

State Board of Education & Early Development
Item 6B. Draft Minutes
January 17, 2024
Virtual Meeting Platform
Department of Education & Early Development

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

Chair Fields called the meeting to order at 11:35 a.m.

Roll was called, and the following members were present to provide a quorum: Member Pamela Dupras, Member Jeff Erickson, Second Vice Chair Sally Stockhausen, Member Barbara Tyndall, First Vice Chair Lorri Van Deist, and Chair James Fields.

Chair Fields called a quorum. Member Erickson gave the invocation, and the board pledged allegiance to the flag.

First Vice Chair Van Diest motioned, and Member Erickson seconded, a motion to adopt the January 17, 2024 agenda. Commissioner Bishop apologized to the board for providing agenda 7 days prior to meeting instead of 10 days as bylaws states. No further discussion and the motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote. There were no potential conflicts of interest identified by board members.

Public Comment

Public comment was opened at 11:40 a.m.

Dr. Roy Getchell, Superintendent, Haines Borough School District – Approves assessment cut scores. Thank you for all of your work in supporting Alaska’s students in the decisions you’re making together. I’m commenting today on your agenda item that approves the assessment cut scores. I had the honor of serving on the policy review that proposed the regulation with a group of incredible stakeholders throughout the State who are making this recommendation through our Commissioner. With many of the changes that are occurring in education, it was a widely held belief that we get it right before moving forward. Assessment in Alaska, around the country have had too many setbacks, stops and starts, that have eroded the confidence of our processes. Which is why it was critical that we get it right. I’m much more confident that what’s being presented today is going to be right from the start. This process really set a tone for the high expectations of our Commissioner, as this was one of her first big decisions and tasks that she brought together following her appointment. She brought people together; wanted to make sure it was right. I really appreciate that as it set the tone for how we’re going to be doing business together for all of our future work. Thank you so much for allowing me to be a part of that process. I’m in full support.

Posie Boggs – Testifying as part of the Alaska Reading Coalition regarding item 9 of the agenda, the approval of the appointment for Director of Innovation and Educational Excellence. Opposes appointment and asked that Chair Fields and board members to not approve.

Dr. Lisa S. Parady, Executive Director of the Alaska Council of School Administrators – Thanked

Commissioner Bishop for working to get up to speed on all the issues, willing to come to multiple meetings that are associated with this position and interacting with our members and other educators across the state. Appreciate her partnership with our association and look forward to working together going forward. The State Board and the Governor have chosen Commissioner Bishop for her depth of knowledge and have confidence that as she leads the Department she will choose the right people to do the work.

Most importantly, our board President for ACSA and the Alaska Superintendents Association represented our organizations on the cut score policy review committee which we are thankful for. We all want to get this right. We work for accountability, and we work tirelessly for every child. A policy review committee is a normal process and, in this case, an important process to make sure that everything was aligned and correct before we move forward.

Public comment closed at 11:53 a.m. after Chair Fields gave thanks to all participants.

Work Session

Agenda Item 1 – Department FY2025 Operating & Capital Budgets

Tama Carson, Director of Administrative Services gave an update on FY2025 Operating & Capital Budgets, highlighting some key budget items that significantly impact the department. The K-12 Foundation Program reflects the largest portion of the department's budget and is fully funded at 1.1 billion, based on the statutory formula. The base student allocation (BSA) remains the same at \$5,960 per student. There is a reduction of 27.2 million when compared to fiscal year 2024 authorized due to an increase of around \$1,100 projected in the average daily membership (ADM). Pupil transportation is fully funded at 70.6 million, based on the statutory formula. There is a decrease of 1.9 million when compared to the last fiscal year due to changes in the projected ADM. Keep in mind that these are based on estimates at a point in time and that the language in the final operating budget bill will fund the actual amount necessary. Other significant items, also known as statewide items, are the School Bond Debt Reimbursement, Regional Education Attendance Area (REAA), and Small Municipal School District fund. School Debt Reimbursement and the REAA are fully funded based on the statutory calculation. The school debt reimbursement provides 57.5 million in reimbursement to municipalities for selected bonds issued for school construction projects. The proposed budget for the department's program operations totals around 384 million, which is a 146 million decrease from last year, mainly due to the removal of approximately 150 million of Federal COVID-19 relief funds that were appropriated last session.

Member Van Diest asked if the COVID relief money involved staffing positions. Commissioner Bishop shared that moving into next year in areas where we have positions such as in fulfilling the Reads Act, we have placed those in our budget for next year. Positions that are presently being funded through grant funds through the Federal Government, we have transitioned over to funds that will be solid in our budget to carry out the legislative plan.

