
- 33 abstain; St Clair -yes; Zylstra yes; Thorson- yes; Sammons yes; MOTION CARRIED

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2 Davis Eidahl moved, with a second by Kathy Behrens, that in **case number 24-209**, the Board find probable cause to establish a violation of the Code of Professional 3 4 Conduct and Ethics, 282 IAC rule 25.3 (8) a, and order the Board staff to proceed with the case. Roll call vote: Behrens - yes; Bleam - yes; Brus - yes; Eidahl - yes; Janzen -5 6 abstain; St Clair -yes; Zylstra - yes; Thorson- yes; Sammons - yes; MOTION CARRIED 7 8 Miranda Brus moved, with a second by Kathy Behrens, that in case number 24-213, 9 the Board finds probable cause to establish a violation of the Code of Professional 10 Conduct and Ethics, 282 IAC rule 25.3 (8) a and order the Board staff to proceed with 11 the case. Roll call vote: Behrens – yes; Bleam – yes; Brus – yes; Eidahl – yes; Janzen – abstain; St Clair -yes; Zylstra - yes; Thorson- yes; Sammons - yes; MOTION CARRIED 12 13 14 Beth Myers recused from closed session discussion of 24-198. 15 Daniel Zylstra moved, with a second by Kathy Behrens, that in **case number 24-198**, 16 the Board finds that the evidence gathered in the investigation, including witness 17 statements and the documentary evidence, does not substantiate the allegations in the 18 complaint, and that the Board therefore lacks probable cause to proceed with this 19 matter. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 20 21 Pam Bleam moved, with a second by Eric St Clair, that in **case number 24-89**, the 22 Board finds probable cause to establish a violation of the Code of Professional Conduct 23 and Ethics, 282 IAC rule 25.3 (1) e (1) and 25.3 (6) c, and order the Board staff to proceed with the case. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 24 25 26 Pam Bleam moved, with a second by Miranda Brus, that in **case number 24-175**, the 27 Board finds that the evidence gathered in the investigation, including witness statements and the documentary evidence, does not substantiate the allegations in the 28 29 complaint, and that the Board therefore lacks probable cause to proceed with this 30 matter. Roll call vote: Behrens - yes; Bleam - yes; Brus - yes; Eidahl - yes; Janzen yes; St Clair -yes; Zylstra - yes; Thorson- yes; Sammons - abstain; MOTION CARRIED 31 32

2 the Board finds probable cause to establish a violation of the Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics, 282 IAC rule 25.3 (1) e (4), 25.3 (3) c, 25.3 (6) a, c, and o, 25.3 (8) 3 a, and order the Board staff to proceed with the case. MOTION CARRIED 4 **UNANIMOUSLY** 5 6 7 Kathy Behrens moved, with a second by Miranda Brus, that in **case numbers 22-186**, 8 the Board accept the agreement submitted by the parties, and issue an Order incorporating the agreement and imposing the agreed upon sanction. **MOTION** 9 10 **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** 11 12 Kathy Behrens moved, with a second by Pam Bleam, that in **case numbers 23-113**, 13 the Board accept the agreement submitted by the parties, and issue an Order 14 incorporating the agreement and imposing the agreed upon sanction. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** 15 16 17 Eric St Clair moved, with a second by Davis Eidahl, that in **case numbers 23-134**, the Board accept the agreement submitted by the parties, and issue an Order 18 19 incorporating the agreement and imposing the agreed upon sanction. **MOTION** 20 CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 21 22 Kathy Behrens moved, with a second by Miranda Brus, that in **case numbers 23-173**, 23 the Board reject the agreement submitted by the parties, and return the cases for further proceedings consistent with this decision. Roll call vote: Behrens - yes; Bleam 24 25 - yes; Brus - yes; Eidahl - yes; Janzen - abstain; St Clair - yes; Zylstra - yes; Thorson-26 yes; Sammons - yes; MOTION CARRIED 27 Miranda Brus moved, with a second by Eric St Clair, that in **case numbers 24-103**, 28 29 the Board reject the agreement submitted by the parties, and return the cases for further proceedings consistent with this decision. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 30 31 32 Kathy Behrens moved, with a second by Pam Bleam, that in **case numbers 24-24**, the 33 Board accept the agreement submitted by the parties, and issue an Order

Daniel Zylstra moved, with a second by Paige Thorson, that in **case number 24-224**,

