

Alaska State Board of Education & Early Development
Approved Minutes
May 28, 29 & 30, 2008
Anchorage School District Board Room
5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd.
Anchorage, AK

May 28, 2008 – Public Comment

The meeting was called to order by Chair Cox at 1:00 p.m. All members were present except Sylvia Reynolds, who was excused. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chair Cox made a presentation honoring the service of Lindsay Birk, Student Advisor, as this was her last meeting. The chair asked if anyone had a disclosure to make. There were no disclosures. The agenda was approved as presented. Shirley Holloway commented that she had read all 800+ pages of the packet.

Public Comment.

Greg Miller from Mat Su commented on the correspondence regulations. He said he was not for or against them, but felt that stakeholders had not been consulted and suggested that they be tabled until stakeholders could weigh in.

Jennifer Knutson said she was in support of the teacher certification regulations.

Jo Renk of Wasilla said he was against the correspondence regulations, saying one size does not fit all, and that the state cannot attend to her school's needs.

Theo Lexmond in the Juneau LIO said it was long overdue that all service providers can be administrators and that it would improve the candidate pool (referring to the teacher certification regulations).

Angela Smith in the Juneau LIO said she felt limitation on fine arts funds put students at a disadvantage. She would rather be told what parents cannot buy.

Raylene Sinnett at the Mat-Su LIO said she was opposed to the correspondence regulations and that there was no reason to expand state government and that her district programs were already well supervised.

Jim Rink of Wasilla said that correspondence programs and home school programs are different and he likes the freedom to choose. He thought the regulations should be left as is.

Jennifer Poolbaugh said the new proposal threatened home schoolers and encouraged waste. She said she needed money for extra-curricular activities and she didn't know how to spend her money with the percentage change.

Elizabeth Gilroy said that the new proposal limited her program.

Steve Gilroy said his family would withdraw from the system if the new proposal passes. He stressed the positive attributes of correspondence and how well their students were doing, even making AYP. He said he saw no need to change what was working.

Jim Colver from the Mat Su school board said he did not want to be regulated by the state, that the local school board was sufficient. He said the in-district program was working well; they had great teachers and parents working together with a lot of accountability with vendors for approved curriculum.

Barbara Heinrichs from the Kodiak LIO questioned supplemental programs if the correspondence proposal was approved.

Kathy Taylor Yokel from the Fairbanks LIO thanked the board for addressing the inequities in art, music and PE. She said she'd like to see the percentage completely removed. She urged passage and removal of the art, music and PE component.

Susan Yanish from Fairbanks LIO also thanked the board for addressing the correspondence issue. She said the 2004 changes were difficult and was grateful for the cap being raised but would like to see it removed all together. She also noted that the paperwork was extensive and thought it should be for the family not each child in the family.

Lynda Malone from Wasilla said she used to be with IDEA but left that program with the 2004 changes and was now using an in-district program. She noted that her program was making AYP and said she was suspicious of the intent of the new proposal.

Aaron Malone from Wasilla said the proposed regulations go beyond general supervision and was an attempt to regulate as if it were a public school.

Ken Klunder from Wasilla said he was concerned that the changes would not help academic goals. He requested that a task force be formed to study best practices for home schooling and correspondence programs. He said the changes in 2004 were awful and this proposal made them worse.

Shannon Fechtner from Wasilla said she was opposed to the changes in the correspondence regulations.

Brenda Saforik from Wasilla said that children benefit from PE and dance and was concerned that the allotment would be restrictive, and was concerned with obesity if children did not have PE.

Sharon Johnson from Wasilla said their school program was successful and unique, and feared that the proposal would destroy the district program.

Laurel Vorachek, ASD Assistant Director of Assessment & Evaluation, requested that the current testing window be extended. She noted that the large volume of secure items causes problems with the shipping deadline. She asked that the test window be open two days earlier.

Tim Cline from Galena City School District and IDEA said he hoped the board adopted the proposed regulation.

Steve Musser spoke in favor of the proposed regulations.

Jim Smith from Galena said the school board was very involved with the program as well as parent advisory committee. He noted that IDEA did not meet AYP because of special needs students.

Wayne Gerke, Assistant Superintendent of Fairbanks, read a May 20, 2008, resolution from the Fairbanks school board saying they opposed the changes to the proposed regulation because the proposal would not improve their ability to operate their program. They proposed leaving the regulations as they were and developing a task force to look at the regulations.

Theresa Holt, Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education, said she had replace Judith Bendersky. She talked about their role in education.

