

Alaska State Board of Education & Early Development
Approved Minutes
June 11 & 12, 2009
Fairbanks, AK

June 11, 2009 - Work Session

The meeting was called to order by Chair Cox. All members were present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The Chair invited disclosures and there were none. The Agenda was approved as presented.

The Chair presented an apple of appreciation to Lt.Col. Luu, who is being transferred and will no longer be the board's military representative. A new military advisor will be appointed during the summer.

Nancy Wagner, Superintendent of the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District, was present and welcomed the board to Fairbanks.

The commissioner introduced the EED staff who were present in the room: Les Morse, Eddy Jeans, Erik McCormick, Cyndy Curran, Marcy Herman, Linda Thibodeau and Assistant Attorney General Neil Slotnick.

Public Comment

Tim Rockey, student advisor to the board, presented four resolutions that were passed by AASG regarding health classes and drug awareness, comprehensive sex-ed, CPR training and encouragement to take advantage of the Library Collection Development grants. Pat Shier thanked Mr. Rockey for his presentation. Mr. Rockey said he thought the board could take action on the resolutions.

Theresa Holtt, from Providence, said she supported the changes to the nurse practitioner proposed regulations. Shirley Holloway asked if all nurse practitioners were prepared. Ms. Holt said, no, that they needed to be trained in evaluation to have authority to sign-off.

Anne Atlla said she supported replacing the phrase "mental retardation" with "cognitively impaired."

Jake Hallibaugh, with Anchorage People First, said he also supported replacing the phrase mental retardation with cognitively impaired.

Chris Green said she supported allowing a nurse practitioner to diagnose autism. Shirley Holloway said she was confident that with proper training, a nurse practitioner would be capable to diagnosing autism. Neil Slotnick confirmed that the board of nursing was consulted when the proposed regulation language was drafted. The discussion centered around who was authorized to sign-off on the diagnosis and how it is known if

the person is qualified. Shirley Holloway said it was defined by practice and education, and ability to screen and diagnosis.

Cass Pouk said that she was concerned with a new Mt. Edgecumbe High School policy stating that Sitka students who attend MEHS must live in the dorms. She felt the practice would take beds away from out-of-town students, and that there were sports motives involved in the decision.

Stephanie Birch with the state division of public health explained the term “team practice” and credentialing of nurse practitioners. There was a discussion about who is qualified, their training and education requirements. She said she also had letters of support from two Providence doctors, Dr. Brennan and Matt Hirschfield.

Carol Kidwell with Let’s Talk Healthy Relationships spoke in support of providing abstinence sex education along with contraceptive sex education. Pat Shier asked how the organization was funded. Ms. Kidwell said it was community-based, and prior to 2002 it was volunteer-based, but it is now powered by grants. Phil Schneider wondered about what models worked for abstaining. Ms. Kidwell cited that when combined only 10% is focused on abstention, other models include: role playing and refusal skills, teen support groups, and healthy choice role playing.

Nancy Bienvenue, who is CEO of a Care Net Pregnancy Center in the Tanana Valley, described her program as faith-based and supported by grants. The abstinence program is called Step Up Now to Healthy Relationships, and stresses refusal skills. Ms. Bienvenue also had two students with her who spoke to skills they were endorsing and read statements from students. Tim Rockey thanked the group saying that was what the AASG resolutions were all about. Pat Shier suggested that AASG could invite these kinds of groups to their discussions.

Theresa Holt from the Governor’s Council on Disabilities and Special Education said there was a need for additional people trained in autism, but the system was working fairly well. She said they supported removing the mental retardation phrase from the proposed regulation, and they supported removing the requirement for the exit exam and supported funding for the Special Education Service Agency. She said they were working to grow Alaska special education providers. Pat Shier asked why the Mental Health Trust Fund didn’t have resources for SESA. Ms. Holt said the settlement didn’t adequately address SESA and a full system of support was not possible. Shirley Holloway asked how the Autism Resource Center was funded. Ms. Holt said the legislature partially funded it this year. Commissioner LeDoux said he appreciated the work of the council, and appreciated Geri Benshoof’s work on the council and her suggestion to change the wording in the proposed regulation.

Kaleen Lamb with People First said she supported replacing the phrase “mental retardation” with “cognitively impaired.”

Jay McDermott with Fairbanks Physical Therapy was concerned with unlicensed practitioners. Pat Shier asked if they should be called something else. Mr. McDermott said he was investigating that. Shirley Holloway said it was a huge challenge for districts in small villages. Mr. McDermott said telemedicine was helping in delivery, but supervision of non-professionals by para-professionals was in question.

