

Alaska State Board of Education & Early Development
Approved Minutes
January 27, 2014
Juneau, AK

The meeting was called to order by Chair Merriner at noon via video/teleconference originating in the auxiliary board room, Department of Education & Early Development, 801 West 10th Street, Juneau, AK, and through the following phone number: 1-800-315-6338, using code 8578#. Video conference sites included: GCI Tower, 6th floor, 2550 Denali Street, Anchorage, AK; Fairbanks LIO office, 1292 Sadler Way #308, Fairbanks, AK; Juneau State Board Auxiliary Board Room, 801 West 10th Street, Juneau, AK; Kodiak District School Office, 722 Mill Bay Road, Kodiak, AK; Northwest Arctic School District, 774 Third Avenue, Kotzebue, AK; Lake & Peninsula District, Meshik High School, School Road, Pt. Heiden, AK; and Mat-Su School District, 501 North Gulkana, Palmer, AK.

All members were present. The first judicial seat is vacant. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The Chair asked if there were any disclosures to be made. There were none. The agenda was amended to include consideration of a resolution regarding the repeal of the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam, placing an action item on the agenda regarding the HSGQE, and changing the venue for the June 2014 meeting. Esther Cox moved and Janel Keplinger seconded a motion to approve the agenda as amended. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Work Session

Public Comment

Posey Boggs from Anchorage was online. She spoke about a literate nation, teacher quality, and the need for professional teacher exams to reflect highly qualified teachers, especially in K-3 preparation. She described herself as an involved parent, interested in reading and literacy, saying it is a right to have it taught, and teachers need the skills to adequately teach reading and literacy. She said she was advocating for the most rigorous test possible for those teaching in this area.

Legislative Report. Marcy Herman, Legislative Liaison, reviewed the new bills that have been filed since the December board meeting. She reviewed in some detail the Governor's Omnibus Bill, highlighting the repeal of the HSGQE, being able to test out of a course, the charter school appeal process, opening an annual application for residential schools, dual credit as it applies to the Technical Vocational Education Program, and tax credits for operations, maintenance and construction for boarding school construction. She also indicated that the governor was proposing a Base Student Allocation increase. Chair Merriner inquired about SJR9, which would allow public dollars to go to private schools. Ms. Herman said it was Senator Dunleavy's bill and it would be heard this session. Esther Cox inquired if the state paid for exams such as SAT & ACT. Commissioner Hanley said that under the bill the state would pay for one test, in 11th or 12th grade, but students can take them all, if they desire. Carol Schaeffer inquired if WorkKeys would be removed as a requirement, and the commissioner said that would be up to the board.

Chair Merriner inquired why the digital initiative was in the capital budget. The commissioner said it was a one-time project for three years for training and to build capacity, and it involves infrastructure.

Ms. Herman reviewed a list of legislation that had been held over from last session and new bills recently introduced -- all affecting education. There was particular interest in a House resolution that requested a delay in implementation of the new content standards. The board reviewed the draft of its report to the legislature and made some minor edits. Deputy Commissioner Morse said that any action taken at this meeting could be added to the report.

Budget Report. Deputy Commissioner Morse was present to brief the board regarding the FY2015 department budget. He introduced Heidi Teshner, the newly appointed Administrative Services Director, who began on January 16. He said Mark Lewis was retiring in February. He walked the board through the budget document, saying that agency funds included foundation formula dollars and grants. Sue Hull asked what the board's responsibility or role was in developing the budget. Mr. Morse said it depended on the item. Some of the programmatic pieces are directly related to the work of the board. Ms. Hull asked if the board set priorities for the budget. He said that it is the job of commissioner to bring the budget to the board. The budget is developed in a long process and by working with the governor's office.

