

The New Commentary

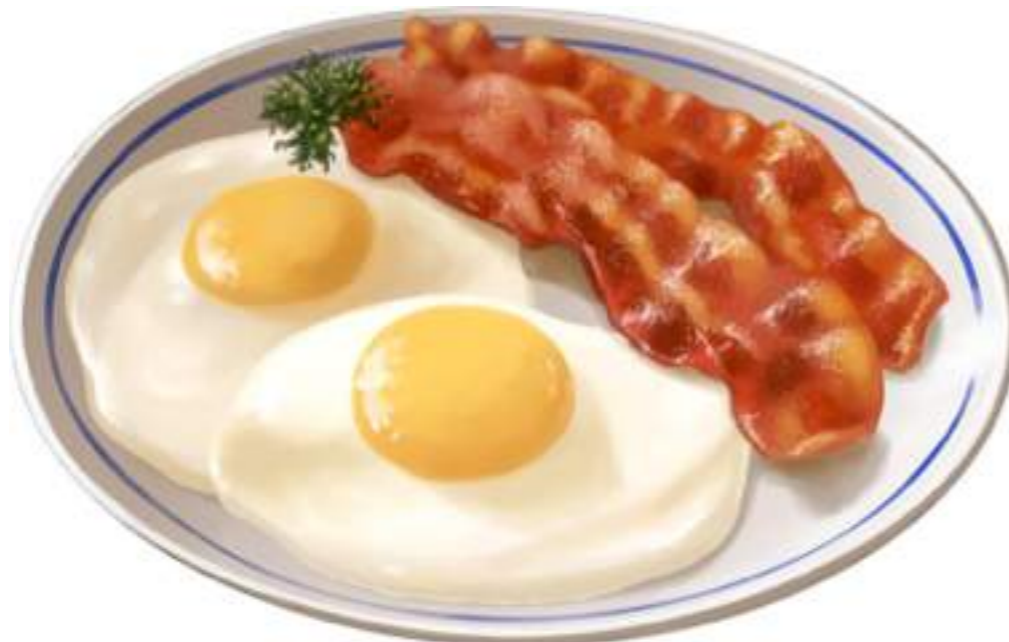
A Connoisseur's Guide

Combinations

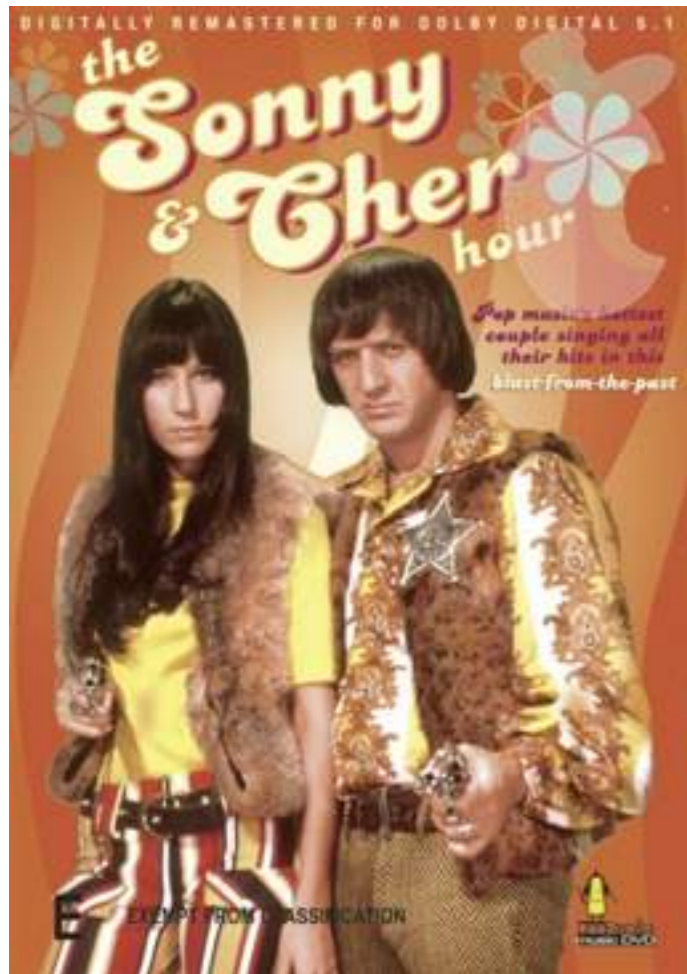
“Combining two things
can result in something
vastly superior to what
those things would be
individually”

- *Mr. Spock*

Combinations



Combinations



A New Look!

