

**Alaska State Board of Education & Early Development**  
**Approved Minutes**  
**June 6 & 7, 2013**  
**Soldotna, AK**

*Thursday, June 6, 2013*

The meeting was called to order by Chair Merriner at 8:00 a.m. All members were present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Pat Shier moved and Janel Keplinger seconded a motion to approve the agenda as presented; the motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote. The Chair asked if there were any disclosures. Mr. Shier disclosed that he was an employee of the University of Anchorage and there was an item on the agenda having to do with the University of Alaska. The Chair ruled that he could participate. Chair Merriner disclosed that he had obtained a ruling from the ethics attorney regarding his participation in the board's discussion about mandated literacy testing in schools. The attorney stated that while he had an interest in the matter before the board, his personal and financial interest was insignificant because it did not affect his compensation or continued employment. Board members expressed no problems with his participation.

Chair Merriner presented outgoing student advisor Madison Manning with a commemorative plaque, congratulating her on her one-year service with the board. Chair Merriner said it was the board's pleasure to have had her on the board and watch her grow, and wished her luck at BYU in the fall, where she will study communications.

***Public Comment***

Christie Reinhardt, with the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education, spoke generally in favor of the proposed early literacy screening in K to third grades. She stressed the importance of assessing developmentally appropriate vocabulary and comprehension, and assessing all the multiple factors. She encouraged sharing data with partners.

Teresa Davidson, with Greatland Adventure Academy, thanked the board for considering its charter school application. She noted that they were having problems with a location and would not be opening until fall 2014.

Representative Paul Seaton, from Homer, advised the board about the connection between Vitamin D levels during pregnancy and language skill upon entering school. He said he would introduce House Bill 90 to address the situation, and he distributed a lengthy summary of the implications, containing a lot of data to substantiate his claim. The board was very interested in the discussion. He said the bill would affect testing for newborn babies in Alaska to determine levels of Vitamin D at birth, and be part of HSS legislation.

Steve Atwater, superintendent of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District, welcomed the board to Soldotna. He said the district applauded the NCLB waiver recently received. He noted that teacher evaluation was taking a lot of time and more professional development was needed.

He said the growth in the proficiency index and using WorkKeys was not getting the traction that was anticipated. His team would be making a presentation later in the meeting regarding great things happening in the district.

Lisa Parady, Assistant Superintendent from the North Slope Borough School District, said they appreciated the work done on the accountability regulations. They were concerned with the small amount of comment, saying the proposal came at a difficult time in the school year for many to make comments. She inquired about stakeholder meetings held and said there were not enough clarity and detail. She inquired if the state had the flexibility to make technical changes to the regulation that don't compromise the waiver. She encouraged the board to adopt the proposal.

Representative Tammie Wilson, online, said she was concerned with the star system proposed in the accountability regulations and how it would be implemented at the different levels, and she inquired if the state would physically go into districts that weren't performing well.

Pete Lewis, Superintendent of Fairbanks North Star Borough School District, was online. He thanked the department for its work on the waiver, which he appreciated. He had several concerns, saying there was a need for a new accountability system that everyone could understand and we needed to plan, prepare and train. He said he had concerns with low-scoring student impact on teacher evaluation and how it would affect final outcomes. He advocated for 9<sup>th</sup>- and 10<sup>th</sup>-grade testing. He had concerns with the star system and cautioned that the state can't keep changing its systems.

### ***Work Session***

**Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Presentation.** The district gave three presentations. Sean Dusek, Assistant Superintendent, was present to begin the briefing. He said the district had adopted the research-based Danielson Framework for teaching, and he discussed the process from pilot status, with a consultant, to refining over the years. The rubric has four domains consisting of 10 components. A PowerPoint discussed effective instruction, current status, next steps, and effective leadership. Mr. Shier asked if other districts were using this model. Mr. Dusek said that Fairbanks and Anchorage were using it and he expected others were, as well. Full implementation will take three years, with advertising to engage the community, an upcoming student survey, and an input form for parents under development. Mr. Dusek said many teachers want to move to the distinguished level, and they are focusing on areas of need using strategies that will help make that happen. The levels are determined by a series of observations and conversations based on a year-long evidence observation – all being a collaborative process.

Rich Bartolowits, Program Coordinator for the distance-delivery program, briefed the board about the program. He indicated there were 42 schools in the district, the largest with 500 students. The program began with video-conferencing, and now there are 6.5 full-time highly qualified teachers. Students attend by Skype or PolyCom. He described the program as flexible in accommodating student needs, and showed a PowerPoint that gave an overview and history of the program, discussed staffing, course offerings (math, social studies, sciences, languages, health, computer applications, early childhood development, employment skills, photography,

and introduction to pharmacy). There are 765 course enrollments, with summer extensions where needed.

John O'Brien, Sara Moore, and David Hansen presented to the board about the new district web site regarding the Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS). Their PowerPoint emphasized the APS checklist of subjects needed to qualify for the scholarship. The district web site has screens for students, parents, and counselors showing available courses by school, test scores, completed credits and GPA, and is available for 9<sup>th</sup>-graders for planning. CTE courses are included.

Commissioner Hanley thanked the district for its powerful presentation and for their leadership, saying they were leaders in the state.

**Jesse Lee/Balto Home.** Daniel Becker, teacher, and Kristen Vesel, Executive Director and Project Manager, were present to brief the board. The Jesse Lee Home, in Seward, was originally established as a home for disadvantaged children in 1924 and was severely damaged in the 1964 earthquake. There is now a movement to bring the home back to life as the Balto School with an emphasis on Alaska-specific instruction, with a culturally relevant curriculum. Over the past four years, the state has appropriated funds to stabilize the buildings, and work is progressing to preserve the buildings. The Balto School hopes to open in fall 2014. Their intent is to apply to the state as a residential school. The first phases will include 75 students, administrators, four teachers and residential staff, and then grow into phase two, to complete enrollment not yet established.

Dr. Terri Akey, Director of the Center for Research, Evaluation and Assessment for Education Northwest, was present to brief the board on the Alaska State Policy Research Alliance (ASPRA). ASPRA consists of five northwest states -- Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana -- and focuses on research capacity building, providing a forum for policymakers, researchers and stakeholders working together toward common educational concerns. Dr. Akey discussed a PowerPoint presentation that included what the alliance was doing -- building networks, conducting research, disseminating information -- and providing a forum for Alaska educators and policymakers to help students become successful. Work is accomplished by monthly planning calls, work group meetings, webinars, quarterly updates, and one-on-one conversations, plus key stakeholder presentations. Focus is on data access and quality, communication, individual perspectives, analytical capacity, vision and method, best practices, and analytical support. Data is collected and shared in Alaska by the Department of Labor and Work Force Development and the Permanent Fund Corporation.

Dr. Diane Hirshberg, Associate Professor of Education Policy and Director of the Center for Alaska Education Policy Research (CAEPR), was present to brief the board with an overview on CAEPR's current research projects and preliminary findings. Spring 2013 projects include a statewide teacher retention and attrition survey on working conditions and factors contributing to teachers' decision to stay or leave. They are studying teacher turnover, supply and demand in six school districts, and surveying graduates and alumni. Dr. Hirshberg cited some preliminary data from the survey regarding teacher hire by type, teacher mobility between urban and rural Alaska, teacher ethnicity, and turnover of teachers who were prepared in Alaska and outside of Alaska. Data was not final. Board members said they were interested in the final report.

**State System of Support (SSOS).** Dr. Susan McCauley, Director of Teaching & Learning Support, was present to brief the board regarding what the SSOS does. SSOS identifies schools as needing extra support. SSOS has nine coaches with significant system experience serving 11 schools in rural Alaska who work with districts in Tier I, II and III levels of need. Coaches spend five days a month in the assigned district, plus distance phone or email coaching. Coaches do high-level briefings twice a year. The average experience of a coach is 24 years in education; nine of the coaches have been principals. There are six domains coaches work with: leadership, curriculum, instruction, professional development, assessment, and supportive learning environments. Specific indicators for each domain are in regulations. Dr. McCauley reviewed the AIMSweb data for literacy screening in the selected districts. Board members discussed cost of the program. Dr. McCauley indicated that the face-to-face time cannot be reduced because the time spent in districts is critical to the program.

**Yupiiit School District Trustee Report.** Dr. Darrell Sanborn, Yupiiit Trustee, was online to give his report. Commissioner Hanley said there was only one district that was assigned a trustee to oversee improvement, in Yupiiit, in 2009. He said there had been significant improvement over the past six months and a good movement to build capacity. Melody Douglas had been hired as the financial/business officer to work with the district and was making big strides. The trustee was removed about four months ago and had done a tremendous job in a very difficult situation. Dr. Sanborn said the biggest challenge was in August last year when a sense of urgency began driving improvement. The 2011-2012 Measures of Academic Progress scores were very low and a huge wake-up call. The district is now accepting help, and teachers and students are more engaged. The superintendent resigned at the end of the school year. The district received a three-year SIG grant last year, which will provide more funding, with anticipated significant results in year three. Questions were asked about community involvement, Native/cultural differences, and opportunity for western education. Commissioner Hanley said his last trip to Yupiiit was in April and he saw big improvement and goal-setting happening. Esther Cox thanked Dr. Sanborn for his work, saying he set the stage for the improvement that is happening now.

**Highland Charter School.** Dr. Susan McCauley, Director of Teaching & Learning Support, and Dr. Ginger Blackmon, Principal of Highland Charter, were present to brief the board regarding the school's request to renew its charter. Dr. McCauley gave a brief overview of the school. Enrollment is 200 students in grades 6-12. Current teacher-pupil ratio is 1:18. There are 12 teachers and other administrative staff. The school has met AYP. Dr. Blackmon said they had revised student efficiencies in math and reading, implementing a monitoring system to identify students who may need help. They were using some outside sources for tutoring, and revamped the schedule to allow for one-on-one help for students. They have moved to a mastery grading system using no grades. They are looking for a new facility. They were asking for a 10-year renewal.

**University of Alaska Anchorage Program Endorsement.** The University of Alaska Anchorage was requesting an endorsement for a program regarding English language learners, for elementary teachers who currently hold certification. With Dr. Susan McCauley was Dr. Hilary Seitz, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, College of Education, to brief the board and answer any questions. The program responds to the need for elementary teachers who can

provide effective learning experience for students who are English language learners. The program is an advanced endorsement program, and all courses have a child development component. It was developed with stakeholders input. Mr. Shier thanked Dean Seitz for traveling to Soldotna to present to the board.

**Regulations to adopt.** There were three regulation proposals ripe for adoption.

1. Museum Services. Linda Thibodeau, Director of Libraries, Archives & Museums, (LAM) was present to brief the board. She indicated that the Museum Collections Advisory Committee wanted to formalize its policies on museum acquisitions/deaccessions of artifacts. The regulation proposal set forth those policies that had been long in effect but were not very clear. There was no public comment received.
2. Early Learning Screening. Dr. Susan McCauley, Director of Teaching & Learning Support, was present to brief the board. Dr. McCauley said the proposal was not meant to be a high-level diagnostic. She said it's not all that should be done, but a beginning or minimum of what must be done. The screening takes the first step at an early age (K-3) of what will be required. She indicated that some districts are already doing this, but not all. Janel Keplinger said she felt it limited a teacher and it would be a great opportunity to get more information. Dr. McCauley said it was a matter of what must be done vs. what should be done. It will put into place a critical first step, and does not preclude a district from doing more, and no benchmarks were required. She felt that early screening will point to the next step needed. Most states use a screening as a first step in literacy. Ms. Keplinger said it was unfortunate that the screening tool was limiting. Dr. McCauley said the data submitted will be raw data. There are four assessments that meet the regulation requirements, and districts can choose which they use. The assessments report the number of names or words read per minute. Commissioner Hanley said the screening was not tied to teacher evaluation in any way; it merely provides data for teachers to understand their student's placement in literacy. Sue Hull asked why it was a minimum and not wider. Dr. McCauley said at a policy level there are several early literacy markers, and this puts a first step where there was none before, and it was a responsible use of funds in the Governor's budget. Commissioner Hanley said that if it was broadened out, it would be an unfunded mandate. Only \$320,000 was appropriated from the legislature in the department base. James Fields cautioned to not have the data become a burden to the process. Dr. McCauley said the regulation does not require anything being done with the data. Ms. Cox inquired if it could be used for Head Start and preschool. Deputy Commissioner Morse said they were looking at that concept. In K-2 there is only the developmental profile, so it's only adding a 10-minute assessment. The teacher or a trained person could give the assessment. Funding would be allocated to the district based on the number of students in K-3. Discussion continued regarding removing the 10-minute time frame as proposed and using other measurements that provide more data. Board members inquired where the 10-minute time frame came from. Dr. McCauley said it rose out of legislative intent.
3. School accountability. Dr. Susan McCauley, Director of Teaching & Learning Support, and Erik McCormick, Director of Assessment, were present to brief the board, saying the proposed regulations were permitted as a result of the approved waiver and they were working across all divisions with the legal department. Dr. McCauley reviewed the

