



AASB Board of Directors Regular Meeting

Wednesday, July 12, 2023 2:00 PM
Chugach School District , 9312 Vanguard Dr Ste 100, Anchorage, AK 99507

Unofficial Draft Minutes

1. Call to Order

President Greene called the meeting to order at 2:06pm.

2. Roll Call

Margo Bellamy:	Present
Robyn Burke:	Present
Clarence Daniel:	Absent
Tim Doran:	Present
Marie Greene:	Present
Diane Gubatayao:	Present
Wally Gust:	Absent
Pete Hoepfner:	Present
Andy Holleman:	Present
Brian Holst:	Present
Dana Mock:	Present
Chrya Sanderson:	Absent
Michael Swain:	Present
Penny Vadla:	Present
Annie Weyiouanna:	Present

3. Establish Quorum

A quorum was established.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

Executive Director led the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. **Moment of Silence**

President Greene observed a moment of silence.

6. **Land Acknowledgement**

Past President Hoepfner read the land acknowledgement.

AASB Acknowledges the indigenous people of the land, all 229 tribes in Alaska where our students, their parents, and board members learn, live, and raise their families. AASB also recognizes the traditional and indigenous land of the (BLANK) people where we stand today to conduct this meeting.

7. **Recognition of Visitors**

President Greene welcomed new board member Annie Weyiouanna, and acknowledged visitors in the room as well as on Zoom.

Those present in the room included: Timi Tullis, Tiffany Jackson, Kate Schaberg, Lori Grassgreen, Jenny Mathis from AASB and Kelly Lessens and Carl Jacobs, associated with the Anchorage School District.

Those present on Zoom included: John Sedor & Norm Wooten.

8. **Approval of the Agenda**

Board discussed previously made request to add conversation regarding proposed regulations for school sports and agreed to hold this conversation under the ASAA Report.

Action(s):

I move to approve the agenda as presented and amended. This motion, made by Michael Swain and seconded by Diane Gubatayao, Passed.

Voting Summary: Yea: 12, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

9. **BOD Discussion of Education Funding**

Speaker(s):
Lon Garrison

Executive Director Garrison introduced board discussion regarding the veto to education funding passed by legislature. Board discussion followed about the impact to AK public education system, AASB as a statewide leadership organization, and what options there are for affecting significant change in the outcome of that.

Legal Counsel, John Sedor, presented items such as risk to the association for the board to consider regarding potential litigation against the state.

Board member Burke was excused from the meeting at 3:02.

President Greene introduced guests Sarah Sledge, Executive Director for the Coalition for Education Equity and Senator Lōki Gale Tobin.

Board member Daniel arrived at 3:20pm.

Recess at 3:23 pm.

Reconvene at 3:32 pm.

Presentations were given by Sarah Sledge & Senator Tobin, as well as Carl Jacobs and Kelly Lessens. Board discussion followed regarding education funding, buses, adequate education, teacher retirement, health care needs and the need for advocacy.

Recess 6:00 pm.

Reconvene July 13, 2023 at 8:10 am.

10. **Approval of Minutes**

Action(s):

I move to approve the minutes listed in agenda. This motion, made by Pete Hoepfner and seconded by Penny Vadla, Passed.

Voting Summary: Yea: 13, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

Action(s):

I move that the board go into executive session to do the board self-assessment and executive director assessment. This motion, made by Pete Hoepfner and seconded by Margo Bellamy, Passed.

Voting Summary: Yea: 13, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

Executive Session 8:17 AM

11. **Board Self Evaluation- Executive Session**

Speaker(s): Pete Hoepfner

12. **Executive Director Evaluation - Executive Session**

Speaker(s): Margo Bellamy

Out of Executive Session 4:54 PM

President Greene expressed thanks to President Elect Bellamy and Past President Hoepfner for their presentations in Executive Session and noted that Past President Bellamy would be leading the meeting beginning the following day.

Recess 4:56 PM.

Reconvene 8:12 AM on July 14, 2023.

13. **Correspondence**

Executive Director Garrison reviewed correspondence presented in board packet.