- **Commentary and eNews combined** into a single email template
- **Production is done in-house**
No graphic artist or printing costs.
- **Crowdsourced content**
 - ▶ Monthly columns and articles from AASB directors, board & staff
 - ▶ Guest columns
 - ▶ Features
 - ▶ News
- **Distributed monthly by email**

The image shows a preview of the 'Commentary' newsletter, which is the 'eNews' mentioned in the text. The layout is clean and professional, with a dark blue header containing the title 'Commentary' and the subtitle 'Newsletter of the Association of Alaska School Boards'. Below the header, there is a mission statement: 'Our Mission: To advocate for children and youth by assisting school boards in providing quality public education, focused on student achievement, through effective local governments.' The main content is organized into several sections: 'Features' with three columns of articles, 'GUEST COLUMN' with two articles, 'POLICY POINTS', 'Ask AASB', and 'SNAP SHOT POLL'. The 'News' section at the bottom includes articles about broadband speeds and a finalist for National Superintendent of the Year. The footer contains logos for Alaska ICKE, Alaska Public Entity Insurance, boardbook, and nsba.

Commentary
Newsletter of the Association of Alaska School Boards

Our Mission: To advocate for children and youth by assisting school boards in providing quality public education, focused on student achievement, through effective local governments.

Features

Executive Director's Report
The 30th Legislature has convened and looks very different from the 29th Legislature. What is the school board's role? Some advocacy suggestions for board members. [Read More](#)

Pedagogy for Success in Alaska
Addressing the academic success and graduation rates of Alaska Native students who are grounded in their cultural identity with the ability to successfully pursue their goals. [Read More](#)

From the Board President
School board members should be informed about new educational programs and how to bring them into their districts. One positive initiative is the Coaching Boys Into Men training. [Read More](#)

GUEST COLUMN
Meeting Alaska's Education Challenge
The most pressing issue for Alaska's public education system is the lack of a fiscal plan. Our state savings accounts are almost depleted due to the lack of agreement on a sustainable fiscal plan that will address the new economic normal for Alaska. Oil will not provide the income we have enjoyed in the past. We have to make some difficult choices. [Read More](#)

GUEST COLUMN
Lighting a match on social media can burn bridges
It's a powerful feeling. I'm scrolling along my Facebook or Twitter feed and BAM, something offends my sensibilities. Maybe it's an insensitive comment posted by a colleague, the blunder of a local organization, or the inaction of an elected official. I get the sudden urge to weigh in by saying something meaningful, drawing my social media community into a discussion. [Read More](#)

POLICY POINTS
Does my board have to adopt a transgender policy as it comes forth?
The transgender issue has been fluid in the courts, with a Supreme Court case due soon. [Read More](#)

Ask AASB
Got Questions? Ask AASB
We get lots of questions from board members, so we've compiled answers to some of the most commonly asked ones. Go ahead, try to stump us! [Read More](#)

SNAP SHOT POLL
Does your bandwidth support your goals?
Is digital learning crucial to your district's instructional goals? Does your district have adequate bandwidth to pursue those goals? Take our Snapshot Poll. [Take Poll](#)

News

Websites Compare District Broadband Speeds and Rates
Broadband access is a key component of school modernization, yet accurate information on Alaska's statewide broadband speeds and rates has been difficult to find. Here are two websites that can offer a clearer picture. [Read More](#)

McDonald One of Four Finalists for National Superintendent of the Year
Kodiak Island Borough School District Superintendent Stewart McDonald has been selected as a finalist for the 2017 National Superintendent of the Year (NSOY). McDonald was named the Alaska Superintendent of the Year in August which qualified him for the national award. [Read More](#)

Data Viz: Statewide Results of School Climate and Connectedness Survey
AASB's School Climate and Connectedness Survey (SCCS) is a voluntary statewide survey that has been taken by students and staff since 2006. It measures a variety of factors that impact student success. 43,872 students, 8,282 staff and 29 school districts took the SCCS in 2016. [See the results infographic](#)

