

State Board of Education & Early Development
Approved Minutes
October 27, 2021
Virtual Platform Meeting
Department of Education & Early Development
801 West 10th Street
Juneau, AK 99801

Wednesday, October 27, 2021

Chair Fields called the meeting to order at 3:04 pm. After the pledge of allegiance, the board adopted the agenda for October 27, 2021. Member Erickson moved to adopt the agenda and was seconded by Member Griffin. There were no objections to the adoption of the agenda. There were no potential conflicts of interest identified by board members at this meeting. First Vice Chair Hamilton was excused from attendance. Member Stockhausen joined at 3:11 p.m. and Member Van Diest joined at 3:23 p.m.

Agenda Item 1. Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Johnson updated the board on the reports that they were going to hear today from the Assessment Team and the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Team. He introduced Director McKenzie of the Division of Innovation and Education Excellence (IEE) Team as well as Brad Billings from the CTE Team who were scheduled to provide presentations to the State Board. He then turned the meeting over to Director McKenzie who provided an introduction of the CTE program as well as the Alaska System of Academic Readiness or AK Star Assessment. She then turned the presentation over to Kelly Manning.

Kelly Manning, Deputy Director for the Division of Innovation and Education Excellence, introduced herself to the board and provided some background on the work that went into the naming of the Alaska System of Academic Readiness or AK Star Assessment. She expressed her excitement about the AK Star Assessment as it will reinforce the concept of growth and progression for the students of Alaska. She reviewed the history of the new assessment and the steps that the state had taken to engage with stakeholders as this is a new approach to assessment for the state.

Deputy Director Manning reminded the board that this first assessment cycle will be a development phase and then they will have a year two assessment cycle that will include a summative proficiency score. Between year one and year two, there will be linking studies done to ensure that the new assessment is meeting all of the appropriate requirements for accountability as well as the statewide reporting requirements. Those studies will look at the connection between MAP growth and the AK Star assessment so that the one assessment can meet both the summative proficiency score requirement and the risk score assessment requirement. After the linking study, there will be an alignment study as well as other reviews to ensure that the scores are appropriate for both educators and students. The IEE division is working with their partners to address the timing of the assessment results so that districts can have that information prior to school starting. Commissioner Johnson reminded the board that this new assessment is an incremental development process, so the assessment won't look the same next year as it does this year but that it is important to have an assessment system that is built from the classroom up and not layered on to what is already happening in the classroom. The department will get feedback from educators and adjust this assessment so that it grows from the classroom up.

Member Stockhausen asked Deputy Director Manning if the NWEA tracking system will be able to track student growth in one place and report all the collection points in one place. Deputy Director Manning mentioned that this area is still being developed but she will get back to the board on the reporting side.

Deputy Director Manning then walked the board through the professional learning package that the department is working on so that educators know how to administer this new assessment. The IEE division has identified 50 – 54 educators who will be a resource for their districts as certified assessment facilitators. The department has not yet finalized the best way to utilize those certified assessment facilitators, but they are working on a recommendation packet with input from superintendents and other education partners. That recommendation packet will go through a formal review and approval process and will be finalized by Commissioner Johnson. The goal of the certified assessment facilitators is to ensure that they are incorporated into the districts effectively through successful training pathways. She concluded the presentation by highlighting the various stakeholders who have been working with the department on this new assessment and reiterating her commitment to continuing input from those various stakeholders as this new assessment takes shape.

Commissioner Johnson thanked Deputy Director Manning for her presentation and encouraged board members to reach out to her and her team if they had any further questions.

Deputy Director Manning then handed the meeting off to Deb Riddle, Division Operations Manager for the IEE division who introduced Brad Billings who is the administrator for the CTE Team. After putting himself on the record, Brad walked the board through four projects that have been funded by federal COVID Relief funds that are being administered through the CTE program.

The first project is a CTE resource clearinghouse where school district staff can share curriculum and other resources to collaborate in each area of study. The goal of this program is to roll it out during the 2022 – 2023 school year. The second project is the formation of student career and skills camps that will partner with Alaska industry partners to immerse students in industry-based career exploration and technical skills bases. Partners will work with students in one-week skills camps so that students can receive hands on training in various technical skills that they might not have access to elsewhere. The third project, an internal DEED project, will be to update the CTE performance data submission portal to enhance public and school district access to program data and approved courses and programs. The fourth program is the formation of four competitive grants of \$25,000 each to support multi-district collaboration and sharing of resources, facilities, and instructional expertise. Requests for proposals will be submitted to the department in the Spring of 2022 for implementation through FY2023.

Commissioner Johnson concluded the meeting by thanking the Division of Innovation and Education Excellence as well as the Career and Technical Education Team for their work and their presentations to the board. He also reminded the board of their next quarterly board meeting would be on December 8 and 9 and promised that there will be more updates on our new assessment system.

Meeting adjourned at 3:56 pm.