

**State Board of Education & Early Development**  
**Unapproved Minutes**  
**March 1 and 2, 2022**  
**Department of Education & Early Development**  
**395 Whittier Street**  
**Juneau, AK 99801**

**Tuesday, March 1, 2022**

Chair Fields called the meeting to order at 8:45 am. First Vice Chair Hamilton gave an invocation to start the meeting. After the pledge of allegiance, First Vice Chair Hamilton made the following motion: I moved to adopt the agenda with the exception of removing Item 16, consent agenda from the full agenda. The motion was seconded by Member Griffin. In explanation there has been a change in secretary, all the meetings are online, getting the minutes written out is in process at this time, but not done yet. If anyone is interested in those meetings, you can listen to them online. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote. There were no objections to the adoption of the agenda. There was no conflict of interest on the agenda.

**Public Comment**

Public comment was opened at 9:00 am.

Joseph Hillaire, Jr. with the Tlingit and Haida Youth Commission. They are in full support of Native Language regulations. It is imperative to past, current and future Alaska Natives as their languages need revitalization, due to the loss of their ways of life and languages. As elders pass away so do valuable resources that assist on working on Alaska native languages. This is the way to assure K-12 students are educated on native languages based on their location.

Rachel Gilbert, education director at the Kenaitze Indian Tribe. Supports educating staff to ensure early learners have access to the best public education. Ongoing early educator preparation programming for early childhood are critical for success moving forward. Strongly support the State Board of Education and Early Development approve the initial educator preparation program in Early Childhood Education at the University of Alaska Anchorage's (UAA) School of Education.

Diane Hirshberg, Interim Director and Professor of Education Policy at the Institute of Social and Economic Research, UAA, supports the UAA Early Childhood Education Program. Schools are struggling to attract and retain educators. Educators prepared within the state tend to stay much longer than those who come from out of state. There is a strong correlation between teacher turnover and student achievement. It's important to grow back the programs we have lost. Great first start because the early education programs that were operating when she first started at UAA have always been of the highest quality and have always been nationally recognized. She was co-chair of the initial accreditation efforts, these are educators who are dedicated, they run high quality programs. Great place to start in meeting desperate needs schools have for highly qualified teachers.

Robin Dahlman, from Kenai, testifying for two people who are working with children and cannot call in. First is Rosario Felix, a student of the UAA associates program in early childhood development plans to pursue a Bachelor's in early childhood. Mom of four kids and works full time for an early head start program. She has worked in the field for five years. Crucial to our community to continue with the Bachelor's program for early childhood. Next is Mariah McDonald student teacher in a kindergarten class in Kenai, Alaska. Started college years as a first-generation student in an early childhood major.

Initial educator preparation program in early education was perfect start. Since dismantling of the program, she had to switch to a Bachelor's in elementary education program for her initial licensure. Might seem to get her to the same place, but as someone who wants to teach kindergarten this program is not ideal, especially for someone like her who loves early education. Elementary education focuses on elementary not early childhood. She has had to find outside sources to tailor to early childhood. Communities need people who have been born and raised here and will stay in the community after their licensure to teach our youngest learners and the current programs don't make that easy. I support the State Board of Education and Early Development to approve the early educator preparation program in early childhood education at the UAA School of Education.

Hilary Seitz, program lead for the early childhood program at UAA. Reading excerpts of testimony of three of her students. All three are first generation college students with diverse backgrounds. All three are working with children in classrooms and are not able to call in. First student was Shang Bang, she has her associates in Early Childhood Development and is also an early educator. She started preschool not knowing any English as her family had just moved from Thailand. It took until her high school years to have a teacher that could pull her out of her shell and got her excited about education. She believes teachers are needed from many cultures to meet the need of students. She expressed her support of the Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Early Childhood with licensure from birth to grade three at UAA. The next student that Hilary shared from is Brittany Rush. She is an Alaskan Native who has worked as a paraprofessional and a preschool teacher in Title 1 public schools in rural Alaska for over 10 years. Currently she is teaching in Anchorage at the Cook Inlet Native Head Start program as a Yup'ik immersion teacher. She voiced support in favor of awarding UAA BA with licensure. Having her BA will allow her more opportunities in both Head Start and public schools. She is excited to get her licensure to teach in her villages, towns, and urban communities. Moving forward in early childhood education will help train Alaska's own people to carry out teaching positions that they are equipped to do in their own special way. Investing in Alaskans will help with the high turnover rate that hiring out of state causes and guarantee culturally sensitive teaching practices. The last person Hilary spoke on behalf of was Jessica Duross from Petersburg. Jessica has been working in early childhood setting for 21 years. She began in Petersburg not knowing about early childhood education but had extremely devoted mentors. She has now worked in several states and gotten her Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Early Childhood and spent thousands of hours working with young children, doing all of this as a single mother with young children. She graduated with honors with her associates degree and is a strong advocate. Teachers in Alaska require opportunities to meet all their needs. The work of early childhood professionals has proven through research to be the most important work during essential critical years of brain development. Teachers need access to be able to further their education and develop skills from reliable, credible sources. This impacts whole communities. Hilary expressed that their students want to be the future educators in Alaska, and they are Alaskans.

Tim Jester, faculty member at the University of Alaska Anchorage School of Education. He works with mostly in-service teachers in a Master's degree program; he is not directly connected to the Early Childhood program. He has two things to share: from work at the university for 20 years, he has confidence in the high-level professionalism that Dr. Seitz and other faculty members in that program bring to their work and to this BA program. They do an exceptional job and will offer a fantastic program to better serve the need for teachers in the state. He also noted that the early childhood program is unique in that it focuses on those early years from birth to age eight. It is the only program in UAA's system that will also offer a teacher license as a result of earning this BA program in education. As a community member, parent of school age children, and grandparent, he spoke to how important it is to have an early childhood focused teacher prep program that meets the needs that no other program

meets in the state. Studies have shown that investment in early childhood development prevents achievement gaps, improves health outcomes, boosts earnings, and saves money in the long run. For every dollar spent returns four to twelve dollars. He urged support for the proposal before the board today.

Public comment closed at 9:30 am.

### **Work Session**

#### **Agenda Item 1. University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) School of Education**

Commissioner Johnson explained to the Board that they are being asked to provide provisional state approval of the initial educator preparation program in Early Childhood Education at the UAA School of Education. He enjoyed meeting with Provost Runge and wanted to thank her and her staff as well as the State Board of Education's Reading Committee.

Bob Griffin, Chair of the Reading Committee, spoke to this important program and UAA as an important partner in the impact it has in improving outcomes, especially in reading. The committee came away with an understanding with UAA that they would produce educators out of this program that would show their capabilities in the science of reading or evidence-based reading instructions. The board isn't looking to micromanage how UAA produces these educators but will be looking closely at the outcomes that are produced. Although not all teachers come from UA, about thirty percent of our teachers statewide come from them. The board set a matrix to watch for what is produced from the program. The committee is very supportive of the program, and does not want to set it back, but really wanted them to understand how important early childhood literacy is to the board. It's the number one priority, and UA is such an important partner in this process.

Denise Runge, Provost, UAA, thanked the Commissioner and the Reading Committee, for being very supportive through the process. She explained that while this isn't a reading program, reading is of course an important component of early childhood education. If the board decides to give approval, the timing will work out very well. It would allow the university to admit students and get them started on the path to becoming teachers as early as this fall.

Sondra Meredith, Administrator, Teacher Certification, said in reviewing this program one of the big pieces that is of concern is through the regulations that are part of the approval process. The Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) accreditation is the big component that Alaska uses in assuring the quality of an educator program. UAA lost their accreditation in 2019 for their initial program but they still have their advanced program through CAEP. In reviewing materials that UAA provided for this program, they are in a good place to meet most of the CAEP standards. The only exception to that as indicated in the board memo is standard 5. It cannot be said they are doing the continuing improvement process until it is happening. The recommendation to the board is to approve the program, but with conditions that there will be times when the program would come back to the board with the data that they would be collecting for the CAEP process and share with the board how that continuous improvement is being handled. Commissioner Johnson said that the department will be behind Provost Runge and support her efforts in rebuilding UAA's educator preparation program in Early Childhood Education. Questions were then taken.

