

Alaska State Board of Education & Early Development
Approved Minutes
December 5 & 6, 2013
Anchorage, AK

December 5, 2013

Work Session

The meeting was called to order by Chair Merriner at 8:00 a.m. at the Anchorage School District Board Room. All members responded to roll call with the exception of Lt. Col. Hays, who was excused. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The agenda was moved as presented by Sue Hull, seconded by James Fields, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote. There were no disclosures of potential conflicts of interest.

Public Comment

Christie Reinhart, Executive Director of the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education, updated the board on the pending restraint and seclusion legislation. She indicated that they had been working on the bill for several months. It would change who is allowed to administer medication to students. The intent is to keep kids and personnel safe in school. Some of the basics of the legislation include requiring all school districts to establish a policy on restraint and seclusion, requiring a written report of all incidents being placed in the students file, banning the use of restraints that restrict breathing and all chemical, mechanical or prone restraints, following up to look for triggers to prevent future incidents, and reporting annually to the department on the number of incidents. She thanked the commissioner for his help. She discussed district costs, including in-service training.

Steve Atwater, Superintendent of Kenai Peninsula Borough School District, said he supported the alternative route to certification, saying the pool of applicants is very shallow and the challenge is finding qualified personnel to hire. He saw this as a great way to be flexible.

Cheryl Schweigert from Kotzebue was online representing the Northwest Arctic Borough School District. Her concern was that the new MAPS assessments don't match the new proposed regulations and could restrict MAPS use.

Patrick Bloecher, an environmental health specialist, said he inspects schools and has identified a gap in services and suggested partnering with the department to provide services to schools.

Pat Shier, former and recent board member, said his service on the board was a privilege, and he was happy at University of Alaska Anchorage in his new position. He said he was convinced that success lies in challenging assumptions and casting a wide net. Chair Merrier presented Mr. Shier with a plaque commemorating his service on the board and thanked him for his service.

Work Session

Ethics Act. Because there are new members on the board, Rebecca Hattan, Assistant Attorney General, walked the board through the State of Alaska Executive Branch Ethics Act (AS 39.52), saying that it applied to all board members and all staff present in the room. She said that the Chair was the board's ethics supervisor. His ethics supervisor is Guy Bell in the Department of Administration. She said that public servants have a duty to behave ethically, and the penalties are severe if they do not. She discussed examples with the board and answered all questions, including about gifts. She was asked why the board had to fill out Alaska Public Offices Commission forms, given that the board did nothing with the budget. Ms. Hattan said it was the law.

Alaska Process Industry Careers Consortium. Zachery Mannix, APICC Coordinator, was present to brief the board. He said APICC was involved with the oil, gas, mining, seafood and timber industries, and their focus was to further engineering in schools, such as STEM initiatives, to bolster the work force. He said that in 2009 there was a memo of understanding with the department and University of Alaska to grow engineering academies. Academies began at Dimond and Lathrop high schools with company donations. The mission is to have 25 academies over five years. APICC requested \$4.9 million from the legislature last year and were not funded, but they intend to try again in this year's capital budget. He described the Lead-the-Way Project as a hands-on STEM course in K-12 that encourages students to go from elementary through high school learning math and science skills they would not have an opportunity to otherwise learn.

Dr. Robert Lang, Professor of Civil Engineering at UAA, was present. He said his schedule had been freed up by 25% to work with K-12 programs to develop courses to prepare for new UA engineering facilities. He said teachers have to be trained in a specific curriculum to teach in the program, and was hopeful that it could be done at UA soon, and not have to rely on outside programs. He reviewed the program's courses and how they are interwoven with the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program. Mr. Mannix said he was not sure how the courses lined up for the Alaska Performance Scholarship but would find out. Commissioner Hanley said the courses have a lot of rigor, and APS courses can be added. Mr. Mannix said it could work in Advanced Placement classes. He said participating teachers are extremely dedicated and enthusiastic, and even doing after-school classes. He wondered if the board could do a letter of support for the legislature.

Alaska Learning Network (AKLN). Dean Deborah Lo, University of Alaska Southeast School of Education, was present to brief the board on its partnership with the department to manage this program, beginning in July 2013. An advisory board consists of 15 members from across the state. Dean Lo walked the board through a PowerPoint describing how the program was structured, how it links with the APS, how the classes are built, some using E 2020/Edgenuity. There are 345 students anticipated for the fall 2103. Dean Lo discussed the initiative for the upcoming year to include increasing enrollment, student retention, course development, alignment with the new standards, summer enrichment possibilities, and more. She said all AKLN teachers will be UAS adjuncts, paid by UAS with wages based on the number of students or \$3,500 per semester. Districts are responsible for the curriculum, and parents are responsible for accelerated courses (outside of the school curriculum). Carly Williams encouraged Dean Lo to keep online courses for college prep, and Sue Hull encouraged her to not close any doors on

courses. Discussion centered on how word is getting out and how to increase visibility. Dean Lo said that so far the completion rates are less than expected, and she thinks students would benefit from supervision, saying that counselor help in districts is sporadic. Mr. Fields commended the university for its interest and taking on the project. Carol Schaeffer said it was offering rural students new opportunities.

University of Alaska Fairbanks Bachelor of Arts in Secondary Education. Dr. Susan McCauley, Director of Teaching & Learning Support, and Dr. Allan Morotti, Dean, University of Alaska Fairbanks School of Education, were present to brief the board. Also Dr. Roy Roehl, Co-Chair Secondary Education Program, and UAF Professor Larry Meath, Co-Chair Secondary Education Program, UAF, were present. This new program would respond to the need for a more efficient way for prospective teachers to complete the education requirements to gain teacher certification. UAF has restructured its secondary education teacher-preparation program. The restructured baccalaureate teacher-preparation program will allow candidates to obtain an Initial teaching certificate with a secondary education endorsement (Grades 7-12) in the following areas: art, biology, chemistry, Earth science, economics, English, French, German, history, mathematics, political science, or Spanish. The teacher-preparation program aligns to standards established by the Alaska Literacy Blueprint, the Alaska Professional Content and Performance Standards, and the Alaska Standards for Culturally-Responsive Educators. The specific content area standards align to standards established by the appropriate specialized professional association recognized by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education. The program has been approved by the UAF faculty, UA Board of Regents, and the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities. The courses can be offered by distance delivery and are eligible for scholarships. Esther Cox said she was encouraged by this program and advised them to retain classroom management in the curriculum.

Alaska Association of Student Government Suicide Prevention. Carly Williams, Student Advisor to the board, and Ariel Hasse, AASG President, presented information on, and a trailer of, *Railway of Hope*, a new suicide prevention movie produced by AASG over a five-year period. The student-funded movie will train students to identify signs of suicide. The movie will be available soon, and the board asked that they see it during its March meeting. Ms. Williams said that the spring AASG meeting would be held at Ben Eielson High School on April 10-12, and invited all board members to attend.

Report to the Legislature. Eric Fry, Information Officer, was present to brief the board on the board's draft report to the legislature, as required by Senate Bill 1, effective in 2011. The report has to be made no later than the 30th legislative day of each regular session. This report would be the third such report. The board chair delivers the report, in person. Mr. Fry reviewed the report and took suggestions for edits and improvement. Mr. Fry will make the final edits before it is delivered.

Regulations to go out for public comment.

Pupil Transportation. Elizabeth Nudelman, Director of School Finance, and Heidi Teshner, School Finance Manager, were present to brief the board. This regulation change stems from a change to statute regarding a safe and cost-effective student transportation system, in Senate Bill 182.

It provides for an effective date for changes to the Uniform Chart of Accounts and Account Descriptions for districts. The proposed amendments are in compliance with the recently passed legislation, including a provision that requires the department to adopt regulations that provide for oversight of, and support to, school districts in achieving a safe and cost-effective student transportation system.

Executive Session. The following motion was made by Esther Cox and seconded by Janel Keplinger: 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 2013-2014 school-year. 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.

The board came back into regular session with a motion made by Esther Cox and seconded by Carol Schaeffer as follows: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development reconvene into regular session. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Esther Cox moved and Janel Keplinger seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development select Kobe Rizk as its Student Advisor-Elect for the remainder of the school year 2013-2014. On July 1, 2014, Kobe Rizk's one-year term will begin as the Student Advisor to the board and continue through June 30, 2015. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote. Everyone congratulated Kobe on his selection.

The meeting was recessed until the following day.