Work Session

Assessment, Accountability & Information Management. Erik McCormick was present to brief the board with a review of the statewide assessment system. Pat Shier asked who was driving accountability. The commissioner said there were two systems going on, the state and the feds heading to national standards and losing curriculum control. He indicated that the feds did not trust state tests or standards. When asked who was responsible, the commissioner said the states were responsible. In a new speech this week, the U.S. Secretary of Education said that states with a cap on the number of charter schools will not get certain funds, so the focus is change -- and what we give back in dollars we don't get back. Concerning the dropout rate, progress has been made since 2005 in keeping kids in school. New ethnicity categories for multi-racial will soon apply, which will reduce the Alaska Native dropout numbers. The graduation rate is improving. In 2004, 7,300 graduated. In 2008, 7,900 graduated. There have been great efforts by districts to get students to finish school.

A draft comparison of the HSGQE to WorkKeys was distributed. An alignment study will also need to be done for a more complete comparison. There was a discussion of the social and political aspect of the HSGQE and how the cut scores were established (by stakeholders in the field). Tim Rockey said in his experience, students view the exam as a joke and get a proficient score with little effort. He said no one was fretting over it. The commissioner notes that some are off by a point or two and can't move to graduation. Mr. McCormick said that 90% of the students who take the exam stay in school. Discussion centered around a new design and defining what kids need to know and be able to do. The commissioner said that the House/Senate Education Committees have a meeting with department people in August to discuss the HSGQE and WorkKeys.

State System of Support (SSOS). The commissioner said an outstanding job had been done in building the team. Deputy Commissioner Morse has been heading up this effort. SSOS is working with improvement districts and has intervened in five districts (Yupit, Lower Yukon, Yukon Koyukuk, Yukon Flats and NW Arctic) and audited four others (SW Region, North Slope, Bering Strait and Lower Kuskokwim) to make a determination whether to intervene in those districts. Mr. Morse described the audit team members as retired teachers with instructional experience in a leadership role, not department employees. He said a desk audit consisted of reviewing student data to determine if the district was improving if the district was not meeting AYP. Then whether to make an onsite visit would be determined. If a district was in intervention status, the team would meet with the district board of education to describe the process of intervention. Reports would be due to the department in December for reading, writing and math on alignment of curriculum. The Alaska self-study instructional tool is a domain rubric and summary in curriculum, assessment, instruction, learning environments, professional development

and leadership and helps districts cycle through the domains on their own. A manual is in the process of being developed. Curriculum alignment will assure that curriculum is aligned and matched to content standards.

Mr. Morse said that coaching is now called technical assistance coaches to monitor school improvement plans and provide specific technical assistance in their area of expertise. Six new coaches are being hired. Content support specialists are available for Tier II and III districts. They will work approximately 40-80 days with the district. The leads are Molly Seipe and Richard Hebbardt.

Mr. Morse said they were beginning to communicate with Head Start providers also in leadership, raising the bar, more quality program development, and community collaboration and improving access. A new director of rural education for the department is being sought.

The teacher/principal mentor program is well established and working well. A capacity study is being done to determine our own ability (the department's) to deliver to districts. The final report will be used to help the department better connect with all the silos.

Higher Achievement. The commissioner said he was looking to develop a specialized high school diploma that would raise the bar without resistance, ultimately inviting students to achieve excellence. He distributed information on what other states were doing in this arena. He referred to it as an Alaska Honors Diploma. He said various accomplishments could be attached to it, such as more credits, community service, extra projects, and the like. The university could also offer an incentive for recipients. Tim Rockey said if the bar was set high, many students would reach for it. The board suggested that the department bring proposals back in September.

Regulations. Parental Consent. Cyndy Curran was present to brief the board. Ms. Curran said the amendment allows special types of advanced nurse practitioners (ANP) to diagnose autism. She said the comments had been favorable. Amendments also bring the regulation in line with federal guidelines. Stephanie Birch from the state division of public health was available for questions. She said they were hoping to get more practitioners and allow for an ANP to be able to sign off on the evaluation and diagnosis, and have a team approach and offer more screening clinics thus identifying autism patients earlier with trained professionals. The board once again brought up who was determining if the ANP was skilled in diagnosing autism, what training was required, and if any ANP could do the evaluations and sign off on them. It was agreed that the proposed language in the regulation needed to be amended to reflect the authorization to practice (12 AAC 44.380) and clinical scope of training.

Professional Teaching Practices Commission (PTPC). Pat Truman, Executive Director, was present to brief the board on the function of the PTPC. With a 9-member commission appointed by the governor, it reviews complaints about teachers and decides disciplinary action from a reprimand to revocation of a teaching certificate. Examples for disciplinary action could be drug and alcohol abuse, sexual harassment, misuse of corporal

punishment, criminal misconduct, fraudulent application, test security issues, contract violations. Their main mission is to protect the public trust in public education. No monetary fines are issued and all actions are approved by the commissioner. A national clearing house in each state lists each sanction. Alaska sanctions compare on par with other states.

Graduation Discussion. This is a report of one of the Education Summit action committees that is coordinated by Cyndy Curran and Erik McCormick on the steps being taken. The committee met yesterday and worked on an action plan. The legislature has sent Representative Seaton as a committee member, as well as Representative Gardner and Bank. They will be meeting again by teleconference. Action plans will be developed with short- and long-term goals for schools, communities and family and culture. Board members Schneider and Schaeffer are also members. Ms. Schaeffer said it's nice that legislators are included also, as they will be educated as well. The compulsory attendance issue was discussed. It is Representative Munoz's bill and will come up again next year. It was agreed that the board needed to have a position on the issue.

Alaska Pacific University (APU). Present from APU were Virginia Juettner, Gerald Gates, Marilyn Berry, Ann McCoy and Ted Bunch. Cyndy Curran from the department briefed the board on the status of APU's NCATE approval for its teacher education programs. In November 2006, APU passed four of six standards with a provision to be able to work on the other two. By last fall they had met one of the two remaining standards. Since APU had not met the remaining standard, they came to the board saying that NCATE now wants to revoke the provisional accreditation they had extended in November 2006, and were seeking a provisional approval from the board.

Shirley Holloway clarified that APU does not have to meet NCATE accreditation and that the state board can determine if they substantially meet the criteria. Ms. Curran said NCATE had issues with APU's data collection and use of data according to their (NACTE's) guidelines. Ann McCoy said that NCATE did not see a completed data program. She said they were looking for a unit and could not see how APU's two data programs were connected. Virginia Juettner said NCATE is used to accrediting big universities with 1,000 education students, and APU has 50 education students. She said all the pieces are there, just in a different order than NCATE is used to. She said their new program is designed and will be a vehicle to take the data to improve the program. She also said they were going to protest the visitation team findings and request a re-examination of the evidence in October 2009. Ms. Juettner said UA had done a study to find out how long teachers stayed in teaching and APU had the highest retention rate. Ninety-nine percent of their teaching graduates are still teaching. She said she believed that NCATE creates competition among universities, which makes the process difficult for small institutions. The commissioner verified that APU was going to file a protest in October, and also that APU would have to begin all over again if they were not successful.

Regulations. There were three regulation proposals to go out for public comment: 1) Changing the term "mentally retarded" to "cognitively impaired", 2) repealing and

readopting world-class students graduation outcomes to reflect the board's new Alaska Education Plan, and 3) adding a new subsection that clarifies who provides transportation for out of district students who are enrolled in the Alaska School for the Deaf. There were two regulations being considered for adoption: 1) bringing regulations in line with federal Title I regulations that were effective November 2008, and 2) adding an advanced nurse practitioner as being able to diagnose autism in school districts.

June, 12, 2009 - Business Meeting

The Chair called the meeting to order. All board members were in attendance. There were no disclosures. The Chair thanked Les Morse and Erik McCormick for the excellent work session on assessment the day before. The agenda was approved for the day. It was noted that Lt. Col. Luu would not be casting any votes as there was an issue that was not yet resolved with the military about advisory voting.

Regulations.

Geri Benshoof moved and Shirley Holloway seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development open a period of public comment on changes to 4 AAC 52.130(b), Criteria for determination of eligibility, and 4 AAC 52.790(3) Definitions. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Bunny Schaeffer moved and Shirley Holloway seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development open a period of public comment on proposed changes to 4 AAC 04.020, Skills for graduating students. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Pat Shier moved and Bunny Schaeffer seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development open a period of public comment on proposed changes to 4 AAC 33.070, Alaska School for the Deaf. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Pat Shier moved and Shirley Holloway seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development adopt the proposed amendments to 4 AAC 06.802 Requirements adopted by reference; 4 AAC 06.855 School choice; 4 AAC 06.870 Restructuring; 4 AAC 06.880 Notice; and 4 AAC 06.895 Report card to the public. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Shirley Holloway said she was delighted with the new language concerning parent consent. Shirley Holloway moved and Pat Shier seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development adopt the proposed amendments to 4 AAC 52.130(o), regarding Criteria. The motion was approved by a 6-1 roll call vote.