Alaska ICKE, Alaska Public Entity Insurance, boardbook, nsba

Our Goals

- Quality vs. Quantity
- Monthly vs. Weekly
- Diverse Viewpoints

FYI: During the session AASB will continue to email the weekly Legislative Bulletin

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB) Legislative Bulletin. At the top, the AASB logo and name are displayed. Below this, there are navigation links for 'Quick Links', 'About Us', 'Services', 'Events', and 'Email Us'. A prominent section titled 'Legislative Bulletin' describes it as a 'WEEKLY DIGEST OF ACTIVITY BY THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE AND U.S. CONGRESS FOR ALASKA'S SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS'. A note states that the bulletin is distributed by email only. A call to action for 'AASB Legislative Fly-in Now Open for Registration' is featured, mentioning a 'Legislative Fly-in and Youth Advocacy Institute' on Feb. 11-14 with speaker Michelle Egan. Social media icons for Facebook and Twitter are visible, along with a 'Join Our Mailing List' button. Logos for 'Alaska ICE' and 'Consortium for Digital Learning' are at the bottom.

The screenshot shows the 'Commentary' newsletter from the Association of Alaska School Boards. The header includes the title 'Commentary' and the tagline 'Newsletter of the Association of Alaska School Boards'. A mission statement is provided: 'Our Mission: To advocate for children and youth by assisting school boards in providing quality public education, focused on student achievement, through effective local governments.' The 'Features' section highlights three articles: 'Executive Director's Report' by Norm Walker, 'Pedagogy for Success in Alaska' by Barb (Dana) Arnsak, and 'From the Board President' by Pat Pfeiffer. Below this is a 'GUEST COLUMN' by Dr. Michael Johnson titled 'Meeting Alaska's Education Challenge', and another by Michelle Egan titled 'Lighting a match on social media can burn bridges'. A 'POLICY POINTS' section discusses transgender policy, 'Ask AASB' addresses common questions, and 'SNAP SHOT POLL' asks about digital learning bandwidth. The 'News' section includes 'Websites Compare District Broadband Speeds and Rates', 'McDonald One of Four Finalists for National Superintendent of the Year', and 'Data Viz: Statewide Results of School Climate and Connectedness Survey'. The footer contains logos for Alaska ICE, Alaska Public Entity Insurance, boardbook, and nsba.



Our Mission: To advocate for children and youth by assisting school boards in providing quality public education, focused on student achievement, through effective local governance.

Features



Norm Weston
AASB Executive Director

Executive Director's Report

The 30th Legislature has convened and looks very different from the 29th Legislature. What is the school board's role? Some advocacy suggestions for board members.

[Read More](#)



Joni Goodfriend Amick
AASB Board, Nome Board

Pedagogy for Success in Alaska

Addressing the academic success and graduation rates of Alaska Native students who are grounded in their cultural identity with the ability to successfully pursue their goals.

[Read More](#)



Pete Hoopfer
AASB Board President

From the Board President

School board members should be informed about new educational programs and how to bring them into their districts. One positive initiative is the Coaching Boys Into Men training.

[Read More](#)

GUEST COLUMN

Meeting Alaska's Education Challenge

The most pressing issue for Alaska's public education system is the lack of a fiscal plan. Our state savings accounts are almost depleted due to the lack of agreement on a sustainable fiscal plan that will address the new economic normal for Alaska. Oil will not provide the income we have enjoyed in the past. We have to make some difficult choices. [Read More](#)



Dr. Michael Jensen
ESS Commissioner

GUEST COLUMN

Lighting a match on social media can burn bridges

It's a powerful feeling. I'm scrolling along my Facebook or Twitter feed and BAM, something offends my sensibilities. Maybe it's an insensitive comment posted by a colleague, the blunder of a local organization, or the inaction of an elected official. I get the sudden urge to weigh in by saying something meaningful, drawing my social media community into a discussion. [Read More](#)



Michelle Egan
Alaska Corporate
Communications Director

POLICY POINTS

Does my board have to adopt a transgender policy as it comes forth?

