

State Board of Education & Early Development
Unapproved Minutes
June 8 and 9, 2022
Department of Education & Early Development
550 West 7th Avenue, Room 102
Anchorage, AK 99501

Wednesday, June 8, 2022

Chair Fields called the meeting to order at 8:39 am. First Vice Chair Hamilton gave an invocation to start the meeting. After the pledge of allegiance, the board adopted the agenda for June 8 and 9, 2022. First Vice Chair Hamilton moved to adopt the agenda and the motion was seconded by Member Griffin. There were no objections to the adoption of the agenda. There were no conflicts of interest on the agenda. Second Vice Chair Kowalski and Student Advisor Brokaw were excused from attendance at this meeting.

Public Comment

Public comment was opened at 8:45 am.

Brandon Locke, Director of World Language and Immersion Programs at the Anchorage School District. Support adopting an Alaska Seal of Biliteracy. Alaska is one of two remaining states that does not have a State Seal of Biliteracy. There are three ways Alaska can adopt a Seal of Biliteracy. Through the legislature, appointed by the Governor, or through regulation through the State Board of Education. The State Seal of Biliteracy allows for students to prove they have intermediate to high level of proficiency in English and another language, whether that is for ELL students, Alaska native speaking students, or those that grew up abroad. Lower Kuskokwim School District and Anchorage School District have a Seal, since 2016 over 20,000 seals in 20 languages were issued. This spring 309 seals were issued in 15 different languages. These go directly on the student's transcripts. It would be optional for districts if passed as well as options of assessments to show proficiency. Commissioner Johnson thanked Brandon for continuing to bring this to the board's attention.

Dr. Lisa Parady, Executive Director of the Alaska Council of School Administrators (ACSA), highlighted the importance of the partnership between ACSA and DEED. Such as ACSA Administering the Alaska Staff Development Network. She congratulated the department of the passing of the Alaska Reads Act and is looking forward to working with the department to implement the act, especially the universal preschool program. She thanked Susy McKenzie for her partnership with the Alaska School Leadership Academy, a career introduction for early career principals and vice principal, aligned to strive for goals 1, 3, and 4 using the three pillars of support (educator retention, student achievement, and educator training). Since the partnership, ASCA has worked with 85 schools in Alaska and 56 early career principals. Right now, the state has the highest turnover rate in the history of Alaska at every level which makes these early career programs so important. So far 24 principals and assistant principals have graduated the program. Partnership between the Alaska School Leadership Academy will also assist with the states need for computer science computation and supporting facilitators. Commissioner Johnson thanked Lisa.

Public comment closed at 8:58 am.

Work Session

Agenda Item 1. Legislative and Budget Update

Budget Update

Deputy Commissioner Lacey Sanders updated the board on the FY2023 budget that was passed on May 18, 2022 by the 32nd legislature. Operating, capital, and supplemental items were rolled into a single budget, HB 281, and the Mental Health, HB 282, was passed. Both budgets are awaiting transmittal to the Governor, as it is in the pre-veto process. Deputy Commissioner Sanders stated at the department will update the board at their next meeting and provide final documents, incorporating an enacted budget. Highlights in the budget included: FY2023 K-12 foundation and pupil transportation are fully funded; the base student allocation is \$5,930 as outlined in statute and a one-time allocation of \$57 million that will be distributed to school district based on the adjusted average daily membership. School Debt Reimbursement is \$79 million. The legislature back filled school debt reimbursement for fiscal years 2017, 2020, 2021, and 2022 in the amount of \$220.9 million. The Regional Educational Attendance Area (REAA) fund also received \$32.8 million in FY 2023 with \$84 million for backpay. The capital budget included \$100 million for school major maintenance and \$55 million for the replacement school in Napakiak, which is funded through the REAA fund, and is the first project on the major maintenance list. And finally, \$6.2 million unrestricted general funds for deferred maintenance at Mt. Edgumbe High School, which would fund their top three projects.

Legislative Update:

Kollette Schroder, Legislative Liaison, addressed the board and reviewed, at a high-level, the ten education-related pieces of legislation that passed the legislature and were either awaiting transmittal to the Governor or awaiting signature by the Governor. HB 114 is the bill that incorporated the Alaska Reads Act.

