

Alaska State Board of Education & Early Development
Approved Minutes
December 6 &7, 2012
Anchorage, AK

December 6, 2012 Work Session

The meeting was called to order by Chair Merriner at 8:00 a.m. at the Anchorage School District Board Room. Chair Merriner administered the Oath of Office to Major Michael Wrey, the newly appointed military advisor to the board. All members were present except Phil Schneider, who was expected to be online later. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The agenda was amended to include a press conference conducted by the Department of Law concerning the moon rocks case at 10:00 a.m., and a student-related issue from Mt. Edgecumbe High School to be included in the executive session. The amended agenda approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Public Comment

Susan Ritter, special education teacher, had several questions regarding the proposed teacher evaluation regulation and how she would be evaluated.

Lisa Parady, Assistant Superintendent at the North Slope Borough School District, thanked the board for its review of the teacher evaluation regulation, saying the cultural standards were important to include. She had concerns about the percentage increases of student data on her evaluation, and said she'd like to see an optional plan of improvement, and needed clarification on parts of the regulation.

LaDawn Druce, Kenai Peninsula Education Association, said she commended the work on the regulation and the revisions, and said there was a need for a more professional system. She was unclear on some of the wording and asked for clarification. She felt the proposal needed more work and more time for comment.

Karen Gaborek, Fairbanks North Star Borough School District, had a concern with the student growth section of the regulation and said she would like to see district control of measures used. She thought 20% was reasonable and that 50% was too much, too soon. She feared that high-quality teachers would not want to serve at-risk students anymore. She also feared there would be pressure from the media for results, and wanted the public comment period extended.

Steve Atwater, Superintendent of Kenai Peninsula Borough School District, complimented the board for being responsive to public comment with the regulation re-write. He thought the 2015 date was hard to reach and districts needed resources for help in attaining the goal. He also felt the 20% provision should be set for three years instead of two, and then the board should look at increasing the percentage.

Judy Campbell, Anchorage School District teacher, said a merit-based evaluation was not the answer and she had concerns with quantifiable data. She read a letter from her son, who was also

a teacher and opposed to the proposal. The commissioner clarified that the most recent version required two to four measures of quantifiable data.

Andy Holleman, Anchorage Education Association, had concerns about the factors that were outside of the control of the teacher and said he had yet to see positive outcomes from states that were using more than 20%. He was also concerned with economic impact and uncertainty for teachers. He said he feared that good teachers would leave the state.

Mary Janis, representing herself, said she was a member of the Teacher Quality Working Group, and thanked EED for its work. She was concerned with going to 50% and thought the proposal should be opened for more public comment.

Teresa Holt, Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education, said it is hard to measure teachers' effect on student achievement. Special education teachers have few students, and student data for them would have little statistical significance.

Bruce Johnson, Executive Director of the Alaska School Administrators Association, thanked the department for its effort, but thought the proposal was costly and time consuming, and similar proposals had mixed results around the country, saying there was no magic bullet and it was hard to get it right. He said many outside factors determine a child's success and it was complicated. He cautioned to move slowly, getting it right, even if it took more time.

Tammy Smith, in the Fairbanks LIO and President of the Fairbanks Education Association, said she understands the need for good evaluation and the need to keep it confidential. She was surprised with the 50% provision and wondered what the research was behind the number. She said she was happy with 20% and thought the proposal should go back out for more comment.

Barbara George, in the Fairbanks LIO, said she had confidentiality concerns and expressed the need for excellent teachers and evaluations. She said students come from unequal backgrounds and cautioned that the playing field was not equal for all students. She suggested more time for comment. The commissioner said results will be confidential.

Anya Sanderson, education support staff in Fairbanks, said he was not a certified teacher and thought that 50% was too high a mark. He said students come from many backgrounds and he urged caution in proceeding too fast. The commissioner said it was up to the districts to develop procedures and define the measure to fit the situation.

Joseph Boyle, President of the Mat-Su Education Association, thought the proposal was complex and vague, and suggested reopening it for more comment. He thought the changes were being rushed and it needed more time to be effective.

Bob Crumley, Superintendent of Chugach School District, spoke in support of proposed changes to statewide residential schools to include a variable term and to include district and statewide residential schools. He cited many successes with such a program.

