Wednesday, June 10, 2020

Chair Fields called the meeting to order at 8:47 am. After the pledge of allegiance, the board adopted the agenda for June 10-11, 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 8:55 am

Debrah Rinio - spoke to the library standards and asked the board to approve them. Now more than ever we need educators to examine the process of learning as well as content of learning but the context of learning. She looks forward to seeing the revised standards available for Alaska educators very soon.

Tana Martin - librarian at Tanana middle school, spoke to the library standards and asked the board to approve them for public comment

Pamela Versailles - Library Associate at Southeast High School and the President of the Alaska Association of School Librarians - spoke to the library standards and asked the board to approve them to go out for public comment

Lisa Parady - thanked the board for their work to support public education and provided some updates from ACSA on their work during COVID-19. She spoke to the 2020 restart framework as well as their work with hosting virtual conferences and the fact that virtual formats are working well for her members. She also mentioned that the ACSA/ DEED summer fly-in will be hosted virtually this summer. Closed by updating the board on their work with early career principals in their first or second year. Their first cohort graduated this year and they feel that it was a success as they support their new principals. She reminded everyone of the importance of working together as schools start again in the fall. She expressed concern about the monetary side of the restart framework.

Tim Parker - reiterated the cost aspect of the new system that we find ourselves under due to COVID-19. This is Tim’s last opportunity to speak to the board as president so he took some time to reflect on his last four years as president. He mentioned that Tom Claymeyer will be taking over as president of NEAlaska. He does not think that Florida Virtual School is a good choice because Alaska’s teachers are more than capable of teaching Alaska’s students and the educators must know the students for the students to be successful. He reiterated his commitment to the school restart program and expressed his appreciation for DEED’s work with teachers to provide remote learning for students in this new time.
He thanked the board for their work and their compassion for students and learning. He thanked them for their work.

9:17 public comment closed

**Work Session**

**Agenda Item 1. COVID-19 Department Update.** Commissioner Johnson updated the board on COVID-19 DEED work to date. He expressed his desire for the board to hear directly from educators and parents but that many of them are preparing for next year.

Next year will not be a typical year and everyone is very focused on making sure that next year will be as focused on providing student excellent education. He also expressed his desire for Superintendent Vanasse to present to the board on their work to get their students home. He highlighted the work of the health and safety team as well as the work that DEED is doing to get PPE to students. Student nutrition was the first program in the country to be approved for disaster feeding and emergency program assistance. School nutrition received a grant to provide education on nutrition for students during COVID-19. Teacher certification staff has been working to ensure that certification for teachers are still proceeding as normal. He updated the board on the Alaska SmartStart 2020 framework document and highlighted DEED’s work with ACSA to craft that document. Teachers want to teach and students want to learn and superintendents need to plan to ensure that this still happens even though learning might look different in the fall. He encouraged the board to go to district websites to see what they are doing to address the COVID-19 epidemic.

He also updated the board on the Alaska Virtual system. To date, 220 students from 12 districts are enrolled in 580 courses through the Alaska Virtual School system and 130 students from 10 districts have enrolled in 244 summer courses which are full semester summer courses available to students in grade 6-12. The DEED staff has been incredible and they are committed to supporting school districts during this crisis. He also thanked our partnership organizations for their cooperation and collaboration to support school districts.

Member Kowalski- expressed her appreciation to the department staff and encouraged the board to walk through the AK learns website.

Member Stockhausen- thanked the department for their communication and support from the department to her district. She asked if food support will stay the same all year for students like it’s been this summer. Commissioner Johnson will connect with Jo Dawson and get an answer back to them for his commissioner’s report

Member Hamilton- asked the commissioner about broadband to the rural communities. Commissioner Johnson mentioned the infrastructure needs are massive and are limited to how much the providers can get done by August. The providers are working diligently to lobby congress to include some funding that would incentivize new infrastructure to provide internet to rural areas. He also discussed some software solutions to make connectivity available to more students. He also asked the board to advocate for connectivity to support students. There are also ways for schools to provide paper packets to students if they cannot connect to the internet so that students can still be educated.

