

**State Board of Education & Early Development
Unapproved Minutes
December 8 and 9, 2021
Virtual Platform Meeting
Department of Education & Early Development
801 West 10th Street
Juneau, AK 99801**

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Chair Fields called the meeting to order at 10:05am. All members were present except for Member Hamilton who was excused from attendance.

The day's agenda consisted of Professional Development in the areas of: Federal COVID update; Region 16 Comprehensive Center update; Regulations training workshop; and State Board of Education Committee Reports and Discussions.

The meeting recessed at 2:25 pm to reconvene at 9:00am on Thursday, December 9.

Thursday, December 9, 2021

Chair Fields stated all members are present and called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. Chair Fields proceeded with administering the oath of office for the military advisor seat, Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) James Fowley. After the pledge of allegiance, the board adopted the agenda for December 9, 2021. Member Griffin moved to adopt the agenda and it was seconded by Member Erickson. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote. There were no objections to the adoption of the agenda. There were no potential conflicts of interest identified by board members at this meeting. Member Hamilton was excused from attendance.

Public Comment

Public comment was opened at 9:06 am.

Posie Boggs - Alaska Reading Coalition introduced herself. She provided her excitement for the reading subcommittee regarding the state's reading crisis which has been intensified by the COVID-19 pandemic. She addressed her concern with the proposed reading program at the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) within the first level of certification.

Malan Paquette - (lifelong Alaskan advocate) expressed her concern that the board was purposefully isolating the public by not knowing who attends the meetings. She provided a brief history of her background. She stated educators would benefit from the student loan forgiveness program being reinstated.

Mike Bronson - volunteer with the National Association for the Advancement of Color People in Anchorage. He expressed appreciation that the board is helping the university to train education teachers as reading instructors then suggested that UAA strengthen its early childhood reading instruction.

Jennifer Hall Jones - expressed her excitement regarding UAA pursuing a licensure for teachers of early education again. After looking at the documentation submitted by UAA she does not feel it has core reading fundamentals.

Kelly Lessens - member of the Anchorage School Board and a member of UAA Preschool Advisory Board introduced herself. She urged the board to approve the Bachelor of Arts (BA) early childhood education program.

Sydney Singer - local nonprofit doing workforce development for early childhood education and former graduate of UAA's Bachelor Early Childhood Education. Expressed her support of the BA program

Robin Dahlman - former public pre-K through 12 grade teacher, instructional trainer, and administrator. She believes the state of Alaska will lose ground if there is not full support for licensing graduates from in-state Bachelor's in early childhood education.

Marilia Moura, calling on behalf of Kristina Beeber- Assistant Director of the Special Education Services Department with Kodiak Borough Island School District. She called in on behalf of Kristina who shares her support of the Alaska Board of Education to vote and approve the UAA early childhood program.

Mary Claire Kretschmar - volunteer and state lead for Decoding Dyslexia Alaska. She believes current reading curriculums are failing students and in viewing the syllabi for UAA's proposed teacher preparedness she found it was lacking.

Rozlyn Grady-Wyche - Founder and Vice President of Alaska Coalition of BIPOC educators. She believes reading in science program needs to be added to the UAA BA Program. She also expressed the need for support in hiring and retaining educators of color.

Brenda Hanson - she supports UAA 100% but reading strategies need to be more universal, to include children with reading disabilities.

Serena Elftman-Mollenkopf (parent)- expressed her concern with teacher retention and the need for Reading Science.

Commissioner Johnson thanked folks for their public comment and taking the time to call in.

Public comment closed at 10:03 am.

Work Session

Agenda Item 1. UAA School of Education Update

Member Griffin proposed to delay the vote on Agenda Item 7 until more information can be gathered and be certain the partnership between DEED and the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) is in full alignment of the strategic objectives of Alaska's Education Challenge. He is advocating for the delay, so the State Board has some time to establish measurable performance expectations for the program.

Edward McLain, Interim Director of the School of Education at UAA introduced Provost Denise Runge and Hilary Seitz to speak. Provost Runge stressed that the university is committed in supporting this program in whatever way is needed to ensure the effectiveness of instruction the teachers receive.

Hilary Seitz shared a power point presentation addressing accreditation. She highlighted the three programs. The first one, Certificate OEC (Occupational Endorsement Certificate) Infant and Toddler development, which is intended for beginning workforce basically a how to take care of infant and toddlers. The second program, Associate of Applied Science in Early Childhood Development, what goes into being a teacher. The third program, Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Early Development, graduates would be teaching Head Start, public preschool, or kindergarten. Commissioner Johnson requested clarification that if this is simply a workforce issue, then why is it going through the Department of Education. Hilary Seitz stated early childhood covers birth through age eight. The BA graduates go on to teach preschool and kindergarten. She recognized there are certain standards being asked by the State Board's Reading committee, specifically in the first level program. She asked Member Griffin if that is correct. Member Griffin added he would like to get the program going but it is their duty based upon the state's current performance in childhood literacy to get it right.

