

**Alaska State Board of Education & Early Development**  
**Approved Minutes**  
**February 14, 2019**  
**Teleconference**  
**Special Business Meeting originating in Juneau, Alaska**

***Monday, February 14, 2019***

Chair Fields called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. Member Griffin was excused from the meeting. After the pledge of allegiance, the board adopted the agenda for February 14, 2019. Member Van Deist moved the following motion: I move to adopt the agenda of February 14, 2019. Member Hamilton seconded. There were no potential conflicts of interest for this meeting.

**Public Comment**

Public Comment began at 3:45 p.m.

The board heard public comment from the following individuals:

Tim Bauer- Superintendent of Annette Island School District

David Neese- Anchorage

Tim Parker- President of the National Education Association Alaska

Judy Eledge- retired educator

Dr. Mary Wagner- Superintendent of Sitka School District

Dianne Shibe- Mat-Su Borough School District education association president

Kai Binkley Sims- Eagle River resident

Shawn Arnold- Superintendent of Valdez City Schools

Martin Smith, Chris Carmichael, Jazzmin LaValle, Vicky Spencer- group of educational leaders from Bethel

Dr. Roy Getchell- Superintendent of Haines Borough School District

David Brighton- President of Kenai Peninsula Education Association

Randy Gillette- teacher in the Lower Kuskokwim School District

Patrick Mayer- President of the Alaska Superintendents Association and Superintendent of Yakutat School District

Peter Hoepfner- Cordova School Board member and past president of the Association of Alaska School Boards

Tom Klaameyer- President of the Anchorage Education Association

Rick Dormer- Principal of Petersburg High School

Lisa Parady- Executive Director of the Alaska Council of School Administrators

Mike Hanley- Superintendent of Chugach School District and Vice-Chair of the Alaska Children's Trust

Karen Salisbury- President of the Classified Employees Association in the Mat-Su Borough School District

Public comment was received from 22 people including superintendents and various education associations. There were twenty comments opposing the Governor's proposed budget and two comments supporting the Governor's proposed budget.

Public comment period closed at 4:37 p.m.

### **Agenda Item 1. Approve FY 2020 Operating and Capital Budget**

Member Scott offered the following motion: "I move that the State Board of Education and Early Development approve the Governor's fiscal year 2020 operating and capital budgets for the Department of Education and Early Development." Member Hamilton seconded the motion. Chair Fields then called for a discussion.

Commissioner Johnson introduced Heidi Teshner, the Director of Finance and Support Services, who walked members through a presentation on the changes in Governor Dunleavy's proposed FY2020 operating and capital budgets, and took questions from the board.

Heidi Teshner will research and get back to the board regarding a list of communities that would be affected by the Online with Libraries removal, a list of the number of students that use the Live Homework Help service, and a list of the number of students in the WWAMI program.

After the discussion, Chair Fields submitted the following motion: "I move to postpone the question on the table." Member Van Diest seconded.

Discussion on the motion to postpone:

- Member Hamilton- concurs with the motion to postpone. He asked when there is a vote, what it actually means for the board?
- Assistant Attorney General Luann Weyhrauch referenced AS 14.07.150 which is the statute that gives the commissioner the responsibility and authority for the preparation and execution of a budget, subject to the approval of the board. She walked through the history of the statute and how it relates to the Executive Budget Act. She explained that there is no limitation on when the board may approve the budget and it is unclear what budget the board has the responsibility to approve.

- Member Scott- welcomes the motion to postpone

- Chair Fields read the following statement from Member Griffin who was excused from the board meeting: Bottom line, we must live within our means.

I support the budget proposal before us because it establishes a framework for us to discuss and organize our priorities going forward, within the reality of our current revenues.

Many good programs that are passionately supported did not make it into this budget proposal. It's not because they're not good and valuable programs-- it's because we can no longer afford all of the programs we once enjoyed when we had more revenue. Having nearly expended all of our savings, we are in the very difficult position of making gut-wrenching choices between sustaining good programs or sustaining vital ones.

Ultimately, I have enormous faith in the very bright people at all levels of our statewide K-12 education system to leverage the state budget crisis into the creative and innovative solutions that will be necessary to deliver the quality education our kids need and deserve.

The motion to postpone the question passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

### **Board Comments**

Member Hamilton- look forward to having the Commissioner work with the Legislature to help every student succeed.

Member Kowalski- concurred with Member Hamilton and encouraged the Commissioner to work with the Governor and the Legislature and school districts to determine what's best for students in Alaska.

Member Stockhausen- expressed her concern about the implication of the budget cuts for education but shared she is more worried about the well-being of our state for future generations if we don't stop the pattern of spending more than we have.

Member Van Diest- supports Governor Dunleavy and his courage to tackle our fiscal problems head on. She charged the Commissioner to work with the Legislature and school districts to come up with a fiscal plan to meet the needs of our students.

Colonel Van Meter- looks forward to hearing back from the Commissioner and DEED to get a better idea of what the implications are going to be.

Member Lorring- Thanked the department and the board for working together with school districts to alleviate the damage that is going to occur. She supports Governor Dunleavy and understands where he is coming from and agrees that we cannot spend money that we don't have. Is looking forward to the work ahead.

Meeting adjourned at 5:27 p.m.