

Alaska State Board of Education & Early Development
Approved Minutes
March 1, 2017
Juneau, AK

Chair Fields called the audio conference work session to order at 2 p.m. The board and staff recited the Pledge of Allegiance. No members reported conflicts of interest. All members were present except Rebecca Himschoot, who was excused. The board approved the agenda unanimously.

Because the meeting was exclusively a work session, the board did not take public comment.

Agenda Item 1. Commissioner report and board questions. Commissioner Johnson said one-hour work sessions such as this one provide him an opportunity to interact with the board on a regular basis.

Legislative Liaison Marcy Herman updated the board on proposed legislation.

In response to a question, Commissioner Johnson said the department will work with whoever is U.S. Secretary of Education.

Sue Hull said the board should have more information on a timely basis about the legislative session. After the meeting, Public Information Officer Erin Hardin arranged for the board to receive Alaska Education Update, a daily electronic publication.

Commissioner Johnson said Alaska's Education Challenge, from Governor Bill Walker, is a continuation of the board's strategic planning. Board members will co-chair the five committees of stakeholders who will provide recommendations to the board by the end of September.

Commissioner Johnson reported that nearly 1,400 people responded to the department's public survey in February about topics for education reform within the board's five strategic priorities. The respondents provided about 18,000 suggested topics. Data Management Supervisor Brian Laurent said Education Northwest will code the topics into broad categories and further refine them using software.

Dr. Susan McCauley, Education Policy Coordinator, said she and consultant Jerry Covey will communicate to the committee co-chairs the agenda for each meeting. Mr. Covey said the co-chairs must feel well-prepared and have the tools to keep the committee process on track. He said the committees' recommendations should be systemic transformative changes to the education system. The board discussed a date in April for the in-person meeting of the five committees.

The work session adjourned at 2:53 p.m.