

Alaska State Board of Education & Early Development
Approved Minutes
July 24, 2019
Audio/Work session originating in Juneau, Alaska

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

Chair Fields called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. After the pledge of allegiance, the board adopted the agenda for April 24, 2019. Roll Call began at 3:04 p.m. First Vice Chair Hamilton was excused from the roll. Second Vice Chair Van Diest and Student Advisory Member Mainard were not present. There were no potential conflicts of interest identified.

Work Session

Agenda Item 1. Commissioner's Report. Commissioner Johnson welcomed the board to the call and explained the format for the day's meeting as a round table update with his directors.

Deputy Commissioner Karen Melin updated the board on the Anchorage service center and outreach office and explained that the purpose of this service center was to cut back on the commissioner's office travel and to better serve our stakeholders throughout the state. The goal is to be finished with the space and moved in by August first. Although there have been challenging delays, the department is looking forward to the ways the space can best serve the state. Commissioner Johnson encouraged the board to tour the space if they were in Anchorage and to contact us if they need a space to meet with educators while they are there.

Tammy Van Whye Director of Innovation & Education Excellence updated the board on the work that the department is doing to prepare for the department's portion of the superintendent fly-in that is being held in conjunction with the Alaska Council of School Administrators. This year we are excited to offer distance delivery for July 29th via WebEx and Zoom so that superintendents can participate from wherever they are. She encouraged the board to attend in person or to take advantage of the electronic options.

Commissioner Johnson informed the board that Erin Hardin, DEED's Public Information Officer, had accepted the Special Assistant to the Commissioner position and will be transitioning into that role on August 1st.

Erin Hardin, DEED Public Information Officer, updated the board on the internal school data portal that the department has been working on. As of this meeting's date, the website is still in the planning phase but the department is looking forward to receiving input from the board as this project progresses.

Deb Riddle, Division Operations Manager for Student Learning, CTE, Standards and Support updated the board on assessments and accountability release timelines. These documents will be made available to the public and the board will have an opportunity to review these documents as well. Support materials are also being compiled to assist districts on how to read and interpret their data.

Assistant Commissioner Niki Tshibaka updated the board on the School Safety Summit which will occur on September 18-20, 2019. The purpose of the summit is to promote healthy development of trauma

engaged schools and restorative practices while improving school climate and being better prepared for school crisis. There will be over twenty workshops which address a number of safety issues. Commissioner Johnson and other commissioners have been confirmed to speak. The department is expecting between three and four hundred people.

Neil Steininger, Director of Administrative Services updated the board of the status of DEED budget items. Administrative Services staff is working to close out FY19 so they can move forward to FY20 work. He provided the board with information regarding the two bills that are moving through the Alaska State Legislature and how they would affect the department.

Commissioner Johnson thanked the staff for their updates. He also informed the board that, due to budget constraints, the board will move from four to two in person board meetings per school calendar year. The Department of Education will continue to work with the board to find new and innovative ways to stay connected even though they cannot meet in person. The September 2019 and March 2020 meeting will be in person.

Patience Frederickson, Division Director of the Libraries, Archives, and Museums, provided an update on the library. They have opened the Andrew P. Kashevaroff building for a number of outside events including a prom and a wedding. Due to budget reductions, they have closed the Online With Libraries program and they are working through the impending closure of the live online homework help. They are waiting on the results of the reverse sweep as some of their programs are funded with the higher education investment fund.

Board Comments

Chair Fields thanked the department for their updates and their work. He encouraged the board to stay positive during these times of budget concerns and asked if the board had other comments.

There were no other board comments

The meeting adjourned at 3:41pm