Alaska School Performance Index (ASPI) and reviewed the five-star rating system based on the ASPI. She reviewed the targets set for AMOs and how they would be used, saying that AMOs do not contribute to the star rating. The goal is to reduce by one-half, over six years, the percentage of non-proficient students, based on district goals. Mr. Shier asked if the date of implementation (August 2013) was too early. Dr. McCauley said with the approval of the waiver, the data will be based on 2012 data for the focus and priority schools by August 1, 2013. She said part of the answer is what happens if we don't change and use the old AYP system for 2014. Then sanctions will come into play using turn-around principles such as replacing staff. If you don't meet all 31 ways to meet AYP in the old system, your school is labeled as failing. Mr. Shier said the new process seems more understandable and he hoped that the department can communicate that. Dr. McCauley said the language around AYP was very inflexible, and this proposal provides much more flexibility in terms of support and what it looks like. Mr. McCormick said the approval of the waiver is the starting point. Now the department works with the U.S. Department of Education on an addendum so adjustments can be made for Alaska. Ms. Cox noted that the old AYP system was unattainable and she was delighted to see the change and the flexibility. Dr. McCauley noted that the state can now consider five-year graduations and it allows us to also consider unique schools, like alternative schools, with much more flexibility in general. Ms. Hull said the movement to growth from AYP is big. People in her district didn't pay any attention to AYP. Madison Manning, Student Representative, said she took the proposal to Alaska Association of Student Government. She said students want to grow and not be a test score. Mr. Fields asked what the rationale was for not tying the AMOs to the star rating. Mr. McCormick said they are not in the ASPI model and they didn't have to include them in that. Dr. McCauley reviewed how the percentages fall out relative to the star system, and the board discussed some of the comments made in public comment by the North Slope Borough School District.

## ***Business Meeting***

### **Adoption of Regulations**

Museums - Pat Shier moved and Janel Keplinger seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development adopt the proposed amendments to 4 AAC 58.100-58.150; Museum Services, and 4 AAC 58.900, Definitions. There was no discussion and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Early Literacy - Esther Cox moved and Pat Shier seconded the following: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development adopt a proposed new section of regulations, 4 AAC 06.713, Early Literacy Screening.

Ms. Keplinger moved to strike out section 06.713(4) (the 10-minute time frame) of the proposed early literacy screening proposal. Ms. Hull seconded the motion. Dr. McCauley explained why the 10-minute time frame was in the proposal. Ms. Schaeffer said the proposal was not just for data collection; it was to get the districts used to doing the assessment. Mr. Fields said that at the last meeting, the discussion was about the 10 minutes also. He said a student could have a bad

day and need to be re-tested. When asked what the goal was, the Commissioner said the idea was not to provide data to the department, but to provide data to the teacher and drive instruction. The question was called, and the motion passed with a unanimous roll call vote of members. The advisory vote was 1-1, with one advisor abstaining. Ms. Cox amended her motion to adopt the regulation as amended. It was seconded by Mr. Shier and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

School Accountability – Ms. Hull complimented the department for its work on the school accountability proposal and said she was surprised at the small amount of public comment received, and she was looking forward to the implementation. Carol Schaeffer moved and Sue Hull seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development adopt the proposed amendments to amendments to 4 AAC 06.260(a) and 4 AAC 06.260(c)(1), Additional Requirements; 4 AAC 06.800 - .899, School and District Accountability; 4 AAC 06.759(b)(c), High School Graduation Qualifying Exam remediation; 4 AAC 33.090(g)(2)(B), District-operated statewide residential educational programs; and 4 AAC 34.055(f), Plan of Service. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Carol Schaeffer moved and Janel Keplinger seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development convene in executive session to evaluate the performance of the Commissioner of Education & Early Development. There was no discussion and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Pat Shier moved and Carol Schaeffer seconded a motion to come out of executive session. There was no discussion and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

The meeting was recessed until 8:30 a.m. the following day.

