

**Alaska State Board of Education & Early Development**  
**Approved Minutes**  
**April 13, 2015**  
**Juneau, AK**

Chair Cox called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. Dr. Keith J. Hamilton was absent. Lt. Col. Douglas Hays introduced the new military advisory board member, Lt. Col. Chris Nall.

The board, staff, and public recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The board approved the agenda.

**Public Comment**

Dr. Lisa Parady, executive director of the Alaska Council of School Administrators and the Alaska Superintendents Association, said her organization and the Association of Alaska School Boards submitted to the legislature a list of ways the state could support school districts without expense. These lists led to Senate Bill 102 and House Bill 189.

**Work Session**

**Agenda Item 1. Topics for board retreat.**

Sue Hull suggested as topics the board's role in creating a vision for education, use of technology, dual-credit courses with institutions other than the University of Alaska. Ms. Hull referred to an April 2014 paper from the Fordham Institute about state education agencies and boards as agents to facilitate reform.

James Fields said state education agencies should be resources to school districts. Board meetings should be discussions of where we are at and where we should go.

Ms. Hull said the board reacts to policies from the legislature but doesn't set policy much. To help set direction, the department should engage with other stakeholders.

Various board members suggested as topics the four-day school week, the budget, and financial efficiency.

Lt. Col. Douglas Hays said the board should ask why Alaska isn't in the top tier of states educationally and how to forge a path that doesn't have to with assessments or the budget.

Various board members discussed topics in light of the planned three-hour retreat. Chair Cox said the retreat can be longer than three hours.

Chair Cox summarized topics for the retreat as the board's role; having a vision; the department as a leader in reform; involving stakeholders; priorities for the budget; and financially efficient

schools. Other topics, such as instructional programs and teacher quality, would be part of the discussion.

### **Board comments**

Sue Hull said the topic of U.S. history should be removed from the topics.

Kathleen Yarr said she was glad that board members are open to change.

James Fields said the board was on the right track for the retreat. He thanked Lt. Col. Hays for his service.

Kenny Gallahorn thanked Lt. Col. Hays for his service.

Barbara Thompson thanked Lt. Col. Hays for his service.

Lt. Col. Hays thanked the board.

Commissioner Hanley, invited to comment, said he appreciates that the board is looking forward to being proactive. He thanked Lt. Col. Hays for his service.

Chair Cox thanked Lt. Col. Hays for his service. She said she would withdraw her name from consideration for reappointment to the board rather than undergo a contentious legislative hearing. Ms. Cox said the board has taken a lot of good actions during her 12 years on the board but the best action was appointing Mike Hanley as commissioner.

Sue Hull thanked Chair Cox for her service, saying her withdrawal was prompted by unfounded charges.

The board adjourned at 1:20 p.m.