

Alaska State Board of Education & Early Development
Approved Minutes
Teleconference meeting
July 25, 2008
Originating in the Commissioner's Office
Department of Education & Early Development
801 West 10th Street, Suite 200
Juneau, AK 99801

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Chairwoman Cox called the meeting to order at noon. Online were Esther Cox, Shirley Holloway, Phil Schneider, Sylvia Reynolds, Bunny Schaeffer, and Lt. Col. Luu. Pat Shier, Geri Benshoof and Jazmin Ziden were excused. Commissioner LeDoux was also online. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The chair asked if anyone had a disclosure to make. There were no disclosures. The secretary recited who was present in the commissioner's conference room. They were Deputy Commissioner Thompson, Eddy Jeans, Cyndy Curran, Mark Lewis, Eric Fry, Dottie Knuth, Neil Slotnick, Sheila Peterson, and Lynne Smith.

The agenda was amended to include the appointment of a new director for the Teaching & Learning Support Division. The agenda was approved as amended by unanimous roll call vote.

Chair Cox officially welcomed Commissioner LeDoux to the department. The Commissioner thanked the Chair and said he was pleased with the support he was getting from the department and thanked Barbara Thompson for her support and work as the Interim Commissioner.

Public Comment.

LaDawn Druce, President of the Kenai PEA, commented on the tiers for licensure and how time-consuming and expensive they were. She was pleased that the board was looking at removing the performance review as a requirement of moving from Initial to Professional certification. She thanked the board for the streamlining effort.

Rhonda Gardner, Assistant Superintendent of the Anchorage School District, and Rob Boyer also thanked the board for putting the regulation out for public comment to eliminate the performance review to move from Initial to Professional licensure. She said the district fully supported the amendment.

1. Regulations to go out for public comment

Teacher Certification. The commissioner introduced Cyndy Curran. Ms. Curran said that the department had heard the feedback on the performance review. She said she believed that it was a good professional development tool for Alaska teachers, but it was causing

difficulties for teachers who move to Alaska to move from Initial to Professional certification. It does however, give another option to those moving to a Master certificate.

Shirley Holloway said she wanted the record to reflect that the board encourages schools to use it as part of their professional development plans.

Commissioner LeDoux indicated that he wanted the dialogue to improve teacher quality to continue as some of the videos showed improvement was needed.

Sylvia Reynolds moved and Phil Schneider seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development open a period of public comment on proposed amendments to 4 AAC 12.305, Teacher Certificate (Initial, Professional, Master) and 4 AAC 04.212(f), Objective Uniform Standards. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote. It will appear on the September agenda for approval.

2. Regulations for Adoption

2A. Statewide assessment program for students with disabilities (Science alternate).

Commissioner LeDoux introduced Les Morse. Mr. Morse said that this regulation dealt with proficiency scores for the alternate science assessment required by NCLB in three grade levels. It was field-tested and piloted in grades four, eight and 10 last year. Five hundred and fifty students took the alternate.

Shirley Holloway moved and Sylvia Reynolds seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development adopt regulations 4 AAC 06.775 (b) as amended, related to the science alternate assessment. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

2B. Assessment proficiency scores. Commissioner LeDoux introduced Les Morse. Mr. Morse said that this regulation was the science assessment and had been given in grades four, eight and 10. All students took the assessment. In May, the review committee met to set scale scores, as required by NCLB.

Shirley Holloway asked if the scores are part of AYP. Mr. Morse said, under the current interpretation by USDOE, they are not part of AYP; however, that could change as part of the NCLB reauthorization.

Shirley Holloway moved and Phil Schneider seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development adopt proposed regulations 4 AAC 6.739(c), related to science standards-based assessment proficiency levels. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

3. Education Summit. Commissioner LeDoux said he saw a summit as a chance to develop a long-range education plan and guide efficiency of resources, and would provide the public with a clear vision of education. He said he wanted to include the university system as well. November 13 & 14 had been established as the dates, to be

held in Anchorage. He said he would expect a very diverse group of 300-400 participants, including parents, educators, students, business, teachers, mayors and education support groups. The cost would be approximately \$30,000 for two days.

Shirley Holloway said she thought it was a great idea, that it was time for groups to come together. She inquired about business funding.

It was affirmed that the state board would be involved as well as students.

4. Director of Teaching & Learning Support. Commissioner LeDoux said he was asking for approval of the appointment of Cynthia Curran as the Director of Teaching & Learning Support. Shirley Holloway, moved with delight, and Phil Schneider seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development approved the commissioner's appointment of Cynthia Curran as the Director of Teaching & Learning Support. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Esther Cox said she was delighted with the appointment and felt it added strength to the department.

Barbara Thompson thanked the board for the approval of Ms. Curran, saying it was an excellent choice. She thanked Paul Prussing as acting director and noted that he was thrilled that Ms. Curran would be the new director. He will resume his duties as deputy director.

Neil Slotnick, Assistant Attorney General, said that he wanted to clarify that the board was not repealing the existing language in 2A, the science assessment.

Board comments.

Lt. Col Luu – none

Mr. Schneider – Welcomed Commissioner LeDoux and said he liked face-to-face meetings.

Ms. Reynolds welcomed Commissioner LeDoux and said she was excited about the summit.

Dr. Holloway – none

Ms. Schaeffer- welcomed Commissioner LeDoux and thanked Barbara Thompson for her work as Interim Commissioner, and congratulated Ms. Curran on her appointment.

Ms. Cox – said she had greetings from Roger Sampson from the Education Commission of States conference, which she attended as the board's representative. She inquired about the dropout committee and if it was going to continue its work. She gave a fond farewell

to Barbara Thompson saying Ms. Thompson worked hard as Interim Commissioner and she was grateful for the straight path Ms. Thompson took.

Barbara Thompson – thanked the board for their support and for the support of the people in the room.

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent.