

Alaska State Board of Education & Early Development
Approved Minutes
June 9 &10, 2011
Anchorage, AK

Thursday, June 9, 2011

The meeting was called to order by Chair Cox at 8:00 a.m. All members were present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The Chair asked if there were any disclosures. There were none. There were no changes to the agenda. The Chair made a presentation to Donald Handeland, Student Advisor, as this was his last meeting, and wished him the best of luck when he enters Oregon State University in the fall.

Representative Alan Dick, Chair of the House Education Committee, was recognized in the audience and was asked to address the board. He said he has worked in education since the late 1970s. He indicated that theme-based education is what the villages most need, saying that the current education system is not working. In answer to a question by Pat Shier, who welcomed the Representative, he said that the big buy-in in the villages for theme-based education was family involvement. He spoke about a pilot in the Iditarod School District, saying he was eager to see the results and is interested in what's working statewide and nationwide. Commissioner Hanley said he appreciated Representative Dick's efforts in the Legislature and that the Representative was a good education advocate for the state.

Public Comment

Jennifer Jones. She said she was taking Therese Holt's place on the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education. She handed out some HSGQE recommendations the council would like to see implemented for students with disabilities. Some of the suggestions were a career path goal set by tenth grade, differentiated diplomas, end-of-course exams, waivers for combinations of requirements, alternate pathways diplomas, and other options for third-grade testing. She said the biggest goal is dealing with the limitations of the diploma system. Ms. Holt said the focus was making sure that students with disabilities are ready for adult life and that attention and focus should be in the third grade. Phil Schneider asked how Individualized Educational Program teams can decide what a student needs to graduate. Ms. Jones said other routes to meeting the requirements are needed for some students. The HSGQE is extremely challenging for some students and they cannot pass it. She said students can opt out, but then they don't get a diploma. They would need a waiver of some kind. The Commissioner said that businesses and the Legislature have an expectation of what a diploma represents. Chair Cox welcomed Ms. Jones and said she was looking forward to working with her.

Student Advisor Donald Handeland and Student Advisor-elect Tiarna Fischler reported on the recent Alaska Association of Student Governments' meeting and presented two resolutions dealing with suicide. They want teachers to have suicide-prevention training, and they were asking the board to support that notion with a possible regulation change or a work session discussion.

Paula Pawlowski, wearing a new hat as a member of the Northwest Regional Advisory Committee for the U.S. Department of Education, thanked Donald for his testimony. She said her new position will be collecting materials and information about what's important for future education. She encouraged participation by the Survey Monkey survey that will be open until June 12, via webinars, and commenting on the US DOE web site.

Work Session

Mt. Edgecumbe Graduation Change. Randy Hawk, Mt. Edgecumbe High School (MEHS) Superintendent, was present to brief the board. He spoke about the changes, the process and the rationale or justification for the change. The change was to require three credits in social studies instead of four, and require one credit of social studies or advanced science or math beyond the courses otherwise required. The total number of credits remains at 24. All credits are as follows:

4 credits - English

3 credits - Social Studies

3 credits - Science

3 credits – Math (including Geometry)

1 credit of a Social Studies or advanced Science or Math beyond the required

2 credits – Computer Technology

2 credits – Wellness (includes Health/PE)

1 credit - Pacific Rim Studies

1 credit – World Language

4 credits – Electives

Board members asked what some of the courses were about, such as Pacific Rim Studies. Pacific Rim Studies is separate from the basic social studies courses purposefully, as it is important to MEHS. The proposed change came about as a result of the Governor's Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) in an effort to make certain that the school's curriculum would meet APS requirements. The proposal has been through several committees and the advisory board and was sent out for public comment on the school web site. The rationale for the change was to allow different pathways for the APS, adding more electives and flexibility, and promoting a more-level playing field by unlocking the schedule more. The need was to give more options and free up scheduling conflicts. There were some questions about the difference between the courses Alaska Issues and Alaska History. Mr. Handeland said Alaska Issues was more in depth concerning current politics and state issues.