Chair Fields mentioned the virtual school as a help and thanked the commissioner for working through the bumps and school districts are beginning to settle in to the trainings that have been offered by this program.
**Agenda Item 2. School Construction and Major Maintenance List.** Heidi Teshner, Director of School Finance and Support Services, walked the board through the school construction and major maintenance grant funds lists and took questions from the board. Through the process, 34 Districts submitted 120 applications, 80 were scored, and 40 were reused and four were ineligible. There are 14 total projects for approval which total approximately $142.8 million dollars. With regards to the major maintenance grant fund list, 102 projects were approved with a state share of approximately $148.8 million dollars. Member Hamilton asked about the Anaktuvik line item and asked what village that was for. Member Hamilton mentioned that the 60 million dollars seemed to be a high number to build a K-12 school. Tim Mearig answered that the high cost relates to the infrastructure that is associated with that project. He is working to see if the cost could be reduced.

Chair Fields asked about the scoring mechanisms and asked if there was another way to keep their score up without having to spend money to hold districts accountable. Heidi answered that it is worth looking at but that it would require statutory changes. Heidi and Tim will work with the Bond Reimbursement Grant Review Committee to see if there could be new ways to address it.

Member Griffin asked if the school bond debt reimbursement was included. Heidi answered that it was not. He followed up by asking about the student count for the proposed school in Anaktuvik. Heidi answered that there were 204 students projected for the 2020 school year.

Member Van Diest asked about the major difference that was asked by the districts and the funds available. Tim Mearig answered that there were costs that were requested by the school that were not needed so they were adjusted in the department’s evaluation. She also asked about the difference in the request. The district asked for a new school and they do not have enough student population to allow the amount of space that the calculated capacity need that has been populated in the formula.

Commissioner Johnson mentioned that Tim would provide a presentation to the board on major maintenance projects so that the board would be able to know more about the process.

Member Hamilton asked the purpose of their vote today regarding the approval of the major maintenance and school construction list if it has any bearing on the projects going forward. Tim responded that, according to Alaska Statute 14.115, the board shall review the grant applications that have been recommended by the department. The board will approve the list is the board’s approval that the grant applications meet the criteria for the grant.

Member Van Diest asked that if not all of the projects are not funded and what happens if they are not funded. Heidi answered that currently none of the major maintenance projects on the list are funded and should the legislature reconvene and pass a capital budget that gives appropriate for the grants then DEED will award as far down as they can go based on that appropriation. Anything that is not appropriated, the districts can use their scores to apply for next year or they can submit a new application for 2021.

**Agenda Item 3. Perkins State Plan/ CTE Plan Submission.** Tammy Van Whye and Deb Riddle walked the board through the Perkins State Plan/ CTE Plan submission including the extensive public comment process that DEED went through to get feedback to this plan.
Lorri Van Diest- thanked the department for their work on the plan and asked once the plan is submitted, what’s the timeline for the plan to be approved. Deb responded that when this is submitted, they anticipate 100 day turnaround but DEED has been utilizing this plan already and have been working with their national advisors to implement it now.

Member Stockhausen- asked about the academic standards and asked for clarification on the CTE piece. Deb clarified that the timeline incorporates a little bit of a lag and those evaluations are done after a student completes two years of CTE. The plan being presented today only centers on CTE courses that are funded by Perkins money.

The board took a break at 10:20 and was back on the record at 10:35.

**Agenda Item 4A. Twindly Bridge Charter School.** Karen Melin walked the board through the charter school information and John Weepman from the Twindly Bridge charter school was online to answer questions regarding IOP plans and their plans for increasing their attendance percentages in that community.

**Agenda Item 4B. Hooper Bay Charter School.** Karen Melin walked the board through Hooper Bay’s initial application information and took questions from the board.

Member Hamilton- expressed appreciation that there is an alternative option that will exist in Hooper Bay and asked how the school plans to maintain their percentage attendance rating of 90% instead of the 50% attendance rating that the local high school has.

William Naneng of the Sea Lion Corporation answered that many of the students who attend the school are homeless and don’t have a stable parental environment. They will engage with the guardians of the students but also the students themselves to ensure that they attend school on a regular basis.

Member Kowalski- expressed excitement for this school offering excitement to students in indigenous communities in this area.

Member Stockhausen- asked about the students support to ensure targeted growth. Ms. Dale Cope from Hooper Bay answered that teachers will use the RtI/MTSS strategies to identify students who fall in the Tier 1/2/3 model and they plan to offer tutoring to every student in the school.

Member Kowalski- asked if this was part of a larger university research or if this was just an application for a charter school. Dr. Cope responded that this is not part of a research project but it is a community designed, community supported charter school.

