

**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**

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

**Attendees:**

David Kohler – Chair  
Jill Burkert  
Cassidy Jones  
Clayton Holland  
Mallory Hamilton  
Amy Westfall  
Margaret Kossler  
Sarah Emmal  
Starr Marsett  
Fred Villa  
Krista James  
Sandra DeHart  
Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus

**Staff:**

Christie Reinhardt  
Patrick Reinhart

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

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

**Welcome**

David Kohler welcomed the committee members to the meeting.

**Announcements and Good News**

David Kohler shared the good news that the State Board of Education passed the regulation regarding the definition for physician to include nurse practitioner as it relates to education.

Christie Reinhardt shared the good news reported by the Department of Education regarding the 2014/2015 statewide high school graduation rates for students with disabilities. There was an increase from 41.9 percent to 67.02 percent, and she noted that this is the first significant statistical increase in the past decade.

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

Jill Burkert **MOVED** to approve the agenda. The motion was **SECONDED** by Margaret Kossler. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

Margaret Kossler **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. The motion was **SECONDED** by Angie Fraize. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**.

**Correspondence**

Christie Reinhardt shared that she has been fielding calls regarding the Inclusive Practice Award that is given out at the ASSEC meeting in February. She will be sending out a notice for the Inclusive Practice Award nominations next week.

Christie Reinhardt reported that the Alaska Dyslexia Association has contacted the Governor's Council asking if a liaison from their association could join the Education Committee as a community member. The committee members were agreeable to that.

## **Reports**

### **Chair's Report**

David Kohler noted that with the ESEA reauthorization, there is a good opportunity to make improvements in services for students with disabilities through high school and beyond. He stated that DVR has responsibilities to youth in transition, and it would be good to spread the word about the different programs and make sure that students with disabilities are being spoken for.

### **SESA**

Patrick Reinhart reported that the SESA meeting was held two weeks ago. He reported that they are a very organized group and are in a good position financially. They currently have two positions they are working on hiring for.

Patrick Reinhart noted that three Council members have joined the SESA board: Maggie Winston, Jill Burkert, and Christine King.

### **EED**

Cassidy Jones reported the activities of the Department as follows:

- Continued trainings and meetings with the various Governor's Council committees.
- Continuing to support the Governor's office regarding deaf education.
- Participated in teleconferences for the State Improvement Grant.
- Participated in the SESA meeting.
- Participated in the SSIP stakeholder's meeting.
- Don Enoch participated in the Small States Consortium meeting.
- Working on the intensive funding claims, letters sent to districts giving them 30 days to submit additional information.
- NTAC meetings are taking place, technical assistance support specific to the SSIP.
- Discretionary grants are being reviewed and approved pending submission announcements for the GAINS Grant.

- Working on findings with respect to the special education federal fiscal programs audit.
- Working with the Governor's Council on training for Principal's Conference.

Cassidy Jones reported the compliance monitoring as follows:

Districts completed:

Chugiak  
 Copper River  
 Cordova  
 Galena  
 Kake  
 Kenai  
 Kodiak  
 Lower Yukon  
 Southwest Region  
 St. Mary's  
 Yakutat  
 Yupik  
 Fairbanks

Districts remaining:

Anchorage  
 Mat-Su  
 Bering Strait

Technical assistance:

Northwest Arctic  
 Yukon/Koyukuk  
 Chatham  
 Iditarod  
 Annette Island

**CASE**

Clayton Holland reported that the next CASE meeting is scheduled during the ASSEC Conference in February. The administrators are currently working on their intensive funding claims responses. Other concerns CASE is focused on are the recruiting and retention of special education staff and training.

**FASD**

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus reported that the FASD Workgroup has been working with the DD Committee on the wording of the work plan objectives with regards to FASD. They have also been working with the Legislative Committee on a white paper related to FASD being a qualifying diagnosis for SDS and covered under a waiver.

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

Christie Reinhardt thanked the committee members for their contributions to the passage of the FASD regulation, and noted that Commissioner Hanley specifically thanked the Governor's Council for their contribution in the way it needed to be done in order to make the regulatory change.

Christie Reinhardt reported that it was interesting to have a group of parents, advocates, and self-advocates at the meeting representing dyslexia. She noted the SBOE was interested in making sure that there was regulatory clarification around dyslexia and was supportive of that addition to specific learning disabilities.

Christie Reinhardt reported that there is talk about cost-saving measures being forwarded regarding a reduction or removal of preschool programs within the state and the removal of schools with under 25 students. Christie noted that it will be something that the committee will need to be aware of in the upcoming session.

## **Telepractice Committee Update**

Christie Reinhardt reported that the Telepractice Committee met and had discussions about broader state issues related to regulatory changes, increasing broadband, the use of school resources for providers, and a discussion about looking at partnering with schools in order to be able to provide other services in the communities. There was a discussion about supporting a way of doing a pilot with speech language pathologists or occupational therapists in the Anchorage school district to gather information on what it would take to implement telepractice.

## **Old Business**

Christie Reinhardt directed the members' attention to the Education Committee's five-year plan contained in the meeting packet, and reviewed the goals and objectives. The following recommendations were made:

### **Goal 1, Objectives:**

Add: A way to reach out to self-advocates, advocates, and parents to hear anecdotally their challenges and stories.

Goal 2: Remove the word “post-secondary” from goal.

Objectives:

Add:

- Explore staff preparation programs, a course in behavior theories and practice to work into a post-secondary transition courses, professional development.
- Partner with Part C to improve Infant Learning Program to preschool transition.
- Improve transition for students with disabilities in the development of peer support rather than community-based resources.

Christie Reinhardt reported that she will refine the document and have it ready to go before the full Council to be voted on at the winter meeting.

### **Upcoming Meetings and Conferences**

**December 17, 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 January 21, 2016 from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

### **Adjournment**

Jill Burkert **MOVED** to adjourn, **SECONDED** by Cassidy Jones. Hearing no objection the meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.