

State Board of Education & Early Development
Approved Minutes
December 4, 2019
State Board Room
Department of Education & Early Development
801 West 10th Street
Juneau, AK 99801

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Chair Fields called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. After the pledge of allegiance, the board adopted the agenda for December 4, 2019. Second Vice Chair Van Diest moved to adopt the agenda and was seconded by First Vice Chair Hamilton. 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 1:03 pm

Representative Hannon- gave a brief background of her professional history with regards to swimming instruction. and discussed the importance of swimming which allows people to survive the condition of drowning. She described the fact that drowning is usually one of the top five causes of accidental deaths in students in Alaska. She discussed the importance of the MEHS pool and how it improves the lives of those students who attend. She reminded the board that they should not view the pool as a frivolous add on but that it should be viewed as a life skill that has the potential to change the rate of accidental deaths of young people in Alaska. She asked the board to consider in the future making sure that the pool at the Mt. Edgecumbe High School is available to the students there and that water safety is part of the curriculum into the future. Spend the money, keep the pool open.

Commissioner Johnson thanked Representative Hannon who presented public comment.

Public comment closed at 1:10 pm

Work Session

Agenda Item 1. Board Report to the Legislature.

Erin Hardin discussed the board report to the legislature as it is required. She provided the draft to the board so that they could give her any edits and thoughts about the report. Any action that the board takes today will be added to the board report for their review in January.

She walked through the edits that the board members would like to make by page

Member Scott asked if it would be necessary to add the four committees and include a brief description of their draft under part three. Erin will include the addition of the committees in her edits.

Second Vice Chair Van Diest thanked Erin for putting together the report and for its clarity and precision. Chair Fields reminded the board that if the board has any further comments or edits to email him and he will connect with Erin

Agenda Item 2. MEHS Graduation Requirements. Superintendent Janelle Vanasse provided a brief overview of the changes to the MEHS Graduation Requirements on the record and informed the board that she was on the phone and available for questions if they had any. They updated the requirements

that included the high school qualifying exam and set out requirements with expectations that students would take the Alaska Performance Scholarship test. The board had no questions for Superintendent Vanasse and Chair Fields commented that due to the fact that the Administrative Body of MEHS had reviewed and approved these changes, they were confident that the changes were good.

Agenda Item 3. State Board Committee Reports.

Agenda Item 3A. Standards and Assessments. Member Stockhausen updated the board on the work of the Standards and Assessments committee. Standards and Assessment met and heard a report from DEED about the standards that are moving through the public comment period. The state changes proposed are moving slowly through the process but they are still moving and the committee is looking forward to that continued work.

Agenda Item 3B. Tribal Compacting. Member Griffin updated the board on the work of the Tribal Compacting Committee. They are starting to host public meetings and beginning to reach out to communities to begin the dialogue regarding what they want tribal compacting to look like. He is excited about the prospects and the ball is rolling slowly but it is gaining momentum. Member Scott added that Joel Isaac and Niki Tshibaka presented about the work that DEED is doing on a website as another tool to get input from residents in the state to influence the creation of the tribal compacting bill instead of merely reacting once a bill is drafted.

Agenda Item 3C. Regulations. Member Van Diest updated the board their work on whether they want to keep, amend, or repeal the regulations that exist. They met on November 4th and discussed the regulations that the board would be approving at this meeting. Their goal was to finish chapters 6 and 12 before the end of the year but they are still working through the regulations to ensure that they conduct a thorough review before they move on to other sections. She expressed excitement that the Department of Education is continuing conversations with stakeholders on alternative pathways to teacher certification.

Agenda Item 3D. Funding Formula. Member Scott updated the board on the Funding Formula committee work. They will hold meetings as movement is made but work is moving slowly due to interdepartmental efforts that are involved. They are waiting for DOR to respond to their request regarding the cost factors that are involved regarding students and funding involved. With regards to correspondence students, Heidi sent a sheet to the committee regarding the way that correspondence students fall within the funding formula.