Member Griffin- spoke to the facilities issue as it seems like the facility is fairly small for the number of students that they wish to serve. Dr. Cope responded that she’s not as familiar with the facilities plan but for this fall, the construction workers will not be back in Hooper Bay Area so the students will be meeting in a church for fall 2020 which is quite a bit larger than the current facility.

Gene Stone- incoming LYSD superintendent offered his perspective regarding the fact that Hooper Bay is the largest community in their district. The model is about opportunity for students and the district supports this because it supports the community to take ownership and encourages parents to take ownership of their student’s education. He doesn’t expect the number of students to go over 60 students which would make the space issue a little more reasonable for everyone concerned with this item.
Agenda Item 4C. Qargi Academy. Karen Melin walked the board through Qargi Academy’s initial application procedure. Emily Roseberry from Qargi Academy walked the board through their philosophy and teaching methods so that the board would have an understanding of how the school would operate.

Member Kowalski- expressed her excitement about the Inupiat education system and asked about the ed options that Qargi will offer. Ms. Roseberry answered that in order for students to thrive in the Inupiat culture and language, they needed the time for students to devote to both so they partnered with ed options academy to allow students to experience both a western education while still encouraging students to thrive in their Inupiat courses.

Member Griffin- expressed his excitement about the concept and wished the program well in their endeavors.

Agenda Item 5A. Temporary Certificate Regulations to go out for Public Comment. Commissioner Johnson asked the board to open a period of public comment on the repeal of 4 AAC 12.400 Emergency special services certificate (emergency Type C) and the adoption of 4 AAC 12.401 Emergency certificate. The proposed regulations 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).

Luann Wehrauch, Tammy Van Whye, and Sondra Meredith provided an overview of the regulations and took questions from the board.

Member Van Diest- asked for clarification about these regulations because they had been approved to go out for public comment at the December meeting and why they hadn’t gone out in December. Luann Wehrauch- the Department of Law removed these regulations to go out for public comment because special education teachers were included in the regulations and they were not allowed to be included in these regulations. They removed the special education piece and have brought these regulations back to the board to be approved to go out for public comment.

Member Stockhausen asked if there were special education teachers who were going through the process to come under the emergency certificate right now in the state? Sondra Meredith answered that no we do not but there is a waiver that falls outside the emergency that is allowable but an emergency special education certificate is not something that DEED would allow.

Member Hamilton- with the shortage of teachers within the state, will this emergency certificate be an annual renewal for teachers? Commissioner Johnson answered that DEED is taking a comprehensive look at teacher certification and will work with the board on any retention solutions that might be offered by the teacher retention and recruitment working group.

Agenda Item 5B. Facilities Regulations to go out for Public Comment. Commissioner Johnson asked the board to to open a period of public comment on 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 walked the board through these changes to update these regs from the ASHRAE 2010 regs to the ASHRAE 2016 version. The regulations were adopted by the board in 2013. It does not stop districts from using the 2019 version but it sets the benchmark at the ASHRAE 2016 document.

Chair Fields- asked what the differences between the ASHRAE 2016 and the ASHRAE 2019 versions look like. Heidi explained that there are a number of modifications, including the building envelope which modifies the threshold for heated space and verification for the envelope component, lowers the factors for vertical factors as well as doors. Districts are already moving forward using the requirements in the 2016 version. Tim Mearig answered that the impact for districts that the cost impacts might affect them. Only the recommendations that have a payback is going to help districts be grounded in an evaluation of payback.

**Agenda Item 5C. State Museum Fees Regulations to go out for Public Comment.** Commissioner Johnson asked the board to adopt amendments to regulations related to fee increases for the Division of Libraries, Archives, and Museums.

Patience Frederiksen walked the board through these regulations and took questions from the board. The goal of these set of regulations is to increase revenue to come into the department to the tune of $100,000 per year. The division has incurred increased costs to operate which is why they are asking for this increase. Students under 19 are still free and seniors will still retain their $1.00 discount.

Member Van Diest- asked if we were sending these out for public comment or adopting them. Luann answered that the board is approving these to go out for public comment when they approve these tomorrow.

**Agenda Item 5D. Military Training Credits to go out for Public Comment.** Commissioner Johnson asked the board to open a period of public comment on proposed regulation changes to Article 4’s “High School Graduation Requirements” (4 AAC 06.075(a),(e)), and 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 (and college) credit, available to all eligible third and fourth year high school students in Alaska.