The transgender issue has been fluid in the courts, with a Supreme Court case due soon. [Read More](#)

Ask AASB

Got Questions? Ask AASB

We get lots of questions from board members, so we've compiled answers to some of the most commonly asked ones. Go ahead, try to stump us! [Read More](#)

SNAP SHOT POLL

Does your bandwidth support your goals?

Is digital learning crucial to your district's instructional goals? Does your district have adequate bandwidth to pursue those goals? Take our Snapshot Poll. [Take Poll](#)

News

Websites Compare District Broadband Speeds and Rates

Broadband access is a key component of school modernization, yet accurate information on Alaska's statewide broadband speeds and rates has been difficult to find. Here are two websites that can offer a clearer picture. [Read More](#)



McDonald One of Four Finalists for National Superintendent of the Year

Kodiak Island Borough School District Superintendent Stewart McDonald has been selected as a finalist for the 2017 National Superintendent of the Year (NSOY). McDonald was named the Alaska Superintendent of the Year in August which qualified him for the national award. [Read More](#)



Stewart McDonald
Kodiak Superintendent

Data Viz: Statewide Results of School Climate and Connectedness Survey

AASB's School Climate and Connectedness Survey (SCCS) is a voluntary statewide survey that has been taken by students and staff since 2006. It measures a variety of factors that impact student success. 43,872 students, 8,282 staff and 29 school districts took the SCCS in 2016. [See the results infographic](#)



Sections

Features

Monthly AASB Columns

- Executive Director
- Board President
- Board Members
- Directors & Staff

Guest Columns

- Governor
- Lt. Governor
- DEED Commissioner,
- ACSA, ASA, AASSP,
- AAESP, ALASBO
- Superintendents
- Board Members statewide

Commentary

Newsletter of the Association of Alaska School Boards



Our Mission: To advocate for children and youth by assisting school boards in providing quality public education, focused on student achievement, through effective local governance.

Features



Norm Wooten
AASB Executive Director

Executive Director's Report

The 30th Legislature has convened and looks very different from the 29th Legislature. What is the school board's role? Some advocacy suggestions for board members.

[Read More](#)



Barb (QasuGiana) Amarak
AASB Board, Nome Board

Pedagogy for Success in Alaska

Addressing the academic success and graduation rates of Alaska Native students who are grounded in their cultural identity with the ability to successfully pursue their goals.

[Read More](#)



Pete Hoepfner
AASB Board President

From the Board President

School board members should be informed about new educational programs and how to bring them into their districts. One positive initiative is the Coaching Boys Into Men training.

[Read More](#)

GUEST COLUMN

Meeting Alaska's Education Challenge

The most pressing issue for Alaska's public education system is the lack of a fiscal plan. Our state savings accounts are almost depleted due to the lack of agreement on a sustainable fiscal plan that will address the new economic normal for Alaska. Oil will not provide the income we have enjoyed in the past. We have to make some difficult choices. [Read More](#)



Dr. Michael Johnson
EED Commissioner

GUEST COLUMN

Lighting a match on social media can burn bridges

It's a powerful feeling. I'm scrolling along my Facebook or Twitter feed and BAM, something offends my sensibilities. Maybe it's an insensitive comment posted by a colleague, the blunder of a local organization, or the inaction of an elected official. I get the sudden urge to weigh in by saying something meaningful, drawing my social media community into a discussion. [Read More](#)



Michelle Egan
Alyeska Corporate
Communications Director



Sections

Features

Commentary

Newsletter of the Association of Alaska School Boards



Our Mission: To advocate for children and youth by assisting school boards in providing quality public education, focused on student achievement, through effective local governance.

Features



Norm Wooten
AASB Executive Director

Executive Director's Report

The 30th Legislature has convened and looks very different from the 29th Legislature. What is the school board's role? Some advocacy suggestions for board members.

[Read More](#)



Barb (Qasugiana) Amarok
AASB Board, Nome Board

Pedagogy for Success in Alaska

Addressing the academic success and graduation rates of Alaska Native students who are grounded in their cultural identity with the ability to successfully pursue their goals.

[Read More](#)



Pete Hoepfner
AASB Board President

From the Board President

School board members should be informed about new educational programs and how to bring them into their districts. One positive initiative is the Coaching Boys Into Men training.

