| 1 | STATE OF IOWA |
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| 2 | BOARD OF EDUCATIONAL EXAMINERS |
| 3 | 701 E. Court Ave., Suite A |
| 4 | Des Moines, Iowa 50309 |
| 5 | |
| 6 | Minutes |
| 7 | March 22, 2024 |
| 8 | |
| 9 | The Board of Educational Examiners (Board or BoEE) held a meeting on March 22, |
| 10 | 2024. Chad Janzen, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Members |
| 11 | attending were Kathy Behrens, Pam Bleam, Davis Eidahl, Kristen Rickey, Eric St Clair, |
| 12 | Ryan Weldon, and Daniel Zylstra. Also in attendance was Mike Cavin, Executive |
| 13 | Director, Beth Myers, Attorney/Investigator, Diane Dennis, Greg Horstmann, and Lori |
| 14 | Lavorato, Investigators, Kristi Traynor and Andrew Steffensmeier, Assistant Attorneys |
| 15 | General. Tim Bower and Michael Lock were unable to attend. |
| 16 | |
| 17 | Kristen Rickey moved, with a second by Eric St. Clair, to approve the agenda. |
| 18 | MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY |
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| 20 | Eric St Clair moved, with a second by Kristen Rickey to approve the consent agenda |
| 21 | (minutes for February 23, 2024). MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. |
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| 23 | Kristen Rickey moved, with a second by Eric St Clair that the Board go into closed |
| 24 | session for the purpose of discussing closed session minutes whether to initiate |
| 25 | licensee disciplinary proceedings, the decision to be rendered in a contested case, |
| 26 | confidential health information, and mental health information, pursuant to Iowa |
| 27 | Code sections 21.5(1)(a), (d), and (f). Roll call vote: Behrens – yes; Bleam – yes; Eidahl |
| 28 | – yes; Janzen – yes; Rickey – yes; St Clair – yes; Weldon – yes; Zylstra – yes; MOTION |
| 29 | CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY |
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| 31 | The Board returned to open session at 12:22 p.m. |
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Kristen Rickey moved, with a second by Eric St Clair, that in **case number 23-207**, 1 2 the Board find that the evidence gathered in the investigations, including witness statements and the documentary evidence, does not substantiate the allegations in the 3 4 complaints, and that the Board therefore lacks probable cause to proceed with this matter. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5 6 7 Eric St Clair moved, with a second by Pam Bleam, that in **case number 24-02**, the 8 Board finds that the evidence gathered in the investigation, including witness 9 statements and the documentary evidence, does not substantiate the allegations in the 10 complaint, and that the Board therefore lacks probable cause to proceed with this 11 matter. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 12 13 Pam Bleam moved, with a second by Kristen Rickey, that in **case number 24-31**, the 14 Board finds that the evidence gathered in the investigation, including witness 15 statements and the documentary evidence, does not substantiate the allegations in the 16 complaint, and that the Board therefore lacks probable cause to proceed with this matter. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 17 18 Kristen Rickey moved, with a second by Eric St Clair, that in case numbers 23-230, 19 20 the Board find probable cause to establish a violation of the Code of Professional 21 Conduct and Ethics, 282 IAC rules 25.3(2)b and order this case set for hearing. 22 MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 23 24 Eric St Clair moved, with a second by Kristen Rickey, that in **case number 24-01**, the 25 Board find probable cause to establish a violation of the Code of Professional Conduct 26 and Ethics, 282 IAC rule 25.3(5)a(2), and order this case set for hearing. MOTION **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** 27 28 29 Pam Bleam moved, with a second by Kristen Rickey, that in case number 23-139, the 30 Board return the complaint and investigative report to the investigator to gather further information, and return the case to the Board for further consideration. 31 32 MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 33