Member Stockhausen inquired about the reason for the increase in the teacher certification line item. Commissioner Bishop responded that we have invested in that area specifically with the additional funds from the Governor for the goal of investing in Grow Your Own. We will provide a report specially to those items. The board's goal in regard to certification is also being supported with those additional funds this year and next year through the Governor's requested budget.

Agenda Item 2 – Legislative Update

The legislative update was presented by Laurel Shoop, DEED Legislative Liaison. The Department

of Education and Early Development is currently monitoring 52 bills, 29 House bills and 23 Senate bills in addition to the Governor's budget bills, additional bills are expected to be introduced this session. A major topic of discussion this legislative session continues to be the Foundation Formula, Based Student Allocation (BSA), and other school funding mechanisms. Laurel will provide legislative updates to the board each week as usual practice.

Chair Fields asked about HB 69 regarding the District of Tanana being absorbed into another district, if that process has started yet, and what information we have on that. Laurel responded that, as of now, the understanding is the local-level collaboration has not yet reached the Department of Education for consideration but will follow up with more information for the board.

Agenda Item 3 – Proposed Regulations for Adoption

3.A Assessment Cut Scores – Presented by Commissioner Bishop

The proposed amendments update the cut scores used to determine proficiency by grade and the sub-scores to be used to determine the accountability growth indicator. The percentage of students meeting the different levels of achievement will inform the accountability system as the results will be used in determining the academic achievement and growth indicators.

3B. Assessment Participation Guidelines

This is a request to adjust participation guidelines for our participation manual.

Business Meeting

Agenda Item 4 – Approve the board's annual report to the legislature

First Chair Van Diest motioned, and Member Erickson seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development to approve the report to the legislature. Member Stockhausen brought up some minor adjustments that do not require an amendment to the motion but to just double-check names and committee members before the report goes out. Without further discussion, the motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

Agenda Item 5 – Approve the State Tribal Education Compact Schools Demonstration Legislative Report

Second Vice Chair Stockhausen motioned, and First Vice Chair Van Diest seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development approve the State Tribal Education Compact Schools Demonstration Legislative Report. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

Agenda Item 6 – Proposed Regulations for Adoption

6A. Assessment Cut Scores

Second Chair Stockhausen motioned, and First Vice Chair Van Diest seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development approve proposed amendments to 4 AAC 06.739(B) achievement levels for English, Language Arts, and Mathematics, and 4 AAC 06.822(B) accountability sub scores. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

6B. Assessment Participation Guidelines

Member Erickson motioned, and First Chair Van Diest seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development approve amendments to 4 AAC 06.775(A) administering statewide assessments to students with disabilities whereby an updated version of the participation guidelines for inclusion of Alaska students in state assessments is proposed to be

adopted by reference. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

Agenda Item 7 – Approve Deputy Commissioner

Member Erickson motioned, and First Chair Van Diest seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development approve the Commissioner’s appointment of Joel Isaak as Deputy Commissioner effective immediately. Member Van Diest stated that she is excited to see Joel coming on as Deputy Commissioner and pleased the Commissioner selected him, with his Tribal Compacting knowledge and many other skills, he will be a great asset. Without further discussion, the motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

Agenda Item 8 – Approve Director of Administrative Services

Second Vice Chair Stockhausen motioned, and First Vice Chair Van Diest seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development approve the Commissioner’s appointment of Tama Carson as Director of Administrative Services effective immediately. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

Agenda Item 9 – Approve Director of Innovation and Education Excellence

First Vice Chair Van Diest motioned, and Second Vice Chair Stockhausen seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development approve the Commissioner’s appointment of Kathy Moffitt as Director of Innovation and Education Excellence effective immediately. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

Commissioner’s Update

Commissioner Bishop provided a presentation update that included:

- The Department’s mission, vision, and purpose.
- Alaska’s Education Challenge
 - Support all students to read at grade level by the end of third grade.
 - Increase career, technical, and culturally relevant education to meet student and workforce needs.
 - Close the achievement gap by ensuring equitable educational rigor and resources.
 - Prepare, attract, and retain effective education professionals.
 - Improve the safety and well-being of students through school partnerships with families, communities, and tribes.
- Commissioner’s Education Priorities 2023-2025
 1. Strengthening Reading Skills by Third Grade
 2. Tribal Compacting for Culturally Based Education
 3. Teacher Retention & Recruitment (TRR)
 4. Parental Rights & Public School Choice
 5. High School/Post-Secondary Connections via CTE & Workforce Development
- mCLASS DIBELS 8 Data Share
- AK STAR: Establishing Cut Scores

Board Comments

Members thanked former Deputy Commissioner Heidi Teshner for all the work she has done and the stability that she brought to DEED/SBOE over the past years, and congratulated Joel Isaak on his new appointment as Deputy Commissioner.

The board adjourned at 1:26 p.m.