#### **Agenda Item 2. School Construction and Major Maintenance List**

Commissioner Johnson explained to the board that they are being asked to approve the final annual list of capital projects eligible for funding under the school construction and major maintenance grant funds. Acting Deputy Commissioner Heidi Teshner and Tim Mearig, Facility Manager, presented to the board regarding the school construction and major maintenance capital project list of eligible projects. This is an annual review and approval of the two lists by the board in accordance with Alaska Statute

(AS) 14.11.015(a). The Bond Reimbursement and Grant Review (BRGR) Committee reviewed the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) lists at its December 9, 2021, meeting, and passed a motion recommending that the State Board of Education and Early Development adopt the FY2023 CIP list of projects eligible for funding under the School Construction Grant Fund and the Major Maintenance Grant Fund. Acting Deputy Commissioner Teshner shared the number of applications that the department received and announced that three applications were considered to be ineligible. The process for approving the projects was described, along with the timeline for the process. Acting Deputy Commissioner Teshner and Tim Mearig then took questions from the board.

### **Agenda Item 3. Legislative and Budget Update**

Legislative Liaison Kollette Schroeder updated the board on work that the legislature is doing as bills are making their way through the legislative process. There are over 80 bills being tracked relating to K-12 education. The department has made 20 presentations to the House and Senate Finance Subcommittees, and Education and Finance Committees, on topics ranging from division budgets, federal COVID relief funds, Tribal Compacting Schools, the Foundation Formula, school construction and major maintenance, the reading bills, and more. A high overview of bills of interest and active in the legislature during its first six weeks was given. Questions were then taken from the board.

Administrative Services Director Lacey Sanders updated the board on the department's budget. Director Sanders stated that the department has three items in the Governor's amended budget that was released on February 1, and she described the amendments. Director Sanders then covered the House Finance Subcommittee, which accepted the department's full budget with four changes; those changes were discussed. Next the House Finance Committee will look at the subcommittee recommendations. Director Sanders then explained the process which the budget will go through from there. Questions were then taken from the board.

### **Agenda Item 4. Charter School Renewals**

Commissioner Johnson informed the board that they are being asked to approve the renewal applications of five charter schools for a ten-year period. Deb Riddle, Division Operations Manager, Innovation and Education Excellence, introduced each school and their principal was invited to give a brief description of their school.

#### **Agenda Item 4A. Alaska Native Cultural Charter School (ANCCS)**

Sheila Sweetsir, Principal and founder, provided background on their charter school for their renewal application. The school serves preschool through 8<sup>th</sup> grade with approximately 220 students, from the Anchorage area, of which 86% are Alaska Native. The Native students represent all major tribes in areas of Alaska. ANCCS' school motto is building school success through traditional cultural learning. The school is the only Title 1 charter school in Anchorage providing 100% free breakfast and lunch to students. ANCCS' focus is to ground students in who they are and to provide a sense of belonging as they grow and find their way in the world. They do this through a cultural and academic foundation, having a strong foundation and knowing their identity provides a sense of belonging and purpose that is not easily replaced. From that comes the confidence that our students can claim their indigenous identity with pride. ANCCS looks forward to serving families by providing a solid cultural foundation while advancing academics grounded in cultural knowledge. Principal Sweetsir then took questions from the board.

#### **Agenda Item 4B. Aquarian Charter School**

Brittany Nerland, Principal, described her school. They are an elementary school and are part of the Anchorage School District, serving approximately 380 students in grades kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

They strive to create a community of lifelong learners and compassionate engaged citizens. In partnership with families, they meet children at their level through unique instruction that values the whole child, academic excellence, and fine arts to create a balanced and rewarding learning experience. Principal Nerland then took questions from the board.

