

**Alaska State Board of Education & Early Development**  
**Approved Minutes**  
**June 7 & 8, 2012**  
**Anchorage, AK**

*Thursday, June 7, 2012*

The meeting was called to order by Chair Cox at 8:00 a.m. All members were present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The Commissioner asked that the agenda be amended to add a legal matter to the scheduled executive session. Pat Shier moved and Carol Schaeffer seconded a motion to add the legal matter to the executive session, and the motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote. The Chair asked if there were any disclosures. Ms. Schaeffer said she is an employee of the Northwest Arctic Borough School District and it would be presenting during the work session. Mr. Shier said his wife is an employee of the Yukon-Koyukuk School District and it would be presenting. The Chair ruled that Ms. Schaeffer could participate and the Yukon-Koyukuk agenda item had been removed from this meeting's agenda.

Chair Cox presented outgoing student advisor Tiarna Fischler with an apple commemoration, congratulating her on her one-year service with the board. Ms. Cox said it was a joy to have had her on the board and watch her grow, and wished her luck at the university of Alaska Anchorage in the fall.

***Public Comment***

Teresa Holt, with the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education, said she did not support the change to the timelines in the proposed special education regulation. She did not support changing it to 90 days, and asked that the board to consider postponing its adoption. She said it was important that students be evaluated as soon as possible and the state be in concert with federal law. She thought there were unintended consequences of the new proposal, such as contract employees at the end of their contracts being rushed. She felt it was a big change for rural districts.

Heddy Humme, with the Disabilities Law Center, said she was a parent advocate and supported Holt's testimony, saying the wait time was too long. She said it affects staff and families. She noted that breaks in schools do not negate the need for evaluation, and that the 60 calendar days in federal law was workable.

Glen Biegel, with the Alaska Home Educators Association, advocated for not changing the technology core course to an elective course in the proposed regulation. He said the right kind of technology courses should be considered, and he questioned what deficiency the board was trying to address.

Paula Pawlowski, with the Alaska PTA, spoke about the 2011-2012 annual AK Parent Engagement Report and accomplishments for the year. She said its new partnerships were

particularly successful. A new parent-engagement tool kit is coming in the fall. She thanked Esther Cox for her leadership.

Intervention Districts. The board asked each of the five intervention districts to make a presentation. Yukon-Koyukuk School District and Lower Yukon School District were not able to attend this meeting. Northwest Arctic Borough, Yukon Flats, and Yupiit attended. Northwest Arctic School District was released from intervention in August 2010 and continues to be successful. The board had asked each district to address the following questions:

- What system does your district use to assess student learning?
- How does your district address shortfalls in student performance?
- How does your district address student attendance? Please provide attendance rates.
- What are your district's expectations for principals, and how are those expectations modeled and monitored?
- When district practices are not effective, what steps does your district take to address this?
- What aspects of intervention have been effective; what aspects have been ineffective; and what are your suggestions to increase intervention's effectiveness?
- Did your district's students travel outside the district this past year? If so, for what purpose?
- What are your district's student achievement goals for next school year?

Northwest Arctic School District Superintendent Dr. Norman Eck was present for the first presentation. He was accompanied by Dr. Ryan, Assistant Superintendent, and Karen Goodwin, Business Manager. They provided district information that addressed the board concerns. Their enrollment is 1,817, with an 87% attendance rate and a 48.7% graduation rate, and a dropout rate of 11.26%. Selawik has a Head Start program with 188 students and a poverty rate there of 96.4%. The district-wide teacher retention is 81%, but it is lower in the rural areas. Before school begins, there are two intensive trainings in the rural areas with cultural training. Native corporation NANA encourages school attendance and graduation because of its local hire. This coming year, the Safe & Civil Schools program (classroom management) will be instituted. Dr. Eck commended the Commissioner for his role in bringing the Moore case to conclusion.

Superintendent Lance Bowie from Yukon Flats School District made the next presentation. This district is still in intervention. Mr. Bowie is just finishing his first year as superintendent. He previously worked in the Anchorage School District for 30 years. He described his district as the size of Michigan, with seven schools, 247 students, 39 certified staff, and nine administrators. He said there is a huge turnover in the district. He said that in 2011-2012 there were 32 teachers, and the district lost 10. He said that since his tenure, the district is doing an individual learning plan for each student; it has adopted a new curriculum in math, science and reading; and all teachers and administrators go to the in-service with the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District. He has visited all of the school sites and said all parents seem to want the same for their students.