[Read More](#)

GUEST COLUMN

Meeting Alaska's Education Challenge

The most pressing issue for Alaska's public education system is the lack of a fiscal plan. Our state savings accounts are almost depleted due to the lack of agreement on a sustainable fiscal plan that will address the new economic normal for Alaska. Oil will not provide the income we have enjoyed in the past. We have to make some difficult choices. [Read More](#)



Dr. Michael Johnson
EED Commissioner

GUEST COLUMN

Lighting a match on social media can burn bridges

It's a powerful feeling. I'm scrolling along my Facebook or Twitter feed and BAM, something offends my sensibilities. Maybe it's an insensitive comment posted by a colleague, the blunder of a local organization, or the inaction of an elected official. I get the sudden urge to weigh in by saying something meaningful, drawing my social media community into a discussion. [Read More](#)



Michelle Egan
Alyeska Corporate
Communications Director

POLICY POINTS

Does my board have to adopt a transgender policy as it comes forth?

The transgender issue has been fluid in the courts, with a Supreme Court case due soon.

[Read More](#)

Ask AASB

Got Questions? Ask AASB

We get lots of questions from board members, so we've compiled answers to some of the most commonly asked ones. Go ahead, try to stump us!

[Read More](#)

SNAP SHOT POLL

Does your bandwidth support your goals?

Is digital learning crucial to your district's instructional goals? Does your district have adequate bandwidth to pursue those goals? Take our Snapshot Poll.

[Take Poll](#)

News

Websites Compare District Broadband Speeds and Rates

Broadband access is a key component of school modernization, yet accurate information on Alaska's statewide broadband speeds and rates has been difficult to find. Here are two websites that can offer a clearer picture. [Read More](#)



McDonald One of Four Finalists for National Superintendent of the Year

Kodiak Island Borough School District Superintendent Stewart McDonald has been selected as a finalist for the 2017 National Superintendent of the Year (NSCY). McDonald was named the Alaska Superintendent of the Year in August which qualified him for the national award.

[Read More](#)



Stewart McDonald
Kodiak Superintendent

Data Viz: Statewide Results of School Climate and Connectedness Survey

AASB's School Climate and Connectedness Survey (SCCS) is a voluntary statewide survey that has been taken by students and staff since 2006. It measures a variety of factors that impact student success. 43,872 students, 8,282 staff and 29 school districts took the SCCS in 2016.

[See the results infographic](#)



Sections

Features

Policy Points

- Policies explained

Ask AASB

- Answers to questions we receive

Snap Shot Poll

- Short polls on topical education issues

Commentary
Newsletter of the Association of Alaska School Boards

Our Mission: To advocate for children and youth by assisting school boards in providing quality public education, focused on student achievement, through effective local governance.

Features

Norm Wooten
AASB Executive Director

Barb (Qasuglana) Amarok
AASB Board, Nome Board

Pete Hoepfner
AASB Board President

Executive Director's Report
The 30th Legislature has convened and looks very different from the 29th Legislature. What is the school board's role? Some advocacy suggestions for board members.

Pedagogy for Success in Alaska
Addressing the academic success and graduation rates of Alaska Native students who are grounded in their cultural identity with the ability to successfully pursue their goals.

From the Board President
School board members should be informed about new educational programs and how to bring them into their districts. One positive initiative is the Coaching Boys Into Men training.



Does my board have to adopt a transgender policy as it comes forth?
The transgender issue has been fluid in the courts, with a Supreme Court case due soon.
[Read More](#)



Got Questions? Ask AASB
We get lots of questions from board members, so we've compiled answers to some of the most commonly asked ones. Go ahead, try to stump us!
[Read More](#)



Does your bandwidth support your goals?
Is digital learning crucial to your district's instructional goals? Does your district have adequate bandwidth to pursue those goals? Take our Snapshot Poll.
[Take Poll](#)

News

Websites Compare District Broadband Speeds and Rates
Broadband access is a key component of school modernization, yet accurate information on Alaska's statewide broadband speeds and rates has been difficult to find. Here are two websites that can offer a clearer picture. [Read More](#)

McDonald One of Four Finalists for National Superintendent of the Year
Kodiak Island Borough School District Superintendent Stewart McDonald has been selected as a finalist for the 2017 National Superintendent of the Year (NSOY). McDonald was named the Alaska Superintendent of the Year in August which qualified him for the national award.
[Read More](#)