14. Reports/Discussion Items

14.A. Finance Officer's report

Speaker(s): Jenny Mathis

Finance Director Mathis reviewed highlights from the Monthly Financial Dashboard. Some of the highlights included the reason for some of the changes from previous reports. Mathis reviewed revenue assets and expenditures compared to last year, as well as revenue and expenses compared to budget.

Board discussion followed regarding current finances, impact of state funding on budget, indirect rate changes that have been made and cost conscience efforts of AASB and the potential for a monthly dashboard made available to the board.

14.B. 2022 AASB Audit Report

Speaker(s): Max Mertz,
CPA

The 2022 Audit was conducted in early May 2023 by Max Mertz, CPA. Mertz presented the 2022 audit to the Board via Zoom. Board discussion followed.

14.C. Raffa Investment Advisors Introduction

Speaker(s): Lon Garrison

Garrison introduced Ryan Frydenlund & Dennis Gogarty from Raffa Investment Advisors for their presentation. Raffa Investment Advisors (RIA) has been hired to act as AASB's fiduciary and aid in our cash asset management.

Frydenlund & Gogarty gave an overview about what they do, the services they provide to AASB, and gave some specific information about cash management tools.

Board questions were answered and discussion followed regarding investment strategies.

14.D. Executive Director's Report

Speaker(s): Lon Garrison

Executive Director Garrison provided highlights about the Executive Director written report including improvements made in the business office, recognizing the good work of Laurie Miller in the business office. He touched on the board services work being done, and the hire of former board member Katie Oliver for the policy team as well as the growth of the Conditions for Learning team. Garrison also talked about facilities and answered board questions regarding his report. Board discussion followed.

14.E. Associate Executive Director's Report

Speaker(s): Timi Tullis

Associate Executive Director Timi Tullis reviewed highlights from her report and mentioned the work being done to refresh some of the trainings including some re-branding. Tullis also commented on the team that attended several conferences so far this year, reflecting on the fresh ideas that were generated and highlighting the response to the exceptional work that AASB does.

The board praised the board services team regarding the quality of support they offer and recognized the connections and relationships the team helps to build within the districts.

Recess 9:57 AM
Reconvene 10:18 AM

14.F. Director of Membership Services Report

Speaker(s): Tiffany Jackson

Jackson reviewed highlights from her written report, including upcoming opportunities for educating districts about the resolutions and the work being done with charter schools. Jackson also gave a summary of policy work being done at AASB around the state.

Board discussion followed regarding charter schools, family engagement policy and praised the team for the work they are doing.

14.G. Director of Conditions for Learning's Report

Speaker(s): Lori
Grassgreen

Grassgreen gave an overview of her written report highlighting staff updates to build capacity for new grants, family engagement work, upcoming youth engagement work.

Board discussion followed specific to SCCS, mental health work and specific details regarding grants. Board gave praise to the Conditions for Learning team and the work they are doing. During her report, the updated organizational chart was referenced and added to Executive Director report section of the packet.

14.H. Advocacy Report

Speaker(s): Lon Garrison &
Norm Wooten

Garrison reviewed highlights of written advocacy report and the need to augment his voice. Board discussion followed regarding definition of advocacy on a broad level and the need for investment in a higher level of advocacy about the importance of education and need for funding.

Action(s):

I move to amend the agenda by adding this item, "Advocacy Investment Funding" following 16D. This motion, made by Pete Hoepfner and seconded by Penny Vadla, Passed.

Voting Summary: Yea: 13, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

Recess 12:04 PM
Reconvene 12:52PM

14.I. Annual Conference Review

Speaker(s): Timi Tullis

Tullis reviewed highlights from written report provided by Jenni Lefing. She noted that this year is the 70th conference. Board discussion followed about the conference, as well as open board seats and the process for electing those.

14.J. President's Report

Speaker(s): Margo Bellamy

President Elect Bellamy acknowledged President Greene's written report.

14.K. President Elect Report

Speaker(s): Margo Bellamy

President Elect Margo Bellamy gave a brief overview of her written report.

14.L. Secretary Treasurer Report

Speaker(s): Dana Mock

Secretary/Treasurer Dana Mock gave a brief overview of his report.