### ***Friday, June 7, 2013***

The meeting was called to order by Chair Merriner at 8:30 a.m. All members were present. Chair Merriner asked Sunni Hiltz, the Association of Alaska School Boards' president-elect and a Kenai Peninsula school board member, to come forward to accept a tribute for Carl Rose. The board made a presentation to Carl Rose, retiring Executive Director of the Association of Alaska School Boards, calling him a giant in Alaska education for his 26 years of service to the state.

The agenda was amended, by unanimous consent, to move the Attorney General's (AG) report to earlier in the meeting to accommodate the Assistant AG having to attend a hearing. The Chair asked if there were any disclosures. There were none.

**Officer Elections.** The Chair turned the gavel over to the Commissioner, who conducted the election for Chair. The commissioner asked for a nomination. Esther Cox moved to elect Jim Merrier as Chair. Janel Keplinger seconded the motion. Sue Hull moved for a unanimous ballot, seconded by Pat Shier.

The gavel was turned back to Chair Merriner. The Chair asked for a nomination for First Vice chair. Pat Shier nominated Esther Cox. The motion was seconded by Janel Keplinger. Sue Hull moved for a unanimous ballot seconded by Pat Shier.

The Chair asked for a nomination for Second Vice Chair. Esther Cox nominated Janel Keplinger. Pat Shier seconded the motion. Sue Hull moved for a unanimous ballot seconded by Pat Shier. Pat Shier said he appreciated the work done by the officers.

**Meeting Dates & Locations.** A motion made by Sue Hull and seconded by Janel Keplinger, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, set the following dates and locations were scheduled for the board's 2013-2014 meetings.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Meeting Type</b>
September 18,19, 20, 2013	Nome	Retreat/regular quarterly
October 28, 2013	Video-Teleconference/Noon	Special -70/30 waivers
December 5 & 6, 2013	Anchorage	Regular quarterly
January 27, 2014	Video-Teleconference/Noon	Special – legislative & budget
March 13, 14, 2014	Juneau	Regular quarterly
June 5, 6, 2014	Fairbanks/Anchorage?	Regular quarterly

The board considered its subcommittee assignments. It added the name of the new military advisor who will be coming on board in the fall (Lt. Col. Douglas Hayes).

**Attorney General's Report.** Rebecca Hattan, Assistant Attorney General, was present to brief the board. She thanked the board for taking her report out of agenda order. She noted several special education appeals related to quality and availability of services in districts. Seven districts had appealed intensive funding, and to date two districts have requested formal hearings. She said there was a spike in intensive needs this past year, and she wasn't sure where it was coming from. Ms. Hull said that intensive monies in the formula need another look because it appears it's not meeting the needs, and she hoped the department would address that. Mr. Fields said that in Copper River there are liability and medical issues with intensive students. Ms. Hattan said there is a fine line between providing education and medical care. There was one new lawsuit having to do with land trust. She said the Department of Revenue has the responsibility for the case, but EED did have an interest.

**Teaching & Learning Support Report.** Dr. Susan McCauley, Director, was present to brief the board. She said the goal was to effectively prepare students for what's coming next. She highlighted three areas. She hoped that by dividing the division up into six project teams, they would be able to deliver services better in three areas -- awareness, transition and

implementation -- to develop timelines and templates, professional development webinars, self-assessment, and informational fact sheets for all stakeholders.

The Summer Literacy Institute was held previously in that week and it went well with 122 educators from 21 districts. The conference focused on professional learning toward implementation of the new Alaska English language arts standards.

The Alaska School Leaders Institute (ASLI) was held previously in the week and focused on English language arts standards, math standards, and the new education evaluation system. Ms. Schaeffer said that she attended the conference and it was very relevant and the best one she's attended. Ms. Hull thanked Dr. McCauley for her work and said that she exudes confidence.

**Assessment, Accountability and Information Management Report.** Erik McCormick, Director, was present to brief the board. Mr. McCormick reviewed the preliminary SBA results in reading, writing, science and math. He said that generally reading was down and math was up statewide. He briefed the board on the statewide results of the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam in reading, writing and math. Mr. Shier asked if the up and down was due to anything in particular. Mr. McCormick said no. He said the department digs deep in under-performing districts. He felt accountability and intervention were in place and desk audits were being done working with the SSOS team. Mr. McCormick gave a brief update on the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium. He said Alaska had been approved as an advisory state and would be having weekly audios focusing on technology readiness and checking bandwidth. He said they would be using new tools that would be populated with tech information. The priority right now is being tech-ready. Mr. Shier said he could be a liaison with the university for connectivity. Mr. Merriner asked if there was any electronic testing or piloting. Mr. McCormick said the state may have an opportunity to field test in the fall. He noted that the department still had to select a vendor to do the test, and could possibly pool with other states to keep costs down. Concerns were expressed with the 12-week testing window and most of the testing occurring at the end of the window. Mr. McCormick said they were working on that. Mr. McCormick said Alaska has input in the development of the test so that it aligns with our standards. Our current SBAs have constructive responses and he expects this test will also. There was a discussion about data use. Mr. McCormick said the state owns the data and if the data were to be compromised, the state would get out. Ms. Hull said specific answers were needed for parents as the state moves forward. She said she'd like to add the topic of how we use data to the retreat agenda. Ms. Cox asked what advisory meant. Mr. McCormick said it means we can't vote, but are still in the conversation, and have no link to the Common Core State Standards. The Commissioner said it's a balancing act, and we can back away at any time. He said we adopted our own standards that are 95% similar to what's expected across the country. The difference is the Common Core Initiative said adopting states couldn't change those standards and could only add 15% of their own standards; our new standards are Alaska-specific. The board can adjust them anytime. We have control and we are in a good place.

**Budget/Legislative Report.** Marcy Herman, Legislative Liaison, was present to brief the board. Ms. Herman reviewed all legislation that passed, all bills that had been signed by the Governor, and what was still on the Governor's desk. Ms. Cox inquired about the purpose of the sustainable education task force. Ms. Herman said it was to analyze public school funding and other

education costs, and would address core courses for the APS. A report is due to the Governor by January 14, 2014. Ms. Herman briefly reviewed budget items focusing on entitlements to districts.

**Meeting Dates Revisited.** After a break, Ms. Hull said she wanted to revisit meeting dates to propose a new meeting date for the September meeting in Nome. She suggested September 23-25. After discussion, motion was made by Sue Hull and seconded by Pat Shier to change the September meeting dates to September 23-25. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

**Rural Coordinator Report.** Chris Simon, Coordinator, was present to brief the board. Mr. Simon gave a summary of all his activity since the last board meeting, emphasizing his rural outreach. In particular, he noted that he had attended the Education and Workforce Development Summit sponsored by the North Slope Leadership Team where they discussed a new dormitory for high school students from seven surrounding communities. He participated in the Yupiit School District education meeting with community members. He continues to work with other state agencies serving on the Alcohol Beverage Control Steering Review Committee, and in other areas. The Commissioner said Mr. Simon was a tremendous asset to the department and he needs to be kept in the loop with needs across the state.

**Mt. Edgecumbe High School (MEHS) Report.** Randy Hawk, Director, was present to brief the board. Mr. Hawk said the year ended with 360 students in attendance, and 72 graduates. An energy audit has been done for the entire campus by Siemens and they were so impressed with the engineering programs at the school that they awarded a \$25,000 engineering grant to build an engineering lab. Two teams from the robotics class qualified for state championships; the Wind Turbine Design class placed first in state for their design and attended the Alaska Rural Energy Conference to present and demonstrate. Other activities of note were students attending the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program six-week intensive program, and the Radio Club Spirit Award for programming. Summer projects include site work on the aquatic center, major maintenance projects, updating the PA/clock system, painting, repairing, and landscaping.

**Library, Archives & Museums Report.** Linda Thibodeau, Director, was present to brief the board. Ms. Thibodeau said the museum had the first use and return of a Native hat. The clan owns the spiritual aspect, and the museum owns the physical placement. The Stratton Library will be getting a new roof, windows and siding this summer with monies from the legislature. She noted that the online with libraries (OWL) was nearing the end of its grant. Possibly the Department of Commerce will extend it for a year. A preservation workshop will be held in Fairbanks this summer, and the search for a records manager continues. The Western Council of State Libraries will be meeting in Juneau this summer. Regarding the SLAM building project, \$30M is still needed to complete the project. \$20M was awarded by the legislature this year, which is not enough for all the contracts, so phasing is being planned.