#### **Agenda Item 4C. Ayaprun Elitnaurvik Charter School**

Joshua Gill, Principal, thanked the State Board of Education for considering Ayaprun Elitnaurvik's charter renewal application. The school was established in 1995 by a core group of parents, teachers, and University professors who created a school that's based on the Yup'ik culture, Yup'ik language, and its subsistence lifestyle. Currently they are a K-6 program with 150 students. The community strives to provide a high quality Yup'ik immersion education, empowering the diverse students by strength of their knowledge and understanding of the Yup'ik core values, language, and culture. The Ayaprun Elitnaurvik Charter School recognizes and encourages input from all parents and teachers. An attempt is made to involve as many stakeholders as possible. Through this process, it is recognized that the immersion program could continue through the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Principal Gill then took board questions from the board.

#### **Agenda Item 4D. Family Partnership Charter School**

Dr. Jessica Parker, Principal, spoke about the school. Family Partnership Charter School was established in 1997, they are the second oldest and largest charter school in the state. During COVID they doubled in size, and this year they maintained an enrollment of over 1,200 students in grades K-12. The school mission is partnering with families and increasing student achievements. They are a bridge between homeschool and formal education, families can choose from a variety of courses, services, and resources to provide a tailored educational plan for their child. Students use home study, online, small group classes, private lessons, vendors, and college courses to achieve a well-rounded education. Each student receives an education allotment to ease the financial burden of purchasing educational materials and instruction. Families are paired with an experienced certified mostly homeschooled experienced teacher who works with them to assist them in planning their child's instructional plan. Principal Parker then took questions from the board.

#### **Agenda Item 4E. Fronteras Charter School**

Jennifer Hutchins, Principal, describes her school which opened in 2008. The last renewal was in 2012. The school is a K-8 public charter school in Spanish immersion. Academic instruction is presented fifty percent in Spanish and fifty percent in English (they can't fall below this), and with the make-up of staff eighty percent of instruction can now be presented in Spanish. They are divided in multi-grade and single-grade classrooms and the enrollment dictates what the multi-grades might look like. They have a five percent enrollment increase annually. A proud moment was securing a \$6.9 million USDA loan to procure the building they have now been in for six years. Their current enrollment is 317 students. Principal Hutchins then took questions from the board.

The board recessed at 4:11 pm until March 2, 2022.

### **Wednesday, March 2, 2022**

#### **Agenda Item 5. Joint Education Committee Hearing**

The board presented their annual report to the legislature during a joint session of the Senate and House Education Committees. The board also provided an update on each of the five board committees and took questions from the joint education committees.

Chair Fields called the meeting back to order at 10:45am.

#### **Agenda Item 6. District Presentation**

Doug Walrath, Director of the Northwestern Alaska Career and Technical Center (NACTEC) presented an overview of the regional vocational training center located in Nome, and shared what has been occurring since the COVID-19 pandemic and plans moving forward. Director Walrath then took questions from the board.

#### **Agenda Item 7. Regulations to go out for public comment**

##### **Agenda Item 7A. Facilities Publications**

Commissioner Johnson asked the board to open a period of public comment on a proposed amendment to regulation 4 AAC 31 School Facility Planning and Construction. The amendment updates citations for revised publications in subsection 4 AAC 31.020(a) and paragraph 4 AAC 31.900(2).

Acting Deputy Commissioner Heidi Teshner and Facilities Manager Tim Mearig walked the board through the proposed amendments and three publications that would be adopted through the regulation changes, which were the *Guidelines for School Equipment Purchases* (2021 edition); the *Swimming Pool Guidelines for Educational Facilities* (2019 edition); and the *Site Selection Criteria and Evaluation Handbook* (2021 edition). Acting Deputy Commissioner Teshner provided an update of the changes to each of the publications. In addition, it was shared that the updates to these publications were reviewed and approved by the statutory Bond Reimbursement and Grant Review Committee, and each publication had already gone through a public comment period and those comments were included in these final drafts. Questions were then taken from the board.