Standards. Erik McCormick, Director of Assessment, Accountability & Information Management, was present to brief the board. Mr. McCormick said the standards-revision plan is a lengthy process that adds more rigor to the standards. New SBAs will have to be developed and the current assessment contract allows for those changes. They will be considering budget changes, peer review process and continuity. The Commissioner said changing standards is huge. They need to be more competitive nationally and globally. Ms. Cox said this conversation will never be over because we need to constantly review our standards. Mr. McCormick said this review is not a result of the common core specifically, because even if it had not been put forth

we would still be reviewing our standards. He said the common interval for review is about five years. Janel Keplinger said with the ESEA reauthorization looming, it's good to be prepared to improve rigor. Mr. Schneider asked when financial standards can be expected – those that would include economics, credit management, and the like.

Representative Dick was called to the table. He said he had worked on the standards and grade level expectations (GLE) committees, and a huge number of students are walking out of the doors. He feels the standards are flawed and that new standards need to be vetted by industry and need to be relevant to the student.

High School Qualifying Exam (HSGQE). Erik McCormick, Director of Assessment, Accountability & Information Management, was present to brief the board. The Commissioner said that he has heard while visiting the villages that students were stressed out about the HSGQE. He said it was designed to be a minimum-competency skills test. He questioned: if it disappeared, would the effort to acquire the skills also disappear? He noted the summer camp held by Chugach each summer to help students pass the HSGQE.

Chair Cox said the law requires a high-stakes exam. She asked if we want a high-stakes exam. To change it, the board would have to recommend such a change to the Legislature, and at the same time recommend what would take its place. There was a lengthy discussion regarding end-of-course exams. Mr. McCormick said there were several concerns: security issues, cost issues (four times the cost), a whole set of new exams to be developed, and then a decision about whether they would be end-of-quarter, end-of semester or end of-year. Mr. Shier said that industry and business expectations were more than what the HSGQE tells them. He said it doesn't tell them what they want to know. He asked if something could be substituted like an evaluation that's easier to deliver but still high-stakes. Ms. Keplinger said the HSGQE does not reflect standards or measure conclusively. There has to be an element of knowing that people don't always present themselves in the same way; high-stakes narrows down and doesn't represent well. The board discussed WorkKeys. Neil Slotnick, Assistant Attorney General, clarified the law, saying that an essential skills test is composed of reading, English and mathematics as set out in AS 14.04.075. No conclusion was forthcoming, and the discussion was halted to accommodate the following presenters' time constraints. The discussion will continue later in the work session.

Career and Technical Education (CTE) - (Interagency progress report). Cyndy Curran, Director of Teaching & learning Support, was present and Helen Mehrkens, CTE Coordinator, was online to brief the board. The state's CTE plan was recently adopted by three departments: EED by board action, Labor and Workforce Development, and the University of Alaska. Ms. Curran said people were using the plan and it was having an impact.

There are six strategies concerning implementation. They are: 1) transitions; 2) curricula; 3) delivery methods; 4) quality CTE teachers, instructors and faculty; 5) facilities; and 6) funding.

The \$625,000 management plan will be administered by the three agencies through the Department of Labor and Workforce Development and will be done by this coming fall (2011). Accountability of the plan will include narrative reports. The money will support an RFP

eventually. Chair Cox said accountability was very important. Ms. Mehrkens said they were very aware of that and were working closely to accomplish accountability. She noted that the Department of Labor was looking at matching funds. Chair Cox inquired how schools will work with the learning plan. Ms. Mehrkens said they have been getting information from them. The board said they would like a report in December about how it is working and being implemented.

Early College of Alaska Charter High School. Cyndy Curran, Director of Teaching & Learning Support, was present to brief the board. Also present was Mike Fisher, CFO, Fairbanks North Star Borough School District, and Vickie Foote, school organizer. Commissioner Hanley said that the department, after further review, is recommending seeking more information for this application. Ms. Foote said the purpose of the school was to bridge the gap between high school and college and to address the needs of those students who want growth and might be at risk of dropping out. Ms. Foote said they would have continuous formative assessments. The pedagogy would be different and they expected students of average performance to become exceptional performers. She said the model was working all over the country. Mr. Shier asked what value the model brings. He asked how they can prevent taking the upper urban portion of students. Ms. Foote said they have a wide range of ethnicities interested in the school. The Commissioner inquired how they would meet the need with no busing and why electives were not offered. He asked where the students would get PE and health. Ms. Foote said at their home school or through special instructors coming in. Board members inquired if the students take all their classes at the university, how the school would handle the pedagogy, also noting that a student must be in school four hours a day to qualify for state funding. There was a discussion of what constitutes a full-time equivalent and how many hours a student has to be physically at school to obtain funding. Also questions arose about students having highly qualified K-12 teachers if all the subjects were taken at the university. The board attorneys were directed to research the questions and bring a recommendation back to the board the next day.

