

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

**Education Committee**

**LOCATION**

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

**Meeting Date**

**October 17, 2013  
1:30 p.m.**

**Attendees:**

Taylor Gregg – chair  
Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus  
Terese Kashi  
Angie Fraize  
Heidi Haas  
Eric Gebhart

**Community Members:**

Brianna Brian  
Janel Keplinger  
Derrick Pennington  
Julie Broyles  
Debbie Banaszak  
Jim Kreatschman  
Sam Jordan

**Staff:**

Christie Reinhardt

Prepared by:

Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting

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

**Welcome from the Chair**

Taylor Gregg welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Announcements and Good News**

Taylor Gregg announced that her mom is making plans for a large family get-together for Thanksgiving.

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus stated that she made contact with a development person at NANA regarding Employment First, and hopefully that contact will help to initiate a dialogue with them.

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

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

Terese Kashi **MOVED** to approve the meeting minutes from September 19<sup>th</sup>. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

**Correspondence**

There was no correspondence reported.

**Reports**

**Chair's Report**

Taylor Gregg stated that she thought the Governor's Council meeting went well. She stated that they accomplished everything they wanted to accomplish. She noted that the Education Committee did a good job talking about their priorities to the full Council.

## **State Board of Education Report**

Janel Keplinger reported that the State Board of Education met in September. She stated that the workshop focused on Mt. Edgecumbe High School's language arts curriculum. She reported that the Commissioner gave a theme-based education update.

Janel Keplinger reported that the main focus of the meeting was on the regulations that were going out for public comment. After the meeting in June, the Department felt they needed to be more specific and informative. Following the approved set of regulations, they suggested an alternate version that in the judgment of the Department more fully reflects the will of the Board. The alternate version clarifies the required frequency of the literacy screening and also provides two tracks to use the literacy screening tools that are approved by the Department. The alternate version went out for public comment.

Janel Keplinger noted that the Board has been discussing the HSGQE and looking at the new standards, and also looking at the new assessment to determine if they will choose the Smarter Balance assessment or develop a test. She noted that the main question is does the Smarter Balance assessment meet the needs of the students of Alaska, and if not, they would like to be prepared by having an alternate assessment available to implement in 2015/2016.

Christie Reinhardt reported that she gave public comment relating to the HSGQE and the disparity between students with disabilities versus students in regular education when passing the test on their first attempt, and also the lack of the number of students that return to take the test a second time.

## **SESA Report**

Patrick Pillai was not able to attend the meeting and he submitted a written report. Christie Reinhardt highlighted the following activities of SESA:

- SESA still has a vacancy for a deaf and hard-of-hearing specialist.
- SESA's new phone system is being installed, and they are receiving

the training piece.

- SESA's Smart Board will be installed later this month
- SESA worked with the Anchorage School District and the Alaska Family Directory, who will profile SESA's services in November.
- SESA experienced a \$43,000 reduction in ILP funding from the AARC grant, and they are working to adjust their budget and communicating with ILP about that funding.
- SESA welcomed three new board members:
  - Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus, from the Governor's Council
  - Jack Walsh, from the Association of School Administrators
  - Lorraine Adams, from the Conference of Administrators of Special Education.
- SESA's specialists are continuing their inservice trainings and site visits.
- SESA's fall newsletter is currently at Assets being printed.

### **EED Report**

Sam Jordan reported the Department is experiencing a busy fall. The staff has been conducting on-site monitoring around the state and also held their director's training in September, which was very productive.

Sam Jordan stated that he attended the National Directors of Special Education Conference in Georgia. There was discussion about the results-driven accountability shift. He noted that a lot of legislation was being held up at the federal level by the politics.

Sam Jordan reported that Don Enoch will be attending the Western Regional Resource Center's western training where the focus will be on the State Performance Plan. He stated that Kim McNamara will be in Washington D.C. to work on the GAINS Grant.

Sam Jordan reported that the Department was appreciative that Melody

Musgrove, who is the Federal Director of Special Education Services, who was in Alaska on vacation, very kindly took some time to meet with their staff, and they also were able to visit a few schools in Anchorage and Mat-Su and meet some of the teachers.

## **Old Business**

### **Restraint and Seclusion Midwest Academy Update**

Christie Reinhardt reported that the Midwest Academy was held on October 1<sup>st</sup>, and there were approximately 15 people in attendance. There was representation from the Anchorage School District, parents, Disability Law Center, and Key Campaign. Kathy Fitzgerald facilitated the meeting.

Christie Reinhardt reported that there were changes made to the draft legislation as follows:

#### **Section B, Page 3, Line 5:**

Currently it states, “The school shall, no later than 24 hours after the incident, report to the parents or legal guardian of effected student information relating to an incident involving disruptive or violent behavior by a student.”

There was an addition at end of the sentence to read “...that leads to restraint or seclusion by school personnel.”

#### **Section G-6, Page 5, Line 27:**

New definition of seclusion: “Seclusion means the involuntary confinement of a student in a room or area that the student is prevented from leaving. Seclusion does not include a classroom time-out, supervised detention, or suspension from school.”

#### **Page 4, Line 9:**

The previous document described prohibition on prone restraint and line 9 now specifically details and defines what a prone restraint looks like so that there isn't a misunderstanding.

## **Section F, Page 5:**

The annual reporting piece now reads: "Each school district shall annually report to the Department the total number of incidents involving the restraint or seclusion of a student. The report must specify the number of incidents that result in injury or death of students or personnel, the number of incidents in which school personnel involved in the restraint or seclusion were not trained in an approved crisis intervention training program, and also the number of incidents that involved students with disabilities and what their disability category was."

Christie Reinhardt reported that the next steps include sending the proposed changes to Representative Millett's staff, after which they will submit it to the commissioners and Don Enoch. Christie noted that they will then forward it to the partners for comment, develop white papers, and they will be looking for support from various organizations. The anticipated filing date for this legislation is December 13<sup>th</sup>.

### **Discussion of Changes in 2013/14 Work Plan**

Christie Reinhardt reported that the Education Committee's work plan was amended during the Council meeting. She reported that under the short-term Goal 3, which is advocate for improved secondary transition services in rural areas, they included Goal 5, which is to advocate for the development of a high school pilot DVR discovery credit course. Christie noted that Eric Gebhart volunteered his school district for a pilot program, and Cindy Anderson from the Anchorage School District expressed interest in piloting this program in one of their schools.

Jim Kreatschman, the transition coordinator for Vocational Rehabilitation, spoke to the committee regarding what the discovery process is and how it improves the outcome of customized employment. The discovery process takes 10 to 12 hours to complete, and it basically develops a relationship with a person by talking with them, their family, friends, teachers, and others to gain an understanding of the person in order to better serve them in their employment endeavors.

## **Upcoming Meetings and Conferences**

There were no meetings or conferences on the schedule.

## **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Education Committee is scheduled for November 21, 2013 from 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

## **Adjournment**

Terese Kashi **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**. Taylor Gregg adjourned the meeting at 2:50 p.m.