

**State Board of Education & Early Development**  
**Approved Minutes**  
**June 7, 2019**  
**Anchorage School District Board Room**  
**5530 East Northern Lights Boulevard**  
**Anchorage, AK 99504**

**Friday, June 7, 2019**

Chair Fields called the meeting to order at 9:03 am. Lt. Col Hammill, Member Mainard, and Member Lorrington were excused. After the pledge of allegiance, the board adopted the agenda for June 7, 2019. Second Vice Chair Van Diest moved to adopt the agenda and was seconded by First Vice Chair Hamilton. Member Scott disclosed a potential conflict of interest on agenda items 5D and 8B; her uncle is on the AdvancED Northwest board. She was recused from the discussion and vote on items 5D and 8B.

**Public Comment**

Public comment was opened at 9:07am

Steve Atwater- Executive Dean of AK College of Education provided an update on the UAA college system and the transition with the Board of Regents. June 25th is the goal to have their work completed for the beginning of the August term. He thanked the board for their leadership and assistance that they provided to UAA when they lost their accreditation. Graduated 238 teachers this spring. He took questions from the board regarding the transition and the work from the Board of Regents. The board requested that Dean Atwater attend the September meeting and present to the board.

Tim Walters- spoke in support of updated science standards and the process they went through. Science is a way of learning about the world through physical evidence, logic, and math. The new standards will offer a breadth and depth that will assist kids as they change grade levels and schools. He is looking forward standards to helping set up his new physics program and helping his students grow.

Ben Walker nationally board certified science teacher at Romig Middle School and the 2018 Alaska state teacher of the year. Testified in support of the new science standards. It will allow continuity in terms of schools changing. They are a necessary shift as we go through the changes in our society. He urged the board to approve the standards so that teachers and educators can begin to implement these standards for the students in Alaska.

Trisha Herminghaus testified in support of the science standards. The standards will help provide students with not only the practice of science but the critical concepts that are the tenants of scientific knowledge. She requested the SBOE accept the science standards.

Lisa Parady- Ex Director of Alaska Council of School Administrators. Provided the board with an update of their cohort (find official name) work. Expressed support of the computer science standards. Discussed the work that the board is doing on the subcommittees and requested that they be as transparent as possible. She encouraged the board to reach out and involve as many entities as possible in the work being done. The foundation for all of the efforts done is relationships and asked that teacher staffing be placed as a high priority as students cannot build relationships with students if there is no

certainty in budgeting. Implored the board to advocate for public school districts to get their funding as they are in peril.

Mary Claire Kretzschmar from Decoding Dyslexia Alaska provided an update on their work. She encouraged the board to read the forum guide to data ethics.

Poise Boggs from Alaska Reading Coalition provided an update to the board on their task force report. It is out and published and ready for the public to view. She offered the board their priorities from the report as well as some suggestions for implementation in the State of Alaska over time. The summary of the report is that in the United States and other countries, educational practices make it hard for children to succeed. Teachers aren't adequately prepared for the job. There is a reliance on external supports and someone in the home to do instruction. Access to the internet, software, learning centers, and tutors will help students. All of these cost money. This discriminates against low income families, and this problem is compounded if they are speakers of a nonstandard dialect. The policies of educational change are formidable. She expressed her hope that the board would implement the reading task force report and that the board would combat the barriers to reading.

Patti Brown advocated for the adoption of the new science standards. Science education must be three dimensional in its approach and these standards address these to expand students scientific literacy and to ask specific questions. Through effective science education, we teach students how to speak.

Rebecca Himschoot from Sitka testified in support of the science standards. There is no magic bullet to fix education but we can find things that work better than others and she encouraged the board to look at the PEAK's scores for science across the state. Sitka's science scores are higher because they use a different model. She advocated for the board to adopt the science standards and to look at the way that science is taught across the state

Sam Jordan Alaska Staff Development network testified in support of the digital science standards and the digital literacy standards.

Marnie Hartill Eagle River testified in support of the computer science and digital literacy standards. She thanked the board and the department for their work on the science standards and expressed her support for those standards. Students can be prepared for college and beyond with these new standards once they are adopted.

Public testimony closed at 9:57am

## **Work Session**

**Agenda Item 1. Legislative Update.** Commissioner Johnson gave an introduction to the board and Director Heidi Teshner provided the update due to the fact that Brittany Hartmann, Chief of Staff is no longer with the department. June 14th is the 30th day of the special session.

**Agenda Item 2. Budget Update.** Heidi Teschner, Director, Finance and Support Services, provided an update to the board on the Senate budget. The three positions remain in the department budget 1:02- Governor Dunleavy does not plan to veto the positions that are included.