Elwin Blackwell from DEED updated the board on the work that the department is doing in conjunction with the Department of Revenue (DOR) and the Department of Administration (DOA). They are working with DOR and DOA to address and possibly update the district cost factor analysis. DEED would like to do some further work to see if they could get some data that accurately reflects the cost of supplies on the ground.

Member Griffin asked if there was anything in statute or regulation that requires DEED to update the cost factors in any given year. Elwin responded that there is language but they concluded that the department did not have the resources to make it feasible.

Chair Fields recommended that DEED continue its work with DOA to update these cost factors. Member Griffin encouraged the department to draft some sort of cost factor formula based on recalculated benchmarks due to the fact that it has been some time since the cost factor formula has been updated.

Agenda Item 4. Regulations to go out for public comment.

Agenda Item 4A: ESSA Accountability Regulations. Deb Riddle, Division Operations Manager discussed these regulations and informed the board that these regulations had been vetted through the regulations committee. Most of these changes have to do with dates and definitions for deadlines to bring Alaska in compliance with federal ESSA regulations.

Agenda Item 4B: ESSA Assessments Regulations. Deb Riddle, Division Operations Manager discussed these regulations and informed the board that these regulations had been vetted through the regulations committee. The changes updated help to make the language sustainable in the long term to comply with federal ESSA regulations. They have also included the participation guidelines which outlines the accommodations for the assessments. Specifically, in the participation guidelines, the team looked at those accommodations for those students who have the most significant cognitive disabilities. The documents were updated to reflect changes in the regulations as well as for assessments to look at sections that are no longer included in the regulations and they updated the guidelines to match the regulations. They looked at the design of the publication as well as updated the name of the assessment so that it lines up to the statewide assessment regulations. She then took questions from the board. Chair Fields thanked the team for their work

Agenda Item 4C: Temporary Certificate Regulations. Tamara Van Wyhe, Director of Innovation and Education Excellence discussed these regulations and informed the board that these regulations had been vetted through the regulations committee. Sondra Meredith, Teacher Certification Administrator walked the board through these regulations. DEED has expanded the certificate to include teachers and administrators due to feedback from districts. This emergency certificate would resolve issues so that districts can fill vacancies as needed. This regulation would replace 4 AAC 12.400. The certificate is only valid for one year and the person would not be able to acquire tenure rights. These new regulations also removes the reference to the repealed regulation regarding the mandatory training requirements. Sondra then took questions from the board. Member Stockhausen requested that the department evaluate not only the number of vacancies that exist in instructional vacancies but also analyze the reasons why those vacancies exist. DEED will share that information to the board once it is finalized. Member Kowalski encouraged the board to continue prioritizing the safety of our students and requested that the Department keep the mandatory training requirements that are already in existence.

Member Scott requested the department to keep track of the number of emergency certificates issued so that districts don't misuse the intent of these certificates.

Member Griffin suggested that a percentage cap be included in the regulations so that there won't be too many of these emergency regulations issued. DEED will consult with the Department of Law regarding this cap. Department of Law recommended that an addendum be added to the regulations to address the concerns raised by the board. AAG Weyhrauch also recommended that the board wait until some of the data comes out with regards to how many districts have staff with emergency certificates and then the board can reevaluate them once they have some more information.

Agenda Item 5. Special Presentation. Senator Bert Stedman of the Alaska Senate Finance Committee addressed the board regarding the Mount Edgecumbe High School pool construction, DOTPF issues that have arisen with the maintenance to the facility, the interest by public facilities in liquidation, as well as discuss land sales. He committed to the board that the Senate Finance committee will continue to work on these issues and attempt to iron them out as they meet during session.

The facility is constructed for the Mount Edgecumbe students and the board can make that recommendation but Senator Stedman recommended that they open up the pool to other uses to offset the costs of the pool.

He also requested that the board push back on the Department of Transportation fund extraction and to further discuss this issue with Superintendent Vanasse. He informed the board that they will discuss the issue in the finance committee. He also said that the legislature will not support any option to sell the pool.

