

Alaska State Board of Education & Early Development
Approved Minutes
August 21, 2019
Audio/Work session originating in Juneau, Alaska

Wednesday, August 21, 2019

Chair Fields called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. After the pledge of allegiance, the board adopted the agenda for April 24, 2019. Roll Call began at 3:02 p.m. First Vice Member Stockhausen was excused from the roll. Military Advisory Member Hammill was not present. Member Scott joined at 3:07pm. There were no potential conflicts of interest identified.

Work Session

Agenda Item 1. Commissioner's Report. Commissioner Johnson welcomed the board to the call, introduced the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) staff in attendance, and informed the board that they would hear an update from the DEED Health & Safety Team. He also gave a brief update on the status of the fires in Mat-Su and Kenai. DEED staff is monitoring this issue and is ready to offer their support if needed. He then turned the call over to Sharon Fishel of the Health and Safety team to discuss the *Transforming Schools: A Framework for Trauma-Engaged Practice in Alaska* document.

Sharon gave an overview of her background and gave the board an update on the department's work on trauma engaged practices. She explained that it doesn't matter how many aces a child has, it matters how we come along and meet a child where they're at with regards to treating their trauma.

Pat Sidmore, the Data and System Coordinator from the Alaska Association of School Boards was also in attendance. He worked extensively with DEED staff to help them craft the trauma engaged framework. He provided his background as well as described his work to change trauma engagement from person driven to policy driven. He stated that he believes that the Alaska framework is the most comprehensive and works because it is Alaska specific.

Sharon mentioned that the framework document has been receiving national attention and that she hopes that it becomes more widely known as time goes on. The next step of this process is to draft and compile the implementation tool kit to go with the chapters within the framework. This tool kit will include assessment tools that schools can use so that they can track their progress.

Pat shared feedback from a teacher who said that once you know as a teacher about a student's trauma, there is no going back. It made them realize that the self-care segment for teachers has become front and center as they evaluate this framework document. They have decided that they will make the self-care segment an item of key focus going forward as they work through the framework.

Sharon walked the board through the e-learning modules as well as some of the micro courses that educators can take with students to be more engaged. The e-learning courses are available on the [DEED website](#). There will also be upcoming courses for educators to take. She expressed her excitement for the new courses as well as the hope that they may be adapting some of them for students to take. She

also reminded the board about the Alaska School Safety & Well-Being Summit which takes place on September 18-19 at the Egan Center in Anchorage.

Pat thanked the department for their work on the summit and said that their organization is looking forward to participating.

Board Comments

Lorri Van Diest expressed her excitement to see the focus on the framework and is looking forward to the tools and techniques that are going to be shared at the Safety & Well-Being Summit.

Chair Fields asked Sharon how many districts were participating and what the structure of the summit would look like. Sharon responded that they were looking forward to hosting approximately 360 people at this event. Chair Fields thanked the department work and their passion for this issue. He is looking forward to the summit.

Commissioner Johnson reminded the board that the department has economized the agenda so that board members have as much time as possible to attend the Safety Summit. He encouraged the board to take advantage of the time as it is one of the five priorities that they have identified in the Alaska Education Challenge. He thanked the board for calling in and wished Kake City Schools and Sitka School District a great day of school as their year starts on Thursday, August 22nd.

The meeting adjourned at 3:31pm.