

State Board of Education & Early Development
Approved Minutes
September 16-17, 2020
Virtual Platform Meeting
Department of Education & Early Development
801 West 10th Street
Juneau, AK 99801

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

Chair Fields called the meeting to order at 8:38 am. After the pledge of allegiance, the board adopted the agenda for September 16-17, 2020. Lieutenant Colonel Hammill was excused from attendance. Member Van Diest moved to adopt the agenda and was seconded by Member Griffin. There were no objections to the adoption of the agenda. There were no potential conflicts of interest identified by board members at this meeting.

Public Comment

Public comment was opened at 8:41 am

Nils Andressen- Alaska Municipal League: asked the board to advocate for the health of school districts during the budget discussion portion of the meeting. Encouraged the board to include level funding for school districts as well as additional funding that comes out of the BSA so that school districts can continue to attract qualified teachers. Additional funding from the federal government is important but it is also important to uphold the constitutional requirement to fund education

Dr. Lisa Styles-Parady- Alaska Council of School Administrators: informed the board that the ASA fall series kicks off soon and encouraged the board to attend those virtual sessions. She also reminded the board that Commissioner Johnson is meeting regularly with superintendents and other education leaders to give them updates and provide unity to various stakeholders throughout the state and thanked Commissioner Johnson for his work with ACSA on this. She also updated the board on the work that the Alaska Principals Academy is doing to support new principals to be successful. She thanked the board for their work and is looking forward to their continued work during this time.

Tom Klaameyer- President of NEAlaska: thanked Commissioner Johnson and DEED for their work to provide a platform called the Alaska Commons to support teachers and students to share virtual educational content. NEAlaska is also supporting teachers by offering professional development with remote learning opportunities in school districts. Shared their concern to the board with regards to the fiscal situation and also the impacts of COVID are not compounded by unnecessary financial difficulties.

Public comment closed at 9:01am

Work Session

Agenda Item 1. Alaska Smart Start 2020 Forum.

District Smart Start 2020 Presentations and Discussion

Presentation by Dr. Dave Herbert- Superintendent of Saint Mary's School District. Dr. Herbert provided an introduction of what his staff in his district has done to adjust in the time of COVID-19. He then walked the board through his Smart Start 2020 plan that the district is utilizing to continue education. They are utilizing a "low tech" approach for students to come to the school and pick up a hot meal as well as a packet of school work for the day. Their teachers greet them each day wearing a mask and follow up with telephonic support. The teachers call each student each day to check in on them and help them with their homework and keep a log of their student calls. He thanked Commissioner Johnson for his work to assist districts with their Smart Start 202 plans. He informed the board on the steps they took as a district to ensure that students would be ready to come back to school in the fall whether it be in person or by virtual teaching methods. He then took questions and comments from the board regarding Saint Mary's Smart Start 2020 plan.

Dr. Larry LeDoux- Superintendent of Kodiak Island Borough School District. Dr. LeDoux provided an introduction to his district and walked the board through their work to complete their Smart Start 2020 plan. They took feedback from their community members and staff and discovered that they needed to increase their outreach to draw the community together. They took steps to ensure that their materials are available in languages that are prevalent in their community and have also convened panels to support the community. They also stressed the importance of equity to ensure that all students were supported even through their various family situations. They also created infographics so that students and parents would have a clear picture of how the district was addressing COVID-19 mandates. They mailed many support materials to parents to ensure that they were informed on the steps that the district was taking to keep students safe. They worked to connect with parents as they transitioned into virtual learning/ paper workbooks and provided extensive parent training to ensure that students were successful in a virtual setting. They have also worked with students and staff to ensure that their social/ emotional needs are being met as well as just their educational needs. He then took questions and comments from the board.

Superintendent Kerry Boyd- Superintendent Boyd provided an introduction to her district and walked the board through their work to complete their Smart Start 2020 plan. She discussed the enrollment of both the brick and mortar schools in her district as well as the enrollment in the Raven homeschool program. As of now, the YKSD is operating at a green level and are in school full time with the district mitigation plan. They are working with their health officials and representatives just in case they have to go to the next level of health mandates. Most of their classrooms have less than 10 students which helps their students social distance correctly. Superintendent Boyd pointed out the lack of infrastructure which makes it very difficult on the district if they were to go to a school closure. They are doing all they can to ensure that they keep their bubble small so that they do not have to go to a red level and close their schools. They have partnered with the Tanana Chiefs Conference to ensure that tribal officials and school officials are working together to respond to risk levels within the various communities in the district. She also addressed the loss of revenue that have come with loss of enrollment in the district and asked the board to continue to find solutions to deal with this issue. They are also working with local organizations to increase broadband connections so that students have access to connectivity in their rural areas to promote learning. She thanked the department and the board for their leadership on the Smart Start 2020 framework for their district. She then took questions from the board.

