

**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
May 18, 2017
1:30 p.m.**

Attendees:

David Kohler - Chair
Jill Burkert
Cassidy Jones
Clayton Holland
Elizabeth Joseph
Patrick Pillai
Alex Fogarty
Kristi Fuller
Amber Parker
Maria Pepperworth
Adele Daniels
Sam Jordan

Staff:

Anne Applegate

Prepared by: Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting

CALL TO ORDER – 1:30 p.m.
ROLL CALL

WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

David Kohler welcomed committee members to the meeting.

Announcements and Good News

Anne Applegate reported that the Governor's Council meeting was held in early May, and it went well. Anthony Cravalho gave the Education Committee report and fielded a few questions from the Council members.

David Kohler shared that the Education Committee is actively recruiting a potential community member who has community and committee experience, particularly in rural Alaska.

David Kohler announced that the Project SEARCH national director will be coming to Alaska in September for site visits. David shared that the Project SEARCH students in Anchorage had great success in terms of finding employment. Anne Applegate shared that there were six Project SEARCH internships completed in Fairbanks/North Star Borough, five in Mat-Su, five in Anchorage, and five on the Kenai Peninsula.

Conflict of Interest Declarations

No conflicts of interest were declared.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Jill Burkert **MOVED** to approve the agenda, **SECONDED** by Patrick Pillai. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**.

APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Clayton Holland **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the April 20th, 2017 meeting, **SECONDED** by Jill Burkert. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Education Committee received a follow-up letter regarding the outstanding question related to the ACT accommodations focused on where FASD fits into the disability categories that indicated they would treat FASD as a learning disability or developmental medical condition that does not require updated diagnostic information. There was also a question regarding communications with parents, and they indicated they will be reviewing the accommodations documents and making recommendations for improvements to the parental communication piece.

REPORTS

Chair's Report

David Kohler shared that the federal administration has put forth a proposed education budget that appears to be detrimental for students with disabilities. He shared that there are likely state senators and representatives who have the same viewpoint, and he wanted to point out that the committee will have to be aware about those initiatives.

Jill Burkert shared that NPR presented a series on the topic of school vouchers and the negative impact it was having in other states with regards to selection and admission of students with disabilities with a voucher. Anne Applegate agreed that it is a serious issue and recommended that the Education Committee begin gathering background information and legal opinions on the topic for future discussions.

SESA

Patrick Pillai reported the following activities for SESA:

- SESA has experienced some issues with their toll-free lines and the new number is 1-844-404-1300.
- SESA has hired an Autism Resource Center specialist to start in August 2017.
- SESA is currently recruiting for two multiple disabilities specialists.
- The SESA management system is in its final phase of being paperless.

- SESA was randomly selected for a federal deaf/blind program audit. They gave submitted two rounds of information and attended one webinar of the next phase.
- SESA's grant quarterly reports have been prepared and uploaded to the state management database.
- The annual deaf/blind census was completed and submitted to the National Consortium on Deaf Blindness.
- SESA has completed all the required tasks to transition to Northrim Bank's new online system.
- SESA's FY18 budget will be presented to the board June 2nd for approval.
- SESA's e-modules link was sent to school districts and administrators.
- SESA staff worked on individual story board projects using a customized template to plan and present projects to staff. Those story boards are now being converted to e-modules.
- The Autism Resource Center successfully supported a Strategies for Teaching Based on Autism Research (STAR) autism training in Klawok and Prince of Wales Island.
- SESA will be facilitating a two-day STAR training in Bethel on August 31st at ASSEC.

Anne Applegate reminded the committee members that the executive director evaluation's deadline is May 26, 2017.

DEED

Cassidy Jones reported the activities for DEED as follows:

- Continue to attend a variety of Governor's Council meetings.
- FY18 monitoring scheduled has not changed
- FY17 compliance monitoring has been closed out.
- APR and SSIP were submitted and reviewed, changes were made, and they are pending a final review.
- Planning for a stakeholder meeting on disproportionality to determine new ratios.
- Submitted a new state personnel development grant, PINE, for review and expect to hear results in late summer.
- Alternate assessments closed on May 5th.

- With regards to complaints investigations and due process, 15 due processes and 10 complaints. Special Education will be seeking additional hearing officers and complaint investigators for next year.
- Still in process of working on a MOA with DVR.
- Local education agency determination letters were sent to each district.
- Works continues on links on the website related to the special education handbook. There are updates regarding alternate assessments.
- DEED is initiating the process of developing a procedural handbook for special education reporting.
- With regards to the Grants Management System, applications were opened and due on April 28th. There are approximately six outstanding applications.
- A parent handbook with LYNX has been reformatted, content approved, and includes photos that represent Alaska specifically.
- The assurances for districts were due at the end of April and are trickling in.

CASE

Clayton Holland expressed his appreciation to the Governor's Council for supporting Project SEARCH. He shared the success of Kenai Peninsula's Project SEARCH and reported that it is beginning to generate a high level of interest in the community.

Clayton Holland reported that Tracy Colbert with the Galena IDEA is the new president of CASE and will be bringing a different perspective to the group.