Lorrie Heagy, 2011 Alaska Teacher of the Year, thanked the department for its work on the teacher evaluation regulation, but had a concern with the 50% provision. She said a test reflected only one day in the life of a student and it doesn't tell the whole story. She wondered what the exclusions would be, such as the arts, and requested that the proposal have another comment period.

Jessica Cook, Anchorage Education Association, thanked the department for the effort, saying that 50% was excessive. She said teachers with gifted students will perform well, but teachers with Title I students and students on an IEP will have a harder time, and said more notice for all stakeholders was needed.

Tim Parker, NEA Alaska, asked that the comment period be extended, citing not enough time for consideration. He had concerns with confidentiality, how data would be used for the plan of improvement, and situations outside the control of teachers.

Joe Banta said his wife was an Anchorage School District employee and couldn't be at the meeting. He said her concerns were similar to those being expressed, especially with backgrounds of students being so different and students who speak English as a second language. When teachers received low evaluations, he questioned who would replace them. He wished the board luck with the process.

Public comment ended at 9:45 a.m.

Lower Yukon School District (LYSD). LYSD was present to make a presentation to the board as a district that is in a plan of improvement. Alex Russin, Superintendent, was present to brief the board. He said their headquarters was in Mountain Village, and they had nine school board members from the region. He gave a general overview of the district. Mr. Shier asked what his observations were, having been in the district a long time. Mr. Russin said it was hard to catch up students who don't speak English when they come to school the first time. He also noted that teacher turnover was high, and he said culture was out of the control of the school. When there is a death in a family it affects everyone. Mr. Shier asked how he engaged the community. Mr. Russin said one of his philosophies was to lead by example. Some teachers perceive the allure of Alaska, and are just there for a year or two. He uses the community VPSO as a resource person. There is a big focus on language.

The board broke for a brief intermission for the moon rocks press conference that was held in the atrium of the school district building. The press conference explained how Alaska has reclaimed the Apollo 11 moon rocks missing since a fire at the Alaska Transportation Museum in Anchorage in 1973. Apollo 11 carried the first geologic samples from the moon to the Earth. The department's assigned Assistant Attorney General, Neil Slotnick, led an investigation and lawsuit to a successful conclusion in returning the moon rocks to state custody.

Meeting continued:

Mr. Russin described the district's schools and enrollments. Ms. Cox asked about early childhood. Mr. Russin said most schools have a Head Start program and they have a grant to

implement pre-K programs in smaller communities. He said they have made progress in getting all students books from the Imagination Library.

Yukon Koyukuk School District. Kerry Boyd, Superintendent, was present to brief the board about her district. She said that there is a pre-K program at every school except Hulsia and Nulato, where there are Head Start programs. They have 1,100 students in the correspondence program, and 98% of the students are Alaska Native/Athabascan. Ms. Boyd reviewed the district goals and district statistics. She said that 16% of the teachers are Alaska Native, while 91% of the students are Alaska Native. Proficiency rates: reading 57%, writing 52%, and math 48%. She said there was a 90% attendance rate. She noted that shortfalls exist in the areas of after-school tutoring, pre-K programs, building student capacity, and teacher improvement. She said the state intervention was effective and positive.

Facilities. Libraries, Archives and Museums. Linda Thibodeau, Director, was present to brief the board about the State Libraries, Archives & Museums (SLAM) building in Juneau, along with Brian Meissner, with ECI/Hyer Architects, and Kim Mahoney, the project engineer. They gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the schedule and budget, mitigation efforts, design, and partnerships. Allocated to date is \$81.45M, with \$50M remaining to be allocated by July 2013 to remain on budget. Opening date is 2014.

Facilities. Mt. Edgecumbe High School (MEHS) Swimming Pool. Randy Hawk, Director of MEHS; Kim Mahoney, project engineer; and Brian Meissner, with ECI/Hyer Architects, were present to brief the board regarding the progress of the MEHS pool. The pool will serve the community of Sitka, and many meetings between the stakeholders have occurred. The site has been selected, and preliminary specifications have been developed.

Mt. Edgecumbe High School (MEHS) Strategic Plan. Randy Hawk, Director of MEHS, was present to brief the board. A committee of students, parents, advisory board members, teachers, counselors, dorm staff, and administrators has developed an updated strategic plan. The last one was completed in 2009. Mr. Hawk reviewed the changes to the mission and vision of the plan and topics that covered academics, tutorials, residential, counseling, recreation, extra-curricular, MEHS culture, and community.