Edward McLain took other questions and comments.

Chair Fields stated he is willing to have a special meeting in 2-3 weeks to give time to meet the requests of the Reading committee.

Edward McLain stated they will be providing the documents to the accreditation board.

Member Griffin wanted to acknowledge the hard work, and we need to get this program up and running. Chair Fields thanked UAA's presenters.

Agenda Item 2. Legislative and Budget Update

Commissioner Johnson began the discussion stating this is a standard report to the board and turned it over to Lacey Sanders, Administrative Services Director, who proceeded to provide some legislative updates. She stated that any legislation that does not pass this session will be considered null and void and must be reintroduced in the next session. The personal deadline for any individual legislator is February 2, 2022. Committee bills can continue to be introduced after that date. Legislative Liaison, Erin Harding plans to continue her Friday Legislative email update to the board. She went on to detail the budget update. She detailed two changes that occurred following the special session meeting. A capital project, the demolition of the Napakiak school which is facing river erosion and the second appropriation of America Rescue Plan Act funding specifically for IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) that is being allocated to school districts now. Director Sanders stated that she would provide the State Board with an update shortly after the budget is released, and in further detail at the January 26, 2022 special meeting. There were no questions from board members.

Agenda Item 3. Draft Report to the Legislature

Commissioner Johnson introduced Grant Robinson, Public Information Officer for the department, that will run the State Board through the draft report for this year. Grant Robinson introduced himself and reiterated that what they have today is a draft of the report to the legislature required by statute every year. He detailed that now is the time to make changes and corrections, on the report of board actions taken over the past year including today and will be transmitted to legislature after it has been approved. Chair Fields clarified that at the January meeting is when the board would approve the report. There were no further questions or comments from board members.

Agenda Item 4. School Improvement and Assessment Update

Commissioner Johnson introduced Susan McKenzie, Kelly Manning, and Deb Riddle to talk about school improvement and the innovative assessment project. Susan McKenzie, Director for the Division of Innovation and Education Excellence (IEE), discussed school improvement and innovative assessment updates, provided the mission statement and vision. She detailed there are many projects that are at various stages of planning and implementation regarding school improvement, such as the reading

playbook and the science of reading class. Highlighting Alaska's Education Challenge and focusing on the Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CSLD) Grant, which is on its third year of a five-year grant. She detailed the Successful School Improvement Project work which is supported by a team led by Brittney Bailey.

Second Vice Chair Kowalski asked if the school improvement planning process replaces something that already exists in these five schools? Does it take the place of step planning, or does it help put more structure on the step planning process? Director McKenzie responded that schools that receive a designation of Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) and Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) have had to write school improvement plans for a long time.

Kelly Manning, Deputy Director for IEE, and Elizabeth Greninger, Assessment Administrator, continued the presentation. Ms. Manning detailed the Alaska System of Academic Readiness (AK STAR), stating it is innovative and a different approach to assessment. She detailed that they continue to meet and work with the developers, district testing coordinators, partners, and outreach to the stakeholders. Ms. Manning detailed the goals and interworking's of the assessment. She detailed the development of the Certified Facilitator Training program which will develop 50 facilitators statewide in in-depth professional learning on assessment literacy.

Elizabeth Greninger, Assessments Administrator, provided some initiatives and updates on the Technical Advising Committee (TAC). She detailed the work to develop a charter for the assessment advisory panel. The department is seeking a group of 25 educators and community members to serve on the advisory panel with the intention to start in early 2022. She detailed the TAC, which is comprised of six experts in assessment and accountability and two district staff. Ms. Greninger took other questions and comments from board members.

Agenda Item 5. MEHS Board Policies.

Janelle Vanasse, Director of Mt Edgecumbe High School (MEHS), discussed MEHS' policy history with a required review of the policies every five years. She detailed in the last few years they have made couple policies and revisions but have not done a full policy review. They hope to have a fully reviewed and revised version of the board's policies for the State Board to consider by June 2022. There were no questions from board members.

Agenda Item 6. Regulations to go out for public comment

Agenda Item 6A. Teacher Certification

Commissioner Johnson stated the board is being asked to open a period of public comment on proposed amendments to regulations related to the qualification and certification Alaska educators. Susan McKenzie, Director of the Division of Innovation and Education Excellence, and Sondra Meredith, Administrator of Teacher and Certification, presented the board with the regulation packet. Ms. Meredith highlighted what the proposed packet consists of including a big push to alter a few of the qualifications and requirements that would expand the number of tests paraprofessionals could use to prove they are qualified. Ms. Meredith then took questions from board members.

