

**Alaska State Board of Education & Early Development**  
**Approved Minutes**  
**May 3, 2017**  
**Juneau, AK**

Chair Fields called the audio conference work session to order at 2:02 p.m. The board and staff recited the Pledge of Allegiance. No members reported conflicts of interest. Absent were Kenny Gallahorn, LTC Jason Toole, Second Vice-Chair John Harmon, and Wilfried Zibell. The board approved the agenda unanimously.

Because the meeting was exclusively a work session, the board did not take public comment.

**Agenda Item 1. Commissioner report and board questions.**

Legislative Liaison Marcy Herman updated the board on proposed legislation, and said the department would debrief legislators who participated in the first committee meeting of Alaska's Education Challenge.

Commissioner Johnson said the long legislative session, which may continue after May 17, is stressful for school district administrators because they don't know their state allocations. Meanwhile, state law requires districts to submit budgets to the department by July 15.

Jerry Covey, the department's consultant for Alaska's Education Challenge, said he will meet with board members and facilitators before the committees' audio conferences begin. He will address the techniques of guiding an audio conference. Mr. Covey said the department is writing synopses of the committees' first meeting, held on April 20 in Anchorage.

Commissioner Johnson referenced recent meetings concerning the first draft of the state's plan to implement the federal Every Student Succeeds Act. He noted that some people are surprised that parts of the Every Student Succeeds Act are similar to the law it replaced, the No Child Left Behind Act.

Rebecca Himschoot said participants in the Alaska's Education Challenge committees vary in their knowledge of education. Some may benefit from capacity-building, while others may need retraining.

Members and department staff discussed the use of the Smartsheet program as a way for Alaska's Education Challenge committee members to share documents.

Todd Brocious, who leads the department's Health and Safety team, presented information on the team's many responsibilities, including helping districts implement the Alaska Safe Children's Act, which takes effect June 30, 2017. Commissioner Johnson praised Mr. Brocious for his level of customer service to districts.

The work session adjourned at 2:57 p.m.