

Alaska State Board of Education and Early Development
Approved Minutes
September 14-15, 2017
In-person meeting originating in Juneau, Alaska

Chair Fields called the meeting to order at 1:35pm. LTC Spencer Van Meter took the oath of office. After the pledge of allegiance, the board adopted the agenda for September 14, 2017. Member Kenny Gallahorn was absent. Board members declared no conflicts of interest.

Public Comment

Dr. Lisa Skiles Parady, Executive Director of the Alaska State Council of School Administrators, thanked board members for their time and reviewed handouts regarding the Fall ASA Conference and the Alaska Principals' Conference and Pre-Conference. Dr. Parady thanked Chair Fields, Jerry Covey, and Commissioner Johnson for taking time to provide an update on the Alaska's Education Challenge at the ASA Conference. Dr. Parady discussed the Alaska Principals' Conference and Pre-Conference and expressed her pleasure to collaborate with DEED at this conference.

Dr. Parady discussed the state's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) application and referenced a letter from ACSA supporting the three percent set aside for professional development for principals. She shared that superintendents have been meeting regularly to discuss the ESSA application, and will be providing feedback to DEED in the next day or so.

Agenda Item 1. Executive Session, FY2018 Legislative Intent and FY2019 Budget Priorities. Sue Hull moved and Rebecca Himschoot seconded the motion at 1:49pm to move the board to convene in an executive session.

Sue Hull moved and John Harmon seconded the motion at 3:34pm to come out of executive session.

Special Presentations

Agenda Item 2. Education Reform by Alan Dick.

Alan Dick gave a special presentation via audio conference on education reform.

Work Session

Agenda Item 3. Joint Committee of UA/SBOE Update.

Sue Hull shared her gratefulness for the subcommittee 3rd Quarterly Activities Report and provided an overview of the nine components. John Harmon asked for further information from Sue Hull and Dr. Hamilton about reducing developmental coursework and the simplified transfer of credit. Dr. Hamilton expressed interest in having the UA Board of Regents and the State Board of Education meet again in person. Rebecca Himschoot asked for clarification on dual-enrollment and concurrent coursework.

Agenda Item 4. Every Student Succeeds Act Plan Review.

Commissioner Johnson expressed thanks to the partner organizations that have been a part of this process to craft Alaska's ESSA state plan. Sondra Meredith, Administrator of Teacher Education & Certification, and Margaret MacKinnon, Federal Programs Coordinator, were present to brief the board.

Margaret MacKinnon shared feedback received through online public comment and the next steps to flush out the detail of the accountability system and interest in the SQSS indicators. Margaret shared that some details were pulled out of the plan and put back in as 2016-17 assessment results and graduation rates were finalized.

John Harmon asked about resources within DEED to comply with ESSA. Commissioner Johnson shared that there are elements in the plan that will cause DEED to have conversations about the resources we have. Rebecca Himschoot asked about what happens next. Margaret shared next steps with the U.S. ED, accountability system details that need to be flushed out and put through regulation, and that implementation will happen in 2018 based on 2017-18 data. Margaret indicated she will likely present regulations by the March meeting.

Sondra shared that DEED staff will take every opportunity we can to connect with stakeholders in the field.

Sue Hull inquired about accountability measures and the flexibility we have. She asked that DEED consider in our conversations how do we measure student performance broadly, and how can that be a part of our accountability system. Lastly, she asked that we prioritize growth in conversations as we move forward.

The committee recessed at 4:40pm.

September 15, 2017

Work session continued

Chair Fields called the meeting to order at 9:05am. The board adopted the agenda for September 15, 2017. Member Kenny Gallahorn was absent.

Agenda Item 5. Board Self Evaluation.

Chair Fields introduced the self-evaluation tool the board can consider using. Charles Michael and Sue Hull shared that AASB provides a self-evaluation tool for school boards that the State board could consider using as well. Sue Hull suggested setting up a State board sub-committee to review and select a self-evaluation tool. The board agreed to look at multiple examples of self-evaluation questions and submit questions to Chair Fields to review. Dr. Hamilton reminded the board to keep in mind the intended outcome. Sue Hull recommended the board keep it simple and allow the conversations to follow in greater detail.

Agenda Item 6. Board Processes.

Commissioner Johnson introduced the concept and conversation. Due to DEED staff and board turnover, there's a great opportunity to put in writing board processes that currently may be understood but not documented. Local school boards have processes and standing rules, and it is the desire of the State board to develop similar documentation. Sue Hull encouraged the development of standing rules through NASBE's recommendation.

Agenda Item 7. High School Testing Update.

