

**Alaska State Board of Education & Early Development**  
**Approved Minutes**  
**Juneau, AK**  
**March 6, 7 & 8, 2013**

*Wednesday, March 6, 2013*

The board enjoyed a day at Mt. Edgecumbe High School in Sitka. They met with staff, observed classes, toured the facilities and the site for the new aquatic center, toured the Sheldon Jackson Museum, and attended the regional basketball games.

*Thursday, March 7, 2013*

The meeting was called to order by Chair Merriner at 8:00 a.m. in the board meeting room at the Department of Education & Early Development in Juneau. The Oath of Office was administered to new board member Sue Hull, representing the Fourth Judicial District for a term of five years. A quorum was present. Madison Manning, Student Advisor, was excused to attend the U.S. Senate Youth Program in Washington, D.C. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The Chair asked if anyone had any disclosures. Jim Merriner disclosed that he was an employee of the Galena City School District, and the district audited waiver was on the agenda. It was noted that when this circumstance had come up in the past, the board member had recused him/herself. He said that he would do the same for the work session and the business meeting. The board was in agreement.

The Chair asked if there were any changes to the agenda. The Commissioner said the board had an appointment for a meet-and-greet with the Governor at 11:40 a.m. the following day and that photographs would be taken during lunch. The amended agenda for March 7 was moved by Esther Cox, seconded by Pat Shier, and approved by unanimous roll call vote.

**Public Comment**

Paul Kuperschmid, Kelli Jo Boonstra and D'Anna Gibson, all in the Kenai LIO office, spoke individually in support of the Greatland Adventure Academy's application to become a charter school in Kenai. They indicated it would have an outdoor learning focus, with lots of choice. It would give students the opportunity to pursue athletic dreams and academics using digital tools. Christie Reinhardt with the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education, spoke regarding the regulations that implement accountability components of the ESEA waiver, specifically 4 AAC 06.812, 815, 830 and 835. In general, the council was in support of each of these sections of the regulation, and in particular, the star system.

Bruce Johnson, Executive Director of the Alaska Council of School Administrators, thanked the Commissioner for spending time with the ACSA during recent meetings. He expressed concern for the legislative level of funding for the department for technology.

Phyllis Carlson, representing the Juneau School Board, welcomed the board to Juneau and welcomed new member Hull. She said the Juneau School District (JSD) appreciates the work of

the board and they were striving to become a world-class school system. JSD is the fifth-largest school district in the state and they are concentrating on instruction. She indicated that the board visited Mt. Edgecumbe High School to see what they were doing to be successful with Native students. Pat Shier said he applauds the district's approach to this issue. Ms. Cox said she saw Juneau School District students play basketball in Sitka and thought they were fine representatives.

## Work Session

### Charter Schools

Greatland Adventure Academy Charter School. Dr. Susan McCauley, Director of Teaching & Learning Support, was present to brief the board. Online representing the school were Debbie Michael and Teresa Moyer. Dr. McCauley said this was an initial application for a new charter school in the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District and approved by its board. It will encompass grades 7 and 8 with possible expansion, and they expect 34-45 students. It will have an integrated curriculum with core and outdoor education and music. They have recently secured a facility. Ms. Cox asked if there was any facility money for charter schools. The Commissioner said there had only been talk. Mr. Merrier asked if there was enough time for applications if the cut off was the end of March. Ms. Moyer said they would reopen it if there were not enough applicants. Dave Michael explained that the individual learning plans will be directed toward students with intervention issues or the lower end of learning using cross-curriculum methods in science and aligning with state standards and Kenai district benchmarks. Mr. Shier asked what digital techniques they were using. Ms. Moyer said computers and the Internet. Mr. Shier said technology is moving so fast and he encouraged them to get good help to apply appropriate technology to the classroom. Mr. Michael said they have good relations with the district. Mr. Shier indicated that the Kenai UA has the highest number of distance delivery students and that could be a help. Ms. Hull asked what accountability was required. Dr. McCauley said the accountability would be the same as any other school. Charter schools are usually required to be accountable to the school district and the school board. The academic policy committee works together with the board and could intervene if accountability wasn't where it should be. Oversight is through the school board and through the academic policy committee. Carly Williams asked what outdoor activities would be available. Mr. Michael said skiing, cardio, soccer and running. They will use the Kenai Wildlife Outdoor Education Program for water safety and survival skills. Major Wrey said there were other groups that have existing programs, like the Talkeetna Mountaineering School, the Coast Guard, and the State Troopers. Mr. Michael and Ms. Malory said they would discuss that. Carol Schaeffer asked how they would accommodate special education students. Mr. Michael said the district funds special education and they would negotiate with the district. They do not want to discriminate against anyone, and will rely on the district for services for those students. Dr. McCauley said district services kick in for charter schools. Janel Keplinger asked what gender-specific classes were. Ms. Malory said they would like to see boys and girls taught differently in language arts and are looking into that. The Commissioner said that Valdez does this in middle school and it's been very successful. Ms. Cox noted that Dr. Medina's book, *Brain Rules*, supports this approach. Ms. Williams asked if there were any thoughts of a transition after eighth grade. Ms. Malory said it depended on the

learning style and there were lots of options in the district. The Commissioner thanked them for thinking outside the box and said he appreciated the efforts they were making.

Frontier Charter School renewal. Dr. McCauley, Director of Teaching & Learning Support, was present to brief the board. Tim Scott, Principal, was online. Dr. McCauley said this was a charter school renewal for 10 years. The school assesses each individual student's needs through the Frontier Learning Profile, which is a series of assessments based on the most up-to-date brain research that helps parents understand how their child learns. The current enrollment is 364 students. The Anchorage School Board has approved the renewal application. Ms. Hull inquired what level 2 status meant. Mr. Scott said this was the first time they were at level 2 because of their year-around schedule. Consequently, they were taking a lot of at-risk students with few credits. The Commissioner said he was glad to hear they were reaching out to those students and not worrying about AYP scores. Mr. Scott said they service students with roll-over resources each year and work with companies to do free classes and other partnerships.

Anvil City Science Academy Charter School renewal. Dr. McCauley, Director of Teaching & Learning Support, was present to brief the board. Todd Hindman, Principal, was online. Dr. McCauley said this was a charter school renewal for five years. The renewal has been approved by the Nome School Board. The school serves grades 5-8 in a multi-age structure. It provides family-oriented, character-developing, highly-rigorous academic education, using technology and scientific research curriculum. Ms. Schaeffer asked why the renewal was only for five years. Mr. Hindman said it was a small program, and the district worries that a change in personnel might jeopardize the program. Dr. McCauley said the school exceeds 95% proficiency in English and math and has exceptional student data. Ms. Cox inquired if they planned any expansion with the success they were having. Mr. Hindman said staff has been there 12-14 years and they hoped to expand to five teachers and more students. Mr. Merriner said they were doing great work.

Audited School District Waivers. Elizabeth Nudelman, Director of School Finance, was present to brief the board. She indicated that this year there were five districts that requested a waiver of the 70% minimum expenditure for instruction requirement for fiscal year 2012 after the audit. Mr. Merriner reminded the board that he would not participate. Ms. Nudelman gave a brief background of the process. The districts seeking waivers were: Alaska Gateway because of high operation and maintenance costs and unexpected turnover; Galena because of an accounting change; Kashunamiut because of teacher turnover and technical and communications costs, also a change in accounting practice for housing contract services due to lack of community resources; Klawock because of health insurance increases and operations and maintenance; and Yakutat because of its small budget and low economy of scale, snow removal and heating. Ms. Cox commended districts from last year reaching 71%.