Many high school students are lost to Galena boarding school or Mt. Edgecumbe High School (MEHS). The district approves all school schedules for consistency, and there are incentive rewards for student attendance, such as bicycles, Nooks, or iPods. Because of the district's location, any time a student travels he or she is out of the district. Basketball is the only activity for boys and girls. They took one cultural trip last year, to Hawaii. The student transfer rate is low until students get to high school; then the district loses students to MEHS or Galena. Alaska hire is about 50%. He said teacher shock, with culture and weather, is a problem for many new teachers. He indicated that state coaches are helpful, but the dialogue needs to be expanded.

Superintendent Howard Diamond from Yupiit School District made the final presentation. Mike Williams, Vice Chair of the local board; Lexie Miles; Eugene Burke, Principal in Tuluksak; Pat Peterson; and Jack Ennis were present from the district. Mr. Diamond said the district consisted of three schools situated on the Kuskokwim River, above Bethel. All travel between the schools is done by air, boat, snowmachine or dog team. There are 422 students, who all qualify for the free and reduced-price lunch program. Fourteen percent are special education students, and 90% are Native. The district employs 47 certified teachers. Tuluksak has 160 students with 16 certified teachers; Akiak has 107 students with 14 certified teachers; and Akiachak has 181 students with 17 certified teachers. Mr. Diamond said learning to live in the villages is very difficult for a new teacher who is not culturally sensitive to the ways of the community. New teachers have a two-week training before the school year. The district has a School Improvement Grant and uses SFSF stimulus monies to help bring the teachers to the communities. All teachers have an exit interview when they leave. The district has nine coaches. There is an 84.6% attendance rate, and a 14.5% dropout rate (which is down from last year). Twenty certified staff will be replaced this coming school year. The district saw growth last year with an emphasis on reading. Math and writing did not show much growth.

Mr. Diamond said there were some problems with the trustee assigned to the district. Some of those problems, he felt, were that the trustee was not assigned to the principal in the schools, and coaches came in with a different agenda. He said the district would like a seat at intervention meetings, where reasonable goals could be set and needs and experience could be matched more effectively.

Mike Williams spoke to the board about his vision and gave a history of the district beginning in 1985, when it was formed. He spoke about the historical trauma education caused when outside people came into the area by not allowing their Native language, where diseases created many orphans, and dependency set in when the role of the elders was diminished. He said they are slowly recovering and trying to get parents involved in the education of their children. This summer there is an effort to help children who deal with alcohol abuse in the home and domestic violence. He said their students' dreams and aspirations are the same as everyone else's. He said he appreciated the coaches who come and particularly was happy to see the Governor sign the Language Preservation Bill, saying ownership was critical. He noted that energy costs were strapping the communities, and that local control was very important. He thanked for board for its work. (Mr. Williams is an ex-State Board of Education member.)

Mt. Edgecumbe High School (MEHS) Policy Manual. Director Randy Hawk was present to brief the board on the ad hoc committee's work to revise the MEHS policy manual. The work is in two parts. The board will hear about the part II at the September board meeting. Mr. Hawk reviewed the changes thought necessary to bring the manual current with new polices, removal of old policies no longer adhered to, and generally bring it into compliance with safety and conduct standards.

Alaska State Policy Research Alliance (ASPRA). Deputy Commissioner Morse introduced Dr. Terri Akey, the Director of Center for Research, Evaluation and Assessment for Education Northwest. ASPRA is a new program, an alliance with Alaska that will provide research configured around a problem of practice. It is one of eight nationwide alliances. It will build capacity using data to make evidence-informed state policy and help the state become capable of performing the task itself. It will develop the process, increase awareness of evidence, provide strong research practices, and increase the use of that evidence. She hopes there will be a variety of outcomes that will effect change, with the ultimate goal of the state sustaining the effort.

Charter Schools. Four charter schools requested 10-year renewals of their charters, and one charter school requested an extension of two years to its original renewal request. The schools were: Family Partnership, Aquarian, and Alaska Native Cultural Charter Schools -- all in the Anchorage School District; Ketchikan Charter in Ketchikan Gateway School District; and Birchtree in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District. Cyndy Curran, Director of Teaching & Learning Support, was present to brief the board about each charter school. All have very successful programs.