14.M. Long Range Plan Report

Speaker(s): Lon Garrison

Executive Director Garrison gave a presentation on the AASB Long Range Plan, giving praise to Lauren Havens for helping pull the data together.

The presentation began with the history and overview of the Long Range Plan which began in 2022. Lon went on to give a snapshot of activities and an overview of statistics as related to LRP goals. Pertinent results from the 2023 member survey were reviewed. Garrison reviewed next steps for progress made toward LRP including an update to dashboard, strategies and indicators, clarifying outcomes, and analysis of progress toward each objective.

Board discussion followed, touching on the monthly LRP report and who the audience should be, SCCS data, membership survey and superintendent support.

14.N. Past President's Report

Speaker(s): Pete Hoepfner

Past President Hoepfner gave an overview of his written report.

14.O. ASAA Report

Speaker(s): Dana Mock

Secretary/Treasurer Mock referenced his written report as well as Norm's advocacy report. He summarized the meeting held in Valdez, and noted that the ASAA board took no action. A press release was sent out to clarify the message. He noted that other topics discussed at the ASAA meeting are documented in the un-adopted minutes from May 2023.

Board discussion followed related to the report as well as general discussion about transgender participation in student activities.

Recess 2:44 PM
Reconvene 3:03 PM

14.P. TRR Working Group Report

Speaker(s): Pete Hoepfner

Past President Hoepfner referenced the TRR Working group written report, noting the working group began in 2020. When the full report comes out, it will be sent to the board.

14.Q. Reads Act Cut Scores Report

Speaker(s): Tim Doran

Doran referenced his AKSTAR Written report and referenced highlights of his experience participating in the AKSTAR validation workshop held on May 23-25, 2023 on behalf of AASB. He reminded the board that the purpose was not to set the cut scores for this year's testing - it was to validate last year's cut scores. Doran noted his appreciation of being part of the process, and reflected on his unanswered questions following this experience.

Board discussion followed including READS act implications.

14.R. NSBA Director's Report

Speaker(s): Pete Hoepfner

Past President Hoepfner reviewed highlights of the NSBA written report, including the changes in the number of regions, new Executive Director, funding of IDEA, and upcoming events in Salt Lake City this summer and fall.

Board discussion followed.

14.S. NSBA Pacific Region Report

Speaker(s): Margo Bellamy

President Elect Bellamy gave a verbal report. She talked about the monthly call of Pacific region presidents. Pete Hoepfner, Marie Greene, Lon Garrison and Margo Bellamy attend those meetings and learn a lot about what happens in our region, and are also able to share about AASB work. Bellamy praised Marie's great job representing AASB and Alaska.

14.T. AIAN Report

Speaker(s): Michael Swain

Michael Swain gave a verbal report for AIAN, mentioning first that in April, he concluded his 2+ year term as chair of AIAN, came off NSBA board of directors, and now serves as the Immediate Past Chair of AIAN. They're looking at new ways of supporting all four of the councils, rather than just CUBE, which is a large revenue source. At this year's annual conference, they combined business meetings of the councils (American Indian Alaska Native Council, Black Caucus Council, & National Hispanic Council), which worked well. NSBA is looking at what that looks like moving forward.

Board discussion followed.

14.U. BLN Reports

Board reviewed responses in the written BLN report, and gave opportunity for board members to give verbal reports for their responses. Board discussion followed on the difficulty to hear from BLN contacts, and ideas for better success moving forward. It was noted that the goal of the BLN process is to show that AASB BOD members are making an effort to hear from all districts in the state, so even if districts don't respond, AASB is meeting our goal.

14.V. Constitution & Bylaws Committee Report

Speaker(s): Dana Mock

Dana Mock gave an overview of the written report for the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, a committee of the delegate assembly.

Board discussion followed on the proposed changes:

Article 2, Section 4

The board expressed opposition for the added language recommended in Article 2, Section 4: *Board members may also lose their seat on the AASB Board if their local board votes to withdraw their endorsement of the local board member serving on the AASB Board. In this case, the local board*

president shall communicate the action of the local board to the AASB Board president and executive director. Upon such action, that seat will be declared vacant.