He requested that the board write a letter of support regarding not selling the pool.

He then discussed potential land sales regarding land re. He encouraged the board to be cautious of any leasing of lands that would appropriate funds away from the MEHS. He recommended an endowment for the students so that any funds cannot be siphoned off for other purposes other than MEHS.

He discussed the Stratton Library and discussed the authority that the board has with regards to that issue. He stressed the importance of the fact that the artifacts should be left in Sitka and not be transferred to the state. This issue will also be back in front of the legislature this next session so that they can discuss it further. He mentioned that it would make no sense to liquidate the building because of the community support for the Sheldon Jackson museum.

He encouraged the board to request that the MEHS pool be continued to be funded.

Chair Fields thanked the senator and said that he would connect with Commissioner Johnson regarding the items that the senator raised.

At 2:25pm the board took a break and were back on the record at 2:35 pm.

Business Meeting

Agenda Item 6. MEHS Graduation Requirements. Member Scott motioned and Member Van Diest seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development approve the revised MEHS graduation requirements as recommended by the MEHS Advisory Board resulting in the revision of the MEHS Policy Manual section 4.6. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote. There was no discussion.

Agenda Item 7. Regulations to go out for Public Comment.

Agenda Item 7A: ESSA Accountability and Assessments Regulations. Member Van Diest motioned and Member Scott seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development open a period of public comment on amendments to Article 4 Statewide Student Assessment regulation changes (4 AAC 06.700-750), Article 5 School and District Accountability regulation changes (4 AAC 06.800-899), and the Participation Guidelines for Inclusion of Alaska Students in State Assessments that are adopted by reference. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote. There was no discussion.

Agenda Item 7C: Temporary Certificate Regulations. 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 the repeal of 4 AAC 12.400 Emergency special certificate (emergency Type C); the adoption of 4 AAC 12.401 Emergency certificate, and the amendment of 4 AAC 12.397 Mandatory training requirements. Including the addition of mandatory trainings under 4 AAC 12.397E

Luann Weyhrauch from the Department of Law walked the board through the language changes that were reflected in the motion. Under 4 AAC 12.401D remove the word "or" after subparagraph two and insert after subparagraph three a new subparagraph four. After the end of subparagraph three the

regulations will say "(4) who has not completed the training required by AS 14.20.020K." The Department of Law also proposed the change under 4 AAC 12.397E to insert after 4 AAC 12.400 which is in brackets, they will insert underlines and bolded new language 4 AAC 12.401. That's just to say that the Department of Education is adding 401 to the list of certificates that require the mandatory training. Member Stockhausen asked if they get the training before they get the certificate. Sondra Meredith responded that they would have to have the training prior to receiving the certificate. The amended motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

Agenda Item 8. Standing Reports. Written reports were provided from Student Learning & Educator and School Excellence; Mt. Edgecumbe High School; Libraries, Archives and Museums, and the Assistant Attorney Generals. Staff answered questions from the board regarding those reports. Second Vice Chair Van Diest asked under the special education portion of the Innovation and Education Excellence report regarding the reasons that the Alaska special education determination is at 70.83 and slippage could happen and what could be the results of that. Director Van Wyhe directed Don Enoch DEED's Program Administrator for Special Education to address the answer to that question once he returned from travel status. Member Van Diest asked Superintendent Vanasse about the student advisory board and how their work is going. She updated the board about the goals of the student advisory board and the benchmarks that they are looking to achieve.

Member Kowalski asked what a type I certificate is. Sondra Meredith answered that it provides an avenue for teachers with an associate's degree to teach as an associate teacher while they are working toward their bachelor's degree and their other certification.

Member Hamilton gave Superintendent Vanasse a kudos for their NAEP scores.

Member Stockhausen asked how many schools applied for the reading grant as a follow up to the meeting in October. Director Van Whye informed the board that they are anticipating around 30 applications from preschool to high school to be submitted. Mid December DEED will make the intent to award available.

