

State Board of Education & Early Development
Approved Minutes
June 8, 2023
Department of Education & Early Development
Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly Chambers
144 N. Binkley Street
Soldotna, AK 99669

Thursday, June 8, 2023

Chair Fields called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m. on June 8, 2023. Roll was called and the following members were present to provide a quorum: Members Jeff Erickson, Bob Griffin, Second Vice Chair Sally Stockhausen, Member Lorri Van Diest, Military Advisor Lieutenant Colonel James Fowley, Student Advisor Elect Felix Myers, and Chair James Fields. Student Advisor Maggie Cothron arrived a few minutes late.

Senator Shelley Hughes, Representative Justin Ruffridge, and Former Representative Ron Gilham were also in attendance in the audience.

After the pledge of allegiance, Member Van Diest motioned and Member Griffin seconded a motion to adopt the June agenda. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote. There were no potential conflicts of interest identified by board members.

Agenda Item 1 – Executive Session: Attorney Consultation

Chair Fields motioned, and Member Van Diest seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development convene in executive session to obtain legal advice regarding proposed regulation project amending 4 AAC 06.115. Under the Open Meetings Act, AS 44.62.310(c)(3), attorney-client advice is a matter which by law is required to be confidential. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

Chair Fields motioned and Member Griffin seconded the motion to come out of executive session; motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Public comment opened at 8:55am.

Velvet Danielson – Velvet began with a prayer and reading from the Bible, “God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God, he created them male and female.” (Genesis 1:27). She played basketball in high school in the early eighties and her grandchildren play now. None of them want to play against boys or want to see gender confusion.

Lindsey Hannevold – She has two girls who play sports in the schools and should not have to compete with the boys. They should be separated by blood type, X or Y. Having boys play against girls could injure the girls, and we need to protect girls.

Gregg Brush – He moved from California to Alaska 33 years ago to find a more conservative place to live. He is concerned that Alaska is ranked 48th in education among the states.

Jennifer Bowman – Without age groups, competition would be unfair. Trans athletes competing against women could eliminate many women from achieving victory and increase injuries. Girls should be protected in locker rooms.

Tahlah McAnelly – She has two girls who play sports. They shouldn't have to play against bigger, stronger boys.

Kaytlin McAnelly – She is a four-sport high school athlete. It is unfair to force girls to compete against boys who are stronger, faster, and more athletic. She gave examples of winners in the 5k and basketball competitions. If someone is born a male, they should compete in male sports, because if they compete against women, it will wipe out women's sports.

Gladys Bailon – She has 2 kids, a boy and a girl. There is a fundamental and biological difference between men and women. Men should only participate in men's sports.

Valerie McAnelly – She is a high school freshman who competes in various sports and believes that females should not have to compete against males. She wrestles and now that the girl brackets are separate, she wins.

James McAnelly – His two daughters just spoke and he also has a son. He supports the regulation as it's written. It ensures fairness, safety, and equal opportunity. Boys who are born as males will grow up to be much stronger and faster than girls. Women cannot feasibly compete against men. It's not a fair comparison. It should not be allowed for a male to take a woman's place on a team. As a man, he is proud to support women.

Mike Dehlban – He knows the difference between a boy and a girl. He doesn't want to shatter the star athlete dreams of girls just because 'Johnny' wants to play on the girl's team. Give girls a fair shot.

Trinity Donovan – She is a recent high school graduate and wrestled against boys, which hurt her record. After puberty, males experience a 15x higher increase in testosterone than females. The average male has 45% more lean body mass, 33% more lower body mass, and 40% upper body mass. These advantages can't be altered. Women on testosterone undergo very modest changes. It's not fair for men or transgender women to compete in the women's division because it is not safe, mentally or physically. Women are 33% less likely to compete in high school versus middle school sports because of puberty and lack of confidence. 17 sports have passed the Fairness in Women's Sports Act, and Alaska should be next. Transgender women can have their own category or create an open division.