Debbie Mackie from Kenai and an IDEA parent was in support of the proposed regulation change, saying she appreciated the new cap and equal accountability and it was easy to understand.

Daryl Bowers from Kenai and an IDEA parent said he had listened to all the discussion both this time and last time and understands where the changes are coming from and the need for them.

Josi Wilcox read a resolution from the Chickaloon Village regarding opposition to the changes in the correspondence regulations, citing interference with parent's ability to teach by placing further restrictions on how allotments are spent and ability to choose curriculum based on students' individual strengths and weaknesses.

Anna Wilbur Roys from Big Lake said that correspondence programs are the bottom rung of the P-16 concept. She said the Mat-Su program framework was in place and accountable and urged the formation of a task force. She was specifically opposed to the enrollment section of the proposal.

George Troxel, Superintendent of Mat Su, said he supported the current regulations staying in place and the formation of a task force.

Narda Butler from Frontier Charter School said the proposal will potentially kill their school, say spending of the BSA under the new regulations would not be able to compete for students because parents would follow the money. She requested the public comment period be extended to include a task force.

Bill Bjork from NEA Alaska complimented the board and Interim Commissioner Thompson for their inclusive process this past year and said the year of transition was seamless. He said performance licensure was not working for Alaska. He was in support of beginning teacher performance standards, Type F licensure, student teacher certificate, surrogate parent proposal, was concerned with making payroll as the result of school level intervention, and encouraged a delay in adoption of the correspondence regulations and the formation of a task force.

Lynn Aleshire from Frontier Charter School said there was no need to regulate in-district programs and was opposed to the proposal and was in favor of extending the public comment period.

Karl Lund from Wasilla asked the board if anyone had any questions from his three emails he had sent. There were no questions.

Eugene Harnett, Alaska Legislative Administrative Regulation Review Committee, spoke in support of the public process and requested another 30-day comment period. He said Chair of the committee, Senator Lesil McGuire, encouraged more time for public comment when significant changes are put forth in the regulations.

Carol Simpson from Homer said the regulation proposal was an improvement and she understood the need to make the amendments.

Jennifer Hall, an Eagle River High School teacher, said she had problems with certification specifically if a teacher holds a lifetime certificate in another state.

Glen Beagle with the Alaska Home Educators Alliance asked if the regulation proposal was wrong because it is harmful to home schooling or wrong because it applies to everyone? He noted that choice was guaranteed by Governor Palin when she ran for office, and he endorsed a task force citing that issues of local control and statements of equity were not included in the proposal.

Sally Javier with AHEA said she was concerned with the use of supplemental instructional materials instead of textbooks.

Annemarie Acord, an IDEA parent, said she was in favor of less control, but was in favor of the proposed regulations and the raised cap for PE, art and music.

Wendy Smith, a Frontier Charter School teacher, said her son was doing well at Frontier and feared the proposal would eliminate Frontier. She said the school was already being

monitored by the district and was doing well. She encouraged the regulations remaining the same.

Betty Bair said she appreciated the increases cap and thanked the board for their support of home schools and parental choice.

Richard Nault, Deputy Director of Child Services, said he preferred option one of the regulation regarding surrogate parents.

Denise Petrash from Anchorage thanked the board for examining the correspondence regulations and for their support of home schoolers, citing that it was important to level the playing field.

Janet Otto from Anchorage said she was pleased that the playing field was leveled, saying she would like to see no cap but believed the increase was good.

Terese Kashi from Soldotna was in favor of Type C licensure.

Dani Bettridge from Anchorage thanked the board for its time, and said charter schools should not be categorized with correspondence school and was in favor of curriculum choices.

Robb Boyer, Anchorage School District Certified Staff and Recruitment, commented on certification issues, saying he was not in favor of a PE teacher having to have content knowledge to move forward, and the unfunded mandate of the performance review was having a negative impact on the district. He also cited issues with certification hurdles for alternate certification and said he supported increased funding for increasing the state department certification staff.

May 29, 2008 – Work Session

The meeting was called to order by Chair Cox. All members were present except Sylvia Reynolds, who was excused. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The chair asked if anyone had disclosures to make. Carol Schaeffer said she had a daughter attending Mt. Edgecumbe High School. Shirley Holloway said her Avant Garde learning Foundation was involved in some work with teacher preparation programs. Pat Shier moved that the agenda be approved. Shirley Holloway seconded the motion and the motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Esther Cox introduced and welcomed Larry LeDoux to the meeting. Mr. LeDoux will assume the position of Commissioner on July 1. Barbara Thompson thanked Dottie Knuth for her seamless work at the department during the transition time and for her work with the board. Esther Cox thanked the department for keeping Harry Gamble on contract.