December 6, 2013 Work Session Continued.

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chair Merriner. All members responded to roll call, with the exception of Col. Hays, who was excused. The agenda was amended to add a discussion regarding a teacher administrator waiver, by motion made by Sue Hull and seconded by James Fields. The amended agenda was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

The chair asked for any disclosures. Chair Merriner said he had previously declared that he was the test coordinator for his school and that the previous ruling was that he could participate in a discussion about testing. There were no objections.

Under the new agenda item, 4 AAC 12.345 addresses the administrator's certificate. Dr. Lisa Parady of the North Slope Borough School District, had requested in a letter to the board a suggested regulation wording. The board reviewed this regulation to ascertain if it could amend the teaching requirement for an administrator's certificate and use other education-related experience instead. Esther Cox noted that there was currently no provision for a waiver and said there was a need for alternative routes to teaching. She said she wasn't comfortable with the suggested language and wondered if a person could request a waiver of some kind with a stipulation from the board. Sue Hull said she agreed that there should be some room for flexibility. She said the criteria should be more general and not too specific. Rebecca Hattan suggested a waiver would need criteria. Esther Cox said she liked Alaska experience, but sees

that a pathway for an alternative route needs to open up. Janel Keplinger suggested that a minimum would be an Alaska Culture course. After more discussion of possible scenarios, Sue Hull suggested that the best approach would be to direct the department to draft a regulation and bring it to the board. Carol Schaeffer said she thought the decision should lie with the commissioner, citing that the board meets only a few times a year and she didn't want to hinder employment if a person had to wait for the board to act. She thought it might also get awkward if an executive session was needed and then, in the end, the person was publically denied the waiver. Deputy Commissioner Les Morse said he had helped Dr. Parady draft the language, and it was meant to only be a starting point for discussion, not a final product. Esther Cox suggested directing the department, as Sue Hull suggested, to think in terms of outside experience vs. Alaska experience and who should have the final determination. The commissioner said he thought the Alaska component was important, saying this is a waiver for a high-quality leader and knowledge of Alaska is critical.

There was a general discussion about when it would come back to the board. Sue Hull said she doesn't want the decision to look arbitrary, but at the same time doesn't like a lot of hoops; it needs to be flexible and noted that when systems are too rigid, it prevents good people from moving forward. Esther Cox said strong criteria were important in the wording. Ms. Parady, who had been called to the table, thanked the board for its discussion. She said she thought room for a waiver was important, Alaska Culture was important, and she had faith in the board's procedure.

Regulations to Adopt

District-operated Statewide Residential Educational Programs. Rebecca Hattan, Assistant Attorney General, was present to brief the board. She characterized the amendments as a technical review. She said there was nothing substantive in the amendments. Elizabeth Nudelman, School Finance Director, said the amendments align regulations with statutes to include variable- term language and add the term "statewide" instead of "districtwide." Jim Merriner asked how the department knew the student count was correct each month. Ms. Nudelman said the expectation is to have a certain level throughout the year, and a district cannot go above the approved number. The commissioner said the intent is important. A steady stream of funding provides stability for the program and gives the department the ability to do a desk audit. Esther Cox asked why the word "school" is being used instead of "program." Rebecca Hattan said program has a different meaning in the department and helps to differentiate the meaning. Sue Hull asked if they could use "approximately" in the count of students. Hattan said the language is in effect for other programs and the commissioner isn't shutting down programs. "Approximately" would have to be defined. James Fields suggested changing language if it wasn't working, otherwise leaving it alone. He noted how Galena came back to the board and asked for more money in a specific instance. Heidi Teshner, School Finance Manager, said the districts submit two audits each year, and the department does review them.

Early Literacy Screening. Dr. Susan McCauley, Director of Teaching & Learning Support, was present to brief the board. She said the proposed regulation has had a supplemental period of public comment, amending the original language to provide two options by which literacy screening tools could be approved, clarified how the data should be reported to the department and how often the screenings should take place, giving districts a variety of tools. Janel

Keplinger thanked the department for its work on the regulation in making it more flexible. The problem that Cheryl Schweigert had raised in public comment concerning the MAPS assessment was now alleviated. Dr. McCauley thanked Assistant Attorney General Rebecca Hattan for her work on the regulation, saying a lot of time had gone into revising the project.