Data Viz: Statewide Results of School Climate and Connectedness Survey
AASB's School Climate and Connectedness Survey (SCCS) is a voluntary statewide survey that has been taken by students and staff since 2006. It measures a variety of factors that impact student success. 43,872 students, 8,282 staff and 29 school districts took the SCCS in 2016.
[See the results infographic](#)

Logos at the bottom: Alaska ICKE, Alaska Public Entity Insurance, boardbook, nsba

Sections

News

Commentary

Newsletter of the Association of Alaska School Boards



Our Mission: To advocate for children and youth by assisting school boards in providing quality public education, focused on student achievement, through effective local governance.

Features



Norm Wooten
AASB Executive Director

Executive Director's Report

The 30th Legislature has convened and looks very different from the 29th Legislature. What is the school board's role? Some advocacy suggestions for board members.

[Read More](#)



Barb (Qasuglana) Amarok
AASB Board, Nome Board

Pedagogy for Success in Alaska

Addressing the academic success and graduation rates of Alaska Native students who are grounded in their cultural identity with the ability to successfully pursue their goals.

[Read More](#)



Pete Hoepfner
AASB Board President

From the Board President

School board members should be informed about new educational programs and how to bring them into their districts. One positive initiative is the Coaching Boys Into Men training.

[Read More](#)

GUEST COLUMN

Meeting Alaska's Education Challenge

The most pressing issue for Alaska's public education system is the lack of a fiscal plan. Our state savings accounts are almost depleted due to the lack of agreement on a sustainable fiscal plan that will address the new economic normal for Alaska. Oil will not provide the income we have enjoyed in the past. We have to make some difficult choices. [Read More](#)



Dr. Michael Johnson
EED Commissioner

GUEST COLUMN

Lighting a match on social media can burn bridges

It's a powerful feeling. I'm scrolling along my Facebook or Twitter feed and BAM, something offends my sensibilities. Maybe it's an insensitive comment posted by a colleague, the blunder of a local organization, or the inaction of an elected official. I get the sudden urge to weigh in by saying something meaningful, drawing my social media community into a discussion. [Read More](#)



Michelle Egan
Alyeska Corporate
Communications Director

POLICY POINTS

Does my board have to adopt a transgender policy as it comes forth?

The transgender issue has been fluid in the courts, with a Supreme Court case due soon.

[Read More](#)

Ask AASB

Got Questions? Ask AASB

We get lots of questions from board members, so we've compiled answers to some of the most commonly asked ones. Go ahead, try to stump us!

[Read More](#)

SNAP SHOT POLL

Does your bandwidth support your goals?

Is digital learning crucial to your district's instructional goals? Does your district have adequate bandwidth to pursue those goals? Take our Snapshot Poll.

[Take Poll](#)

News

Websites Compare District Broadband Speeds and Rates

Broadband access is a key component of school modernization, yet accurate information on Alaska's statewide broadband speeds and rates has been difficult to find. Here are two websites that can offer a clearer picture. [Read More](#)



McDonald One of Four Finalists for National Superintendent of the Year

Kodiak Island Borough School District Superintendent Stewart McDonald has been selected as a finalist for the 2017 National Superintendent of the Year (NSOY). McDonald was named the Alaska Superintendent of the Year in August which qualified him for the national award.

[Read More](#)



Stewart McDonald
Kodiak Superintendent

Data Viz: Statewide Results of School Climate and Connectedness Survey

AASB's School Climate and Connectedness Survey (SCCS) is a voluntary statewide survey that has been taken by students and staff since 2006. It measures a variety of factors that impact student success. 43,872 students, 8,282 staff and 29 school districts took the SCCS in 2016.

[See the results infographic](#)



Sections

News


- AASB News, Info, Upcoming Events
- State & National Education News
- Alaska District News and Project Profiles

Commentary

Newsletter of the Association of Alaska School Boards


Our Mission: To advocate for children and youth by assisting school boards in providing quality public education, focused on student achievement, through effective local governance.

