

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

January 5, 2012
1:30 p.m.

Attendees:

Anna Attla
Julie Broyles, Chair
Don Enoch
Taylor Gregg
Terese Kashi
Ernie Manzie
Donna Swihart
Tonja Updike
Fred Villa

Community Members and Guests:

Christine Inglet
Sam Jordan
David Tarcy

Staff:

Teresa Holt

Prepared by:

Jeannette Rice, Peninsula Reporting

Call to Order – 1:30 p.m.

Roll Call

READING OF THE COUNCIL MISSION

Tonja Updike started the meeting by reciting the Council's mission statement: Creating change that improves the lives of people with disabilities.

WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

Announcements or Good News

Tonja Updike announced that Jennifer Jones is in Hawaii for her wedding. She will be back on January 17th.

Anna Attla announced that her niece is going to have another baby, and Anna is going to adopt a new cat.

Fred Villa announced that the university received a \$15 million grant to expand the mentorship program for early-career teachers to cover urban as well as rural areas of Alaska.

Don Enoch told the committee that his entire team was present and in good spirits.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Anna Attla **MOVED** to approve the agenda. The motion **PASSED**.

Tonja Updike **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the December 1st, 2011 meeting. The motion **PASSED**.

PRESENTATION FROM DAVID TARCY

David Tarcy reported on the parent involvement study that is Indicator 8 on the Annual Performance Report. It is a 26-question survey conducted by mail in an effort to measure how well school districts are facilitating parent involvement. Alaska has about a 20 percent return rate, which Don Enoch described as about double the rate that is considered acceptable. The

target goal is for 50 percent of parents to score their surveys in a way that indicates that they are facilitated in being involved in their child's education, and Alaska earned 49.7 percent in 2011.

Committee members wanted to see the questions on the survey, so David will e-mail those to Teresa and she will send them out. Fred Villa asked what they are doing to try to improve the return rate for the surveys, and David replied that they send a flyer out before and after the survey to bring it to people's attention. The Council offered a few other suggestions:

- Include a summarized report of the previous survey so people can see the numbers.
- Figure out ways to target specific demographics that are underrepresented on the survey.
- Provide clarification as needed and opportunities to answer the questions orally by giving a 1-800 number and references to parent centers.
- Special education teachers can urge parents during conferences to provide feedback on the survey.
- Native corporations could be engaged in urging people to return the surveys.

Christine Inglet pointed out that many special education teachers don't want parents involved in their classrooms because of confidentiality issues with other children.

David Tarcy said that they are reviewing a lot of the processes they are using to make the indicators a more integral part of the monitoring process, and asked people not to hesitate to send him suggestions or questions. Council members can also send questions or suggestions to Teresa for her to forward.

REPORT FROM STATE BOARD OF EED

Geri Benshoof reported that the board met on December 15th and 16th in Anchorage, and they put out the standards for English, language arts, and math for public comment until May 12th. At their June meeting they will review the public comments and finalize the standards. The standards may be viewed on the department website.

Also at the December meeting, the EED:

- Created new teacher certification regulations for Type M certification, which is career and technical education.
- Passed regulations on the courses required to qualify for the Alaska Performance Scholarship.
- Put out for public comment regulations about preparation programs for Alaska's educator certificates and national minimum standards for school buses.
- Appointed Madison Manning of Meshik School as the student advisor-elect for the term of July 2012 to June 2013.
- Appointed Chris Houlette of Fairbanks and Erica Hill of Juneau to serve three-year terms on the State Museum Collections and Advisory Committee of the Alaska State Museums.

Geri concluded her report by mentioning that the museum and archives in Juneau are planning a new building to replace the old leaky one.

REPORT FROM DEED

Don Enoch reported that the only remaining monitoring trips this year are Anchorage, Mat-Su, and Skagway. In state, they have worked with the Governor's Council and have gone to various conferences and meetings, including the SESA meeting in Anchorage, COP training, and a meeting with the Deaf Education Board.

Don Enoch also stated that they have worked with the GAINS grant, revised the monitoring handbook, finished the statewide intensive funding review, and completed most of the work on the SPP.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Tonja Updike reminded the committee that the full Council meeting will be in Juneau January 24th through the 26th, and lunchtime on the 24th is set aside for discussing the Inclusive Practice Awards. Teresa explained that people will be given the application materials as they arrive in Juneau and can score them on their own and turn them in to Jennifer Jones.

ASSEC is February 20th to 22nd, the same week as Key Campaign. Teresa asked that those wishing to attend ASSEC send Jennifer an e-mail. The committee discussed who would give out the awards, and it was decided that Tonja and Anna would do it together. Teresa also noted that on the last day of ASSEC, there is a little meeting to start the planning for next year, and at least one committee member should attend. Tonja Updike mentioned that some committee members are doing presentations at ASSEC.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be February 2nd.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.