Assistant Commissioner Niki Tshibaka and Susan Sonneborn walked the board through these regulations and took comments from the board. Assistant Commissioner Tshibaka thanked Lt. Col. Hammill for his leadership and support on these regulations and the regulations committee for vetting these regulations and approving them to come before the state board. These regulations will make it possible for eligible third and fourth year high school students to receive high school credit for completing basic combat training and advanced individual training with the Alaska Army National Guard. This is an opportunity for students to receive training in alternative pathways through the Alaska National Guard which helps advance the Alaska Education Challenge. It also allows students access for college funding. There is no additional cost to the state.

Commissioner Saxe and Lt. Col. Donna Johnson from the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. spoke in support of the regulations and answered questions from the board.

Member Hamilton- expressed his excitement for these regulations especially since students will be paid for their work. He asked how much does that pay per hour and is there a maximum number of hours
you can work? Commissioner Saxe responded that you will be paid based on your grades as you work through the program.

Member Griffin- expressed his support of the regs and is looking forward to voting for these regulations

Member Stockhausen asked what communities would provide that training. It depends on if you go to the Air Force or the Army and then when you complete your basic training, you’ll come back to your unit in Alaska.

**Agenda Item 5E. Library Standards Regulations to go out for Public Comment.** Commissioner Johnson asked the board to put the Alaska Library Standards out for public comment to update regulation 4 AAC 04.140 Content Standards. The amendments adds library standards as a new content area called the Alaska School Library Framework for Learners based on the AASL Standards.

Tammy Van Whye, Deb Riddle, Patience Fredericksen spoke to these regulations and answered questions from the board. Deb thanked Janet Madsen for her work to help provide the framework for these library standards. The drafting committee used the AASL standards and added additional information to the packet to ensure that it was acceptable for Alaska’s students.

Member Van Diest complimented the people who worked on the standards and gave a shoutout to the Alaskan librarian who was on the national libraries committee. She is looking forward to what the public has to say with regards to these standards.

At 12:12 pm, the board took a 15 minute break and was back on the record at 12:27pm

**Agenda Item 6. Adoption of School Broadband Assistance Grant Regulations as Emergency Regulations.** Commissioner Johnson asked the board to adopt emergency regulation changes to 4 AAC 33, Article 6, Funding for the Improvement of Internet Speed at Public Schools (4 AAC 33.600 – 4 AAC 33.690), so that school districts may receive funding under Senate Bill 74 (enacted as ch. 5, SLA 2020) to improve Internet services for the upcoming school year. The changes relate to the School Broadband Assistance Grant program administered by the Division of Libraries, Archives, and Museums.

Patience Frederiksen and Erin Hardin walked the board through these regulations due to the fact that these regulations are a result of legislative action that was taken during this legislative session. SB 74 passed and goes into affect on June 23, 2020 this bill increases the School Broadband Assistance Grant megabits from 10 to 25 megabits. They are asking for emergency regulations to distribute the funds because the funds are supposed to be distributed in August which is before the board’s next meeting.

Luann explained the emergency regulation process that the board should make a finding that there is an emergency and then the board adopts the regulations as emergency regulations and they take effect when the statute takes effect. The regulations will take effect when the statutes take effect on June 23rd as emergency regulations and are only in effect for 120 days. The board will also make a motion to send the regulations out for public comment period so that they can be adopted as permanent regulations at the board’s September regulations.
Chair Fields- asked about the suggested motions and what the difference they would make to the board. Luann recommended that the board take three separate motions and three separate votes for these regulations.

Member Stockhausen- asked if these regulations will help students at home and not just for schools. Commissioner Johnson responded that this is just for schools but that DEED is working very closely with the telecom industry to increase broadband connectivity issues for students at home. The legislature intended that this bill to help schools and the department will continue to work with the legislature for solutions for students at home. Hopefully we eventually get there for students to get internet from the school to their homes. The indirect benefit for students is that the more internet the schools have, the more they’ll be able to reach out to students.

**Agenda Item 7. Adoption of Proposed Regulations, ESSA Accountability and Assessments Regulations.** Commissioner Johnson asked the board to adopt proposed amendments to Article 5 School and District Accountability (4 AAC 06.800-899), to update requirements and deadlines in Alaska’s accountability system (The System for School Success). The changes will address state and district deadlines regarding reporting and changes in the use of graduation rates.

Deb Riddle walked the board through the regs and took questions from the board. The board has seen these regulations in the past as they approved them to be sent out for public comment. They now need to adopt the regulations to go to the Lieutenant Governor’s Office.