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and Ethics, 282 IAC rule 25.3(2)b, and order this case set for hearing. MOTION 3 **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** 4 5 6 Eric St Clair moved, with a second by Pam Bleam, that in case number 23-127, the 7 Board find probable cause to establish a violation of the Code of Professional Conduct 8 and Ethics, 282 IAC rule 25.3(2)b and 25.3(3)e, and order this case set for hearing. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 9 10 Eric St Clair moved, with a second by Kristen Rickey, that in case number 24-34 the 11 Board finds that the evidence gathered in the investigation, including witness 12 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 matter. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15 16 17 Kristen Rickey moved, with a second by Pam Bleam, that in **case number 23-167**, the Board find probable cause to establish a violation of the Code of Professional Conduct 18 19 and Ethics, 282 IAC rule 25.3(6)c, 25.3(8)b, and order this case set for hearing. Roll 20 call vote: Behrens – yes; Bleam – yes; Eidahl – no; Janzen – yes; Rickey – yes; St Clair - yes; Weldon - no; Zylstra - no. MOTION CARRIED 21 22 23 Eric St Clair moved, with a second by Pam Bleam, that in **case number 23-166**, the Board find probable cause to establish a violation of the Code of Professional Conduct 24 25 and Ethics, 282 IAC rule 25.3(3)e, 25.3(6) m, 25.3(8) a & b, and order this case set for 26 hearing. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 27 Pam Bleam moved, with a second by Kristen Rickey, that in case number 23-173, the 28 29 Board find probable cause to establish a violation of the Code of Professional Conduct 30 and Ethics, 282 IAC rule 25.3(1)e(1), 25.3(6) c, h, & s and order this case set for hearing. Roll call vote: Behren - yes; Bleam - yes; Eidahl - yes; Janzen - recused; 31 32 Rickey - yes; St Clair - yes; Weldon - yes; Zylstra - yes. MOTION CARRIED 33

Kristen Rickey moved, with a second by Pam Bleam, that in **case number 23-152**, the

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

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Kristen Rickey moved, with a second by Pam Bleam, that in **case number 24-16** the 1 2 Board finds that the evidence gathered in the investigation, including witness statements and the documentary evidence, does not substantiate the allegations in the 3 4 complaint, and that the Board therefore lacks probable cause to proceed with this matter. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5 6 7 Eric St Clair moved, with a second by Pam Bleam, that in **case number 24-04**, the 8 Board find probable cause to establish a violation of the Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics, 282 IAC rule 25.3(5)a(2), and order this case set for hearing. MOTION 9 10 **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** 11 Pam Bleam moved, with a second by Kristen Rickey, that in **<u>case number 24-19</u>**, the 12 13 Board find probable cause to establish a violation of the Code of Professional Conduct 14 and Ethics, 282 IAC rule 25.3(5)a(2), and order this case set for hearing. MOTION 15 **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** 16 Kristen Rickey moved, with a second by Pam Bleam, that in **case number 23-197**, the 17 board, find probable cause to establish a violation of the Code of Professional Conduct 18 19 and Ethics, 282 IAC rule 25.3(6)b & c and 25.3(8)b, and order this case set for 20 hearing. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 21 Eric St Clair moved, with a second by Kristen Rickey, that in **case number 24-23**, the 22 23 Board find probable cause to establish a violation of the Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics, 282 IAC rule 25.3(2)b, and order this case set for hearing. MOTION 24 25 **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** 26 27 Pam Bleam moved, with a second by Kristen Rickey that in **case number 23-177**, the Board find probable cause to establish a violation of the Code of Professional Conduct 28 29 and Ethics, 282 IAC rule 25.3(3)e, 25.3(6)m and 25.3(8)a, and order this case set for 30 hearing. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 31