Executive Session. Phil Schneider moved and Jim Merriner seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development convene in executive session to evaluate the performance of the Commissioner of Education & Early Development and to discuss a matter in litigation under attorney/client privilege. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Pat Shier moved and Janel Keplinger seconded a motion to come out of executive session. The motion passed by unanimous consent. The meeting was recessed until the following day.

### ***Friday, June 8, 2012***

The meeting was called to order by Chair Cox at 8:00 a.m. All members were present except Mr. Shier. Commissioner Hanley requested that one item be added to the agenda, a new regulation for Annual Measurable Objectives (AMO's). Jim Merriner moved and Pat Shier seconded a motion to add the regulation to the work session and the business meeting agendas, and the motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote. The Chair asked if there were any disclosures; Mr. Merriner said that he worked for a correspondence program. The Chair ruled that he could participate.

The Chair called upon Carol Comeau, Superintendent of the Anchorage School District. Ms. Cox presented Ms. Comeau with a retirement gift from the board in recognition of her years of

service with the Anchorage School District. Ms. Comeau said it was up to all of us to remember every student in Alaska. Ms. Cox introduced Jim Browder, the new Anchorage School District Superintendent. He said he stood for all children.

The board was still in work session.

Chart of Accounts Overview. Elizabeth Nudelman, Director of School Finance, was present to brief the board. She indicated that this was an overview because questions always come up in the 70/30 discussions in October and it had been some time since board members were updated on the how the chart works. She described the Chart of Accounts as the method school districts use to code expenditures statewide. She said it begins at the federal level with criteria that keep states consistent. The October audit produces the October meeting, when the board considers waivers from school districts for the 70% requirement for instruction. The usual reasons districts do not make the 70% instruction requirement is because of economy of scale or operations cost. (Mr. Shier joined the meeting at 8:20 a.m.)

Ms. Nudelman drew the board's attention to the three categories of coding -- fund, function, and object -- and she explained how expenses were coded. Ms. Nudelman said the board could add or change a function for board expenses and it could provide more detail. Mr. Shier asked about city appropriations and the need. Ms. Nudelman said it allows districts to roll up to higher levels and create more detail. She indicated that the section called "tuition for students" was a federal requirement and did not apply to Alaska, but it is kept as a place holder. She said about 10-15 districts hire business managers, but they tend to change. The Association of Alaska Business Managers (ALASBO) is a strong organization in Alaska. She indicated that the department brings districts into the department for one-on-one training. Mr. Merriner said he would like to see school board expenses broken out to provide for more information and transparency. Ms. Nudelman said she thought it would mean a regulation change, and software would have to be purchased to add another function. Ms. Cox said all districts should know their school board expenses. Ms. Schaeffer said districts need to be reminded of correct coding.

### **Regulations to go out for public comment.**

There were five regulations for the board to consider promulgating. Cyndy Curran, Director of Teaching & Learning Support, was present to brief the board on teacher and principal evaluation regulations. She said these regulations had not been updated since the 1970s. She presented a side-by-side document of the numerous changes. Teacher and principal evaluation amendments were the result of a requirement of the state receiving State Fiscal Stabilization Funding (SFSF). After review by the Teacher Quality Working Group, which has met several times, the group suggested changes to the regulation that would bring it into compliance with upcoming Education Testing Service (ETS) changes, and it suggested adoption of additional exams so that all content areas continue to be available. The entire package amended repetitious and/or inconsistent language and generally updated the teacher preparation program standards.

Mr. Shier said he needed to disclose (not done at the beginning of the meeting because he was not present) that his wife works for the Yukon-Koyukuk School District as a teacher. The Chair ruled that he could participate.