The board then asked the superintendents questions in a round table format to engage with them directly regarding their Smart Start plans and the way that education is different now during this time. Commissioner Johnson moderated the panel discussion and started the panel by asking superintendents

to provide examples of outstanding teachers in their district who have gone above and beyond to help students in this new learning environment. Superintendent LeDoux lauded their food service workers and their custodians for coming in to ensure that students were fed and facilities were clean even though they put themselves in harms way. Superintendent Boyd commended her teachers for their excitement to be back at school and the ability to interact with students in person.

Commissioner Johnson asked superintendents to identify a particular area of regulation or policy that the board should review that would impact student learning in a positive way. Superintendent LeDoux asked the board to identify ways that communities can take ownership in the learning of students. He also asked the board to identify more training and support for reading and early learning programs to focus on reading. Superintendent Boyd asked the board to look at special needs certification reciprocity so that they could recruit qualified teachers to Alaska. She also asked the board to help communities with their bandwidth issues. She discussed funding mechanisms for schools across the state and asked the board to address this issue. Superintendent Herbert asked the board to continue to empower Commissioner Johnson to make decisions that will support students and districts. They then took comments from the board.

DEED Smart Start 2020 Presentations

Director of Innovation and Education Excellence Tammy Van Wyhe and Division of Finance and Support Services updated the board on their work to provide resources for teachers and other district representatives that they can use to fit their unique situation. Director Heidi Teshner updated the board on the fiscal information from the department on their work to support districts during the school year. Member Griffin asked about preliminary student enrollment count looks like for the month of October. Director Teshner answered that they are receiving some information from a few districts but they don't have comprehensive data yet. They have sent out a request to districts to get those numbers so that they can look at what the funding levels might look across the state in terms of enrollment.

DEED & DHSS Panel Discussion

Dr. Zinc and Dr. Ohlsen addressed the board regarding the medical work that the Department of Health and Social Services has done to address the COVID-19 pandemic and how that affects schools and districts across the state. They also addressed the new CDC guidelines for COVID-19 school guidelines. The Department of Health and Social Services are working to review the new CDC guidelines and what they mean for the state. As of now they do not anticipate any need to update the statewide SmartStart 2020 plan. Dr. Ohlsen lauded schools and school districts because as of now, there has not been a case identified as having come from a school. They then took questions from board members.

Member Stockhausen informed the board at the end of the day that she would not be able to attend tomorrow's meeting but that she was grateful to attend today's meeting and is excited for the work that the board will do tomorrow.

The Board recessed at 1:42pm

Thursday, September 17, 2020

8:35am on September 17 board came back into session- member Stockhausen, Lt. Col. Hammill, and Student Advisor Scott were excused.

After roll call- member Hamilton offered an invocation to start the day.

Agenda Item 2. Mt. Edgecumbe Advisory Board Appointments. Commissioner Johnson asked the board to appoint three members to the Mt. Edgecumbe High School Advisory Board. Superintendent Vanasse explained the process that MEHS goes through to appoint members and walked the board through the makeup of the board. They have a parent seat and an alumni seat that is up for the whole term as well as another parent seat that is up for a shorter term as that seat was vacated recently. The board is made up of parents, alumni, a student representative, and a member of the State Board of Education. She took questions from the board and thanked the board for taking this item up in their agenda

Agenda Item 3. Early Learning Guidelines Regulations to go out for Public Comment. Commissioner Johnson asked the board to open a period of public comment on proposed amendments to 4 AAC 60.170(a), Programmatic requirements for pre-elementary schools. The amendments update the *State of Alaska Early Learning Guidelines*, which define the domains of development for pre-elementary children. Director Van Whye updated the board on the process by which the standards were updated and informed the board that they were last updated in 2007. Member Kowalski asked what areas of the state that the guidelines got deployed to students. Deb Riddle answered that the guidelines are out for all preschool entities and was created as part of the preschool development grant that was awarded to DEED. All Alaska head start programs and preschool programs will have access to these guidelines. Member Kowalski thanked the department staff for their work to include community and cultural training in the guidelines.

