

**Alaska State Board of Education and Early Development**  
**Approved Minutes**  
**June 7-8, 2017**  
**Audio conference originating in Juneau, AK**

Vice-Chair Hull called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. Kenny Gallahorn, Charles Michael, LTC Toole, and Chair Fields were absent. After the pledge of allegiance, the board adopted the agenda for June 7. Board members declared no conflicts of interest.

**Public comment**

Dr. Lisa Parady, Executive Director of the Alaska Council of School Administrators, thanked the board for its work on Alaska's Education Challenge. She wanted the committees to have at least one more in-person meeting. She liked the state's plan for teacher quality under the Every Student Succeeds Act. She said the department has been successful in its outreach to stakeholders.

Tim Parker, President of NEA-Alaska, said the April education conference was successful. He noted that the layoff notices triggered by the lack of an approved state operating budget have caused uncertainty.

Ed Gray of Sitka said the state should not coerce parents regarding standards and assessment.

**Agenda Item 1. The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) state plan.** Commissioner Johnson said the first draft of the state plan will take interaction with stakeholders to the next step. Education associations have been very active in gathering comments on the plan. Sondra Meredith, Administrator of Teacher Education & Certification, and Margaret MacKinnon, Director of Assessment & Accountability, reviewed the major elements of the draft plan, such as a point system for rating schools, indicators of school quality and student success, and intervention in struggling schools. Commissioner Johnson said the department wants to put into operation a vision for student success that is much bigger than what will be in the state ESSA plan.

**Agenda Item 1A. The Joint Committee of State Board Members and University of Alaska Regents.** Vice-Chair Hull said there was significant progress at the most recent quarterly meeting. She noted the university will use the ALEKS math placement test at all campuses, with the intention of identifying students' academic needs. Deputy Commissioner Sana Efird said the state's ESSA plan and Alaska's Education Challenge will feed into many of the joint committee's recommendations.

**Agenda Item 2. Alaska's Education Challenge.** Commissioner Johnson said the committees are setting an example of compromise and agreeing to a shared vision. Board members reviewed the work of the committees they co-chair, saying they are on track to meet the deadline for recommendations.

**Agenda Item 3. Self-evaluation and Bylaws.** Vice-Chair Hull said Chair Fields will send board members a prospective tool for self-evaluation, which the board will consider adopting at its next meeting. Vice-Chair Hull said Chair Fields will appoint a subcommittee to review the board's bylaws.

**Agenda Item 4. Legislative and Budget Report.** Rebecca Braun, policy director in the Governor's Office, reviewed the reasons that the legislature hadn't yet passed an operating budget.

**June 8, 2017**

*Work session continued*

Kenny Gallahorn and LTC Toole were absent. Dr. Keith Hamilton was excused. The board adopted the agenda for June 8. John Harmon recused himself from Agenda Items 6A and 8A, regarding pre-elementary regulations, because he assists an Anchorage school on this topic.

**Agenda Item 5A. School Buses.** Heidi Teshner, Director of Administrative Services, said the proposed regulation would adopt the most recent national standards and updates to the Alaska standards for school bus safety. Elwin Blackwell, School Finance Manager, reviewed the proposed changes from the current standards.

**Agenda Item 5B. Assessments.** Margaret MacKinnon, Director of Assessment & Accountability, reviewed the three topics of the proposed regulation: 1) the grades that can be tested, 2) the achievement level scores for the statewide assessment in English language arts and mathematics, and 3) the achievement level scores for the statewide Alaska Alternate Assessment in science. The board and staff discussed the value of end-of-course assessments as predictors of student success in college.

**Agenda Item 5C. Vocational education.** Paul Prussing, Acting Director of Student Learning, reviewed the purpose of the proposed regulation, which would allow districts to spend state and federal vocational funds in grades seven and eight as well as high school.

**Agenda Item 6A. Pre-elementary monitoring.** Anji Gallanos, Early Learning Administrator, reviewed the purpose of the proposed regulations, which would reduce duplicative monitoring of pre-elementary programs and align regulations with the enabling statute.

**Agenda Item 6B. Physical exams.** Assistant Attorney General Rebecca Hattan reviewed the purpose of the proposed regulations, which would conform regulations to a new statute.

**Agenda Item 6C. Career and college readiness assessments as a graduation requirement.** Margaret MacKinnon, Director of Assessment & Accountability, reviewed the purpose of the proposed regulations, which would 1) conform regulations to statute, and 2) specify what students who have certificates of achievement are eligible to receive a diploma.

## **Business meeting**

**Agenda Item 7A. School Buses.** Second Vice-Chair Harmon moved and Barbara Thompson seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development open a period of public comment on 4 AAC 27.110 Supplementary publications pertaining to pupil transportation. The motion passed unanimously.

**Agenda Item 7B. Assessments.** Barbara Thompson moved and Rebecca Himschoot seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development open a period of public comment on 4 AAC 06.737 Standards based test, 4 AAC 06.739 Assessment achievement level scores, and 4 AAC 06.775 Statewide assessment program for students with disabilities. The motion passed unanimously.

**Agenda Item 7C. Vocational education.** First Vice-Chair Hull moved and Second Vice-Chair Harmon seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development open a period of public comment on 4 AAC 51.390(4) Definitions. The motion passed unanimously.

**Agenda Item 8A. Pre-elementary approval process.** Barbara Thompson moved and First Vice-Chair Hull seconded the following motion: After considering all public comment, I move that the State Board of Education and Early Development adopt 4 AAC 60.010 Applicability, 4 AAC 60.020 Exemptions, 4 AAC 60.035 Background checks and health and safety standards, 4 AAC 60.036 Initial application, renewal of approval, and assurances regarding programmatic requirements, 4 AAC 60.037 Transition, 4 AAC 60.039 Monitoring, recordkeeping, and inspections, 4 AAC 60.040 Denial of approval; appeal, and 4 AAC 60.170 Programmatic requirements for pre-elementary schools. The motion passed unanimously, with Second Vice-Chair Harmon recused.

**Agenda Item 8B. Physical exams.** Barbara Thompson moved and Rebecca Himschoot seconded the following motion: After considering all public comment, I move that the State Board of Education and Early Development repeal 4 AAC 06.050 Physical examinations of school employees. The motion passed unanimously.

**Agenda Item 8C. Career and college readiness assessments as a graduation requirement.** Rebecca Himschoot moved and Second Vice-Chair Harmon seconded the following motion: After considering all public comment, I move that the State Board of Education and Early Development repeal 4 AAC 06.710 (5) Statewide student assessment system; repeal 4 AAC 06.717 College and career readiness assessments; adopt proposed amendments to 4 AAC 06.718 (a) and (c)(1) College and career readiness assessment after student receives a certificate of achievement; repeal 4 AAC 06.721 College and career readiness assessment waivers; repeal 4 AAC 06.722 Waiver for entering the public school system late; repeal 4 AAC 06.723 Rare or unusual circumstances; repeal 4 AAC 06.724 Procedures for appeal from a denial of a waiver from the college and career readiness assessments; adopt proposed amendments to 4 AAC 06.765 (a) Test security, consequences of breach; adopt proposed amendments to 4 AAC 06.775 (a) Statewide assessment program for students with disabilities; repeal 4 AAC 06.790 (a) and (b)(4) Definitions. The motion passed unanimously.

**Agenda Item 9. Board subcommittees.** Chair Fields said there would be no changes to the subcommittees, although he would check whether Rebecca Himschoot could join a joint committee of board members and university regents.

**Agenda Item 10. Dates and locations of meetings.** Barbara Thompson moved and Rebecca Himschoot seconded a motion to adopt the following dates and locations for board meetings for the 2017-2018 school year:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Meeting Type</b>
July 14, 2017	Audio Conference	Special -- PEAKS & ESSA
August 1, 2017	Juneau or Audio Conference	Special -- ESSA
September 14-15, 2017	Audio Conference	Regular quarterly
October 5, 2017	Anchorage	Work session -- Ak's Educ. Challenge
November 2, 2017	Juneau/Fairbanks	Special – Ak's Educ. Challenge
December 7-8, 2017	Audio Conference	Regular quarterly
January 29, 2018	Audio Conference	Special – legislative and budget report
February 28, 2018	Audio Conference	Work session -- Commissioner's report
March 19-20, 2018	Juneau/Sitka	Regular quarterly
April 25, 2018	Audio Conference	Work session -- Commissioner's report
May 31-June 1, 2018	Audio Conference	Regular quarterly

The motion passed unanimously.

**Agenda Item 11. Board officers.** The board unanimously elected James Fields as Chair, Sue Hull as First Vice-Chair, and John Harmon as Second Vice-Chair.

**Agenda Item 12. Commissioner evaluation.** The board met in executive session to evaluate the Commissioner's performance during the past 12 months. In public session, Chair Fields said the board gave the Commissioner a favorable evaluation.

**Agenda Item 13 and Agenda Item 15. Standing written reports and board questions.** Board members asked whether the Parents as Teachers program is closing, what changes AdvancED is considering in updating its standards for quality schools, changes to the reporting of disciplinary data, alleged bias in the statewide science assessment questions, the Mt. Edgecumbe Advisory Board's schedule and topics, online courses and dual credit at Mt. Edgecumbe, and financing the operations of the aquatic center at Mt. Edgecumbe.

**Agenda Item 16. Mt. Edgecumbe High School Advisory Board Appointments.** First Vice-Chair Hull moved and Rebecca Himschoot seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development appoint Mary Huntington and Michelle D. Martin to

serve three-year terms on the Mt. Edgecumbe High School Advisory Board. The motion passed unanimously.

**Agenda Item 14. Commissioner's report.** Commissioner Johnson said the Department of Law is trying to determine what state functions are constitutionally allowed to continue in a government shutdown. He thanked Director Bob Williams and Todd Brocius for their work on a new eLearning module on childhood trauma and its effect on learning.

**Agenda Item 17. Consent agenda.** Barbara Thompson moved and Rebecca Himschoot seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development approve the consent agenda consisting of approval of the minutes of the March 27 & 29, 2017, meeting and the minutes of the May 3, 2017, work session. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Board comments**

Outgoing student member Wilfried Zibell thanked the board for the opportunity to serve on the board.

Charles Michael thanked Mr. Zibell and retiring Information Officer Eric Fry.

Rebecca Himschoot congratulated Mr. Zibell and Mr. Fry. She said she was unhappy about the pink slips that teachers have received in case of a government shutdown. She expressed concern about a shutdown's effect on teacher certification.

Barbra Thompson thanked Mr. Zibell and Mr. Fry, and said she was glad to see board secretary Shawn Sypeck back at work after an illness.

John Harmon thanked Mr. Zibell, Mr. Fry, DEED staff, and education stakeholders.

Sue Hull echoed the earlier expressions of thanks and said she looked forward to the board's work ahead.

James Fields thanked Mr. Zibell and Mr. Fry and thanked the board for re-electing him as board Chair. He said he is encouraged that the board's work is moving forward.

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.