The board requested clarification of process and Garrison reviewed the process for changing constitution and bylaws, noting that the constitution and bylaws are the pervue of the membership. These recommended changes will be voted on by the membership in the delegate assembly. The board was reminded that this meeting is the board's opportunity to make that comment from the board to the members. Garrison advised that if the opposition is strong, a written statement should be drafted by the board, and that would go out to the membership regarding this issue.

Action(s):

I move to oppose the Constitution & Bylaws committee's proposed changes of added language to Article 2 Section 4. This motion, made by Michael Swain and seconded by Clarence Daniel, Passed.

Voting Summary: Yea: 10, Nay: 0, Absent: 5

Article 5. Section 1

The board made comment on the language used in the added text, noting that "annual meeting" is not specific enough, because the November meeting is called the "Annual meeting of the board". When it comes to the floor at delegate assembly it can be amended.

The remaining changes were grammatical in nature and no further comments were noted.

Board discussion continued regarding process related to changes in Consitution & Bylaws. Garrison responded to process questions, stating the reason for the process is that this is a separation of responsibilities. For future, the board and ED agreed that we could add an opportunity for the board to review proposed changes and provide comment for the committee to consider. This would eliminate the need for the board to oppose the committee during the delegate assembly.

Recess 5:09 PM

Reconvene July 15, 2023 at 8:09 AM

14.W. Policy Committee Report & Adoption

Speaker(s): Pete Hoepfner

Board discussion and amendments, the following actions were taken:

Action(s):

The policy committee moves to approve all of the policies included in the report to the Board using a consent agenda. Approve all but 302. This motion, made by Pete Hoepfner, Unseconded, Passed.

Voting Summary: Yea: 12, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

I move to amend 302 by removing the last sentence in item 2 as well as the language in item 3. This motion, made by Michael Swain and seconded by Tim Doran, Passed.

Voting Summary: Yea: 12, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

14.X. Scholarship Committee Report

Speaker(s): Penny Vadla

Committee Chair Penny Vadla reviewed the Scholarship Committee written report and expressed thanks to those involved. Board discussion followed regarding applicants for the scholarship, the equity/accessibility for various types of students, the effort made within districts to advertise the opportunity, as well as the amount of the scholarship. Committee members expressed value in the program and provided positive reflection on the adjustments being proposed.

14.Y. 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.

14.Z. Sustainability Committee Report

Speaker(s): Brian Holst

Board member Brian Holst reviewed the general framework of the sustainability checklist. Garrison commended the sustainability committee for the work that has been done on this checklist and provided some comments in support of the checklist. He also acknowledged the importance of the checklist for ensuring the word AASB is doing is in support of our mission.

Board discussion followed regarding the importance of the checklist for getting a big picture of our progress and acknowledged the work of Brian and Lori.

14.AA. Summer 2024 Meeting

Speaker(s): Timi Tullis

The board agreed to having the summer meeting in Kotzebue next summer as their regular July schedule. Tullis noted that staff member Mindy Wetherall would be taking on support of the board and to look for communications from her.

15. **BOD Workshops & Attendance**

Schaberg noted who can still use their codes this fall.

Recess 9:41 AM

Reconvene 9:50 AM

16. **Action Items**

16.A. Acceptance of the 2022 Audit

Speaker(s): Lon Garrison

Action(s):

I move to accept the 2022 Federal single audit report, the audited financial statements, and the letter to the AASB Board of Directors as presented. This motion, made by Clarence Daniel and seconded by Robyn Burke, Passed.

Voting Summary: Yea: 12, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

16.B. Ratify Executive Committee Actions of 5/30/23

Speaker(s): Lon Garrison

Action(s):

I move to ratify the action of the executive committee as on May 30, 2023. This motion, made by Michael Swain and seconded by Pete Hoepfner, Passed.

Voting Summary: Yea: 12, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

16.C. Executive Directors Contract

As a follow up to Board discussion on July 13, 2023, the following action was taken:

Action(s):

I move to extend the Executive Director contract to 2026 with a salary of \$140,000 plus 50 day of PTO in alignment with other staff benefits. This motion, made by Margo Bellamy and seconded by Penny Vadla, Passed.