The board continued its discussion regarding the HSGQE. The board requested that in September it hear information on differentiated diplomas. The Commissioner said the department can come in September with the current tests we have and what a high-stakes test would look like. Jim Merriner said the high-stakes discussion needs to come off the table as soon as possible and the Commissioner said it was part of the larger discussion. Board members requested information before the packet is sent, so they have ample time to review it before the September meeting.

Chinook Montessori Charter School. Cyndy Curran, Director of Teaching & Learning Support, was present to brief the board. She said the Chinook School was the first charter school in the state 14 years ago. They are seeking a 10-year renewal. They operate in the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District. Ms. Curran reviewed the rating template and all was in order.

Dr. Bantz, Alaska Pacific University (APU). Dr. Bantz is President of APU and was present to brief the board about the university, saying it was the last remaining private baccalaureate university in the state. He said the university welcomes the APS. He noted that the success of the school's cross-country ski team has put the university on the map, making them distinctive. The student teacher ratio is about 8:1. They have a new pre-med course and plans for a new physical

therapy course. He said fall enrollment (2011-2012) was looking strong. He noted that they have their first Ph.D. program in psychology and have retooled the MBA program to an executive MBA online. Dr. Bantz also spoke about a possible tribal college, saying it would be challenging and a great opportunity. He said a tribal college would be federally regulated and a college within a college. It would be selectively marketed by web and word of mouth.

Alaska Pacific University (APU)/NCATE approval. Cyndy Curran, Director of Teaching & Learning Support, was present to brief the board, saying that she was very pleased to announce that after several setbacks APU had received its NCATE accreditation for teacher education. The board applauded. Dr. Linda Black, Chair of the APU Education Department, and Dr. Ann McCoy, APU NCATE coordinator, were present. They said NCATE stresses continuous improvement; going through the process each time has showed that all students are well prepared. The accountability piece is huge for such a small university. The next accreditation will be in 2015 and they are already beginning to work on it. They thanked Ms. Curran for her continued advocacy. Ms. Curran noted that their MAT program provides an advisor for each student, which is a big help because the Praxis I was a huge hurdle for rural students.

Alaska Teacher Preparation Initiative. Cathie LeCompte and Diane Maples were present to brief the board. This program was created in 2004 with a Perkins Grant. It leads to a 2-year credential. In 2012 it will lose funding with the demise of Perkins. They are doing much to devise ways to continue the program, which now has a focus on health career pathways. Partners include business, school districts, labor, UAA and EED. The program is supported by the Department of Labor and EED. Their most-urgent need is another bridge funding source to use to collect data to support the program, so they are looking for a funding partner. In late June they will meet with UAA to discuss options.

Center for Alaska Education Policy with ISER. Dr. Diane Hirshberg was present to brief the board. Dr. Hirshberg is an Associate Professor of Education Policy at UAA. Also present was Research Associate Lexie Hill. They said the new policy center resides within ISER and has a statewide focus. They said there was a need for Alaska-based policy research, grant evaluations, and collaboration with First Alaskans to find ways of doing things differently in rural schools. They will be working with Education Northwest in the reauthorization effort and how policy makers in Alaska use research. Their goal is to spur more policy in the state through the use of grants. Other goals include rapid response money for immediate research issues, and developing the next generation of scholars. They will have an advisory board whose purpose is to suggest needed research. Commissioner Hanley will be a member of the advisory board.