##### **Agenda Item 7B. Alternate Assessment Scores**

Commissioner Johnson asked the board to open a period of public comment on proposed amendments to 4 AAC 06.737, Standards-based test, and 4 AAC 06.775 (b)(1) and (b)(2), administering statewide assessments to students with disabilities. The amendments update the grades at which students are assessed for proficiency of the Science standards and updates the cut-scores for students who use the alternate assessment for students with disabilities.

Susan McKenzie, Director of Innovation and Education Excellence (IEE) provided a brief update on each. When the science standards were updated, it was noted that the science assessment was given at the end of 4<sup>th</sup> grade but the standards covered two grade spans, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, so this changes that assessment from 4<sup>th</sup> grade to 5<sup>th</sup> grade. The other assessment is the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM), which is an assessment given to students with disabilities, and this proposed change updates the cut scores used to determine proficiency.

Member Griffin asked if the cut scores were tied to any national norms. Kelly Manning, Deputy Director of IEE, responded that for the DLM, the department is part of a consortium with other states and the vendor goes through their standard vetting process, on a regular and as-needed basis, so the changes being proposed aligns our cut scores with DLM's recommendations. There was no further discussion.

##### **Agenda Item 7C. Seal of Biliteracy**

Commissioner Johnson asked the board to open a period of public comment on a proposed regulation, 4 AAC 06.077, establishing an Alaska state Seal of Biliteracy that recognizes students who have studied and attained proficiency in English language arts and at least one other world language by high school graduation. This gives graduates something tangible on their diploma that signifies that they are bilingual. Susan McKenzie, Director of Innovation and Education Excellence (IEE) shared that 45 of the 50 states have a state Seal of Biliteracy program and it encourages students to pursue biliteracy and this

recognizes that. Sondra Meredith, Administrator of Teacher Certification, walked the board through the regulations, noting that this is an option and is not mandatory for districts.

Member Griffin commented that he was happy that indigenous language was rolled into this. He further commented on the term “biliteracy” and how that typically means two, but you could be literate in more than two languages.

First Vice Chair Hamilton commented by saying students could benefit from having all languages noted on their diploma. Ms. Meredith commented that there is no prohibition in this regulation if a district wanted to recognize all proficient languages. The department used the term that is common across all states. First Vice Chair Hamilton further commented that the biliteracy term would limit folks to two languages and wishes the department had used multi-literacy.

Commissioner Johnson stated that the title could change after the public comment period if that was the board’s desire.

Second Vice Chair Kowalski thanked the department for the section that allows for an assessment process to be recognized; it’ll help further work in this area.

Student Advisor Brokaw commented that Anchorage School District offers this already and asked if this change just make it a statewide policy. Ms. Meredith commented in the affirmative.

There was no further discussion.

## **Agenda Item 8. Adoption of Proposed Regulations**

### **Agenda Item 8A. Teacher Certification**

Commissioner Johnson asked the board to adopt proposed amendments to regulations related to the qualification and certification of Alaska educators. This regulation packet went out for public comment following the December meeting and public comment was received. The department modified some of the language based on the feedback received.

Sondra Meredith, Administrator of Teacher Certification, went over the two main changes made as a result of public comment: the proposed revision to the master teaching certificate was removed; and the requirements to add an elementary endorsement have been increased from two to three years of teaching experience and now includes a passing score on content area examinations in elementary education and teaching reading.

Chair Fields thanked the department for making the changes based on public comment. There was no further discussion.

### **Agenda Item 8B. Assessment Participation Guidelines**

Commissioner Johnson asked the board to approve 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 State Assessments*, which define the assessment criteria of all Statewide Alaska Assessments.

Kelly Manning, Deputy Director of the Division of Innovation and Education Excellence, reminded the board what the changes to the participation guidelines are and stated that no public comment was received on the proposed changes. Questions were then taken from the board.

### **Agenda Item 8C. Native Languages**

Commissioner Johnson asked the board to adopt the proposed amendments to 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). The amendments add the definition of “world languages,” expand the opportunity for students to meet any world language requirements and update the term “foreign language” to “world language.”

There was no questions or comments from the board.

