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**Press Release**

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **State Board Announces Finalists for Commissioner**

JUNEAU – The State Board of Education & Early Development has announced the four finalists for position of Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development.

They are: Dr. Michael Johnson, superintendent of the Copper River School District; Dr. Susan McCauley, Interim Commissioner of the department; Stewart McDonald, superintendent of the Kodiak Island Borough School District; and Robert Boyle, superintendent of the Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District.

The State Board intends to interview the finalists in executive session on June 15 in Juneau, prior to the board's regular meeting on June 16-17. The board's appointment of a commissioner is subject to approval by the Governor.

“The finalists have extensive educational leadership experience in Alaska and come highly recommended by other state leaders. We were pleased with the pool of candidates and wish to thank all who applied,” said State Board Chair James Fields. “Despite our fiscal challenge, Alaska is uniquely positioned to transform our education system to better meet the needs of every student. The next Commissioner must be able to lead this transformation. The State Board of Education & Early Development is committed to identifying and appointing such a leader.”

Dr. Johnson, of Glennallen, holds a bachelor of arts degree and a master of arts in teaching degree from Columbia International University in South Carolina; educational leadership credentials as principal and superintendent from the University of Alaska Anchorage; and a doctorate of philosophy in education and intercultural studies from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. In the Copper River School District, he has taught and served as principal; director of curriculum, instruction and staff development; and superintendent.

Dr. McCauley, of Juneau, holds a bachelor of science degree in elementary education from Pennsylvania State University, a master of science degree in educational administration from Western Maryland College; and a doctorate in education leadership and policy from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. She has served as a teacher, assistant

principal, principal, school district director of education, adjunct college professor, facilitator of a statewide curriculum alignment institute, coach in the state system of support for schools, director of teaching and learning support at the department, and Interim Commissioner of the department.

Stewart McDonald, of Kodiak, holds a bachelor of arts degree in education from the University of North Florida and a master of education degree from the University of Alaska Anchorage. He has served as a special education teacher; director of a demonstration project in learning, a formative assessment demonstration project, federal programs, and assessment; and assistant superintendent and superintendent in the Kodiak Island Borough School District.

Robert Boyle, of Ketchikan, holds a bachelor of science degree from Bowling Green State University in Ohio and a master's degree from the University of Alaska Southeast. He has served as a teacher, principal, assistant superintendent, and superintendent in Alaska, and as an educator in Iran, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, and Kazakhstan.

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