Commissioner Priorities. In lieu of a formal evaluation, because he hadn't been in his position very long, the board asked the Commissioner to come prepared to the meeting with his views and priorities. Commissioner Hanley said he viewed the job as two-fold: one is the Legislature and the second is future focus. His first priority is to expand his own education in understanding student relevance and student vision. Other priorities are the standards revision, the challenge of the APS and offering what is required in the rural districts, pre-K and early intervention where needed, and balancing parents as first teachers and the need to empower families. He felt there was a strong need for accountability and the need to match that accountability with funding. Looking forward, the Commissioner said the Alaska Education Plan was a good one, with good

vision, but is difficult to implement. Social promotion was another area of interest. A focus would be third-grade testing and intervening, by supplying support and identifying services, by third grade so parents can act “Grow our own” is another focus – incentivizing students to stay in Alaska and work here. And lastly, he discussed the gap in moving from K-12 to postsecondary. He said he would be traveling extensively this fall to the intervention districts and advocating for the mentor program. He said Alaska’s Learning Network (AKLN) program had been moved to the Wrangell School District because it already had a good distance education program in place. He indicated that the Governor had clarified that he did not want a high-stakes test in third grade, wanted the APS implemented as quickly as possible, and was not opposed to the standards in the common core but objects to federal mandates or national curriculum. He said he was not sure our state was ready for year-round school. There are many issues with the rural community where this is concerned, such as fish camps, fishing, subsistence needs, and the cost of the longer schools day, not to mention union contracts. Chair Cox said the capacity to grow was great.

The meeting was recessed until Friday.

Friday, June 10, 2011

Work session continued...

The meeting was called back to order by Chair Cox at 8:00 a.m. All members were present except Col. Sullivan, who was excused. The agenda was amended to add a decision on the NASBE dues. The Chair asked if there were any disclosures. Bunny Schaeffer indicated that she was employed by the Northwest Arctic Borough School District and that the AG’s report mentioned that she was an employee. The Chair ruled that she could participate.

Regulations to go out for public comment. There was one regulation to go out for public comment. Cyndy Curran, Director of Teaching & Learning Support, was present to brief the board. The regulation concerned the 2015 implementation of the course curriculum for the APS. It was verified that distance delivery and course content were the responsibility of the districts. Les Morse, Deputy Commissioner, said the department would be prepared with content specialists to provide support to districts.

Regulations for Adoption. There were four regulations for adoption.

1. Teacher certification, which included renewal of certificates and evaluation forms;
2. Teacher certification clarification of requirements for initial, professional, master, administrative, provisional, special education administrator, special services certificates, and vocational education personnel qualifications;
3. Complete assessment re-write incorporating a new WIDA and Participation Guidelines, and;
4. Increasing museum fees for added revenue.

Business Meeting

The business meeting was called to order by Chair Cox. The agenda was amended by unanimous

roll vote to include a discussion regarding the NASBE dues. The chair asked if there were any disclosures. There were none.

Regulations to go out for public comment.

Geri Benshoof moved and Jim Merriner seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development open a period of public comment on proposed amendments to 4 AAC 43.030, course requirements for the Alaska Performance Scholarship. There was no discussion. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Regulations to Adopt.

Janel Keplinger moved and Phil Schneider seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development adopt amendments to 4 AAC 12.405, Renewal of certificates; 4 AAC 18.005, Application for employment in a certificated position; and 4 AAC 19.015, Evaluation form to be available to the public. There was no discussion. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Phil Schneider moved and Janel Keplinger seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development adopt the proposed amendments to 4 AAC 12.305, Teacher certificate (initial, professional, master); 4 AAC 12.345 Administrative certificate (Type B); provisional certificate (provisional type B); 4 AAC 12.347 Special Education Administrator (Type F); 4 AAC 12.355 Special services certificate (Type C), provisional certificate (Type C); and 4 AAC 12.385 Vocational education personnel qualifications. There was no discussion. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Phil Schneider moved and Geri Benshoof seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development adopt the proposed amendments to 4 AAC 04.155, English language proficiency standards; 4 AAC 05.070, Program planning and evaluation; 4 AAC 05.080 School curriculum and personnel; 4 AAC 06.710, Statewide student assessment system; 4 AAC 06.738, Standards-based test results; 4 AAC 06.750 Student questionnaire; 4 AAC 06.755 High school graduation qualifying examination; 4 AAC 06.758 High school graduation qualifying examination results; 4 AAC 06.761 Test administration; 4 AAC 06.765 Test security; consequences of breach; 4 AAC 06.771 High school graduation qualifying examination reexamination; 4 AAC 06.775, Statewide assessment program for students with disabilities; 4 AAC 06.776, Assessment of a student with limited English proficiency; 4 AAC 06.805, Adequate yearly progress; 4 AAC 06.830, Subgroups; and 4 AAC 06.899, Definitions. There was no discussion. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Jim Merriner moved and Geri Benshoof seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development adopt amendments to 4 AAC 58.010 Fees. There was no discussion. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Mt. Edgecumbe High School Graduation Requirements. Mr. Merriner said that if he was to support this change he wanted the superintendent to take his concern regarding world history not being included in the curriculum to the advisory board. Janel Keplinger moved and Pat Shier seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development