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1 incorporating the agreement and imposing the agreed upon sanction. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** 2 3 4 Miranda Brus moved, with a second by Pam Bleam, that in **case numbers 24-06**, the Board reject the agreement submitted by the parties, and return the cases for further 5 6 proceedings consistent with this decision. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7 8 Kathy Behrens moved, with a second by Miranda Brus, that in case numbers 24-153, 9 the Board accept the agreement submitted by the parties, and issue an Order 10 incorporating the agreement and imposing the agreed upon sanction. **MOTION** CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 11 12 13 Eric St Clair moved, with a second by Kathy Behrens, that in **case numbers 24-95**, 14 the Board accept the agreement submitted by the parties, and issue an Order incorporating the agreement and imposing the agreed upon sanction. **MOTION** 15 **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** 16 17 Davis Eidahl moved, with a second by Pam Bleam, that in **case numbers 24-112**, the 18 19 Board accept the agreement submitted by the parties, and issue an Order 20 incorporating the agreement and imposing the agreed upon sanction. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** 21 22 23 Kathy Behrens moved, with a second by Davis Eidahl, that in **case numbers 24-184** 24 the Board accept the agreement submitted by the parties, and issue an Order 25 incorporating the agreement and imposing the agreed upon sanction. Roll call vote: 26 Behrens – yes; Bleam – yes; Brus – yes; Eidahl – yes; Janzen – abstain; St Clair -yes; Zylstra - yes; Thorson- yes; Sammons - yes; MOTION CARRIED 27 28 29 Kathy Behrens moved, with a second by Daniel Zylstra, to accept the signed consent to waive the deadline in case number 24-186 and issue an order extending the 30 deadline. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 31 32

1 Daniel Zylstra moved, with a second by Kathy Behrens, to extend the 180-day

- 2 deadline for issuance of the final decision in **<u>case number 24-179</u>**. Although the
- 3 respondent has objected to the extended time, probable cause of an ethical violation
- 4 has been determined by the Board. Additional time is needed to schedule a hearing
- 5 and complete the contested case process and allowing more time for resolution of the
- 6 complaint assures due process for the Respondent. **MOTION CARRIED**

### 7 UNANIMOUSLY

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9 Kathy Behrens moved, with a second by Miranda Brus, to extend the 180-day deadline 10 for issuance of the final decision in case number 24-180, based upon the seriousness of the accused violation is of such a magnitude, additional time is required to complete 11 12 a comprehensive investigation and conclude the contested case process. The 13 respondent did not file an objection to the extension even though given an opportunity 14 to object, and retaining this pending licensing matter ensures that any potential threats or risks to students are thoroughly evaluated while also guaranteeing the 15 16 educator has the opportunity to dispute the alleged ethical wrongdoing. **MOTION** 

# 17 CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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19 Daniel Zylstra moved, with a second by Pam Bleam, to extend the 180-day deadline for 20 issuance of the final decision in **case number 24-183**, based upon the seriousness of the accused violation is of such a magnitude, additional time is required to complete a 21 22 comprehensive investigation and conclude the contested case process. The 23 respondent did not file an objection to the extension even though given an opportunity to object, and retaining this pending licensing matter ensures that any potential 24 25 threats or risks to students are thoroughly evaluated while also guaranteeing the 26 educator has the opportunity to dispute the alleged ethical wrongdoing. **MOTION** 

### 27 CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

28

Kathy Behrens moved, with a second by Daniel Zylstra, to extend the 180-day deadline for issuance of the final decision in <u>case number 24-185</u> based upon the amount of time needed to schedule the hearing and conclude the contested case process. Although the respondent objects to the extension, probable cause of an ethical violation has been determined by the Board. Additional time is needed for 1 Board staff to proceed with the case. Also retaining this pending licensing matter

2 reinforces the significance of due process for both the complainant and the respondent

- 3 within the licensing disciplinary system. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
- 4

Miranda Brus moved, with a second by Kathy Behrens, to extend the 180-day deadline for issuance of the final decision in <u>case number 24-187</u> based the need to schedule the hearing and conclude the contested case process. The respondent does not object to the extension, and dismissal of the case would undermine public trust in educational licenses and would result in disparate treatment of similar ethical violations. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** 

11

12 Kathy Behrens moved, with a second by Paige Thorson, to extend the 180-day

13 deadline for issuance of the final decision in **<u>case number 24-190</u>** based upon the

14 amount of time needed to complete the investigation and conclude the contested case

15 process. Although the respondent has objected to the extended time additional time is

16 needed to conduct a thorough investigation, allowing more time for resolution of the

17 complaint assures due process for the Respondent. MOTION CARRIED

### 18 UNANIMOUSLY

19

Daniel Zylstra moved, with a second by Miranda Brus, to extend the 180-day deadline for issuance of the final decision in <u>case number 24-191</u> based upon the amount of time needed to complete the investigation and conclude the contested case process. The respondent did not file an objection to the extension even though given an