Agenda Item 2. Academy Charter Amendment

The board was asked to approve an amendment to Academy charter school to current terms of contract. Principal Barbara Gerard stated she is proud to represent Academy Charter to the board. Academy Charter school is currently K-8th grade. Ms. Gerard went over the history of school and provided that they are wanting to expand to a high school and the advisory board agreed to expand to grades 9-12 integrating one grade per year, with 9th grade starting during the 2023-2024 school year. On April 6, 2022 the Mat-Su School Board approved the expansion. Ms. Gerard thanked the board for their time and consideration. Member Griffin asked for more details about the expansion plan. Ms. Gerard stated they had eight portables on 3.77 acres and a two-story building. They previously received \$6 million from the legislature to expand and are seeking a bond process and pay a monthly amount. Academy Charter has enough space to house 9th grade and has two years to build an efficient facility for the whole 9th through 12th grades. There were no further questions or comments.

Agenda Item 3. Ketchikan Charter School Renewal

The board was asked to approve the renewal of the Ketchikan Charter School for a 10-year period. Principal Kayla Livingston and Assistant Principal Shane Scamahorn were introduced. Ms. Livingston gave the history on Ketchikan Charter School which is currently K-8th grades with pre-k approved to be added this year. Currently they are renting a separate building to accommodate all grade levels. The expansion will allow for sports and band. Chair Fields asked for a description of the facilities and total enrollment. Ms. Livingston stated the total enrollment is 206 students. K-6th and 7th-8th are two miles apart. The main building is being shared with another charter school which includes five classrooms and an office area. The main building also houses an art and band room and a library. There is no desire to house high

school at the time. Member Stockhausen vouched for the charter school. There was no further questions or comments.

Agenda Item 4. Knik Cultural Charter School Approval

The board was asked to approve the initial application for the Knik Cultural Charter School for a 10-year period. Carl Chamblee, Project Director for the Office of Indian Education Grant where the Knik Tribe received part of the grant is to take steps to start this charter school. Mr. Chamblee introduced Isha Twitchell, who stated education has been a passion and she has been involved with the school district for 15 years. Ms. Twitchell went over the mission and vision statement for the Knik Cultural Charter School and stated that the program be a culturally-rich education. Three options to attend the Knik Cultural Charter School include on-site learning, blended (half and half), and homeschool. Iris Caldentey introduced herself and how the school will provide 21st century learning and technology with a cultural connection as well. Member Griffin expressed excitement about the charter school and asked about the individual learning standard and facilities plans. Mr. Chamblee shared that the Knik Tribe purchased 14 acres of property on the Palmer/Wasilla highway. On the back side of the building, they will be adding 19 portables which will be rented from the tribe, and a goal to have a residential school like Mt. Edgecumbe. Member Erickson asked additional questions and Mr. Chamblee and Ms. Twitchell answered. Commissioner Johnson advised Mr. Chamblee to document his plan for future charter schools. There were no further questions or comments.

Agenda Item 5. Adoption of Proposed Regulations

Agenda Item 5A. Facilities Publications

The board was asked to adopt amendments to facilities publications that are adopted through 4 AAC 31 School Planning constructions. Heidi Teshner, Deputy Commissioner, addressed the board. No public comment had been received during the public comment period and thus there was no changes to the regulations since they saw them at the March meeting. First Vice Chair Hamilton asked if Law had been involved with the revisions. Deputy Commissioner Teshner responded that they have been involved. There were no further questions or comments.

Agenda Item 5B. Alternate Assessment Scores

The board was asked to adopt amendments to 4 AAC 06.737, Standards-based test, and 4 AAC 06.775 (b)(1) and (b)(2), administering statewide assessments to students with disabilities, whereby the Alaska Science Assessment will be administered at grades 5, 8, and 10 and the alternate assessment cut scores will be updated to align with vendor recommendations. Kelly Manning, Deputy Director of the Division of Innovation and Education Excellence, addressed the board and provided an update. No public comment had been received during the public comment period. There were no questions from board members.

Agenda Item 5C. Seal of Biliteracy

The board was asked to adopt 4 AAC 06.077, Seal of Biliteracy. Sondra Meredith, Administrator for Teacher Certification, addressed the two changes to the proposed regulations. First, moving the GPA to one of a menu of options for proficiency in English and second, moving the timeline for qualifying from freshman year to sophomore year to be aligned with what Anchorage School District is doing. Member Stockhausen asked if a student can earn a language credit if they receive this seal. Ms. Meredith responded that it is up to the district to determine. First Vice Chair Hamilton shared that students can take course immediately and test out and get credit. Member Erickson shared that he thinks this is a wonderful idea and asked if the board could see what the seal looks like. Commissioner Johnson shared

an image of what Anchorage School District has. Ms. Meredith further clarified that the two changes have been incorporated into the regulations in the board's packet.