1 Kristen Rickey moved, with a second by Eric St Clair, that in **case number 23-162**, 2 the Board find probable cause to establish a violation of the Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics, 282 IAC rule 25.3(5)a(2), and order this case set for hearing. 3 **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** 4 5 Eric St Clair moved, with a second by Pam Bleam, that in case number 23-172, the 6 7 Board find probable cause to establish a violation of the Code of Professional Conduct 8 and Ethics, 282 IAC rule 25.3(5)a(2), and order this case set for hearing. MOTION **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** 9 10 11 Kristen Rickey moved, with a second by Pam Bleam, that in **case number 23-174**, the Board find probable cause to establish a violation of the Code of Professional Conduct 12 13 and Ethics, 282 IAC rule 25.3(5)a(2), and order this case set for hearing. MOTION 14 **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** 15 Kristen Rickey moved, with a second by Eric St Clair, that in **case number 23-184**, 16 the Board return the complaint and investigative report to the investigator to gather 17 further information, and return the case to the Board for further consideration. 18 19 **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** 20 21 Eric St Clair moved, with a second by Kristen Rickey, that in **case number 23-187**, the Board find probable cause to establish a violation of the Code of Professional 22 23 Conduct and Ethics, 282 IAC rule 25.3(5)a(2), and order this case set for hearing. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** 24 25 Executive Director, Michael Cavin, recused during closed session discussion of case 26 27 23-234. Pam Bleam moved, with a second by Kristen Rickey, that in **case number 23-234**, the Board find probable cause to establish a violation of the Code of 28 29 Professional Conduct and Ethics, 282 IAC rule 25.3(1)b, and order this case set for 30 hearing. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 31 32 Kristen Rickey moved, with a second by Pam Bleam, that in **case number 23-65**, the Board find probable cause to establish a violation of the Code of Professional Conduct 33

| 1 | and Ethics, 282 IAC rule 25.3(1)c and 25.3(1)b(1)2, and order this case set for hearing. |
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| 2 | MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY |
| 3 | |
| 4 | Eric St Clair moved, with a second by Kristen Rickey, that the Board accept the |
| 5 | respondent's waiver of hearing and voluntary surrender in case number 23-90 and |
| 6 | that the Board issue an order permanently revoking the license with no possibility of |
| 7 | reinstatement. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY |
| 8 | |
| 9 | Kristen Rickey moved, with a second by Pam Bleam, that in <u>case number 23-79</u> , the |
| 10 | Board accept the agreement submitted by the parties, and issue an Order |
| 11 | incorporating the agreement and imposing the agreed upon sanction. MOTION |
| 12 | CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY |
| 13 | |
| 14 | Eric St Clair moved, with a second by Kristen Rickey, that in case numbers 23-170 & |
| 15 | $\underline{171}$ the Board accept the agreement submitted by the parties, and issue an Order |
| 16 | incorporating the agreement and imposing the agreed upon sanction. MOTION |
| 17 | CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY |
| 18 | |
| 19 | Kristen Rickey moved, with a second by Pam Bleam, that in case number 22-40 , the |
| 20 | Board accept the agreement submitted by the parties, and issue an Order |
| 21 | incorporating the agreement and imposing the agreed upon sanction. MOTION |
| 22 | CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY |
| 23 | |
| 24 | Kristen Rickey moved, with a second by Eric St Clair, to accept the signed consents to |
| 25 | waive the deadline in case numbers 23-175, 23-180, 23-181, and 23-189 , and issue |
| 26 | an order extending the deadline. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY |
| 27 | |
| 28 | Eric St Clair moved, with a second by Pam Bleam, to extend the 180-day deadline for |
| 29 | issuance of the final decision in case number 23-172 based upon the need to |
| 30 | schedule the hearing and conclude the contested case process. The respondent did |
| 31 | not file an objection to the extension even though given an opportunity to object. |
| 32 | MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY |
| 33 | |

1 Kristen Rickey moved, with a second by Eric St Clair to extend the 180-day deadline 2 for issuance of the final decision in case number 23-173 based upon the need to schedule the hearing and conclude the contested case process. Although the 3 4 respondent has objected to the extended time, probable cause of an ethical violation has been determined by the Board. Additional time is needed to schedule a hearing 5 6 and conclude the contested case process. Retaining this pending licensing matter 7 ensures that any potential threats or risks to students are thoroughly evaluated while 8 also guaranteeing the educator has the opportunity to dispute the alleged ethical wrongdoing. Justice would not be served by dismissing a pending complaint 9 10 concerning alleged ethical wrongdoing of an educator given the need to maintain safe learning environments for Iowa students. Allowing more time for resolution of the 11 complaint assures due process for the Respondent. Roll call vote: Behrens – yes; 12 13 Bleam – yes; Eidahl – yes; Janzen – recused; Rickey – yes; St Clair – yes; Weldon – yes; 14 Zylstra – yes. **MOTION CARRIED**

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Pam Bleam moved, with a second by Kristen Rickey, to extend the 180-day deadline for issuance of the final decision in <u>case number 23-174</u> based upon the need to schedule the hearing and conclude the contested case process. The Respondent did

19 not file an objection to the extension even though given an opportunity to object.