24 opportunity to object, allowing more time for resolution of the complaint assures due

25 process for the Respondent. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** 

26

Kathy Behrens moved, with a second by Daniel Zylstra, to extend the 180-day deadline for issuance of the final decision in <u>case number 24-199</u> due to the number of witnesses involved in the investigation and the complexity of the case, additional time is required to complete a comprehensive investigation and conclude the contested case process. The respondent does not object to the extension and retaining this pending licensing matter reinforces the significance of due process for both the 1 complainant and the respondent within the licensing disciplinary system. **MOTION** 

#### 2 CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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4 Paige Thorson moved, with a second by Miranda Brus, to extend the 180-day deadline for issuance of the final decision in **case number 24-200** due to the number of 5 6 witnesses involved in the investigation and the complexity of the case, additional time 7 is required to complete a comprehensive investigation and conclude the contested case 8 process. The respondent does not object to the extension and retaining this pending licensing matter reinforces the significance of due process for both the complainant 9 and the respondent within the licensing disciplinary system. MOTION CARRIED 10 11 UNANIMOUSLY

12

Kathy Behrens moved, with a second by Pam Bleam, to extend the 180-day deadline for issuance of the final decision in <u>case number 24-201</u> due to the number of witnesses involved in the investigation and the complexity of the case, additional time is required to complete a comprehensive investigation and conclude the contested case process. The respondent does not object to the extension and retaining this pending licensing matter reinforces the significance of due process for both the complainant and the respondent within the licensing disciplinary system. **MOTION CARRIED** 

### 20 UNANIMOUSLY

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22 Daniel Zylstra moved, with a second by Kathy Behrens, to extend the 180-day deadline for issuance of the final decision in case number 24-202 due to the number 23 of witnesses involved in the investigation and the complexity of the case, additional 24 25 time is required to complete a comprehensive investigation and conclude the contested 26 case process. The respondent does not object to the extension and, retaining this 27 pending licensing matter reinforces the significance of due process for both the complainant and the respondent within the licensing disciplinary system. **MOTION** 28 29 CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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31 Kathy Behrens moved, with a second by Eric St Clair, to approve the closed session

32 minutes for December 13, 2024. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** 

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1 Request for Reinstatement: Case No. 22-93, In the Matter of Peyton Paddock. Mr. 2 Paddock reported to school while under the influence of alcohol. He received a 3 sanction of: a reprimand, a suspension of his license for a minimum of two years, 4 completion of an ethics course, undergo a substance abuse evaluation and comply with the recommendations from the evaluation. He also agreed to complete a mental 5 6 health evaluation that includes an assessment of his ability to establish and maintain 7 mental health stability and safety given the stress of the classroom. Mr. Paddock filed 8 an application for full reinstatement of his license on December 27, 2024. The Board 9 noted that Mr. Paddock has met the timeline of the suspension and fulfilled the 10 requirements of the disciplinary order. Mr. Paddock was not present before the board but was represented by Nathan Arnold, who was present. Davis Eidahl moved, with a 11 second by Kathy Behrens that the Board grant the application for reinstatement as the 12 13 reason for the suspension no longer exists and reinstatement is in the public interest. 14 I further move that the Board authorize the Executive Director to sign the 15 reinstatement order consistent with the Board's discussion. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 16 17 18 Communication from the Public: 19 None 20 21 Board Member Reports: 22 None 23 24 **Executive Director's Report** 25 Legislative Report: 26 EO10 Review has been submitted and still moving forward. Full adoption will most 27 likely take place in late February. The Legislative Session for 2025 has started. The BoEE has one pre-filed bill relating to the definition of "Grooming". More information 28

- 29 will be shared relating to proposed bills as the session continues.
- 30
- 31 Agency Update

- 1 Three new Board members have been appointed. Ms. Sammons and Ms. Thorson
- 2 attended today's meeting and Dr. Michael Pyevich will joining a future meeting. BoEE
- 3 staff is in the process of receiving new computers.
- 4
- 5 Financial Report
- 6 December Financials have been included and are still down about 2% over last year.
- 7 Most of last year was down as well and options for reducing costs will need to be
- 8 considered in the future.
- 9
- 10 License Report
- 11 Renewals are about 2 weeks out. Staff did a great job of keeping up, even with being
- 12 out over Christmas Holiday. Iowa Graduates were processed quickly upon
- 13 recommendation. Approximately 600 Initial licenses have been issued since December
- 14 1, 2024.
- 15
- 16 There being no further business, Paige Thorson moved, with a second by Kathy
- 17 Behrens, to adjourn the meeting at 12:01 p.m. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**