

Alaska State Board of Education & Early Development
Approved Minutes
March 29, 2019
State Board Room
Department of Education & Early Development
801 West 10th Street
Juneau, AK 99801

Friday, March 29, 2019

Chair Fields called the meeting to order at 8:04am. All board members were present. Chair Fields then administered the Oath of Office to Lt. Col. Jeremiah Hammill, thereby making him the military advisor to the State Board of Education. After the pledge of allegiance, the board adopted the agenda for March 29, 2019, with the addition of agenda item 18B State Board of Education Public Statement. Second Vice Chair Van Diest moved to adopt the agenda with the addition of the public statement and was seconded by First Vice Chair Hamilton. Member Scott disclosed a potential conflict of interest on agenda items 7D and 9B; her uncle is on the AdvancED Northwest board. She was recused from the discussion and vote on items 7D and 9B.

Public Comment

Marshall Lynn, former commissioner of the Department of Education and Early Development, thanked board members for their service and support of Commissioner Johnson. Mr. Lynn provided comments on the state's current fiscal reality and encouraged the board to work with the commissioner during this time, and asked the board to take a position on the budget.

Kevin Mulligan provided comments in support of the Sitka Seaplane Base and its importance to the community of Sitka.

Dave Gordon provided comments in support of the Sitka Seaplane Base and its importance to the community of Sitka.

Robert Watson provided comments in support of the Sitka Seaplane Base and its importance to the community of Sitka.

Richard Wean provided comments in support of the Sitka Seaplane Base and its importance to the community of Sitka.

Kevin Knox, Sitka assembly member, provided comments in support of the Sitka Seaplane Base and its importance to the community of Sitka.

Sam Jordan, Alaska Staff Development Network staff member, provided comments in support of the proposed computer science standards.

Tim Parker, President of the National Education Association – Alaska, provided comments on the importance of focusing on the Alaska's Education Challenge. Mr. Parker encouraged the board to lead

the way, continue to invite participants, and to go on the road to talk to educators about implementation.

Jason Moore provided comments in support of the Sitka Seaplane Base and its importance to the community of Sitka.

Microsoft submitted written public comment in support of the proposed computer science standards.

Work Session

Agenda Item 1. School Construction and Major Maintenance List: Director Heidi Teshner and School Facilities Manager Tim Mearig with DEED updated the board on the school construction and major maintenance lists and answered questions about the review process, scoring criteria, and repairs needed due to the recent earthquake.

Agenda Item 2. Legislative and Budget Update. Director Teshner and Legislative Liaison Brittany Hartmann with DEED briefed the board on the work of the department during the budget process and the legislature and answered questions. Heidi Teshner updated the board on the budget process and informed the board of the amendment process that the Governor submitted to the legislature after the initial budget was submitted. Brittany Hartmann went through a list of the bills that directly relate to DEED.

Agenda Item 3. UAA School of Education Update. Director Tamara Van Wyhe with DEED updated the board on the work that the Department and UAA have been working on regarding their accreditation. At this time there has not been a plan that has been submitted to Dean Atwater, but UAA is still reviewing and refining their processes. At this time, UAA does not have approval from the Board of Regents to come back to the state board to provide further program approval. UAA is working with students to ensure that they are able to continue in their program. Member Hamilton encouraged the commissioner to bring a representative of UAA to report at each of the upcoming state board meetings to report on their progress.

Agenda Item 4. Charter School Renewals

Agenda Item 4A. Eagle Academy Charter School Renewal. Deputy Commissioner Karen Melin with DEED provided a brief overview of the school's renewal application. Representatives from the school were available on the phone and answered questions from board members regarding their charter school.

Agenda Item 4B. STREaM Academy Charter School Renewal. Deputy Commissioner Karen Melin with DEED provided a brief overview of the school's renewal application. Representatives from the school were available on the phone and answered questions from board members regarding their charter school.

Agenda Item 4C. Kaleidoscope Charter School Renewal. Deputy Commissioner Karen Melin with DEED provided a brief overview of the school's renewal application. Representatives from the school were available on the phone and answered questions from board members regarding their charter school.

Agenda Item 5. Mt. Edgecumbe High School Curriculum Update. Janelle Vanasse, Superintendent of Mt. Edgecumbe High School, provided curriculum updates to the board. Curriculum review will begin this summer. MEHS is implementing Advanced Placement courses and getting their teachers certified to teach AP. MEHS is also looking at a dual credit bridge program, and are pleased to offer Psychology 101 as well as indigenous language classes.

Agenda Item 6. Sitka Seaplane Base Guest Presentation. Cliff Richter from the City of Sitka provided a PowerPoint presentation to the board regarding the Sitka Seaplane base. The City is asking that the board approve the sale of approximately three acres of land at the end of Seward Avenue in Sitka for the building of a new seaplane base. The current seaplane base has been operating at its current state for 65 years and is past its useful life. The new seaplane base will correct the deficiencies that now exist in the existing base. Commissioner Johnson reiterated to the board that the City of Sitka has provided great detail and have worked collaboratively with MEHS to work transparently on this project. Chair Fields recommended that the State Board issue a statement mirroring the MEHS advisory board's comment that they approve the sale with the contingency that the money stay at MEHS. Cliff Richter requested that the board make a decision soon so that the City of Sitka can apply for an Environmental Impact Study from the FAA.

Agenda Item 7. Regulations to go out for public comment

Agenda Item 7A. K-12 Science Standards regulations to go out for public comment. Deb Riddle, Division Operations Manager and Bjorn Walter with DEED updated the board on the proposed K-12 science standards. They walked through the board through the process by which they came up with those standards. Member Griffin asked how they would align with NAEP. Deb Riddle shared that NAEP does not align with any state's standards on purpose so that no state has an unfair advantage in their testing.

Agenda Item 7B. Computer Science Standards regulations to go out for public comment. Deb Riddle, Division Operations Manager updated the board on the proposed Computer Science standards. The board asked Dr. Lisa Parady from the Alaska Council of School Administrators to discuss their work in partnership with the department to craft these new computer science standards. Sam Jordan from the Alaska Council of School Administrators also presented to the board with Dr. Parady. According to Mr. Jordan, 30 states as of today have adopted computer science standards. Dr. Parady walked the board through the publication "the Great Work of Alaska's Public Schools" and called attention to the portion that states that 80% of Alaskans believe that public schools should provide a well-rounded education to all children which includes technology. Ms. Riddle, Dr. Parady, and Mr. Jordan answered questions and comments from the board.

Agenda Item 7C. Digital Literacy Standards regulations to go out for public comment. Deb Riddle, Division Operations Manager updated the board on the proposed Digital Literacy Standards and answered questions. These standards are based on the International Society for Technology and Education Standards, which provides opportunities for teachers to use instead of having to recreate criteria.

Agenda Item 7D. 11:37am AdvancED Standards regulations to go out for public comment. Luann Weyhrauch, Assistant Attorney General, Brad Billings, and Director Tamara Van Wyhe clarified that these regulations are coming back before the board for a second time. This is because there was a document that was adopted by reference that was not included in the original public comment period,

and the Department of Law mandated that the regulations needed to be approved again by the board to go out for public comment. They took questions and comments from the board regarding these regulations.

Agenda Item 8A. Grade 9 Math Sublevel Scores adoption of proposed regulations. Deb Riddle, Division Operations Manager and Teacher Certification Administrator Sondra Meredith provided an overview of the regulations.

Agenda Item 8B. Basic Competency Exams adoption of proposed regulations. Sondra Meredith and Tamara Van Wyhe provided an overview of the regulations. These regulations will expand the basic competency exam list, and will also alleviate the basic competency exam requirement from one type of certification to another.

The board took an at ease for lunch at 11: 51am and Chair Fields announced that they would resume with Agenda Item 9, regulations to go out for public comment.

Business Meeting

Agenda Item 9A. K-12 Science Standards, Computer Science Standards, and Digital Literacy Standards regulations to go out for public comment. Member Van Diest motioned and Member Kowalski seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development open a period of public comment on amendments to 4 AAC 04.140 Content Standards to establish computer science standards and publish them as the Alaska Computer Science Standards, update the technology standards and rename and publish them as the Alaska Digital Literacy Standards, and update the science standards and rename and publish them as the Science Standards for Alaska. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote. Chair Fields thanked everyone for their work on the standards.

Agenda Item 9B. AdvancED Standards regulations to go out for public comment. Member Griffin motioned and Member Kowalski seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development open a period of public comment on amendments to 4 AAC 04.300. Standards for state accreditation of schools. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote. Member Scott was recused from this vote.

Agenda Item 10A. Grade 9 Math Sublevel Scores proposed regulations to be adopted. Member Van Diest motioned Member Hamilton seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development to adopt the proposed amendment to 4 AAC 06.822(b), relating to the measurement of student growth in Alaska's new accountability system (the System for School Success). The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

Agenda Item 10B. Basic Competency Exams proposed regulations to be adopted. Member Kowalski motioned and Member Scott seconded the following motion: After considering all public comment, I move the State Board of Education & Early Development adopt the proposed amendments to 4 AAC 12.310 Designation and qualifying scores of teacher competency examination and 4 AAC 12.372 Limited career or technical education certificate (Type M). The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

Agenda Item 11. Standing Reports. Written reports were provided from Student Learning & Educator and School Excellence; Mt. Edgecumbe High School; Libraries, Archives and Museums, and the Assistant Attorney Generals.

Agenda Item 12. Commissioner's Report. Commissioner Johnson thanked DEED staff for their participation in the board meeting and in legislative session. He clarified the comment yesterday from the House that the minutes were not on the website; all approved minutes are on the website. Once meeting minutes are approved, they are placed on the website. Brittany Hartmann is working with the Representatives to ensure they know where the meeting minutes are located on the website. The Commissioner noted Paul Prussing's retirement and thanked him for his work with the department. The Commissioner appreciated the comments about the Alaska's Education Challenge and encouraged the board to continue to stay focused on the items included in the Challenge. The Commissioner stated with regards to the budget, the commitment of the department, whatever is decided and whatever is sent our way, we will do our job to ensure that it works for students. The Commissioner closed by sharing his appreciation for the board's work yesterday at the retreat and their comments to the joint House and Senate Education Committees.

Agenda Item 13. Museum Collections Advisory Committee Appointments. Patience Frederiksen updated the board on the roles of the Museum Collections Advisory Committee and explained to the board the reason why the board needs to approve these two new members.

Second Vice Chair Van Deist motioned and Member Griffin seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development appoint Mr. Aaron Leggett and Mr. Charles Diters to serve three-year terms on the Museum Collections Advisory Committee beginning January 1, 2019. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

Agenda Item 14. Approve Dr. Niki Tshibaka as Assistant Commissioner. Commissioner Johnson introduced Dr. Tshibaka to the board, and Dr. Tshibaka took questions from board members.

Member Griffin motioned and Member Scott seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development approve the Commissioner's appointment of Niki Tshibaka as Assistant Commissioner. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

Agenda Item 15. Approve Linda Mattson as Executive Secretary. Commissioner Johnson shared positive comments about Linda's background and her steady hand in her first few days in her position. Members Kowalski, Hamilton, and Van Diest provided positive comments and appreciation for her work to date.

Member Stockhausen motioned and Member Kowalski seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development approve the Commissioner's appointment of Linda Mattson as Executive Secretary to the Commissioner and the State Board of Education. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

Agenda Item 16. Approve the School Construction and Major Maintenance List. Member Scott motioned and Member Kowalski seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development approve the department's FY2020 final School Construction Grant Fund and Major Maintenance Grant Fund priority lists. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

Agenda Item 17A. Eagle Academy Charter School Renewal. Member Stockhausen motioned and Member Kowalski seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development approve the Eagle Academy Charter School application for a period of ten years, terminating on July 1, 2029. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

Member Griffin commented that good people in good programs create good outcomes.

Agenda Item 17B. STREaM Academy Charter School Renewal. Member Kowalski motioned and Member Griffin seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development approve the STREaM Academy Charter School application for a period of ten years, terminating on July 1, 2029. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

Agenda Item 17C. Kaleidoscope Charter School Renewal. Second Vice Chair Van Diest motioned and First Vice Chair Hamilton Seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development approve the Kaleidoscope Charter School application for a period of ten years, terminating on July 1, 2029. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

Member Lorrington commented that every time she goes to Kaleidoscope she loves the culture that exists within the school and the community.

Agenda Item 18A. Sitka Seaplanes Base. Member Griffin motioned and Second Vice Chair Van Diest seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development direct DEED staff to work with the Governor's Office, the Department of Law, and the Department of Natural Resources to further investigate the request of the City and Borough of Sitka to purchase the approximately 3.0 acre parcel of land owned by DEED and located at 1190 Seward Avenue in Sitka. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

Member Stockhausen requested that the board suggest that the board craft language to match what the advisory board recommended regarding any proceeds of the sale of the property go to MEHS. Commissioner Johnson encouraged the board to communicate their intent to advocate the return of the funds to the MEHS. Second Vice Chair Van Diest expressed her desire for the moneys from the sale of the property go to MEHS. Member Lorrington asked who technically owns the land. Luann Weyhrauch answered that the DEED received a quitclaim deed from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Technically, DEED owns the land but DNR has a reversionary interest which means that if DNR deems that DEED is not using the land for unrestricted public use and access, the land would revert back to DNR. Member Griffin requested that any funds from the sale of the property go to MEHS. Chair Fields expressed his desire for any proceeds that are generated from the sale go to MEHS as well.

Agenda Item 18B. State Board of Education Public Statement. First Vice Chair Hamilton motioned and Second Vice Chair Van Diest seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development adopt the following statement:

The State Board of Education and Early Development (board) takes its responsibility to Alaska's students very seriously. Each of us volunteers to serve on the board because we believe in the promise of Alaska's youth. They are the future of our state.

This year, an intense focus has developed on the board's response to Governor Michael J. Dunleavy's proposed budget. The board acknowledges that the State of Alaska's financial challenges call for Alaskans, including its appointed and elected officials, to prioritize re-evaluating its budget. We are pleased with the level of engagement the public has demonstrated in response to our sobering budget reality. With the public testimony that has been delivered, we are confident that public education will continue to be a priority for those with decision-making authority, as it is for the board.

Whether our budget increases or decreases or remains the same, it will not change our resolve to use the resources allocated to us to fulfill the three commitments we have made to our youth through Alaska's Education Challenge:

- 1) Improve student success;
- 2) Cultivate safety and well-being; and
- 3) Support responsible and reflective learners.

Finally, we cannot emphasize enough our steadfast support for Alaska's schools, educators, students, and their families. These times require the creative and innovative solutions that can only come through cooperation and partnership with state leadership. It is with this same spirit that the board also extends its support to the Governor and the Legislature, as they work together to pass a sustainable budget that reflects the values of all Alaskans and positions our state for a prosperous future. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

Agenda Item 19. Consent Agenda. Second Vice Chair Van Diest motioned: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development approve the minutes of December 18, 2018 work session with the following change - to strike "Members Kowalski and Van Diest were not present." The members were present and called in a few minutes after roll call was taken. And the minutes of February 4-5, 2019 meeting and February 14, 2019 meeting. Member Griffin seconded. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

Agenda Item 20. Executive Session. The board moved to convene in executive session to discuss Commissioner Johnson's evaluation.

At 3:18pm, Chair Fields moved to come out of executive session. First Vice Chair Van Diest seconded. The board came out of executive session without objection.

Board Comments

Member Scott thanked Chair Fields for his leadership during the challenging meetings during the last two days.

Member Griffin shared that despite the challenges that are going on, he is blessed to be on the board and to work to make things better for kids. He is happy for every moment he has.

Member Kowalski concurred with member Scott's comments regarding Chair Fields' leadership. She thanked the commissioner for his work to keep the Alaska's Education Challenge at the focus of the conversation. She shared her excitement about the conversations with the charter schools, and her happiness to hear about the many students who are taking indigenous language classes at MEHS.

Member Stockhausen echoed Member Scott's comments about Chair Fields' leadership. She shared her excitement about the new science standards and is looking forward to seeing how they are implemented.

Second Vice Chair Van Diest welcomed the new staff. She shared her appreciation for yesterday's retreat and the work on the subcommittees, and is excited to see the work that comes out of the subcommittee work. She shared her pleasure to approve for public comment the regulations and is excited to see how stakeholders get involved in the process. She stated goodbye to Member Loring as this is her last in person meeting and wished her good luck.

Member Maynard shared her thankfulness about being on the board and looks forward to more meetings and learning.

Member Lorrington thanked the new staff, and recognized Heidi Teshner, the Commissioner, and Chair Fields for their work with the legislature and noted their leadership and that students look up to and need that leadership. She shared her excitement to see where she and the board go from here, and closed by welcoming Member Maynard.

Member Hammill shared his thanks for the warm welcome from the board and staff. He commented on how refreshing it is to see that the focus is on kids and not advancing someone's agenda. He closed by sharing his excitement to see the progress of the new science and computer science standards and is eager to see where it goes.

First Vice Chair Hamilton welcomed Member Maynard to the board, and thanked Member Lorrington for her work. He welcomed the new members of the department staff and stated that he is looking forward to working with them. Thanked the commissioner for his work and agreed that everyone wants to work to make students successful. He closed by encouraging the Commissioner to continue his work with the Alaska's Education Challenge and to not get distracted by other things.

Chair Fields thanked Member Van Meter for his work and welcomed Member Hammill. He also welcomed Member Maynard and thanked Member Lorrington for her work on the board. Chair Fields stated that the clarity that the commissioner has kept is important and this board is meant to be as non-political as possible and the board is intent to keep their integrity. He stated that the kids are worth not having a board that is politically motivated. Chair Fields closed by thanking the board for having his back yesterday at the hearing, and looks forward to the continued work that the board will do together.

Meeting adjourned at 3:32pm.