

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

February 9, 2012
10:30 a.m.

Attendees:

Don Enoch
Terese Kashi
Ernie Manzie
Justine Sheehan
Donna Swihart
Tonja Updike

Community Members and Guests:

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus
Patrick Pillai

Staff:

Jennifer Jones

Prepared by:

Jeannette Rice, Peninsula Reporting

Call to Order – 10:30 a.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

Jennifer Jones reminded committee members that the first part of the meeting would only be about an hour long, and then voting members would stay longer to discuss the inclusive practice awards.

Donna Swihart reported that the weather in the Mat-Su Valley has been horrible, and some of the schools are closed today because the roads are so bad.

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus reported that they had their FASD partnership meeting yesterday, and it looks promising that there will be a resolution to have FASD as a mitigating factor and to qualify for developmental disability services.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND PAST MINUTES

Teresa Kashi **MOVED** to approve the agenda with the time changed from 1:30 p.m. to 10:30 a.m. The motion **PASSED**.

Teresa Kashi **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the January 2012 meeting. The motion **PASSED**.

CORRESPONDENCE/REVIEW

ASSEC Inclusive Practice Awards

Jennifer Jones reported that there are ten applications this year, but some

came in late, so the decision had to be postponed. Tonja Updike added that there were some really good, in-depth nominations from parents, administrators, and fellow teachers. The Education Committee members who are also Council members will go through them and make a decision during the second part of today's meeting.

Review of January Meeting and Parent Survey

At the last meeting, 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. Tonja Updike stated that she really appreciated learning about the background of how the survey started and where it's going, and also appreciated having Don Enoch and his team in attendance to exchange information with David.

January Council Meeting Review

Jennifer Jones reported that the January Council meeting in Juneau is where the Governor's Council visits legislators and shares the top priorities for the year. This year's priorities include autism insurance, the Complex Behavior Collaborative, and SESA. Tonja Updike added that they had a lot of success in sharing stories; the legislators asked some good questions, and after the Council's visit, quite a few legislators signed on to the autism insurance bill.

Jennifer Jones stated that she is going to start tracking education-related bills, including one about the high school exit exam and one allowing parents to choose private schools and pay for them partially with state education funds. Representative Feige asked what the Council's position is on the school choice bill, and Jennifer promised to find out. Tonja requested that Jennifer send out the bill number so committee members could find out more about it.

REPORT FROM SESA

Patrick Pillai reported that HB 198 just had a hearing with the House Finance Committee and they have some questions that they need to respond to. Also, the legislative audit is taking place, because SESA has to

be reauthorized every ten years, and Patrick has a meeting later today with the auditors. Patrick noted that all of their programs are running smoothly.

Tonja Updike added that she heard a lot of discussion and positive feedback about SESA in Juneau. Patrick Pillai thanked the Council for laying a good foundation for SESA with their visit, and Jennifer Jones remarked that it was good to be able to tell legislators that the last audit recommended removing the sunset provision from SESA.

REPORT FROM EED

Don Enoch reported that they have finished conducting their monitoring in Skagway, Fairbanks, and Kuspuk school districts, so only Anchorage and Mat-Su remain to be done later in February.

Don Enoch stated that Sharon Fishel is going to keep running the GAINS grant until after ASSEC later this month, when EED will take over, and SPDG, the State Personnel Development Grant, will be conducted at ASSEC. EED is also going to meet with Special Olympics during ASSEC. Don Enoch added that they will be holding a lot of extra meetings in between the ASSEC presentations, so if anybody wants to meet with the entire staff or discuss anything while everyone is in Anchorage, they would be welcome.

The DEED has had some meetings in state:

- The SESA meeting
- The secondary transition camp in Kotzebue
- The RTI conference
- Met with ATTI about training in Juneau
- Had a regional draft meeting on the revision of the state special education handbook with the Anchorage School District, and will receive input from other districts soon.

Upcoming meetings out of state:

- The LRP conference will be in Arizona, which EED's due process and complaint investigation person will be attending.
- Sam Jordan and Don Enoch have put in to present in Washington, D.C. for the Alaska Compliance Monitoring System to share what they do with larger states that have challenges in that area.

Don Enoch reported that they have accomplished the MOA for the Alaska State School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and are developing the MOA with Part C, which is being significantly revised. Don also reported that the NIMAS/NIMAC grant has created a website, and they will soon post a link on the state website, so people with print disabilities should know about that.

Don Enoch stated that Sam Jordan has completed the state Annual Performance Report and State Performance Plan, submitting it a month early. Don added that Sam did a great job and he recommends that people see Sam's presentation on the APR if they can.

REGULATIONS FOR REVIEW

WorkKeys Approval

Jennifer Jones explained that since it is a national program, WorkKeys is not able to make changes easily. Jennifer suggested that it would be good to talk to other rural states to find out if they have similar issues with it and if they can influence the program in any way. Jennifer added that Geri Benshoof said that she appreciated the letter from the Council and the Board considered their thoughts. Jennifer will talk more with Geri Benshoof and others about it.

Standards for Math and English due February 10

Jennifer Jones noted that comments on the math and English standards are due, and she will draft something later today and send it to Tonja Updike, Taylor Gregg, and Julie Broyles for input. Jennifer asked Don Enoch if he has any insights from EED's point of view. Don replied that they have been training everyone on what the standards will look like and trying to get every department to incorporate their monitoring trips as opportunities to present and answer questions, but special education did not have much input.

Tonja Updike suggested that Eric Gebhart might have some comments to offer. Jennifer stated that she plans to talk to partners such as Stone Soup Group and compile a list of issues from different sources, and she asked

that anyone who has looked at the standards and has something to say to please send comments to her by tomorrow.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- ASSEC, February 20 - 22, Anchorage.

The Council will give a presentation on what the Council and the committees do and how people can get more involved.

- CEC Convention, April 11 – 14, Denver, Colorado.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Thursday, March 1st, 2012, from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.