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Department of Education
and Early Development

Juneau, Alaska

STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 5, 2019

State Board Seeks Public Comment on Expanding Emergency Certificates

JUNEAU -- The State Board of Education and Early Development, meeting December 4 by audio conference, opened a period a public comment on expanding the issuance of emergency certificates to include administrative and teacher certificates, as well as proposed regulation changes relating to Alaska's statewide assessment and accountability system.

Alaska school districts are finding it increasingly difficult to fill all of their vacant positions with fully qualified educators. Districts reported over 200 unfilled certified vacancies on their 2019 First Day Certified Vacancy Reports.

The proposed regulation changes would repeal the current emergency Type C regulation and replace it with a new regulation that would provide a process for local school boards to follow to request an emergency certificate from the Commissioner for the following certificate types: administrative, teacher, and special services. Under the proposed regulation, an emergency certificate would be valid for the remainder of the school year in which it was issued; an emergency certificate would not be renewable, and the local school board would be required to provide a mentor for the person issued an emergency certificate.

The board also approved for public comment proposed regulation changes to update participant guidelines, requirements, and deadlines in Alaska's statewide assessments and accountability system. To better serve schools in need of additional support, one of the proposed changes would be to use the previous year's graduation rates for school designation calculations so that designations could be released earlier in the school year.

The board selected Myriam Scott of Eagle River High School as its student-advisor elect. She will begin her term as student advisor on July 1, 2020.

Lastly, the board approved changes to Mt. Edgecumbe High School's graduation requirements, its draft report to the legislature, and the minutes from the September 19 and October 23 board meetings.

The December 4 meeting packet and 2020 board meeting schedule are posted at https://education.alaska.gov/State_Board. The next board meeting is scheduled to be held January 20-21, 2020 telephonically.

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