1. Mt. Edgecumbe High School (MEHS) Policy Manual. Commissioner Thompson introduced the topic, saying the manual had not been updated in many years and it was overdue for revisions to bring it up to date. She introduced Harry Gamble, who, on contract with the department, had worked with Hal Spackman, Interim Deputy Commissioner, and Tom Dosik from the Department of Law on the revisions to the manual. Mr. Spackman said many of the changes were necessary because of so many changes had occurred at the school, citing collective bargaining and other changes. He thanked Mr. Gamble and Mr. Dosik for their contributions to the revisions. Mr. Spackman discussed the board's role in the administration of MEHS and gave some school history and how the board became involved as its overseer. He said that as former superintendent of MEHS, he knows the school is successful and that 90% of the students go on to college and the school has made AYP every year. There were several questions concerning governance and the role the department and the board play. Any change in governance would have to have legislative/statutory approval. Mr. Gamble said that the manual adds value to an already successful school. Procedure with the revision involved reviewing federal and state laws, the student handbook, and teacher contracts. He said he relied on Mr. Spackman's 13 years of experience at MEHS and a law review by Mr. Dosik. He said they also reviewed new sections like technology, statutory changes with assessment, school safety and job title changes. The changes to the manual chapters were reviewed one-by-one with the board. The advisory board to MEHS was described as a day-to-day operational board, not a policy making board. Policy is up the state board. Discussion centered around reporting to the state board on a routine basis, how the department was removed from the contract approval process, union negotiations, enrollment procedures, use of GLEs, budget/audit process, technical assistance and the student handbook. It was noted that the student handbook would be updated to comply with the policy manual. Mr. Gamble, Mr. Dosik and Mr. Spackman were thanked by the board for their extensive work on the manual.

2. Teacher Certification Update. Cyndy Curran, Teacher Education & Certification Administrator, was present to brief the board. Ms. Curran said that teacher certification is a unit within the larger Division of Teaching & Learning Support, and they certify teachers, administrators, and special service providers. The Professional Teaching Practices Commission (PTPC) runs on receipts. She said the total fee for certification was now \$191, which included \$55 for Public Safety, which does the background checks. She said the background checks continue to slow the process and be a problem. She described the analyst unit of four persons who process all applications and the program manager for the performance review. She fielded questions regarding costs, the proposed on-line renewal process, how teacher certification is marketed, and certification pathways. Ms. Benshoof described some recent problems she knew of which were now resolved. Ms. Curran apologized for the problems. Ms. Curran also described the Alaska Transition to Teaching Grant, which will be launched in January 2009. The grant is a statewide alternative route to teaching. Ms. Holloway described an alternate pathway that she was working on. There was discussion regarding the performance review. Some board members thought it impinged on local district evaluation systems and they asked what proof there was that it created higher quality of teaching. It was noted that attention needed to be paid to unintended consequences and the impact on districts and teachers.

Ms. Holloway clarified that the purpose of the performance video was to perform for certification not evaluation. She said people get that mixed up. Ms. Cox asked if this was doing something for teachers that made them a better teacher and do the benefits outweigh the detriment to the districts? Ms. Holloway said it had to do with retention but takes away from instructional time. Ms. Cox said she respected the pleas from respected educators to do away with the program. Ms. Thompson agreed that there was confusion with it being a certification requirement and not an evaluation tool.

Ms. Curran said only 61 teachers had submitted videos. Veteran teachers have said it is good professional development because it caused them to evaluate their performance to make sure standards are being met. Ms. Holloway asked if the state should be involved in this strategy. Ms. Curran replied that National Board Certification caused teachers to look at and evaluate their practice. She said we have a responsibility as a state to make sure our teachers belong in the classroom and felt more data was needed. There were 117 teachers who needed to complete the performance review by December 2008 to get the third year on their initial certificates. 341 need to meet the requirement by June 2009. Ms. Curran said there was not enough data yet to effectively make a measurement.

Ms. Holloway asked if this was being done because there was a lack of confidence in the postsecondary institutions and asked what drove the board to do this in the first place?

Mr. Schneider asked if there was another way to measure without adding this layer and asked if at the next board meeting they could discuss the whole concept -- passage rates, numbers, public comment, what people were saying, who likes it, how it's working and what other states are doing?

