

**Alaska State Board of Education & Early Development**  
**Approved Minutes**  
**March 19 & 20, 2015**  
**Juneau, AK**

*Thursday, March 19*

Chair Cox called the meeting to order at 8 a.m. Kenny Gallahorn and James Fields were absent.

Commissioner Hanley swore in new member Dr. Keith J. Hamilton and continuing member Esther Cox.

The board, staff, and public recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The board approved the agenda.

Sue Hull declared a potential conflict of interest with Agenda Item 6C relating to the Effie Kokrine Early College Charter School. Ms. Hull is a member of the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District's board, which approved the charter locally. Chair Cox ruled that she could participate.

Chair Cox and other board members thanked outgoing member Jim Merriner by telephone.

Ms. Hull asked that information about Campfire USA's Absolutely Incredible Kid Day recognition program be available at the board meeting.

Dr. Mark Miller, superintendent of the Juneau School District, gave a presentation about the district.

**Public Comment**

Dr. Steve Atwater supported the proposed regulation about Type B certificates, saying it would expand avenues to being a superintendent. He said school boards need the autonomy to select the best person for superintendent.

Posie Boggs spoke against allowing waivers for required early literacy screenings, saying early identification of reading delays is important.

Todd Poage, superintendent of the Alaska Gateway School District, supported the proposed Type B regulation, saying districts need a deeper pool of applicants for superintendent.

Barbara Haney of North Pole said that superintendent applicants who have classroom experience at least should be given preferential treatment. She supported a waiver from early literacy screenings. She opposed Alaska's academic standards, especially for math.

Donna Levesque of Birchtree Charter School spoke in favor of waivers from early literacy screenings, saying her school does not formally teach academics in kindergarten. The school assesses for early literacy in grades 1 and 2, and uses the response-to-intervention process to catch students who have delays and disabilities, she said.

Ed Gray of Sitka opposed regulations that require homeschool parents to sign agreements regarding testing.

Debby Edwardson, president of the North Slope Borough School Board, supported the proposed Type B regulation, saying the pool of superintendent applicants is very small.

Peggy Cowan, superintendent of the North Slope Borough School District, supported the proposed Type B regulation.

Lucy Hope of the Mat-Su Borough School District said students with individualized education programs should be eligible for diplomas of completion, not certificates of completion. A non-diploma track asks parents to give up hope, she said.

Maryellen Putnam of Wasilla said students with individualized education programs should be eligible for diplomas of completion, not certificates of completion. Those students may have put in more time and effort than other students, she said.

Norm Wooten of the Association of Alaska School Boards read a letter supporting the proposed Type B regulation.

Christie Reinhardt of the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education expressed concern over waivers from early literacy screenings. Many children who are behind in reading skills in grade 1 remain behind in future grades, she said. At Birchtree Charter School the number of children in special education doubles from grade 3 to grade 4, she said.

Dr. Lisa Parady, executive director of the Alaska Council of School Administrators and the Alaska Superintendents Association, supported the proposed Type B regulation, citing a large turnover of superintendents, even during the school year.

Dr. Mark Miller, superintendent of the Juneau School District, supported the proposed Type B regulation, saying that no new superintendent has all the necessary skills.

## **Work Session**

**Agenda Item 1.** Waivers from 70% requirement. Elwin Blackwell of the School Finance Division, reviewed the three requests for waivers before the board.

James Fields joined the meeting.

**Agenda Item 2. CIP lists.** Elizabeth Nudelman, Director of School Finance, reviewed the final annual lists for projects eligible for funding under the school construction grant fund and the

major maintenance grant fund. Commissioner Hanley said the Kivalina project is the last of five schools the state agreed to fund under a consent decree. Because Kivalina is not ready to build the school, the project will be funded in phases. Ms. Hull said the board's review of the CIP lists should occur earlier, before the lists are used by the Governor and legislature.

**Agenda Item 3. SLAM resolution.** Bob Banghart, Deputy Director of the Division of Libraries, Archives & Museums, said a bill to name the new State Library Archives and Museum building after Fr. Andrew Kashevaroff is moving through the legislature. The bill also will name a reading room after deceased legislator Richard Foster.