Request for Proposal (RFP) Progress. Erik McCormick, Director of Assessment, Accountability & Information Management, was present to brief the board on the RFP progress for a new, custom assessment system for the summative assessments to be given the first time in the spring of 2015. He said there had been five responses, Achievement and Assessment Institute (AAI) of Kansas, Data Recognition Corporation (DRC), Measured Progress, Pearson, and Northwest Evaluation Associates. He indicated that DRC had protested the selection of AAI and that a recommendation would be coming out of the Attorney General's office. Mr. McCormick indicated that an optional interim assessment would be offered to districts, but EED won't require it. He said a formative assessment was not currently in the proposal. He also said that Smarter Balance Assessment Consortium, with whom we are no longer associated, would have limited our involvement in developing the test and there would have been no caching option. He said they were scheduled to meet with GCI, an Internet provider, soon. Sue Hull asked how innovative items would be incorporated. Mr. McCormick said they were being cautious until there was more information and field testing was accomplished. Janel Keplinger thanked Mr. McCormick for his work with the RFP. She said she was curious how to combine innovation testing and how it would work with paper and pencil. Mr. McCormick said they were eager to begin the work and the Technical Advisory Committee will spearhead the work and it will be negotiated with the vendor. He said they were still evaluating computer capability in districts, and should have that work completed in about three weeks.

Resolution. The board was being asked to consider a draft resolution regarding the repeal of the High School Graduating Qualifying Exam. All board members were in support. Members discussed a few edits to be made before it was formalized.

Regulations to go out for public comment. Sondra Meredith, Teacher Certification Administrator, was present to brief the board regarding the use of Praxis I and II exams to satisfy

basic competency, gain highly qualified status, add endorsements, and qualify for professional certification. This regulation would be up for adoption at the March meeting. Ms. Meredith said the stakeholders were those who use the exams in the state and the universities. The proposed amendments will allow the use of updated exams to gain highly qualified status in English, mathematics, government/political science, economics, and theater. The newest version of Praxis I will be added, and the amendments will set qualifying scores in reading, writing and mathematics. Additional exams will be added that are offered by ETS. Chair Merriner reminded the board that the regulation was going out for public comment.

Esther Cox was excused from the meeting.

Business Meeting

Motion re Praxis. Sue Hull moved and Janel Keplinger seconded the following motion: The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote. I move the State Board of Education & Early Development open a period of public comment on amendments to 4 AAC 04.210 Highly Qualified Teachers, 4 AAC 12.305 Teacher certification, 4 AAC 12.310 Designation and qualifying scores of teacher competency examination, and 4 AAC 12.395 Endorsements. The motion was passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Change of Venue for June meeting. Commissioner Hanley and Chair Merriner said there was now an opportunity for the board to meet with the University of Alaska Board of Regents, in Anchorage, prior to its June meeting. The meeting would take place for a half day on June 4, before the regularly scheduled meeting on June 5 and 6. James Fields moved that the June board meeting be moved to Anchorage, from Fairbanks, and include a half-day meeting with the Board of Regents on June 4. Sue Hull seconded the motion. The motion was passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Consent Agenda. James Fields moved and Janel Keplinger seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development approve the consent agenda consisting of the following: the approval of the department's FY2015 Budget, approval of Resolution 2014 1, repeal of the HSGQE, and the appointment of Heidi Teshner as the Director of Administrative Services. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Board Comments

Col Hays had no comments.

Carly Williams said that she and Kobe were in Anchorage attending an AASG meeting.

James Fields thanked Chair Merriner for his recent testimony before the legislature.

Janel Keplinger had no comments.

Carol Schaeffer had no comments.

Sue Hull thanked the department for its leadership.

Jim Merriner noted that Dottie Knuth, the commissioner's executive secretary, would be retiring in April and that Randy Hawk, Director at Mt. Edgecumbe High School, would be retiring in June. He reminded board members that their Alaska Public Offices Commission reports were due by March 15. He suggested that it might be time to review regulations regarding required math credits, because of the new standards.

Sue Hull moved to adjourn. James Fields seconded the motion, and the motion passed by unanimous consent.