## **Agenda Item 3. Charter School Renewals**

**Agenda Item 3A. Watershed Charter School Renewal.** Karen Melin Deputy Commissioner provided a summary of the application. Jerrod Decker and Abigail Paul answered questions from the board on the structure of the school and how they operate. They gave examples of their daily activities such as canoeing and rock climbing.

**Agenda Item 3B. Ayaprun Charter School Renewal.** Karen Melin Deputy Commissioner gave an update on what the board is being asked to do with their approval of this renewal. Clarence Daniel and Melanie Fredricks from Ayaprun Charter School presented to the board on their application and answered questions from the board. The minutes from the LKSD approval of the the Ayaprun Charter School were requested from the board. Mr. Daniel addressed the YKSD strategic thinking model for addressing the low PEAK score on English Language proficiency as requested by Member Griffin. Member Kowalski thanked the school for their work on revitalizing the Yupik language and culture in their region. Mr. Daniel gave examples of the student’s activities including harvesting pike and identifying berries in accordance with their culture.

**Agenda Item 4. Mt. Edgecumbe Advisory Board Appointments.** Janelle Vanasse, Mount Edgecumbe Superintendent updated the board on the process for their advisory board. The MEHS advisory board has two appointment positions open. Janelle explained the background of the applicants and their two recommendations for board approval. Janelle took questions from the board regarding the MEHS board makeup and term lengths. The board asked Superintendent Vanasse to look into appointed members versus members who are voted in.

#### **Agenda Item 5. Adoption of Proposed Regulations**

**Agenda Item 5A. K-12 Science Standards.** Deb Riddle, Division Operations Manager and Susan Sonneborn, Assistant Attorney General updated the board on the proposed K-12 science standards. Member Stockhausen asked if the standards will need to make adjustments to PEAKS. Deb replied that they will need to make adjustments, and that she has been working with the vendor to make those changes. Member Van Diest asked if when districts are developing their standards, they will be the ones selecting the concepts taught. Classroom teachers are working with their school districts to decide how the standards will be implemented. Member Van Diest highlighted the importance of reading science in the elementary school program and the way that schools could work toward teaching reading as is not separate from other subjects and that there is value in using science to teach children how to read.

**Agenda Item 5B. Computer Science Standards regulations.** Deb Riddle, Division Operations Manager and Susan Sonneborn, Assistant Attorney General updated the board on the proposed computer science standards and took questions from the board. Member Hamilton expressed his excitement for these standards and asked how we address the changes in technology and update the standards as it has been thirteen years since the standards were last updated. Commissioner Johnson suggested that the board look at how other states update their standards to look at how they review them. Member Van Diest asked how the standards would be implemented in the classroom for the younger age children.

**Agenda Item 5C. Digital Literacy Standards.** Deb Riddle, Division Operations Manager and Susan Sonneborn, Assistant Attorney General updated the board on the proposed digital literacy standards and took questions from the board. Member Van Diest commented that the work was important and was grateful that the committees didn’t start from scratch and worked with other agencies. She expressed her thanks to the writing teams and that they were able to pull together and finish these standards.

**Agenda Item 5D. AdvancED Standards.** Commissioner Johnson requested that the board adopt the proposed amendment amendment of the accreditation regulation that incorporates two new AdvancED published documents, *AdvancED Performance Standards for Schools* and *AdvancED Performance Standards for School Systems* in place of the outdated *Standards for Quality Schools* currently adopted by reference. Chair Fields thanked the staff for their work that has been done and is looking forward to this item being completed.

#### **Agenda Item 6. State Board Committee Reports**

**Agenda Item 6A. Standards and Assessments.** Member Stockhausen updated the board on the work of the Standards and Assessments committee. They have had three meetings. They want to look back in six months and say that they have looked at the State System for School Support and how it could be updated. They also want review the process for how the State Board reviews standards in general.

**Agenda Item 6B. Tribal Compacting.** Member Kowalski updated the board on the work of the Tribal Compacting Committee. They have had two meetings. They have discussed how Tribal Compacting has worked in other states and how it may work in Alaska. It is about building relationships and trust with the Alaska Native tribes in Alaska. Valerie Davidson presented to the committee and stressed the importance of setting a strong foundation or a master agreement for how to positively communicate and build trust between the state and the Alaska Native tribes. They are working to identify goals and to identify steps to continue that tribal compacting work.

**Agenda Item 6C. Regulations.** Member Van Diest updated the board their work on whether they want to keep, amend, or repeal the regulations that exist. They are actively working with staff to research regulations and are going through the certification of professional teacher's portion of regulations at the moment. Their next meeting is scheduled for June 13th.

