

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

LOCATION

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

**Meeting Date
June 20, 2013
1:30 p.m.**

Attendees:

Taylor Gregg – chair
Ernie Manzie
Terese Kashi
Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus
Julie Broyles
Heidi Haas

Community Members:

Starr Marsett
Mary Elam
Derrick Pennington
Janel Keplinger
Mandy Cleveland
Ron Cowan

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

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus announced that she will be vacationing in July in Maine.

Reading of the Council Mission

Janel Keplinger read the Council mission statement: Creating change that improves the lives of people with disabilities.

Approval of the Agenda and Past Meeting Minutes

Approval of the agenda and past meeting minutes was tabled until the next meeting as there was not a quorum.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence to report.

Conference Updates

Taylor Gregg informed the committee members that the OSEP IDEA Conference will be held July 29th through July 31st in Washington, D.C. Christie Reinhardt noted that she, Taylor Gregg and Karli Lopez, the new chair of the Early Intervention Committee will be attending the conference.

Review Draft of Alaska House Bill – Restraint and Seclusion

Christie Reinhardt reported that Representative Millet, who is the legislative liaison for the Governor's Council, has been very enthusiastic in her work with the Council. She was the sponsor for the Respective Language Bill, which was passed last session, and has written and wants to introduce a bill in the House regarding restraint and seclusion. There currently is restraint and seclusion legislation being introduced at the federal level, and a lot of the language in Representative Millet's bill mirrors the federal bill.

Christie Reinhardt stated that the State of Alaska currently does not have specific state legislation around the restraint and seclusion of students. A draft of the proposed legislation was sent to the Governor's Council for review, and Representative Millet's office would like to have the committee's comments by June 21st.

The committee members had a good discussion regarding their overall impression of the proposed legislation looking at the language of what was in the draft and looking for missing pieces. Some of the recommendations that came from this discussion were addressing issues of parent notification of an incident, some form of debriefing after an incident, mandatory annual reporting for school districts, a training piece, and then a refinement of the overall language used to define key definitions.

A significant point was made by the committee members that, although the content of the proposed bill may mirror portions of the bill pending at the federal level, members felt that the proposed Alaska bill should include all of the key components of the federal bill in case the bill at the federal level is changed or eliminated.

Taylor Gregg called for a vote of consensus on two specific recommendations relating to the draft legislation:

1. Members unanimously voted in favor that there should be a prohibition of prone restraints.
2. Members unanimously voted in favor that there should be a prohibition of chemical or mechanical restraints.

Christie Reinhardt asked committee members to e-mail any further comments they had relating to the restraint and seclusion draft legislation to her as soon as possible.

Report from State Board of Education Meeting

Early Literacy Screening

Janel Kiplinger reported that State Board of Education members were asked to vote on the use of early literacy screening for kindergarten through second grade. Kindergarten and first graders would receive a letter sound fluency and phonemic segmentation screening, and first and second graders would get oral reading fluency. Third graders would be tested, but it would only be those students who continued to not be proficient in those areas in order to monitor their progress. Other portions of the regulation stated that the screening needed to be done at least three times a year and needed to be individually administered. She noted that the State is going to keep a list of approved instructional screening tools for each of the districts to review.

Janel Kiplinger stated that a piece of regulation that came from public comment was that a notice regarding the results of the screening needs to be presented to parents at least once annually.

There was also a piece in the regulation stating that the screening tool had to be administered with a time constraint of ten minutes, and this piece received the most attention. Janel Kiplinger explained that the intent of this regulation was to assure that the districts were doing early literacy screening. The State Board of Education wanted to give districts a choice, but also wanted to have the ability to gather broad data that could be compared by the district. She noted that the Commissioner stated that at this point in time, the focus should be on trying to get this information about students and having teachers use that information to do interventions, not necessarily to have data to give to the district. This discussion resulted in the amendment to the regulation to remove the ten minute timing.

Another piece of the regulation some board members felt was missing was vocabulary development and comprehension. There was a push to make a change and include those pieces, but without proper screening tools, the districts would not be able to move forward with that screening. Janel Kiplinger noted that there is a fiscal note to passing regulations related to early literacy screening. The board decided that they could move forward and recognize that there are other pieces that need to be included and that

they could add them and then amend them at a later date so that the fiscal note would be in place to give to districts to assist them in the requirement to do early literacy screening.

Janel Kiplinger noted that Representative Seaton was in attendance in support of the Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test to go with the vocabulary development, and it also has a link to a research study that he is in support of that relates to lack of Vitamin D in mothers.

School Accountability

Janel Kiplinger reported that the State Board of Education submitted an application for a waiver for the Elementary and Secondary Education Agency (ESEA) and was approved May 13th, 2013. She stated that there are three major focus areas:

1. Educator evaluations
2. Teacher effectiveness
3. Standards, assessments, and school accountability

She stated that the State Board of Education has already adopted the new Alaska State Content Standards and the new evaluation system. This regulation was specifically designed towards school accountability. They will no longer do the Annual Yearly Performance (AYP), but will continue with the Annual Measurable Objectives (AMO) in reading, writing, and math. The new accountability system has two components, one for K-8 and one for 9-12. Each indicator has a value based the total score on 100.

Grades K-8:

1. Academic achievement
2. School progress
3. Attendance rate

Grades 9-12:

1. Academic achievement
2. School progress
3. Attendance rate/graduation rate
 - A) SAT, ACT, WorkKeys scores and participation

She explained that each school would then be rated according the overall score as follows:

- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| 1. 94 – 100 | 5 star school |
| 2. 85 – 93 | 4 star school |
| 3. 65 – 84 | 3 star school |
| 4. 55 – 64 | 2 star school |
| 5. 0 – 54 | 1 star school |

Janel Kiplinger further explained that with that score, the Department would determine priority schools, focus schools, reward schools, and then any other schools making progress. She noted that she appreciated the way this looks at progress, and although not all schools will hit their targets, it does value the school's progress, and it is a good tool for teachers to be able to show academic achievement.

Janel Kiplinger stated that there is more detailed information available which shows what she has reported on, and also what would happen for a priority school, a focus school, and a reward school. Christie Reinhardt will forward that information to members who request it.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Education Committee is scheduled for August 15th, 2013 at 1:30.