Rural High Schools in Alaska. Jerry Covey, a previous Commissioner of Education & Early Development and now a consultant, was present to brief the board regarding a paper that he authored about his observations of rural high schools in Alaska. He noted that there were three very successful programs serving students outside of the mainstream: Voyage to Excellence in Chugach, Rasmuson ANSEP Program in Lower Kuskokwin School District, and Cook Inlet Tribal Program in West and Bartlett high schools in Anchorage. He said the North Slope Borough and the Northwest Arctic Borough school districts were interested in beginning such programs. He said there was a short-term program running in Bering Strait School District. Benefits he noted to programs like these are: programs that small schools can't deliver, dollars remain in the district or region, cost sharing and course delivery collaboration, student access to better resources, year around delivery, more opportunity for Alaska Performance Scholarship and career and technical education, and social exposure. Mr. Covey suggested amending the current regulations to allow more statewide programs.

What's Next - Alaska Teach Prep Consortium. Cathy LeCompte, Associate Dean, University of Alaska Community & Technical College, Anchorage, was present to brief the board. Ms. LeCompte gave a brief history of Tech Prep, where they were today and where they would like to be in the future. The concept brings new attention to the career and technical aspect of education and how CTE can help students achieve graduation and be prepared for a career path for the future. It incorporates many stakeholders, such as community employers, policy makers, administrators, teachers, and cross-agency partners.

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD). Monica Charles Leinberger, FASD/Behavior Specialist, Lower Kuskokwim School District; Deb Evensen, FASD Consultant, Anchorage School District; and Teri Tibbett, Advocacy Coordinator, Alaska Mental Health Board, Alaska FASD Partnership, Coordinator Advisory Board on Alcoholism & Drug Abuse, were present to brief the board about what happens with identified and unidentified students with FASD. They described the issue as a huge one affecting all school districts, with students falling through the cracks and becoming truant, suicidal and dropouts. There is a very active FASD partnership in Alaska consisting of over 110 members, with several work groups. Problems with FASD students begin in the early grades and many times by middle school they have fallen through the cracks and by high school they are lost. Once the brain of a fetus has been affected by alcohol, there is no way to reverse the damage. There is a great need to identify FASD students and to put a structure in place for their individual success.

Safe Talk. Madison Manning, student advisor to the board, was present to discuss Safe Talk and suicide prevention and awareness. She discussed her experience in training at meetings and conventions where she learned warning signs and steps to use to talk with someone whom she feels might be suicidal. She said that Alaska Association of Student Governments (AASG) was very much involved in ways to help decrease the suicide rate among students. She described the Wall of Hope exercise, in which the individual writes down three things he or she has to live for and then posts it on the wall. Board members participated in this exercise.

Report to the Legislature. Eric Fry, Information Officer, was present to facilitate the board's review of its draft report to the Legislature that is due from the board to the Legislature by the 30th legislative day. Board members reviewed the draft report and made minor suggestions for edits.

Executive Session. Pat Shier moved and Geri Benshoof seconded the following: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development convene in executive session to interview candidates for student advisor-elect for the remainder of the 2012-2013 school year, and to review a student waiver request for Mt. Edgecumbe High School. An executive session is necessary so as to not prejudice the reputation and character of any person being interviewed. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Esther Cox moved and Janel Keplinger seconded the following: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development reconvene into regular session. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Carol Schaeffer moved and Pat Shier seconded the following: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development select Carly Williams as its Student Advisor-Elect for the remainder of the school year 2012-2013. On July 1, 2013, Carly Williams' one-year term will begin as the Student Advisor to the board and continue through June 30, 2013. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

December 7, 2012. Work Session Continued

The meeting was called to order by Chair Merriner at 8:00 a.m. All members were present with Phil Schneider on Skype.

The agenda was approved by unanimous roll call vote with the addition of the approval of the student waiver for Mt. Edgecumbe High School. The Chair asked if any board members had disclosures to declare. Chair Merriner said that in connection with the correspondence regulation, he was employed by Galena School District. Pat Shier said that his wife was employed by Raven Correspondence School. Janel Keplinger said that he was an active administrator with a Type B certificate.

Neil Slotnick, Assistant Attorney General, stated that both Mr. Merriner and Ms. Keplinger had an interest in the regulation project, but would derive no benefit and it wasn't so significant for their personal interest. He advised that the board chair could rule, as well as the entire board. He suggested the board vote because the chair was involved. Both declared that they could vote in the best interest of education.