**Agenda Item 6D. Funding Formula.** Member Scott updated the board on the Funding Formula committee work based off of the funding report drafted by the legislature in 2015. They directed the department to identify the top three items that they would like the Funding Formula committee to target in their work. Member Hamilton took over the discussion as Member Scott was not able to attend the most current meeting. The committee has directed DEED staff to identify what it costs for instruction as well as to identify the cost to live with regards to the district cost factors formula. They also discussed the term "correspondence" and that it is a term that should be updated to reflect the different avenues that we have today to instruct the students of Alaska.

**Agenda Item 7. NAEP Discussion from Member Bob Griffin.** Member Griffin provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the NAEP test scores to the State Board of Education. Alaska reading scores are not keeping pace with the rest of the nation. He identified the positives that exist in our state but highlighted the fact that Alaska is 51st in NAEP 4th grade reading scores. NAEP is the Nation Assessment of Educational Progress, which is a large statistical sample that is taken every odd year. He detailed Florida's work as they have adopted many education reforms since 2002 and has since moved to the top of the 4th grade reading scores. He concluded by encouraging the board to celebrate our successes but to review the policy choices that put us in this place and to make changes to empower our students to read. Chair Fields stressed the importance of partnering with other stakeholders in the state to help with this issue in a time of budget constraints.

The board took an at ease for lunch at 12:15pm and Chair Fields announced that they would resume with Agenda Item 8, adoption of proposed regulations.

## **Business Meeting**

### **Agenda Item 8. Adoption of Proposed Regulations**

#### **Agenda Item 8A. K-12 Science Standards, Computer Science Standards, and Digital Literacy Standards.**

Member Stockhausen motioned and Member Van Diest seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development adopt the amendments to 4 AAC 04.140 Content Standards to establish computer science standards and publish them as the *Alaska Computer Science Standards*, update the technology standards and rename and publish them as the *Alaska Digital Literacy Standards*, and update the science standards and rename and publish them as the *Science Standards for Alaska*. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote. Chair Fields thanked the department and the public comment. Hopes that it helps education students to be more successful

**Agenda Item 8B. AdvancED Standards.** Member Van Diest motioned and Member Kowalski seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development adopt the amendments to 4 AAC 04.300, Standards for state accreditation of schools. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote. Member Scott was recused from this vote.

### **Agenda Item 9. Charter School Renewals**

**Agenda Item 9A..... Watershed Charter School Renewal.** Member Kowalski motioned and Member Scott seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development approve Watershed Charter School's application for a period of ten years, terminating on July 1, 2029. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

**Agenda Item 9B. Ayaprun Charter School Renewal.** Member Griffin motioned and Member Van Diest seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development approve Ayaprun Elitnaurvik's application for a period of ten years, terminating on July 1, 2029. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote. Member Griffin mentioned that he continues to learn from the board, he came today intending to request that the board look more closely and that he was looking at it more of a western lens and if you look at it from a different perspective, it becomes clear that the culture and language is at the forefront of this charter school. Member Scott thanked Member Griffin for his comments.

**Agenda Item 10. Selection of officers.** Chair Fields handed the gavel to Commissioner Johnson who opened the nominations for Chair of the Alaska State Board of Education and Early Development. Member Hamilton nominated James Fields as chair, and was seconded by Member Griffin. There were no other nominations or objections. Chair Fields was retained as the Chair of the Alaska State Board of Education and Early Development. Member Stockhausen nominated Dr. Keith Hamilton for first vice chair. Member Griffin seconded. There were no objections to the nomination. Member Griffin nominated Lorri Van Diest for second vice chair. Member Scott seconded. There were no objections to the nomination. Commissioner Johnson commented that the board did this a few months ago which helped with the selection of officers.

**Agenda Item 11. Subcommittee Appointments.** Chair Fields appointed members to seats on subcommittees. There was no discussion or objections to the appointments.