Agenda Item 6B. Assessment Participation Guidelines.

Commissioner Johnson stated the board is being asked to open a period of public comment on proposed amendments to 4 AAC 06.775(a) administering statewide assessments to students with disabilities. The amendments update the participation guidelines for inclusion of Alaska students in the statewide assessments and to define the assessment criteria of all statewide assessments. Susan McKenzie, Director of the Division of Innovation and Education Excellence, stated that the assessment changing to AK STAR is what propelled changes in the guideline book.

Kelly Manning, Deputy Director of the Division of Innovation and Education Excellence, reiterated the

changes are instigated due to our updates in the assessment system. Ms. Manning detailed with the addition of AK STAR and the Alaska science assessment and the removal of PEAKS assessment language. The language details the student supports available for all students in all of the state's assessments: AK STAR, the Alaska science assessment, the dynamic Learning Maps (DLM), and the readers English learner's assessment. Ms. Manning then took questions from board members.

Agenda Item 6C. Native Languages.

Commissioner Johnson stated the board is being asked to open a period of public comment on proposed amendments to regulations to add the definition of world languages, to expand the opportunity for students to meet any world language requirement, and to update the term foreign language to world language. Alaska native languages are not foreign languages, they are indigenous languages.

Joel Isaak, Tribal Liaison, expressed this regulation change is a longstanding history of students advocating for Alaska native languages to meet the foreign language requirement for graduating high school which also has to do with Alaska Performance Scholarship awards that requires a foreign language or world language for that. He detailed it also gives an opportunity for tribes to work with the school district to get outside credit approval for Alaska Native language classes. Mr. Isaak then took questions and comments from board members.

Business Meeting

Agenda Item 7. Approve UAA School of Education.

Member Griffin requests to defer action stating that "I think it is appropriate that the board defer the action on this item until we can accomplish a few items." Chair Fields stated they can come up with a special meeting time in the future. Hearing no motion, the vote was tabled.

Agenda Item 8. Approve Annual Draft Report to the Legislature.

Member Griffin made the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development approve the draft report to the legislature. Second Vice Chair Kowalski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote. There was no discussion.

Agenda Item 9. Regulations to go out for public comment.

Agenda Item 9A. Teacher Certification.

Member Van Diest made the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development open a period of public comment on the repeal of 4 AAC 12.335 Requirements for teachers of gifted children, and the amendment of 4 AAC 04.220 Paraprofessional standards, 4 AAC 12.300 Certification of teachers, 4 AAC.12.305 Teacher certificate (initial, professional, master), 4 AAC 12.307 Acceptance of educator preparation programs, 4 AAC 12.308 Approval of in-state educator preparation programs, 4 AAC 12.330 Endorsement requirements for teachers providing special education, 4 AAC 12.340 Special education alternative program certificate, 4 AAC 12.345 Administrative certificate (Type B); provisional certificate (provisional Type B), 4 AAC 12.347 Special education administrator certificate (Type F); provisional certificate (provisional Type F); 4 AAC 12.355 Special services certificate (Type C); provisional certificate (provisional Type C); 4 AAC 12.375 Instructional assistant limited certificate; 4 AAC 12.388 World language expert limited teacher certificate; 4 AAC 12.395 Teaching endorsements; 4 AAC 12.396 Addition and removal of endorsements; 4 AAC 12.401 Emergency certificate; 4 AAC 12.405 Renewal of certificates; 4 AAC 12.410 General provisions; 4 AAC 12.415 Current address; and finally, 4 AAC 12.900 Definitions. Member Griffin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote. There was no discussion.

Agenda Item 9B. Assessment Participation Guidelines

Member Stockhausen made the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development open a period of public comment on amendments to 4 AAC 60.775 (a), administering statewide assessments to students with disabilities, whereby an updated version of the Participation Guidelines for Inclusion of Alaska Students in State Assessments is proposed to be adopted by reference. Second Vice Chair Kowalski seconded the motion. The motion passed in a roll call vote. There was no discussion.

Agenda Item 9C. Native Languages.

Member Van Diest made the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development open a period of public comment on the changes in 4 AAC 04.900, 4 AAC 06.065 and 4 AAC 33.490, to add a definition for world languages, 4 AAC 06.075 (High school graduation requirements) and 4 AAC 43.030 (Alaska Performance Scholarship curriculum requirements). Second Vice Chair Kowalski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote. There was no discussion.