## **Business Meeting**

### **Agenda Item 9. Approve UAA School of Education**

Member Griffin made the motioned and First Vice Chair Hamilton seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development approve the request of the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) School of Education for provisional state approval of its Early Childhood Education teacher preparation program through December 31, 2025, with the following conditions:

- 1) UAA School of Education's Early Childhood Education program establishes an advisory committee that includes a rural school district superintendent, an urban school district superintendent, a representative from the Alaska Reading Coalition, the International Dyslexia Association-Alaska, or a similar organization, and a representative from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development.
- 2) UAA provides annual updates on its progress toward CAEP accreditation, specifically about CAEP Standard 5, at the state board's December meetings until the board is satisfied that a quality assurance/continuous improvement system has been established and is operational. Each update must include:
  - a. enrollment and completion data;
  - b. candidate's assessment data required for CAEP accreditation;
  - c. data demonstrating candidate's knowledge of the science of reading, including but not limited to course grades and summative assessment scores;
  - d. graduates' certification and employment information;
  - e. graduate and employer satisfaction data, including but not limited to graduate and employer satisfaction concerning the graduate's ability to apply the science of reading;
  - f. advisory committee's participant list, meeting schedules/agendas and recommendations; and,
  - g. any programmatic adjustments, including but not limited to those made because of the advisory committee recommendations.
- 3) UAA provides the board with a written assurance that it will immediately freeze enrollment in the Early Childhood Education teacher preparation program if denied NAEYC accreditation during the provisional state approval period.
- 4) The UA Board of Regents and UAA provides the board with a written assurance that all students enrolled in the provisionally approved program will have the opportunity to complete their program at UAA and be recommended for licensure if UAA is denied NAEYC or CAEP accreditation.

First Vice Chair Hamilton asked about the purpose and goal of the advisory committee under item 1. Member Griffin and Sondra Meridith, Teacher Certification Administrator, addressed the question. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed on a vote of 9 yea to 1 nay. There was no further discussion.

### **Agenda Item 10. Approve School Construction and Major Maintenance.**

Member Erickson motioned and Second Vice Chair Kowalski seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development approve the department's FY2023 final School Construction Grant Fund and Major Maintenance Grant Fund priority lists. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote. There was no discussion.

### **Agenda Item 11. Approve Charter School Renewals**

#### **Agenda Item 11A. Alaska Native Cultural Charter School (ANCCS)**



Member Van Diest motioned and Second Vice Chair Kowalski seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development approve the renewal application of the Alaska Native Cultural Charter School for a period of ten (10) years. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote. Member Griffin commented that he is a big fan of this program and wished we could have more programs like this in the state. There was no further discussion.

**Agenda Item 11B. Aquarian Charter School**

Member Stockhausen motioned and Member Van Diest seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development approve the renewal application of the Aquarian Charter School for a period of ten (10) years. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote. Member Griffin commented that this is an amazing program, and he has visited the campus multiple times. There was no further discussion.

**Agenda Item 11C. Ayaprun Elitnaurvik Charter School**

Second Vice Chair Kowalski motioned and Member Erickson seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development approve the renewal application of the Ayaprun Elitnaurvik Charter School for a period of ten (10) years. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

Member Griffin commented that he is excited about the expansion of this program. There was no further discussion.

**Agenda Item 11D. Family Partnership Charter School**

First Vice Chair Hamilton motioned and Member Griffin seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development approve the renewal application of the Family Partnership Charter School for a period of ten (10) years. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

Member Griffin commented that this is arguably the highest performing homeschool charter program in the U.S; says it's an excellent program. First Vice Chair Hamilton commented that he too is a fan of this program. There was no further discussion.

**Agenda Item 11E. Fronteras Charter School**

Member Griffin motioned and First Vice Chair Hamilton seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development approve the renewal application of the Fronteras Spanish Immersion Charter School for a period of ten (10) years. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote. There was no discussion.