20 MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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Eric St Clair moved, with a second by Kristen Rickey, to extend the 180-day deadline for issuance of the final decision in <u>case number 23-177</u> based upon the need to schedule the hearing and conclude the contested case process. The respondent does not object to the extension. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

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Kristen Rickey moved, with a second by Pam Bleam to extend the 180-day deadline for issuance of the final decision in <u>case number 23-179</u> based upon the amount of time needed to complete the investigation and conclude the contested case process. The Respondent does not object to the extension. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

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Pam Bleam moved, with a second by Eric St Clair, to extend the 180-day deadline for issuance of the final decision in <u>case number 23-181</u>. The seriousness of the accused violation is of such a magnitude, additional time is required to complete a comprehensive investigative and conclude the contested case process. The Respondent does not object to the extension. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Kristen Rickey moved, with a second by Pam Bleam, to extend the 180-day deadline for issuance of the final decision in <u>case number 23-182</u> based upon the amount of time needed to complete the investigation and conclude the contested case process due to the inability to make contact with the Respondent. Allowing more time for resolution of the complaint assures due process for the Respondent. **MOTION**

12 CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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14 Eric St Clair moved, with a second by Kristen Rickey, to extend the 180-day deadline for issuance of the final decision in **case number 23-184** based upon additional time 15 16 the the amount of time needed to complete the investigation and conclude the 17 contested case process. Additional investigative information was requested by the 18 Board to make a probable cause determination, additional time is required to complete 19 a comprehensive investigative and conclude the contested case process. The 20 Respondent did not file an objection to the extension even though given an opportunity to object. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 21

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Pam Bleam moved, with a second by Kristen Rickey to extend the 180-day deadline for issuance of the final decision in <u>case number 23-186</u> based upon the seriousness of the accused violation is of such a magnitude, additional time is required to complete a comprehensive investigative and conclude the contested case process. The Respondent did not file an objection to the extension even though given an opportunity to object. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**Eric St Clair moved, with a second by Kristen Rickey, to extend the 180-day deadline

for issuance of the final decision in **<u>case number 23-187</u>** based upon the need to

32 schedule the hearing and conclude the contested case process. The Respondent did

1 not file an objection to the extension even though given an opportunity to object.

2 MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3 4 Pam Bleam moved, with a second by Kristen Rickey to extend the 180-day deadline for issuance of the final decision in case number 23-190 based upon the seriousness of 5 6 the accused violation is of such a magnitude, additional time is required to complete a 7 comprehensive investigative and conclude the contested case process. Roll call vote: 8 Behrens - yes; Bleam - yes; Eidahl - yes; Janzen - yes; Rickey - yes; St Clair recused; Weldon - yes; Zylstra - yes. MOTION CARRIED 9 10 Kristi Traynor and Andrew Steffensmeier recused during the closed session 11 12 discussion of the following 180-day cases: 13 Eric St Clair moved, with a second by Pam Bleam, to extend the 180-day 14 deadline for issuance of the final decision in **case number 23-176** based upon 15 the need to hold the hearing and conclude the contested case process and 16 17 Respondent did not file an objection to the extension even though given an opportunity to object. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 18 19 20 Kristen Rickey moved, with a second by Eric St Clair to extend the 180-day deadline for issuance of the final decision in **case number 23-185** based upon 21 the need to schedule the hearing and conclude the contested case process. 22 The Respondent does not object to the extension. MOTION CARRIED 23 24 **UNANIMOUSLY** 25 Eric St Clair moved, with a second by Kristen Rickey to approve the closed 26 session minutes for February 23, 2024. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 27 28 Request for Reinstatement: **Case no. 22-112** In the matter of Holly Hoelting. Ms. 29 30 Hoelting was alleged to have failed to protect the health and safety of a student and 31 created conditions harmful to learning. She was also alleged of conducting business 32 in such a way that the practitioner repeatedly exposes student to unnecessary