Agenda Item 6. MEHS School Advisory Board Appointments

The board was asked to appoint two advisory board members to the Mt. Edgecumbe Advisory Board. Member Stockhausen said they have the Sitka Community Representative and Parent Representative seats open. Suzzuk Huntington, Superintendent for Mt. Edgecumbe High School, shared that there were six applications for the Parent Representative seat and Jerilyn Kelly has been selected for this position; she is from Quinhagak. Travis Vaughan has been selected as the Sitka Community Representative. Chair Fields asked how many applicants did they receive for the Sitka representative. Superintendent Huntington shared that they received one application. There were no further questions or comments.

Business Meeting

Agenda Item 7. Approve FY2023 DEED Budget

Member Griffin made the motioned and Member Van Diest seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development approve the Fiscal Year 2023 operating and capital budgets for the Department of Education & Early Development. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote. There was no discussion.

Agenda Item 8. Academy Charter School Amendment

Member Erickson motioned and Member Van Diest seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development approve Academy Charter School's amendment for the current charter contract. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote. There was no discussion.

Agenda Item 9. Ketchikan Charter School Renewal

Member Van Diest motioned, and Member Stockhausen seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development approve Ketchikan Charter School's renewal application for a period of ten (10) years. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote. There was no discussion.

Agenda Item 10. Knik Cultural Charter School Approval

First Vice Chair Hamilton moved and Member Griffin seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development approve Knik Cultural Charter School's initial application for a period of ten (10) years. First Vice Chair Hamilton commented that it is super exciting and hopes it can be replicated in the state. Member Griffin commented that he was excited about this as well. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote. There was no further discussion.

Agenda Item 11. Adoption of Proposed Regulations

Agenda Item 11A. Facilities Publications

Member Erickson motioned and Member Van Diest seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development adopt amendments to 4 AAC 31 School Facility Planning and Construction to update publication citations. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote. There was no discussion.

Agenda Item 11B. Alternate Assessment Scores

First Vice Chair Hamilton moved and Member Griffin seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development adopt amendments to 4 AAC 06.737, Standards-based test, and 4 AAC 06.775 (b)(1) and (b)(2), administering statewide assessments to students with disabilities,

whereby the Alaska Science Assessment will be administered at grades 5, 8, and 10 and the alternate assessment cut scores will be updated to align with vendor recommendations. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote. There was no discussion.

Agenda Item 11C. Seal of Biliteracy

Member Stockhausen motioned and Member Erickson seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development adopt 4 AAC 06.077 Seal of Biliteracy. First Vice Chair Hamilton commented that while this seems like a minor thing, it is a major thing and he wished Alaska could have done this sooner. Member Stockhausen shared that Ketchikan High School recently issued their first Seal of Biliteracy. Member Erickson asked if a state seal could be added for other areas, such as career and technical education. Commissioner Johnson said that this could be added to other areas. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote. There was no further discussion.

Agenda Item 12. MEHS School Advisory Board Appointments

Member Griffin motioned and Member Stockhausen seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development appoint Travis Vaughan as the Sitka Community Representative and Jerilyn Kelly as the Parent Representative for term C on the Mt. Edgecumbe High School Advisory Board. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote. There was no discussion.

Agenda Item 13. Approve Deputy Commissioners

Member Van Diest motioned, and Member Stockhausen seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development approve Commissioner's appointment of Lacey Sanders and Heidi Teshner as Deputy Commissioners of the Department of Education and Early Development, effective immediately. Commissioner Johnson shared some background and stated that both bring a lot of experience that will support others. Member Van Diest shared that it has been a pleasure working with both ladies and that Deputy Commissioner Sanders fits right in and works well with the board and is excited to have both of them in this role. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote. There was no further discussion.

Agenda Item 14. Approve Administrative Director

Member Erickson motioned and Member Griffin seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development approve Commissioner's appointment of Sabrina Javier as Administrative Services Director. Commissioner Johnson shared that Ms. Javier used to work for the department but had left to go work for the Division of Legislative Finance and was coming back to fill this role. He further shared that this position was previously filled by the now Deputy Commissioner Sanders. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote. There was no further discussion.

Agenda Item 15. Approve Mt. Edgecumbe High School Superintendent

Member Stockhausen motioned and Member Erickson seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development approve Commissioner's appointment of Suzzuk Mary Huntington as Mt. Edgecumbe High School Superintendent. Commissioner Johnson shared about the opportunity to put a former student, parent, and advisory board member into this role. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote. There was no further discussion.