Capital Improvement List (CIP). Elizabeth Nudelman, Director of School Finance and School Construction, was present to brief the board. Ms. Nudelman said the list presented was for projects eligible for funding under the school construction grant fund and the major maintenance grant fund. She said the department reads the applications and ranks the projects reviewed and they get included in the Governor's budget. Ms. Cox asked how many schools were in the Kasayulie school settlement. Ms. Nudelman said there were five schools. Ms. Cox asked what the difference is between construction projects and major maintenance. Ms. Nudelman replied

that construction projects add space. Ms. Hull asked why playground and paving was on the list. Ms. Nudelman said they add space and she said statute drives the distinction, and the drivers of that are health and safety and un-housed students. Ms. Hull asked how long it had been since a thorough review had been done. Ms. Nudelman said every year a review is done and changes are made to the application. The department is in a review process now and will bring together a group of people in May to complete the review. Ms. Hull suggested that in the future links to the facilities page would be helpful to her. Ms. Nudelman said that this year there is funding down the list to project number 13, which equates to \$38.6 million. The construction project list depends on the amount of projects; this year it's just number one, the Kasayulie Nightmute School. Mr. Shier noted that often times in rural areas the school is the best building and it becomes a community building. He asked when was the last time the design was thought about in those terms – a multi-purpose place, with efforts for sustainable power systems and infrastructure support. He wondered what was being considered or recommended. Major Wrey said that schools are the places where people go in an emergency and they need to consider emergency responses. He said the military is looking for an appropriate partner in this respect. Ms. Nudelman said schools are being built under local control with engineers and technical advisors considering geographic needs, instead of prototype schools. There is no state requirement to build prototype schools. In some districts it does work. Ms. Williams asked about safety measures. Ms. Schaeffer said after Sandy Hook her district is studying emergency measures.

Ms. Cox introduced Don Smith, Anchorage School District School Board member, who was in the audience. He indicated that Anchorage was looking at safety issues.

Rasmuson Alaska Native Science & Engineering Program (RASNEP). Janelle Vanasse, Principal of Bethel Regional High School, was present to brief the board. RASNEP is a Bethel School District Program in the high school. Students come to Bethel from surrounding communities. The program's goals are to keep students connected culturally, provide experiences to be successful out of the village, staying at home, keeping ties with parents in the community, and bridging experiences with larger communities. Students come into the district for one semester in the junior year; there is a summer bridging program at the University of Alaska Anchorage (acceleration academy), a fall semester in the senior year, and then they return to their community and graduate from the village school. The model is meant for 20 students. There were 10 students initially with a focus on STEM. Ms. Vanasse said the Gates Foundation applauded this rural effort as the best it had seen. Results are encouraging. In its 10<sup>th</sup> year, there is 90% retention this year, with one dropout. Seven of nine have taken the ACT and qualified for college math; two juniors have reached levels for the Alaska Performance Scholarship; and several have exited the LEP program. Ms. Vanasse said the program is successful in discouraging student movement in and out of the community to try out other schools. The program involves the community and keeps the hub-school upper-level classes filled. The cost is \$8,500 per student plus the acceleration academy. Ms. Vanasse believes this is changing the delivery system in rural Alaska.

The Poetry Out Loud finalists from the Juneau School District came to perform for the board prior to its lunch break.

## **Regulations to go out for public comment**

Museum policies and practices. The proposal established the formal policies of the Museum Collection Advisory Committee. Heretofore, the practices were merely established, but were not in regulation and made clear. Bob Banghart, Museum Curator, and Linda Thibodeau, Director of Libraries, Archives & Museums, were present to brief the board. Mr. Banghart said the current regulations were not clear or specific enough regarding acquisitions and deaccession of objects. The proposed regulation clearly defines the process and the authority, and protects the advisory committee. There was a brief discussion of the word exploitation in the proposal. It was determined that the public comment may provide for a review of the use of the word in this project.

