

Alaska State Board of Education & Early Development
Approved Minutes
September 13 & 14, 2012
Kodiak, AK

September 12, 2012

The board participated in an afternoon retreat at the Koniag Building on Near Island, Kodiak, AK.

Work Session

September 13, 2012

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jim Merriner at 8 a.m. at the Kodiak Assembly Chambers, 710 Mill Bay Road, Kodiak, AK. All members were present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The Chair asked if there were any disclosures. Mr. Merriner read an ethics determination by Guy Bell, in consultation with Judy Bockmon, State Ethics Attorney, referring to Mr. Merriner's possible conflict of interest regarding proposed regulations to the correspondence student course requirement. Mr. Merriner is employed by the Galena City School District, which runs IDEA, a statewide correspondence school, and his children attend the program. It was determined that his conflict was insignificant and that he could participate. Pat Shier declared that his wife was employed by the Raven Correspondence School. The Chair determined that he could participate. There were no objections.

The board was welcomed by Kodiak Superintendent Stewart McDonald. Mr. McDonald said that all success in the district was measured one student at a time. Measures include: 1) quality staffing; 2) playing to strengths; 3) 21st-century classrooms; and 4) stewardship of resources. He encouraged the board to listen to and talk with students as board members visit the district's schools.

There were no changes to the agenda, and the agenda for the day was unanimously approved as presented.

Public Comment:

Pat Rinehart from the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education discussed several issues. He said he liked the new star system in the waiver application and thought it is tailored to education realities. He also thought that under the old adequate yearly progress system special education counted for more. He was concerned that in the educator-evaluation proposal, the 20% requirement regarding student data would lead to a shortage of special education teachers. He cited the Chicago teachers' strike as an example of teacher concerns with evaluation being tied too closely to test scores.

Mt. Edgecumbe High School (MEHS) Policy Manual. Director Randy Hawk and Assistant Attorney General Rebecca Hattan were present to brief the board. Ms. Hattan indicated that many of the changes made were to be in compliance with Department of Health & Social Services regulations. She thanked Eric Fry for his work in editing the document. She indicated there was substantial work done in sections 1.5, the MEHS Advisory School Board Policy, and 4.13 regarding the use of tobacco on school property and in school facilities, and tobacco logo clothing. Mr. Hawk said that Alaska Studies was added to the graduation requirements list. In answer to a question about how Pacific Rim Studies is categorized, Mr. Hawk said Pacific Rim Studies is kept separate from social studies requirements so it doesn't get lost.

Mt. Edgecumbe High School (MEHS) Math Review. Director Randy Hawk was present to brief the board. The following instructors from MEHS made up a panel and were on video conference from Sitka: Bernie Gurule, Academic Principal, and Tom Hart, Archie Young, Bill Winslow, Matt Hunter, Jack Davis and Lyle Sparrowgrove. This is year one of a three-year process in the math department's curriculum cycle in which the current curriculum, resources, instructional strategies and assessment results are reviewed. The panel's discussion centered on standards alignment, best practices, model programs, and technology integration. Mr. Hart spoke to placement of students using three criteria: placement tests, SBA scores, and transcript information. Beginning students are monitored closely in Algebra 1 to make sure the placement goes well. Mr. Merriner asked who created the math placement test. Mr. Hart said they did their own. He said students used the Accuplacer if they want to take a university course. Archie Young discussed course offerings: Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra II, Trigonometry, and Calculus, saying they emphasized a strong algebra foundation. Bill Winslow said he is involved in remediation to help students pass the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam. He uses a variety of measures and assessments, including Assessment and Learning in Knowledge Spaces (ALEKS), so the students can see daily progress. He indicated that ALEKS does a good job identifying those who need help. Matt Hunter teaches physics and said the emphasis in Algebra 1 is helping students prepare for physics. Jack Davis is involved in professional learning curricula, which is a collaboration of curriculum mapping efforts particularly aimed at the math track. He said the new standards will increase the rigor and they will be reviewing new curriculum to provide that rigor. Lyle Sparrowgrove said he is a content coach with the state and works with MEHS in professional development and mentoring.