Agenda Item 9. Commissioner's Report. Commissioner Johnson thanked the board for their leadership in the AK Education Challenge and informed them of the continued work that is being done in the department. He updated the board on the literacy grant as well as DEED's work on the proposed reading bill that will be submitted to the legislature. He referenced Member Griffin's article in the ADN and the Fairbanks paper about the importance of reading in Alaska's students and thanked Member Griffin for that article. The tribal compacting website is live as of December 4 and encouraged the board to go to the website and use it as a tool to inform the tribal compacting work. Carl Perkins state plan work is underway. The board will have an opportunity to review that plan so be on the lookout for it. He updated the board on the Compass and how it continues to evolve and develop. He thanked the staff at the department for their work and praised them for ensuring that the meeting so far has been smooth. He encouraged the board and staff that as we go into session to keep up the good work even though it will be busy.

Agenda Item 10. Consent Agenda TWEAK. Member Griffin motioned and Member Van Diest 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 September 19, 2019 meeting, the minutes of the October 23, 2019 work session, and the draft report to the legislature. Member Griffin asked for a little more information about the NAEP data to be included in the report just to clarify the urgency for a reading bill. He believes that there is a way for the board to advocate for the bill without being political. The motioned passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

Agenda Item 12. Executive Session, Student Advisor Selection Chair Fields motioned and Member Griffin seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development convene in executive session to interview candidates for student advisor-elect for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. An executive session is necessary so as to not prejudice the reputation and character of any person being interviewed. At 3:08pm, the Alaska State Board of Education and Early Development moved to go into executive session which was determined to begin at 4:15pm to accommodate for the student interviewee's schedule.

At 4:30pm, Chair Fields moved to come out of executive Session. There was no objection to move back on the record out of executive session and back into the board meeting.

Member Van Diest and Member Stockhausen seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development select Myriam Scott as its Student Advisor-Elect for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. On July 1, 2020, Ms. Scott's one-year term will begin as the Student Advisor to the board and continue through June 30, 2021. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote. There was no discussion.

Board Comments

- Lieutenant Colonel Hammill- wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas. He will be going to the east coast for three months starting in January so he will miss the meetings during that time
- Member Mainard- expressed excitement to be with the board but is sad that this will be her last year
- Member Griffin- excited about some of the things going on and especially excited about the compass. Glad to see that graduations rates are up. He would like the NAEP summary increased in the report just to reinforce the importance of the board's goal toward reading in the AK Education Challenge.
- First Vice Chair Hamilton- Concur with Member Griffin on the third grade reading scores. His term is up in March and he will be speaking with Boards and Commissions about re-upping for another five years
- Member Kowalski- appreciated Member Griffin's op-ed piece regarding making sure that all of Alaska's children are represented in that piece. She thanked the staff for their responsiveness in responding to the reports that they have been asking for from staff. She looked at the tribal compacting website and encouraged the rest of the board to look at the website and have people continue to spread the word about tribal compacting.
- Member Scott- thanked Representative Hammond regarding receipt authority and Senator Stedman for his presentation. She looks forward to the continued discussion with legislature regarding MEHS. She also encouraged the Mt. Edgecumbe Advisory Board at their last meeting in September to continue working with legislators as session begins.
- Member Stockhausen- thanked the department for their work. Expressed her concerns with the number of vacancies around the state and thanked the department for their work and is looking forward to addressing the why's behind the vacancies so that they can address them.
- Second Vice Chair Van Diest- thanked the staff for their work on the committees and is very grateful for the Anchorage presence in the department. She appreciated Senator Stedman's presentation about the pool and asked for an update from DEED regarding the Sitka Seaplane base and if that money could go into an endowment fund for MEHS.

- Chair Fields- thanked the department for their work on tribal compacting and their work on the legislative session. Thanked Joel for his work on the tribal compacting website and the work that the department is doing to continue this conversation in the state.

Meeting adjourned at 4:44pm.