Ms. Cox suggested the board could handle them both together with a motion.

Carol Schaeffer moved and Pat Shier seconded the following: I move to allow Jim Merriner and Janel Keplinger to participate in the teacher evaluation discussion and vote. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

ESEA Report. Commissioner Hanley gave a brief update regarding the Elementary and Secondary Education Act waiver the department requested. He said that the department was notified that the U.S. Department of Education needed some more information about the State System of Support and how we support the 5% lowest-performing schools in the state, and that was provided in a timely manner. He said he was expecting notification sometime early next year.

Student Teacher Report. Sondra Meredith, Teacher Certification Administrator, was present to brief the board. She said that Section 205 in Title II of the Higher Education Act, as amended in 2008, requires each state receiving funding under the act to report annually on the quality of teacher preparation in the state, including:

- Information on each teacher preparation program in the state, such as admissions requirements, enrollment, and supervised clinical experience information;
- Standards for teachers and their alignment with standards for students;
- Requirements for each teaching certificate or license;

- Pass rates on each assessment used by states in certifying or licensing teachers and the reliability and validity of these assessments; and
- State efforts in the past year to improve the quality of teaching.

Institutions of higher education are required to report annual to their state education agency on relevant elements of the annual Title II report.

Pat Shier said he was interested in seeing information on university follow-up with this information. Ms. Meredith said EED is at the table with the university, and collaboration of data was happening. Ms. Cox asked Dr. Boyer (Anchorage School District), who was in the room, if communication was happening; he replied yes, in several areas. Ms. Cox said she was concerned that new teachers need to understand how the new standards will drive their curriculum. Ms. Meredith said that campus coordination was happening slowly. Ms. Cox asked how long student teaching was. Ms. Meredith said it varied from program to program, some by year, some by semester. Mr. Boyer said University of Alaska Anchorage has seven different programs. Ms. Meredith said it was interesting that there were 43 out-of-state students doing student teaching in Alaska. Ms. Meredith reviewed student teachers from other states, graduates employed by districts, endorsement areas, and new cut score setting from the Educational Testing Service for the new standards.

Opening a period of public comment on proposed regulations regarding school accreditation. Paul Prussing, Deputy Director of Teaching & Learning Support, was present to brief the board. Also present were Stowell Johnstone and Mary Johnstone from the Northwest Accreditation Commission, available to answer any questions. Mr. Prussing noted that standards for school accreditation had not been updated since 1998. The new accreditation will be affiliated with AdvancED. If schools are accredited, they gain greater access to federal loans, scholarships, postsecondary education programs and military programs. Ms. Cox said she believed in accreditation and it says a school has met the standards. The proposed regulation will note the *Standards for Quality Schools*, published by AdvancEd as of 2011, which was reviewed by Mr. Prussing.

Regulations to Adopt. Deputy Commissioner Morse was present to brief the board regarding amendments to the correspondence study regulation. He said that generally the comments were favorable, although there were some concerns regarding flexibility. Mr. Slotnick said one of the issues that gave rise to the amendments were the fact that correspondence schools are public schools and monies should not be diverted for private purposes, they must be part of a public program. The commissioner noted that he had observed on three separate Individualized Education Programs that students were taking all electives and no core subjects. The proposed regulation states that full-time students must take at least two different core courses of study in a semester. Ms. Schaeffer said that perhaps the student has loaded up in previous years in core subjects and now had room for electives. Mr. Shier said he wasn't sure it wasn't a reaction over money rather than students. Ms. Benshoof said it's about money; if the state is paying, it has a right to set the requirements. The commissioner said if a student only takes electives, it's not a track to graduation and being a world-class student. Ms. Manning said she comes from a small school where electives are not available, and she felt it was taking away an opportunity. Mr. Slotnick said he wanted to clarify that the discussion was about full-time students in a

correspondence program, which is a public school program that includes technology, world languages, math and English.

Deputy Commissioner Morse also spoke to the Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) regulation that was proposed to be amended to clarify the allowable tests for the ACT and the SAT. It would also allow district to regard its International Baccalaureate courses as approved courses, and allow students who take high-level courses prior to entering high school to use those courses toward the APS. Mr. Morse discussed the points in the proposal.