Voting Summary: Yea: 12, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

16.D. Advocacy Investment Funding

Following board discussion and amendments, the following action was taken:

Action(s):

The Board of Directors authorizes the Executive Director spending authority of up to \$200,000 from Unrestricted Funds of AASB to invest in activities that promote a better understanding of K-12 Public Education needs and adequacy in Alaska amongst diverse parties with an aim toward a substantial increase in funding of the BSA. AASB Board directs the ED to develop a plan for the use of these resources and track expenditures in coordination with AASB Board Executive Committee. This motion, made by Brian Holst and seconded by Robyn Burke, Passed.

Voting Summary: Yea: 12, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

17. Resolutions

Speaker(s): Tiffany Jackson

Following board discussion, the following actions were taken:

Action(s):

I move to recommend continuation of all sunseting resolutions as recommended by the staff. This motion, made by Michael Swain and seconded by Diane Gubatayao, Passed.

Voting Summary: Yea: 12, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

I move to move the resolutions document forward to the resolutions committee at the annual conference. This motion, made by Michael Swain and seconded by Penny Vadla, Passed.

Voting Summary: Yea: 12, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

18. Board Comments

Andy: no comment.

Penny: Thanks to everyone, I enjoy being here, 15th year on the board and 7th year on board of directors. Applaud everyone in the room - thank you for your expertise, your excellence and who you are.

Brian: Expressed pride to serve on this board and thanks to all involved. Raised a topic of grave concern to us in Juneau - Department of Education has questioned a 30 year practice - municipality has always provided support for non-instructional activities, which is a practice that should not be questioned. It is for support for childcare before and after school, for community schools which is opening the school to outside of school activities. Through the city, we receive funds to help with this as well as travel associated with our sports teams. Our community has funded these for many years, which is being questioned. Our lawyers have said there is no basis for questioning this. There have been articles in the paper -noting response from Department of Education, though we couldn't get a response from them at the district level. This is a serious issue, and it was indicated to them that Juneau is the first to receive this letter but other districts can expect a similar letter as well. Holst encouraged all board members to be cognizant of this issue and would love to see support from districts around the state.

Clarence: no comment.

Robyn: Our district received a letter questioning the amount in our fund balance. We also receive funding from our city - not only do we have to travel off slope but we also fly other teams in so we can have people to compete with. Thanks to Brian for voicing his concern again. State Board of Education bylaws say that there can't be more than 4 members in same political party as governor - something to ponder. Thank you all for your support yesterday, thank you for excusing me in the afternoon. Happy to be here, thank you to board and staff.

Annie: This has been a huge learning experience for me - thank you for having me and excusing me yesterday. It's nice to get to know all of you outside of the annual conference. Excited to be here, thank you to amazing staff.

Diane: Good job Margo for leading us. Thank s to all of the staff for their support. I enjoy serving with all of you and learning about your districts. My seat is also up for election and I am re-thinking where to put my time and energy and if that happens and if I'm not sitting at this table in November, it's been an amazing honor to serve with you all. AASB is one of my all-time favorite organizations. We don't always see the impact of our efforts. Thank you all for all of the work that you do.

Tim - It was interesting listening to Fairbanks assembly meeting to consider giving district supplement local contribution because of governor's cuts. We won't know until the end of the month what they'll decide - we are nowhere near the cap. They brought up the Juneau situation - asked superintendent if we were using local contribution within the cap. Underscoring the seriousness of Mike's comments. Welcome to Annie! Appreciate the staff and how they take care of us. It's well noticed and appreciated, and makes a difference. As a principal, I remember who does the behind-the-scenes work. Thank you to the board members - this is professional development for me. The quality of board members around the table and different perspectives you bring, modeling where we can let go is helpful.

We have a judicial district not represented (one of the specified seats)- with the importance of what we do and modeling how we treat students - involving students, the importance of them being on our board and youth leadership opportunities. It disturbs me how our state board treats their students on

the state board. Thank all of you for being role models, thank your fellow role models within the community. The students watch us and how we behave at the table.

Mike - Thank you Margo for stepping in for Marie and running the meeting. Thank all of the board for your comments and thoughts - appreciate ability to have a debate and move on after that. To Lon and the staff, for all of your hard work, not only the leadership team here with us but all of the staff in Juneau and across the state for all of the work they do. They may not realize how much we appreciate that. School districts definitely appreciate that. Especially Kate, if you really want to reach me, the text is probably the best way. Appreciate everyone coming together, and making public education as good as it can.

Pete - Great discussions by everyone at the board. Welcome to Annie, appreciate Kate as well - cat herding. Disappointed she is moving on to greener pastures. Thanks to Lon and the rest of the staff.

Dana - Having listened to last three comments, what else is there to say. Truly appreciate each and everyone in this room - and those not in the room. What you do for our board, your boards and the children of our state is AWESOME. I feel public education is under attack . I think we have to be very cautious. WE have to stand our ground. We've got a job to do. WE need to stand the line and keep an eye on what's going on and continue to fight the good fight to make sure our kids our represented. Thank you all again.

Pete - Dana has been put in an uncomfortable spot and appreciates Dana's strength and for persevering.

Penny – I am having a lot of pressure from family and friends as well and so...they might win. This is my joy. you people and this board have strengthened everything I feel. My community doesn't want me to quit and I don't know that I will. The knowledge and experience and people I have met - I will carry it with me everyone I go. Thank you.

Lori - Welcome Annie - thanks to the board. We could not do what we're doing without what you are doing here, with the different hats that you were. Especially Margo for stepping in and hosting this group.

Tiffany - thank you to the board for all of your service. Sometimes we ask you to do a lot, especially for resolutions. Make sure you are appointing someone to attend resolutions committee on Thursday of the annual conference. Appreciate working for you.

Lon - Thank you very much. I am humbled by your faith in me and your support in me and I will do everything I can to meet expectations, of this board and those districts around the state. You've done some great work at this board meeting, I was pleased and it gave me some hope that our conversation on Wednesday was as robust as it could be. This board will be called upon for extra duty work. We'll need your support for moving things forward. We have an incredible staff who do incredible work. 99.9% of the time we get along real well, including when different perspectives are brought to the table. I value that we feel comfortable speaking what we feel. I will take to heart the goals I have been given and will ask that they are sent to me. We are at a tipping point - there is a broader agenda happening about education across the country. We have to think about what Alaska, and what education will look like for my brand-new grandson. I want it to be a place where he will thrive. Those are things I think about every day and I get concerned about. As issues come up, and you have questions - please reach out and we can have a conversation. I'd like to work with each and every one of you. Thank you for the time and dedication.

Kate: It has been an honor serving you as a board. It's been very eye-opening into all of the work that

goes on behind the scene – thank you for your time and dedication to our youth.

Margo - thanks to Dana for filling in for me. It's been a tough year personally. He has been wonderful - thank you for that. Thank all of the board for never wavering - we have not let each other down. We've been challenged in many ways. Life changes - take care of yourselves. This is heavy work and not for the faint of heart. Annie - welcome! Hopefully our tears will strengthen you. Our kids need us, our communities need us to continue and be diligent. Thank you for gratuity for Marie's gift. This is an amazing staff - Lon is amazing, he is so responsive. I want to make sure we know what's going on in our main office, Karin joining the team is amazing to me. The youth development work that Connor and Claudia provide, and Emily with post-secondary - if they're not doing the work for you - they can absolutely enrich what you are doing with your youth. Their plates are full but just a conversation with them is rich. When you're looking for professional development or ideas, that is a valuable benefit. Do not forget to testify/write comments to the state board of education. They're not going to give up, they're counting us resting/being too busy and not paying attention. We do have to pay attention and have to make our voices heard. Thank you for voting to provide resources so that we can strengthen our advocacy during hard times. Take care of yourselves, be loving and kind, give yourselves grace. It is not easy, but necessary and one that I would do over and over again. This is also my 50th year in education.

Lon - One of your fellow board members was not able to attend. Keep Wally in your thoughts.

19. **Future Business**

No future business was noted.

20. **Adjournment**

Action(s):

Move to adjourn at 10:42 AM. This motion, made by Dana Mock and seconded by Clarence Daniel, Passed.

Voting Summary: Yea: 12, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

Board Secretary