

Alaska State Board of Education & Early Development
Approved Minutes
February 4, 2019
Special Business Meeting originating in Juneau, Alaska

Monday, February 4, 2019

Chair Fields called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. He conducted the swearing in for newly appointed board members Sally Stockhausen and Bob Griffin, as well as for the newly re-appointed member Tiffany Scott. After the pledge of allegiance, the board adopted the agenda for February 4, 2019. Roll Call began at 9:40 a.m. Member Van Meter was excused from the meeting. Members Kowalski and Hamilton disclosed that they thought they may have potential conflicts of interest as one had a relative that was a University of Alaska employee and the other has a student at UAA in the music program. Chair Fields indicated that in these situations it was deemed that there were no potential conflicts of interest.

Work Session

Agenda Item 1. Update on FY2020 operating and capital budgets. Commissioner Johnson introduced the agenda item and Heidi Teshner, Director of Finance and Support Services, provided an update on the department's FY2020 operating and capital budgets. She said that the board will not approve the budget today. There was a brief discussion on the supplemental reduction and the school debt reimbursement program.

Agenda Item 2. Legislative Update. Brittany Hartmann, Chief of Staff, led the discussion regarding proposed legislation for the First Session of the 31st Alaska State Legislature that would impact the department and the board. She encouraged the new board members to visit akleg.gov for more information and to track bills.

Agenda Item 3A. Regulatory Processes Discussion. Brittany Hartmann, Chief of Staff, led the discussion regarding adopting standards versus the endorsement of standards in regulation. She discussed creating a subcommittee that would meet once a month. There would be approximately three board members on this committee.

Agenda Item 4A. Grade 9 Math Sublevel Scores. The board was asked to open a period of public comment on proposed amendments relating to the measurement of student growth in Alaska's new accountability system (the System for School Success). The change will update the sub-interval scores on the Performance Evaluation for Alaska's Schools (PEAKS) assessments for grade 9 math that are used to calculate student growth within the accountability system.

Deborah Riddle, Division Operations Manager, briefed the board and talked about student growth indicators and sub-interval ranges that are aligned with the newly adopted score ranges.

Agenda Item 4A. Basic Competency Exams. Sondra Meredith, Administrator for Teacher Certification, briefed the board on proposed amendments relating to basic competency exams for teachers in Alaska. The proposed regulation amendments will accomplish three things: 1) allow teachers who have satisfied a basic competency exam in the areas of reading, writing, and mathematics approved by another certifying state agency to use that exam to satisfy the basic competency exam as required 2) has a

provision so board won't hear about basic competency exams in the future and 3) put into regulations the removal of the requirement to pass a basic competency exam in order to obtain a Type M certificate limited to CTE.

The board had some questions about the barriers faced for Type M CTE certificates and about how a district could hire an individual to fill a position, and the person after a year could not pass the basic competency exam. In a couple of situations the individual was no longer available in that district. Sondra said that they have as many opportunities as they want to take the basic competency exams with 30 days in between. She mentioned that this amendment will provide districts with more flexibility.

Public Comment

Public Comment began at 11:03 a.m.

Tim Parker, NEA-Alaska President, thanked former state board members Barbara Thompson and Rebecca Himschoot for their work on the state board and their service. He spoke about the tough times in the state and with the budget and said that people are pretty anxious about it. He shared his hope that the education community can keep building consensus and focus on our mission to improve student learning.

Dr. Lisa Skiles-Parady from ACSA thanked the new board members and commented on the board's focus of less regulation. She is excited to partner and support this work. She indicated that she appreciates the work on the standards in process – especially the computer science standards. She is grateful to partner with DEED on coding activities and said that it is important for all students. She said that she is grateful for Tammy Van Wyhe and said that she knows that Tammy will lead well. She recognized Dr. Steve Atwater from UA and talked about the RTI conference. She also commented on how the ACEs scores in our state are too high and the education shortage in the state.

Annie Broberg, a senior at UAA, a wife and mother of 7 talked about the accreditation loss with UAA. She talked about the negative impact it will have on her potential for obtaining a job. Now according to the agreement with CAEP and DEED, there would be potential problems for out of state. She proposed a solution of offering dual enrollment with UAF or UAS to award students their MAT. She shared that UAF has bent over backwards to help these students (see her written public comment).

David Nees commented on the accreditation loss with UAA and his concerns of the three year process for reaccreditation according to info that we have available. He indicated there are two functioning teacher organizations – UAF and UAS. We need to make sure students are going to be good teachers. There needs to be supplemental training.

John Sterling, a music education student at UA, talked about how Juneau is trying to create a secondary degree for music/MAT program. He doesn't graduate until end of December. He has to intern for a whole year to complete his degree. He shared that he has to go back in the Fall to student teach for elementary education as part of his degree. He asked the board if they are going to approve graduates beyond the spring/summer term.

Patty Brown, a retired science teacher, asked the board to consider moving forward the more rigorous science standards, as they are more pertinent to issues today and to practices in the field. Medical tech

job outlook increasing. New standards would help recruit and retain quality teachers. Immersion in these new standards, new system of peer support, communicating with other states with rollout of new rigorous programs in their area.

Stephanie Tucker, an IOP Area Coordinator from Mat-Su, early childhood special education program (0-5 base), shared her comments that they are dependent on the UAA program, especially working with children with special needs. Need that constant trickle of teachers.

David Boyle shared his concerns about the UAA loss of accreditation and its impact on new teachers that are students in the program, specifically their money and time. Classroom students not trained adequately. CAEP accreditation - lack of teaching the science of reading. Better be reading by 3rd grade. Identified the root causes of our low reading scores. Possible solutions: provisional license monthly basis of their teaching skills, funded by UAA. Relocate program to UAF. Focus on student teachers and students.

Agenda Item 6. UAF School of Education's Educator Preparation Program Approval. Sondra Meredith, Teacher Certification Administrator, updated the board regarding CAEP's approval of the initial educator preparation programs at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) through June 30, 2024. Member Van Diest asked about the experience going through the CAEP process and how thorough it is. There was some discussion with Amy Van Love from UAF and board members regarding standards and the focus going beyond students in class but also into the workforce. There is a focus on quality of evidence. The survey of graduates on the assessment of the new program and validity and reliability.

Agenda Item 7A. School Facility Planning and Construction. Heidi Teshner, Administrative Services Director and Tim Mearig, Facilities Manager updated the board regarding adopting proposed amendments to School Facility Planning and Construction. The amendments accomplish needed clean-up work in several areas (e.g., citations for updated publications, etc.), codify current work practices, propose improvements to the capital project administration process, and propose limits on funding.

Member Van Diest thanked Tim and staff for their work and how thorough they were. She also thanked him for speaking to the board at the September 2018 meeting.

Agenda Item 7B. School Facility Planning and Construction. Tim Mearig, Facilities Manager updated the board regarding adopting regulation relating to School Facility Planning and Construction. The amendments add a new subsection 4 AAC 31.080(i) and amend other related sections to implement requirements for commissioning on certain school capital projects.

The board took an at ease for lunch at 11:52 a.m. and Chair Fields announced that they would resume with Agenda Item 5 UAA's CAEP Accreditation Revocation.

Agenda Item 5. Recommended Process to Address UAA's CAEP Accreditation Revocation. Tamara Van Wyhe, Director of Education and School Excellence and Sondra Meredith, Teacher Certification Administrator updated the board regarding the recommended process to address the University of Alaska Anchorage's (UAA's) CAEP accreditation revocation notification received on January 11, 2019.

Claudia Dybdahl, Interim Director from the School of Education at UAA was also in attendance. She discussed the loss of accreditation and the process which started in the Fall of 2016 to the Spring of

2018. She said that during that time UAA had a cycle of continuous improvement. They made progress on common assessments. She also indicated that UAA had been relying on an informal means and it was not structured or systematic. She said that UAA did not effectively evaluate its initial licensure teacher preparation programs and did not have a robust process in place to ensure that they were effectively serving the students and the public. She talked about how they need to focus on placements and partnerships, and bringing structure to those elements.

Board members discussed the lack of program design, a timeline for students to be informed, content and pedagogical knowledge, and reporting. Sondra Meredith, Teacher Certification Administrator had attended the last site visit and she indicated that reviewers were very concerned and that there needed to be a cycle of improvement.

Dr. Steve Atwater, Dean of the UA College of Education, spoke about the internal awareness from last semester. Board Chair James Fields indicated that it was not fair to dump this on the State Board of Education and that it would have been better to be proactive. He said that in this industry accreditation matters and he believes that Ms. Brogert was right. She gave a good way out - and the students need to come first. We are dealing with people's lives. There was more discussion on guiding documents and what we can do next. They also spoke about the program and if it has been in trouble for the past couple of years, how can make sure that recent graduates are properly prepared for their K-12 classrooms? The concern was for the students and also the students that these now teachers are teaching to. As of now, approximately 40 students have been affected. 15 of them have already transferred. There was also some discussion on how graduates are affected with potential asterisk by their degree.

Luann Weyrauch, Assistant Attorney General from the Department of law spoke about the recommendation process and the options that the board had to address UAA's CAEP revocation.

The board moved to convene in executive session to interview and select its new student advisor.

Agenda Item 8. Student Advisor Selection. After coming out of executive session, Member Van Diest motioned and Member Griffin seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development select Abigail Mainard as its Student Advisor-Elect for the remainder of the 2018-2019 school year. On July 1, 2019, Abigail Mainard's one-year term will begin as the Student Advisor to the board and continue through June 30, 2020. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

Agenda Item 9. Recommended Process to Address UAA's CAEP Accreditation Revocation. The board had some additional discussion regarding the information that UAA had prepared for the board meeting. Member Hamilton noted that he was somewhat comforted by UAA's response and indicated that the slide show was the most helpful. He said that it would be difficult to look any student in the eye, so that he would vote in favor. Member Lorring said she thought that she was glad that UAA was taking strides and shared her concern to keep them accountable. Keep students at the center. In favor, but said accountability is key and that we will progress.

