

Alaska State Board of Education and Early Development
Approved Minutes
September 14-15, 2018
In-person meeting originating in Sitka, Alaska
Mt. Edgecumbe High School Library

Chair Fields called the meeting to order at 9:09 am. After the pledge of allegiance, the board adopted the agenda for September 14, 2018. Member Hamilton was absent. Board member Scott had a conflict of interest as her uncle is on the board for AdvancEd. Member Scott will refrain from voting during Agenda Item 10.

Public Comment

Deborah Rinio, Alaska Association of School Librarians, talked about the revision of the 2017 School Librarians Literacy Standards.

Dr. Lisa Skiles Parady, Executive Director of the Alaska State Council of School Administrators, thanked Commissioner Johnson for the opportunity to speak at the meeting and recognized the importance of our teachers and how we can value and respect them. She talked briefly about the Teacher of the Year and the importance of our principals. She invited the board to the Fall Superintendent Meeting September 26-29, in which Commissioner Johnson would be the keynote speaker.

Steven Courtwright, MEHS TEAME President, spoke about the teachers that are currently working without a contract and how they are some of the lowest paid teachers in the state of Alaska and have ultimately the longest days of any teachers.

Tim Parker, NEA President, and English teacher by trade, talked about the Alaska Education Challenge and how student learning is at the center. He also discussed how safety and well-being are being elevated to the top level and how he advocated for the summit in Anchorage next week. He talked about attracting and retaining teachers in Alaska.

Work Session

Agenda Item 1. Mt. Edgecumbe High School.

Janelle Vanasse, Superintendent of Mt. Edgecumbe High School (MEHS), welcomed the board and Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) staff to the school. She thanked Erika Drain, Librarian, for allowing us to come over and have the meeting. She also thanked Bernie Grule, Academic Principal for his help. Ms. Vanasse talked about the application process, and the amount of slots they have available each year. They currently have 150 slots and over 300 applications. Bernie Grule, Principal, spoke about MEHS and the students that attend the school. He talked about how everyone at MEHS were family and that some of the students come to MEHS as early as fourteen years old. He then turned the time over to the students to do their presentation. The students at MEHS gave a presentation about the school, their classes, their backgrounds and cultures. They gave examples of some of the outdoor recreational activities that they participate in and some of the group sports. They also answered questions from board members. Commissioner Johnson thanked the students and MEHS staff for their time.

Agenda Item 2. Board Report to the Legislature.

Marcy Herman, Legislative Liaison spoke briefly about the Board Report to the Legislature. She said that we will discuss more details at the work session in October. After that, there will be another review in December, and a final approval in January. She offered to send board members a copy of last year's board report to the legislature if members wanted one. Chair Fields will present that report to the Education committees in the House and Senate.

Agenda Item 3. Board Standing Rules Discussion.

Member Himschoot talked to the National Association of School Boards of Education (NASBE) and they didn't really have anything to help us with standing rules. Sana Efird, Deputy Commissioner and Marcy Herman, Leg Liaison also commented on standing rules and the board requested that DEED staff look more into it. Marcy explained that NASBE uses Roberts Rules. There was some discussion if a standing committee is needed and what the basic process might look like.

Luann Weyhrauch, Assistant Attorney General, spoke briefly about standing rules taken out of the bylaws. The Commissioner's suggestion was that we get some processes documented. Chair Fields echoed the Commissioner's suggestion. Member Thompson asked if standing rules were just for guidance. The Commissioner said that if it is a bylaw, then he would suggest a more formal process as we will need $\frac{3}{4}$ vote. Deputy Commissioner Sana Efird said that NASBE had reviewed the current bylaws, but they suggested it may go into standing rules instead. This was at the request of the board. Member Van Diest and Member Kowalski believe that we should have a subcommittee for standing rules. Members for the standing rules committee Board Processes Committee will be Member Himschoot, Member Van Diest, and Member Kowalski. Sana Efird, Deputy Commissioner, will update the board after November, and we will need to have the committee meet.

Agenda Item 4. Bylaws Discussion.

There was some discussion on the bylaws and after much review, the board considered accepting the bylaws as they are written.

Agenda Item 5. Joint Committee of University of Alaska (UA)/Board of Regents and Alaska State Board of Education Update.

Sana Efird, Deputy Commissioner, spoke about some of the original issues that were identified. Chair Fields talked about how Dr. Steve Atwater is now coming into the fold and having some different goals. Commissioner Johnson said that he met with President Johnson and they had talked about strategic pathways and the 3rd grade reading goal, which is tied into the CTE vision. They talked about school safety and tip lines. Deputy Commissioner Sana Efird has had very productive communication and talked about strategic planning. Member Thompson talked about simplifying transfer credits and improving educator training. The Joint Board Subcommittee has reports of where we were and what was discussed on the University side and the DEED side. Sana Efird, Deputy Commissioner has been working with the University and strengthening relationships. Sana will reach out to Dr. Atwater, Member Himschoot and Member Kowalski. Member Scott talked about supporting local teachers and looks forward to hearing more about the outreach and guiding students into teaching professions.

Agenda Item 6. University of Alaska (UAF).

Bob Williams, Director of Educator and School Excellence and Sondra Meredith from Teacher Certification were present to answer questions. Maureen Hogan and Sabine Siekmann from UAF were on the phone to comment. There was some discussion on requirements and training.

There were questions about a distance program. They discussed the courses that were generated for the program. Bob Williams, Director of Educator and School Excellence, said that once the programs become more successful, it can become larger. Member Himschoot talked about working in EL and her experience in the classroom. She indicated that there was definitely a need – especially here in Alaska.

Agenda Item 7. Alaska State Museum Collections Advisory Committee (MCAC).

Patience Fredericksen, Libraries and Archives (LAM) Director, spoke about the committee and let the board know that two members of their board had resigned. Patience Fredericksen recommended that Jenya Anichetchenko and Molly Conley to the board.

Agenda Item 8. (agenda item removed).

Agenda Item 9A. School Facility Planning and Construction.

Tim Mearig, Facilities Manager, spoke about adjustments to current regulations. The amendments would provide clean up through capital planning and CIP work. It would be funded through grants and debt reimbursement. He provided rigorous public comment. Mr. Mearig said that they are looking to put them back out for public comment. Member Thompson had a question on professional services and limiting direct administrative costs. She asked for a definition of a responsible limitation and if districts could charge indirect rates for these projections. Tim Mearig, Facilities Manager explained that it was different than the staff indirect rate. Chair Fields who might be responding and Mr. Mearig explained that typically it would be facility level and business managers on capital project business construction management projects. He also indicated that there might be some interest from construction engineers and architects. Chair Fields asked about the broad group – meaning private contractors, etc. Mr. Mearig indicated that they are prepared to dialogue with them.

Agenda Item 9B. School Facility Commissioning.

Tim Mearig, Facilities Manager, talked about building systems and how they have become more automated. He also talked about personnel learning about the buildings and being trained in the buildings. He discussed offering a structure for commissioning of buildings and operating at their capacity in relation to energy. He indicated that these regulations are introducing new terminologies, so he is expecting quite a bit of comment on them. Help of the bond reimbursement is also instrumental in providing regulations that would work well. Looking for a certain level of expertise with the commissioning agent. He explained that the commissioning agent would make a commissioning plan - something that will basically make the facility hum. Member Thompson asked if there enough qualified certified people in the state to do this kind of work. Mr. Mearig explained that the industry had grown, and that yes, it is a steadily building field. There was additional discussion about major maintenance lists and the requirements.

Agenda Item 10A. AdvancEd Performance Standards for Schools.

Bob Williams, Director of Educator and School Excellence. No public comment was received.

Business Meeting

Agenda Item 11A. University of Alaska (UAF).

Member Himschoot motioned and Member Van Diest seconded the following motion:

I move the State Board of Education and Early Development approve the additional endorsement program in Second Language Acquisition, Bilingual and Literacy Education (SLABEL) Endorsement

offered by the College of Education at the University of Alaska Fairbanks as an advance program for individuals who have completed an initial teacher preparation program. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 12. Alaska State Museum Collections Advisory Committee (MCAC).

Member Van Diest motioned and Member Thompson seconded the following motion:

I move the State Board of Education & Early Development appoint Ms. Jenya Anichtchenko and Ms. Molly E. Conley to serve three-year terms to the Museum Collections Advisory Committee beginning October 1, 2018. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 13A. School Facility Planning and Construction.

Member Scott motioned and Member Van Diest seconded the following motion:

I move the State Board of Education & Early Development open a period of public comment on amendments to 4 AAC 31 School Facility Planning and Construction to implement administrative, process improvement, and resource limitation elements. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 13B. School Facility Commissioning.

Member Thompson 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 31 School Facility Planning and Construction to implement requirements for commissioning on certain school capital projects. Member Thompson was interested in seeing the public comment in hopes that we can be responsive to them as this is a big change. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 14A. AdvancEd Performance Standards for Schools.

Member Van Diest motioned and Member Thompson seconded the following motion:

I move the State Board of Education & Early Development adopt the proposed amendments to 4 AAC 04.300. Standards for state accreditation of schools. Member Scott refrained from voting due to a conflict of interest. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 15. Mount Edgecumbe Board Appointments.

After some discussion regarding the applicant process and the number of applicants that were introduced for the board's selection. Janelle Vanasse, Superintendent of MEHS, explained that they are chosen through a vetting process in which letters of interest and resumes were reviewed, and that the State Board is ultimately the group that make the final decision. Chair Fields suggested that we work together to create a board process committee to do the vetting to avoid any conflicts.

Member Van Diest motioned and Member Scott seconded the following motion:

I move the State Board of Education and Early Development appoint Dorothy Chase for the Alumni seat and Kay Andrews for the three-year parent seat to serve three-year terms on the Mt. Edgecumbe High School Advisory Board and Lee Ann Green to serve one year on the parent seat of the Mt. Edgecumbe High School Advisory Board. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 16. Adoption of Bylaws.

Member Van Diest motioned and Member Kowalski seconded the following motion:

I move the State Board of Education & Early Development adopt the proposed board bylaws. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 17. Standing Reports.

The board discussed the standing reports.

Agenda Item 18. Commissioner's Report.

Commissioner Johnson thanked Superintendent Vanasse, the MEHS staff, and students for hosting the State Board and said that he appreciated their warm welcome. He spoke about the school and the positive comments that he has received recently. He also talked about the implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and school designations. He shared his appreciation of DEED staff for their hard work.

Agenda Item 19. Consent Agenda.

Member Himschoot motioned and Member Kowalski seconded the following motion:

I move the State Board of Education and Early Development approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the May 31, 2018 meeting, the minutes of the July 25, 2018 meeting and the minutes of the August 22, 2018 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Comments

Member Himschoot thanked the Museum Collections Advisory Board and said that she appreciated the level of expertise that we have in our state. She loved the way that DEED had small group discussions at the retreat and thought she had learned a lot by doing it that way.

Member Van Diest thanked Melissa McCormick, Executive Secretary, for her contributions and special touches at the retreat and board meeting.

Member Kowalski thanked MEHS, their staff, and faculty. She also thanked DEED for the small group discussions and said that she appreciated their time.

Member Scott asked the board to remember Ashley Jackson in Kotzebue.

Chair Fields thanked MEHS students and staff. He said that he was excited for the School Safety and Well Being Summit. He wished everyone a safe trip home.

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