Features




Norm Wooten
AASB Executive Director

Executive Director's Report
The 30th Legislature has convened and looks very different from the 29th Legislature. What is the school board's role? Some advocacy suggestions for board members. [Read More](#)



Barb (Qasuglana) Amarok
AASB Board, Nome Board

Pedagogy for Success in Alaska
Addressing the academic success and graduation rates of Alaska Native students who are grounded in their cultural identity with the ability to successfully pursue their goals. [Read More](#)



Pete Hoepfner
AASB Board President

From the Board President
School board members should be informed about new educational programs and how to bring them into their districts. One positive initiative is the Coaching Boys Into Men training. [Read More](#)

News

Websites Compare District Broadband Speeds and Rates

Broadband access is a key component of school modernization, yet accurate information on Alaska's statewide broadband speeds and rates has been difficult to find. Here are two websites that can offer a clearer picture. [Read More](#)



McDonald One of Four Finalists for National Superintendent of the Year

Kodiak Island Borough School District Superintendent Stewart McDonald has been selected as a finalist for the 2017 National Superintendent of the Year (NSOY). McDonald was named the Alaska Superintendent of the Year in August which qualified him for the national award.

[Read More](#)



*Stewart McDonald
Kodiak Superintendent*

Data Viz: Statewide Results of School Climate and Connectedness Survey

AASB's School Climate and Connectedness Survey (SCCS) is a voluntary statewide survey that has been taken by students and staff since 2006. It measures a variety of factors that impact student success. 43,872 students, 8,282 staff and 29 school districts took the SCCS in 2016.

[See the results infographic](#)



We want to share your accomplishments in Commentary

Communicate your district's


- Innovations
- Efficiencies
- New ways of delivering instruction

Tell your story!

Commentary
Newsletter of the Association of Alaska School Boards


Our Mission: To advocate for children and youth by assisting school boards in providing quality public education, focused on student achievement, through effective local governance.

Features




Norm Wooten
AASB Executive Director

Executive Director's Report
The 30th Legislature has convened and looks very different from the 29th Legislature. What is the school board's role? Some advocacy suggestions for board members.
[Read More](#)



Barb (Qasuglana) Amarok
AASB Board, Nome Board

Pedagogy for Success in Alaska
Addressing the academic success and graduation rates of Alaska Native students who are grounded in their cultural identity with the ability to successfully pursue their goals.
[Read More](#)




Pete Hoepfner
AASB Board President

From the Board President
School board members should be informed about new educational programs and how to bring them into their districts. One positive initiative is the Coaching Boys Into Men training.
[Read More](#)


GUEST COLUMN

Meeting Alaska's Education Challenge
The most pressing issue for Alaska's public education system is the lack of a fiscal plan. Our state savings accounts are almost depleted due to the lack of agreement on a sustainable fiscal plan that will address the new economic normal for Alaska. Oil will not provide the income we have enjoyed in the past. We have to make some difficult choices.
[Read More](#)

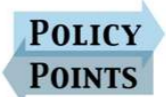


Dr. Michael Johnson
EED Commissioner


Lighting a match on social media can burn bridges
It's a powerful feeling. I'm scrolling along my Facebook or Twitter feed and BAM, something offends my sensibilities. Maybe it's an insensitive comment posted by a colleague, the blunder of a local organization, or the inaction of an elected official. I get the sudden urge to weigh in by saying something meaningful, drawing my social media community into a discussion.
[Read More](#)




Michelle Egan
Alyeska Corporate Communications Director



Does my board have to adopt a transgender policy as it comes forth?
The transgender issue has been fluid in the courts, with a Supreme Court case due soon.
[Read More](#)




Got Questions? Ask AASB
We get lots of questions from board members, so we've compiled answers to some of the most commonly asked ones. Go ahead, try to stump us!
[Read More](#)




Does your bandwidth support your goals?
Is digital learning crucial to your district's instructional goals? Does your district have adequate bandwidth to pursue those goals? Take our Snapshot Poll.
[Take Poll](#)

News

Websites Compare District Broadband Speeds and Rates
Broadband access is a key component of school modernization, yet accurate information on Alaska's statewide broadband speeds and rates has been difficult to find. Here are two websites that can offer a clearer picture.
[Read More](#)




McDonald One of Four Finalists for National Superintendent of the Year
Kodiak Island Borough School District Superintendent Stewart McDonald has been selected as a finalist for the 2017 National Superintendent of the Year (NSOY). McDonald was named the Alaska Superintendent of the Year in August which qualified him for the national award.
[Read More](#)



Stewart McDonald
Kodiak Superintendent

Data Viz: Statewide Results of School Climate and Connectedness Survey
AASB's School Climate and Connectedness Survey (SCCS) is a voluntary statewide survey that has been taken by students and staff since 2006. It measures a variety of factors that impact student success. 43,872 students, 8,282 staff and 29 school districts took the SCCS in 2016.
[See the results infographic](#)



ALASKA I K E Alaska Public Entity Insurance boardbook nsba

We want to share your accomplishments in Commentary

Submission Guidelines:


- 400-1000 words
- Photos that illustrate project
- Deadline: 25th of each month
- Email to snelson@aasb.org

Tell your story!

Commentary
Newsletter of the Association of Alaska School Boards


Our Mission: To advocate for children and youth by assisting school boards in providing quality public education, focused on student achievement, through effective local governance.

Features




Norm Wooten
AASB Executive Director

Executive Director's Report
The 30th Legislature has convened and looks very different from the 29th Legislature. What is the school board's role? Some advocacy suggestions for board members. [Read More](#)



Barb (Qasuglana) Amarok
AASB Board, Nome Board

Pedagogy for Success in Alaska
Addressing the academic success and graduation rates of Alaska Native students who are grounded in their cultural identity with the ability to successfully pursue their goals. [Read More](#)




Pete Hoepfner
AASB Board President

From the Board President
School board members should be informed about new educational programs and how to bring them into their districts. One positive initiative is the Coaching Boys Into Men training. [Read More](#)


GUEST COLUMN

Meeting Alaska's Education Challenge
The most pressing issue for Alaska's public education system is the lack of a fiscal plan. Our state savings accounts are almost depleted due to the lack of agreement on a sustainable fiscal plan that will address the new economic normal for Alaska. Oil will not provide the income we have enjoyed in the past. We have to make some difficult choices. [Read More](#)

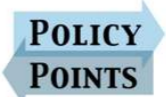


Dr. Michael Johnson
EED Commissioner

Lighting a match on social media can burn bridges
It's a powerful feeling. I'm scrolling along my Facebook or Twitter feed and BAM, something offends my sensibilities. Maybe it's an insensitive comment posted by a colleague, the blunder of a local organization, or the inaction of an elected official. I get the sudden urge to weigh in by saying something meaningful, drawing my social media community into a discussion. [Read More](#)




Michelle Egan
Alyeska Corporate Communications Director




POLICY POINTS

Does my board have to adopt a transgender policy as it comes forth?
The transgender issue has been fluid in the courts, with a Supreme Court case due soon. [Read More](#)



Ask AASB

Got Questions? Ask AASB
We get lots of questions from board members, so we've compiled answers to some of the most commonly asked ones. Go ahead, try to stump us! [Read More](#)




SNAP SHOT POLL


Does your bandwidth support your goals?
Is digital learning crucial to your district's instructional goals? Does your district have adequate bandwidth to pursue those goals? [Take our Snapshot Poll.](#)

News

Websites Compare District Broadband Speeds and Rates
Broadband access is a key component of school modernization, yet accurate information on Alaska's statewide broadband speeds and rates has been difficult to find. Here are two websites that can offer a clearer picture. [Read More](#)




McDonald One of Four Finalists for National Superintendent of the Year
Kodiak Island Borough School District Superintendent Stewart McDonald has been selected as a finalist for the 2017 National Superintendent of the Year (NSOY). McDonald was named the Alaska Superintendent of the Year in August which qualified him for the national award. [Read More](#)



Stewart McDonald
Kodiak Superintendent

Data Viz: Statewide Results of School Climate and Connectedness Survey
AASB's School Climate and Connectedness Survey (SCCS) is a voluntary statewide survey that has been taken by students and staff since 2006. It measures a variety of factors that impact student success. 43,872 students, 8,282 staff and 29 school districts took the SCCS in 2016. [See the results infographic](#)



ALASKA I K E Alaska Public Entity Insurance boardbook nsba

Not Receiving Commentary?

Send your current email address to:

aasb@aasb.org

We'll add you to the mailing list

