

Alaska State Board of Education & Early Development
Approved Minutes
Special Executive Session Meeting
March 20, 2008
Talking Book Library
344 West Third Avenue
Anchorage, AK

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by Chairwoman Cox. She welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Oath of Office was administered to two new board members, Geraldine Benshoof and Phillip Schneider. All members were present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Disclosures of potential conflicts of interest. Bunny Schaeffer said she was an employee of the Northwest Arctic Borough School District and applicant John Holst was a contract employee of the district. Shirley Holloway said that applicant John Holst was on the Performance Based Teacher Preparation Design Team with her and she was working with applicant Steve Atwater on various education projects. The chair approved those conflicts.

Pat Shier moved and Shirley Holloway seconded the motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Commissioner Thompson gave a brief background regarding the search process for the new commissioner. Commissioner Roger Sampson resigned August 17, 2007. Barbara Thompson was appointed by the board to be the interim commissioner until a new commissioner was named. The department conducted two commissioner searches. The last one commenced on December 3, 2007, and by the due date of February 1, 2008, 14 applications were received. The purpose of this executive session meeting was to review the applications and determine which applicants would become candidates to be interviewed on March 28, 2008, in Juneau.

Shirley Holloway moved and Pat Shier seconded the following motion: *I move the State Board of Education & Early Development under AS 44.62.310 (c)(2) convene in executive session for the purpose of discussing candidates and selecting finalists for the position of Commissioner of Education & Early Development. An executive session is appropriate because the discussion could prejudice the reputation and character of an individual.* The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

The board came out of executive session at 3:15 p.m. The board discussed its interview questions and made suggestions for several edits on the list of questions that was presented. The commissioner was instructed to make an announcement regarding the three candidates to be interviewed: Steve Atwater, John Holst and Larry LeDoux. She was also instructed to have the department complete the reference checks by the following Friday.

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 3:30 p.m.