**Agenda Item 12. Selection of meeting dates, locations, and topics.** Member Scott motioned the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development adopt the following calendar and meeting locations for the 2019–2020 school year as presented in the board packet. Member Griffin seconded. Member Hamilton requested clarification on the bylaws regarding the location. Susan Sonneborn, Assistant Attorney General answered Member Hamilton’s question. Chair Fields requested that the Department of Education and Early Development look at maybe having a meeting on the road system (Fairbanks, Glennallen, etc). Member Hamilton requested that the board meet in Sitka to view Mount Edgecumbe High School. Member Van Diest noted that they had more in person public participation with the board being in Anchorage. The motioned passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

**Agenda Item 13. Mt. Edgecumbe Advisory Board Appointments.** Member Hamilton motioned and Member Griffin seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development appoint Janet Woods to the Parent Representative Seat and Lois Rhodes as the Sitka Community Representative on the Mt. Edgecumbe High School Advisory Board. There was no discussion. The motioned passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

**Agenda Item 14. Standing Reports.** Written reports were provided from Student Learning & Educator and School Excellence; Mt. Edgecumbe High School; Libraries, Archives and Museums, and the Assistant Attorney Generals. Staff answered questions from the board regarding those reports. Member Van Diest expressed her excitement that the Mount Edgecumbe High School students are interested and excited about the pool. Member Kowalski expressed her excitement that students are taking responsibility for their own learning in analyzing the MAP data. Member Scott requested that Mount Edgecumbe High School present a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Alaska Education Challenge. Chair Fields is looking forward to the accreditation report and the comments included. Superintendent Vanasse is looking forward to the report to discover what they are doing well and what they can do differently going forward.

**Agenda Item 15. Commissioner’s Report.** Commissioner Johnson updated the board on the work of the department as well as showed a video of the Yupik Immersion and a video of the ASD Honors Cultural Diversity through Graduation Regalia from the Anchorage School District.

He expressed his thanks to the Anchorage School District for their use of the board room. They have been amazing hosts and we greatly appreciate it.

He updated the board on the Sitka Seaplane base. We have determined that DEED is the agency to execute that sale and work is ongoing. The City of Sitka has been working on the lease request. Although the board requested that any money be given back to Sitka but only the Legislature can actually appropriate funds.

Erin Hardin has put together professional development workshops for DEED staff. We will work to get information to the board so that they can be involved if they wish. Commissioner Johnson is working with the Office of Management and Budget to ensure that the board can be involved in the budget process and will keep them in the loop as they continue those discussions. The Superintendents fly-in will be an opportunity for superintendents to be involved wherever they are and not just to fly to

Juneau. The commissioner gave a shout out to Deb Riddle who is working to put together a literacy grant and has submitted it to the federal government for review. Commissioner Johnson also recognized teacher Karen Martin who has put together a rural teacher's network and we are looking forward to working with her. He wished Member Lorrington good luck in her future endeavors even though she is not here, as this was her last official meeting.

He showed two videos from the Anchorage School District. After the videos, Commissioner Johnson invited Mark Stock Deputy Superintendent of Anchorage School District and Starr Marsett Anchorage School Board President to speak to the videos and the work that Anchorage School District has been doing to advance cultural diversity.

Member Kowalski mentioned that allowing of them to wear their regalia will help student retention and graduation rates. Chair Fields thanked them for the video.

**Agenda Item 16. Consent Agenda.** Member Van Diest motioned and Member Hamilton seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development approve the minutes of the March 29, 2019 board meeting and the April 24, 2019 work session. There was no discussion. The motioned passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

**Agenda Item 17. Executive Session, Commissioner's Evaluation.** Chair Fields motioned and Member Scott 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. The motioned passed unanimously in a roll call vote. The Alaska State Board of Education and Early Development went into executive session at 1:58pm.

At 3:40pm, Chair Fields moved to come out of executive Session. There was no objection to move back on the record out of executive session and back into the board meeting.

### **Board Comments**

Member Scott- thanked the Anchorage School District (ASD) for the use of their space. She requested for Sept meeting Steve Atwater or UAA be on the agenda for an update.

Member Griffin- thanked ASD for letting us use the space. He mentioned that it had been a productive couple of days and excited for the in person meeting opportunity.

Member Kowalski- thanked the the public for their support of the standards. She noted that it was great to hear from teachers both written and verbal in their support.

Member Stockhausen- thanked the DEED staff and committees for the standards work. Thanked the board for their continued committee work. She enjoyed the CTE showcase and was excited for their future.

Member Van Diest- thanked ASD and enjoyed the CTE showcase. She also thanked the writing teams for their work on the standards. She is looking forward to the innovative ways that school districts will implement in person. She thanked the department for the ability to meet in person. Thanked Member Griffin for the NAEP slideshow to help the board see that early reading is important.

Member Hamilton- Thanked DEED staff for their work to prepare for the board meeting. He wished Member Lorring the best in her future endeavors. He thanked Member Griffin, and the commissioner for their work at the board meeting.

Chair Fields- thanked ASD and the CTE showcase. Thanked the board members for taking the time away from their families to be here. Thanked the commissioner and the staff for their continued work with the board.

**Meeting adjourned at 3:47pm.**