Member Kowalski- commended the board on their use of language in addressing Alaska Native students

**Agenda Item 8. DEED Budget Discussion.** Commissioner Johnson informed the board that the document that they are being presented with is what has been passed by the legislature and signed by the Governor and addresses any vetoes that were made that were either overturned or not overturned. The board is receiving the final document with decisions on how the Department intends this money to be spent and how it has been allocated in the budget. Lacey Sanders Administrative Services Director walked the board through the budget as passed by the legislature and signed into law by Governor Dunleavy and took questions from the board.

Lacey also provided an update to the board on the CARES Act funding that the Department of Education received from the federal government. DEED continues to look for additional funding opportunities that the CARES Act will provide to school districts.

Member Kowalski- thanked the department for their clarification about the board’s role in the budget that has eliminated confusion that has arisen in the past.

**Motion to Recess**
At 11:45am, Chair Fields made the following motion: I move that the State Board of Education and Early Development recess until 8:30am on Thursday, June 11, 2020. Member Kowalski seconded. The motion passed unanimously at a roll call vote.
The board recessed until 8:30am on Thursday, June 11, 2020.
Thursday, June 11, 2020

Chair Fields called the meeting back to order at 8:30am.

**Business Meeting**

**Agenda Item 9. Approve DEED Budget.** Commissioner Johnson asked the board to approve the department’s FY2021 enacted operating budget. Member Van Diest motioned and Member Kowalski seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development approve the Fiscal Year 2021 enacted operating budget for the Department of Education & Early Development. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote. Member Hamilton reminded the board that this vote is acknowledging the fact that the legislature has done their work and that the board’s vote has no ramifications on changing or altering the budget.

**Agenda Item 10A. Approve Temporary Certificate Regulations to go out for Public Comment.** Commissioner Johnson asked the board to open a period of public comment on the repeal of 4 AAC 12.400 Emergency special services certificate (emergency Type C) and the adoption of 4 AAC 12.401 Emergency certificate. The proposed regulations 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). Member Griffin 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 the repeal of 4 AAC 12.400 Emergency special services certificate (emergency Type C); the adoption of 4 AAC 12.401 Emergency certificate; and the amendment of 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.

**Agenda Item 10B. Approve Facilities Regulations to go out for Public Comment.** Commissioner Johnson asked the board to open to open a period of public comment on 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. Member Van Diest motioned and Member Kowalski seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development open a period of public comment on amendments to 4 AAC 31.014, Codes and regulations for school facilities. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote. Member Griffin thanked the board and Tim Mearig for his work on these regulations and is excited to see the public comment to improve the efficiency of our facilities.

**Agenda Item 10C. Approve State Museum Fees Regulations to go out for Public Comment.** Commissioner Johnson asked the board to open to open a period of public comment on 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. Member Van Diest motioned and Member Kowalski seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development open a period of public comment on amendments to 4 AAC 31.014, Codes and regulations for school facilities. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote. Member Griffin thanked the board and Tim Mearig for his work on these regulations and is excited to see the public comment to improve the efficiency of our facilities.

**Agenda Item 10D. Approve Military Training Credits Regulations to go out for Public Comment.** Commissioner Johnson asked the board to open to open a period of public comment on 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. Member Van Diest motioned and Member Kowalski seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development open a period of public comment on amendments to 4 AAC 31.014, Codes and regulations for school facilities. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote. Member Griffin thanked the board and Tim Mearig for his work on these regulations and is excited to see the public comment to improve the efficiency of our facilities.
changes to Article 4’s “High School Graduation Requirements” (4 AAC 06.075(a),(e)), and 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 (and college) credit, available to all eligible third and fourth year high school students in Alaska. Member Van Diest motioned and Member Griffin seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development open a period of public comment on amendments to Article 4’s High School Graduation Requirements (4 AAC 06.075(a),(e)) and adding the new regulation entitled “High school credit for Alaska Army National Guard military training,” 4 AAC 06.077. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote. Member Griffin commented that he was excited about the program and was looking forward to the public comment period.

