

State Board of Education & Early Development
Approved Minutes
February 24, 2021
Department of Education & Early Development
801 West 10th Street
Juneau, AK 99801

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

Chair Fields called the meeting to order on February 24, 2021 at 3:03pm. Roll call was taken and a quorum established. Members present included: Member Griffin, First Vice Chair Hamilton, Member Kowalski, Member Stockhausen, Member Erickson, Second Vice Chair Van Diest, Student Advisor Scott and Chair Fields. After the pledge of allegiance, Member Griffin motioned to adopt the agenda for February 24, 2021 the motion was seconded by Second Vice Chair Van Diest. The agenda was adopted. There were no potential conflicts of interest identified.

Work Session

Agenda Item 1. Commissioner's Report.

a. DEED Updates

Commissioner Johnson gave the board an update on DEED's work regarding their continued monitoring of assessments for students throughout the state. Innovation and Education Excellence (IEE) Director Tammy Van Wyhe and her assessments team provided a PowerPoint presentation to the board about assessments and accountability. She reminded the board that this topic is not just a state issue but it is a topic that is being addressed across the nation and being closely monitored by the new federal administration.

Director Van Wyhe updated the board on the status of the Canvas contract which is a learning management system that has been available to districts. The department has extended the contract for two additional years. This contract will support teachers and other Alaska leaders to learn how to support students. She also updated the board on the collaborative work that the IEE team has been doing with the region 16 COMP center which is run by SERRC.

Director Van Why then introduced the team that would present to the board regarding assessments and accountability topics. Those members Kelly Manning, Colton Christian, and Deb Riddle then walked the board through the PowerPoint presentation regarding the mandates released by the US Department of Education regarding the assessment, accountability, and reporting for the current school year. Colton Christian began by taking the board through the waiver process that the Department of Education is completing for waiving identification of TSI schools to research the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on the comparability of school and district performance over multiple school years while still providing schools districts and the general public with information that they need to make important decisions about student learning. Information is still coming from the U.S. Department of Education and the department will keep the board updated as they work through the waiver process. Kelly Manning took over the presentation and discussed the importance of considering

the safety of students while assessing the impacts of student achievement. She detailed the waiver process that the department is pursuing to waive the calculation of the accountability indicators of the state's accountability system. She detailed the importance of transparency to parents and the public in the public comment process with regards to the reporting of the numbers of students who were not assessed. Director Van Wyhe finished the presentation by thanking her team for the presentation and taking questions from the board.

Board Comments

Chair Fields thanked Director Van Wyhe and her team for their presentation and encouraged the department to watch closely the vendor that they choose to be sure that they are spending the department's funds wisely.

There were no other comments from the board

Chairman Fields adjourned the meeting without objection at 3:45pm.