3. Alaska Career Ready Update. Hal Spackman, Interim Deputy Commissioner, and Marcia Olson were present to brief the board. Mr. Spackman said this initiative is huge and he applauded former Commissioner Sampson for forging ahead with the project. He said there had been very positive results with the career readiness certificates (CRCs). Issues revolve around bandwidth and technology, and class scheduling. There is lots of training happening and he described the communication piece as huge so parents and employers understand the scores. He said that AWEB was completely on board with EED. He noted that training materials are being developed in a CD and that one state uses it as part of its high school graduation exam.

Esther Cox noted that career ready is a hot topic in the south and states are using it differently. Many are jumping on board through business and employers. She said Illinois mandated ACT and WorkKeys for every student and that most states are using paper and pencil. She also noted that British Petroleum uses it exclusively. She said employers are buying in because it tells what the individual skills are.

The biggest problem in Alaska is adding the mandate on the districts and the technical issues. It was generally felt that if a mandate was added, something needed to be taken away.

4. Drop Out Update. Hal Spackman, Interim Deputy Commissioner, was present to brief the board. He said that there had been one meeting of the Alaska Dropout Prevention Workgroup. The group reviewed statistics and discussed potential initiatives to reduce the dropout rate. He reviewed the list of people on the workgroup and described the dropout rate as one of Alaska's biggest problems. The group will continue to meet and bring a report back to the board in the future.

5. Regulations to go out for public comment. Les Morse and Cyndy Curran were present to brief the board. There were three new regulations presented to the board to go out for public comment. Two dealt with the science proficiency scores in grades 4, 8 and 10, and the alternate science assessment, and one that dealt with requirements for teachers of early childhood grades pre K-2nd grade.

Mr. Morse said the science assessment was field tested last spring; the operational test was given this spring. The test is mandated by NCLB. Shirley Holloway noted that she had heard positive feedback from the cut score-setting meeting.

Mr. Morse said that it was hard to set scores for the alternate science assessment when there are so few students. He said the scores would be reviewed annually to make sure the cuts are in the right place.

Ms. Curran said this regulation had been tabled last year and was now coming back to the board. The SEED Council is encouraging the endorsement for those teaching Pre K-2. She noted that all states have an endorsement and it can be added from another state. In answer to questions, Ms. Curran said the mechanism to make the policy known would be the web, regulation process, Alaska Teacher Placement, and letter to those affected. The negative would be another hoop to jump through with six additional required hours of credit, but felt most would be supportive. Ms. Holloway said she was concerned with the notion that just taking six hours does not adequately prepare a teacher.

6. University Programs. Cyndy Curran was present to brief the board. She introduced Dr. Jim Powell and Dr. Dean Konopasek from UAA and Dr. Larry Harris from UAS. There were two University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) programs up for approval: the UAA graduate certificate in language education with a concentration in ESOL (7-12) and Special Education Administrator. There was one University of Alaska Southeast (UAS) program: Teacher and administrator preparation program.

Shirley Holloway asked how many were waiting for the programs. Dr. Powell said there had been a lot of interest and they were holding applications prior to the board's approval. Dr. Harris described the M.Ed. emphasis in education leadership as leading to a Type B to prepare principals. Shirley Holloway said she appreciated seeing the standards and that they were included so it is known up front. Dr. Harris said all programs are delivered face-to-face or by distance delivery. Pat Shier said he appreciated the work the university has been doing.

7. Performance based alternative teacher preparation program for Alaska Natives. The Commissioner introduced Shirley Holloway, who brought this item to the board. The mission of the program is to grow, nurture and sustain Alaska Native educators to serve Alaskan communities. Dr. Bill McDiarmid, Lolly Carpluk, Cecelia Martz, and Anishia Elbie, who were the design team who produced the alternative program for Alaska Natives, were introduced. Betty Hassler and Don Shackelford also were included. The project was funded by Shell Oil and processed through Avant Garde Learning Foundation. Each of the design team members gave their personal history and association with teaching. Ms. Martz read her personal story describing her teacher preparation in the 1950's. Ms. Carpluk, who works with Future Teachers of Alaska, talked about after school programs, and Ms. Elbie talked about being a strong advocate for lifelong learning. Dr. McDiarmid described the design team process and components of the program. Ms. Holloway said that UAS would be taking the implementational leadership beginning with five regions next fall. Illisagvik College, UAA, and Bristol Bay Community College would also be involved.

Ms. Cox inquired about the number of students (500) in future teachers and what they did. Ms Carpluk said they tutored, mentored, assisted with reading programs, helped with scholarship and provided positive relationships with the communities. Ms. Holloway said school districts were on board. Dr. McDiarmid said there was a changing shift in attitude and whose responsibility it is to prepare teachers. Progress has been good from across the communities.