**Agenda Item 10E. Approve Library Standards Regulations to go out for Public Comment.** Commissioner Johnson asked the board to open a period of public comment on proposed amendments to regulation 4 AAC 04.140 Content Standards. The amendment removes the library/information literacy standards from Alaska Standards: Content and Performance Standards for Alaska Students, revised as of March 2016, and publish the new library standards separately as The Alaska School Library Framework for Learners based on AASL Standards. Member Kowalski motioned and Member Griffin seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development open a period of public comment on amendments to 4 AAC 04.140 Content Standards to establish library standards and publish them as The Alaska School Library Standards based on AASL Standards Framework for Learners. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote. Member Van Diest expressed her excitement about having the library standards updated and things have changed and students are changing the way they interact with the library.

**Agenda Item 11. Adoption of School Broadband Assistance Grant Regulations as Emergency Regulations.** Commissioner Johnson asked the board to adopt emergency regulation changes to 4 AAC 33, Article 6, Funding for the Improvement of Internet Speed at Public Schools (4 AAC 33.600 – 4 AAC 33.690), so that school districts may receive funding under Senate Bill 74 (enacted as ch. 5, SLA 2020) to improve Internet services for the upcoming school year. The changes relate to the School Broadband Assistance Grant program administered by the Division of Libraries, Archives, and Museums. Due to the nature of the request, the Board approved three motions attached to this agenda item. Member Griffin motioned and Member Van Diest seconded the following first motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development adopt a finding of emergency under AS 44.62.250 that supports emergency regulation changes to of 4 AAC 33, Article 6, Funding for the Improvement of Internet Speed at Public Schools (4 AAC 33.600 – 4 AAC 33.690) for the immediate preservation of the general welfare of the affected students, schools, districts, and communities. Member Hamilton motioned and Member Van Diest seconded the following second motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development adopt emergency regulation changes to 4 AAC 33.600 – 4 AAC 33.690, to take effect on June 23, 2020, the effective date of ch. 5, SLA 2020. Member Stockhausen motioned and Member Griffin seconded the following third motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development provide public notice and a period of public comment during the 120-day period when the emergency regulation changes to 4 AAC 33.600 – 4 AAC 33.690 are in effect. All three motions passed unanimously on a roll call vote. Chair Fields thanked the Department of Law for their quick work on this item and to the legislature for moving this bill forward.

**Agenda Item 11. Adoption of Proposed ESSA Accountability and ESSA Assessments Regulations.** Commissioner Johnson asked the board to is being asked to adopt proposed amendments to Article 4 Statewide Student Assessments (4 AAC 06.700-7510), to update required statewide assessments and
language from previous assessments as well as to update requirements and deadlines regarding district reporting requirements as well as article 5 School and District Accountability (4 AAC 06.800-899), to update requirements and deadlines in Alaska’s accountability system (The System for School Success). The changes will address state and district deadlines regarding reporting and changes in the use of graduation rates. Member Van Diest motioned and Member Griffin seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development adopt the amendments to Article 4 Statewide Student Assessments (4 AAC 06.700-.790) and Article 5 School and District Accountability (4 AAC 06.800-899). The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote. There was no discussion.

**Agenda Item 13. Questions Regarding Standing Reports**

Member Kowalski- asked director Van Wyhe if the summer oasis counts were seeing any impact by the shutdown. Deb Riddle answered that the summer oasis data collection is still underway and as soon as they get all of the information then they’ll get it to the board.

Member Van Diest- expressed her happiness that the University of Alaska Southeast had received their reaccreditation and asked Director Van Wyhe if the USDOE has given permission for the CTE funds to carry over from this year to last year. Brad Billings administrator for the CTE program answered that the USDOE has not given permission for the funds to carry over to next year but that they are working with the Department of Law to develop a workaround and are hopeful for a positive outcome to the districts.

Chair Fields- asked Director Van Whye regarding the fact that no schools had selected a designation category for the upcoming year with regards to school improvement and how that affects schools financially with regards to operations go. Director Van Whye mentioned that the school designations will remain the same for the upcoming year because assessments have essentially been frozen. Because the designations are remaining constant, the funding will remain constant as well.

Member Stockhausen- asked about the through the year assessments idea and that the RFP was released on May 14, she asked Director Van Whye for more information on the plan. Tammy responded that they are looking for a vendor now to help create a plan for a three year assessment model that supports learning across the State of Alaska. The vendor will help them craft details for this project. Deb Riddle added that the procurement has gone out and closed this week and DEED has received applications for that RFP and the department will be reviewing these soon as this timeline is an accelerated one. Vendor will be chosen on July 1 and the contract will be finalized this summer.