School Accountability. Dr. Susan McCauley, Director of Teaching & Learning Support, was present to brief the board, along with Erik McCormick, Director of Assessment, Accountability and Information Management. The Commissioner said the department was getting close to waiver approval; they had had good conversations with U.S. Department of Education in crafting these regulations; and this final proposal puts the department in compliance with ESEA. Dr. McCauley said the standards and evaluation have already been addressed, and now it was time to address the accountability piece for the waiver. The proposal: 1) establishes a school performance index that considers growth, 2) establishes the star system for school identity, 3) labels the kind of star school with the components of intervention, and 4) directs what the State System of Support will provide. Board members engaged in a discussion regarding special education index scores. Dr. McCauley said that special education will not be a stand-alone component as it is now. There are nine sub-groups in the proposal. Ten percent is assigned to each of four major sub-groups. If a school has four sub-groups, it's 40%, so accountability will be in place to keep those students from falling through the cracks. Mr. McCormick reviewed the results of running the Alaska model with other state models, and the Alaska model was fairer by weighing more appropriately. No longer will two students not graduating keep the school from making Adequate Yearly Progress. Ms. Keplinger said it appeared that each piece is tied to Standards Based Assessments. Ms. Cox asked how the five-year graduation rate was used. Mr. McCormick said it is first calculated at the four-year rate; all kids eligible to graduate are considered in the cohort; the two rates will always be separated when reporting. Now all states are using the same method to report; this allows a way to report fifth-year graduates. Inclusion students can be excused for the first two years if they are new to the U.S. Ms. Schaeffer asked about intensive students. Les Morse, Deputy Commissioner, said the department has been working on these regulations since last June, and has held many discussions with USDOE, and they have been run by the superintendents for input. The star rating was discussed; board members thought it was confusing. Rebecca Hattan, Assistant Attorney General, said she could reword it. The 95% participation rate was discussed and the incentive for schools to consider this important and get students to attend school on test day. It was noted that Anchorage and Fairbanks get about a 98% participation. There will be a two-week test window available. A general walk-through was done for further clarification and it was noted that the board would like the link to the webinar on the web site. Mr. Merriner asked if we were adding more tests. Dr. McCauley said they were attempting to do quick assessments and catch first-graders who are less than proficient. In answer to a question, Dr. McCauley said parents are included in the STEP tools in Domain #4.

## Regulations to adopt

Codes and regulations for school facilities. Elizabeth Nudelman was present to brief the board. This proposal directs the Bond Reimbursement & Grant Review Committee to recommend energy-efficiency criteria to be adopted by regulation, by setting standards for energy efficiency in school construction design and major maintenance. The recommendations and discussion focused on four alternatives: 1) Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) for Schools; 2) Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS); 3) International Code Council (ICC) Energy Conservation Code (IECC); and 4) American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) Standard 90.1. Ms. Nudelman said all the public comment received had been supportive.

Mr. Shier wanted to clarify that it wasn't too specific with flexibility. Ms. Nudelman said ASHREA 90.1 does provide basic guidance and considers the different needs across the state.

Statewide Residential Programs. Elizabeth Nudelman, Director of School Finance, was present to brief the board. These regulations include a new subsection allowing the operation of variable-term statewide residential educational programs. This refers to a statewide residential educational program that rotates students in and out of the program during the school year for the entire school term. The Commissioner said this proposal fits very well with the RANSEP program. There are two bills in the legislature addressing some of the components of this concept as response to various regional needs. The department has opened up a new application period for residential programs. **The program must have a full academic year of 180 days, receive a stipend, not in the Base Student Allocation, and the funding remains if the student leaves the program, and the airfare component based on the average cost for student numbers in the count period.** Ms. Nudelman said the model for this program is to continually serve the students for a full academic year of 180 days.

The meeting was recessed until Friday, March 8 at 8:30 a.m. by unanimous consent.

### *Friday, March 8, 2013*

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m., with all members responding to roll call except Madison Manning, who was excused. The chair asked if there were any disclosures. Mr. Merriner reminded the board that he was not going to participate in the discussion or vote when the agenda came to the Galena waiver, agenda item 15E. The agenda item was pulled and re-numbered as 16. The agenda was moved by unanimous roll call vote with a motion by Ms. Cox and seconded by Ms. Keplinger.