Member Kowalski was relieved that there were measures in support for Spring and Summer so they can go into the classroom in the Fall. Chair Fields also indicated that he would vote in favor, but that the

board should never should be put in this situation. Would expect that Alaska would expect more of themselves. We shouldn't be flirting whether we are accredited or not. For all Alaskans - we need to demand more. He also indicated that an annual meeting with Board of Regents was important. We need to hold each other accountable. He also commented that he hopes that Annie doesn't have to leave her 7 kids and come down here to testify again.

Member Van Diest moved and Member Griffin seconded the following motion:

I move the State Board of Education & Early Development approve the (1) recommended process to address the University of Alaska Anchorage's CAEP revocation notification received on January 11, 2019; and (2) the department's acceptance of program verifications from the University of Alaska Anchorage for teacher candidates completing their preparation program during the spring semester and summer term of 2019, based on the fact that the program was accredited and approved through December 31, 2018. Under this motion, graduates of the University of Alaska Anchorage initial teacher preparation programs in the spring semester and summer term of 2019 will be considered to have graduated from a state-approved program. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

Agenda Item 10. UAF School of Education's Educator Preparation Program Approval. Member Van Diest moved and Member Scott seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development approve the continuation of the University of Alaska Fairbank Initial Educator Preparation Program's state approval through June 30, 2024. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote. Member Van Diest congratulated UAF and asked them to be advising UAA. Chair Fields also said thank you to UAF for their assistance moving forward.

Agenda Item 11A. Grade 9 Math Sublevel Scores. Member Scott moved and Member Van Diest seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development open a period of public comment on amendments to 4 AAC 06.822 Student growth indicator. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

Agenda Item 11B. Basic Competency Exams. Member Van Diest moved and Member Kowalski seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development open a period of public comment on changes to 4 AAC 12.310 Designation and qualifying scores of teacher competency examination and 4 AAC 12.372 Limited career or technical education certificate (Type M). The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

Adoption of Proposed Regulations

Agenda Item 12A. School Facility Planning and Construction. Member Scott moved and Member Van Diest seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development adopt amendments to 4 AAC 31 School Facility Planning and Construction to implement administrative, process improvement, and resource limitation elements. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

Agenda Item 12B. School Facility Planning and Construction. Member Kowalski moved and Member Griffin seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development adopt the proposed amendments to 4 AAC 31 School Facility Planning and Construction to implement requirements for commissioning on certain school capital projects. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

Agenda Item 13. Approve Director of Educator & School Excellence. Member Van Diest moved and Member Hamilton seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development approve the Commissioner's appointment of Tamara Van Wyhe as Director of Educator and School Excellence. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

Agenda Item 14. Approve Chief of Staff. Member Scott moved and Member Van Diest seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development approve the Commissioner's appointment of Brittany Hartmann as Chief of Staff. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

Agenda Item 15. Approve Deputy Commissioner. Member Van Diest moved and Member Scott seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development approve the Commissioner's appointment of Karen Melin as Deputy Commissioner. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

Agenda Item 16. Selection of Officers and Subcommittee Appointments. Member Van Diest nominated Keith Hamilton as first vice chair. There were no other nominations and no objections. Chair Fields closed nominations and, without objection, appointed Keith Hamilton as first vice chair.

Member Kowalski nominated Lorri Van Diest as second vice chair. There were no other nominations and no objections. Chair Fields closed nominations and, without objection, appointed Lorri Van Diest as second vice chair.

Agenda Item 17. Approve board report to the legislature.

Member Hamilton inquired about how the board's annual report is put together. Erin Hardin, Information Officer, spoke about her position's responsibility to compile the report. She referenced utilizing past meeting minutes and past board packets, and working with staff on topical information.

Member Van Diest moved and Member Griffin seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development approve the report to the legislature. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

Board Comments

Member Lorrington thanked the board for their work on the UAA accreditation issues and welcomed the new staff at the department.

Member Scott congratulated the Commissioner and the new board. She also thanked Sondra Meredith for the tissue on her flight back from Sitka in September with the passing of Ashley Barr.

Member Stockhausen thanked the board and said that it was incredible to see hard work from the other side of the school walls.

Member Hamilton thanked UAA and was pleased to be able to move those students on. He also spoke briefly about SB31 transfer of credit in the university system. He said it was great to have the new board members added to the board and that the budget this year will be painful.

Member Kowalski congratulated the new staff and congratulated UAF for meeting their accreditation. She thanked those that came in person and on the phone for participating in public comment.

Member Griffin is looking forward to being an advocate for education and is looking forward to the big challenges coming up.

Member Van Diest extended her welcome to the new staff and to the new board members.

Commissioner Johnson thanked Melissa McCormick, State Board of Education Executive Secretary, for her work on the state board meetings and indicated that she would be transitioning out of her role as secretary to assist in the field of behavioral health.

Chair Fields thanked Member Barbara Thompson for her work with the State Board of Education as well as her work at the department. He also thanked Member Rebecca Himschoot for her hard work with the State Board of Education. He presented plaques for both members, although they were not present at the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.