School Recognition. Dr. McCauley was present to brief the board on this project. The amendments to this regulation outline the methods by which schools will receive recognition as high performing or high progress. The proposed language aligns language with the school recognition language in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act flexibility waiver. It allows schools with a two-year graduation cohort of fewer than ten students to meet the school recognition graduation requirement. This applies to nine schools that would not have qualified if the regulation were not amended. Erik McCormick, Assessment Director, said the proposed change also removed “average” (cohort) and substituted “combined,” which more accurately reflects the department’s intent.

Business Meeting

Opening a regulation period of public comment

Esther Cox moved and Janel Keplinger seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development open a period of public comment on amendments to 4 AAC 06.120(a)(2), Chart of Accounts effective dates; 4 AAC 27, Transportation of Pupils; and proposed amendments to the Uniform Chart of Accounts and Account Code Descriptions for Public School Districts. There was no discussion. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Adopting regulation proposals

Carol Schaeffer moved and James Fields seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development adopt the proposed amendments to 4 AAC 33.090, District-operated statewide residential educational programs. There was no discussion. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Janel Keplinger moved and Esther Cox seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development adopt proposed amendments to 4 AAC 06.713, Early Literacy Screening. There was no discussion. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Carol Schaeffer moved and James Fields seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development adopt the proposed amendments to 4 AAC 06.885 School Recognition. There was no discussion. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Sub-committee assignments. By consent, James Fields and Sue Hull were appointed to the Public School Trust Fund Advisory Committee, and Lt. Col Hays was appointed to the Military Compact Committee.

Teaching & Learning Support Report. Director Dr. Susan McCauley was present to brief the board. Dr. McCauley said 49 schools will receive banners to display for recognition of high achievement and/or improvement. She indicated that new brochures about standards are being distributed. Sue Hull said the folks from Fairbanks who attended the NEA standards and training meeting were very impressed and thanked Dr. McCauley. Dr. McCauley said there is now a monthly TLS division newsletter that is sent to many education partners, including superintendents, principals, and education organizations. She gave a brief overview of the new evaluation regulation work, saying the board would see the final product at its January meeting.

Nine department staff have been trained and assigned as Liaisons to the ninety eight 1-star and 2-star schools in state. These liaisons have communicated with district and school staff to inform and assist in the completion of school improvement plans, as required by the new accountability regulations. Supporting the implementation of the Alaska English language arts and mathematics standards continues to be the focus of the Instructional Support Team. In September, more than 130 educators convened for the Fall Teaching and Learning Support Institute, where they received support with standards implementation, educator evaluation systems implementation, and Alaska's school and district accountability systems. The team has prepared and recorded a professional development module that will be available to districts by January 2014. Other such modules are in the preparation stages and will be available by spring 2014. The Career and Technical Education staff has been revising resources for districts to use with their teachers and coordinators when aligning local CTE program and course curricula with the state's new English language arts and mathematics standards. During October, a special pre-conference workshop was held in cooperation with the Alaska Association for Career & Technical Education conference for 60 local CTE educators to begin the process. State staff facilitated sessions on development of Personal Learning Career Plans, Career Readiness Standards, and articulation of secondary to postsecondary programs. Materials and links to support these updates will be posted to the department's CTE website. Two TLS teams have begun their annual compliance monitoring. The ESEA federal programs team has been reviewing district applications for the ESEA federal funding during October. They have begun their annual monitoring cycle, recently visiting the North Slope Borough School District. The special education team has completed monitoring activities in the districts of Kenai, Iditarod, North Slope, Kashunamiut, Denali, Unalaska, Petersburg, Sitka, Southeast Islands, Juneau, Pelican, and Haines. Left to be completed are the districts of Skagway, Fairbanks, Mat-Su, and Anchorage.