Ms. Benshoof said she was very impressed with the teachers on the panel and the use of data. Mr. Shier indicated that he was hearing formative assessment and liked moving students along. Ms. Cox asked how MEHS felt about the process. Mr. Davis said they are just beginning and are continually seeking ways to improve every student's success. He said the biggest challenge was finding time to collaborate. Mr. Hawk clarified the review process and dates. He said that in year two (2013), the advisory board would be given a status report, and in year three it would come to the state board for final approval. Mr. Merriner thanked the panel for its presentation.

Alaska Standards Implementation. Deputy Commissioner Les Morse and Erik McCormick, Director of Assessment, Accountability & Information Management, were present to brief the board. Mr. McCormick described the overall process -- standards being adopted by the board in June, the department now holding monthly briefings, all divisions of the department being involved, curriculum resting with the content specialists, and the final assessments eventually

being in place. The process will be broken into three areas: awareness – by January 2013; transition – begins second half of school year 2013-2014; and implementation – 2014-2016. Web tools and self-assessments will be made available. The roll-out plan was reviewed and the board will see a more detailed plan with dates and estimated costs in December. Roll out steps are as follows: identify tools to implement, communication outlets, development of the web site, development of tools to use, collaboration with EED divisions, coordination between Teaching & Learning Support (TLS) and the Assessment, Accountability & Information Management divisions (AAIM), statewide professional development opportunities, collaboration with the institutions of higher education to align teacher courses for certification and endorsements, and development of the assessment tools to create summative assessment. Mr. McCormick said TLS and AAIM are collaborating every day, mailing out the standards and talking with test coordinators and teachers in districts. Pat Shier asked about acceptance. Mr. McCormick said the districts that are doing the Common Core want the Alaska Standards, too. The same coding system is being used, which makes them easy to understand. The board was concerned with unknown costs on the roll-out chart. Mr. Morse said Paul Prussing, Acting Director of TLS, was monitoring costs and there was an allocation in the budget. He assured the board that all resources to cut costs for the distribution were being used. Currently, the department is doing costs projections for the upcoming budget cycle. Mr. Schneider said the public accountability piece is what needs attention. Ms. Cox asked if the state could help with in-service days. Mr. Morse said not with the cost but certainly with tools like curriculum alignment institutes being held. The districts can take knowledge learned there back to their districts and use it for in-services. He said the alignment institutes have been well-attended. He said content specialists can go to districts and do more training. Mr. McCormick said there was potential online testing and they would be introducing new standards-based assessment items next spring that will be scored electronically. They are only exposing grades 3-9 to begin with. The idea is to see if it's effective and can be released as practice items. Mr. Shier encouraged the department to work with Enterprise Technology Services in "big admin" to help with a smooth transition. The commissioner said the department was close to joining a testing consortium and would bring more information about that to the December meeting.

Elementary and Secondary Education Act Waiver. Commissioner Hanley said the department submitted its 80-page waiver on September 6, 2012. It has to go through a peer review, and notification is expected sometime between December and March. He said the waiver was applied for because the current No Child Left Behind targets do not recognize schools or student growth or progress. The number of schools not making adequate yearly progress will dramatically increase during the next two years and the waiver could counter that.

There are three principles included in the waiver: 1) college and career ready expectations for all students; 2) accountability and support system – the Alaska School Performance Index (ASPI) system of rating schools on 100 points, 1-5 stars with academic achievement and progress indicators that build the scores into an index for year-to-year comparison; and 3) state guidelines for districts' evaluations of teachers and principals that include student learning as a significant factor. Mr. Morse reviewed a PowerPoint that further explained these principles, the scoring index and timelines. Mr. Merriner asked if there was a way to use a graduation rate indicator for an elementary school. The answer was not yet. The board discussed weighting attendance and

the graduation rate lower on the ASPI score. Mr. McCormick clarified that annual measureable objectives are not used in the star system, but used to highlight areas needing improvement.

Fronteras Spanish Immersion Charter School. Fronteras Charter School was requesting a five-year renewal. Jennifer Schmidt, Principal, was on line and Deputy Commissioner Morse was present to brief the board. Ms. Schmidt said that there were 220 students enrolled in K-8. Fronteras began as a standalone charter school five years ago in the Mat-Su Borough School District. Students are taught in Spanish for 50% of the school day. Mr. Merriner asked if there was a wait list. Ms. Schmidt said they have a lottery, and the wait list usually is in grades K and one. Mr. Schneider asked if there was a preference for siblings. Ms. Schmidt said it was automatic and also that there was a small number of Native students. She said they were able to work out busing issues this past year and that 50 students are bused from Palmer and Wasilla.

