

**GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL  
EDUCATION  
Education Committee Meeting**

**LOCATION  
Governor's Council Conference Room  
3601 C Street  
Anchorage, Alaska  
Teleconference**

**Meeting Date  
May 26, 2011**

**Attendees:**

Julie Broyles, Chair  
Don Enoch  
Taylor Gregg  
Tonja Updike  
Ernie Manzie  
Justine Sheehan

**Community Members/Guests:**

Angela Ahrens  
Geri Benshoof  
Patrick Pillai

**Staff:**

Teresa Holt  
Jennifer Jones

Prepared by: Paula DiPaolo  
Peninsula Reporting

**CALL TO ORDER – 2:00 p.m.**  
**ROLL CALL**

### **Welcome from the Chair**

### **Announcements and Good News**

There were no announcements.

### **Election of New Chair and Voting Members**

After each candidate expressed an interest in holding the positions, Justine Sheehan **MOVED** to elect Tonja Updike as chair and Taylor Gregg as co-chair to the Education Committee. The motion **PASSED**.

Current voting members of the committee include: Anna Attla, Julie Broyles, Taylor Gregg, Don Enoch, Heidi Haas, Ernie Manzie, Justine Sheehan, Donna Swihart, Tonja Updike and Fred Villa.

Any community members of the Education Committee who are interested in sitting as voting members can contact Jennifer Jones or Tonja Updike.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Tonja Updike **MOVED** to approve the agenda. The motion **PASSED**.

### **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

Patrick Pillai **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the April 14, 2011 meeting. The motion **PASSED**.

### **Correspondence**

#### **FERPA Regulations**

Jennifer Jones stated that she sent the regulations to committee members via e-mail. She also noted that the Center for Law and Education wrote a really nice letter of comment regarding the FERPA regulations, and it is her suggestion that they as a committee support those comments. She stated that the response rate for comments regarding the FERPA regulations was

very short, but it is something they need to be aware of and continue to be educated about.

### Approve Comments for the State Board of Education on the HSGQE

Jennifer Jones stated that the State Board of Education meeting is coming up on June 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. She noted that they want to be sure to offer some public testimony on the HSGQE. Jennifer stated that she developed a sheet of some of the issues and suggestions that the Education Committee brought up during their face-to-face meeting.

Teresa Holt added that the Education Committee will need to come up with an official letter of their recommendations and may need to send their questions to Erik McCormick to get definitive answers. Jennifer Jones will make the necessary contacts and work to get questions answered and the document in a useable format for committee members.

Geri Benshoof explained that people can give testimony to the board telephonically at their local LIO, in person at the meeting in Anchorage, via e-mail, or via mail.

### Approved Council Priorities (Work Plan)

- 1. Advocate for alternative routes for students with disabilities to pass the high school graduation examination or receive a diploma.**

*The committee felt they should keep the same short-term goal from last year because this goal has not yet been completed.*

*The committee members decided to wait until after the State Board of Education meeting to decide on specific activities under this goal.*

- 2. Advocate for a change in the funding formula for SESA and to remove the sunset clause.**

*Suggested activities:*

- *Hold a Midwest Academy*
- *Collaborate with Legislative Committee.*

- 3. Advocate for programs to increase the special education workforce**

**with Alaskans.**

*The short-term goal to advocate for an Alaskan university to create a four-year special education teacher preparation program has been completed.*

*Suggested activities:*

- *Research options from other states*
- *Have presentations at the Future Teachers of America meetings*
- *Research current options at UAF, UAS, and UAA and then figure out ways to promote those options, such as endorsements.*

**4. Advocate for training for regular education teachers on special education and Section 504.**

*The activities were not completed from the previous work plan, and the committee will forward those activities to this year's work plan.*

**5. Advocate for data collection and to increase awareness of restraint and seclusion of students in schools in Alaska.**

*Suggested activities:*

- *Follow up with the recommendations presented at the last State Board of Education meeting*
- *Meet with the commissioner to see if he is willing to move forward on this*
- *Continue to follow the federal bills*
- *Do another SurveyMonkey regarding restraint and seclusion to get data that is more current. Don Enoch volunteered to assist.*

**Report from the State Board of Education**

Gerri Benshoof stated that there will be an extensive work session in June and one of the things they will be discussing is the exit exam. She referred committee members to the website to view the agenda for the State Board of Ed meeting when it becomes available.

**Report from SESA**

Patrick Pillai stated that HB 198 that seeks removal of SESA's sunset and an

increase of funding has passed out of House Education and will now be with the House Finance Committee.

Nancy Nagarkar has resigned, and Lori Roth is also no longer with SESA. Patrick stated that he is the interim executive director until the position is advertised and filled. Wayne Binns and Joyce Dale are also retiring.

Patrick Pillai stated that they have increased their staff with two new PBIS specialists, and they are increasing the number of multiple disability specialists from two to three and the autism specialists from two to three.

### **Report from DEED**

Don Enoch stated that they are taking the SIG position off special education and they are closing another position that was a support person for SIG. They have one additional vacancy that they are still working on within the department.

Don stated that they are working on revising the monitoring handbooks. He stated that they were also looking at changes to the State of Alaska special education portion of the website. They are trying to reconfigure it to be more user-friendly.

Don Enoch highlighted the following Department of Education activities:

- Went to the Mat-Su Project SEARCH site
- Attended the Stone Soup Group conference
- Toured the State School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and also attended the Deaf Education Board meeting
- Got federal grant submitted and accepted
- Working on 619 grant applications from all the districts
- APR and SPP were both successfully submitted and accepted by OSEP
- Status of State Performance Plan indicators is still being compiled and they will be attending training that might help them with that this summer
- Directors conference will be September 28 and 29 and will be more like a training session than a conference
- Meeting scheduled for June 16<sup>th</sup> at SESA in reference to NIMAS
- Conducting the AKT2 training to introduce incoming Alaska teachers to special education.

## **Important Future Meetings/Conferences/Trainings**

- OSEP Mega Conference: August 2 – 5, 2011, Crystal City, VA
- National Transition Conference: November 7 – 9, 2011 in Washington
- TASH: November 30 – December 3, 2011 in Atlanta
- CEC: April 11 – 14, 2012 in Denver, CO
- ACRES: March 2012.

Patrick Pillai stated that CEC and ACRES may meld into one conference.

## **Time and Date of Next Meeting**

The next teleconference for the Education Committee is scheduled for June 16, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for August 11, 2011 at 2:00 p.m.

Jennifer Jones stated that David Tarcy will be available to attend the next meeting to discuss the post-school outcomes survey.

## **Adjournment**

Julie Broyles **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. The motion **PASSED**. The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.