approve the proposed Mt. Edgecumbe High School graduation requirements and direct staff to have the changes inserted into the Mt. Edgecumbe High School (MEHS) Policy Manual, effective June 10, 2011. Donald Handeland urged the board not to approve this change to the curriculum, saying that the survey was confusing to students and a petition showed that the students were not in favor of the change. He also noted that some student comments were not considered because of a computer glitch on the submission page. He felt social studies is needed by everyone to be a good citizen, and the APS should not be used as an excuse. Mr. Schneider said he is always impressed by Mr. Handeland. He asked Mr. Handeland what he meant by his APS comment. Mr. Handeland said the APS was not the issue, it was the credits. Ms. Keplinger said she saw the change as providing more options for students. Mr. Handeland said he saw it as a reduction because a social studies credit was being removed. Mr. Schneider said it appears that one-half of the students don't want the change. Randy Hawk, Superintendent, said he never saw a petition; there was no formal student council vote; and a student survey was positive. Mr. Shier and Ms. Keplinger said they appreciated the effort by the advisory board. Ms. Benshoof said she was going to vote against the proposal because she is honoring the opinion of the students, and she can't see what's causing the controversy. Commissioner Hanley said that Mr. Handeland reflects the kind of student that we want, and said he appreciated Mr. Handeland's input. Mr. Merriner asked about the seat time for Alaska Issues. Mr. Hawk said it included a study hall this year and was .5 seat time. Chair Cox said she agreed that a global world history course was needed and sees it as a strength. The motion was called and was passed by a 4- 2 vote with one abstention. Members Cox, Shier, Keplinger and Merriner voted in favor; members Schaeffer and Benshoof voted no, and member Schneider abstained.

Election of Officers. The gavel was turned over to Commissioner Hanley. It was moved by Pat Shier and seconded by Janel Keplinger that Esther Cox remain Chair of the Board. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote. Chair Cox expressed her appreciation to the board. The gavel was returned to Chair Cox.

It was moved by Phil Schneider and seconded by Pat Shier that Jim Merriner be the First Vice-Chair. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

It was moved by Geri Benshoof and seconded by Jim Merriner that Janel Keplinger be the Second Vice-Chair. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Meeting Dates & Locations. The following meeting dates and locations were unanimously voted upon, with the motion made by Bunny Schaeffer and seconded by Jim Merriner, for school year 2011-2012.

Date	Location	Meeting Type
September 12, 13, 14, 2011	Anchorage	Retreat/regular quarterly
October 28, 2011	Teleconference/Noon	Special -70/30 waivers
December 15 & 16, 2011	Anchorage	Regular quarterly
January 23, 2012	Teleconference/Noon	Special - legislative/budget
March 8 & 9, 2012	Juneau	Regular quarterly

June 7 & 8, 2012	Anchorage	Regular quarterly
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Teaching & Learning Support Report. Cyndy Curran, Director, was present to brief the board. Ms. Curran reported on activity within the division. She said they were working with the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education to schedule webinars concerning the Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS). The Career and Technical Education (CTE) team is continuing to coordinate with the Department of Labor and the university in planning implementation of the CTE Plan. Child Nutrition Services just completed a federal audit and did well. They have recently provided food for the Crooked Creek flood area. Grants and contracts are busy closing out FY 11. Special Education is rebuilding with a new administrator. The monitoring handbook is being revised for FY 12, and special education leadership training will be held in September. Teacher Certification is entering its busy time of year with renewals and now can accept electronic transcripts. As of May 1, there were 16,931 certified teachers, and 1,586 administrators in Alaska. The teacher quality group has recommended some regulation changes for CTE that the board will see in September.