Agenda Item 16. Approve Mt. Edgecumbe High School Principal

Member Van Diest motioned, and Member Griffin seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development approve Commissioner's appointment of Miranda Bacha as Mt. Edgecumbe High School Principal. Commissioner Johnson shared that the superintendent hires this

position, so it was hired under Janelle Vanasse. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote. There was no further discussion.

Agenda Item 17. Questions Regarding Standing Reports

Commissioner Johnson introduced the standing reports which includes Innovation and Education Excellence; Libraries, Archives, and Museums; Finance and Support Services; Mt. Edgecumbe High School; and the Department of Law. First Vice Chair Hamilton shared his appreciation for the Reading Symposium and asked about the next Reading Symposium dates. Deputy Commissioner Teshner shared that it has been scheduled for April 28 – 30, 2023. Chair Fields welcomed Superintendent Huntington and Principal Bacha and he looks forward to working with them. There were no other questions from board members.

Agenda Item 18. Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Johnson congratulated the board that the priorities made it into legislation and made into law; good things are going to happen for kids. He shared that staff have been working hard and they will be taking breaks in the coming months. From a teacher perspective, Member Stockhausen expressed how the Reading Symposium shows how hungry teachers are and how to do it correctly. There were no further questions or comments from board members.

Agenda Item 19. Selection of meeting dates, locations, and topics

First Vice Chair Hamilton motioned and Member Griffin seconded the following motion:

I move the State Board of Education and Early Development approve the following schedule of meeting dates, location, and format (virtual meeting vs. in-person) for the 2022-2023 school year: July 13, 2022 virtual meeting, Special – Assessment Cut Scores; September 6-7, 2022, in-person in Sitka, regular quarterly; October 26, 2022, virtual meeting, Work session – Commissioner's Report; December 7-8, 2022, virtual meeting or in-person (Anchorage), regular quarterly; January 25, 2023, virtual meeting, Special – legislative and budget report; March 15-16, 2023, Juneau in person meeting, regular quarterly; April 19, 2023, virtual meeting, Work Session – Commissioner's report; and June 7-8, 2023, virtual meeting or in-person (Kenai), regular quarterly. The motioned passed unanimously in a roll call vote. There was no discussion.

Agenda Item 20. Subcommittee Appointments

Chair Fields addressed this item by stating that since there are no changes to the board's membership, that no changes are needed on subcommittee appointments. There was no questions or discussion from board members.

Agenda Item 21. Selection of Officers

Chair Fields turned the gavel over to Commissioner Johnson who opened the nominations for Chair of the Alaska State Board of Education and Early Development. First Vice Chair Hamilton nominated James Fields as Chair to serve from July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023. There were no other nominations. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote, but James Fields abstained from voting. Commissioner Johnson turned the gavel back over to Chair Fields.

Member Van Diest nominated Sandra Kowalski as First Vice Chair to serve from July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023. There were no other nominations. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Member Griffin nominated Sally Stockhausen as Second Vice Chair to service from July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023. There were no other nominations. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Agenda Item 22. Consent Agenda

Member Stockhausen motioned and Member Griffin seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development approve the consent agenda consisting of approval of the minutes of the December 8 and 9, 2021 board meeting, January 26, 2022 board meeting, March 1 and 2, 2022 board meeting, and the April 13, 2022 board meeting. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote. There was no discussion.

Agenda Item 23. Executive Session: DEED Commissioner Evaluation

Chair Fields motioned and Member Griffin seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development convene in executive session to evaluate the performance of the Commissioner of Education and Early Development. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote. There was no discussion.

Vote to come out of executive session. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote. Commissioner Johnson announced his resignation effective June 30, 2022.

Board Comments

Chair Fields reminisced on their 12 years serving on the board together and thanked Commissioner Johnson for all he has done for the board.

Military Advisor, Lt Col Fowley, thanked the Commissioner Johnson for his leadership and mentorship.

Member Griffin expressed going out on a high note and all that the commissioner has done for the kids of Alaska.

Member Erickson thanked Commissioner Johnson for the trajectory of Education.

Member Van Diest thanked Commissioner Johnson for his leadership with the staff to stay focused on Alaska's Education Challenge and the two bills that were passed in the legislature and what is next to come.

Member Stockhausen thanked Commissioner Johnson for his leadership. She admired his heart for the kids of Alaska and his words have sent her on a course.

First Vice Chair Hamilton thanked Commissioner Johnson, as well as thanked Deputy Commissioner Sanders and Teshner for stepping in as Deputy Commissioners. He also shared that Commissioner Johnson has the longest tenure as Commissioner of Education.

Meeting adjourned at 5:05pm.