Education Committee Update

With your host, Council Member and Chair, David Kohler . . . .
Members
Chair: David Kohler
Co-Chair: Anthony Cravalho
Staff: Anne Applegate

Jill Burkert
Sandra DeHart-Mayor
Don Enoch
Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus
Tracy Culbert
Clayton Holland
Elizabeth Joseph
Mallory Hamilton
Margaret Kossler
Patrick Pillai
Shelly Vendetti-Vuckovich
Alex Fogarty
Kristi Fuller

Courtney Westmann
Kathy Gustafson
Kathryn Rose
Michael Shapiro
Rebecca Himshoot
Jim Kreatschman
Ernie Manzie
Starr Marsett
Amber Parker
Fred Villa
Blayne White/Adele Daniels
Hettie Hume
Education Committee Update

• Conferences:
  o Spring Leadership Conference on Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) State Plan
  o Office of Special Education Programs Leadership Conference
  o Council for Exceptional Children Legislative Summit

• Board meetings:
  o Special Education Services Agency Board
  o Deaf Education Board
  o State Board of Education
Education Committee Update

Issues/Actions:

- Support transition activities (especially in rural Alaska)

- Following
  - appropriations process for President’s Education Budget
  - federal bill for full-funding for Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
  - effect of President’s regulatory reform policies

- Transition Handbook Draft/Distribution

- Alaska’s Education Challenge

- ESSA State Plan discussions and changes
Education Committee Update
Educating and advocating at the federal level:

- Met with Sen Murkowski on Medicaid services in schools
- Letters to U.S. Delegation (healthcare and education)
- Comments to U.S. Dept. of Education on Regulatory Reforms to IDEA
- Memo to U.S. Senators on post-secondary transitions in the mixed economies of rural Alaska
- Two visits each with Senators Murkowski and Sullivan in DC
• Educating and advocating at the state level:
  o Letters to DHSS re: Medicaid
  o Comment on 2nd Draft State Plan for ESSA
  o Comment on proposed regulation changes to vocational education
  o Comment on the bill affecting Alaska Performance Scholarship (SB 103)
  o Comment on Alaska’s Education Challenge
Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) Update

• Heard and responded DEED reports on Annual Performance Review and School Systemic Improvement Plan

• Started research on “unmet need”; improving graduation rates through differentiated diplomas

• Ensuring compliance with the IDEA on advisory panel membership and roles
Education Committee: Coming Up!

- Proposals for Statewide Special Education Conference in February
- Inclusive Practice Awards Call for Nominations
- Legislative Session!
- Reporting to Department of Education and Early Development on Deaf Education (DEED) needs and resources
- Collaboration with Arts Council on rural transitions project
- Supported Decision Making for IEP teams
- Advisory panel training on roles, authority, and how to collaborate with DEED