

**State Board of Education & Early Development**  
**Approved Minutes**  
**February 26, 2020**  
**Audio Conference Meeting**  
**Department of Education & Early Development**  
**801 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Juneau, AK 99801**

**Wednesday, February 26, 2020**

Chair Fields called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. After the pledge of allegiance, the board adopted the agenda for February 26, 2020. Member Van Diest moved to adopt the agenda. Member Scott seconded the motion. Lt. Colonel Hammill was excused from the roll. Student Advisory Member Mainard, Member Griffin, and Member Kowalski were not present. There were no potential conflicts of interest identified.

**Work Session**

**Agenda Item 1. Commissioner's Report.** Commissioner Johnson welcomed the board and began with an update on the coronavirus. He let the board know that Governor Dunleavy has convened meetings with commissioners and other state officials to be sure all state agencies are aware of the potential risk. As of now, there are no active cases in Alaska but we don't want to be caught off guard once it arrives. Staff is ready to work with districts in case of an occurrence and are standing by to provide any assistance that the districts might need. Commissioner Johnson has also been in touch with the Northwest Arctic Borough School District with regards to the Kaktovik fire. He has been in contact with the superintendent and the support staff to offer any assistance that they might need to ensure instruction is still occurring.

Commissioner Johnson then introduced Mr. Tim Parker of NEA Alaska who informed the board that Alaska's longest running teacher, Sharon Russel had passed away. The NEA is putting together a citation to recognize her for her work.

Erin Hardin, Legislative Liaison for DEED then gave an update as to the pieces of legislation that the department is tracking. There are twelve new House bills and nine new Senate bills that are moving their way through the legislature as well as the bills from last session that DEED is still tracking. Erin will provide a comprehensive report to the board at their March 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. She also informed the board that Monday, February 24<sup>th</sup> was the filing deadline for bills so no new legislation can be introduced at this time. The department is paying close attention to SB 6 which was heard on February 26<sup>th</sup> in the Senate Finance Committee. The committee has yet to schedule another hearing on that bill but Erin will let the board members know when another hearing has been scheduled. There is a companion bill in the House of Representatives but that bill has not yet received a hearing.

Karen Melin, Deputy Commissioner of DEED gave the board an overview of the agenda for the March State Board of Education meeting. The board will meet with the joint House/ Senate Education Committees for an update on board work. The CTE Perkins plan is also on the agenda and Deputy Commissioner Melin encouraged the board to read through it carefully as it is a large document. She also informed the board of the number of regulations on the agenda that are scheduled to be approved by the board to go out for public comment. She reminded the board that as the reading bill becomes law, there will be increased regulations surrounding the concepts outlined in that bill which will put an

additional body of work on the board's shoulders. Board packets will be out the week of March 9<sup>th</sup> so the board has time to complete a thorough review prior to their meeting on March 26<sup>th</sup>.

Member Stockhausen asked if there were committee meetings scheduled on the agenda to which Deputy Commissioner replied that there were committee meetings scheduled during the board's retreat day.

Commissioner Johnson concluded the meeting by reminding the board that, although the increased regulatory burden will present a large body of work to both the department and the board, it will be another opportunity for the board to interact with the shareholders in the state and make education better for the students that we serve.

### **Board Comments**

Chair Fields thanked the department for their updates and their work and reminded everyone that their feedback for Commissioner Johnson's evaluation is due to him by March 9<sup>th</sup>

There were no other board comments

The meeting adjourned at 3:18pm