8. Mt. Edgecumbe (MEHS) Alumni Survey. Commissioner Thompson introduced Diane Hirshberg from the Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER), who briefed the board. The survey polled all known MEHS graduates to find out what they were doing now and what their years at MEHS meant to them. The survey was to be kept open throughout the summer of 2008. A final report will be sent to the commissioner.

Business Meeting

9A. Opening a period of public comment on Alaska Science Standards Based Assessment. There was no discussion. Shirley Holloway moved and Pat Shier seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development open a period of public comment on proposed regulations 4 AAC 06.739(c), related to Assessment proficiency scores. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

9B. Opening a period of public comment on science alternate assessment for student with significant cognitive disabilities. There was no discussion. Pat Shier moved and Geri Benshoof seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development open a period of public comment on proposed regulations 4 AAC 06.775 (c), related to Statewide assessment program for students with disabilities. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

9C. Opening a period of public comment on Early childhood grades PreK-2. Ms. Cox said she was anxious to see the public opinion on this regulation. Shirley Holloway

moved and Phil Schneider seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development open a period of public comment on 4 AAC 12.331, Requirements for teachers of early childhood grades PreK-2. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

The board recessed until 8:00 a.m. the following morning.

May30, 2008 – Business Meeting Continued

The meeting was called to order by Chair Cox. All members were present except Sylvia Reynolds. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The chair asked if anyone had disclosures to make. Carol Schaeffer said her daughter attended Mt. Edgecumbe High School and she was employed by the Northwest Arctic Borough School District. Pat Shier said his wife was employed by a home school program and his daughter attended a home school program and he was a member of the Home School Alliance.

The agenda was amended to add an executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel issues. The amended agenda was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

10. The following regulations were adopted by the board.

10A. Professional content and performance standards. Cyndy Curran was present to brief the board. Ms. Holloway said she was happy to see the clarity identifying what a teacher exiting a teacher preparation program knows and is able to do. A clarifying change was made to the regulation. Phil Schneider moved and Pat Shier seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development adopt the proposed amended, amendments to 4 AAC 04.200 related to Professional content and performance standards. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

10B. Type B, provisional certificate, Certificate for administrators of special education and Type F, special education administrator's certificate. Cyndy Curran was present to brief the board. Ms. Curran answered some clarifying questions the board had regarding the changes and the new special education administrator's certificate. There was a discussion regarding breaking the motion into two parts. The department attorney said they could do that. Board member Carol Schaeffer moved and member Pat Shier seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development adopt amendments to 4 AAC 12.345 Administrative certificate (Type B), provisional certificate (provisional Type B). The motion carried by a 5- 1 roll call vote.

Board member Carol Schaeffer moved and member Pat Shier seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development adopt amendments to 4 AAC 12.350 Certification for Administrators of special education, and add a new section 4 AAC 12.346 Special Education Administrator certificate (Type F). The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

10C. Teacher certificate, initial professional, master. Cyndy Curran was present to brief the board. This regulation would ensure that an initial certificate would not be issued to a

person who was no longer enrolled in teacher preparation program. Ms. Benshoof inquired about obtaining an emergency certificate and Ms. Curran said they were no longer allowed by NCLB. Ms. Holloway noted this opportunity served a good purpose of getting people with a bachelor's degree into the classroom while working on a teaching certificate. Ms. Cox agreed. Pat Shier moved and Shirley Holloway seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development adopt the proposed amendments to 4 AAC 12.305 related to Teacher certificate (initial, professional, master). The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

10D. Surrogate parents. Eddy Jeans was present to brief the board. He said the department had recommended a modified proposal that added the foster parent definition to (d) of the proposal. Ms. Cox asked if the regulation was compliant with federal law. Mr. Jeans said it was. The proposal requires a 10-day waiting period before a foster parent can act. Federal law requires that a foster parent may act as a parent unless the state prohibits it. The purpose of the 10-day waiting period is to give the surrogate a chance to review the child's records and get to know the child. Jerry Scholander of the Anchorage School District (ASD) said the whole process is changed with this proposal and it creates a delay for a student who needs an assessment and has to wait for the 10-day period. Rhonda Gardner, Assistant Superintendent (ASD), said the proposal still requires the foster parent to be named surrogate parent, which can hold up the process. (d) was suggested to be repealed and readopted to read, in part, that a surrogate is not required for a child who lives with a foster parent if the foster parent affirms in writing that the foster parent is able and willing to serve as the parent of the child. Ms. Holloway reminded everyone that the stakeholders were the children. Carol Schaeffer moved and Pat Shier seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development adopt the proposed amended regulation 4 AAC 52.600(a)(d) and 4 AAC 52.790 (14) regarding surrogate parents as amended. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote. It was agreed that the new language would be brought back to the board to ensure it said what was meant.

