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Commissioner

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Department of Education
and Early Development

Juneau, Alaska

STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

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State Board Seeks Public Comment on Library Standards

JUNEAU -- The State Board of Education and Early Development, meeting June 10-11 by audio conference, opened a period of public comment on proposed regulations changes to update the state's library standards.

The current library standards were last updated in 2006. In April 2019, a team of eleven educators participated in a committee to write updated library standards. Twenty-one educators, including librarians, parents, students, and educational organizations engaged in the review and provided feedback on the updated standards. The proposed regulation changes would remove the current standards, and replace them with the *Alaska School Library Framework for Learners* based on standards developed by the American Association of School Librarians.

The board also approved for public comment proposed regulation changes to allow military training with the Alaska Army National Guard to count for high school credit and be available to all eligible third and fourth year high school students in Alaska. The proposed regulation changes require all school districts to allow eligible third and fourth year high school students to participate in the Alaska Army National Guard's Basic Combat Training (BCT) and Advanced Individual Training courses (AIT) and be awarded a health/physical education credit and/or an elective credit upon successful completion.

Also approved for public comment, proposed regulation changes to: allow for the issuance of emergency administrative certificates and some emergency teacher certificates; update the energy efficiency code to reflect the newest edition of the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, and Air-Conditioning Engineers Standard Edition; and implement modest fee increases for services provided by the Division of Libraries, Archives, and Museums.

The board adopted emergency regulation changes to ensure funding to eligible school districts under Senate Bill 74 to improve Internet services for the upcoming school year under the School Broadband Assistance Grant program could be distributed in August. After a period of public comment, the board adopted technical regulation changes to update statewide assessments language regarding testing procedures and requirements, district deadlines, and assessment communications, as well as update state and district deadlines regarding reporting and changes in the use of graduation rates in Alaska's accountability system.

The board approved a ten-year renewal for Twindly-Bridge Charter School in the Matanuska-Susitna School District and approved initial applications for a five-year charter for Hooper Bay Charter School in the Lower Yukon School District and a four-year charter for Qargi Academy Charter School in the North Slope Borough School District.

The board approved the department's FY2021 enacted operating budget, as passed by the Alaska Legislature and signed by Governor Dunleavy. The board also approved the final annual priority lists of capital projects eligible for funding under the school construction and major maintenance grant funds.

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Lastly, the board set its 2020-2021 meeting schedule, approved its consent agenda consisting of prior meeting minutes, and re-elected James Fields as Chair, Dr. Keith Hamilton as First Vice-Chair, and Lorri Van Diest as Second Vice-Chair to serve from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

The June 10-11 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 July 22, 2020 telephonically.

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