**Agenda Item 12. Regulations to go out for public comment**

**Agenda Item 12A. Facilities Publications**

Member Van Diest motioned and Member Erickson seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development open a period of public comment on amendments to 4 AAC 31 School Facility Planning and Construction to update publication citations. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote. There was no discussion.

**Agenda Item 12B. Alternate Assessment Scores**

Member Stockhausen motioned and Member Van Diest seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development open a period of public comment on amendments to 4 AAC 06.737, Standards-based test, and 4 AAC 06.775 (b)(1) and (b)(2), administering statewide assessments to students with disabilities, whereby the Alaska Science Assessment will be administered

at grades 5, 8, and 10 and the alternate assessment cut scores will be updated to align with vendor recommendations. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote. There was no discussion.

### **Agenda Item 12C. Seal of Biliteracy**

First Vice Chair Hamilton motioned and Member Van Diest seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development open a period of public comment on the adoption of 4 AAC 06.077 Seal of Biliteracy. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote. There was no discussion.

### **Agenda Item 13. Adoption of Proposed Regulations**

#### **Agenda Item 13A. Teacher Certification**

Member Van Diest motioned and Member Griffin seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development adopt changes in the following regulations: 4 AAC 04.220 Paraprofessional standards, 4 AAC 12.300 Certification of teachers, 4 AAC 12.305 Teacher certificate (initial, professional, master), 4 AAC 12.308 Approval of in-state educator preparation programs, 4 AAC 12.330 Endorsement requirements for teachers providing special education, 4 AAC 12.335 Requirements for teachers of gifted children, 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 Limited certificate for instructional aide continuing teacher education program (Type I), 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 4 AAC 12.900 Definitions. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote. Commissioner Johnson commented that if the board approves these regulations, the department will continue to work with our partners to make additional changes as necessary and will continue the public input process. There was no further discussion.

#### **Agenda Item 13B. Assessment Participation Guidelines**

Member Griffin motioned and Member Van Diest seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development approve the amendments to 4 AAC 06.775 (a), administering statewide assessments to students with disabilities. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote. There was no discussion.

#### **Agenda Item 13C. Native Languages**

Second Vice Chair Kowalski motioned and First Vice Chair Hamilton seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development adopt the proposed regulations 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). The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote. First Vice Chair Hamilton commented that he was thankful for this being added. There was no further discussion.

### **Agenda Item 14. Questions Regarding Standing Reports**

Commissioner Johnson introduced the standing reports which includes Innovation and Education Excellence; Libraries, Archives, and Museums; Finance and Support Services; Mt. Edgecumbe High School; and the Department of Law.

Member Stockhausen commented on how she liked the structure of the Innovation and Education Excellence report and how it is laid out by the five challenge priorities and wanted to celebrate how the graduation rate has improved and how the dropout rate has reduced.

First Vice Chair Hamilton asked about the MEHS Aquatic Center, how funding is, and how the pool is doing. Janelle Vanasse, Director of MEHS, provided a response to the question.

Second Vice Chair Kowalski asked about the position openings noted in the MEHS report, are they key positions? Director Vanasse provided a response to the question.

There were no other questions from board members.

### **Agenda Item 15. Commissioner's Report**

Commissioner Johnson welcomed Lt Col Fowley and Student Advisor Brokaw to the board. Provided kudos to Janell Andrews, Executive Secretary, for making it through her first board meeting; it turned out great. Introduced department staff in the room. Recognized Lacey Sanders and Heidi Teshner for picking up department leadership and helping to ensure things do not fall through the cracks; huge appreciation to them. Provided kudos to the board for the great job done during the joint education committee hearing earlier in the morning. Shared that Luann Weyrauch, Assistant Attorney General, with the Department of Law would be retiring April 29, 2022, and thanked her for all she has done for the department. Commented further on Janelle Vanasse's appointment to the position as President of the Alaska Pacific University. Reading Symposium will be April 29-May 1, 2022 at the Egan Center in Anchorage and encouraged board members to attend. Shared that for the first time we would be giving out the Purple Star Awards on April 15, 2022, at Lathrop High School in Fairbanks. Commented that the board's business meetings go quickly, not because the board is a yes board, but because the board deliberates through the work session and through the board's committee work done prior to the board meetings.