Agenda Item 4A. Adoption of School Broadband Assistance Grant Regulations. Commissioner Johnson asked the board to make the school broadband emergency regulations permanent. At its June meeting, the board adopted emergency regulations to allow funding under Senate Bill 74 (enacted as ch. 5, SLA 2020) to be distributed to school districts for the 2020-2021 school year. The emergency regulation changes at 4 AAC 33.600 – 4 AAC 33.690 are proposed to become permanent, with one additional amendment. The changes relate to the School Broadband Assistance Grant program administered by the Division of Libraries, Archives, and Museums. Commissioner Johnson reminded the board that the board has seen these before and thanked Senator Hoffman for his work to push this item through the legislature. He thanked the board for being willing to adopt these regulations as emergency regulations especially in the time of COVID-19. Patience Frederiksen informed the board that 6.3 million dollars in grant funds have been distributed to 139 schools so the program is going well. The Federal government is still working to get more connectivity to students across the country but the work is slow. She then took questions from the board regarding connectivity and the BAG regulations. Commissioner Johnson reminded the board that the Alaska Telecom Association is working to increase connectivity for students across the state and volunteered to have them present to the board.

Agenda Item 4B. Adoption of Temporary Certificate Regulations. Commissioner Johnson asked the board to repeal 4 AAC 12.400 Emergency special services certificate (emergency Type C) and adopt 4 AAC 12.401 Emergency certificate. The proposed changes would end the issuance of emergency special services certificate (emergency Type C) and allow for the issuance of emergency administrative certificates (emergency Type B) and some emergency teacher certificate (emergency Initial). He informed the board that teacher certification would be an item that would appear on many board meeting agendas going forward because the department is continuing to look at alternative pathways and modernizing processes to get more teachers into the state of Alaska. Director Van Whye informed the board that these regulations will allow for more flexibility for local school boards to better meet the needs for local school districts. She then turned it over to Sondra Meredith who answered questions from the board. Member Kowalski asked when the regulations would be effective. Luann Wehrauch answered that the Department of Law review takes approximately two months and then goes to the

Lieutenant Governor's office where it takes effect thirty days after the Lieutenant Governor has signed the regulations. Member Van Diest asked if the department had a picture of the number of emergency certificates. There are about 150 emergency certificates that the department has issued but the number of vacancies for teachers in the state will not be available until September 30 when the department will get this information to the board.

Agenda Item 4C. Adoption of Facilities Regulations Commissioner Johnson asked the board to adopt proposed amendments to regulation 4 AAC 31.014, Codes and regulations for school facilities. The amendments update the energy efficiency code of the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air- Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) from ASHRAE Standard 90.1 2010 Edition to Standard 90.1 2016 Edition. Heidi Teshner informed the board that the Bond Reimbursement & Grant Review Committee (BR&GR) recommended to the State Board that the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air- Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) Standard 90.1 version 2010 (90.1-2010) be adopted as the state's energy efficiency standard for school capital projects with state-aid. Member Van Diest asked why the board is approving the 2016 codes instead of the 2019 codes. Tim Mearig answered that it is because adopting the 2016 codes allows people more time to adjust to them instead of just jumping into the 2019 codes. Chair Fields acknowledged the positive feedback on the public comment period for these regulations

Agenda Item 4D. Adoption of State Museum Fees Regulations. Commissioner Johnson asked the board to adopt amendments to regulations related to fee increases for the Division of Libraries, Archives, and Museums. Commissioner Johnson thanked the staff at the Libraries, Archives, and Museums for their work even though COVID-19 crashed the tourism industry and affected the number of tourists that visited the museum. Patience Frederiksen walked the board through the regulations. There were no questions from the board.

Agenda Item 4E. Adoption of Military Training Credits. Commissioner Johnson asked the board to adopt proposed regulation changes to Article 4's "High School Graduation Requirements" by adding a new regulation entitled "High school credit for Alaska Army National Guard military training," 4 AAC 06.077. This proposal makes military training with the Alaska Army National Guard, for high school credit, available to all eligible third and fourth year high school students in Alaska. Assistant Commissioner Niki Tshibaka briefed the board on the regulations and reminded them of the great opportunities it provides as another career pathway for rising third year and fourth year students. It creates opportunities for them to get paid employment, even while they're in high school. And then, of course, provides them with a career. Member Van Diest asked what the feedback has been from our school districts with regards to these regulations. Assistant Commissioner Tshibaka responded that DEED has received no comments or push back on these regulations from districts.

