

Alaska State Board of Education & Early Development
Approved Minutes
January 29, 2018
In-person meeting originating in Juneau, Alaska

Chair Fields called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m. After the pledge of allegiance, the board adopted the agenda for January 29 and 30, 2018. Roll call began at 11:08 a.m. LTC Spencer Van Meter was excused. The board approved the agenda unanimously. Board members declared no conflicts of interest.

Public Comment

James Harris, NEA Alaska and Teacher of the Year 2017, commented about growing up with a family member with mental illness and how an English teacher/administrator from his school made a difference in his life. He praised the teachers in his life and the help they provided him with college applications, etc.

Tim Walters, NEA Alaska and teacher in Wasilla, Alaska, spoke about the Education Challenge and students as reflective learners. He is looking forward to going back in the classroom and following through with the three commitments.

Doreen Todd, NEA Alaska, spoke about her thoughts on the Education Challenge. She commented that she works with 9-10 year olds who will be taking the PEAKS test for the first time. She said that it is not an instructional tool and that she is opposed to the use of one assessment. Assessments cannot be used as the end, but as the beginning. She has been a teacher for 32 years.

Amy Jo Meiners, NEA Alaska, spoke about supporting early learning programs. She was born and raised in Juneau, teaches at Auke Bay and Riverbend Elementary Schools. She spoke about early learning programs and how increased student success measures are varied. She works with high academically performing students. She talked about structured learning in the classroom and the need to develop social emotional skills.

Chris Benschoot, 2013 Teacher of the Year, engineering teacher at Lathrop. He spoke about the three challenges – specifically talked about responsible and respectful learners. He teaches Robotics to freshmen, Computer Modeling to sophomores, and Engineering Design classes. He felt that the level of responsibility as well as student reflection are some of the most important things. He contributed that he asks his students to let him know how he is doing as a teacher.

Tim Parker, NEA Alaska President talked about how people rise to the challenge in classrooms in Alaska. He talked about the Alaska Education Challenge and working with our partners. There are so many opportunities right in front of us to talk about the Education Challenge. He commented on ESSA, and how he is very interested in continuing the conversations and putting the pieces together. Chair Fields thanked Tim Parker for his commitment and his time.

Lisa Skiles-Parady, Executive Director of the Alaska Council of School Administrators thanked board members for their time. She spoke about staff development and how this past weekend

they had approximately 1,100 Educators at the RTI (Response to Intervention) Conference. They had Doug Fischer, a primary consultant to the KHAN academy. She said that they are pleased to partner with the DEED on April 26th for the Spring Conference. She spoke about the Education Challenge and thanked the Board and Commissioner for their leadership.

Bill Burr, from the Alaska Society for Technology in Education (ASTE), spoke about the 2018 ASTE Personalize Your Learning conference (personalized learning for adults) in Anchorage February 17-20. He said that it brings educators together from around the state and has a big role in technology and technology infrastructure.

Reid Magdanz, Representative Kreiss-Tomkins office spoke about an update on HB102, which would allow the board to create a new category of limited certificates – World Language Certificates. He said that the bill passed the House unanimously last year. He offered himself as a resource to answer questions of the bill to the SBOE.

John Harmon, represented himself in public testimony. He wanted to thank the board and the department for their leadership. He also thanked everyone for the last three years. He said that he hoped that we can keep the students and educators as the focus. It was his pleasure to work with everyone and wanted to extend a formal goodbye.

Work Session

Agenda Item 1. FY2019 Budget. Heidi Teschner, Administrative Services Director, reviewed a 13-page budget document and answered questions about the programs and fund sources. She talked about transferring some positions from Mt. Edgecumbe to the Department of Transportation (DOT&PF) statewide to manage facilities together. She also talked about a reduction in school broadband access grants (BAG). She answered questions about the decrease in broadband grant funding and child nutrition, administrative costs, and the Mt. Edgecumbe Aquatic Center pool operations and maintenance. There were concerns regarding the \$100,000 for Science. Deputy Commissioner Sana Efird said that we are out of compliance for ESSA for Science and that we as a state need to set those academic standards. Student Learning Director Paul Prussing said the science standards were last updated in 2006.

Agenda Item 2. Legislative Update. Marcy Herman, Legislative Liaison, said the department has been meeting with legislators and reviewed SB131. She also talked about SB132-Bree's Law and SB104-Curriculum bill. Member Lorrington asked about SB132 and what kind of programs would be in the schools. Marcy Herman talked briefly about age appropriate training dealing with dating and violence in grades K-12.

Agenda Item 3. Chart of Accounts. Heidi Teshner, Administrative Services Director, and Elwin Blackwell, School Finance Manager, talked about the Chart of Accounts. They also talked about performance review recommendations opening up and adding additional coding to related expenditures.