Sondra Meredith was present to brief the board on the teacher evaluation amendments to regulation. The commissioner gave a brief background, saying that the current standards-based assessments were not aligned for teacher evaluation. The department was looking at a new system called Smarter Balanced. He noted that the proposal does allow a district to recognize what a teacher has control over and what it does not – such as attendance and language. Mr. Morse said that EED has a lot of work to do before the regulation’s effective date. They will be providing implementation training and partnering with districts. He said they are looking at achievement prior to and after instruction. Regarding the percentage tied to student achievement, the governor thought 20% was too low and the bar needed to be higher, and he encouraged EED to move toward 50% in four years. The commissioner said the number change did not require a regulation re-notice, which was confirmed by the Assistant Attorney General. He said the expectation was that the board would consider public comment and is allowed to make those changes. Ms. Cox said she had the same concern as Dr. Atwater about changing the percentage every year. She wasn’t clear about what assessment tools would be involved. She said that if the percentage was moved each year, it would not give enough time to re-group and evaluate. She recommended beginning at 20% for two years, then moving up. She said she was concerned with holding teachers responsible for students who don’t come to school. Ms. Keplinger said the 50% would keep teachers from taking jobs with at risk students or schools. Ms. Meredith said this is not a new concept; other states vary from 17% to 50% and some vary from district to district. Some depended on testing; seven states had a range; and 15 states are at 50%. She said states that did Race To The Top have been working on this for two years. Three states are moving toward 50%. Ms. Benshoof said she hoped this would produce a concrete method of evaluation. Ms. Keplinger said it was good that other states were moving ahead of us so we could use their results for effectiveness. Chair Merriner wanted to discuss the meaning of proficiency ratings. Ms. Meredith said the districts would determine levels of proficiency in performance rating. When asked what basic meant, she said, moving toward and through proficiency, recognizing growth and motivation to profess growth. Mr. Schneider said he applauded the Governor for his expectations. He said he understood that issues of concerning socio/economics were not controllable and he felt that those could be worked through. He noted that the Gates Foundation was doing good work in this area. He said he was concerned how voters and the public look at accountability and he felt the phase in on percentages was good. Major Wrey asked about the timeline for implementation and what happened if the assessment tool was changed. The commissioner said we can move forward without an assessment tool. Ms. Schaeffer urged using “encourage to participate in” the cultural standards. She said exposure was needed to learn about other cultures. Mr. Slotnick said “encourage” is not a regulatory word.

Esther Cox said she wanted to recommend the following increments for evaluation based on student assessments: 2015-16 – 20%; 2016-17 –20%; 2017-18 –35%; and 2018-19 –50%. She noted that there was an issue of unintended consequences with teachers being afraid to take on student teachers, turning the classroom over because of the responsibility. She emphasized that there are many issues that teachers have no control over like attendance. Districts have to look at that. Commissioner Hanley said districts have to develop procedures to account for the impact of both. Ms. Manning said she still wasn't sure a test was a good measure. Mr. Morse said one of the four measures could be a project; they don't all have to be a standardized test; and use of multiple sources of data is essential. Ms. Manning said she thought there was a lot of misunderstanding. Mr. Shier said this doesn't close the matter; everyone has a role to play in the conversation that is just beginning.

Business Meeting

Chair Merriner called the business meeting to order after a performance of holiday music by the West High School Senior Choir and a lunch break.

Accreditation. Pat Shier moved and Esther Cox seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development open a period of public comment on amendments to 4 AAC 04.300 (b0 and (c). The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Correspondence. Geri Benshoof moved and Esther Cox seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development adopt amendments to 4 AAC 33.426(a), Core course requirements. The motion passed by a 5-2 roll call vote.

Alaska Performance Scholarship. Pat Shier moved and Carol Schaeffer seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development adopt the amendments to 4 AAC 43, Alaska Performance Scholarship Program. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Teacher Evaluation. Esther Cox moved and Pat Shier seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development insert the following percentages into the teacher evaluation regulation: 2015-2016 – 20%; 2016-2017 – 20%; 2017-2018-36% and 2018-2019 – 50% for teacher and administrator evaluation performance on district standards. The motion passed by a 5-2 roll call vote. Commissioner Hanley said they were marching toward a goal and he appreciated the two year phase-in to get the program going.