Agenda Item 4F. Adoption of Library Standards Regulations. Commissioner Johnson asked the board to adopt amendments to regulation 4 AAC 04.170 Library and information literacy standards. The amended regulation would adopt updated standards for library and information literacy. The new standards, *Alaska School Library Framework for Learners, 2020 Edition*, are based on standards developed by the American Association of School Librarians. Commissioner Johnson thanked the library association for their patience as DEED worked on these standards. Director Van Wyhe reminded the board that the last time the standards were adopted in 2000 and walked the board through the process and the public comment period. Deb Riddle informed the board on the changes that were made to the standards in response to the public comment. They would only change the title page to include the copyright date as

well as the “used with permission from” to adoption. Member Hamilton asked if there was a timeline for standards review so that it would not be twenty years before the library standards were reviewed. Commissioner Johnson acknowledged that the department could have a conversation about the standards review and committed to put it on a future meeting agenda. He reminded the board that they adopt standards but there are no requirements for school districts to use those standards once they are adopted. He welcomed a future discussion about ways to update the standards requirements with the board.

Business Meeting

Agenda Item 5. Questions Regarding Standing Reports. Commissioner Johnson introduced the standing reports and reminded the board that in addition to the work that COVID-19 has made for staff, they are still doing their regular jobs. Member Kowalski asked about the state report card to the public with so many elements being waived for this year. Tammy Van Wyhe answered that the department is still working on assessments and working through ways to deliver assessments in the time of COVID-19. Colton Christian walked the board through the portions of the report card that would still be on the report card but the only thing that would be missing would be the assessments and accountability portions due to the fact that there were no assessments this year due to COVID-19. Member Griffin commended the department on its work that it is doing in addition to its COVID-19 work. Member Van Diest thanked DEED staff for their work on these reports and their work to continue to make the department run smoothly

Agenda Item 6. Mt. Edgecumbe Advisory Board Appointments. Member Van Diest motioned and Member Griffin seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development appoint Michelle Martin and Mary Suzzuk Huntington to the Parent Representative seats and Josh Vo to the Alumni Representative seat on the Mt. Edgecumbe High School Advisory Board. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote. Member Van Diest thanked Superintendent Vanasse for her work to send excellent candidates to the board for their review

Agenda Item 7. Early Learning Guidelines Regulations to go out for Public Comment. Member Kowalski motioned and Member Van Diest seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development open a period of public comment on amendments to 4 AAC 60.170(a), Programmatic requirements for pre-elementary schools, whereby an updated version of the *State of Alaska Early Learning Guidelines* is proposed to be adopted by reference. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote. Commissioner Johnson informed the board that the public comment period would be 60 days for these regulations so that the public has more time to comment on these regulations.

Agenda Item 8A. Adoption of School Broadband Assistance Grant Regulations. Member Griffin motioned and Member Hamilton seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development make the emergency regulation changes in 4 AAC 33, Article 6, Funding for the Improvement of Internet Speed at Public Schools (4 AAC 33.600– 4 AAC 33.690), permanent and adopt an additional amendment to 4 AAC 33.605(a). The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote. Member Hamilton mentioned that he would like to see more work to increase internet support as the old brick and mortar school system seems to be going away and we need to do whatever we can to support our rural districts with internet access

Agenda Item 8B. Adoption of Temporary Certificate Regulations. Member Hamilton motioned and Member Kowalski seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development repeal 4 AAC 12.400 Emergency special certificate (emergency Type C) and adopt 4 AAC 12.401 Emergency certificate; and adopt the proposed amendments to 4 AAC 12.397 Mandatory training requirements, 4 AAC 52.030 Advisory panel, 4 AAC 52.142 Individualized family service plan, 4 AAC 52.260 Personnel development, and 4 AAC 52.785 Related to other laws. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote. There was no discussion.

Agenda Item 8C. Adoption of Facilities Regulations. Member Van Diest Motioned and Member Griffin seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development adopt the proposed amendments to 4 AAC 31.014, Codes and regulations for school facilities. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote. There was no discussion.

Agenda Item 8D. Adoption of State Museum Fees Regulations. Member Hamilton motioned and Member Van Diest seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development adopt the proposed amendments to fee increases for the Division of Libraries, Archives, and Museums at 4 AAC 57.910; 4 AAC 58.010; and 4 AAC 59.065. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote. There was no discussion.