Senator Shelley Hughes – She carried the bill to protect girls' sports. Before Title 9 in 1972, very few women could play sports. Her only option in high school was cheerleading. It's thanks to girls-on-girls teams that ensured that now 3.5 million females play school sports. If the proposed regulation doesn't pass, females will face discrimination and girls will lose. We are wise to address this earlier rather than later. Even after a decade of testosterone suppressant, a biological male still has more extensive lung and oxygen capacity, larger bone structure, and greater muscle mass. I am not transphobic. This proposed regulation allows a co-ed option with ample opportunities for all students. And some may bring up the potential increase in depression rates and suicide for those with gender dysmorphia. Yet, those numbers are also trending upward for teenage girls, who deserve privacy and dignity in the locker room and sleeping arrangements during sports travel. I have some concerns with how the regulation is written, but I will discuss that further with you at a later point.

Mariah Kerrone – She quoted the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District policy to describe the process of writing a letter of intent for application for a charter school. She then provided a timeline of 250 days of communication with KPBSD that now the board has denied their application for the Nikolaevsk Charter School. There is no basis for appeal. The Board has the authority to withhold funding to a district and she requests that they do that as well as monitor the situation closely.

Chandra Caffroy – She also wants to reinvigorate the Nikolaevsk Charter School and provided a timeline of their application. However, KPBSD has not replied or provided answers in a timely manner. She believes KPBSD is not in compliance with state law and requests that the board withhold funding to the district and consider regulation additions that will further define consequences for districts and boards out of compliance.

Ron Gillham – He is speaking on behalf of Curriculum Watch, a group of concerned parents, grandparents, and future parents with members in multiple states. He is adamantly opposed to girls having to compete against biological males. DEED found 7 ELE (English Language Arts) curricula core reading programs and districts chose the final four which were adaptable and responsive. Yet, Inappropriate content was found, such as world religion studies for young students. We believe it is the Board's responsibility to hold DEED accountable for allowing age-inappropriate curriculum content to be included and to remove the age-inappropriate content.

Timothy Barto, VP of Alaska Family Council – He is a father and a baseball coach. Athletics allow young athletes to learn about competition, teamwork, and develop their skills. The idea of biological males competing in female sports should not even be a topic because it is social and based on feelings only. They are still biological males. Protect female sports and what Title 9 has given women.

Lindsey Bertoldo – Sexuality and a trans lifestyle is a choice. We need to be honest and not let them live in a fantasy world. All of my siblings are living a promiscuous, bisexual, or homosexual lifestyle. I lost my brother to suicide. We were all abused. I was sexually assaulted by boys in my classroom and wanted to cover up. Please protect our girls and our children.

Mayme Ohnemus – She is proud of the girls who have spoken out today. It is humiliating and terrifying to shower with other girls, so she can't imagine that a male might be in the dressing room.

Daisy Hannevold – She is a sixteen-year-old wrestler, who had to wrestle in the Boys Division at first, but about five years ago, girls' only brackets began. If she had to wrestle a man, she would be at a large disadvantage or possibly at risk of injury. It is unsafe and unfair for trans women to compete against her. Trans girls should have their own division, change the men's category to an open category, or gain support for pride games.

Jim Minnery, President of Alaska Family Council – He agrees with the athletes who have spoken. He is a hockey coach. There is a petition online and it is gaining a lot of signatures, almost 2,000 signatures. This issue crosses political lines. Many petition signers also make a comment because they are passionate and serious about wanting trans kids to have opportunities while still not requiring girls to compete against biological boys. Normally, our group is outgunned by LGBT groups, but not on this issue. Yet, we normally see a lot of intimidation on this issue, so be prepared for vitriol. This regulation is about one thing: allowing girls to compete fairly.

Mike Coons – He fully supports the DEED regulation. This is not about discriminating against LGBCD (CD stands for cross-dresser because Mr. Coons does not use the term transgender). He brought up multiple recent sports results and news topics. He believes seeing a naked man undressing before a sporting event would be very disturbing and intimidating. He supports the Matsu School Board.

Pamela Samash – She quoted biblical texts. She believes we have a responsibility to God to protect children and maintain their innocence and protection. Removing Christ from schools results in disturbing actions. We need to end any LGBTQ sport around children.

Mara Kimmel – The proposed policy is unconstitutional, and it risks the well-being of all Alaska students. How will DEED determine the child's sex assigned at birth? Will our students be subject to invasive physical exams? If DEED monitors birth certificates, it raises serious privacy concerns. The practice could also force a transgender student to be outed. It also will hurt the self-image of girls who appear too masculine. It would jeopardize the mental health of a group of children who are already at a heightened risk of suicide. The kids could care less about transgender participation. Only the grown-ups freaked out. She urges the Board to protect privacy, equal protection, and access to public education for all students. Trans students participate in sports for the same reasons as all other kids: to challenge themselves, improve fitness, and be part of a team and community.

Aaron Donham – He spoke in favor of the Nikolaevsk Charter School and asked for help in working with the Kenai Peninsula Borough School Board. He also is supporting women in women's sports.

Tim Duran – He read a piece from Chaplain Bob Fox. He is against the proposed regulations. They are discriminatory and reflective of a limited understanding of medical and scientific knowledge. They reflect an attempt to provide a solution for which there is no problem. This is a way for the administration to bypass the legislature. Also, why are we advancing regulations for public comment when they are still awaiting law review and approval? The regulation also removes local control and freedom of association. They are not in the best interest of all students or in line with the values of public education.

Monica Whitman – She is a parent of a transgender student. Her top priority is to raise happy, healthy kids. There is no issue with trans kids dominating sports in Alaska currently. Will the state determine which sex a student is with private medical records? It is not realistic for a third category of sports to be adequately funded. These policies put at risk a small minority of students.

David Boyle – He supports the proposed regulation regarding girls' sports. It is a compromise that establishes a division for students who identify with either sex or gender. Girls' sports will die from lack of participation if we allow biological males to play, or parents will start up their own divisions outside the ASA.

Tom Klaameyer, President of NEA Alaska – The matters the Board should focus on are students and learning, instead of politicized or partisan. The proposed regulation does not fit the vision and mission of the Board for "all students will succeed in their education and work and shape worthwhile and satisfying lives for themselves." There are much more immediate issues: unprecedented levels of educator turnover, the Alaska Reads Act, and Tribal Compacting. This is a divisive non-issue. It does not allow for local control. It was not transparent, not published on the agenda, and not properly publicly noticed. It is circumventing the legislature.

Jacob Bera – He is a 20-year educator, award nominee, father of three children, and a cross-country running coach for 14 years. He strongly opposes the regulation. It is a political maneuver to bypass the legislature and pit girls against the LGBTQ community. Misinformation and scare tactics are being used, and that language already negatively impacts our kids. Trans kids feel ridiculed and mocked. Please consider more inclusive policies like Oregon and Washington. Please support all Alaskans and bring in all stakeholders, including representatives from the LGBTQ community.

Joshua Knicely – He is a doctorate student at UAF, trained to understand evidence and logic. The data shows that transgender women do not have an unfair advantage in sports. This isn't about making sports fair, it is about dehumanizing transgender people. Transgender and non-binary people predate the Christian religion and are mentioned in many ancient cultures. This regulation pushes ideas like white supremacy and bigotry. Chromosomes don't determine sex: women can be XY and men can be XX. There are people with XXY, XYY, and even people with just an X chromosome.

Natalie Thomas – She homeschools her five children and would enroll their children in the Nikolaevsk Charter school if approved. She asked the board to review the charter application.

Nick Schoob – He is opposed to the regulation. He is a non-binary pastor. He quoted the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. This proposal would deprive children of their intrinsic rights, including the right to play. Many of the speakers today allude to either sacrificing our girls or sacrificing our trans youth, and both answers are unacceptable. They also have called trans people confused, mutilated, living in fantasies, liars, abusers, violent, promiscuous, that we do not exist, and that we are jokes. Our children hear these things and carry those scars.

Juley - She asked for support in the Nikolaevsk Charter school application. The KPBSD has left many unanswered questions and emails.

Susan Strausbaugh – She has two kids who run and wrestle. She also wrestled. She was sad seeing girls continue to lose to boys who were their age and weight. Although trans students should be able to compete, they should get their own division, like the girls did.

Public commented closed at 10:40am.

Work Session

Agenda Item 2 - Legislative and Budget Update

Deputy Commissioner Lacey Sanders provided a legislative and budget update in place of Laurel Shoop, the DEED Legislative Liaison. The department tracked 52 bills, two of which passed during the regular legislative session:

- HB69 provides a mechanism for first-class cities with a population of 400 or less to change their governmental organization status to a second-class city.
- SB23 repealed a statute that established the curriculum improvement and best practices fund which has not been funded since inception.

Member Van Diest requested an email with the number of hearings attended and presentations given this session in comparison to the previous session.

Sabrina Javier, the Administrative Services Director, provided a Fiscal Year 2024 budget. Member Griffin asked for clarification on the status of the budget. Director Javier clarified that it was still awaiting transmittal to the Governor and then the Governor has twenty days to make vetoes.

Agenda Item 3 - Alyeska Reading Academy and Institute Update

Dr. Deena Bishop, a policy advisor in Governor Dunleavy's office, and Susan McKenzie, Director of the Division of Innovation and Education Excellence (IEE), presented an update for the Alyeska Reading Academy and Institute (ARAI).

Member Griffin mentioned that we need to build the capacity for professional development for the teachers who will be teaching these new techniques. Second Vice Chair Stockhausen asked for the logistical details of the program and where it will be housed. Dr. Bishop responded that it will be a variety of tools; a lab school will be utilized in a specific location and by distance learning. Resources and techniques can also be taught in person in front of a classroom in certain situations. Right now, ARAI is housed in IEE but the department organization is still being worked out. DEED will hire an ARAI director.

Member Erickson believes this tool will be a relief to teachers and asked if it is a permanent resource or if it has a shorter lifespan. Dr. Bishop replied that funding was provided for one year and that we hope it can continue while it is still helpful to teachers.

Lt. Col. Fowley asked about the distribution of workload for ARAI. Dr. Bishop believes that 70% of the work will be to build confidence with adults and 30% will be working directly with students. Working with parents of homeschooled students will also be a large component.

Student Advisor-Elect Myers asked for specifics about the access for rural students and how it was funded. Dr. Bishop responded that some superintendents want their teachers to come to the lab to learn. ARAI is not a full-functioning school and is singularly focused on reading for young students. Students will remain with their school district.

Member Van Diest asked about the qualifications and timeline of hiring for educators for ARAI. Dr. Bishop responded that there would be two positions, an administrative services support staff and a director, who will be hired first before educators. Then DEED hopes to hire a maximum of four part-time educators because students mostly need attention before or after school. The hires should be able to both tutor children directly and provide professional development to teachers throughout Alaska. DEED is hoping to hire only Alaskan teachers.

Deputy Commissioner Lacey Sanders responded that the Office of Management and Budget has approved the establishment of two positions, those positions still have to go through a classification process with the Department of Administration, and lastly, the recruitment process takes about a month. The funding increment approved by the legislature was \$5 million for 12 positions, but that has been uncertain until the Governor signs the operating budget bill. Dr. Bishop envisions about six people onsite and the others remote. DEED also put out a Request for Information (RFI) to find a space in east or midtown Anchorage to find a location for ARAI. From there, DEED will have to work with the Department of Transportation to establish a lease agreement. There is also a backup plan to use a variety of classrooms.

Member Stockhausen asked if it would be in place by the fall. Dr. Bishop responded that yes, and hopefully even on August 1 to start providing assistance to teachers. Member Griffin agreed that new

hires must be flexible and able to provide a variety of resources, from teacher support to student tutoring.

The State Board would need to approve this program and the new director position, as well as provide oversight to this program. The State Board will take up the department budget in October; at that point, if ARAI is made a priority, DEED would propose that item in the Governor's budget.