Meeting dates & Locations:

The following meetings dates and locations were unanimously agreed upon by motion made by Phil Schneider and seconded by Janel Keplinger.

September 8-10, 2009 - Galena, AK

October 26, 2009 - teleconference
December 10 & 11, 2009 - Anchorage
January 25, 21010 - teleconference
March 25 & 26, 2010 – Juneau
June 10 & 11, 2010 – Kodiak

Officers. Bunny Schaeffer moved and Pat Shier seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development elect Esther Cox as Chair. Ms. Cox said that she could continue in the position. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

Shirley Holloway moved and Pat Shier seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development elect Phil Schneider as First Vice Chair. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

Pat Shier moved and Phil Schneider seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development elect Geri Benshoof as Second Vice Chair. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

NASBE Dues. The board discussed the pros and cons of NASBE (National Association of State Boards of Education) membership. The board generally agreed that membership was worthy, but the dues (\$24,298.00) were not in the budget for this year. The board discussed including the NASBE dues in the FY2011 budget. Geri Benshoof moved and Shirley Holloway seconded a motion for the department to include the NASBE dues in the FY2011 budget preparations. The motion was approved by a 5-2 roll call vote.

Assessment, Accountability & Information Management Report. Erik McCormick was present to brief the board. Mr. McCormick said there had been many subgroup increases in the last reporting period for the HSGQE. He said the spring SBAs were basically flat, which would affect the growth model. He said the HSGQE should significant growth in the disabled student subgroups, but they did not see the same growth in the SBAs. He said this fall would see the end of funding for the Unity Project. He said data collection with the school districts was working well. They take the district data, analyze it and send it back to the districts electronically which has eliminated the mail process of the past. This allows student information without the use of more staff. He said the portals that allow access to data for researchers will roll out in August and is being tested now. He hoped to hear by the end of June regarding the approval of the science assessment, which is now in peer review. He said they had applied for two competitive grants; one to improve use and develop growth models with several other states, and the other to partner with Oregon in training modules for teacher accommodations. Mr. McCormick said security was being well protected with firewalls. Mr. Schneider said he was concerned with English language proficiency being flat. Mr. McCormick said Title I was looking at strategies to help these students.

Teaching & Learning Report. Cyndy Curran was present to brief the board. She said the department has finished the Title I and Title ID monitoring and was very busy

deciphering the ARRA information and getting it out to districts. There was to be a Title II visit the following week. She said the physical education standards were being developed and would be brought to the board in September. She also noted that the career ready E-Learning module for professional development was being worked on.

Ms. Curran said that in July the special education unit would be fully staffed for the first time in a long time. She said work was progressing on the early learning pilot. She said the teacher certification web site was being updated and improved and the teacher certification unit would now be able to accept fingerprint cards prior to receiving applications; they were training district human resource department to review applications before they were submitted to cut down on the number of incomplete applications; and they would have more staff for the summer rush months. She said they were hoping to be able to switch soon to using birthdates as expiration dates for teacher certificates. Ms. Curran said the RFP for the early learning pilot had been issued.

District Improvement. Les Morse, Deputy Commissioner, was present to brief the board. He described the Alaska School Leadership Institute, saying 13 districts had attended, including the intervention districts. There were 120 participants consisting of superintendents, principals and district administrators, and the focus was setting professional learning communities, instructional leadership and practices, data analysis and building cross-state conversations. He said board member Schaeffer had attended as an employee of the Northwest Arctic School District, as well as the commissioner and Cyndy Curran. He said the department was working on follow up, which would be significant for the intervention districts. He also spoke about the remediation plan for students who did not pass the HSGQE, saying that the judge in the Moore case wanted the plans for these students to be individualized.

Alaska Education Plan Report. Commissioner LeDoux was present to brief the board. He said the department was using the plan to develop the FY2011 budget and set its priorities. He said work groups were established and working and the board would see an action plan in September. He also said the department was working with Best Beginnings to revise the Early Learning goals.

Budget /Legislative Report. Eddy Jeans was present to brief the board. Mr. Jeans reviewed the bills that just passed with the legislature. He said it was too soon to discuss budget concerns for the upcoming year. He noted that the department did well in the last legislative session.

Mt. Edgecumbe High School (MEHS) Report. Superintendent Bill Hutton was online to brief the board. Mr. Hutton reported that MEHS had a good year. US News & World Report identified MEHS as a bronze designee school. He said the school made AYP and its athletes did well, and all graduates passed all areas of the HSGQE. He reviewed the graduate report for future plan of graduates and post grads, reviewed scholarships awarded to graduates and the strategic planning notes from a recent planning meeting. The commissioner said that yesterday during public comment there was a concern raised regarding Sitka students becoming boarding students. He said he believed that Mr. Hutton's decision in this matter was in concert with his duties. He said admissions and

enrollment were a hot topic at the school and he likes the open discussion. Most concerned felt that MEHS is a residential boarding school and consistent with state regulations. He said they were simply complying with those regulations in expecting all students to board at the school. One of the concerns was that Sitka students took beds from rural students who could otherwise come to MEHS if there was an open bed. Mr. Hutton reiterated that he felt he was being stricter in following the admissions procedure than his predecessors. He said past procedures appeared to him to be inconsistent. Next year, 22 students will be grandfathered in. Presently, there are four completed apps and three want to live in the dorms and one has some health concerns. The total number of students the school can handle is between 395 and 405. He said there was a consideration with ASAA when enrollment went over 400. There are 395 beds available. He said even though the policy manual does not specify where a student must be housed, the regulation is clear and that was what he was following. He said there was difficulty supporting students when the number goes over 395. He said there were three groups of local Sitka students, those of Alaska Native heritage, staff children, and the home school group. It was clarified that the state board was the school's board and the advisory board's responsibility was to advise the state board. Ms. Schaeffer said there was concern that MEHS was making policy of putting athletes above academics. She said students should not be penalized for where they live and the beds should be freed up to allow out-of-Sitka students to attend. The commissioner said the decision was consistent with regulation.

Attorney General's Report. Neil Slotnick was present to brief the board. He reviewed the ongoing legal cases. In *Moore v. State*, he said he had filed a brief with the court describing all the state has been doing with interventions, and he felt there was no further need for court oversight as the state board does that job.

Libraries, Archives & Museums (LAM) Report. Linda Thibodeau was present to brief the board. She said she was hoping to have a deputy soon now that the hiring freeze was over. She had gone to the Third Annual Book Festival with author reception with the theme Historic Alaska, and said it was a great event and wished more could have participated. She said Bruce Kato, the State Museum curator, was retiring after 30 years with the state, and would be hard to replace, describing his departure as a big loss. She said the LAM needed an educator curator to coordinate all the education initiatives. There are now eight museum interns working with grant money. They are helping small museums around the state. She said it was great to have them and wished the program could continue. Regarding the building project, Ms. Thibodeau said the last three years had been spent getting ready for the legislative appropriation. There was \$7.5 M for design already approved, but she felt they first needed a commitment to move beyond the design phase which would be \$70/\$80 M, before the \$7.5 M should be spent. The commissioner said the department needed to get the delegation and legislators on board for the project, which is badly needed. Ms. Thibodeau also noted that the library was working on a re-organization to deliver services more effectively. Pat Shier thanked Glenn Cook, the state archivist, for working with Retirement & Benefits and coordinating their archiving. He said it had been a good experience and they were a great service in

state government. Geri Benshoof thanked Ms. Thibodeau for the LAM tour the board received in March and thanked her for the “Did you Know” materials in the packet.

The Commissioner’s Report. Larry LeDoux was present to brief the board. He began by saying that the department had a great leadership team. He had been doing a lot of traveling and talking with superintendents and speaking at graduations around the state. He said the department would be reviewing standards and benchmarks to make certain they were world class. Regarding the common core standards, he said Alaska would be at the table for the discussion, but hadn’t signed on yet, being careful in its review. He recently met with the Alaska Workforce Investment Board in partnership with EED. He said he wanted to work on a virtual school to help bridge the rural/urban gap. He also said he was working with small schools that were close to closure because of declining attendance. The PK-20 commission is moving toward being a council, and partnerships are being formed. The commissioner said the ARRA was taking a lot of time and the application had been signed by him and was on the governor’s desk awaiting her signature. He said the department was working through the swine flu information and would be devising a plan for schools to follow. He said a bigger discussion was needed on how to effectively deliver a quality education in the smaller schools. The department is still recruiting for a rural director and a director for CTE. He said the governor was pleased with the direction of the department. Phil Schneider asked the commissioner about national standards. Commissioner LeDoux said the concept was not new and had been around for a long time and it could be a takeover by the federal government. He said a number of states, through Achieve, developed the standards; 15 states chose to align their standards with common core. This is a new push by the current administration. He said a MOA just showed up recently to develop the standards with approval by July 1, which gave no time for public input for a commitment. He said Alaska has asked to be at the table for the discussion and CCSSO said that was okay. To redesign our assessment system would cost millions of dollars. He noted that we were already moving in the right direction. When asked how he foresaw the discussion on rural schools, he said the new Director of Rural Education needs to begin the dialogue, then develop conference and statewide dialogue.