Margaret MacKinnon, Federal Programs Coordinator; Deb Riddle, Student Learning Division Operations Manager; and Paul Prussing, Director of Student Learning, briefed the board on high school testing plans for 2018. Paul shared about the Division of Student Learning reorganization at a leadership level and the new Division Operations Manager position. Margaret shared DEED's proposal to test only in ninth grade in 2018. Margaret shared DEED's discussions with stakeholders and interest in moving to end of course assessments, starting with offering Algebra I in 2019. The assessment would be administered at the end of the academic year in which the student has completed the coursework. Margaret shared that DEED is committed to this path to end of course assessments in other subjects such as English language arts. Commissioner Johnson stated that end of course assessments will be good for Alaska's public education system. He shared that DEED is going about this work carefully, and plans to continue to work with stakeholders to make sure these work for all students.

Agenda Item 8. Alaska's Education Challenge Update.

Commissioner Johnson opened the presentation for Jerry Covey. Jerry led a presentation about the right drivers for Alaska's public education system as the work of the Alaska's Education Challenge moves forward (from Michael Fullan's book *Coherence: The Right Drivers in Action for Schools, Districts, and Systems*). There is strong evidence of the right drivers happening at the local level in our school districts. Right Driver 1: Focusing direction, Right Driver 2: Cultivating collaborative cultures, Right Driver 3: Deepening learning, Right Driver 4: Securing accountability.

Agenda Item 9. Approval for UAA Early Childhood Special Education Program.

Sondra Meredith, Administrator of Teacher Education & Certification, provided an overview of the UAA expanded certification offerings regarding teaching in early childhood education. Barbara Thompson asked about retroactive approval of the program.

Agenda Item 10A. Praxis II Content Area Exams.

Bob Williams, Director of Educator & School Excellence, shared that these regulations are an effort to expand the opportunities to expand the content area exams. Sondra Meredith, Administrator of Teacher Education & Certification, presented the regulation package. Rebecca Himschoot noted that computer science is listed as a content area, but we do not currently have content standards for, and that it might be an area for growth.

Agenda Item 10B. Guidelines for Inclusion of Students with Disabilities and English Learners.

Rebecca Hattan provided an explanation regarding the presentation of the Participation Guidelines alongside the College and Career Readiness Assessment (CCRA) regulations. Margaret MacKinnon, Federal Programs Coordinator, provided an overview of the revisions to the Participation Guidelines.

Agenda Item 11A. Alaska Standards for School Buses.

Heidi Teshner, Director of Finance & Support Services, provided an overview of the proposed regulation and shared that DEED received no public comment regarding this topic.

Agenda Item 11B. Career and Technical Education (CTE).

Paul Prussing, Director of Student Learning, provided an overview of the proposed regulation change. The change aligns state and federal funds to the same grade span.

Business Meeting

Agenda Item 12. Approval for UAA Early Childhood Special Education Program.

John Harmon moved and Sue Hull seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development approve the additional endorsement program in Early Childhood Special Education for birth through third grade offered by the College of Education at the University of Alaska Anchorage as an optional minor in their undergraduate Early Childhood Education program. Rebecca Hattan, Assistant Attorney General, provided an explanation that the board's actions would not be retroactive. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 13A. Praxis II Content Area Exams.

Barbara Thompson moved and Sue Hull seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development open a period of public comment on 4 AAC 12.310 Designation and qualifying scores of teacher competency examination and 4 AAC 12.407 Content area examinations. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 13B. Guidelines for Inclusion of Students with Disabilities and English Learners.

Rebecca Himschoot moved and Sue Hull seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development open a period of public comment on 4 AAC 06.710 Statewide student assessment system, 4 AAC 06.717, College and career readiness assessments, 4 AAC 06.718 College and career readiness assessment after student receives a certificate of achievement, 4 AAC 06.721 College and career readiness assessment waivers, 4 AAC 06.722 Waiver for entering the public school system late, 4 AAC 06.723 Rare or unusual circumstances, 4 AAC 06.724 Procedures for appeal from a denial of a waiver from the college and career readiness assessments, 4 AAC 06.765 Test security; consequences of breach, 4 AAC 06.775 Statewide assessment program for students with disabilities, 4 AAC 06.776 Assessment of a Student with limited English proficiency, and 4 AAC 06.790 Definitions. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 14A. Alaska Standards for School Buses.

Sue Hull moved and Dr. Hamilton seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development adopt the proposed amendments to 4 AAC 27.110 Supplementary publications pertaining to pupil transportation. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 14B. Career and Technical Education (CTE).