The board recessed for lunch and then re-gaveled in at 1:00 p.m.

Agenda Item 4 - Computer Science State Plan

Statewide Coding and Computer Science Career Coordinator, Faye Tanner, provided information for a computer science state plan. It would give consistency and serve as a guide for school districts to expand their computer science education.

Student Advisor-Elect Myers commented that his school district hasn't had an established computer science program in the past, but now is working to establish it, which is exciting.

Member Griffin asked about the availability of Starlink capacity or generally the availability of internet in rural areas. Acting Commissioner Teshner responded that the Broadband Office is working on many things related to that issue and that local districts choose whichever provider they want.

Member Stockhausen asked if there is a plan to provide statewide training to teachers or if they will have to rely on universities. Ms. Tanner responded that we hope to develop good programs in-house, but currently university courses are the go-to.

Agenda Item 5 – State Board of Education's Career and Technical Education Committee Awards for Recognition Program

Member Van Diest presented the five programs to be approved by the committee. There were eleven nominations and awardees were selected based on student engagement and work-based learning.

- Minto School, Hydroponics Growing Unit
- Delta Greeley School District, Boat Building
- Alaska Resource Education, Powerful Opportunities for Women in Resources Camp
- Annette Island School District, SCUBA Program
- Bristol Bay Regional Career and Technical Education Programs, Fisheries Program

Member Griffin mentioned that Delta Greeley's boat was auctioned for \$25,000. Member Erickson mentioned that they don't know yet how to present these awards.

Agenda Item 6 - Regulations for Public Comment

Agenda Item 6A – Virtual Education Consortium

The Board is being asked to open a period of public comment on regulations to establish the Virtual Education Consortium and the associated governing body related to the Alaska Reads Act related to interscholastic activities. Kelly Manning, Deputy Director of the Division of Innovation and Education Excellence presented the basics of the regulations to establish the Virtual Education Consortium and the associated governing body. Chair Fields asked about the process of creating or using a database. Deputy Director Manning responded that the department is exploring options, such as expanding a previously used database. There was no further discussion.

Agenda Item 6B – Interscholastic Activities

The Board is being asked to open a period of public comment on regulations related to interscholastic activities. The Board discussed the proposed regulation changes. Member Van Diest clarified that the Board has chosen to amend the initial regulation by adding a new subparagraph. Chair Fields commented that this amendment is just focusing on high school-age students, that competition and scheduling overlap all schools causing local control to be ineffective in this instance, and that it is helpful to have public comment that provides language suggestions. Member Griffin appreciated the robust public engagement. Member Erickson clarified that the new subparagraph is not an addition but replaces what the Board previously had. Student Advisor-Elect Myers believes that the new language may be the Board trying to circumvent Title Nine. He comments that the regulation would be a sweeping ban on the participation of transgender women and should not move further since there are already regulations in place to protect fairness and safety in high school sports. He thinks the regulation is not part of the Board's primary goal, is politically divisive, is not a real issue, and circumvents the legislative process. Chair Fields responded by saying that no decision will please everyone and that he plans to protect girls and girls' sports. He believes ASAA is looking to the Board to give them direction. Member Griffin is not trying to be hostile to anyone in how they project themselves and believes the regulation is simply about fairness. He also mentioned that although this is not currently an issue in Alaska, he hopes the regulation will be proactive. Member Van Diest reminded the group of the previous public comment from girl wrestlers. Second Vice Chair Stockhausen hopes that this regulation paves the way for more involvement of transgender students while keeping all students safe. Lt. Col. Fowley reminded the board that it is important to allow the public to voice their opinions under the First Amendment. There was no further discussion.

Agenda Item 7 - Adoption of Proposed Regulations: Statewide Screening Tool

Susan McKenzie, Director, Division of Innovation and Education Excellence, Kelly Manning, Deputy Director, gave a brief overview of the amendments to the regulations to the Statewide Student Assessment System Literacy Screener as part of the Alaska Reads Act. No formal public written comment was received during the public comment period.

Agenda Item 8 - MEHS School Advisory Board Appointments

Mount Edgecumbe High School (MEHS) Division Director, Suzzuk Huntington, said that eight candidates applied to be appointed to the MEHS School Advisory Board. Strong regional representation was a primary factor in the committee's decision. The two final candidates were Tanya Kitka as the Alumni Representative and Robin Burke as the Parent Representative.

Business Meeting

Agenda Item 9 - Approve FY2024 DEED Budget

Chair Fields motioned, and Member Griffin seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development approve the Fiscal Year 2024 operating and capital budgets for the Department of Education & Early Development. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

Agenda Item 10 - Approve Alyeska Reading Academy and Institute

Member Griffin motioned, and Second Vice Chair Stockhausen seconded the following motion: I move that the State Board of Education and Early Development authorize and approve the acting commissioner to establish the Alyeska Reading Academy and Institute, with the Governor's approval, and with the following conditions:

- the Alyeska Reading Academy and Institute shall be established within the Department of Education and Early Development to support students and educators in meeting the outcomes of the Alaska Reads Act; and,
- the Department of Education and Early Development shall retain oversight over the Alyeska Reading Academy and Institute.

Member Van Diest asked if an amendment was necessary for the name change. Chair Fields said there was no need for an amendment. Member Griffin commented on the importance of the program. Motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

Agenda Item 11 - Approve Computer Science State Plan

Second Vice Chair Stockhausen motioned, and Member Van Diest seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development adopt the proposed Alaska Computer Science State Plan. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

Agenda Item 12 - State Board of Education's Career and Technical Education Committee Awards for Recognition Program

Member Van Diest motioned, and Member Griffin seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development award the following five nominees for the Career and Technical Education Program Recognition, 1) Minto School/Scott Brucker Hydroponics Growing; 2) Delta Greely School District Boat Building; 3) Alaska Resource Education Powerful Opportunities for Women in Resources Camp; 4) Annette Island School District Scuba Program; and 5) Bristol Bay Regional Career and Technical Education Program's Fisheries Program. Student Advisor Cothron commented on the success of the programs. Motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

Agenda Item 13 - Approve Regulations for Public Comment

Agenda Item 13A – Virtual Education Consortium

Member Erickson motioned, and Member Griffin seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development open a period of public comment to add new regulations 4 AAC 67.010 through 4 AAC 67.900 to implement a virtual education consortium defined by AS 14.30.800. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

Agenda Item 13b – Interscholastic Activities

Member Van Diest motioned, and Member Griffin seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development open a period of public comment on the amendment of 4 AAC 06.115 (Interscholastic activities), pending Department of Law review and approval. Student Advisor-Elect Myers encouraged all members of the public to voice their opinions. Student Advisor Cothron commented on her hesitation and her acknowledgment of harassment against transgender students. Motion passed in a roll call vote; all in favor except for Lt. Col. Fowley who abstained.

Agenda Item 14 - Approve Adoption of Proposed Regulations: Statewide Screening Tool

Member Griffin motioned and Second Vice Chair Stockhausen seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development approve the amendments to 4 AAC 06.710 Statewide student assessment system. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

Agenda Item 15 - MEHS School Advisory Board Appointments

Second Vice Chair Stockhausen motioned and Member Van Diest seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development appoint Tanya Kitka as the Alumni

Representative and Robyn Burke as the Parent Representative for term A on the Mt. Edgecumbe High School Advisory Board. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

Agenda Item 16 – Questions Regarding Standing Reports

Chair Fields allowed for questions on the standing reports. Second Vice Chair Stockhausen asked how long will the RTI MTSS Refresh continue and whether it be available to new districts. Director McKenzie responded that RTI MTSS Refresh was purchased with COVID funds as a two-year initiative and will go through the end of next year. DEED doesn't plan to offer it again.