Assessment, Accountability and Information Management Report. Erik McCormick, Director, was present to brief the board. Mr. McCormick reviewed the preliminary spring 2011 SBA data, the preliminary spring 2011 HSGQE data, and the 2011-2012 assessment calendar, including the upcoming test calendar. He said there had been a lot of movement in the SBA's above and below the bubble. Ms. Keplinger said that the recent TAC meeting had been excellent.

District Improvement. Les Morse, Deputy Commissioner, was present to brief the board. He introduced Dr. Dale Cope, Project Evaluator, who was available to review and answer questions about the curriculum exposure analysis done by the state. Mr. Morse said the third Leadership Institute and the Alaska Literacy Institute (sponsored by EED for the intervention districts) were both recently held. The Literacy Blueprint rolled out with 70 people from four districts. Dr. Cope briefed the board on the curriculum exposure to non-tested curriculum standards that was conducted in the five rural districts that were in intervention in 2010. The study grew out of the Moore case, saying that two areas needed to be addressed: meaningful opportunity and meaningful exposure in content areas where the state does not test. The question was, to what extent do students have exposure to non-tested Alaska Content Standards in the five target school districts? Dr. Cope went to 20 schools in the five districts and studied nine non-tested areas, by using mixed methods, document review, and a rubric with 21 indicators, and reviewed data collection methods. She determined that there was instruction in the non-tested areas with some caveats: There was no ongoing review of the curriculum, what's offered was variable with teacher interest, no supervision of lesson plans, no teacher observation, and high turnover in the curriculum. There were 16 recommendations to improve the delivery of the non-tested curriculum. The department is already supporting the districts around curriculum and putting systems in place that will outlast transitions, doing curriculum training, and using art kits. General recommendations were to provide encouragement to teachers to teach non-tested curriculum and be held accountable and seek out other resources for on-tested exposure. She also had individual recommendations for each school district. Note: The complete 106-page report can be obtained through the department.

Rural Education Report. Phyllis Carlson, Director of Rural Education, was present to brief the board. Ms. Carlson reviewed the highlights of her activity since the previous board meeting. She had been in many areas of the state working with the State System of Support team (SSOS), attended several workshops regarding Native and cultural educators, and traveled to the Yupiit School District with Commissioner Hanley to attend a local board meeting and travel to the three schools in Akiachak, Akiak and Tuluksak. She also noted that she traveled to Denver, Colorado, to attend a school improvement grant conference (SIG grants). Ms. Carlson also hosted a panel presentation on cultural and community engagement for the Rural Alaska Principal Preparation & Support conference for UAA students in principal training, this too in conjunction with the SSOS team.

Budget & Legislative Report. Marcy Herman, Legislative Liaison, and Elizabeth Nudelman, Director of School Finance, were present to brief the board. Ms. Herman said that all budget bills had been transmitted to the Governor and he had until July 1 to act. Ms. Herman reviewed the FY 2012 operating budget and Ms. Nudelman reviewed the FY 2012 Capital Budget. Of particular note is Senate Bill 1, which adds a new section to AS14.07.168 requiring that the State Board of Education & Early Development provide an in-person report to the Legislature no later than the 30th legislative day of each regular session. SB 1 also creates an advisory task force on theme-based education for the purpose of compiling data and advising the Legislature on matters pertaining to curriculum in public schools in the state. The task force will include the Chair of the House Education Committee along with one member appointed by the Speaker of the House and one member appointed by the Senate President. The task force will report findings and recommendations to the Legislature no later than January 1, 2012, and also terminates on that day.

Another bill of special interest is Senate Bill 84. It creates a high school vocational and technical education factor adjustment of 1.01 that follows the special needs adjustment of 1.20 in the foundation formula. This separate adjustment would generate approximately \$11.7 million. These funds are intended to assist districts in providing vocational and technical instruction for those students enrolled in grades nine through 12.

