

Alaska State Board of Education & Early Development
Approved Minutes
Video/Teleconference originating in the Auxiliary Board Room
801 West 10th Street, Suite 200
Juneau, AK
January 23, 2012

The teleconference meeting was called to order by Chair Cox at noon. All members were online with the exception of Pat Shier, Janel Keplinger and Phil Schneider. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The Chair asked if anyone had any disclosures; there were none. The agenda was amended by unanimous roll call vote to include an Executive Session regarding the Moore v. State lawsuit. The agenda was approved by unanimous roll call vote. Mr. Schneider joined the meeting.

Others in attendance were: Bruce Johnson from the Alaska Council of School Administrators; Commissioner Hanley, Deputy Commissioner Les Morse, Cyndy Curran, Elizabeth Nudelman, Marcy Herman, Eric McCormick, Eric Fry, Phyllis Carlson, and Roxy Mourant from the department, Neil Slotnick, Assistant Attorney General; Dottie Knuth, board secretary; no one was online.

5. Legislative Report. Marcy Herman, Legislative Liaison, was present to brief the board. Ms. Herman reviewed the pre-filed bills that were in the board's packet and spoke about three additional bills: SB 169 regarding distance delivery course funding, SB 170 regarding vocational education counseling in public schools, and SB171, another bill regarding an increase to the Base Student Allocation (BSA). Ms. Cox asked if the legislature could be convinced to change the name of vocational education to career and technical education. Ms. Herman said the department would testify to that effect. Ms. Cox asked what the backup plan was for HB 256; who would do the oversight if not the department? The commissioner said it was unclear and there were many contradictions. Mr. Schneider asked if the bill had a chance. The commissioner said it will have its first hearing later this week presented by Rep. Dick, who is the chairman of the House Education Committee. Ms. Benshoof said she will be in Juneau and wants to attend as many hearings as she can. Mr. Schneider inquired if this was not the repeal of Senator Stevens's bill last year, and didn't it repeal the authority of SB 285. He inquired if there was advocacy from the original supporters of SB 285 and from the department, and wondered where those who originally voted for the bill stood this year. The commissioner said it was a deliberative process. The department has met with the governor's office and will be speaking to its effects. Mr. Schneider asked what the contingency plan was if EED does not intervene in failing school districts, asking who will be responsible for those students, and indicated that he needed some guidance for a position. Mr. Merriner inquired about Assistant Attorney General Slotnick's analysis of the bill and asked if the board members could see it. Ms. Cox inquired if oversight was not a constitutional obligation and responsibility of the department. She said she wanted the board to be kept apprised of the actions on the bill and further inquired about the effects of Judge Gleason's direction to the department, and constitutional responsibilities. The commissioner said the board would be kept up to date.

6. Budget Report. Mark Lewis, Acting Administration Services Director, was present to brief the board. He walked the board through the budget document that was in the packet, page by page. Ms. Cox asked if there was any money so the board could travel to a rural district. Ms. Lewis explained that the general fund had eroded so much, that there were little funds for that; however, he would try to find some money if the board wanted to travel to a rural area. He noted that the ISER cost differential (\$11.9M) is in its final year and there will be an increase in revenue to some districts. The department is also being assessed \$329M toward the TRS and PERS pay down. Ms. Benshoof verified that executive administration included the board, and noted that there was not much money for board operations. She asked if that applied to all boards, and Mr. Lewis said generally, it did. Ms. Cox said the board was too urban-oriented and because of lack of funds it can't get the rural districts. She said she felt it was essential for the board to travel to rural areas at least once a year. She noted also that the board is criticized for not doing so and being an urban board. Mr. Schneider said perhaps they needed to be more creative in their outreach, taking fewer folks to meetings. Mr. Merriner inquired about the number of employees in Child Nutrition. Mr. Lewis said their main purpose was to ensure that USDA guidelines were observed and they did a lot of monitoring in schools to ensure that the federal monies would continue to flow into the districts. Mr. Lewis said the positions and dollars in student and school achievement were in Teaching & Learning Support (TLS) and is mostly federal dollars, NCLB, and title programs that deliver all of the department services and core programs. Inquiries were made about deleted positions and boarding school programs. Mr. Lewis also named the projects on the Mt. Edgecumbe High School deferred maintenance list that are contingent upon legislative approval this session, as follows:

Original Priority	Revised Priority	Project Name	Original Funding Year	Current Funding Year	Original Amount	Revised Amount
1	1	Heating Plan Upgrades Ph II	FY13	FY13	\$694,634.50	\$694,634.50
5	2	Girls Dorm Siding Project	FY13	FY13	\$424,492.60	\$424,492.60
	3	Boy's Dorm Window Wall Replacement		FY13	-	\$146,510.00
2	4	Heating Plant Upgrades Ph III	FY13	FY14	\$2,020,336.68	\$2,108,177.40
3	5	Heating Plant Upgrades Ph IIIa	FY13	FY15	\$1,350,258.70	\$1,467,672.50
4	6	1331 Locker Room	FY13	FY15	\$943,331.20	\$1,025,360.00