Minimum Expenditures Resolutions. The board currently has two identical resolutions concerning its position on the requirements for minimum expenditure for instruction -- 01-220 dated January 26, 2007, and 01-2009 dated December 5, 2008. The resolutions are in response to Alaska Statute 14.17.520, which states that a school district shall budget for and spend a minimum of 70% of its school operating expenditures in each fiscal year on the instructional component of the district's budget. If a district cannot meet this requirement, it can request a waiver from the board. The board must determine that the failure to meet the requirement was beyond the control of the district. The board was tasked with deciding if they wanted to rescind either or both resolutions or let them stand. The two resolutions asked the legislature to reconsider the requirement. Ms. Cox said she had done a "180" on how she feels about the issue because of the situation in the Yupiit School District. She said she hoped that what the board has done there will make a better school district. Ms. Cox asked if board expenses were going to be part of district reporting in October. Ms. Nudelman, Director of School Finance, confirmed there will be school board expenses reported in the October packet for the waiver districts when the board visits the minimum expenditure issue again. She indicated that this reporting was not a requirement. Ms. Cox said she thinks the requirement keeps the classroom at the forefront and is a good check and balance. She now thinks it's a good requirement. She said the whole matter has been enlightening and she's dropping her old opinion. Ms. Hattan said there were two ways to proceed. One is to rescind the former resolutions or do a new resolution. Ms. Benshoof said she now agreed with Ms. Cox. The last exercise pointed out if there was no standard or goal, nothing is being reached for. She said she believes strongly in accountability. Mr. Merriner asked how the rest of the board was feeling. Mr. Shier said he was uncomfortable with the former resolutions, and there was good reason in place to not grant waivers. The board discussed their options and expressed concern that districts were hiding money in their capital budgets. Ms. Nudelman said the department can see transfers to capital projects and can see large transfers that don't seem legitimate. The issue many times, she said, is after the waiver has been granted. Most districts say they need the transfer for teacher housing or to match a grant. EED looks for consistency and to treat all districts the same. Mr. Merriner said the board would continue to rely on the department for expertise, and will continue ask if the waiver request is beyond the control of the district, and hope that EED can tell the board. Ms. Nudelman said EED is very careful in the waiver recommendations and works with districts to help them meet the 70% requirement. The ultimate outcome is 70% of a district's budget must be spent on instruction. Ms. Nudelman said she was open to board guidance about what they wanted to see about the capital budgets and

expenses beyond control districts control. She said EED's obligation was to ask the hard questions.

Joint Meeting between the Board and the University Board of Regents. Chair Merriner and Commissioner Hanley met with President Gamble and Pat Jacobsen, who is Chair of the University Board of Regents, in a continuation of the 2012 joint meeting conversation that began in June. They reported that they continue to collaborate and will be meeting in the future about common issues of interest. The university would like to see the Accuplacer given in 10th grade so there would be two additional years to prepare for college entrance. The university likes the rigor in the new standards. Deputy Commissioner Morse said there was an assumption about the downturn in the economy that needs more data collection regarding teacher hire. Ms. Cox said it was also important to interview principals who do the hiring regarding teacher preparation for success. She expressed concern for the inaccuracies in national surveys.

Regulations to go out for public comment.

Addressing correspondence study program core course requirements. Current regulations 4 AAC 33.426(a) require that students enrolled in correspondence study programs take 50% of their course work in core courses each semester. This proposed regulatory change will encourage correspondence students to take a well-rounded and diverse course load. Currently, a full-time correspondence student could satisfy the core course requirement by taking two technology courses or two world language courses in a semester. If adopted, this regulation would require full-time students to enroll in at least two different core courses of study in a semester. This proposed change would not limit the number of courses in any given area in which a student may enroll. Commissioner Hanley said students enrolled in more than two correspondence classes must take core courses in at least two different subject areas. Ms. Hattan said they were not proposing to block anyone from taking two technical courses; one would be an elective. Mr. Shier wondered if "take" meant "fundable" – he wondered if it would come up in public comment. Mr. Merriner said he felt this change worked.