SB 84 amends AS14.16.200 for the three districts operating a residential home program that began operation after January 1, 2005, and offers reimbursement of operating costs for districts serving grades nine through 12. For FY2012 and FY2013 those districts can claim room and board expenses for reimbursement at an increased per-pupil stipend for up to 10 months based on the maximum amounts by region as laid out in statute.

The Iditarod Area School District regional school board is appropriated \$1.5 million to establish a pilot project for the purposes of developing and implementing culturally relevant and theme-based curriculum material for those students enrolled in grades kindergarten through 12. The materials and strategies developed under this are to be made available to other school districts upon request. This pilot program will run through FY2014.

Chair Cox said she wanted to know who does the assessment of theme-based education in Iditarod – who's accountable? Deputy Commissioner Morse said the department was working with Representative Dick on that and welcomes his input. Chair Cox also wanted to know how

\$750K got cut from the mentoring program. Deputy Commissioner Morse said there was overall interest in reducing the budget, and there were few places to cut the EED budget because most of what EED does is mandated in statute. Chair Cox said she can't imagine cutting money from such a positive program that helps teacher retention, turnover and student achievement. Mr. Morse said they were working on ways to make up some of it. Mr. Schneider said the department needs more data to present to the Legislature so we don't get cut again. It was decided that one of the retreat topics would be what kind of data was needed for the Legislature for the mentor program. The Commissioner said he was told that EED needs to be more self-sufficient and big districts can do it themselves. He noted that over 324 teachers are mentored, and 80-90 principals are mentored with principal coaches, saying it's a strong program.

Ms. Benshoof inquired about the pre-school pilot. Deputy Commissioner Morse said the intent was to continue as a program, not a pilot. The department will have three years of program data next year to share and show which models worked well. At that time, a decision will be made on how to grant the grant money. Commissioner Hanley said an Early Childhood Coordinating Council has been created to identify needs.

Mt. Edgecumbe High School (MEHS) Report. Randy Hawk, Superintendent, was present to brief the board. Mr. Hawk said year-end enrollment total was 345 students. Hanley was in attendance at the graduation ceremony. There are two Chinese exchange students coming next fall and maybe two Japanese students as well, which goes hand-in-hand with the Pacific Rim studies program. The MEHS students won big at the Alaska State Science and Engineering Fair in several categories, including the most-outstanding school project award and the most-outstanding science teacher award. The MEHS student council received, for the fourth time, the Student Council of Excellence Award at the AASG Spring Leadership Conference.

Students from MEHS in the SeaTech class will travel to San Diego and present the results of their research as intern analysts with Scripps Institute. These students have been working with the Whale Acoustics Laboratory at Scripps as a part of SeaTech, a National Science Foundation-funded technology training and research internship program for teens. The visiting SeaTech interns and their science teacher have analyzed two years of acoustic data from the Arctic and have logged the seasonal call occurrence of four species of marine mammals.

Ms. Schaeffer inquired about the proposed swimming pool. Mr. Hawk said they have had a site visit. The Commissioner said a scoping study will be done in October to determine, cost, size, amenities, and community needs. Twenty million dollars has been appropriated.

Attorney General's Report. Assistant Attorney General Neil Slotnick was present to brief the board. Mr. Slotnick said there is a new Attorney General, which afforded new opportunities for new conversations. The Moore case is still active; the state filed its final briefing on the state's effort of support.

Libraries, Archives & Museums (LAM) report. Linda Thibodeau, LAM Director, was present to brief the board. She noted that the Commissioner's Anchorage office was back at the Talking Book Library and they were pleased to be able to give him space once again. She indicated that a large part of the library mission was statewide outreach and they were pleased to have been able

to hire a webmaster from the demise of the Coastal Management Program. The library serves the public through many grants that enable programs like the Live Homework Help for grades 4-early college, and a grant to Sheldon Jackson Museum to save their artifacts and history. The library just received \$110,000 grant to archive litigation records for the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill. They will be using another grant for whatever needs to be disposed. Ms. Thibodeau said they had a very successful Alaska Native LAM Summit recently. The SLAM building project is in the design phase with \$5M pending in the budget to be able to continue. In December, the board will hear and see an update to the building project. Ms. Thibodeau introduced Valerie Oliver, the E-Rate Coordinator. Ms. Oliver spoke about the program, saying Alaska pays about \$20M in to the E-Rate Program and gets about \$200M out of it. The money goes directly from Federal Communications Commission to the schools, not through state agencies. They have recently applied for another \$32M grant for Internet and infrastructure for low-income districts.