Pat Shier moved an amendment, and Janel Keplinger seconded it, to make an exception for standard 8 in Section 4 AAC 04.200, “a teacher participates and contributes to the teaching profession,” as a content standard for which a “basic” rating would trigger district support and assistance. The motion failed by a 3-4 roll call vote.

Pat Shier moved and Geri Benshoof seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development adopt the amendments to 4 AAC 04.04.200(f) professional content and performance standards; 4 AAC 04.205(a)(b)(c)(d) District performance standards; 4 AAC 19.010 Purpose and scope of evaluation; 4 AAC 19.020 Scope of evaluation; 4 AAC

19.030 Evaluation procedures; 4 AAC 19.040 Confidentiality of the evaluation; 4 AAC 19.050 Reporting of evaluation results and local incorporation of student learning data; 4 AAC 19.060 Evaluation training; and 4 AAC 19.099 Definitions as amended. The motion passed by a 6-1 roll call vote.

TLS Report. Paul Prussing, Deputy Director of Teaching & Learning Support, was present to brief the board. Mr. Prussing said the division consisted of seven divisions that provide four core services. The divisions within the division are: student and school achievement, state system of support, statewide mentoring program, teacher certification, child nutrition, early learning coordination and pre-kindergarten grants. The four core services are: federal program funding and compliance, academic standards, assessment and accountability, state system of support, and active partnerships.

Assessment, Accountability and Information Management Report. Erik McCormick, Director, was present to brief the board. He briefed the board on the upcoming calendared testing dates through February. He noted that 17 districts will be getting waivers for the Terra Nova administration. He said there was a three-year grant for \$4 million for the Longitudinal Data System. Mr. McCormick said that the department was waiting to hear from the U.S. Department of Education if Alaska has been admitted into the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC), saying that the by-laws had been amended to allow other states than those participating with the Common Core to be members. Twenty-six states belong to the consortia. The amount of testing, timing and assessments will be determined by the consortium, so Alaska is eager to get into the conversation. The commissioner noted that Alaska had an opportunity to be a governing state. Pilot testing would begin in February 2013 in grades 3-8 and in grade 11. It would eventually replace the SBAs, but immediately it would be a voluntary added test. Mr. Merriner said it would be interesting to have a rural district with bandwidth issues participate in the pilot. He said he'd like to have a conversation about removing the Terra Nova and/or the High School Graduation Qualifying Examination in January and in March.

Rural Education Report. Chris Simon, Rural Education Coordinator, was present to brief the board. Mr. Simon said he continues to promote the Alaska Performance Scholarship wherever he goes and is working with districts with under a 20% participation rate by conducting webinars. His outreach has included several areas, numerous meetings around the state, making presentations, like the Principals Conference Alaska Construction & Career Days, and testifying before Senator Murkowski at the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee field hearing. He's also met with the Alaska Administrators Coaching project and Future Educators of Alaska. He said that he was serving on the Alaska Title IV Steering Committee pertaining to liquor licensing and enforcement that was impacting rural areas. He said he was involved in the Coaching Men to Boys project, saying that in the last five years the Interior had lost 200 students. Mr. Simon attended the Circumpolar Conference and presented on the Alaska Cultural Standards.

Legislative Report. Marcy Herman, Legislative Liaison, was present to brief the board. She said that the Governor would release the state budget on December 15, so she could not comment on that at this time. She did review the legislative committee assignments to date. She noted that Representative Elect Lynn Gattis would be the Chair of the House Education Committee, and

Senator Gary Stevens would be the Chair of the Senate Education Committee. There was a brief discussion on the status of the Alaska Legislative Task Force on Theme-Based Education. She said the grant was for \$1.5 million over a three-year period. There have been two meetings, one in Anchorage and one in Barrow; there were two science camps last summer; and a culture camp. Curriculum has been developed and videos made. They have developed a web site.

Mt. Edgecumbe High School (MEHS) Report. Randy Hawk, Director, was present to brief the board. Mr. Hawk said that enrollment currently stood at 397, which was one more than last year. He expressed concern with how many students would be coming back from Christmas break and said that if there were openings due to students not coming back that they would bring in new students. Mr. Hawk said they had resurrected the ground school course, which is a dual-enrollment course with University of Alaska Southeast. The Alaska Supreme Court Live, the Color of Justice, was recently held at MEHS and well-attended by students. He noted the MEHS boys and girls cross country has recently placed first in Regional. He said MEHS was going to be the regional host for the state championships in March during the March board meeting. They are organizing a sister school in China and will have a Chinese teacher for a whole year in partnership with the Sitka School District.

Attorney General's Report. Neil Slotnick, Assistant Attorney General, was present to brief the board. He reviewed the current EED-related law cases and was congratulated on the moon rocks outcome in bringing the rocks back to the state.

Libraries, Archives and Museums (LAM) Report. Linda Thibodeau was present to brief the board. Ms. Thibodeau highlighted the Talking Book Library in Anchorage. She said the library was a partnership with the National Blind and Handicapped, provided print-handicapped and Braille services, and is 80-years-old in its service. People ages 5 to 90 are patrons. She noted that the staff at the Talking Book won the Team Customer Service for Excellence category for the Governor's Peak Performance Awards in 2012. Ms. Thibodeau introduced Patience Frederiksen, Bev Griffin, Stephanie Schott, and Cate Remme from the Talking Book, and each spoke on an aspect of the library. Other topics in the report included Capital City Libraries which was formed in 1980 and shares library catalog and other services; Alaska Online with Libraries (OWL) Project update; SLED resources available in helping young Alaskan students; and the work being done by the state archives related to the Susitna Dam Project. Ms. Manning said her school doesn't have higher math and she uses SLED, a library-funded service, for help.

Commissioner's Report. Commissioner Hanley was present to brief the board. He thanked the board for their work on the teacher/administrator evaluation regulation. He said he anticipated the budget release on December 15 and was looking forward to its contents. He noted that Alaska's Learning Network was doing good work in increasing distance delivery; new classes were opening up for the preparation of mining. The Commissioner attended the Foundation for Excellence in Washington, D.C., and met with state Representative-Elects Reinbold and Gattis as well as Senator Meyers. He said he was pleased to see the Governor's interest in teacher evaluation and taking the time and dollars to make comment and implement the program.

Consent Agenda. There were five items on the consent agenda. Carol Schaeffer moved and Pat Shier seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development

approve the consent agenda consisting of the following: approval of the minutes of the September 13 & 14, 2012, meeting; approval of the minutes of the October 29, 2012, teleconference meeting; approval of the appointments of Mr. Bruce Merrell and Mr. David McMahan to serve three-year terms on the Museum Collections Advisory Committee beginning January 1, 2013; approval of the Mt. Edgecumbe High School Strategic Plan; and approval of the board's report to the legislature. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Board Comments:

Madison Manning said she had attended the fall AASG Conference and that the state board position was the most popular discussion. She welcomed Major Wrey and congratulated Carly Williams.

Carol Schaeffer wished everyone safe travels.

Pat Shier wished everyone happy holidays and cautioned that the board needs to think carefully before they act, saying that they cannot solve problems at the same level they were created.

Major Wrey said this was a new experience and he welcomed it, and was looking forward to the continuing. He said he was interested in the topic of transferring credits for military students and the graduation regulations as they pertain to military students.

Geri Benshoof said she attended the October Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education meeting and the Association of Alaska School Boards' meeting in November, saying it was a good way to get to know board members around the state. She congratulated Madison on her scholarship and congratulated Carly on her appointment, saying that all five students interviewed were impressive. She thanked all the people who took time to comment on the evaluation regulation. She thanked Dottie Knuth and Jim Merriner for their work on the meeting.

Janel Keplinger wished everyone a happy holiday and "dittoed" everyone above.

Esther Cox asked if the board could continue hearing from the intervention districts and asked about the status of career plans in high schools. She welcomed Major Wrey, and expressed a desire to hear about Col. Sullivan's status. She thanked the district for the great singers at lunch time. She said the evaluation regulation was going to be big and she appreciated all the comments made. She thanked Sondra Meredith and the staff, congratulated Carly Williams, and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Jim Merriner acknowledged Elizabeth Nudelman being at the meeting, although the board did not hear from her this time around. He thanked the staff and the board and was thankful that Phil Schneider was able to connect to the meeting via Skype. He expressed a desire for a Terra Nova discussion in January, welcomed Major Wrey, congratulated Madison Manning on her scholarship, and congratulated Carly Williams. He said attending the Foundation for Excellence Conference was time well-spent. He thanked the public for its comments.

A motion to adjourn was made by Esther Cox and seconded by Carol Schaeffer and passed by unanimous consent.