10E. Alternate performance standards for students with disabilities, definitions and highly qualified teachers. Les Morse was present to brief the board. He said this regulation cleans up inconsistencies with the law. Carol Schaeffer moved and Pat Shier seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development adopt the proposed regulations related to 4 AAC 04.160, Alternate Performance Standards for students with significant cognitive disabilities; 4 AAC 06.790 (7), Definitions; and 4 AAC 04.210 (k)(2), Highly qualified teachers. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

10F. School-level desk audits. Les Morse was present to brief the board. He described this regulation as the state's response to responsibility. Mr. Morse said the effect on home school would be questionable and a unique situation. He said there were multiple criteria. Typically, correspondence schools do well and will not end up with these audits. This regulation says there will be a conversation and there MAY be an audit. Phil Schneider moved and Pat Shier seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development adopt proposed regulations AAC 06.850 and 4 AAC

06.872 related to District improvement plan and School-level desk audits. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

10G. Correspondence. Eddy Jeans was present to brief the board. Mr. Jeans said that amendments were proposed by the department as a result of public comment received over the past year. Mr. Shier said he appreciated the number of public comments and also the previous work sessions the board had done. He said he didn't know if the board was ready to adopt the amendments and felt more people needed to be brought together in task force. Mr. Jeans said that the department wanted to remove the battle between in-district programs and statewide programs and that the regulation was about fund allotments and the appropriate use of public monies. Ms. Holloway said the quarreling does not serve kids and it was about the use of public funds. She said she was concerned with the new commissioner having to immediately deal with the issue if it were postponed. Carol Schaeffer said a task force was not necessary; that there had been lots of opportunity for folks to take part in the discussion over the past couple of years. Mr. Shier said he was still hearing different opinions and a task force might be good. Ms. Cox said it was a local control issue tied with having a level playing field. She thought it might be premature to pass it with so much negative comment and didn't want to saddle the new commissioner with a conflict. Mr. Schneider said he'd like to see the new commissioner work on building a collation and bring it back to the board. Ms. Benshoof said she believed in local control. Commissioner Thompson asked the department attorney, Neil Slotnick, to explain how regulations are generated. Mr. Slotnick said you have to be careful when regulations are pending and how you are influenced. All the public has to have the same access and no one can be excluded. Ms. Cox clarified that if the proposal was not acted upon, then what is currently in regulation would remain. She said some people would like to see parts of the regulation acted upon. Mr. Jeans said some inequity with fund allotments would still stand if it was set aside but he was not opposed to setting it aside. Ms. Schaeffer said the board was here today because the statewide programs were not using their money correctly. The proposal made the playing field level and that was good. If it's repealed, no one regulates how money is spent. Mr. Schneider agreed, saying it would not be responsible legislatively, and the legislature would put stricter restrictions into law. Mr. Jeans agreed that a regulation with parameters puts appropriate restrictions on correspondence programs. He suggested repealing just the cap in the existing regulation, which has had the most public comment.

After discussion, the board agreed to amend the proposal by removing sub section (i), lines 12-17. Pat Shier moved and Shirley Holloway seconded the motion to amend the proposal to remove sub section 4 AAC 33.421(i) -- (the cap). The motion to amend was approved by a 4-2 roll call vote.

Geri Benshoof moved and Shirley Holloway seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development adopt the proposed edited regulations, 4 AAC 33, as amended, related to Correspondence Study. The motion was approved by a 4-2 roll call vote.

Pat Shier said he was concerned about inadequate public process on the part of the Legislative Review, and saying there had been public input on the issue for a long time. Geri Benshoof said she couldn't believe that the public was not aware of the proposal since it had been in the public eye for along time. She said she had seen and heard a lot about this regulation.

Because of the amendment, associated language was removed from the proposal as well. The question was called. Carol Schaeffer moved and Pat Shier seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development adopt the proposed amended, edited regulations, 4 AAC 33, related to Correspondence Study. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Chair Cox made a resolution presentation to Interim Commissioner Barbara Thompson, as this was her last meeting. The resolution commended Ms. Thompson for her work with the board and the department and is incorporated into these minutes by reference.