Assessment, Accountability and Information Management. Director Erik McCormick was present to brief the board. Mr. McCormick said the star system is already showing improvement over Adequate Yearly Progress. He reported that the ANSWERS system (Alaska Navigator Statewide Workforce and Education Related Statistics) in 2012 received a three-year federal grant of \$4 million for the statewide longitudinal data system for K-20. It will link existing data collections and provide information about various student cohorts and sub-groups as a student moves through the education system. He said they are still investigating the data elements to be used and that all agencies are being extremely careful to protect student identity. Regarding electronic testing, he said 36 districts currently can do electronic testing, five are partially up, and 12 more are still being evaluated. Regarding the Request for Proposal for a testing vendor, it is

moving along in the procurement process as prescribed in state law. Five proposals have been received. The RFP went out in mid-September, and was adjusted once in late-September and extended to November 11. In January, he is hoping to have another report. Sue Hull asked if, after the commissioner makes a decision, the board have an opportunity to discuss policy issues. Rebecca Hattan, Assistant Attorney General, said the statute is clear that the commissioner has the responsibility to make the decision. Sue Hull asked if legislators can withhold the money for a contract. The commissioner said we would not know until the contract is awarded, and the department has not yet put forward a contract amount to implement the new assessment. Rebecca Hattan said the board can discuss the decision, but there is no discussion opportunity under the law that could lead to a vote by the board. The decision lands solely with the commissioner. Deputy Commissioner Les Morse said that the federal money comes into play strongly; if we don't do assessments, we lose federal dollars. The commissioner said there was a state-constitutional obligation, as well. Janel Keplinger asked if the English-learning-proficient assessment results will now come later. Erik McCormick said they would be available a little sooner because the comparison work is completed. Board members briefly discussed WorkKeys. Some members said there have been broadband problems, but essentially the program is strong where Career and Technical Education programs are strong.

Rural Report. Chris Simon, Rural Coordinator, was present to brief the board. He noted all the different events and meetings he had attended since the last board meeting. He brought attention to education-related resolutions put forth at the 2013 Alaska Federation of Natives convention. James Fields asked how the rural districts were handling all the changes. Mr. Simon said the division newsletter was a big help and emphasized how important it was to get information to the parents. Dr. McCauley said they were using the Bush Shopper newspaper to get information out and using APRN public radio. Mr. Simon said they plan to the standards ads into the Yupik language, which he said would be very helpful. Dr. McCauley said it was good having Chris Simon out in the rural districts.

Legislative Report. Marcy Herman, Legislative Liaison, was present to brief the board. She presented a list of committee members for the upcoming session and reviewed a list of legislation that was held over from the preceding session. The board asked questions regarding the interim committee and its work. Marcy Herman said the department did not know what the committee ultimately wanted to accomplish, and that a report from their work was due in January. Jim Merriner asked about Senate Finance, and Marcy Herman said they did not have a task force during the interim but will eventually offer recommendations. Regarding HB 197 Literacy Program, Marcy Herman said it was introduced at the end of the session, and received one hearing. She said it mirrors a program in Florida. She said the department had testified once on the bill; it would be expensive to implement, and it would mean summer school for everyone. Regarding SB 15, Prekindergarten School Program/Plans, Deputy Commissioner Les Morse said it is a model plan of what a K-12 program should look like but had no hearings last year. Marcy Herman said the Governor is scheduled to announce his budget on December 12 in Anchorage; after that, education bills will be made public. The majority caucus would be meeting the next week to work on priorities. Sue Hull said that a lot of the drive for information has to do with David Teal's reports on Medicaid, retirement costs, state income, and diminishing resources. She said the department should think about how to partner with the legislature to be part of the

solution. Commissioner Hanley said that on January 7 Senator Stevens will hold a hearing on the Alaska standards in Anchorage, and the department will be represented.

Mt. Edgecumbe High School (MEHS) Report. Randy Hawk, Director, was present to brief the board. To date, there are 388 students enrolled. He said an online application process debuted this fall and was working well. He reviewed the block scheduling. Randy Hawk said that this was the first year working with a dorm contractor and that training for all dorm staff was taking place. MEHS sent teachers to the math conference and a team to the RTI conference this fall. He discussed a \$10,000 grant for the Robotics and Business classes for the Invent Club project, which they are partnering with the Sitka Search & Rescue Program, to develop an unmanned aerial vehicle with an infrared camera, GPS, flight controls, and two-way radio, to make searches more safe and efficient. As part of the grant, students will travel to MIT this coming summer to present the completed project. Forty-nine of 89 seniors have registered to take either the ACT or SAT this year, hoping to qualify for the Alaska Performance Scholarship. MEHS is a four-star school in the state's accountability system. Maintenance is ever ongoing. This year upgrading and replacing the 170 exit signs on campus is necessary for fire protection. Lighting fixtures are being upgraded to comply with an energy audit.

Library, Archives & Museums Report. Director Linda Thibodeau was present to brief the board with Kim Mahoney, Project Engineer for the SLAM project. They did a slide presentation of the work in progress. Linda Thibodeau said the board would get a tour during its March meeting. Linda Thibodeau said she was hopeful the Governor's budget would include the remainder of the money needed to complete the project so they could stay within their budget.

Assistant Attorney General's Report. Rebecca Hattan, Assistant Attorney General, was present to brief the board. She said that the intensive-funding litigations were winding down and she hoped to have them wrapped up soon. She indicated that there might be a lawsuit against the state coming from Ketchikan regarding the education funding formula and the required local contribution. She introduced Luann Weyhrauch, Assistant Attorney General, who had recently been assigned to the department. She said she was very happy to have Luann Weyhrauch on board to help with department matters. Jim Merriner asked about the ongoing litigation regarding the contamination at the Aniak Middle School. Rebecca Hattan said the case has been ongoing since 1958, trying to resolve it and determine who is responsible. The Department of Environmental Conservation is the lead in this environment law case. They have hired an expert for mediation. There will be more reports as the work continues.

Commissioner's Report. Commissioner Hanley was present to brief the board. He said the department was messaging the work on the standards as much as possible. He said those who have been negative have never come to a board meeting to give public comment. Senator Stevens on January 7 will hold a meeting on the standards. He is bringing in some national groups, including the Council of Chief State School Officers, and others to speak to the process taking place around the country. Included in the conversation will be PTA, the State Board, Association of Alaska School Boards, National Education Association-Alaska, school boards, and stakeholders. Carly Williams asked if there were students involved. The commissioner said they would be very welcome to attend and/or testify. The commissioner said the governor spoke about his initiative regarding digital learning at the Alaska Federation of Natives, saying it would

lead to greater access to digital models for students and teachers. He noted that the restraint and seclusion bill was still being modified. He said that because of oil prices the revenue forecast is down, and it will have an impact on the department. The commissioner said that as soon as the budget is announced, he had planned to have a teleconference with superintendents. Sue Hull said thank you and messaging was very important. Janel Keplinger noted that the work on restraint and seclusion was costly but very important. Esther Cox said the board needed to hear from the legislature as to what they think connecting and partnering should look like.

Consent Agenda

Esther Cox moved and Sue Hull 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 23-25, 2013, meeting; approval of the minutes of the October 28, 2013, meeting; approval of the appointment of Mr. Christopher Houlette and Mr. Jeremy Kane to serve three-year terms on the Museum Collections Advisory Committee beginning January 1, 2014; approval of the draft annual report to the legislature; and approval of the Baccalaureate Teacher Preparation Program at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Sue Hull thanked UAF for its work on the new degree program at UAF, saying it was a great asset. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Board Comments

Carly Williams thanked the board for allowing time for the *Railway of Hope* presentation. She noted that the Alaska Association of School Government spring meeting would be in Fairbanks.

James Fields had no comments.

Janel Keplinger welcomed Kobe to the board and wished everyone happy holidays. She noted that the library in Kodiak would have a grand opening that week.

Sue Hull had no comments.

Carol Schaeffer wished everyone a Merry Christmas and safe travels.

Esther Cox asked what had happened to the situation in Chevak with the sod house. The commissioner said he spoke with the superintendent and the gentleman who brought the issue. He didn't think it was ever taken to the local board, but it was solved at the local level. Ms. Cox said she felt adequate time was allowed on the meeting work session agenda; she thanked Trailside for their performance; she asked for a reminder about the January 7 Senate Education meeting; she welcomed Kobe; and said she appreciated all the work that department staff does, and wished everyone a happy Christmas.

Jim Merriner welcomed Kobe and thanked Carly for her presentation. He said he had stood in for the commissioner at the Teacher of the Year presentation and would be welcoming the Alaska Association of School Business Officials next week for their winter conference. He attended the Foundation for Excellence conference in Boston and found it very worthwhile. He also

welcomed Luann Weyhrauch and thanked the Anchorage School District for the use of their board room, and the board members for their work at this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned with motion made by Sue Hull, seconded by Esther Cox, and passed with unanimous consent.