Agenda Item 4. Professional Development Presentation. Sean Dusek, Superintendent from Kenai Peninsula Borough School District, spoke about the group that got together to present to the SBOE. There were words of appreciation for NEA and acknowledgement that there are steps

that need to happen in relation to the Alaska Education Challenge. He said they are trying to be effective and efficient in support in the three areas and that we needed more collaboration and communication. He also referred to what was presented to the legislature this morning. Commissioner Johnson said that we should try to implement these conversations. Chair Fields asked about district involvement and a professional development plan. Mr. Dusek talked about having the three commitments as the framework and about themes for the conferences. Member Hull thanked Sean Dusek and said that the work they are doing is very important. She liked that we are seeing a tangible effort and utilizing resources to assist with the Alaska Education Challenge.

Lisa Parady (ACSA), Tim Parker (NEA), and Jerry Covey, consultant for the department in this project talked about strategic priorities. Member Lorrington said that she loves that they talked about how we need to bring this to the students to get their feedback and how this fits in to the school. Lisa Parady talked about professional development and professional learning.

Agenda Item 5. Bylaw Changes/Update. Member Hamilton asked about small edit changes. Member Hull suggested that we not go page to page, just asked for any questions for change. Rebecca Hatton has done a thorough review taking advice from NASBE, organizationally and the committee considered them. Simple organizational rules with board member comments.

Chair Fields talked about poll votes. Member Hamilton brought up the Commissioner's evaluation. He believes that this should not be done telephonically, but would like it to be face-to-face. Chair Fields talked about a consistent evaluation and that the idea was to give the Commissioner feedback once a year consistently. Member Hull moved that the board will conduct a performance review of the Commissioner at least once a year in person.

Agenda Item 6. Board Self Evaluation Training. Timi Tullis led the board self-evaluation training. There were conversations about board effectiveness and the need to meet more regularly. Members talked about wanting more informal discussions and possibly more involvement with the agenda. The board also discussed assessment results in school districts that are doing well versus others that are not doing well. Member Hull would like to see "the board treat staff with respect and courtesy, striving to ensure expectations are reasonable and communicated in appropriate ways", she added. There were discussions about being a champion for public education and their role is. Other topics included training opportunities such as conferences and workshops relevant to board responsibilities. Member Hull wants to attend state and national conferences. Member Himschoot felt like everyone should share what was learned at the events that board members have attended and add to the board agenda a place in board comments where you can tell other members where you have traveled and what was learned.

A comment was made about adding the board orientation to the standing rules list. Regarding the standing rules issue – we don't want to hinder communication with staff and the board; we should cc: Sana on correspondence. Discussion began with Member Thompson, suggesting that we become more positive in public education. She suggested that we talk about how board members can interact with the public and how they can make a positive impact.

The Commissioner suggested that we do more work sessions so that we can collaborate and not always be in formal business meetings. Meeting topics that don't require actions on a business session. Member Hull suggested that Timi Tullis, Chair Fields and Deputy Commissioner Sana Efird come up with some ideas and have them share them with Board Members.

Agenda Item 7. Regulations to go out for public comment.

7A Chart of Accounts. Member Hull moved and Member Himschoot seconded the following motion: I move that the State Board of Education and Early Development open a period of public comment on amendments to 4 AAC 06.120(a)(2), Chart of Accounts effective dates; and proposed amendments to the Uniform Chart of Accounts and Account Code Descriptions for Public School Districts. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

Agenda Item 8. Consent Agenda. Member Thompson moved and Member Gallahorn seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development approve the consent agenda consisting of approval of the department's FY2019 operating and capital budgets, minutes of the December 7-8, 2017 meeting, and the report to the legislature. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

Board Comments

Member Hamilton said that he likes work sessions.

Commissioner Johnson thanks Member Hull for her service.

Member Thompson is excited about the babies.

Member Lorrington thanked Member Hull and she is excited to learn over the next year and a half.

Member Michael thanked the board and said that Member Harmon will be missed. He remembers his first time to Juneau when Member Harmon took him around the Capitol building; saying what a powerful experience it was. He thanked Member Hull for her service and appreciated Tanis for her time.

Member Himschoot was grateful for Timi Tullis' time today and spoke about Member Hull as one of her mentors.

Member Gallhorn thanked everyone at DEED for their hard work and thanked Member Hull.

Member Hull said that she is excited about moving on. She is happy for the department. She said that people in the department rose to the challenge. She is proud of the work that is being done. She is grateful for Member Harmon and said that the board will miss him. She thanked Member Thompson for her time. She spoke briefly about early learning and family engagement.

Commissioner Johnson thanked the DEED staff and we have reduced our staff by 30+ people and we are still trying to do the same work load. He is very grateful for the staff and their positivity. He thanked our partners who have shown their support to the board. He thanked the board for their willingness to serve.

The board adjourned at 5:02 pm.