Agenda Item 8E. Adoption of Military Training Credits. Member Griffin motioned and Member Hamilton seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development adopt the proposed amendments to Article 4's High School Graduation Requirements by adding the new regulation entitled "High school credit for Alaska Army National Guard military training," 4 AAC 06.077. Member Griffin mentioned that this is an amazing program and he is glad that it is getting going. Executive Secretary Linda Mattson read Student Advisor Myriam Scott's following comments into the record: I think that having military training credit would be an amazing opportunity for Alaskan students. Any opportunity that can expose students to career possibilities or allow them to get some experience going into college or a career is incredibly valuable.

Agenda Item 4F. Adoption of Library Standards Regulations. Member Van Diest motioned and Member Kowalski seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development adopt the proposed amendments to 4 AAC 04.170 Library and information literacy standards with the changes identified by the Department of Law to the title page of the document adopted by reference. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote. There was no discussion.

Agenda Item 9. Commissioner Report. Commissioner Johnson informed the board that the department is working on updating the internal standards review process. The department has a survey of the English language arts standards online. The department will take feedback from stakeholders and will bring it forward to the Standards and Assessments committee for their feedback to determine what changes need to happen to them. He also announced that former DEED Deputy Commissioner Sana Effird had recently been appointed as the Executive Director of the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education. He congratulated both her and the commission on their new executive director. He also updated the board on the department's TeleWork status and he is confident in the department's work that they are doing while they are working remotely. He also highlighted various staff in the department for their work during the pandemic.

Agenda Item 10. Consent Agenda. Commissioner Johnson asked the board to approve its consent agenda. Member Van Diest motioned and member Griffin seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development approve the consent agenda consisting of approval of the minutes of the June 10-11, 2020 meeting, the minutes of the July 22, 2020 work session, and the minutes of the August 19, 2020 work session. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote. There was no discussion.

Agenda Item 11. Executive Session: FY2022 DEED Budget Discussion

Chair Fields motioned to go into Executive Session and Member Griffin seconded. Commissioner Johnson reminded the board before they went into Executive Session that this is the board's opportunity to participate in the governor's confidential and deliberative budget development process. At 11:40am, Chair Fields moved to come out of Executive Session and Member Griffin seconded.

Board Comments.

Member Hamilton- thanked everyone for being together virtually, expressed his sadness that they could not be able to be together in person. He thanked the staff for hosting the meeting via zoom. Thanked the staff at MEHS for their work to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. He continued to encourage the department to continue to push for increased broadband connectivity with the federal government and is looking forward to the future presentation to the state board regarding the issue. He congratulated Sana Effird for her appointment to ACPE

Member Griffin- thanked the staff at DEED for their work. He thanked Dr. Zink and Dr. Ohlsen for their presentations yesterday and their leadership to slow the spread of COVID-19 along the way. He would like the state to strategically look at what does success look like and how can we take steps to mitigate future disease outbreaks along the way. He expressed his concern of risk management and expressed his hope that students will continue to learn to mitigate risk during this school year.

Member Kowalski- thanked Commissioner Johnson for his leadership throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. She thanked the staff for being comprehensive and nimble by providing support to both superintendents and school districts. She highlighted the concern for child care because of COVID-19. She is looking forward to discussing solutions with the board in the future. She also hopes that the board can continue to fight for increased broadband connectivity across the state to serve both urban and rural students. She would like to see a presentation to the board from the Alaska Telecom partners at a future board meeting.

Member Van Diest- enjoyed the superintendent presentations and their recommendations on what the board should focus on in the future. She also thanked the commissioner and the department for their work. She also enjoyed the zoom platform and mentioned that it was much better than teleconference.

Chair Fields read the following comments from Student Advisor Scott into the record: My final board comment is that I would like to thank the board, commissioner, and all the people behind the scenes for their amazing leadership, planning, and research. The sheer volume of all the hard work going into making sure that all Alaskan students will be learning this school year is astounding and I am also so grateful for all the dedication in making sure our communities stay safe. I am sorry that I couldn't attend today but I am looking forward to reading the minutes when they come out.

Chair Fields informed the board that he is looking forward to the appointment of the new board member to fill the vacant seat. He also asked to be able to get into the zoom platform early to chat with

staff and board members in an informal setting. He thanked the board for their work to complete comprehensive and thorough board packets. He thanked Commissioner Johnson for his leadership and his steadiness in his leadership of the department.

Motion to Adjourn

Chair Fields motioned and Member Hamilton Seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote. There was no discussion.

Meeting adjourned at 11:59 am.