

Alaska State Board of Education & Early Development
Approved Minutes
Teleconference meeting
January 25, 2008
Originating in the Commissioner's Office
Department of Education & Early Development
801 West 10th Street, Suite 200
Juneau, AK 99801

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Chairwoman Cox called the meeting to order at noon. Online were: Esther Cox, Hal Spackman, Jazmin Ziden, Sylvia Reynolds, Tim Scott, Bunny Schaeffer, Rich Mauer and Lt. Col. Luu. All board members were present except Dr. Holloway and Lindsey Birk. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The chair asked if anyone had a disclosure to make. Tim Scott disclosed that he was a principal. The secretary recited who was present in the commissioner's conference room. They were: Commissioner Thompson, Eddy Jeans, Richard Luther, Mark Lewis, Eric Fry, Dottie Knuth, Neil Slotnick, Pat Shier, Sheila Peterson, Lynne Smith and Mary Francis.

The agenda was approved as presented by motion made by Tim Scott and seconded by Rich Mauer. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Public Comment. There was none.

Legislative Discussion and Issues. Richard Luther was present to brief the board. He gave a brief overview of the pre-filed bills and spoke to SB 240/HB 273, which is the education funding bill arising out of the Joint Legislative Education Funding Task Force. The bill has been amended to include the Governor's recommendation to raise the BSA by \$200 each year for three years. He said Senator Hawker wanted to amend the bill further to add pupil transportation recommendations from the task force work that wasn't included in the original bill. Mr. Luther briefly spoke to SB 193, performance of state agencies and missions, SB 219 which would establish the Governor's select panel on school district cost factors and repeal the current cost factors and HB 306 which would provide for pre-elementary programs within school districts and would provide for the certification of early childhood education plans. Mr. Luther said there was a lot of interest in this bill. Mr. Shier inquired about the number of referrals in HB 306. Mr. Luther said he would have to get back to him with the number. Mr. Luther also noted that the legislature seemed to be taking the 90-day session seriously and were moving on issues and scheduling meetings on Saturdays.

Dr. Holloway joined the meeting the 12:10 p.m.

The LIO in Kenai broke into the meeting to let the board know that Kiki Abrahamson was waiting to testify. She said she was a teacher at the Fireweed Academy in Kenai and

had heard Dr. Holloway speak at a meeting where he had encouraged folks to testify at board meetings. She said HB 273 was a step in the right direction, but her charter school was working under a handicap. She felt existing charter schools had proven themselves. Eddy Jeans said if the school proves viable, after it has gone through the two years of startup money, then it should be able to get on the same track as other charter schools. Esther Cox pointed out the language in the resolution the board would be considering later in the meeting and how it specifically addressed charter schools. Sylvia Reynolds congratulated Ms. Abrahamson on the school's excellent rating.

Department Budget Update. Eddy Jeans was present to brief the board. He went through the department's budget page by page and answered questions from the board members. He said the department had started presentations to subcommittees earlier in the week, and it was going well so far. He discussed the major changes from last year, and summarized the general funds and the total funds. He said there was some technical funds in the budget to help schools in 2009. He also noted that the final budget could differ depending on the outcome of legislation.

Sylvia Reynolds asked about the status of the Alaska Reading Course. The Commissioner said it was being offered through the university and getting interest, and the department intended to bring options to the board in March. Tim Scott said he was taking the course now and thought it was good.

Resolution Regarding Support of the Joint Legislative Education Funding Task Force. Shirley Holloway moved and Sylvia Reynolds seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development adopt proposed resolution # 01-2008 regarding the Joint Legislative Education Funding Task Force. Mr. Mauer suggested adding the words "publically funded" in front of charter schools in the last paragraph.

NOTE: At this point in the meeting, EED lost its connection to the teleconference due to a problem with the phone. The meeting was reconvened in the commissioner's office and the secretary was brought back up to speed regarding the conversation that went on while Juneau was disconnected.

Richard Mauer had amended and Shirley Holloway had seconded the amendment to the main motion which was the additional language being added to the resolution. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Board Comments.

Tim Scott inquired about the bandwidth problems for the Work Ready/College Ready Program. Staff assured him they were being addressed.

Pat Shier expressed his desire to involve the board more in the budget process with the department and suggested a work session for next year's budget.

Sylvia Reynolds said she had participated in the Beginning Teacher Standards meeting the last two days.

Bunny Schaeffer no comments

Rich Mauer no comments

Lt. Col Luu no comments

Jazmin Ziden no comments

Esther Cox said she hoped that Mr. Mauer and Mr. Scott had submitted letters to the governor regarding their reappointment to the board. She reminded the board of upcoming meetings in February and March.

Commissioner Thompson said the legislature was back in session and the department was busy responding to questions and meetings.

Chair Cox thanked everyone for a smooth meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.