The board was ready to revisit the Surrogate regulation. Mr. Jeans read the new language in the regulation and the board agreed by unanimous consent that it said what they meant it to say.

Mr. Shier left the meeting to attend another meeting saying he would return.

11. University of Alaska Anchorage programs. Cyndy Curran was present to brief the board. She said this proposal allowed a graduate certificate in language education with a concentration in English as a second language (ESOL), and a special administrator program. Geri Benshoof moved and Shirley Holloway seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development approve the Graduate Certificate in Language Education with a Concentration in ESOL (7-12) and the Special Education Administration program at the University of Alaska Anchorage. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

12. Teacher and administrator preparation programs at the University of Alaska Southeast: 1) addition of an M.Ed. emphasis in Educational Leadership, 2) addition of an M.Ed. emphasis and graduate certificate in Mathematics Education 3) addition of an M.Ed. emphasis in Special Education. Cyndy Curran was present to brief the board. She briefly described each program. Shirley Holloway moved and Phil Schneider seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development approve the M.Ed. emphasis in Educational Leadership, the M.Ed. emphasis and graduate certificate in Mathematics Education, and the M.Ed. emphasis in Special Education at the University of Alaska Southeast. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

13. Election of officers. Mr. Shier said he was unable to serve in an officer capacity due to his work schedule. The following officers were elected for the 2008-2009 year. Chair – Esther Cox; First Vice Chair- Shirley Holloway, Second Vice Chair – Phil Schneider.

14. Dates and locations of meetings for 2008-2009. The following meeting dates and locations were agreed upon:

July 25, 2008 – noon teleconference
September 10, 11, 12, 2008 – retreat and meeting – Sitka
October 27, 2008 – noon teleconference
December 4, 5, 2008 – Anchorage
January 16, 2009 – noon teleconference
March 19, 20, 2009 – Juneau
June 11, 12, 2009 – Fairbanks

Sylvia Reynolds joined the meeting via telephone.

15. National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE). The issue of whether to join or not was discussed. Ms. Holloway said she felt that professional development was very important. Ms. Reynolds said she had attended a MASBE orientation meeting in 2004 and was not impressed and felt it was a waste of time. Shirley Holloway moved and Geri Benshoof seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development reinstate membership in the National Association of State Boards of Education. The roll call vote resulted in a tie vote 3-3. Mr. Shier rejoined the meeting. Geri Benshoof moved to reconsider the motion. Shirley Holloway seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 6-1 roll call vote. After additional discussion regarding \$19,000 cost to join, which the commissioner said would be available should the board decide to reinstate, and what the board got for the money, the motion was stated again. Shirley Holloway moved and Geri Benshoof seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development reinstate membership in the National Association of State Boards of Education. The motion was defeated by as 5-2 roll call vote.

16. Budget and Legislative Report. Eddy Jeans was present to brief the board. Mr. Jeans said that the department had done well in its operating and capital budgets for FY09. He said the department got most of what they asked for to handle interventions, funding task force, school debt due to sunset was extended two years and one-time energy grants. In response to questions, Mr. Jeans said autism funding had not been removed, that it has to be recommended each year and was actually increased this year. Regarding the energy adjustment, he said it was an unrestricted supplemental grant, and the money can go into the operating fund, but does not cover 100% of energy costs. It was intended to be an offset.

17. Assessment, Accountability and Information Services report. Les Morse was present to brief the board. Regarding the Unity Project, he said the web portals were being built and would soon be tested and the board would see a demonstration at its September meeting. He said the spring standards-based assessment total by grade and subject matter (reading, writing and mathematics) showed a drop this year overall. He said he'd have more statistics at the September or December meeting when all the data was in. He noted that the test calendar was being adjusted to add two more test dates. He said Anchorage has a problem with the way they package the test materials and needs a longer test window. He hoped this would not interfere with test security. He said the department has worked diligently to avoid most religious holidays and to work with communities

where there are problems. Mr. Morse said the peer review was well received by USDOE and in fact, USDOE asked if they could use the Alaska model as a good example. He said a differential accountability model had been submitted to USDOE. Only 10 states will be chosen. It would allow the department to allow consequences for schools missing for academic reasons being treated differently from those missing for other reasons, like participation rate. A determination will be known later in the summer.

18. Attorney General's Report. Assistant Attorney General Neil Slotnick was present to brief the board. He said the Moore case was still important and they would be back to trial June 9. He said he was pleased that the board adopted the oversight legislation (school-level desk audits) today in response to SB 285. He said factual information on department interventions would be forthcoming.