Chair Fields commented that the business meetings also go quickly because of the trust between the board and the Commissioner and department staff.

### **Board Comments**

Member Erickson - happy to be together face-to-face and have new board members; shared how well the meeting has gone and spoke with some legislators after the meeting.

Student Advisor Brokaw – thanked the board for having her at the meeting; excited to attend and listen and learn. As a military kid, shared that she is excited about the Purple Star Award, because as her Girl Scout Gold Award, spearheaded the application for the Eagle River High School in the Anchorage School District, so excited to hear back on that application.

Member Van Diest – appreciated the opportunity to meet in person and visit with each other. The time designated to the joint education committee was a very productive time and it was the best one in her experience as a board member. Hoping that a reading bill could get passed this legislative session; it is critical to all five areas of Alaska's Education Challenge. It has been great having committee time to focus on the priorities and goals. Kudos to Janell Andrews for her first meeting; really appreciate the effort and positive attitude. General appreciation to department staff and Luann. Wished Janelle Vanasse best of luck at the Alaska Pacific University.

Military Advisor, Lt Col Fowley – thanked Janell Andrews for all she did to put this meeting together. Thanked the Commissioner and other board members for welcoming both him and Student Advisor Brokaw to the board. Thanked Joel Isaak for sharing his instructional methodology with everyone.

Shared that Elmendorf is going to open their gates on July 30 and 31 for Arctic Thunder; all are welcome to attend.

Member Griffin – Great job to Janell Andrews and all the staff on putting this meeting together. Excited about the work of the Reading Committee and Tribal Compacting. Commented that the Reading Symposium is going to be really cool and the way it is set up there is something for everyone. Thanked Luann for all the great work she has done for the board. Great job on a team effort at the joint education committee; we've set a new standard for the future.

Member Stockhausen – Really enjoyed meeting with the board members and department in person. Thanked Commissioner Johnson for the structure of the committee work; we have our goals right with the committees and it is working and is exciting. Thanked the department for the extra hard work regarding the teacher certification regulations. Look forward to watching progress on the reading legislation and all that can mean for the future of education for our state. Excited about the Ready Symposium, not only for the immediate professional development for the attendees, but for the foundation for future professional development that is going to come out of it.

Second Vice Chair Kowalski – thanked department staff for all the support on committee work; it's been a team effort and department staff have helped make it a success. The consistent structure of the committee meetings was genuinely brilliant and level of follow-through and looking ahead is well done. Great job to Janell Andrews. Thanked the board for everyone's engagement in the board meetings and in the committee meetings. Wished both Janelle Vanasse and Luann the best of luck. Excited that the Purple Star Awards are coming up and will be in Fairbanks. Thanked staff who were responsive to the public comment; that was work well done.

First Vice Chair Hamilton – echo what everyone else has said. Thanked Patience for the use of the APK and opening the doors to the board. After some vacancies, it is great to have a Military and Student Advisor on the board again; welcomed Lt Col Fowley and Student Advisor Brokaw. Farewells to Luann and Janelle Vanasse. Shared that joint education committee hearing was very valuable, but has concerns if the legislature fails to pass a reading bill. If it does not pass, then the State Board will need to step up and figure out what regulations can be adopted without legislation. Also, there are two pieces of legislation, HB220 and SB37, that both address retirement programs for public educators and invites department leadership to develop a board resolution in support of that if the board agrees. Commented on a constituent email the board received from a substitute teacher and invites department staff to answer the possibility of a waiver to remain a substitute teacher without a life-time certificate. Very supportive of in-person meetings and looks forward to the June meeting.

Chair Fields – Commented on the joint education committee hearing and that a few reasons it went well was because the board is comfortable with each other, and the board was prepared and confident in the information we have. Thanked the board for the time they have put into the committees. Thanked Joel for his work and support. Thanked Luann for all she has done. Very proud of this board and the work being done. Thanked the Commissioner for his support.

Meeting adjourned at 2:11pm.