Chair Fields- asked Superintendent Vanasse about the MEHS end of the year activities and how the students reacted and what she has planned for next year. Superintendent Vanasse answered that they did encounter challenges with internet connectivity but they worked diligently to maintain relationships with students. They are reporting lower numbers but they only have about 25 beds left and will be taking applications until July 1 but they are preparing for parents to decide to keep their children home. They have developed a plan in conjunction with the SmartStart framework to assess risk and how they can control the spread of the virus campus. They plan to have students return in the fall and have students tested immediately upon arrival and to test students regularly. Teachers are crafting their curriculum to shift in case they need to shift to remote learning.

Member Van Diest- thanked Patience for her visual pictures in her report and that it sounds like they were very busy before COVID-19 hit
Member Kowalski expressed her excitement about the flexibility that MEHS is working into their SmartStart framework and offered some ideas on a program that might be helpful to the superintendent.

Member Van Diest commended Superintendent Vanasse on their quick work to get students back to their hometown when the COVID-19 hit

**Agenda Item 14. Commissioner Report.** Commissioner Johnson asked Joel Isaac, DEED’s Tribal Liaison to update the board on his work and the resolution submitted to the board from the Alaska Federation of Natives. After Joel’s update, he gave an update on DEED’s work with the SmartStart 2020 plan. The vast majority of DEED’s energy is now focused on supporting districts in their plan for reopening in the fall. DEED will be collecting and posting the district plan to the website. The webinar series that is going over the summer and over 500 participants are signed in virtually to learn about the fall. DEED is also planning to pursue a grant from the federal government to focus on creating and maintaining online courses.

Chair Fields thanked Joel for his work with the tribal leaders and his report on the resolution.

Member Kowalski thanked the commissioner and Joel for their remarks and agrees that our curriculum needs to be more culturally relevant and that we have a responsibility to support for the state. She suggested that the state board work with AASB to see if there might we could work with school boards to bring attention to this issue. She also requested a meeting with Joel and Commissioner Johnson to discuss scheduling a Tribal Compacting committee meeting.

**Agenda Item 15. Approve School Construction and Major Maintenance Projects.** Commissioner Johnson asked the board to approve the final annual priority lists of capital projects eligible for funding under the school construction and major maintenance grant funds. Member Griffin made the following motion and was seconded by Member Van Diest: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development seek more information on the department’s FY2021 final School Construction Grant Fund and Major Maintenance Grant Fund priority lists. Member Griffin explained his reasoning for the amended motion regarding some of the sticker shock that was associated with the school construction and major maintenance list. After a promise from the department that they would devote the bulk of their time to explaining the school construction and major maintenance process, Member Griffin withdrew his motion to seek more information and Member Van Diest seconded his motion to withdraw that motion to seek more information. Member Griffin then motioned and was seconded by Member Stockhausen: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development approve the department’s FY2021 final School Construction Grant Fund and Major Maintenance Grant Fund priority lists. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

**Agenda Item 16A. Approve Twindly Bridge Charter School.** Commissioner Johnson asked the board to approve the application of the Twindly-Bridge Charter School for a ten-year (10) period. Member Van Diest motioned Member Griffin seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development approve the Twindly-Bridge Charter School’s application for a period of ten (10) years. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote. There was no discussion.

**Agenda Item 16B. Approve Hooper Bay Charter School.** Commissioner Johnson asked the board to approve the application of the Hooper Bay Charter School for a five-year (5) period. Member Griffin
motioned and Member Kowalski seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education &
Early Development approve the Hooper Bay Charter School’s application for a period of five (5) years.
The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote. Member Griffin expressed his excitement for this
charter school and is looking forward to its progress.
Member Kowalski is looking forward to watching this school grow in Hooper Bay especially in grades 4-8
and thinks it’s a great age range to do the focused work that they are doing.

**Agenda Item 16C. Approve Qargi Academy Charter School.** Commissioner Johnson asked the board to
approve the application of the Qargi Academy Charter School for a four-year (4) period. Member
Kowalski motioned and Member Stockhausen seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of
Education & Early Development approve the Qargi Academy Charter School’s application for a period of
four (4) years. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote. Member Kowalski underscored the fact
that the team in the North Slope has created a breakaway point for public education and can give insight
on how to provide a quality education for students in that community.
Member Griffin mentioned his excitement about this new school and as we move toward the process of
tribal compacting, we’ll be able to use these charter schools as data points to see how it’s working. He is
looking forward to watching the school as it progresses.