19. Commissioner's report. Commissioner Thompson said the dropout issue was big and people were beginning to become involved and she urged the board to stay involved so they could make a difference. She said the governor was announcing today the "Paint the Plane" project as part of the state's 50th anniversary. There will be a contest for students to submit a drawing to be used by Alaska Airlines on one of their planes. She formally welcomed Larry LeDoux to the department and said he would be living in Juneau. She thanked the board for their support saying it had been wonderful working with them in her capacity as commissioner. She thanked department personnel as well: Hal Spackman for coming on as her deputy and for being out on the ground at Mt. Edgecumbe; Dottie Knuth for being a "rock" in the department and helping her with the transition; she described Les Morse as solid and thanked Les Morse, Eddie Jeans and Mark Lewis for their work with the legislature and budget. She also thanked Neil Slotnick for his advise and steady hand, and Cyndy Curran for her knowledge being a master teacher. She thanked Eric Fry, Information Officer, and Lynne Smith, from the governor's office.

20. Consent Agenda. Two items were pulled – the appointment of the Mt. Edgecumbe High School Superintendent and Mt. Edgecumbe High School Policy Manual. Pat Shier moved and Shirley Holloway seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development approve the consent agenda consisting of: 1) approval of the Anvil City Science Charter School; 3) approval of the minutes of the March 20, 2008, meeting; 4) approval of minutes of the March 28, 29, 30, 2008, meeting; and 5) approval of the minutes of the April 24, 2008, meeting.

Mt. Edgecumbe High School Superintendent. Commissioner Thompson said that during the interview process she was very impressed with Bill Hutton because he talked about students, he was familiar with the Mt. Edgecumbe campus and the town of Sitka. She described him as the shining star of those interviewed. She said that he was a natural fit into the position. Shirley Holloway moved and Carol Schaeffer seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development approve the appointment of Bill Hutton as the superintendent of the Mt. Edgecumbe High School. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Mt. Edgecumbe High School Policy Manual. Shirley Holloway read a list of general amendments the board had agreed upon to be edited into the proposed manual and instructing the department to incorporate these edits in to the manual before it goes out for public comment. Shirley Holloway moved and Geri Benshoof seconded the following motion: I move that the State Board of Education & Early Development give notice that it intends to adopt the Mt. Edgecumbe High School Policy Manual, as amended, at a subsequent meeting of the State Board. Further, I direct the commissioner to take appropriate steps to circulate the policy among appropriate constituent groups of Mt. Edgecumbe High School in order to give those groups an opportunity to offer comments to the board. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Board Comments

Jazmin Ziden – none

Lindsay Birk – Thanked the board for their support, saying her time on the board was interesting and fun and that she had much confidence in Jazmin.

Phil Schneider – Wished Lindsay good luck and welcomed Larry LeDoux and thanked Barbara Thompson for her work.

Pat Shier – Welcomed Larry LeDoux and thanked Barbara Thompson for her service. He noted that he would like to see a hunter safety program in schools.

Col. Luu - Thanked Barbara Thompson and wished Lindsay good luck saying it was not too late to join the military. He welcomed Jazmin to the board and thanked Dr. Holloway for dinner.

Geri Benshoof – Welcomed Larry LeDoux and Jazmin and wished Lindsay good luck in school next year. She said she had attended the Governor's Council on Special Education meeting in Soldotna, saying the information was impressive and that she looked forward to working with the group.

Carol Schaeffer – Welcomed Larry LeDoux and thanked the staff and Barbara Thompson.

Shirley Holloway – Congratulated Phil Schneider on becoming second vice chair for the board. She thanked the board for their passion, diversity and great attitude. She also thanked the board of listening to and their response to the Native teacher preparation program agenda item. She thanked Barbara Thompson, Lindsay Birk and welcomes Jazmin and Larry LeDoux.

Esther Cox- Welcomed Larry LeDoux. She said she had attended her grandson's graduation from the US Naval Academy and that academy graduations were one of the 1,000 things one has to see before they died. She said the Chairman of the Joints Chiefs was the speaker. She wished Lindsay Birk good luck. She thanked Dottie Knuth, Hal

Spackman, Cyndy Curran, Les Morse, Eric Fry and Eddy Jeans for their work in the department. She thanked Barbara Thompson for the year of superb work in the department as Interim Commissioner and excellent counsel. She thanked the board for their vote of confidence in electing her as Chair again.

Shirley Holloway moved and Carol Schaeffer moved for the board to move into executive session, and unanimous consent was voiced. There was no action to be taken as a result of the executive session.

The meeting was adjourned.