Regulations to adopt.

In Kind. Proposed amendments to 4 AAC 06.120(a)(2) would provide for an effective date for changes to the Uniform Chart of Accounts and Account Descriptions for Public School Districts. Proposed amendments to 4 AAC 09.990(b)(2) are to clarify the only types of in-kind services that are allowed and the value of the services. Proposed changes to the Uniform Chart of Accounts and Account Code Descriptions for Public School Districts are to amend the description for In-Kind Services Performed by City/Borough. The change will clarify the only types of services that are allowed for reporting purposes and the required documentation for support of the billed value of the services provided. Ms. Nudelman said the basic change was to clarify coding so items could qualify as in kind.

Modified Growth. The Alaska Public School Performance Incentive Program (AKSPIP) was discontinued after the 2008-2009 school year, following a three-year pilot period. The purpose of the regulation has shifted from the AKSPIP to the Public School Growth and Proficiency Index to reflect state accountability measures now in place. Changes were made to the index table to comply with the requirements for the *Moore v. Alaska* settlement agreement. Values in the table

were adjusted to better reflect a more equitable method for identifying student growth for schools. Mr. McCormick said the proposed change brings the regulation in compliance with the *Moore v. State* lawsuit and reflect changes to the value table.

Part II, Teacher Certification. At its March meeting, the board adopted regulations that adopted by reference the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) standards for teacher and administrator preparation programs. The board also attempted to adopt standards for programs not governed by NCATE by using a catchall regulation that informed applicants that the board would apply the standards of the appropriate accreditation agency. The catchall regulation was disallowed in the review process because it did not explicitly state the standards for approval. The proposed regulation amendments would adopt by reference the standards that each accreditation agency applies in approving preparation programs. Because this amendment is Part II of an existing regulations package, this amendment can be adopted without an additional public comment period. Ms. Hattan said the board was seeing this again because of a legal issue regarding using catchall phrases to incorporate all documents by reference. The regulations attorney wants them all enumerated. She described this as a simple fix.

Business Meeting

September 14, 2012

The meeting was called to order by Chair Merriner at 8:30 a.m. All members were present. The agenda was amended to include a report by Chris Simon, the new Rural Education Administrator, an action item regarding the board's resolutions regarding Minimum Expenditures, and a discussion regarding a resolution for a retired EED employee. The amended agenda was moved by Esther Cox and seconded by Pat Shier. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call. The Chair asked if there were any disclosures. There were none.

Minimum Expenditure Resolutions. Chair Merriner asked if the board had any decision about its resolutions regarding minimum expenditures. Geri Benshoof moved to rescind the previous board resolutions 01-2007, dated January 26, 2007, and 01-2009, dated December 5, 2008, regarding the minimum expenditure for instruction requirement. The motion was seconded by Pat Shier. Mr. Shier said it was the current law of the land and provided accountability. He said he appreciated the flexibility of the staff on this issue. Mr. Schneider asked how it got communicated. Mr. Morse said via the web site and the legislature. Ms. Cox said we have two resolutions opposing the requirement; if we rescind them, they become moot; if there is no new resolution, the previous ones stand. She said she had no ill feelings about changing from supporting the resolution to not supporting it. The motion passed by a 5-2 roll call vote.

Resolution for Cynthia Curran. Mr. Schneider said he was saddened to learn that Cynthia Curran had resigned from the department. He said she was hard-working and widely respected, and he would like the board to issue a resolution on her behalf. Phil Schneider moved and Pat Shier seconded a motion for the board to issue a resolution honoring Cynthia Curran's service to the department. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote. The resolution will be presented at the October meeting.

Teaching and Learning Support (TLS) Report. Deputy Commissioner Les Morse was present to brief the board. He said Paul Prussing, the Deputy Director of TLS, had been appointed Acting Director. Mr. Morse said the State System of Support coaches' training was going very well. There was a high turnover in coaches this year. The mentor project has 39 participants, 23 funded by the state and grants, 14 through an "i3" grant from the university, and two through the Humanities Forum. Ms. Cox inquired if large district had mentors. Mr. Morse said yes, through the i3 grant program serving first- and second-year teachers.