Clayton Holland reported that there is concern on the national level regarding Medicaid billing with the new proposed healthcare act and the impact on what schools can do within Medicaid billing.

DLC

A report was not available from Disability Law Center.

Stone Soup Group

Alex Fogarty reported that Stone Soup Group has two youth-focused programs going on this summer; Moving Up, Moving On, which is a teen friendship and dating program; and a nine-week employability program for youth to learn soft job skills. She noted that more information is available on their website.

Alex Fogarty reported that planning for the 2018 Parent Conference has begun, and the focus of the conference is all aspects of transition, including education, both in-school and post-high school, and a portion on healthcare.

Project SEARCH

Anne Applegate reported that Project SEARCH is again looking at expanding into Juneau. Millie Ryan is assisting with looking for a suitable site, and the Juneau School District is looking for funding opportunities for a teacher. Jill Burkert recommended Alaska University in Juneau as a potential site. Anne noted that they have come up against an unintended consequence of the repeal of the HSGQE requirement, that when a student has completed enough units to graduate and a parent doesn't want the district to hold their transcripts, that student would be unable to be funded to participate in Project SEARCH. She recommended that the committee address that barrier.

Anne Applegate reported Project SEARCH is looking at moving the application and deadline periods to earlier in the school year in hopes of encouraging programs to start the process earlier.

Kristi Fuller recommended reaching out with Project SEARCH information to IDEA and other homeschool programs. She stated that she believes they would welcome the opportunity and have students who could benefit from the program.

OLD BUSINESS

Follow-Up on Annual Performance Report (APR)

Cassidy Jones reported on the questions on the APR the committee forwarded at the last meeting as follows:

Q: With regards to Indicator 4A and B, is the expulsion rate a percentage from all school districts, and which districts are they?

A: The indicator is based on a minimum of at least ten children with IEPs enrolled in the district. Due to the small numbers, they do not identify those districts publicly.

Q: With regards to Indicator 5, what kind of data is collected related to least restrictive environment?

A: It is collected on students ages 6 through 21 with an IEP. The environment choices are one of three: inside the regular classroom 80 percent or more of the day, inside the regular classroom less than 40 percent of the day, or in separate school, residential facility, and home-bound placement/hospital placement.

Q: With regards to Indicator 9, disproportionality, which districts are reporting?

A: All 54 districts.

Q: With regards to Indicator 14, what are other employments?

A: Students who are working but not at the level of competitive employment.

Q: With regards to Indicator 8, what is the drop-in parent satisfaction rate attributed to, and what is the return rate for the survey?

A: Parent satisfaction rates vary year to year based on respondent rates. Parents are not required to return the survey. DEED sent out 18,394 surveys and received back 2,047, and the percentage was found to be reasonably representative of the student demographics in the state.

Position Statement on Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS)

David Kohler briefly reported that a letter will be sent to the Legislature stating that the Education Committee of the Council supports a no vote on any change to the APS.

Membership Demographics Survey

Anne Applegate reported that they have received ten responses to the committee membership survey. She will resend the survey and

encouraged members to respond to move the committee along towards satisfying requirements in IDEA.

New Business

ESSA State Plan Application Feedback

Anne Applegate reported that the State Plan application feedback deadline has been extended, and she recommended focusing the June meeting on discussing it in detail. Anne commented that the work that the Department of Education put into the document was impressive.

Senate Bill 103

Anne Applegate reported that the Council will be submitting a letter to the House regarding Senate Bill 103 that reflects the feedback she received from the Education Committee. Senate Bill 103 relates to eliminating lower levels of the Alaska Performance Scholarship. It has passed the Senate and has had its first reading in the House before it was sent to the House Education Committee.

Council Representatives Needed

The Special Education Advisory Committee for the Anchorage School District and the Alaska Advisory Board for the Education of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing both have a seat open for a Council representative. She offered to forward more information to any committee member interested in either of the seats.

SEAP Training

Anne Applegate shared training opportunity information she received from Don Enoch on Part B Special Education Advisory Panel orientation and support. She stated that the committee would benefit from that training once they have the full complement of seats filled on the committee.

SEAP Priority Setting Survey

Anne Applegate informed the group that she would be sending out a SEAP priority setting survey in advance of a planning meeting in order to have a baseline of the committee members' areas of interest.

Upcoming Meetings and Conferences

May 25th, 2017, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Ketchikan, Community Connections

“Now What? An Overview of Supports and Services”; Connecting Newly Diagnosed Children with Educational and Waiver Services, Therapies and Financial Resources.

June 24th, 2017

Northwest Walk/Run for Epilepsy – Anchorage

www.nwrunwalk.org

June 24th, 2017, 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Summer Splash

Challenge Alaska, Palmer Elks Lodge #1842

Adaptive water sports and rides

May 31st - August 5th, 2017

UAA Tapestry Summer Academy

Youth ages 16-21

Marg Halloran (907) 786-0424

www.uaa.alaska.edu/tapestry

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Education Committee is scheduled for June 22nd, 2017.

ADJOURN

Patrick Pillai **MOVED** to adjourn, **SECONDED** by Clayton Holland. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**, and the meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.