**Agenda Item 4. 90% by 2020.** Heather Cavanaugh and June Sobocinski gave a presentation about a project in Anchorage to support families in improving student achievement. Their current focus is on readiness for kindergarten, proficiency in 8<sup>th</sup>-grade math, and high school graduation.

**Agenda Item 5. PITAAS.** Ronalda Cadiente-Brown, director of the program Preparing Indigenous Teachers and Administrators for Alaska Schools, gave a presentation about the project. Dr. Hamilton said the University of Alaska will not accept credits earned by students at Alaska Christian College (ACC). He asked if the University of Alaska Southeast, which houses PITAAS, would accept ACC's associate degree graduates into four-year degree programs. Ms. Cadiente-Brown said she would follow up on the request.

**Agenda Item 7.** ACT career and college ready recognition program. This item was taken out of order as a courtesy to participants by videoconference. Stephanie Lewis of ACT and Erin Thompson of the department summarized the program, which recognizes college-ready high school seniors, exemplary high schools, and community colleges. The Alaska winners, in the state's first year of participation, were: Ariel Hasse, a student at Mat-Su Career and Technical High School; Kotzebue Middle/Senior High School; and Iligsavik College.

**Agenda Item 6. Charter school renewals.** Principals of American Charter Academy (Becky Huggins), Academy Charter School (Barbara Gerard), and Effie Kokrine Early College Charter School (Josh Snow) summarized their schools and took questions. Mr. Snow said his school needs an in-house data system to target interventions and a credit-recovery program in the summer.

**Agenda Item 9.** Jerry Covey, an education consultant and former state education commissioner, and Dr. Barbara Adams presented a report on educator quality and quantity by the Citizens for the Educational Advancement of Alaska's Children. This item was taken out of order as a courtesy to the presenters.

**Agenda Item 8. Operating and capital budgets.** Heidi Teshner, Director of Administrative Services, reviewed the most recent changes in the House of Representatives to the Governor's budget.

**Agenda Item 10A. School and educator accountability.** Dr. Susan McCauley, Director of Teaching & Learning Support, reviewed proposed regulations to go out for public comment. If adopted, the regulations will take effect next school year. Staff and the board discussed the

provision to remove the requirement that student data constitute a certain percentage of teachers' evaluations.

**Agenda Item 10B. Student teachers.** Sondra Meredith, Administrator for Teacher Certification & Quality, reviewed the proposed regulations. Staff and the board discussed whether a 10-week minimum for student teaching was sufficient. Alaska's teacher preparation programs require more than 10 weeks.

**Agenda Item 10C. Bond Reimbursement and Grant Review Committee.** Commissioner Hanley reviewed the proposed regulations and said it is healthy to have term limits. The board discussed also limiting the number of consecutive terms.

**Agenda Item 10D. State libraries, archives and museums fees.** Bob Banghart, Deputy Director of the Division of Libraries, Archives & Museums, reviewed the proposed regulations. He said the division can reduce or waive fees for users.

**Agenda Item 11A. Alaska Performance Scholarship.** Margaret MacKinnon, Director of Assessment & Accountability, reviewed the proposed regulations.

At 4 p.m. Chair Cox and Dr. Hamilton left the meeting to attend a legislative hearing and did not return to the meeting on Thursday. First Vice-chair James Fields served as chair.

**Agenda Item 11B. Assessment.** Margaret MacKinnon, Director of Assessment & Accountability, reviewed the proposed regulations. In answer to a question, Ms. MacKinnon said that certificates are defined in regulation. In answer to a question, Ms. MacKinnon said the federal government defines a regular high school diploma. State statute also defines the term, Commissioner Hanley said.

**Agenda Item 11C. Type B certification.** Dr. Susan McCauley, Director of Teaching & Learning Support, reviewed the proposed regulations.

**Agenda Item 11D. Certification fees.** Commissioner Hanley reviewed the proposed regulations, saying statute and legislative intent require that certification fees cover the cost of the Professional Teaching Practices Commission.

**Agenda Item 11E. Early literacy screening waivers.** Commissioner Hanley reviewed the proposed regulations, adding that only two current schools would be eligible for a waiver. Dr. McCauley clarified that federal Child Find regulations do not require early literacy screenings, but schools must identify and serve special education students regardless.

*Friday, March 20, 2015*

Dr. Keith Hamilton and Kenny Gallahorn were absent.

**Work Session, cont'd**

**Agenda Item 12. Subcommittee assignments.** Chair Cox appointed Dr. Keith Hamilton to the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education.

### **Business Session**

**Agenda Item 13A. School and educator accountability.** Barbara Thompson moved and James Fields seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development open a period of public comment on the proposed amendments to regulations 4 AAC 04.205(e) and (f) District performance standards; 4 AAC 06.815(a) and (d), Annual measurable objectives; 4 AAC 06.817, Change in assessments; 4 AAC 06.820(h) Participation; 4 AAC 06.895(b) and (e) Report Card to the Public; 4 AAC 19.010(e)-(h), Purpose of evaluations; 4 AAC 19.010 Purpose and scope of evaluations; 4 AAC 19.030(d) Method for evaluating professional employees; 4 AAC 19.055, Reporting of evaluation results; and 4 AAC 19.099(7) and (9) Definitions.

Sue Hull moved and Kathleen Yarr seconded a motion to amend 4 AAC 04.205(f) to read: “districts may use multiple and or up to three previous years of student learning data...”

Board members present approved the amendment unanimously in a roll call vote.

Board members present approved the main motion unanimously in a roll call vote.

**Agenda Item 13B. Student teachers.** Sue Hull moved and Barbara Thompson seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development open a period of public comment on regulation 4 AAC 30.020 Student teachers.

Barbara Thompson moved and Sue Hull seconded a motion to amend 4 AAC 30.020(a) to read: “... supervised clinical practice in a public school for a minimum of 15 weeks.”

Board members present approved the amendment unanimously in a roll call vote.

Board members present approved the main motion unanimously in a roll call vote.

**Agenda Item 13C. Bond Reimbursement and Grant Review Committee.** James Fields moved and Sue Hull seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development open a period of public comment on substitute 4 AAC 31.087 Terms and conditions of office for members of bond reimbursement and grant review committee.

The substitute, dated March 20, 2015, inserts 4 AAC 31.087(c)(2): “may serve no more than two consecutive terms.”

Board members present approved the motion unanimously in a roll call vote.

**Agenda Item 13D. Libraries Archives and Museums fees.** Barbara Thompson moved and James Fields seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development open a period of public comment on 4 AAC 57.910 Fees for services, 4 AAC

58.010 Fees, 4 AAC 59 title, 4 AAC 59.060 Microforms and microform systems, and 4 AAC 59.065 Provision of records; fees for copies of records.

Board members present approved the motion unanimously in a roll call vote.

**Agenda Item 14A. Alaska Performance Scholarship.** Sue Hull moved and James Fields 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 43.035 Grace period for curriculum requirements, 4 AAC 43.040(a) Procedures for home-based education and certain religious or other private schools, and 4 AAC 43.045 Extensions of eligibility period.

Board members present approved the motion unanimously in a roll call vote.

**Agenda Item 14B. Assessments.** Barbara Thompson moved and Kathleen Yarr seconded the following motion: After considering all public comment, I move the State Board of Education & Early Development adopt the proposed amendments on 4 AAC 06.078 Alternative completion requirements; students with disabilities, 4 AAC 06.717(f) Work ready/college ready transitional skills assessment, 4 AAC 06.775(b) Statewide assessment program for students with disabilities, and 4 AAC 06.790 Definitions.

Board members present approved the motion unanimously in a roll call vote.

**Agenda Item 14C. Type B certificates.** Sue Hull moved and Kathleen Yarr seconded the following motion: After considering all public comment, I move the State Board of Education & Early Development adopt the proposed amendment to regulation 4 AAC 12.346. Administrative certificate (Type B Limited).

Board members present approved the motion in a 4-1 roll call vote, Chair Cox voting against the motion.

**Agenda Item 14D. Certification fees.** Barbara Thompson moved and Sue Hull seconded the following motion: After considering all public comment, I move the State Board of Education & Early Development adopt the proposed amendment to regulation 4 AAC 12.300(g), Certification of teachers.