Mr. Morse also reported that Career and Technology Education had received a three-year Perkins grant for health sciences and education in rural Alaska. Early learning grants were being awarded that would serve 179 families totaling \$150,000 – going to both urban and rural communities. He noted that the nutrition program was looking into a U.S. Department of Agriculture program that would reimburse supper programs in schools. The E-Learning program begun in 2004-2004 still provides access for staff for certified courses. Regarding suicide prevention, Mr. Morse said that the Jason Foundation has multiple modules and they were putting together many opportunities and resources for districts to use. Mr. Merriner said he had been through one of the modules and found it very good. It was noted that Student Advisor Madison Manning is doing Safe Talk training and hopes to show the board at an upcoming meeting. The Jason Foundation has CDs to help in areas where there are broadband issues. Mr. Shier asked if the legislature was going to take money away from the mentor program again. Mr. Morse said he didn't know and the risk was when the grant ran out.

Assessment, Accountability & Information Management Report. Erik McCormick, Director of Assessment, Accountability & Information Management, was present to brief the board. He indicated that district test coordinator training would be held that week. He said that Janet Valentour had resigned and accepted a position with the North Slope Borough School District. He said that Elizabeth Davis had taken her place. He said that it would take about four years to implement the new standards. Notification was expected soon if the state could join the Smarter Balance Consortium as a non-Common Core state. The consortium is a federally funded collaboration of states building assessments. The Bylaws were expected to be amended to allow participation by non-Common Core states like Alaska. The fall test window for the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam is October 2-4. The next Technical Advisory Committee is September 19- 20. It was noted that Ms. Keplinger serves on that committee. Mr. McCormick said as a result of the annual measureable objectives being frozen for adequate yearly progress determinations, he expected a similar result as last year, and a .08% increase in schools making adequate yearly progress. Mr. Shier inquired if things had calmed down with No Child Left Behind implementation. Mr. McCormick said there seemed to be fewer punitive issues and he hoped he had done his last adequate yearly progress report.

Mt. Edgecumbe High School (MEHS) Report. Randy Hawk, Director, was present to brief the board. The latest enrollment was 404 students; 247 returning students and 157 new students. Mr. Hawk said they have lost some seniors this year. He said when a senior (junior returning) leaves, there aren't many applicants waiting in the wings to take their place for just one year. He said a big limiting factor was having to turn boys away because of dorm space. He said they would need capital budget legislation to go forward with a new boys dorm. Adequate yearly progress was made this year at MEHS. The 9th-grade standard-based assessments were very strong. The HSGQE passing rates were 90% in reading, 87% in math, and 87% in writing. Mr.

Hawk said they were very happy to have a new Chinese/PacRim teacher, they had a good fall inservice, and phase I of the heating project would be completed in January.

Attorney General's Report. Rebecca Hattan, Assistant Attorney General, was present to brief the board regarding ongoing legal issues that affect the department. There were no new lawsuits.

Libraries, Archives & Museums (LAM) Report. Linda Thibodeau connected to the meeting via audio conference. She said all funds had been transferred to the Department of Transportation for the SLAM project, so they could award the contract bid. She said she hoped to start digging in December. She noted that part of the mitigation was to write a book about the old museum building and that work was beginning. The Online with Libraries sustainability conference was to be the following week. Mr. Shier said he was attending. Regarding records retention schedules, she said a survey was sent to school districts about business and permanent records. They got a 50% return on the survey and found that only half of the districts back up records and don't keep back-ups in off-site locations. She said she was going to the Alaska Association of School Business Officers' conference to give a presentation and to offer onsite consulting to school districts to institute better records management practice. Mr. Shier said he was open to discuss digital record keeping.

Rural Education Report. Chris Simon, Rural Education Coordinator, was present to brief the board. Commissioner Hanley introduced Mr. Simon as new to this position, replacing Phyllis Carlson. Mr. Simon said he had spent his entire career in rural Alaska, working in a variety of areas, from teacher to superintendent. He has spent much of his time contacting rural associations. He is based out of Fairbanks and has spent some time also in Juneau getting orientated. Commissioner Haley said that Mr. Simon brings a good and different perspective to the job and he was happy to have someone who doesn't think like us, noting that he was now on the other side of instruction.

Commissioner's Report. Commissioner Hanley was present to brief the board. The commissioner said he would miss Cyndy Curran's efforts with the mentor program and the Teacher Quality Working Group. He noted that Esther Cox and Bunny Schaeffer were on that committee and was glad for the continuity. He said that the trustee in Yupiit, Darrell Sanborn, had met with the Yupiit teachers and principals for an inservice and he was getting good feedback from the coaches. The commissioner said he was hoping for places that efficiencies could be made coming out of a staffing and financial audit in Yupiit. He noted that the new superintendent in Lower Yukon had already left because of medical concerns, and that Alex Russin, the Assistant Superintendent, would be staying on. He said Lower Yukon was in the process of selecting a comprehensive reading curriculum. Commissioner Hanley said he and a team consisting of department staffers would go there in October for an inservice.

Commissioner Hanley said discussions were continuing with the Southeast Island School District about its request for a four-day school week. To date, the commissioner said he had not seen an appropriate education plan to accompany the request, so he has denied the third request. Alaska's Learning Network is moving forward and he believes it's the state's obligation to provide a good model. Currently, 27 courses are offered that qualify for the Alaska Performance Scholarship, and 16 courses are made in Alaska, all based on Alaska standards. Some suggestions were made by board members for getting the word out about the I Am Ready initiative -- which is preparing a child for kindergarten beginning at home with simple home activities children and parents can do together.

Consent Agenda. There were six items on the consent agenda. Esther Cox requested that the MEHS Policy Manual, Part II be removed. Phil Schneider moved and Geri Benshoof seconded a motion to approve the remaining consent agenda items, as follows: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development approve the consent agenda consisting of the following: approval of the minutes of the June 7 & 8, 2012, meeting; approval of the minutes of the July 24, 2012, meeting; approval of the renewal of the Fronteras Spanish Immersion Charter School for 10 years; approval of the appointments of Janet Johnson to fill a three-year term as the parent representative; Sean A. Melovidov to fill a three-year term as one of the alumni representatives; and reappoint Lois Rhodes to fill a three-year term as the Sitka community representative to the Mt. Edgecumbe High School Advisory School Board, all beginning July 1, 2012, and ending on June 30, 2015; and approval of the exempt appointment of Christopher Simon as the Rural Education Coordinator for the department. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote. Esther Cox moved and Janel Keplinger seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development amend Section 4 Graduation Requirements in the MEHS manual by removing the following language: 3 credits - social studies and 1 credit Pacific Rim Studies, and adding the following: 4 credits - social studies (including 1 credit Alaska Studies and 1 credit Pacific Rim Studies.) The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Board Comments.

Geri Benshoof said she was sorry to have missed the audio meeting in July. She thanked the Kodiak School District and Janel Keplinger for the meeting arrangements. She said that Chris Benshoof, who is a finalist for the Teacher of the Year, is not her son but a relative and she is proud of him. She said she was also proud of Badger Elementary School for making adequate yearly progress this year. She noted that birth to age 3 early intervention was very important, and she hoped the Governor would consider the \$3M request made by the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education.

Phil Schneider thanked the Kodiak School District and Janel Keplinger. He said he was supportive of the superintendent's focus on success in the district and fully supportive of the resolution for Cyndy Curran. He said it was great being in Kodiak.

Pat Shier said it was great being in Kodiak.

Bunny Schaeffer said she'd like to hear Jerry Covey's report on rural education at the December meeting.

Madison Manning thanked the Kodiak School District. She said the fall Alaska Association of Student Governments' conference would be in Wasilla this year, October 24-26.

Janel Keplinger thanked the department for its effort in making a successful meeting and said she was glad that everyone came to Kodiak.

Esther Cox said she believed that students in government or civics classes should attend board meetings to see it in action. She was impressed with the amount of work that went into the waiver application, and thanked the department for that effort. She inquired what the plan was

for a new TLS director. The commissioner said they were re-evaluating the position, and that Paul Prussing would keep the division moving forward in the interim. She said she would like a report on student teaching from University of Alaska Anchorage. She thanked the Kodiak School District and Janel for the meeting efforts.

Jim Merriner thanked the district and department staff and said he was looking forward to the afternoon school tours. He said November 1-3 is the school boards' conference and invited board members to attend if they could.

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent.