



AASB Board of Directors Regular Meeting Approved Minutes

Thursday, July 18, 2024, 7:00 pm
Northwest Arctic Borough School District
776 Third Street, Kotzebue, AK 99752

1. Call to Order

Called to order at 7:00 pm

2. Roll Call

Julia Phelan	Present
Darlene Trigg	Present
Wasillie Gust	Present
Annie Weyiouanna	Absent
Tim Doran	Present
Andy Holleman	Present
Chrya Sanderson	Absent
Penny Vadla	Present
Michael Swain	Present
Clarence Daniel	Absent
Pete Hoepfner	Present
Marie Greene	Present
Robyn Burke	Present
Dana Mock	Present
Margo Bellamy	Present

3. Establish Quorum

A quorum was established.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

President Bellamy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was observed.



6. Land Acknowledgment

Board member Michael Swain read the Land Acknowledgement.

7. Recognition of Visitors

8. Approval of Agenda

Action(s): Move to approve the July 18, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting Agenda. This motion made by Pete Hoephfner and seconded by Andy Holleman passed with no opposition.

9. Approval of Minutes

Action(s): Move to approve minutes from the April 19, 2024, Spring Board of Directors meeting and May 16, 2024, Executive Committee Meeting. The motion made by Dana Mock and seconded by Andy Holleman to approve the minutes as corrected passed with no opposition.

10. Board Self Evaluation - Executive Session Speaker(s): Marie Greene

Action(s): Move that the board go into executive session to do the board self-assessment. The motion made by Dana Mock and seconded by Andy Holleman passed with no opposition.

Executive session: 7:08 pm - 8:13 pm

Resumed reglar session: 8:13 pm

11. Correspondence:

President Bellamy shared correspondence.

Recess: 8:23 pm

Reconvene: 8:00 am on July 19, 2024

12. Audit, Investment, and Finance Reports

12.A. 2023 AASB Audit Report

Speaker(s): Max Mertz



The 2023 Audit was conducted in late May 2024 by Max Mertz, CPA. Mertz presented the 2023 audit to the Board via Zoom. Board discussion followed.

12.B. Cash Asset Report - Raffa Investment Advisors **Speaker(s):** Matt O'Lone, Joe Guest, Mark Murphy

Matt O'Lone, Joe Guest, and Mark Murphy of Raffa Investment Advisors presented a report on the status and earnings of AASB's cash assets via Zoom. Mat O' Lone went over Raffa's Strategic Reserve recommendations.

12.C. Finance Directors Report **Speaker(s):** Jenny Mathis

Finance Director Mathis reviewed highlights from the Monthly Financial Dashboard. Board discussion followed.

Recess: 10:05 am
Reconvene: 10:15 am

12.D. Executive Session - AASB Finances Lon Garrison & BOD

Action(s): Move to go into Executive Session to discuss the status of AASB finances, Plans for analysis, and potential management actions. The motion made by Dana Mock and seconded by Robyn Burke passed with no opposition.

Executive Session: 10:15 am
Resumed reglar session: 10:40 am

13. Long Range Plan Review and Update **Speaker(s):** Lon Garrison, Timi Tullis, Lori Grassgreen

Every three years, the AASB BOD reviews and revises the Long-Range Plan for the association. Associate Executive Director Timi Tullis facilitated the AASB board in reviewing the progress on the goals of the current plan and in the development of new goals for the 2024 - 2027 Long Range Plan.

14. Executive Director Evaluation - Executive Session **Speaker(s):** Dana Mock

Action(s): Move to go into Executive Session for the Executive Director Evaluation. This motion Made by Andy Holleman and seconded by Dana Mock passed with no opposition.



Executive Session:

Recess:

Resumed Regular Session: 8:00 am on Saturday July 20, 2024

15. Committee Reports

15.A. Constitution and Bylaws Committee Report

Speaker(s): Robyn Burke

Robyn Burke provided a summary of the report provided by the Constitution and Bylaws Committee. The board reviewed the proposed changes that the Delegate Assembly will vote on at the November 2024 Annual Conference.

15.B. Membership Committee Report

Speaker(s): Robyn Burke

Board member Robyn Burke gave a brief summary of the membership committee's written report, and walked the board through the membership survey presentation provided to the board.

Board discussion followed.

15.C. Policy Committee Report & Policy Adoption

Speaker(s): Marie Greene

Board discussion and amendments, the following actions were taken:

Action(s): Move to adopt the policy changes as presented. The motion made by Marie Greene Unseconded, passed with no opposition.

I move to amend 323 to reinstate #5. This motion made by Tim Doran and seconded by Julia Phelan Passed.

Voting Summary: Yea: 8, Nay: 4, Absent: 3

I move to amend 323 to add clarifying language to items 2 and 3. To change the word and to and/or in front of Secretary/Treasurer. This motion made by Tim Doran and seconded by Marie Greene passed with no opposition.

15.D. Scholarship Committee Report & Winner Ratification **Speaker(s):** Pete Hoepfner

Pete Hoepfner provided a brief summary to the written report provided in the board packet.



15.E. Sustainability Committee Report

Speaker(s): Tim Doran

Tim Doran gave a detailed overview of the progress of the Sustainability Committee. Board discussion followed.

16. Resolutions - Revisions and Adopted Recommendations

Speaker(s): Lon Garrison
Tiffany Jackson

Action(s): Following board discussion, the following actions were taken:

A motion to approve the staff recommendations, as amended, to the board of directors was made By Pete Hoepfner and seconded by Penny Vadla. Motion passed with no opposition.

A motion to revise 5.40 to include Tribally Compacted Schools to the second sentence in the third paragraph was made by Darlene Trigg and seconded by Marie Greene. The motion passed with no Opposition.

A motion to amend 1.18 by striking the last bullet was made by Tim Doran, there was not a second, Motion failed.

17. Action Items:

17.A. Adoption of Long Range Plan

A motion to approve the adoption of the Long Range Plan was made by Dana Mock and seconded by Penny Vadla passed with no opposition.

17.B. Approval of Executive Directors Contract

A motion to approve the Executive Directors Contract as presented was made by Dana Mock and seconded by Robyn Burke. The motion passed with no opposition.

17.C. 2025 AASB Meeting Schedule and Locations

2025 Spring Board of Directors Meeting. It was proposed that the Spring meeting be held Virtually. This meeting will be held March 28 & 29, 2025.

2025 Summer Board of Directors Meeting. It was proposed by the Executive Director that the meeting be held in Anchorage for the next two years. This meeting would be held July 18 - 20, 2025.

18. Reports

18.A. Executive Directors Report

Executive Director Lon Garrison provided an oral report; a written report was provided in the board packet. He touched on staffing, employee expense reconciliation tools & NSBA.



18.B. Associate Executive Director's Report

Timi Tullis provided a brief summary of her written report that was provided in the board packet. She included "Timi's to-do list" for her retirement transition. Katie Oliver will step into her roll as Associate Executive Director. She highlighted the National Trainers Conference and NSBA's Pacific Region position she will fill part time after her retirement.

18.C. Director of Membership Services Report

Tiffany Jackson highlighted a few things from her report that was included in the board packet: the near double increase of incoming calls to AASB, Charter schools, and Participation report.

18.D. Director of Conditions for Learning Report

Lori Grassgreene provided a brief summary of her report that was included in the board packet. She gave an update on current grants, Highlighted the Family Engagement Grant's positive impact on school districts.

18.E. Advocacy Report

Lon Garrison and Norm Wooten gave a report on the last Alaska Legislative session. This Was Norm's 33 year working with the legislature. The report that was included in the board packet. Lon encouraged board members to take a look at each committee members contribution to the report.

18.F. Annual Conference Review

Timi Tullis provided details about the 2024 Annual Conference. The theme of the conference is *Investing in Students*. Jenni Lefing provided a written report that was included in the board packet.

18.G. President's Report

Margo Bellamy shared some highlights from her written report that was provided in the board packet.

18.H. President Elect Report

President Elect Dana Mock gave a brief verbal report.

18.I. Secretary - Treasurer Report

Secretary Treasurer Robyn Burke gave a brief verbal report.

18.J. Past President's Report

Past President Marie Greene gave a brief verbal report.



18.K. ASAA Report

Dana Mock gave a brief verbal report. ASAA had not had a meeting since the last time the board met.

18.K.1. ASAA Gold Lifetime Pass

ASSA is closing nominations for the Gold Lifetime Pass. Was suggested that Timi Tullis be nominated by the AASB board.

Action(s): Move to nominate Timi Tullis for the ASAA Gold Lifetime Pass. The motion Made by Tim Doran and seconded by Penny Vadla passed with no opposition.

18.L. NSBA Directors Report

Pete Hoepfner gave a brief verbal report/update. NSBA is down to 25 staff members, Summer Leadership Series is switched to the Summer CUBE Meeting,

18.M. NSBA Pacific Region Report

Dana Mock gave a brief update on the NSBA Pacific Region. I included upcoming date for the next meeting.

18.N. AIAN Report

Dana Mock gave a brief update on upcoming meetings and encouraging districts to become members if they are not already.

18.O. BLN Reports

President Margo Bellamy gave the opportunity for board members to share new BLN Reports. There were no new reports. Discussion was had on the lack of participation and ways to make the process better.

19. Board Comments

Robyn - Grateful to be here. Thank you Marie for hosting and a wonderful dinner. Gave a brief update On her district and shared their efforts to keep the Inupiat culture in the schools for times to come. So when board members change the work can continue.

Mike - Thank you Marie and the NABSD, thanks staff, Mindy especially. Mindy knows to text me if she wants a response. Thank you to everyone.

Julia - It's a pleasure to be here. I am learning a lot, I feel like there is a steep learning curve joining this board. Special thanks to Timi for all of her years of service and thanks to the AASB staff. Brief district update on their CTE program, The Three E's - Employed, Enrolled or Enlist.

Pete - I appreciate everyone being here at the meeting. I appreciate Marie for hosting us here. I love seeing different parts of Alaska.



Penny - Thank you to Marie and group for hosting us. I enjoyed meeting everyone at the dinner. Margo thank you for everything and all the work you put in. Thank you Lon and team, I don't know how yo do it. To the presenters, reports, audits and all people on line thank you. Mindy, I love you, I am impressed with your ability to get it done. District update - Our CTE is amazing. We have a committee for small school Engagement that is making a big difference in including everyone. Happy to be here, happy to see Wally my partner in crime. Lori, thank yo to the CFL team. I appreciate the knowledge i get from you.

Wally - District is filling in positions by reaching out to bring in teachers from over seas. Also brought back some old timer teachers. Some upgrades are being done to some facilities but much more is needed.

Tim - Ditto on appreciation of staff. Noted all staff mentions how they are learning, we need to model that as a board. I was struck this spring at the Tanana Cheifs Conference of the commonality with the rural districts on closing schools. Interior district are also concerned about closing schools. As a distric we are going through our next Strategic Planning process for the next 5 to 10 years. Facilities is a major player in that, demographics are down all across the state. District is focusing on literacy not just for K3 but for K12 specifically. Fairbanks is partnering with UAS to inspire a principles cohort. Fairbanks did budget forums that got a lot of participation and advocacy. Lawsuit on homeschool funds have been a big impact. Mentioned Chrya and her wonderful service and impact and her commitment to AASB.

Marie - Highlights from our district - It was great to have Katie Oliver out, great to see her in action and I know she is a major plus to our AASB team. We have challenges with evaluations but have made improvements. June policy committee meetings to set priorities for the next legislative session. Our board policy committee is very busy. We have virtual meetings to keep costs down. One of the directors has signed to work with the committee. Advocacy committee is getting ready to set priorities for next session. Another thing, after one of our evaluations three years ago we spent a lot of time on our board approving things, administrative things. A lot of that is very important, but one of the things we want to start doing is spending more time on the success of our students. So thats what we have started doing. We try to do something at every board meeting. Another thing I wanted to mention was during one of our work sessions because we have issues with our food program, we wanted to know what truly are the guidelines. How can we convey to the Alaska Deligation how they can help us. What can we do to be advocating for that. The assembly and Nana will be making donations. We are having challenges keeping a reserve fund. Association regional boards will come together to discuss priorities during a quad meeting. It's been exciting to see these things develop. Thank you for letting us share these things.

Andy - The school district is continued on a long positive process. Have had to pick areas to shave. Given the circumstances things have gone fairly well. Repurposing buildings and shifting kids around really grabbed attention. We had a mayor for three years that really attacked the Assembly, didn't attack the school distrct too much but also wasn't very straight forward. We had to shut schools for three days because the streets didn't get plowed. The Mayor blasted the district for closing schools. We have had a turn over with the Mayor a few months ago. Hope it will turn some of the legislature over. What's the right way to run a district?? All the nuts and bolts of a big organization. You see whats happened and you see the effects, it's an interesting perspective. I see what this organization (AASB) is an extension of that. Alot of it is just about being a good school board. If you do a good job people will like you and support that. My experience is a little different. The people that want to do other things with the



money will not let up. They're just going to try and get some traction. But I think we can get through it. I appreciate the work that everyone does to make it happen.

Darlene - Thank you everyone for baring with me and letting me join in this way. I know this is unusual and my circumstances were unusual. Thank you for allowing me to participate. I found that this meeting we did a lot of work, quickly. I am impressed the way this group works together and the way leadership helps us through the processes and keeps us on task and makes sure we all have a voice. I'll keep it short in my comments about our community. I am very grateful that our tribes have found their voice. I think it was ignited by the tribe that received the tribal compacting grant and how the districts have learned how to work with the tribes. We have had to hire international teachers and the learning curve for us has been extremely high. I am really happy to say that our local Nome Beltz High School graduate has promoted from our principle of the elementary school to the assistant superintendent and we're really excited about the prospect of succession planning in that way and that's really great for our district. Thank you to everyone for letting me participate in this way and to the staff for putting together such amazing content and to Margo for keeping us on track.

Dana - Julia touched on some of the accomplishments in our district. I have been playin g tour guide a little bit. Due to our proximity to Fort Greeley we hosted General Beany, they came out and looked at our progress building an dtook a look at our boat. The students built a boat last year made out of aluminum. They raffled it off took the money and built another. We also, through some connections we had Representative Peltola come through the school and see what we have going on. We have an in at that office in case you did not know Julia's niece works there. The middle school building that was donated to us needs to be torn down due to asbestose. Senator Murkowski has put this on her radar. We have a new superintendent. He was promoted internally. He knows exactly what we are wantin gand what we need. We recently had a heavy equipment operator course. The culinary students provided the meals for that. Good fundraising opportunity. Our students have had some of the highest test scores in the state. If students could be adequate funded imagine the great things they could do. I appreciate the staff and everything you have to do to make this happen. Thank you all for making and taking the time to be here.

Margo - Andy covered pretty much the temperature of what is happening in our community. On our website you will see a button called Hot Topics. They may not be as hot as they used to be but they are still hot. Those topics identify how we are spending our time and our resourses. We have revised our goals to make sure the board stays laser focused on how we are going to improve outcome for our students. We still have lots of work to do. We are already planning next years budget, those conversations are crucial. We know they are facing another deficit. We know we are going to be back in Juneau meeting with our legislators. The items I want to share, one is the Right Sizing, includes either closing schools, consolidating schools or repurposing schools. We have had this conversation and we are going to have it again. I'm not looking forward to it but we should have started dealing with it a long time ago. Our start times are changing to align more with the science of sleep. We gave our whole community a year to prepare. We are moving all of our sixth graders to middle school. We just recently approved the portrait of a graduate. That was connected to our work with the Academy of Anchorage. We got grants from Department of Education and partnered with Ford. Every ninth grade student will be able to start focusing on careers. People want change and improvement in student outcome. So we can be innovative and creative. I do want to thank Katie who dod an open meetings act training. It's good tobe on the same



page. My last highlight is our Professional Learning Communities, all schools will have a one hour late start on Monday's, this is to make sure that our staff have adequate time to do what we want them to do, plan appropriately, think about what is best for our kids. We will be looking at that data. Thank you guys for humoring me.

Lon - Great meeting! I am amazed we got through it. Thank you for your support and faith in me. Thank you for your faith and support in the AASB Staff, we have the best staff. And thank you Mindy, her first true board meeting.

Mindy - Thank you, Thanks for the support and kindness. And thanks to AASB staff. I love our community.

Lori - Thanks for hostin gus. It's nice to be back in Kotzebue, beautiful with loys of good weather. Thank you Margo for keeping us moving. When the CFL teams sees the goals that they are working on it will be affirming the work that they are doing and the team will be grateful. We know that not all associations focus on youth and youth leadership and families, so thank you for that.

Timi - Thank you Marie for hosting and it's just beautiful up here. Mindy thank you, good job. Darlene I am so excited about your school and I feel like your school has become a part of me. It makes me happy. We will find a way to order vests again. Get ready for the morning, come grab some breakfast at 8:30 and we'll make our way to the airport.

20. Future Bisness

Fall Academy will be in Fairbanks

AASB Model Policy for school districts will go out this fall

November meeting go through legislative priorities and approve FY25 budget

21. Adjournment

Action(s): Move to adjourn.

A motion to adjourn ws made by Andy Holleman and seconded by Dana Mock. The motion passed with no opposition.

Meeting adjourned at ?