## Regulations

Ms. Cox moved and Mr. Shier seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development open a period of public comment on amendments to 4 AAC 58.100-.150; Museum Services, and 4 AAC 58.900, Definitions. There was no discussion and the motion was passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Mr. Shier moved and Ms. 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 06.800-.899, School and District Accountability, and 4 AAC 34.055(f), Plan of Service. Ms. Hull asked what the process was for regulations. Ms. Hattan, Assistant Attorney General, explained how they were moved along to final effective date. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Ms. Keplinger moved and Mr. Shier seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development adopt 4 AAC 31.014(a), creating an energy-efficiency standard for school construction and major maintenance projects. Mr. Shier said he appreciated the work session conversation on this topic. He said the process of developing school construction and templates, security, disaster preparedness designs needs more discussion at some point. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Ms. Hull moved and Ms. Cox seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development adopt 4 AAC 33.090(h), allowing the operation of variable-term statewide residential educational programs. There was no discussion. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

Teaching & Learning Support Report. Dr. Susan McCauley was present to brief the board. Dr. McCauley said a major focus of the division was helping districts implement new regulations regarding English language arts and math standards. She indicated that the second curriculum alignment institute would be held the next week and 30 districts had signed up to attend. Ms. Hull asked if they reported content. Dr. McCauley said they don't report content, but they do a brief review. She said the November meeting also had about 30 districts with 87 participants in attendance. The board asked for a list of who attended. Dr. McCauley said she would send them the list, but the shortlist included superintendents, principals, and representation from NEA, the coaching project, Alaska Staff Development, and others. Sondra Meredith is working on the teacher-quality part. Mr. Shier said he thought there should be someone from the university School of Education on the committee. He said he would volunteer. Mr. Morse indicated that nationally known models are being used regarding best practices of teacher evaluation and several districts are already using these models. He indicated that there have been several presentations of the models at various state meetings. Ms. Keplinger said they had been using the Danielson model for several years. She said she thinks that the Marzano is more connected to the Common Core State Standards and is more problematic when using it in rural areas. Both have peer observation. Mr. Morse said the committee is designed to do specific work and not last forever; there is a balance between rural areas and those districts ahead of the game, such as Kenai. He reminded the board that they added new components to teacher evaluation, student learning data and cultural standards, so districts need to learn to deal with those additions. Mr. Merriner asked if committee members can invite people to join them at meetings. Dr. McCauley said they have identified the tools needed, and the department wants to work quickly to get them in place. More than 130 people will be at an event in Mat-Su focused on these regulations in an upcoming meeting. Ms. Cox asked what the cut-off was for the intervention districts. The Commissioner replied a 2-percentage-point growth in reading, writing and math for three years in a row. Data from the intervention meeting will be in the board's June agenda.

Helen Mehrkens was present to give the board an overview on Career & Technical Education (CTE). She said the department worked with the Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD) and the University of Alaska to develop the CTE Plan. DOLWD has some one-year grant opportunities coming up. Enrollment in CTE programs has been consistently improving, being up 2% last year. Two thousand students statewide took tech/prep courses. The department is doing a joint program with the university and Alaska's Learning Network introducing a three-credit course in mining. There are some bandwidth issues in the smaller communities. She indicated that the federal Perkins grant had not changed in 22 years, so the buying power is lower than when it first began. They are working to update the curriculum to keep on top of new ideas. Ms. Williams said the CTE courses at her school were very enjoyable and the training was very useful. She took a CNA course. Ms. Hull asked if there was any talk with the university about dual credit with CTE programs. Mr. Shier said there is a conversation happening about how to make that work. Ms. Cox inquired about CTE money last year.

Ms. Mehrkens said there had been new money in the amount of \$6 million statewide. Funding is sent to districts in a lump sum and they decide where to spend it. Most districts are spending it on CTE recognizing the area of need. It's not in law that EED follows up to see where the money is going. Ms. Hull said the CTE money has been very helpful in Fairbanks but it takes time to incorporate the classes. She said she hoped that would be a topic on a future meeting with the university regents. Mr. Shier said there is a lot of equipment owned and little-used and available; the department should talk with the state's Enterprise Technology Services to see if they can help and save some money in rural areas. Ms. Cox thanked Ms. Mehrkens for her report.