John Harmon moved and Sue Hull seconded the following motion: After considering all public comment, I move the State Board of Education & Early development adopt the proposed amended regulations to 4 AAC 51.390 CTE/Vocational Education programs. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 15A. Libraries, Archives & Museums

Patience Frederiksen, Director of Libraries, Archives & Museums, shared highlights from the standing report. The APK will be asking for supplemental funding from the Legislature for a new cooling system. John Harmon asked about tour numbers since the entrance fees were increased. Patience shared that museum visitor usage is up 20% in 2017 due to Princess Cruises adding APK on the bus tour route.

Agenda Item 15B. Student Learning

Barbara Thompson asked about Educators Rising and the CTE incentive grant coursework being offered. Rebecca Himschoot asked for more information and a presentation from Educators Rising in the future. Rebecca also asked about the PINE grant.

Agenda Item 15C. Educator & School Excellence

Barbara Thompson expressed her support and excitement for the continuance and flourishing of the eLearning program. Dr. Hamilton expressed support for the Narcan training through eLearning. Rebecca Himschoot commented on helping recognize teacher leaders throughout the year.

Agenda Item 15D. Federal Programs

John Harmon inquired about anything new coming from the Secretary of Education that the board should be aware of.

Agenda Item 15E. Mt. Edgecumbe High School

John Harmon asked about MEHS' messaging. Dr. Hamilton asked about the pool project, and DEED shared that it will be available by second semester (completion by December 15). Chair Fields asked about the curriculum development process and the State board's role.

Agenda Item 15F. Data Management

John Harmon inquired about data security and reassurance of DEED's due diligence.

Agenda Item 15G. Attorney General

John Harmon asked about any high potential risk cases that the board should be aware of.

Agenda Item 16. Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Johnson recognized Shawn Sypeck and thanked her for her hard work during her tenure at DEED. He then introduced Sam Jordan, DEED's new Education Technology Coordinator. Sam provided an overview of his new role and his growing relationship and emerging partnerships with the education technology community in Alaska. His presentation focused on partnerships, resources, and initiatives. Rebecca Himschoot asked about computer science standards.

Agenda Item 17. Approval of the Director of Student Learning

John Harmon moved and Rebecca Himschoot seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development approve the appointment of Paul Prussing as director of Student Learning. Dr. Hamilton shared three words "It's about time." Barbara Thompson expressed her excitement for this opportunity for Paul. John Harmon expressed his appreciation for Paul's background in education. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 18. 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 June 7 & 8, 2017; July 14, 2017; and August 1, 2017 meetings.

Sue Hull proposed an amendment to change the Agenda Item 3A language in the July 14, 2017 meeting minutes. The amendment proposed corrects the language in the July 14, 2017 meeting minutes to reflect the motion taken at the meeting. The correct motion is: After considering all public comment, I move the State Board of Education & Early Development adopt proposed amendments to 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. John Harmon seconded the amendment.

The motion passed unanimously.

Board Comments

Barbara Thompson shared her excitement for the work of the Alaska Digitization Council and encouraged board members to visit the site. She thanked the public for their comments, and staff and facilitators for their work on the Alaska's Education Challenge. She thanked Shawn for her service and wished her the best.

Dr. Hamilton welcomed Tiffany and LTC Van Meter, expressed his excitement for Paul's promotion, and thanked Shawn for her work and for caring for the board. Dr. Hamilton inquired about the November 2 meeting, and Chair Fields confirmed the meeting will be via audio conference.

Rebecca Himschoot thanked Sue Hull for her work and leadership on the bylaws, commented on the upcoming review of the science standards in the state's ESSA plan, wished Shawn all the best, and congratulated Paul on his new position.

John Harmon expressed appreciation for DEED and stakeholder work on the Alaska's Education Challenge, looked forward to the bylaws discussion, expressed his disappointment with the lack of a joint board meeting between the UA Regents and the board, and thanked Shawn for her warm and welcoming support to the board.

LTC Van Meter thanked everyone for the very warm welcome, and expressed his honor to work with the board.

Sue Hull welcomed LTC Van Meter, expressed her pleasure that DEED staff joined the board meeting, shared her gratefulness for the Commissioner's leadership and DEED's efforts to bring about transformational change to our state, thanked the bylaws committee, and encouraged the board to get on the UA Regents agenda now for next year.

Chair Fields expressed his thanks to Shawn for her integrity and communication, reflected on Jerry's presentation and the work of the Alaska's Education Challenge, and shared that he is looking forward to Oct. 4.

The meeting adjourned at 4:25pm.