Agenda Item 10. Questions Regarding Standing Reports.

Member Van Diest had a question and comment for Susan McKenzie, Director of the Division of Innovation and Education Excellence. There was no other questions or comments from board members.

Agenda Item 11. Commissioner's Report.

Commissioner Johnson was in the Anchorage office and introduced Sandy Rogers, who works at the front-end office. He reminded the board of the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) meeting next week and that he is thankful and grateful that they included him on their agenda. He had a brief time with the Governor and President Kitka of AFN to talk about the board's priority of tribal compacting and working at closing the achievement gap. He believes it will be a great opportunity to share statewide the board's priority from the Alaska's Education Challenge. He reminded the board that next week is the deadline for the Governor to release the budget. He shared that schools and public-school systems have learned to adapt and adjust and work with the COVID situation. In January 2022, there will be DEED staff that will be attending the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) National Collaboratives and are looking forward to DEED staff connecting with other staff around the country and getting ideas to bring back to the state. He expressed his appreciation to our partners, the Alaska Council of School Administrators. Tomorrow he will be participating in a law and policy day with the Association of Alaska School Boards. He thanked the Library, Archives, and Museum and the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education. He thanked Mt. Edgecumbe High School and the Alaska State Council on the Arts for the work they do. And he thanked all department staff. Finally, Commissioner Johnson gave a special thanks to Linda Mattson, Executive Secretary, who is leaving the department at end of next week, for all the support.

Agenda Item 12. Consent Agenda.

Member Van Diest requested that before an approval happens for that, that the minutes could be updated to reflect her excused absence from the August 2021 meeting that was not in the minutes. Chair Fields recommended it be put in the motion.

Member Van Diest made the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development approve the consent agenda consisting of the approval of the minutes of the August 24-25, 2021, board meeting with the addition of the wording, 'Member Lorri Van Diest is excused from the meetings', the September 22, 2021, work session and the October 27, 2021, work session. Member Griffin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote. There was no discussion.

Board Comments

Member Erickson requested a clearing house of acronyms. Commissioner Johnson agreed and he will search for a list. Commissioner Johnson further stated that the department struggles on the federal level of acronyms also, so we will try and pull some of those acronyms as well.

Member Griffin was thankful for the opportunity and excited to participate with AFN. He expressed his appreciation for all the hard work UAA has done, especially Dr. Seitz and Dr. McLain. He reiterated this is not a pause and the work will help boost outcomes. He thanked the staff and thanked Linda for always making things go smoothly.

Second Vice Chair Kowalski agrees she also gets lost with the acronyms and appreciates the request. She thanked the department, the commissioner, and the state board for being steadfast to the Alaska's Education Challenge. She appreciates the refocusing after coming out after COVID and rebuilding work with each other and partner organizations. She expressed her appreciation for the commissioner's help. She thanked Linda for her time with the board. She welcomed military advisor LTC James Fowley for joining the state board.

Military Advisor LTC James Fowley thanked everyone for welcoming him. He took command of the organization that he leads now in August 2021. He come from an education background, about 100 years between his parents, sister, and wife in education. LTC Fowley appreciates the help with acronyms. He looks forward learning more about the challenges in Alaska and how we are trying to tackle them. Finally, he appreciated all the welcoming thoughts and words.

Member Stockhausen thanked Linda for being kind and patient and welcomed LTC Fowley. She stated she is in favor of UAA starting their early childhood program. She thanked the department for the science in reading trainings, and thanked UAA for working with us to make their program reading focused.

Member Van Diest mentioned that Member Stockhausen gets a standing ovation, great speech. She expressed appreciation for and acknowledged the public comment this morning. It is important to us, and we listen. She enjoyed regulation process and Luann's presentation. She expressed excitement for a focused effort on the Rural Empowerment Playbook. She welcomed LTC Fowley and wished Linda the best.

Chair Fields thanked Linda for all the hard work. Thanked the board members for all their work. Thank you for the sacrifice you make for the students of Alaska. Thank you to the commissioner for his leadership.

Agenda Item 13. Executive Session

Chair Fields called for executive motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development convene an executive session to review a candidate for student advisor for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year. An executive session is necessary so as to not prejudice the reputation and character of the person being interviewed. Member Griffin seconded the motion. The motion passed in a roll call vote. There was no discussion.

Chair Fields, seeing no objection, reconvened the meeting at 3:18pm.

Chair Fields made the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development select Maddy Brokaw as the student advisor for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year. Motion seconded by Member Van Diest. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote. There was no discussion.

Chair Fields welcomed Maddy Brokaw.

The meeting adjourned at 3:19pm.