Second Vice Chair Stockhausen then asked about participation and timeline for Keys to Literacy and other trainings. Director McKenzie responded that the department is coordinating with Region 16 who will help advertise and manage the courses for the next several years. There are many seats available. For Keys to Literacy, it is open to teachers and DEED purchased 2,700 seats so far. It has rolling start dates. DEED is also offering courses in cohorts of 50 through NWA.

Chair Fields asked a some MEHS highlights. Superintendent Huntington praised MEHS for sports accomplishments, occupational endorsements, music and ensemble competitions, academic honors, administrative lessons, and relationships. Second Vice Chair Stockhausen asked about the timeline for the land sale. Acting Commissioner Teshner responded that it is moving forward and there is work happening behind the scenes.

Agenda Item 17 - Commissioner's Report

Acting Commissioner Teshner commented that she recently awarded the 2024 Teach of the Year to Miss Kathryn Walker of Diamond High School in the Anchorage School District. DEED also awarded an alternate Teacher of the Year to Jennifer Reinhardt at the Paul Banks Elementary School in Homer in the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District. DEED wrote a Request for Information (RFI) on the December 2022 resolution about alternate teacher pathways. DEED has hired a Public Information Officer and a Director of Finance and Support Services, which will be approved at the next meeting. DEED has also filled multiple positions within the Alaska Reads Act. DEED is interviewing for a short-term non-permanent position to help Director Isaak with tribal-related work. A Child Care Task Force was created, and the Commissioner of Education and Early Development has a seat on the board; their first meeting will be at the end of June.

Agenda Item 18 – Selection of meeting dates, locations, and topics

Member Van Diest motioned, and Chair Fields seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development approve the following schedule of meeting dates, location, and format (virtual meeting vs. in-person) for the 2023-2024 school year.

Date	Location	Meeting Type
July 26, 2023	Virtual Meeting	Regular quarterly
October 4, 2023	Virtual Meeting	Special – Commissioner Report
December 6-7, 2023	In-Person or Virtual Meeting (Anchorage)	Regular quarterly
January 17, 2024	Virtual Meeting	Special – legislative and budget report
March 5-6, 2024	In-Person or Virtual Meeting (Juneau)	Regular quarterly

June 4-6, 2024	In-Person or Virtual Meeting (Bethel or Kotzebue)	Regular quarterly
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Motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

Agenda Item 19 – Subcommittee Appointments

The board discussed subcommittee seats and no changes were made during the meeting.

Agenda Item 20 – Selection of Officers

Member Van Diest motioned, and Second Vice Chair Stockhausen seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development elect James Fields as Chair to serve from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024. There were no other nominations. Motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

Member Erickson motioned, and Second Vice Chair Stockhausen seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development elect Lorri Van Diest as First Vice-Chair to serve from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024. There were no other nominations. Motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

Member Van Diest motioned, and Member Griffin seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development elect Sally Stockhausen as Second Vice-Chair to serve from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024. There were no other nominations. Motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

Agenda Item 21 – Consent Agenda

Second Vice Chair Stockhausen motioned, and Member Van Diest seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development approve the consent agenda consisting of approval of the minutes of the January 25, 2023 board meeting, February 23, 2023 board meeting and the March 14-16, 2023 board meeting. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

Agenda Item 22 – Executive Session: DEED Commissioner Evaluation

Chair Fields motioned, and Member Griffin seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development convene in executive session to evaluate the performance of the Commissioner of Education and Early Development. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

Chair Fields motion, and Member Van Diest seconded the motion to come out of executive session; it passed unanimously. The board reconvened at 3:27pm.

Board Comments

Lt. Col. Fowley thanked Janell for organizing board meetings. He also provided an update about engagements with military bases, academies, and scholastic partnerships.

Student Advisor Cothron said goodbye and thanked everyone, as well as mentioned her excitement about the future of Tribal Compacting. Many members also thanked her for her time and insight.

Members Van Diest and Stockhausen commented on their excitement for the Alyeska Reading Academy and Institute and thanked the public for providing public comment.

The next board meeting is a virtual meeting on July 26, 2023.

The meeting adjourned at 3:39 p.m.