Sue Hull moved and Barbara Thompson seconded the motion to amend the main motion to also reference 4 AAC 12.380(e) Retired teacher certificate.

Board members present approved the amendment unanimously in a roll call vote.

Board members present approved the main motion unanimously in a roll call vote.

**Agenda Item 14E. Early literacy screening waiver.** Sue Hull moved and Kathleen Yarr 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 06.714 Waiver of early literacy screening.

Kobe Rizk asked if the waiver would set a precedent for students opting out of the Alaska Measures of Progress. Dr. Susan McCauley said that assessments such as the Alaska Measures of Progress, unlike the early literacy screenings, are required by state and federal law.

Sue Hull asked if there are consequences for students that opt out of the Alaska Measures of Progress. Deputy Commissioner Les Morse said that schools must test all eligible students, per state and federal requirements. Any consequences for students would have to be determined at school or district level.

Board members, addressing the motion, discussed early identification of reading delays, federal requirements to identify students with disabilities, and parental choice.

The motion failed 2-3, with Kathleen Yarr and Sue Hull voting yes and Chair Cox, James Fields, and Barbara Thompson voting no.

**Agenda Item 15. Teaching & Learning Support.** Dr. Susan McCauley reviewed the cover memo.

**Agenda Item 16. Assessment.** Margaret MacKinnon, Acting Director of Assessment & Accountability, reviewed the cover memo.

**Agenda Item 17. Libraries, Archives & Museums.** Deputy Director Bob Banghart reviewed the cover memo.

**Agenda Item 21. Department of Law.** This item was taken out of order as a courtesy to Rebecca Hattan, Assistant Attorney General. She reviewed the department's report to the board. She briefed the board on the Ketchikan Borough's lawsuit regarding the required local contribution to schools.

**Agenda Item 18. Legislative.** Marcy Herman, Legislative Liaison, reviewed the status of education bills.

**Agenda Item 19. Rural.** Commissioner Hanley reviewed the activities of Rural Education Coordinator Chris Simon.

**Agenda Item 20. Mt. Edgecumbe High School.** Superintendent Bill Hutton reviewed the school's activities. Commissioner Hanley said the state will soon issue a request for proposals for construction management and general contracting at the planned swimming pool. Staff reviewed the process for approving the school's curriculum.

**Agenda Item 22. Commissioner.** Commissioner Hanley said he would try to arrange a meeting between the board and Governor Walker. He reviewed legislative issues regarding the department's budget. He corrected misunderstandings among some members of the public about the early literacy screenings, which are funded by the legislature.

**Agenda Item 23. Consent Agenda.** Barbara Thompson moved and Sue Hull seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development approve the consent agenda consisting of the following: approval of the minutes of the December 4 & 5, 2014, meeting; approval of the minutes of the January 26, 2015, meeting; approval of the School Construction and Major Maintenance Grant Fund List; approval of school district audited waiver requests from the minimum expenditure for instruction for the following districts: Cordova, Klawock, and Southwest Region; approval of the resolution supporting naming of SLAM; approval of the department's budget; approval of the appointment of Margaret MacKinnon; approval of the American Charter School Academy reapplication; approval of the Academy Charter School reapplication; and approval of the Effie Kokrine Early College Charter School reapplication.

The board approved the motion unanimously in a roll call vote.

### **Board comments**

James Fields thanked the board for recognizing the basketball team he coaches.

Sue Hull said the board should expand the opportunity for the public to comment at board meetings. She asked the department and board to reconsider a state regulation that forbids local school boards from attempting to influence elections. She said she is concerned about U.S. history textbooks. She said the board should discuss curricular support for rural districts.

Barbara Thompson thanked staff, the board, and public commenters. She said the board at its next retreat should discuss teacher preparation.

Kobe Rizk said he wanted the board to engage in a substantial discussion of its vision and long-term priorities. He thanked staff and the board.

Kathleen Yarr said that Alaskans could be at a disadvantage in taking the SATs or ACTs if those assessments are aligned with the Common Core.

Chair Cox said public comments affect the board's discussions in a positive way. She asked about the writing portion of state assessments and how written answers can be scored. She said the board might need an audio-conference to prepare for its next retreat.

The board chose April 13 at noon for an audio-conference to prepare for its next retreat.

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.