Consent Agenda. The chair asked if anyone wanted to pull any items off the consent agenda. Shirley Holloway asked for the APU teacher preparation program approval to be removed. Bunny Schaeffer moved and Pat Shier seconded a motion to approve 20A, Minutes of the March 19 & 20, 2009, meeting be approved. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

20B was the approval of the teacher preparation programs at Alaska Pacific University (APU). Shirley Holloway said she believed that APU could meet the NCATE requirements once they were reevaluated. Marilyn Berry, from APU, said APU had only one day to act on the NCATE decision and would be without accreditation. After discussion, it was felt that APU did meet the state requirements for accreditation. APU said that they were going to continue to work on meeting all the requirements of NCATE regardless of what the state required. Standard #2 had not been met, assessment system and unit evaluation. They have already met the other standards. Shirley Holloway moved

and Phil Schneider seconded the following motion: I move the Alaska State Board of Education & Early Development approve the APU teacher preparation program for one year, while APU works on the remaining condition to be fully NCATE accredited, reporting back to the board within a year that they have met Standards #2, at which time the board would entertain additional approval. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

The board thanked the APU staff for being at the meeting. Pat Shier said he noticed in the MEHS report that APU supported MEHS graduates with a nice scholarship.

Executive Session. Bunny Schaeffer moved and Pat Shier seconded a motion for the board to convene in executive session. An executive session was necessary for this purpose (Commissioner's evaluation) in accordance with the state's open meetings act, AS 44.62.310(c)(2), specifically the provision related to "subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person, provided the person may request a public discussion." The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

Shirley Holloway moved and Pat Shier seconded a motion to move out of executive session. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

Board Comments.

Pat Shier thanked the department for its leadership and for getting the education committee together.

Geri Benshoof commended Tim Rockey for his work with AASG and for presenting the AASG resolutions. She said she enjoyed working with the Governor's Council on Disabilities as it continues her professional life work. She thanked the commissioner for his help with moving the term "mental retardation" to "cognitively impaired." She congratulated those who were elected to office and said she was pleased that the board came to Fairbanks.

Bunny Schaeffer congratulated Esther Cox, Phil Schneider and Geri Benshoof and thanked Mt. Edgecumbe for the discussion.

Shirley Holloway congratulated Esther Cox, Phil Schneider and Geri Benshoof. She said she was looking forward to feedback on the implementation of the SSOS effort. She thanked the board for the flexibility in the meeting dates and thanked Geri for the dinner at her home.

Janel Keplinger said she was proud of Tim Rockey representing AASG. She was impressed with the staff preparation, time and effort to make the meeting run smoothly. She wished Lt. Col Luu well in his new assignment and thanked Geri for the dinner at her home.

Tim Rockey said he was excited about working on the health curriculum. He thanked the staff and board for their help and hospitality.

Phil Schneider read an article authored by Jamie Vollmer regarding education changes through the years.

Esther Cox said she had attended the energy conference in Galena and she was glad the board chose to have a meeting there. She reported on Construction Academy happenings and a tool box for benchmarking from ECS. She said she was proud of Les Morse, and commented that he was the board's gain and Juneau's loss (referring to his application for Juneau SD superintendent). She noted that this would be Rhonda Gardner's last meeting with the board (Anchorage School District Assistant Superintendent), as she was retiring. Ms. Cox wished her well and thanked her for her attendance at board meetings and her work in the district. She wished Lt. Col. Luu well and thanked the staff for their meeting preparation. She said the assessment work session was excellent and thanked the board their vote of confidence electing her Chair once again. She thanked Geri Benshoof for the dinner at her home.

Sunny Luu thanked the board for its support and thanked the department for its work on the Interstate Military Compact and getting it passed through the legislature. He invited everyone to Hawaii, his next duty station.

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent.