

**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  
December 1, 2011**

**Attendees:**

Tonja Updike, Chair  
Anna Attla  
Don Enoch  
Ernie Manzie  
Justine Sheehan  
Donna Swihart  
Fred Villa  
Terese Kashi  
Margaret Kossler

**Community Members/Guests:**

Geri Benshoof  
Karen Jenkins

**Staff:**

Jennifer Jones

Prepared by: Paula DiPaolo  
Peninsula Reporting

**CALL TO ORDER – 1:30 p.m.**  
**ROLL CALL**

**Welcome from the Chair**

**Review of Council Mission Statement**

Tonja Updike reviewed the Council mission statement.

**Announcements and Good News**

Justine Sheehan announced that she was in Anchorage.

Anna Attla announced that she had a good trip to Galena over Thanksgiving.

**Approval of Agenda**

Jennifer Jones added an item to the agenda regarding a follow up to their previous WorkKeys discussion. Terese Kashi **MOVED** to approve the agenda as amended. The motion **PASSED**.

**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

After clarification of an item on the minutes, Ernie Manzie **MOVED** to approve the November 2011 minutes as presented. The motion **PASSED**.

**Correspondence**

**ASSEC**

Tonja Updike reported that the Executive Committee will inform the Education Committee about the travel budget available to send committee members to ASSEC. She stated that she and Jennifer Jones would like to know how many people are interested in attending so they can put forth a proposal to the Executive Committee.

Tonja further explained that Amy Simpson will be presenting at ASSEC about the EIC, Tonja will be presenting for the Education Committee, Patrick Reinhart will be presenting on Project SEARCH, and there may be other Council presentations as well. Jennifer Jones added that there will be a

transition forum to talk about transition and models of transition that work.

The main conference dates for ASSEC are February 18 – 20, 2012, which is unfortunately also the time that Key Campaign will be going on in Juneau.

Jennifer Jones stated that the Inclusive Practice Awards are the responsibility of the Education Committee. She stated that the committee will need to decide who will do the presentation as well as plan the luncheon. Tonja Updike reminded committee members to pass along the Inclusive Practice Award nominations in their communities.

The committee held a discussion about when to score the nominations for the Inclusive Practice Awards. The group decided that people can read and score the nominations independently and then turn in their scores to Tonja or Jennifer, or they may participate in a luncheon meeting during the full Council meeting in January and participate with the group.

### WorkKeys Letter

Jennifer Jones reminded committee members that at their last meeting they discussed public comment received by the State Board of Education regarding the approval of the use of WorkKeys accommodations for students with disabilities. She noted that she sent committee members a copy of the draft letter. The original issue was regarding students for whom English was a second language.

Jennifer noted that before she sent in the final draft of the letter, it was brought to her attention that another issue was that students who are deaf or hard of hearing who use ASL are not allowed to have translation from the test in ASL; it has to be a direct English translation.

Jennifer stated that before the next State Board of Education meeting, she will be in touch with a few other states that also use WorkKeys and find out if they are having those same issues. She noted that there is some common interest among states that are using WorkKeys to approach ACT, Inc. about making some changes on at least those two issues.

Don Enoch stated that he has some information regarding the use of ASL in the testing and will forward that to Jennifer.

## **Report from State Board of Education and Early Development**

Gerri Benshoof reported that they had a conference call in October to give waivers to 23 of the 53 school districts that were not able to reach the 70 percent of their budget for instruction requirement.

Gerri stated that their next meeting is December 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. One of the items that will be up for public hearing is the Alaska Performance Scholarship. She noted that some of the smaller school districts and outlying areas are concerned about the course requirement, which is difficult for some of them to meet.

Gerri stated that in the spring, the Department is having a task force meeting about accommodations for testing. She has asked to be on that committee, and she is sure that someone else from the Governor's Council will also be on the committee.

Fred Villa added that he has been tasked with scheduling a joint meeting between the State Board of Education and the Board of Regents to talk about like interests in student achievement.

## **Report from SESA**

Tonja Updike reported that the next SESA board meeting will take place this week on Thursday and Friday. She will report more in January after the meeting takes place.

## **Report from DEED**

Don Enoch highlighted the following activities from the Department of Education and Early Development:

- Conducted compliance monitoring in the Aleutian regions, Dillingham, Pribilofs, Galena, Pelican, Wrangell, and the Denali Borough
- Attended the CADRE Conference and the Western Regional Resource Center Conference
- Attended meetings with the Council and SESA
- Attended the career college standards committee
- Attended the alternative assessment Community of Practice training

- Special Education Compliance Monitoring Handbook was rewritten and revised for the current year
- Coming out with the new ten-year rotation for district monitoring with the inclusion of a self-monitoring component
- Intensive funding reviews and statewide technical assistance
- DEED is now fully staffed
- Four due process hearings for the year, three still ongoing
- Seven administrative complaints
- OSEP office has issued a mega survey that every state must participate in
- Working on the APR and SPP.

### **Work Plan Discussion**

David Tarcy was unavailable for this meeting to discuss the parent survey. He is scheduled for the January meeting to present on this issue.

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

- State Board of Education – December 15 – 16, 2011
- Face-to-face meeting – need to pick possible spring dates
- January Council meeting – January 24 – 26, 2012.

Jennifer Jones will send out a Doodle to committee members to select potential March or April dates for a face-to-face meeting. She stated that the meeting is typically two to three days. One day is typically spent planning around the activities of the Education Committee, and then the other day is to do site visits to local programs. She suggested visiting a Project SEARCH site.

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

The next teleconference is scheduled for January 5, 2012 at 1:30 p.m.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.