1 embarrassment or disparagement and willfully or repeatedly departing from or failing 2 to conform to the minimum standards of acceptable and prevailing education practice. Her sanction included: a written reprimand, deferred suspension of her license for a 3 4 minimum of 6 months, attendance of a 15-hour ethics course, completion of a substance abuse evaluation and a mental health assessment that evaluates her ability 5 6 to establish and maintain appropriate Coach-Student boundaries. Ms. Hoelting applied for reinstatement on March 7, 2024, has met the timeline of the suspension 7 8 and fulfilled the requirements of the disciplinary order. Ms. Hoelting was not present 9 before the board. Kristen Rickey moved, with a second by Pam Bleam, the board 10 approve reinstatement of the license in case number 22-112 because the need for the suspension no longer exists and it is in the public interest to reinstate the license. 11 MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 12 13 14 Request for Reinstatement: Case no. 23-19 In the matter of Jayden Kies. Mr. Kies 15 was alleged of abandoning a written employment contract without prior unconditional 16 release by the employer. His sanction included: a 90-day suspension. Mr. Kies was not present before the board. The 90-day suspension period has elapsed. Eric St 17 Clair moved, with a second by Kristen Rickey, to approve reinstatement of the license 18 19 in **case number 23-19** because the need for the suspension no longer exists and it is

- in the public interest to reinstate the license. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
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- 22 <u>Communication from the Public:</u>
- 23 None
- 24

25 Board Member Reports:

26 Chad Janzen reported that board member committees will be evaluated at the June

27 retreat.

28

- 29 <u>Executive Director's Report</u>
- 30 Legislative Report:

31 The rules proposal later in the meeting relates to a discussion between Director Snow,

32 Governor Reynolds and Director Cavin regarding new CTE endorsements. Many of our

bills have been combined into one large House bill, which the Senate now needs to

- 1 reconcile. The Governor's Appropriations bill includes a new investigator for the
- 2 BoEE. This position will be funded through the DE, but assigned to BoEE to assist in
- 3 non-licensed staff investigations and overlap for licensed staff investigation.
- 4

5 Agency Update:

6 A new Board member will be joining us at the April board meeting. The BoEE had a

7 major technical issue with Google and uploaded documents, in March. It caused

8 difficulty for many applicants and staff worked with them to resolve issues. Greg

9 Horstmann, investigator and administrative consultant for the BoEE, has chosen to

10 retire in May. Director Cavin has initiated the process for his replacement.

11

12 Financial Report:

13 Financials have been included in the agenda packet. For FY 24, we are behind about

14 15% due to a combination of factors, such as the decrease in cost of the new renewal

15 process and also a decrease in applications by about 3,000. The online BoEE

16 application system is currently running about \$166,000.00 per year.

17

18 License Report

19 Renewals are less than 2 weeks out. We are beginning to receive calls around

- 20 conditional licensure for next school year.
- 21

22 The June retreat and meeting will take place in the Grimes Building in room B100.

23 Hotel accommodation and dinner plans for Board members were discussed. The

24 retreat agenda for Thursday will consist of operational procedures, a few

- 25 presentations, committee assignments and goal setting for 2024-2025. Discussions
- 26 continue for additional Board members.
- 27

28 <u>Rules:</u>

29 <u>Discuss</u>

30 Amend IAC 282 Chapter 22- Authorizations. Director Cavin led discussion on

31 amendments that would allow a new "cluster" endorsement option for career and

32 technical authorizations. Board members provided feedback, suggestions and asked

33 questions.

1

2 <u>Reports</u>

3 An updated draft of the Board meeting calendar for FY 24 was proposed. Pam Bleam

- 4 moved, with a second by Eric St. Clair, to approve the Board Meeting calendar year for
- 5 FY 25.
- 6
- 7 There being no further business, Kristen Rickey moved, with a second by Eric St Clair,
- 8 to adjourn the meeting at 1:17 p.m. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**