**Agenda Item 17. Selection of Meeting Dates, Locations, and Topics.** Commissioner Johnson asked the
board to set its meeting calendar for school year 2020-2021. Member Van Diest motioned and Member
Griffin seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development
approve the following schedule of meeting dates, location, and format (audio conference vs. in-person)
for the 2020-2021 school year as presented. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote. Member
Kowalski liked the fact that we could see each other in a virtual setting and asked if we could look at an
additional platform for further virtual meetings. Commissioner Johnson committed to looking at
additional solutions and we’ll have more solutions to the board as they become available.

**Agenda Item 18. Selection of Officers.** Chair Fields turned the gavel over to Commissioner Johnson who
opened the nominations for Chair of the Alaska State Board of Education and Early Development.
Member Hamilton made the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early
Development elect James Fields as Chair to serve from July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021. There were no
other nominations. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote but James Fields abstained from
voting. Member Van Diest made the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early
Development elect Keith Hamilton as First Vice-Chair to serve from July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021. There
were no other nominations. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote but Member Hamilton
abstained from voting. Member Stockhausen made the following motion: I move the State Board of
Education & Early Development elect Lorri Van Diest as Second Vice-Chair to serve from July 1, 2020, to
June 30, 2021. There were no other nominations. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote but
Member Van Diest abstained from voting.

**Agenda Item 19. Consent Agenda.** Commissioner Johnson asked the board to approve its consent
agenda. Member Van Diest motioned and Member Stockhausen 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 December 4, 2019 meeting, the minutes of the January 20, 2020 meeting, the
minutes of the February 26, 2020 work session, the minutes of the March 25, 2020 emergency special
work session, the minutes of the April 6, 2020 special work session, and the minutes of the April 22,
2020 work session. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote. There was no discussion.
**Agenda Item 19. Board Comments.** Chair Fields moved the board comments up so that the board could have time to conduct Commissioner Johnson’s evaluation in executive session.

- Student advisor Scott- thanked the board for the ability to be the student representative
- Member Griffin- congratulations to the officers who were re-elected and is excited about the charter schools and is looking forward to more of those in the future. Thanked the commissioner and staff for their work during the COVID-19 pandemic and their work in this new normal.
- First Vice Chair Hamilton- amazed at DEED’s work during these uncertain times and their work. Special shout out to Superintendent Vanasse for moving their 400 students back to their communities after the pandemic. He called attention again to the need for connectivity and broadband in the state and the importance of how it is to the students of the state. He welcomed our new student advisor and thanked Member Scott for her service.
- Member Kowalski- thanked DEED for their work and support for districts in the support for the fall. She reminded the board to lobby for broadband and infrastructure across the state so that students can stay connected to learning. She thanked Member Scott for her service to the board. Thanked Member Maynard and welcomed Advisory Member Scott to the board.
- Member Stockhausen- expressed her excitement about the military regs and thanked the department for their work to implement creative solutions to achieve student learning. It will be hard but she is looking forward to student learning in this new normal. She will miss Member Scott and thanked her for her service
- Member Van Diest- thanked Member Scott for her service and Member Mainard and welcomed the new student advisory member. She is excited to continue to serve on the board of education and is looking forward to the continued work that the department and the board will do to advance the education of students across the state. She expressed excitement about the new charter schools that were approved and the unique opportunities that students will experience in those charter schools. She looks forward to the continued discussion regarding the school construction and major maintenance list.
- Chair Fields- highlighted the work of the department and their work throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Thanked the board members for their commitment to attending the meeting and looking at the packet. Thanked the board for being willing to ask questions and committed to continued work to continue understanding. Thanked Member Scott for her work with the board and wished her the best. Welcomed Student Advisory Member Scott to the board and encouraged her to ask questions and be bold.

**Agenda Item 20. Executive Session: Commissioner’s Annual Evaluation.** Chair Fields motioned and Member Van Diest seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development convene in executive session to evaluate the performance of the Commissioner of Education and Early Development. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote. There was no discussion.

At 12:08pm, the Alaska State Board of Education and Early Development came out of Executive session. Chair Fields handed the gavel over to First Vice Chair Hamilton for a recap of Commissioner Johnson’s evaluation. The Alaska State Board of Education is pleased to provide a positive review for Commissioner Johnson and thanked him for his work as commissioner of the Department of Education and Early Development.
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 12:10 pm.