

Alaska State Board of Education & Early Development
Approved Minutes
June 16 & 17, 2016
Juneau, AK

Thursday, June 16

Chair Fields called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. All members were present. Chair Fields swore in the new military advisory member, LTC (Lieutenant Colonel) Jason Toole. The board prayed and pledged allegiance to the flag.

Second Vice-Chair Thompson amended the agenda to add the appointment of a commissioner. John Harmon amended the agenda to remove Agenda Item 18E from the consent agenda. First Vice-Chair Hull amended the agenda to add an executive session to discuss the state's contract with the Achievement & Assessment Institute. Ms. Hull moved to approve the agenda as amended. Ms. Thompson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Chair Fields declared a potential conflict of interest because he is a member of the school board that employs one of the finalists for commissioner. First Vice-Chair Hull ruled it is not a conflict.

Public Comment

Tim Parker, president-elect of NEA-Alaska, said the union is centered on student learning and wants to be partners with the board. He thanked Dr. Susan McCauley, interim commissioner.

Lisa Parady, executive director of the Alaska Council of School Administrators, thanked the board for its strategic work; she said the ideas for modernization will move student learning forward. She thanked the board for its open process of selecting a commissioner. She thanked Dr. Susan McCauley, interim commissioner; Betty Walters, interim deputy commissioner; and the department staff for their work during the transition.

Rep. Lora Reinbold said she hopes for a new page with a new commissioner. She asked about the cost of having 54 school districts. She said she looks forward to the board putting forth big budget cuts. She said HB 156 should be implemented; the board should pass regulations about data privacy; the department should be careful of strings attached to federal funds; the state is using the Common Core State Standards and improperly spending money on it; and the board should include legislators in its strategic planning.

Kristen Vandagriff of the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education spoke about the needs of special education students and said there should be special education involvement in the state's plan to implement the Every Student Succeeds Act.

Dr. Barbara Haney of North Pole said the Every Student Succeeds Act is an opportunity to change Alaska's standards. She recommended Massachusetts' standards. She said the board should examine the ANSWERS data program. She said the board should conduct a national search for a commissioner.

Ed Gray of Sitka spoke against the Common Core, saying it is developmentally inappropriate. He described Alaska's standards and assessments as failures.

Pam Goode, who is on the Delta-Greely School District's policy committee, opposed the Common Core, saying that it drives curriculum and assessment. She said that gathering data on children violates the state constitution.

Lori Koppenberg said Alaska should use Massachusetts' standards that pre-dated the Common Core. She said there should be a statewide parental right to not take assessments.

Agenda Item 1A. Commissioner selection. Dr. Keith Hamilton moved, and First Vice-Chair Hull seconded the motion, to appoint Dr. Michael Johnson commissioner of education and early development. The board approved the motion unanimously.

Work Session

Agenda Item 1. Every Student Succeeds Act update. Margaret MacKinnon, director of assessment and accountability, and Sondra Meredith, administrator of teacher education and certification, reviewed a PowerPoint presentation on the ongoing collaborative process of developing a state plan to implement the act.

Agenda Item 2. Teacher of the Year role on the board. Assistant Attorney General Rebecca Hattan reviewed the regulation that establishes advisory board members. The board asked for a report on what other states do regarding teacher advisory seats.

Agenda Item 3. Bylaw changes. Assistant Attorney General Rebecca Hattan summarized the proposed change in the board's bylaws regarding publishing meeting notices in newspapers.

Agenda Item 4. Student data. Margaret MacKinnon, director of assessment and accountability, and Brian Laurent, data management supervisor, reviewed a PowerPoint that explained the department's collection, use, and protection of student data. Board members asked questions about the ANSWERS program of longitudinal data.

Agenda Item 5. Resolution for postsecondary network. Rebecca Braun, a policy analyst for Governor Bill Walker, reviewed the proposed resolution, in which the board would express support of the Alaska Postsecondary Access & Completion Network, commit to join as a member, and support the statewide postsecondary attainment goal of 65 percent by 2025.

Friday, June 17

Work Session Continued

Agenda Item 6. House Bill 278. Dr. Susan McCauley, interim commissioner, reviewed the intention of HB 278's language regarding Common Core, based on the legislative intent that the bill would not affect Alaska's standards or school districts' standards. The board discussed

whether there should be a regulation regarding the topic. The board also discussed whether the process of reviewing standards should be set by regulation. First Vice-Chair Hull moved, and Dr. Keith Hamilton seconded the motion, to postpone to the next regular meeting discussion of a regulation regarding HB 278. The motion passed 6-1, with John Harmon voting no.

Agenda Item 7A. Extension of board's approval of UAA program. Sondra Meredith, administrator of teacher education and certification, reviewed the University of Alaska Anchorage's request for a one-year extension of the board's approval of its educator preparation programs.

Agenda Item 7B. Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation. Sondra Meredith, administrator of teacher education and certification, reviewed state partnerships with the council and the types of program reviews.

Agenda Item 8A. Teacher-related regulations. Sondra Meredith, administrator of teacher education and certification, reviewed regulations proposed to go out for public comment regarding requirements to be highly qualified, retired teaching certificates, and substitute teachers.

Agenda Item 9A. Educator evaluation requirements. Sondra Meredith, administrator of teacher education and certification, reviewed regulations proposed for adoption regarding the use of student data in educator evaluations.

Agenda Item 9B. SAT scores. Margaret MacKinnon, director of assessment and accountability, reviewed regulations proposed for adoption regarding the use of scores in the new SAT to qualify for the Alaska Performance Scholarship.

Business Session

Executive session. First Vice-Chair Hull moved, and John Harmon seconded, a motion to move into executive session to discuss legal claims arising from the contract with the Achievement & Assessment Institute. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote. After the executive session, Dr. Keith Hamilton moved, and First Vice-Chair Sue Hull seconded the motion, to move out of executive session. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

Agenda Item 10A. Teacher-related regulations. John Harmon moved and First Vice-Chair Hull seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development open a period of public comment on 4 AAC 04.210 Highly qualified teachers; 4 AAC 04.212 Objective uniform standards; 4 AAC 12.380 Retired certificate (Type R); and 4 AAC 18.021 Employment of substitute teachers. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

Agenda Item 11A. Educator evaluation requirements. Second Vice-Chair Thompson moved and Rebecca Himschoot seconded the following motion: After considering all public comment, I move the State Board of Education & Early Development adopt the proposed amendments to regulations 4 AAC 04.205. District performance standards, 4 AAC 19.010. Purpose and scope of evaluations, 4 AAC 19.015. Evaluation materials to be available, 4 AAC 19.030. Evaluation

procedures. 4 AAC 19.055. Reporting of evaluation results, and 4 AAC 19.099. Definitions. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

Agenda Item 11B. SAT scores. Kenneth Gallahorn moved and John Harmon 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 43.020 Standardized examination and grade point average requirements. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

Agenda Item 12. Subcommittee appointments. Second Vice-Chair Thompson was assigned to the career and technical education subcommittee, LTC Toole to the military compact committee, and Rebecca Himschoot to the Governor’s Council on Disabilities and Special Education.

Agenda Item 13. Dates and locations of meetings. The board adopted the following: September 13-15, 2016, in Juneau; October 24, 2016, audioconference; December 7-9, 2016, audioconference; January 27, 2017, audioconference; March 20-22, 2017, Juneau; and June 7-9, 2017, audioconference.

Agenda Item 14. Election of officers. The board unanimously elected James Fields as Chair, Sue Hull as First Vice-Chair, and John Harmon as Second Vice-Chair.

Agenda Item 15A. Written Libraries, Archives and Museums report.

Agenda Item 15B. Written Teaching and Learning Support report.

Agenda Item 15C. Written Assessment report.

Agenda Item 15D. Written Mt. Edgecumbe High School report.

Agenda Item 15E. Written legislative and budget report.

Agenda Item 15F. Written Attorney General’s report.

Agenda Item 16. Commissioner’s report. Dr. Susan McCauley, Interim Commissioner, congratulated Dr. Michael Johnson on his appointment. She thanked the board for its support.

Agenda Item 17. Board members’ questions. Board members asked about the Libraries, Archives and Museums budget; the new use of the former State Archives building; the criteria for suicide prevention grants; operating funds for the Mt. Edgecumbe High School (MEHS) pool; more communication between the board and the MEHS advisory board; House Bill 156; and the state’s capital budget.

Agenda Item 18E. Resolution regarding postsecondary network. Second Vice-Chair Thompson moved and Rebecca Himschoot seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development approve the proposed resolution to support the Alaska Postsecondary Access & Completion Network, join the Network as a member, and support the

statewide postsecondary attainment goal of “65 by 2025.” The motion passed 6-1 with John Harmon voting no.

Agenda Item 18. Consent agenda. Second Vice-Chair Thompson moved and Kenneth Gallahorn seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development approve the consent agenda consisting of the following: approve the minutes of the March 21-22, 2016, meeting; approve the minutes of the May 2, 2016, meeting; approve amending the bylaws to publish meeting notices in one newspaper; and approve extending approval of the educator preparation program at the University of Alaska Anchorage for one year. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

Board comments

Alec Burris thanked the board and wished incoming student member Wilfried Zibell good luck.

Wilfried Zibell thanked Alec Burris and Dr. Susan McCauley, and welcomed Dr. Michael Johnson.

Barbara Thompson thanked Alec Burris, Dr. Susan McCauley, and staff, and welcomed Dr. Michael Johnson.

John Harmon thanked Dr. Susan McCauley, staff and Amy Jo Meiners.

Sue Hull thanked Alec Burris, Amy Jo Meiners, Dr. Susan McCauley, and James Fields.

Rebecca Himschoot thanked Amy Jo Meiners, Tim Parker, staff, Stewart MacDonald, Jerry Covey, and Dr. Susan McCauley, and welcomed Dr. Michael Johnson and LTC Toole.

LTC Toole said it was important for the board to have exposure to the military.

Dr. Keith Hamilton thanked Dr. Susan McCauley, Betty Walters, and Alec Burris, and welcomed Dr. Michael Johnson.

James Fields thanked Alec Burris, Dr. Susan McCauley, and staff. He said Dr. Michael Johnson is a good leader.

The board adjourned at 12:30 p.m.