

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

**Education Committee  
MINUTES**

**LOCATION**

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

**Meeting Date**

**November 17, 2015  
1:30 p.m.**

**Attendees:**

David Kohler – Chair  
Jill Burkert  
Cassidy Jones  
Heidi Haas  
Clayton Holland  
Mallory Hamilton  
Patrick Pillai  
Amy Westfall  
Margaret Kossler  
Sarah Emmal  
Ernie Manzie  
Starr Marsett  
Maria Pepperworth  
Fred Villa

**Staff:**

Christie Reinhardt

**Prepared by:** Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting

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

**Welcome**

David Kohler introduced himself, gave a brief history of his work related to the work of the committee, and welcomed the committee members to the meeting.

**Announcements and Good News**

Christie Reinhardt announced that along with the new chair, the committee has another new member, Sandra DeHart, who will be joining the next meeting.

**Approval of Agenda and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

Mallory Hamilton **MOVED** to approve the agenda. The motion was **SECONDED** by Heidi Haas. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

Mallory Hamilton **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the October 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. The motion was **SECONDED** by Cassidy Jones. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**.

**Correspondence**

Christie Reinhardt reported that she has been corresponding with a representative of the Alaska Dyslexia Association about parent representation on the Education Committee. Christie encouraged them to put forth a recommendation for a seat on the committee as a community member.

**Reports**

**Chair's Report**

No report from the chair was available for the meeting.

Christie Reinhardt reported that a final decision has not been made regarding a move of the ILP Program from the Office of Children's Services to the Senior and Disabilities Services. The decision is expected to come out once the Governor's budget is revealed.

## **SESA**

Patrick Pillai reported the following activities for SESA:

- SESA received names from the Governor's Council for SESA board members and are awaiting responses from the individuals.
- SESA continues to recruit for two vacancies for disability specialists.
- The SESA newsletter was published and is available on their website.
- SESA is hosting an early intervention training January 25 - 26, 2016 with a focus on building relationships and creating supportive environments, and choosing strategies to promote social/emotional competence.

Patrick Pillai shared the news that Jennifer Schroeder, SESA's multiple disabilities specialist, has received the Outstanding Service Provider Award from the Alaska Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

## **EED**

Cassidy Jones reported the following activities of the Department:

- Continued participation in Governor's Council meetings.
- Attended the DEB Board meeting.
- Communicating in teleconferences related to the SSIP.
- Awaiting the results of the special education federal fiscal program audit.
- Plan to attend the SESA meeting and the SSIP Stakeholder Meeting in December.
- Reviewing intensive funding claims, and organizing intensive funding process.
- In the process of approving discretionary grants.
- Continued rewriting of GAINS Grant.



Clayton Holland reported that dyslexia is a focus area on the national level. Also on the national level, there is a lot of talk from special education directors that they want more flexibility on the Maintenance of Effort. Clayton commented that it was interesting that there was an apparent lack of knowledge regarding FASD, highlighting the fact that the state of Alaska is pushing the envelope by having conversations about FASD.

## **FASD**

A report from the FASD Workgroup was not available for the meeting.

## **Autism Ad Hoc Committee Update**

An Autism Ad Hoc Committee report was not available for the meeting.

## **State Board of Education (SBOE) Update**

Christie Reinhardt reported that written testimony on the regulations change related to FASD and other health impairments definition of physician for educational purposes was submitted, and oral testimony will be accepted at the SBOE board meeting on December 10<sup>th</sup> at the Anchorage School District building. Christie will resend the talking points to the committee members for review.

## **Old Business**

### **Update on Five-Year Plan and Community Forums**

Christie Reinhardt reported that the community forums are going well. They have good representation at the meetings. Included in the concerns being reported are recruitment and retention of highly qualified teachers, implementation of evidence-based best practices for all programs, and training.

Christie Reinhardt reported that the next steps with regards to the committee's work on the Five-Year Plan is a small group of committee members will gather and review the input from a variety of sources and refine the SMART goals of the committee and tie objectives to each goal.

Christie will send the workgroup's draft to all the committee members for examination and input.

## **New Business**

### **Suspension and Expulsion Report and Recommendations for ASD**

Starr Marsett shared summary results from the suspension report by the Anchorage School District for 2014/2015 including the following data:

- Percentage of students with disabilities that are suspended is about twice that of regular all students.
- Percentage of black students suspended was higher than any other race and category of all students including students with disabilities.
- Percentage of Asian student suspension was lower than any other race in both students with special needs and other students.
- 52 percent of students with disabilities were suspended only once.
- The offense category with the highest percentage of suspensions for students with disabilities was dangerous actions followed by fighting or physical violence.

The Special Education Advisory Committee made the following recommendations to ASD:

- Look at different programs with regards to behavior intervention and support: PBIS, Restorative Justice, CPS
- Campus intervention programs.
- Provide counseling to individuals to talk about the incident.
- Training for SOR officers on disabilities of students to help distinguish between conduct from a disability and intentional misconduct.
- Objective threat assessment.
- Conflict resolution training for students, teachers, and administrators.
- Encouraging caring relationships with students and teachers.
- Strategies for reducing racial, social, economic, gender, and other disparities and engage community in cultural competency skill building.
- Establish school discipline oversight committee.

Starr Marsett reported that she submitted the recommendations to Mr. Graff and was told thank you, this is a great report, we are working on it, and no, you can't be a part of the work. Starr shared that she had the impression from conversations with discipline personnel that the district was told not to suspend as many students, but they are not telling them how not to do it. Starr also shared that she is working with legislators on the verbiage of legislation to change the landscape of suspension and expulsion in the state.

Christie Reinhardt commented that this has been an issue for the Education Committee, and she expects with the goals related to graduation rates, the issue of suspension and expulsion will be a large part of the conversation.

### **Upcoming Meetings and Conferences**

#### **November 19, 2015**

Special Education Advisory Panel Meeting  
Anchorage School District Building, Anchorage

### **Time and Date of Next Meeting**

The next Education Committee meeting is scheduled for December 15, 2015 from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.