

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

April 5, 2012
1:30 p.m.

Attendees:

Anna Attla
Julie Broyles
Don Enoch
Taylor Gregg
Terese Kashi
Margaret Kossler
Ernie Manzie
Justine Sheehan
Tonja Updike
Fred Villa

Community Members and Guests:

Patrick Pillai
Christie Reinhardt
Kim McNamara

Staff:

Patrick Reinhart

Prepared by:

Jeannette Rice, Peninsula Reporting

Call to Order – 1:35 p.m.
Roll Call

READING OF THE COUNCIL MISSION

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

WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

Announcements or Good News

Taylor Gregg noted that there is an interesting article about education in today’s Ketchikan Daily News.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND PAST MINUTES

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

Ernie Manzie **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the March 2012 meeting. The motion **PASSED**.

ANNUAL REVIEW OF WORK PLAN AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Tonja Updike conducted a discussion of the Education Committee’s work plan for the current year. The committee reviewed what has been done and what is still ongoing, and considered what to present to the Council in May as the Education Committee’s priorities for the coming year. The committee agreed that the five goals are all still current concerns; Patrick Reinhart pointed out that they were approved just last fall with the five-year plan. The Education Committee’s SEAP duties are federally mandated.

The committee discussed some revisions only to Goal No. 4, Advocate for training for regular education teachers on special education and Section 504. Terese Kashi suggested changing the word “teachers” to include other school district personnel besides teachers. Discussion ensued about whether to have it pertain to only education personnel such as teacher’s aides and administrators, or also to secretaries, janitors, bus drivers, and so on. The committee decided to say “regular education staff” in the goals

section and to be more specific in the activities section. The committee also decided to add to activities research into whether any e-modules are available for Section 504 training.

Tonja Updike asked committee members to look through the five-year plan education goals and send comments to her or staff if they see anything they might want to revise. Tonja reminded committee members to give their input soon because committee chairs are currently preparing their presentations for the May meeting.

DECIDE ON EDUCATIONAL PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEXT YEAR

Millie Ryan was not in attendance at this meeting, so this topic was not discussed.

REPORT FROM STATE BOARD OF EED

Geri Benshoof was not present to give a report.

REPORT FROM SESA

Patrick Pillai reported that for Fiscal Year 13, they will be adding two new specialist positions to their low incidence team, a multiple disability specialist and an autism specialist. Each team will now have four specialists serving school districts across Alaska.

Patrick reported that House Bill 198 seeking an increase to SESA funding is currently being reviewed by the House Finance Committee. Patrick also stated that SESA is currently undergoing their legislative audit, which is expected to proceed through fall of this year.

Patrick Pillai stated that they are extremely appreciative of the support and assistance they have received from the Department of Education, school districts, and other agencies. On behalf of the SESA board and staff, Patrick thanked Millie Ryan, Teresa Holt, and each member of the Governor's Council for representing SESA so well throughout their legislative journey.

REPORT FROM EED

Don Enoch stated that the monitoring is caught up for the year, and next year's monitoring season will be from September through November.

Don listed meetings and trainings that EED has been involved in:

Meetings

Bring the Kids Home

Special Olympics: Did a facility walk-through

Met with ASSEC board

Met with LINKS Mat-Su parent training initiative

Met with DVR to cooperate on revising the individual education plan

Had a teleconference with Stone Soup Group

Met with SESA at their most recent board meeting

Trainings

GAINS grant in Washington, D.C.

Alternative Assessments, Nevada

619 coordinator training for TACSEI, Florida

Don Enoch reported that the EED had their annual progress report and state performance plan, and those findings went out to the districts recently. They also had to prepare a response letter to the Office of Special Education Programs about requirements that have been met and the EED website.

Don Enoch reported on other current activities:

- The OSEP grant for the state was submitted.
- The MOA with DVR has been renewed.
- Working on an MOA for next year with the Alaska State School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.
- The NIMAS/NIMAC budget review is coming up soon.
- Planning to coordinate with Stone Soup Group on revising the parent guide to make it user-friendly and accessible.
- Working with Anchorage School District to revise procedural safeguards.
- Had an audit policy review for Providence Heights and for SESA.
- Reworked the application for Title VI-B and 619 grants.

Don listed upcoming meetings:

- Governor's Council meeting in Girdwood
- SERRC in Juneau
- NIMAS/NIMAC webinar
- LRP legal trainings in Arizona
- GAINS grant in Anchorage

Don concluded by mentioning that the special education handbook is being actively revised, with lots of input from all over, and a new edition being put out about every month.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

CEC Convention, April 11 – 14, Denver, Colorado: Ernie Manzie and Margaret Kossler are attending.

Project SEARCH statewide meeting, April 16th and 17th in Anchorage.

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

Fred Villa added that the University Board of Regents plans to meet with the State Board of Education in June for a couple of hours to talk about common issues.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Thursday, May 17th, 2012, from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.