		Replacement				
6	7	Academic Wing Expansion	FY13	FY15	\$14,551,180.00	\$15,816,500.00
7	8	Backup Generator – Upper Campus	FY14	FY15	\$1,843,070.88	\$1,919,865.50
8	9	Miscellaneous Deferred Maintenance	FY14	FY15	\$668,035.20	\$695,870.00
9	10	Dining Hall Renovation	FY15	FY15	\$4,073,921.95	\$4,878,921.95
10	11	Student Housing	FY15	FY15	\$1,645,000.00	\$840,000.00
11	12	Maintenance Shop Roof Replacement	FY15	FY15	\$395,295.25	\$395,295.25

7. Pre-K Data Report. Cyndy Curran, Director of Teaching & Learning Support, was present to brief the board. She reviewed the two-year report that was in the board's packet entitled Alaska Pilot Pre-Kindergarten Project (AP3). In April 2009, the Alaska Legislature provided EED with \$2,000,000 in General Funds for a pilot pre-kindergarten project. The department conducted a competitive process for the grant funding, with 12 districts ultimately submitting full applications. The six top-scoring districts that participated and provided services are: Anchorage, Bering Strait, Juneau, Lower Kuskokwim, Nome, and Yukon Koyukuk. During the pilot project, 248 children in 19 classrooms were served. While the report shows that children participating in the project are making large strides in their development and that a large number are closing the gap, there continues to be a high need for quality early childhood programs in Alaska. Ms. Benshoof inquired about special education funding. Ms. Curran said there was some. Ms. Benshoof also noted that Peabody had an expressive vocabulary test that might be beneficial. She also requested some local data, as opposed to national data. Ms. Benshoof inquired about the goals of the program and how we would know how far we have yet to go. Ms. Curran said many groups are helping with the many students do not get the language development in their homes prior to entering school. Ms. Curran said the report had not been distributed and had not gone to the legislature yet. Ms. Cox said she'd like to see a better summary that included numbers of students and hard facts in bulleted form. Ms. Benshoof said she'd like to know when it will be discussed and shown on Gavel-to-Gavel.

8. Assessment regulation to go out for public comment. Plan of Service. Erik McCormick, Director of Assessment, Accountability & Information Management, was present to brief the

board. He said that the amended regulation sets provisional criteria for exiting limited English proficient students, and that the complete criteria will be in place for next year, and it fulfills a federal requirement. Federal and state laws require the state to implement English language proficiency assessments to measure the level of LEP children's development and attainment of English language proficiency.

Alaska will administer a new English Language Proficiency (ELP) assessment, the ACCESS for ELLs, for the first time in spring, 2012. The ACCESS for ELLs was developed by the WIDA consortium, a group of over 26 states organized to create ELP standards and assessments and support English language learners in developing proficiency in English.

The exit criteria for the ELP assessment are currently based on the prior ELP assessment, the IPT. The exit criteria are used to determine when students have reached sufficient proficiency in English to exit LEP status and are no longer eligible for LEP support services.

Commissioner Hanley was excused to attend a legislative hearing. Mr. Morse remained at the table.

9. Statewide assessment program for students with disabilities, adopting the new *Alaska Supplement for WorkKeys Assessment, 2012 Edition*. Erik McCormick, Director of Assessment, Accountability & Information Management, was present to brief the board. He noted that this regulation went out for public comment in September. At the end of the comment period, there were issues with the vendor concerning accommodations for the assessment, which have now been worked out. So it took longer to come back to the board for adoption. The regulation concerns accommodations and modifications for students with disabilities and limited English proficiency. Deputy Commissioner Morse said it was at a point that is the best the department can get with a commercial product and it still benefits the state. Ms. Benshoof asked if the department was working on accommodations for the SBA's. Mr. McCormick said those will come at a future date.

The chair asked if there was anyone online or in the room in Juneau who wanted to make public comment. There was none.

10. Geri Benshoof moved and Carol 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 34.055, regarding exit criteria for limited English proficiency students. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

11, Jim Merriner moved and Carol Schaeffer seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development adopt the amendments to 4 AAC 06.775, Statewide assessment program for students with disabilities that incorporate the publication, *Alaska Supplement for WorkKeys Assessment, 2012 edition*. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

12. Carol Schaeffer moved and Jim Merriner seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development approve the consent agenda consisting of approval of the department's FY 2013 operating and capital budgets. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Board Comments

Col. Sullivan – none

Madison Manning - none

Jim Merriner – none

Geri Benshoof – none

Phil Schneider – none

Carol Schaeffer - none

Esther Cox said she attended the Blue Ribbon ceremony at Chugach High School, saying it was a happy school. She thanked Ms. Knuth for the morning updates, and thanked Mr. Lewis for a good job reporting the budget.

Jim Merriner moved and Geri Benshoof seconded a motion to move into executive session to discuss matters of Moore v. State. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Geri Benshoof moved and Phil Schneider seconded a motion to come out of executive session.

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 2:15 p.m.