Ms. Curran also spoke to the correspondence regulation amendments. She said that after reviewing some Individual Learning Plans (ILPs), the department found that courses such as keyboarding and DVD editing were being taught as core subjects. The department felt that these were elective subjects. The proposed regulation's intent was to clarify core subjects and elective subjects. She said these courses did not meet the rigor that the department or the board was after, and these being used as core subjects spoke directly to the University of Alaska's concern with the need for remediation. Mr. Shier said he felt that taking out technology sends the wrong message and it wasn't the correct move at this point. He said that work with the school districts to understand what is being included in an individual learning plan was appropriate. He thought maybe other core subjects in students' education were being accomplished by other means. Chair Cox questioned the direction of the amendments, and Mr. Schneider said it has to do with funding; putting it out for comment will get the public comment the board is seeking. Mr. Shier said that if it was about funding, that was a different conversation. Mr. Merriner gave some correspondence history saying that originally the regulation helped to address the independent or unaffiliated home schoolers in allowing more school choice in the core subject areas. It allowed those families to use technology and foreign language. If the regulation is amended, it should be done so the student has to take two different core courses at a time to make a better, well-rounded education. Mr. Shier presented several scenarios that could be used to incorporate technology. Geri Benshoof verified the issue was whether to leave technology as a core or change it to an elective. The Commissioner asked if having technology as a core subject prepares students to be successful and go beyond high school. Ms. Keplinger said students needed the safety net of technology. Mr. Merriner said IDEA (Interior Distance Education of Alaska) reports all courses taken, even religious courses, which are not funded. Mr. Shier said he would prefer the regulation not go out for public comment, saying he needed more information and a larger conversation. He said the board needs to help families all they can instead of limiting them, and if the concern is funding, let's have that discussion.

Ms. Nudelman presented regulation amendments to the In-Kind Services. She said cities and boroughs make contributions to school districts, and this change clarifies what can be included in in-kind contributions and what the revenue is. The amendments do three things: provide for an effective date, amend the definition in regulation, and amend the definition in the Chart of Accounts. Mr. Shier asked if a city were to forego taxes, would that local effort be considered in kind. Ms. Nudelman said it would not. She said this change would not stop communities from providing benefits.

Erik McCormick, Director of Assessment, Accountability and Information Management, presented regulation amendments to modified growth. He said the amendments changed the name because the program was discontinued in 2009, and were largely a clean-up of language, and the value table was being modified to be compliant with the Moore settlement.

Mr. McCormick also presented the amendments to the Annual Measurable Objective (AMO) regulation. He said the change would allow the department to freeze the AMOs for a year while it worked toward a waiver from NCLB. The department would not have to identify additional schools that were falling further behind.

There were five regulations for the board to consider adopting. Ms. Curran was present to brief the board regarding the Praxis II test and scores for highly qualified teachers. Praxis II scores are required by teacher certification and for highly qualified status. The testing company (ETS) changed titles and scores; the regulation amendments comply with those changes. The change allows teachers in Alaska to continue to use the Praxis II series in art, English, French, geography, German and Spanish. Ms. Cox noted Alaska's placement in scoring being at the lower end; she said score needed to be higher. Ms. Schaeffer said the Teacher Quality Working Group could look at it. Ms. Keplinger said that some students just don't do well on tests and can't pass them but would be great teachers.

Ms. Curran also spoke to the amendments to the special education regulation, saying the amendment gives assurance that children will be evaluated in a timely manner and not have to wait through school breaks.

Ms. Curran also spoke to the regulation amendments to the Performance Scholarship/WorkKeys scores, saying the amendments alter the score a student must achieve in order to qualify for the Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS). The amended score will open access to the APS for more students in Career and Technical Education.

Mr. McCormick and Janet Valentour, in the assessments unit, were present to brief the board regarding amendments to the Alaska English/Language Arts and Mathematics Standards. This regulation was out for public comment for an extended period – nearly six months. They were last revised in 2004 and 2006. The project enhances the rigor for students in reading, writing and mathematics to make a more-certain pathway for students to be ready for college and career after graduation. Mr. McCormick outlined the process the department used to make sure the public (including business and industry) was aware of the changes, facilitating 15 meetings around the state with stakeholders from all walks of life. The first student assessment using these standards will be in the spring of 2016. The proposed standards cover K-12. Ms. Keplinger said she wanted to see more implementation time and time for staff development, saying it was a huge paradigm shift. Ms. Valentour walked the board through the changes. She thanked the contributions of department program managers Karen Melin, Cecilia Miller and Jeanne Foy.

Assistant Attorney General Neil Slotnick was present to brief the board on the amendments to the District Improvement Plan, which essentially adopted the settlement agreement in the Moore v. State case. This adoption would allow the commissioner to implement the terms of the agreement.

The work session ended. The business meeting was called to order by Chair Cox.

### **Regulations to go out for public comment.**

Teacher evaluation. Carol Schaeffer moved and Pat Shier seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development open a period of public comment on amendments to 4 AAC 04.200(f) professional content and performance standards; 4 AAC 04.205(a)(b)(c)(d) District performance standards; 4 AAC 19.010 Purpose and scope of evaluation; 4 AAC 19.020 Scope of evaluation; 4 AAC 19.030 Evaluation procedures; 4 AAC

19.040 Confidentiality of the evaluation; 4 AAC 19.050 Reporting of evaluation results and local incorporation of student learning data; 4 AAC 19.060 Evaluation training; and 4 AAC 19.099 Definitions. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Statewide Correspondence. Mr. Merriner said in light of the previous discussion, he felt there should be no action taken on this regulation until there is an adequate, well-rounded definition of technology. No motion was made.

In Kind. 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 amendments to 4 AAC 06.120(a)(2), Chart of Accounts effective date; 4 AAC 09.990(b)(2), Definition of value of in-kind services; and a proposed amendment to the Uniform Chart of Accounts and Account Code Descriptions for Public School Districts. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Modified Growth. Jim Merriner moved and Pat Shier seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development open a period of public comment on amendments to: the title of Article 5, Chapter 33 of 4 AAC, Public School Performance Incentive Program; 4 AAC 33.500, Purpose: public school growth and proficiency index; 4 AAC 33.510, Limitation of payments; 4 AAC 33.520, General eligibility; 4 AAC 33.530, Required data; 4 AAC 33.540(a)(2) and (b) Qualification; 4 AAC 33.550 Award levels; 4 AAC 33.560 Selection of schools; central office employees; 4 AAC 33.570 Issuing payments; 4 AAC 33.580 Disqualifications; and 4 AAC 33.590 Definitions for 4 AAC 33.500 - 4 AAC 33.590. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Annual Measurable Objective. Janel Keplinger moved and Jim Merriner seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development open a period of public comment on amendments to 4 AAC 06.815(b), Annual measurable objectives. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

### **Regulations to adopt.**

Highly Qualified. Carol Schaeffer moved and Phil Schneider seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development adopt the proposed amendments to 4 AAC 04.210, Highly qualified teachers. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Special Education. Geri Benshoof moved and Janel Keplinger seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development adopt amendments to regulations 4 AAC 52.115-Timelines, and 4 AAC 52.180(a)-Reevaluation. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

WorkKeys Scores for APS. Carol Schaeffer moved and Pat Shier seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development adopt changes to 4 AAC 43.020 regarding the required score on the WorkKeys assessment for the Alaska Performance Scholarship, 4 AAC 43.020 Standardized examination and grade point average requirements. The motion passed by a 5-2 roll call vote.

Standards. Pat Shier moved and Phil Schneider seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development adopt the revised *Alaska English/Language Arts and Mathematics Standards*. The publication is adopted by reference in: 4 AAC 04.010, Purposes and responsibilities; 4 AAC 04.140, Content standards; 4 AAC 04.150, Performance standards; 4 AAC 04.200, Professional content and performance standards; 4 AAC 06.700, Purpose; 4 AAC 06.710, Statewide student assessment system; 4 AAC 06.730, Standardized norm referenced test administration; and 4 AAC 06.737, Standards-based test. The motion passed by a 6-1 roll call vote.

District Improvement. Phil Schneider moved and Jim Merriner seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development adopt the proposed amended regulations regarding district improvement plan, 4 AAC 06.850. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Election of Officers. The Chair turned the gavel over to the Commissioner, who took nominations for the board’s officers. Chair Cox nominated Jim Merriner for Chair and asked that a unanimous ballot be cast, which was seconded by Pat Shier. The gavel was returned to Chair Cox. Pat Shier nominated Esther Cox as First Vice-Chair and asked that a unanimous ballot be cast. It was seconded by Janel Keplinger. Geri Benshoof nominated Janel Keplinger as second vice-chair and asked that a unanimous ballot be cast. It was seconded by Pat Shier. The new officers for the 2012-2013 year are: Chair, Jim Merriner; First Vice-Chair, Esther Cox; and Second Vice-Chair, Janel Keplinger.

Meeting dates and locations. After discussion, it was moved by Carol Schaeffer and seconded by Jim Merriner to set the following meeting dates and locations.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Meeting Type</b>
July 24, 2012	Video/Teleconference	Special
September 12,13,14, 2012	Kodiak	Retreat/regular quarterly
October 29, 2012	Teleconference/Noon	Special -70/30 waivers
December 6 & 7, 2012	Anchorage	Regular quarterly
January 28, 2013	Teleconference/Noon	Special - legislative/budget
March 6, 7, 8, 2013	Sitka (visit MEHS) & Juneau meeting	Regular quarterly
June 6 & 7, 2013	Kenai	Regular quarterly

Mr. Shier was excused from the meeting.

Because of time constraints, the standing reports were abbreviated. Each staff member reporting asked the board if they had any questions about the materials in the packet.

Teaching & Learning Support Report. Cyndy Curran, Director of Teaching & Learning Support, was present to brief the board. Her report included information about Alaska’s Learning Network, the Alaska Performance Scholarship, Career & Technical Education, Child Nutrition, Early Learning, Grants, Health and Safety, Special Education, Statewide Support, Literacy,

Coaches, Title I, Science, and Alaska Transition to Teaching (AKT2). She noted there was a special education fall meeting Ms. Benshoof would attend, and there would be training for those involved in suicide prevention with the Jason Foundation.

Assessment, Accountability & Information Management (AAIM) Report. Erik McCormick, Director of AAIM, was present to brief the board. He discussed the preliminary High School Graduation Qualifying Exam statewide results and the preliminary spring 2012 Standards Based Assessment results. He noted that there was improvement in the HSGQE scores statewide. He said July 1 is the AYP release date and would be reported on at the board's July 24 meeting. The WIDA results were shipped June 14 and would be available online soon.

Rural Education. Phyllis Carlson, Director of Rural Education, was present to brief the board. Phyllis reported that the suicide prevention effort had \$450,000 coming from the Department of Health & Social Services, which would be used to purchase Cognito materials and for the administration costs of the support position. She said she had attended the bilingual conference, sponsored by the Alaska Comprehensive Center, and presented the Cultural Standards and rubric. She spoke about the importance and the ownership of the culture. The Leadership Institute, sponsored by the Alaska Staff Development Network, had invited low-performing districts to give support and methods of improvement. She also noted that the Rural Alaska Principal Preparation and Support program (RAPPS) dealt with unique Alaskan issues in Alaska schools and provided good leadership.

Budget & Legislation Report. Marcy Herman, Legislative Liaison, was present to brief the board. She said Senate Concurrent Resolution 21 has established the permanency of the education committees. She reviewed the memorandum to Superintendents from the Commissioner that set out items of interest regarding education from the previous legislative session, including operating and capital budgets. She also reviewed the FY13 projected state program allocations for districts based on legislative appropriations. The appropriations included one-time grant funds based on average daily membership from Senate Bill 160.

Mt. Edgecumbe High School (MEHS) Report. Randy Hawk, Director of MEHS, was present to brief the board. He noted that 87 student had graduated in May. Enrollment ended with 344 students last year. He said the school was working with EED on Northwest accreditation. Referring to information in the board's packet, he said two of five boilers had to be resealed, and some were so old they could not find parts or anyone to repair them. He highlighted the new EMT class, which has 12 students this year. He said eight students were age-eligible to take the EMT exam. The class was very successful.

Libraries, Archives and Museums (LAM) Report. Linda Thibodeau, Director of LAM, was present to brief the board. She reported that LAM had received \$49M in the capital budget toward the SLAM project, and they were hopeful to break ground next spring. In the meantime, more preliminary work is being done. She suggested a ground-breaking ceremony with board members during the March board meeting. Ms. Thibodeau also noted that several LAM employees were honored with recent Governor's Denali Awards. She said LAM had 14 new grant projects around the state that amounted to \$53M.

Attorney General's Report. Neil Slotnick, Assistant Attorney General, was present to brief the board. He generally reviewed the cases that were in his written report, noting that the moon rocks were finally in possession of NASA and would be authenticated soon. The trial is set for February 13, 2013.

Commissioner's Report. Commissioner Hanley was present to brief the board. The Commissioner reported on his spring trip to Bering Strait School District, where he attended three graduations and met with district staff. He reported on his trip to Homer to attend the coaches' meeting, and he attended an Old Believers community graduation. Nine students graduated and two qualified for the APS. He noted that he had been to several high-level conferences and is being more assertive as he becomes more comfortable. He said the Education Commission of the States conference in Atlanta and CCSSO Summer Institute in Idaho were coming up in July. He thanked the board for their teamwork and also thanked Chair Cox for her leadership. He said he continues to find ways to strengthen the system to get to where we need to be.

Consent Agenda. Ms. Schaeffer said she would like to pull consent agenda items 21A and 21B. Geri Benshoof moved and Janel Keplinger seconded a motion to approve consent agenda items 12C-21I as follows: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development approve the consent agenda consisting of the following meeting; approval of the renewal of Family Partnership Charter School for 10 years; approval of the renewal of Aquarian Charter School for 10 years; approval of the renewal of Alaska Native Cultural Charter School for 10 years; approval of the renewal of Ketchikan Charter School for 10 years; approval of the extension of the renewal of Birchtree Charter School until March 23, 2015; approval of the Mt. Edgecumbe High School Policy Manual, Part I; and approval of the partially exempt appointment of Mark E. Lewis as the Administrative Services Director for the department. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Ms. Schaeffer made a correction to paragraph about the WorkKeys in the minutes of March 2012. The motion to accept her correction was made by Jim Merriner and seconded by Janel Keplinger. It was passed by unanimous roll call vote. Carol Schaeffer made a motion to change the wording regarding her excused absence from the April 2012 meeting. It was seconded by Jim Merriner. It was passed by unanimous roll call vote.

### **Board Comments.**

Madison Manning said she attended the Alaska Association of Student Governments' meeting in Kodiak and said it was important to discuss technology and turnover rate in rural districts. She congratulated the new Chair, thanked Ms. Cox for her leadership, and thanked Tiarna Fischler for her work with the board.

Carol Schaeffer said she appreciated the standards discussion. She thanked Esther Cox for the dinner last evening and her leadership. She also thanked Linda Thibodeau for the READ posters, thanked Tiarna Fisher, and congratulated Jim Merriner.

Geri Benshoof thanked Esther Cox for her leadership and the dinner, congratulated Jim Merriner, and said she's going to miss Tiarna. She also thanked Linda Thibodeau for the poster, and said she was glad the special education regulation passed.

Jim Merriner thanked the board for their vote of confidence in electing him Chair. He congratulated Esther Cox on her five years as Chair of the board. He thanked the department for its work and Anchorage School District for hosting the board. He said he was excited about the next year's schedule of meeting locations, he thanked Tiarna, and said he wanted to discuss expectations for future board meetings.

Janel Keplinger said good bye to Tiarna and welcomed Madison. She thanked the department, congratulated Jim Merriner, and said she would look forward to seeing everyone in Kodiak in September.

Tiarna Fischler said she appreciated the opportunity to sit on the board as the student representative, thanked the staff, and wished Madison Manning good luck.

Phil Schneider said the READ poster made his day and his son loved it. He noted that he was excited about the SLA Project, and wished Tiarna good luck. He said he was impressed with the fact that English was not her first language. He encouraged the board to think about being innovative and creative, and said he appreciated working with the board. He thanked Esther Cox for her leadership over the past five years.

Esther Cox said she and Jim Merriner had attended the Education Summit follow-up meeting. She said she had written notes to several people for accomplishments and to the Tlingit Culture Class at Harborview Elementary School in Juneau for its performance at the March meeting. She attended Superintendent Comeau's going-away party. She said she hoped the board's rural conversation would continue. She noted the growth in Tiarna from when she first came to the board and said it was fun to see and wished her well. She thanked Linda Thibodeau for the READ poster, and read a correspondence from Col. Sullivan, Military Advisor, about his departure for the Mideast, saying his replacement would come in October or November. She thanked the staff for their work and said she loved being the Chair, but realized that it was time for new leadership.

Motion was made by Janel Keplinger and seconded by Phil Schneider to adjourn the meeting, and it passed by unanimous consent.