Assessment, Accountability & Information Management. Erik McCormick, Director, was present to brief the board. He said this was testing season. All but two districts attended the recent test coordinators' training. He indicated that this also a National Assessment of Educational Progress year for 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades in reading and math. Tested students take one or the other test. All test agreements are now on one form for all to use. He said the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium was still on the table and the department was waiting to hear if Alaska has been accepted as a member. Smarter Balanced suggests a wider test window of 12 weeks – August 1 to December 31. He said that Fairbanks was implementing WorkKeys electronically and Anchorage School District would do it next year. One-half of the districts now do it electronically. He said there were some useful tools they found on the Internet regarding bandwidth using zip codes that tell what's available in that area. Ms. Cox asked if there was any way the department would not join Smarter Balanced. The Commissioner said they were reviewing the Memorandum of Understanding extensively and the federal accountability measures that it comes with. There will be a full commitment to online testing for grades 3-8 and 11. Ms. Keplinger asked what happens to the records for the TerraNova now that we are doing away with it. Mr. McCormick said he would look into it. Ms. Hull asked if there was a greater cost if we didn't move to Smarter Balanced. Mr. McCormick said, yes. We'd have to develop our own assessments. Mr. McCormick said in response to a question, WorkKeys was a requirement for all 11<sup>th</sup>-graders.

Budget & Legislation. Marcy Herman, Legislative Liaison, was present to brief the board. Ms. Herman noted that the House Budget Finance Subcommittee had closed out the week prior to the board meeting. She reviewed the Governor's initiatives, and did a short run-through of the

Governor's budget as it pertained to education. She said the legislature had denied the \$100,000 for mental health and cut \$250,000 from assessments, which was originally \$500,000 in the operating budget. They also denied the Jobs After Graduation program and the pre-K grant monies, had reduced Best Beginnings as well as Parents as Teachers, and removed early childhood. She said the agency had a large reduction, \$5.7 million so far and didn't know if anything would be put back before the end of session. She said the Senate was still working on the EED budget and the department had several meetings scheduled with legislators. Ms. Herman reviewed the status of all the current education bills at that time. Mark Lewis, Director of Administrative Services, reviewed the FY 2014 budget proposal with the board. He said the legislators had the perception that they weren't receiving all the data from the department, but we had given them all they had asked for. Mr. Lewis noted that 2% of the department payroll is paid by personal services, 4% is general funds, and 94% is grant money. There isn't too much room to cut.

Rural Report. Chris Simon, Rural Education Coordinator, was present to brief the board. He reviewed his activities since the last board meeting. He discussed some aspects of in-district boarding school programs and how they might prevent students from leaving home to attend an outside boarding school. Ms. Schaeffer said her district was looking at opportunities to be able to keep students in the community – such as teaching, health careers, and natural resources. They had discussed student spending part of the day at the Alaska Tech Center and then part of the day at the high school. Mr. Shier said students are unaware of the scholarship opportunities and asked for ideas to get the message out. Ms. Schaeffer said Native corporations have an education office and that would be a place to outreach from. Ms. Williams said the Alaska Association of School Governments was a good way to reach students.

Mt. Edgecumbe High School (MEHS) Report. Randy Hawk, Director, was present to brief the board. Board members asked how the students did in the basketball tournament. He said the Sitka girls did well. Ms. Cox thanked him for hosting the board, saying it was a real treat to be there. Mr. Hawk indicated that enrollment fell by 20 at Christmas time, but they brought in 12 new students. The current enrollment was 377. Their teachers are training in Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) for grades 9-11, which is a computerized test benchmarked against the Alaska standards to determine core curricular strength and weaknesses. Billy Mills, 1964 Olympic Gold Medalist, an American Native who won the 10,000 meter run, was brought in for Founders Week. He spoke about perceptions in a joint assembly with Sitka High School and the community. Mr. Hawk said the dorm contract was up this year and would be re-negotiated. They are working hard on the online application process to save costs and streamlining the process more efficiently, using a model that Galena's IDEA (interior Distance Education of Alaska) uses successfully. Students from MEHS presented at the Alaska Marine Science Symposium and did very well. There are twelve interns in the Sea Tech program and some students are seeking out MEHS because of this program. The program was developed with the Whale Acoustics Lab of Scripps Institution of Oceanography. Students placed 6<sup>th</sup> in wrestling at state. Drills are happening regarding emergency procedures for earthquake preparedness. Work is being completed on phase I of the heating work. A campus-wide energy audit is being done to assess needs. The powerhouse will soon come down to make way for the new pool.

Libraries, Archives & Museums Report. Linda Thibodeau, Director, was present to brief the board. She introduced Dean Dawson, State Archivist, and Larry Hibpshman, Senior Archivist. They discussed the Exxon Valdez Litigation Project, which involves cataloguing and archiving all the case records from the Department of Law. There are 7,600 boxes of materials. The case was settled in 1991. The public will eventually have access to all the records online. Mr. Merrier said it was very important work. Ms. Thidodeau said the crane had been erected at the SLAM (State Library, Archives & Museums) site just that week, and that was very exciting. She said they still need \$50 million, and there is currently \$20 million in the Governor's budget.

There was a brief recess for the board and the Commissioner to attend a meet and greet with the Governor, have lunch and photos taken.

Attorney General's Report. Rebecca Hattan, Assistant Attorney General, was present to brief the board. She indicated that the Alaska Gateway School Distrtrict complaints were on-going regarding adequacy of education services. Ms. Hull asked her if her case load was normal. Ms. Hatten said that currently is is a little bit lower, but she does other work in the Department of Law as well. Major Wrey asked if mediation was encouraged and used. She said that it was especially and it does make a difference and it's always a good idea.

Commissioner's Report. Commissioner Hanley was present to brief the board. He indicated that the department uses Ms. Hattan's expertise for many things. He said he had overlooked the fact that Dr. McCauley was not officially introduced. She had been with the department for a little over six weeks. He said he appreciates Dr. Johnson's commmets regarding teacher evaluation and the work of the advisory group. Standards implementation was continuing and the steps were coming together. At this time, he and staff were working extensively with legislators regarding the budget. He gave a brief update on the Yupiit School District, saying there had been intense friction and they were looking to make a change. He had met with the board members several times. The superintendent has resigned and Kim Langton has taken the interim position and is working well with the board. The trustee has been removed and his report will be given at the June meeting. Coaches are making more frequent visits and the data is improving. There is a sense of partnership now. The Commissioner said he had spoken with Citizens for the Educational Advancement of Alaska's Children, the Alaska Association of School Administrators, and the Association of Alaska School Boards to come together to help the district, and is hopeful that the intervention status improves soon. Mr. Shier asked how it was going on the "hill." Commissioner Hanley said it's always challenging. He feels there's less friction this year, not such a sense of distrust as last year, and that it feels more healthy this year. Ms. Hull said she agreed that there is a greater degree of trust with the department and was happy to hear the Yupiit report. Ms. Cox thanked the Commissioner for the Yupiit report too, and said it was very positive and hopeful with the new leadership, and she hoped student achievement would be better too. She thanked him for going "hand-in-hand" and not being a heavyweight. He said he wasn't looking for that label and that coaching was doing a more effective job than intervention. He said the coaches were providing a lot of information about how things could be improved for the teachers and students.

## **Consent Agenda**

Agenda Item 15E, the waiver for Galena School District, had previously been pulled from the consent agenda. Ms. Schaeffer requested that Agenda Item 15I be pulled also, which was the Greatland Academy Charter School approval.

Ms. Cox moved and Mr. 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 December 6 & 7, 2012, meeting; approval of the minutes of the January 28, 2013, video/teleconference meeting; approval of the CIP List; approval of Alaska Gateway School District Waiver Request; approval of Kashunamiut Schools Waiver Request; approval of Klawock City Schools Waiver Request; approval of Yakutat City Schools Waiver Request; approval of Frontier Charter School Renewal, and approval of Anvil City Science Academy Charter School Renewal. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

15E Galena Waiver. Ms. Schaeffer moved and Ms. Hull seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development approve the Galena School District Waiver Request. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Ms. Schaeffer said she pulled the Greatland Academy approval because she didn't like the reference to special education students being called "those" students. She said she felt there was no plan in the answer she got. Dr. McCauley said the requirement for an IEP student was the same as with the students in the district. She said the district is responsible and provides the same legal oversight. The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District is liable and Greatland is not exempt from the law; there is no waiver in the application. Ms. Schaeffer said her concern was they didn't have a plan for special education students. Ms. Keplinger moved and Ms. Cox seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development approve the Greatland Adventure Academy initial charter school application for a period of five years. The motion passed by a 5-1 roll call vote with one abstention.

## **Board Comments**

Ms. Williams said she enjoyed the opportunity to tour Mt. Edgecumbe High School; she had never been there. She said the AASG meeting will be in mid-April in Healy.

Ms. Hull thanked everyone for her welcome to the board and she enjoyed the Mt. Edgecumbe campus tour. She said it was exciting to be part of the board again and she was encouraged by the topics dealing at the state and local level. She hopes to make a useful contribution.

Mr. Shier thanked the staff for its work and said it was good having Mr. Simon watching out for rural Alaska. He welcomed Ms. Hull, wished Major Wrey good luck in his new assignment, and thanked the Commissioner for his work.

Major Wrey thanked the board and said this was his last face-to-face meeting as he had been assigned to the Pentagon in D.C. He said Lt. Col. Hayes would be replacing him on the board. He said it was amazing to share thoughts with the Governor and reminded the board that the military was a resource to them. He said the Col. Sullivan, previous military advisor, was back in

the U.S. for 45 days from Afghanistan and his family was still here in Alaska. He thanked Carly for her work with AASG.

Ms. Schaeffer thanked Bernie Gurule and September Horton for arranging the day at Mt. Edgecumbe. She said she was willing to replace Geri Benshoof on the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education. Mr. Merriner said that Ms. Keplinger had already volunteered. She thanked Bruce Johnson for his testimony and thanked the department. Ms. Keplinger thanked the department for its work, welcomed Ms. Hull and said she appreciated the contributions of Major Wrey and Carly. She recommended everyone view the teacher evaluation web site.

Ms. Cox welcomed Ms. Hull. She said she was concerned with the arts programs being cut in the budget. She said she feels fine arts programs are so good for students. She said she had seen Tiarna Fischler, previous student advisor, and that she was doing well. She read a recent email from her. She thanked the Commissioner and Mike Lesmann for the meeting with the Governor, thanked the staff, and wished Major Wrey Godspeed.

Mr. Merriner passed around a thank you for funding from students in Shismaref regarding its fine arts program. He thanked the staff for the department reception and tour; he welcomed Ms. Hull, thanked Mt Edgecumbe for the tour, and thanked the department for arranging the meeting with the Governor. He reminded board members that their Alaska Public Offices Commission report was due March 15. He gave more thank you's to the Juneau School District for sharing the Poetry Out Loud students and Major Wrey for his contribution. He thanked Ms. Hull for being willing to serve on the board again and thanked Carly for her contribution. He invited anyone who could attend to the Anchorage Mayor's Education Summit in April. He ended by thanking the Commissioner for his positive leadership.

Ms. Schaeffer inquired about the status of the Environmental Literacy Plan. The Commissioner said it had been developed and drafted by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game and could be used by education for environmental literacy. It's still in draft form and the department was working on it.

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent.