

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

March 1, 2012
1:30 p.m.

Attendees:

Anna Attla
Julie Broyles
Taylor Gregg
Terese Kashi
Ernie Manzie
Justine Sheehan
Donna Swihart
Fred Villa

Community Members and Guests:

Gerri Benshoof
Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus
Patrick Pillai

Staff:

Jennifer Jones

Prepared by:

Jeannette Rice, Peninsula Reporting

Call to Order – 1:35 p.m.
Roll Call

READING OF THE COUNCIL MISSION

Taylor Gregg recited the Council’s mission statement: Creating change that improves the lives of people with disabilities.

WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

Announcements or Good News

Justine Sheehan announced that she is moving to Anchorage this week.

Taylor Gregg announced that her cousin who has been in the hospital for a long time was able to go home last month.

Geri Benshoof noted that Target is running a TV ad which includes a child with Down’s syndrome.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND PAST MINUTES

Justine Sheehan **MOVED** to approve the agenda. The motion **PASSED**.

Justine Sheehan **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the February 2012 meeting. The motion **PASSED**.

CORRESPONDENCE/REVIEW

ASSEC Inclusive Practice Awards

Jennifer Jones reported that the team from Shaw Elementary School won the award. Donna Swihart commented that her two kids went to Shaw and it is an excellent school, well deserving of the award. Donna added that she really enjoyed the conference and the keynote speakers, particularly “Doctor Humor”, who spoke about the health benefits of being optimistic and laughing a lot; Donna bought a copy of his book.

Jennifer Jones mentioned that Eric Gebhart did a presentation about the Governor’s Council, and Jennifer got everybody’s contact information and

is sending out more information, inviting people to get involved in the Council.

Jennifer described a change in format for the awards presentation this year, preparing less printed material to hand out and referring people to the Governor's Council website for more information. Discussion ensued, with Julie Broyles commenting that she thinks people enjoyed reading the stories of the nominees during the luncheon, and suggested projecting some of that material on the screen. Jennifer invited committee members to contribute ideas for how to do it next year.

REPORT FROM STATE BOARD OF EED

Geri Benshoof reported that the State Board of Education and Early Development will meet next week. Some board members will meet with the Governor, and then the board will tour the museum, which is also under the Board of Education.

Other items on the agenda for the board meeting:

- A review of the Alaska Performance Scholarship.
- A presentation by Abbe Hensley from Best Beginnings on the Babies on Track project, which is premiering its 15-minute video on early childhood development in several communities this week.
- Review several charter schools and recommend further operation.
- A report from special education and a discussion of regulations that are going out for public comment; anyone interested can see those at the State of Alaska Department of Education website under Board of Education, March 8 and 9.

Geri also commented that this is the first year that the Board has had to give an extensive report to the legislature, and board chair Esther Cox did that in February.

REPORT FROM SESA

Patrick Pillai reported that House Bill 198 is now moving toward a second hearing after SESA provided answers to eight questions.

Patrick noted that SESA has hired a new multiple disability specialist, a

young lady from Montana who spent three years in the Peace Corps in Kazakhstan.

Patrick Pillai remarked that there were eight SESA presentations at ASSEC, and the conference chair, Patricia McDade, is a SESA specialist.

Patrick stated that SESA has its next board meeting on March 29.

REPORT FROM EED

Don Enoch was not in attendance to give a report.

BUDGET AND WORK PRIORITIES FOR NEXT YEAR

Jennifer Jones will send out an e-mail asking everyone to think about the Education Committee's priorities for next year so the committee can discuss it at the next meeting and be prepared to present them to the full Council in May.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

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

May Governor's Council meeting, May 1 – 3.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Thursday, April 5th, 2012, from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.