National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Dues. The annual dues bill for NASBE is \$25,072 this year. Chair Cox said it is sacrificed because of budget cuts, although some money is found for some participation. After discussion, Phil Schneider moved and Jim Merriner seconded a motion to not participate in NASBE as a dues-paying state. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Commissioner's Report. Commissioner Hanley said that yesterday's discussion was the report. He said he was pleased to announce that he has been working with Kerry Boyd (Superintendent at Yukon-Koyukuk) and it will no longer be an intervention district. The department will not pull its support completely, and the communication that has begun will continue.

Consent Agenda. Chair Cox asked if anyone wanted to pull anything off the consent agenda. Geri Benshoof said she wanted to pull the Early College of Alaska Charter School. The remainder of the consent agenda (minus the charter school) was moved by Bunny Schaeffer and seconded by Geri Benshoof. The consent agenda included: Approval of minutes March 17 & 18, 2011, meeting; approval of minutes April 25, 2011, meeting; approval of 10-year renewal of Chinook Montessori Charter School; and approval of Alaska Pacific University Teacher Preparation Programs. The motion was passed by unanimous roll call vote.

A discussion was held concerning the Early College Alaska Charter School. There were discrepancies in the information presented by the school and what was in the board packet. There was much discussion about financial payments for university courses. It was noted that the teachers were not hired, and that university teachers were not highly qualified, which was a requirement of the K-12 system, and the role those teachers would be playing and where they would be teaching were not clear. It was also noted that some of what they were planning to do required legislative action first. The board concluded that there was much more information needed before they could act in favor of the proposal; not that they were denying it, just that they needed more information. Pat Shier made the following motion, seconded by Geri Benshoof, which unanimously passed: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development seek more information on the Early College of Alaska Charter High School application, and direct staff to engage, based on the [board's] conversation, in providing that information.

Board Comments.

Mr. Handeland said this was his last meeting. He thanked the staff and the board and said it had been a pleasure serving on the board as the student advisor. Next year he will attend Oregon State and study nuclear engineering. He said he was very confident in Tiarna as the new student advisor.

Ms. Fischler said she had been taking notes for follow up. She said she would appreciate the department looking into the Cognito Program. She thanked Donald for his help with the transition.

Mr. Shier said it has been a pleasure and was eager for the high-stakes discussion in September.

Mr. Merriner inquired about committee assignments and what ones he was on. He said he was poring over the RISK book and wondered if it would be a good topic for the retreat. He thanked the board in their confidence in him for the First Vice Chair vote.

Ms. Schaeffer congratulated APU on its NCATE accreditation and thanked Randy Hawk for his report. She wished Donald good luck and applauded the new officers.

Ms. Keplinger said she appreciated the work of the staff and said farewell to Donald.

Mr. Schneider said Donald was going far and it had been an honor to work with him. He said he appreciated the staff, missed Eddy Jeans, and thanked the school district for the space and Dottie Knuth for her work.

Ms. Benshoof said she would miss Donald. She reported on the Governor's Council meeting held in Seward in May, saying it was a good meeting. She said she attends the conference calls each month. She requested a detailed report to the board regarding special education. She had been visited in Fairbanks by Chair Cox for the early childhood meeting and by the Commissioner when he was the luncheon speaker at the May Chamber meeting.

Chair Cox said she had sent a note to Teacher of the Year Lorrie Heagy to thank her for coming to the March meeting with her violin students. She said she had met with Anchorage Mayor Dan Sullivan and the Commissioner regarding an education summit the Mayor wanted to hold in the fall in Anchorage. She has attended a Construction Academy meeting and said there were over 700 involved in the after-school program in Anchorage, and went to the early childhood meeting in Fairbanks. She said a lot was accomplished at the recent CTE meeting. She thanked the board and the department for the HSGQE discussion. She said she was gratified for the vote of confidence in electing her Chair once again, and thanked the staff and the Commissioner for their continued good work.

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent.