

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

Education Committee

LOCATION

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

Meeting Date

**April 16, 2015
1:30 p.m.**

Attendees:

Taylor Gregg - chair
Don Enoch
Cassidy Jones
Angie Fraize
Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus
Jill Burkert
Terese Kashi
Margaret Kossler
Mallory Hamilton
Breanna Brian
Clayton Holland
David Mayo-Keily
Amber Parker

Staff:

Christie Reinhardt
Rich Sanders

Prepared by: Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting

CALL TO ORDER – 1:35 p.m.
ROLL CALL

Welcome from the Chair

Taylor Gregg welcomed the committee members to the meeting.

Announcements and Good News

Terese Kashi announced the news that her adult child and stepdad went before a judge and finalized the adoption, which was very good news for the Kashi family.

Approval of Agenda

Mallory Hamilton **MOVED** to approve the agenda. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Margaret Kossler **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the March meeting. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**.

Reports

Chair's Report

Taylor Gregg reported that she and Christie Reinhardt attended the Conference for Exceptional Children, which she found very interesting. She attended many interesting sessions, but was disappointed when she tried to attend a workshop only to find that the workshops were available for an additional cost, and that was not spelled out in the conference booklet.

Christie Reinhardt reported that four Alaska schools districts were represented at the exhibitor's hall looking to recruit teachers.

SESA

There was no report for SESA available at the meeting.

EED

Don Enoch reported the following Department activities:

- The APR was submitted to OSEP. Sam Jordan will present the APR at the May meeting. They are now entering Phase II of the SSIP and have begun the documentation relating to that.
- The MOA with Part C is pending.
- They have received a Freedom of Information Act request regarding the restraint and seclusion bill and other statistical information.
- Finance has started the audit of the Department's federal programs.
- The Department's website continues to be changed and updated.
- The supplemental workbook has been distributed to all the districts and is due back July 15th.
- They have updated the GMS for the next fiscal year, and the deadline has been extended to May 15th. The Department is looking to provide discretionary grant training for people who need assistance using the GMS.
- The special education directors training will be split into two sessions; new directors training early in the year, and veteran directors training after the tourist season. This will not only be cost savings to the State, but will provide training that is more effective for the new directors.
- The GAINS grant extension for applying for a no-cost extension is outstanding. They are rewriting the grant for next year this summer.

Don Enoch reported that they are beginning a new monitoring process. Currently they monitor for compliance of paperwork and procedures that are systemic; however, now they are expanding on that and looking at individual student IEPs and following students into the classroom to see if they are receiving the services identified on the IEPs and that there's a plan to maintain those services; and when those services aren't being provided, that supplementary or compensatory services are being provided.

Don Enoch reported that they have a new monitoring schedule, which has been posted on the website. He noted that it is subject to change, but generally, they do most of their monitoring in September, October, and November and the technical assistance in December and January.

Regarding this year's monitoring, they have two districts left, Dillingham and Anchorage, and both of those reports are pending.

CASE

Clayton Holland stated that there was no news to report with regards to CASE.

State Board of Education (SBOE)

In news related to the SBOE, Christie Reinhardt reported the unfortunate news that Esther Cox withdrew her nomination for the chair of the State Board of Education. Esther Cox was a friend of the Council and an advocate for students with disabilities. Christie noted that during the legislative review, Ms. Cox got nervous and stated incorrect statistics, and Representative Reinbold from Eagle River launched a campaign against her on social media and in editorials, which caused Ms. Cox to withdraw her nomination.

FASD

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus reported that the FASD Work Group met to make future plans, which include meeting with the Trust and FASD Partnership to reaffirm their relationships to help guide the work group in the development of a five-year plan.

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus reported that the SESA FASD work group received an update from David Tarcy with regards to the FASD survey. It was reported that approximately 40 percent of the respondents asked for additional information on FASD. The work group will be responding once they decide what materials to send out. Christie Reinhardt asked for a digital copy of the survey to send to committee members.

Old Business

Legislative Update

Christie Reinhardt reported that the ESEA Reauthorization that the Education Committee provided comment on has been stalled in the House.

The Senate has put together a bipartisan group to redraft the bill. The draft was released last week, and it is a 601-page document. The Council offered comments to Senator Murkowski. After the debates about specific amendments, the draft will come before the Education Committee for comment. Christie noted that one of the issues the CEC highlighted was the ESEA draft has completely removed the language of what a highly qualified teacher is supposed to be, allowing each state to determine those standards.

Christie Reinhardt reported that HB 89, which relates to removing college and career-ready standards required testing for students with disabilities, may not move any further in this session, but the Education Committee will need to develop a position and prepare comments for the next session.

New Business

2015 – 2016 Priority Discussion

Christie Reinhardt led a discussion regarding the work the committee will focus on in the upcoming year. After a brief discussion, the Education Committee will forward the following priorities for 2015/16:

- Graduation rates
- Suspension and expulsion
- Procedural safeguards
- Telepractice

Upcoming Meetings and Conferences

April 16 – 17, 2015

Full Lives Conference
Sheraton Anchorage Hotel

May 5 – 6, 2015

Governor's Council Meeting
Special Olympics Building, Anchorage

Time and Date of Next Meeting

The next Education Committee meeting is scheduled for May 21, 2015, 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

Margaret Kossler **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**, and the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.