**Commissioner's Report.** Commissioner Hanley was present to brief the board. The Commissioner said applications for residential schools were out and two had been approved. He noted that the legislature had funded Alaska's Learning Network (AKLN) to increase course offerings, enrollment and digital learning. The state is looking to partner with an organization to be more effective, and is looking at interactive courses and blended models. Concerning the

budget, he said the department was concerned at first with the deep cuts, but in the end they came out okay with AKLN, and OWL and a \$1.1B budget. He indicated that he expects an education focus during the next session. He said it was encouraging to hear that oil companies were investing more in Alaska, which means more revenue. Commissioner Hanley said all the new education components need support, training, and professional development for implementation of the standards and teacher evaluation. He said the state was committed to getting the MEHS pool site prep done and conceptual drawings done. There are not enough funds for a 50-meter pool. Paying for upkeep and maintenance of a 50-meter pool may be a lot and there needs to be a community conversation with proposed users if it is to go forward. He said attendees at an Excellence in Education conference had received a ribbon citing leaders willing to take a risk, and he wanted give it to the board's student representative, saying Ms. Manning was a good leader.

**Consent Agenda.** Sue Hull moved and Pat Shier seconded the following: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development approve the consent agenda consisting of the following: approval of the minutes of the March 6-8, 2013, meeting; approval of the minutes of the April 18, 2013, meeting; approval of the renewal of Highland Charter School charter for ten (10) years; and approval of the endorsement in English as a Second Language for Preschool through Sixth Grade offered by the College of Education at the University of Alaska Anchorage. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

#### **Board Comments.**

Major Michael Wrey said this was his last meeting and he and his family would depart on July 1. He said it was a great experience, thanked everyone, and he looked forward to returning to Alaska sometime.

Madison Manning thanked the board for her experience as this was her last meeting also. She thanked Carly and said she (Carly) needed no mentoring and wished her good luck.

Carly Williams said the discussion was great and she likes the variable term for residential schools, and is happy students have that choice now.

James Fields thanked the board for its welcome and said he was honored to be on the board.

Sue Hull welcomed James Fields and thanked Madison Manning for her contribution and wished Major Wrey well in his new job. She said she'd like the department to investigate more about broadcasting meetings; she said she appreciated staying on the agenda and being able to make comments, and the good conversations they had.

Carol Schaeffer said good-bye to Major Wrey and Madison Manning and welcomed James Fields. She thanked Kenai for their hospitality in hosting the board.

Pat Shier welcomed James Fields, and wished good luck to Major Wrey and Madison Manning. He said that University President Gamble is examining university endeavors to do more. He

generally spoke about working together. He congratulated the new officers and the Commissioner for surviving another legislative session.

Janel Keplinger said it had been great having Major Wrey and Madison Manning on the board and welcomed James Fields and said she was looking forward to working with Carly Williams this next year. She thanked the department and Erik McCormick for facing challenges and doing a good job.

Esther Cox said she would be interested in a report regarding theme-based education in Iditarod School District, what the district spent the money on, and if it was going to be replicated. She requested Dr. Lo's comparison from the April meeting. She thanked Kenai for their report, saying there were good things going on in Kenai; they were a great host and thanked them for the barbeque dinner. She had attended the UA teacher consortium meeting. She said she felt it was time to talk about the HSGQE and its longevity. She cautioned the department to not take on any more issues and to concentrate on the new standards, teacher evaluation, and the new assessments. She feels the professional development will take time and be costly to implement in time and training. She said she'd miss Major Wrey and Madison Manning and wished them both good-luck. She said her own family had a new naval officer as of June.

Jim Merriner thanked Madison Manning, the staff and the Kenai School District. He suggested that in the future when a school district presents that we allow an hour on the agenda. He said he'd attended the UA alignment meeting and they would meet later in the summer. He said he did a Glen Biegel radio show and talked about the waiver.

Esther Cox moved and Pat Shier seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was unanimously passed.