

**GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL  
EDUCATION  
Education Committee**

**LOCATION**

**Governor's Council Conference Room  
3601 C Street  
Anchorage, Alaska  
Teleconference**

**Meeting Date**

**March 21, 2013  
1:30 p.m.**

**Attendees:**

Taylor Gregg – chair  
Don Enoch  
Ernie Manzie  
Heidi Haas  
Terese Kashi  
Justine Sheehan  
Kim McNamara  
Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus  
Julie Broyles

**Community Members:**

Art Arnold  
Christine Inglet  
Tonja Updike  
Fred Villa  
Patrick Pillai  
Angelina Ahrens  
Derrick Pennington  
Meredith Jaecks  
Amy Westfall  
Carla Abild  
Mandy Cleveland

**Staff:**

Christie Reinhardt

Prepared by:

Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting

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

### **Welcome from the Chair**

### **Announcements and Good News**

Taylor Gregg announced the good news that she will be doing some traveling to see family members in the upcoming weeks.

### **Reading of the Council Mission**

Don Enoch read the Council mission: Creating change that improves the lives of people with disabilities.

### **Approval of the Agenda and Past Meeting Minutes**

Terese Kashi **MOVED** to approve the meeting agenda as written. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

Fred Villa **MOVED** to approve the January 21, 2013 meeting minutes as written. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

Terese Kashi **MOVED** to approve the February 28, 2013 meeting minutes as written. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

### **Correspondence**

Christie Reinhardt informed the committee members that Representative Charisse Millett is the new legislative liaison to the Governor's Council, and the Council is looking forward to her participation.

### **Conference Updates**

Taylor Gregg informed the committee members that Full Lives is scheduled for April 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013, and the Early Childhood Mental Health Conference is scheduled for April 30<sup>th</sup> through May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013. She reminded the committee members that April is National Autism Month. She also noted that the Governor's Council meeting is scheduled for May 7<sup>th</sup>

through the 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013 in Anchorage.

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus reported that the FASD Conference is scheduled for May 22<sup>nd</sup> through May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at the Hilton Hotel in Anchorage, and she will forward the website to the Council for redistribution.

## **Graduation Rates**

Sam Jordan from State of Alaska Department of Education & Early Development presented to the Education Committee the data collected by the State relating to the graduation rates in Alaska with regards to the HSGQE for both general education and special education students. He presented data from the 2010/2011 school year and preliminary data from the 2011/2012 school year.

For the 2010/2011 school year for special education students, there were 1,105 students with disabilities expected to graduate, and of those students 445 graduated, which represented a 40.3% graduation rate. Of the 660 students who did not graduate, 203 students passed all three sections of the HSGQE, 181 students passed at least one section of the HSGQE, and 276 students passed none of the HSGQE. He noted that there are a variety of reasons for students to not graduate that are not related to the HSGQE testing, for example, credits, attendance, life events, and leaving school before taking the test.

For the 2011/2012 school year, for special education students, the preliminary data shows a total of 584 students who did not graduate. For the 584 students who did not graduate, 148 students passed all three sections of the HSGQE, 174 students passed at least one section of the HSGQE, and 262 students passed none of the HSGQE.

Sam Jordan noted that the data the State gathers regarding graduation rates is published on their website at [www.education.alaska.gov/stats](http://www.education.alaska.gov/stats).

## **Report from Board of Education Meeting**

Christie Reinhardt reported that she attended the Board of Education meeting in Juneau March 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> and gave testimony on school accountability and also on the Elementary and Secondary Education Act waiver that the State of Alaska has applied for.

Christie Reinhardt reported that the accountability system goal for schools that are not proficient is to reduce the number of students not proficient by 50 percent over six years through district improvement plans that would also include a parent participation piece. She noted that public comment needs to be given by April 19<sup>th</sup> and that she and Teresa Holt will send committee members a draft document of comments along with the proposal so that committee members will have an opportunity to comment.

### **Report from SESA**

Patrick Pillai reported that SESA has two bills in the Legislature, House Bill 87 and Senate Bill 17. House Bill 87 passed the House Education Committee and passed the House Finance Committee with one major change: They moved SESA out of the Governor's Council and into the Department of Education. He noted that it still has to go to the floor to be heard and then goes to the Senate, but at this point SESA is moved over to the Department of Education with no funding increase.

Patrick Pillai reported that Senate Bill 17 has passed through the Senate Education Committee and has had one hearing in the Senate Finance Committee with the next hearing scheduled for March 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

### **Report from EED**

Don Enoch informed the committee that the Department has been very busy with their ongoing projects, one of the most significant being the online grant management system, which services all the grants from all the school districts for 6B, 619, and discretionary grants. They received training on the new system March 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, and he noted that it is going to be a substantial challenge to get all the parties synchronized.

Don Enoch reported that the Department had a webinar recently on the supplemental workbook, which has had some changes to it. He reported that the special education team attended communications training, and the team is also working on the intensive appeals until March 29<sup>th</sup>, which is the deadline for accepting appeals.

Don Enoch noted that the federal grant application is nearly ready to submit, but he did not have any further information due to the

sequestration.

### **Meetings/Conferences/Trainings**

Christie Reinhardt reported that the HSGQE Subcommittee will be meeting again, and she will contact members as to when.

Christie Reinhardt commented that at the next meeting of the Education Committee, they will be looking at outlining this year's work plan. From earlier discussions of the committee, the focus of the work plan will be on graduation. She asked committee members to think about how the committee can use their previous discussions and the prior data that's been presented to develop a work plan.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Education Committee is scheduled for April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013 from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

### **Adjournment**

The Education Committee meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.