

**Approved Minutes**  
**Alaska State Board of Education & Early Development**  
**October 25, 2010**  
**Originating in the Commissioner's Conference Room**  
**801 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 200**  
**Juneau, AK**

The teleconference meeting was called to order by Chair Cox at noon. All members were present on line, except Pat Shier and Jim Merriner. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Chair asked if anyone had any disclosures. Carol Schaeffer indicated that she was employed by the Northwest Arctic School District, a district requesting a waiver. The chair ruled that she could participate.

There were no amendments to the agenda. The agenda was approved by unanimous roll call vote with a motion made by Geri Benshoof and seconded by Janel Keplinger.

There was no public comment.

Commissioner LeDoux introduced Elizabeth Nudelman, Director of School Finance, who walked the board through the process of determining which districts were eligible for a waiver from the 70% requirement for minimum expenditure for instruction. She said this was the thirteenth year of doing this exercise and the board would see the 70/30 waivers twice, once for the original waiver (this instance) and once again if the school audit determined that the district would not be able to meet the requirement. She noted that there were two main patterns: districts with small budgets, less than \$3 million, with a lack of economy of scale in the community, of which there are nine this year; and those districts with operations and maintenance budgets that have little chance to meet the 70% threshold because of energy costs. There are three districts with high costs due to geographic location, dropping enrollments and other multiple issues. There are 26 districts requesting the waiver this year, and the department is recommending that they all be granted.

Chair Cox asked about ISER cost factors and how it affects rural schools when most show declining enrollments. Ms. Nudelman said for some districts, it keeps revenue flat instead of decreasing. Ms. Keplinger asked if the board had not discussed an alternative before. Ms. Nudelman said the board had submitted resolutions to the legislature in years past to eliminate the waivers since there is now other accounting in place. No action had taken place.

Carol Schaeffer moved and Janel Keplinger seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development approve the district waiver requests for 70% minimum expenditure for instruction requirement for Fiscal Year 2011 for the following school districts: Alaska Gateway, Aleutian Region, Aleutians East Borough, Bering Strait, Bristol Bay Borough, Chatham, Copper River, Hoonah City, Hydaburg City, Iditarod Area, Kake City, Kuspuk, Lake and Peninsula, Nome City, North Slope Borough, Northwest Arctic Borough, Pelican City, Pribilof, St. Mary's, Skagway, Southeast Island, Southwest Region, Tanana City,

Wrangell Public, Yakutat City, and Yukon Flats. The motion was passed by unanimous roll call vote.

### **Board Comments**

Carol Schaeffer, Donald Handeland, Col Sullivan Geri Benshoof, and Janel Keplinger had no comments.

Chair Cox said that Ms. Nudelman did a fine job.

Jim Merriner said he had just been able to connect to the meeting through the LIO office.

Carol Schaeffer asked if another board member could go to the content standards meeting in her place. Board members will let Dottie Knuth know who can attend.

Janel Keplinger moved and Geri Benshoof seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent.