The 29th Alaska Legislature labored through multiple regular and special sessions in 2016, wrestling with a record budget deficit and ultimately tapping reserve funds to bridge the gap. K-12 education was on the chopping block until the very end in June, when Gov. Bill Walker used his line-item veto authority to reduce school support minimally.

Two AASB Legislative Fly-ins in February and March drew more than 150 school board members, superintendents and youth to Juneau for advocacy training and contacts with the Legislature and Walker.

One proposal that drew near universal opposition from districts was floated by the Senate Finance Committee: SB 207, which proposed to shift additional employer retirement costs from the State of Alaska to local governments and school districts. Norm Wooten testified to the Finance Committee on the impact the bill would have on classrooms and students statewide. His testimony helped derail the bill for this session, but with continued budget shortfalls, the same or similar proposals may emerge in future years.

Wooten was appointed as a member of a legislative task force assigned to study ways to improve civic education in schools. A report from the task force was expected early in 2017.

AASB President Tiffany Jackson won election to the Board of Directors of the National School Board Association in 2016, marking the first time a Native American board member sat on the governing board of the national group.
TRAINING FOR BOARD MEMBERS

Making better board members means training in a wide variety of ways. AASB offers new and veteran school board members many opportunities throughout the year for a chance to learn or polish skills in:

- Board Standards, including vision, structure, accountability, advocacy, conduct and ethics.
- School Law, including changes to state and federal education statutes and regulations.
- Parliamentary Procedure and the Open Meetings Act.
- School Funding and the Foundation Funding Program for K-12 education.
- Superintendent and Board Relations.

AASB also can provide expertise to help boards assess themselves to become more proactive, improve communications, and determine where you want to be as a board.

Our Boardsmanship Academies in 2016 brought focus to topics with expert presentations on:

- Indigenous Languages & Academic Achievement
- Teaching through Distance Education
- The Value of Early Learning
- Future Educators of Alaska
- Strategic Energy Efficiency and Financing
- The Alaska Association of Student Government

AASB is partnering with Alaska Public Entities Insurance to sponsor and host training for Maintenance Employees each fall. Well-trained maintenance staff can save time and money for districts and protect and extend the life of valuable structures and their systems.
Ice staff works closely with local engagement advocates and social and emotional learning champions to develop programs with schools and communities around the state. Both programs bring together school personnel, community and tribal organizations, and individuals to improve outcomes for youth.

ICE
ICE provides coaching and support to local community engagement advocates working to build bridges between school and community by systematically and comprehensively engaging families, students, and community members.

CRESEL
ICE currently works with seven districts to embed culturally responsive social and emotional learning into the district, school, and community.

*Project is funded through a U.S. Department of Education Investing in Innovation (I3) Grant.

Annette Island School District
Kake City Schools
Kashunamiut School District
Kuspuk School District
Nome Public Schools

Bering Strait School District
Hydaburg City School District
Kodiak Island Borough School District
Lower Yukon School District
Nome Public Schools
Sitka School District

The SEL work makes me feel hopeful. The obstacles between the tribal council, city and school seem to be opening up. The word ‘respect’ came up a lot in our community conversation about co-creating a culturally responsive school. What does respect look like and feel like? We can use the themes and ideas from the dialogue with the community to create a common language of respect.

- Participating Principal

Developing our youth leadership through ICE work has allowed our youth to become advocates in their school and community. Youth Leaders have gained confidence, provided community service, and have become change agents within themselves and their community.

- Local Community Engagement

Social emotional learning can help teachers who have been stuck for 20 years change their mindset. Some teachers are naturals at SEL and some need a script. SEL skills are something adults need as well as students. It’s all about the importance of building relationships with the community, too.

- Assistant Superintendent

CONTACT US: Lori Grassgreen, Director, Alaska ICE
lgrassgreen@aasb.org | Tel: (907) 463-1160 | 1111 W. 9th Street, Juneau, AK. 99801
Alaska’s School Climate and Connectedness Survey (SCCS) is a statewide survey developed by the American Institutes for Research in partnership with AASB in 2006. Through student and staff responses, it measures positive school climate, how connected students feel to adults and peers, social and emotional learning (SEL), and observed risk behaviors at school or school events.

**2016 SURVEY PARTICIPANTS:**
- **43,872 STUDENTS • 8,282 STAFF**
- **298 SCHOOLS • 29 ALASKAN SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

20 school districts received post-survey support from AASB, that included onsite workshops with School Boards, staff, community members, and students.

**2016 GRADE 6-12 STUDENT OPINIONS OF SCHOOL CLIMATE & CONNECTEDNESS**
- Significant increases in grade 6-12 parent and community involvement.
- Significant declines in School Safety, Student Involvement, High Expectations, and Peer Climate.
- Male students reported higher ratings for Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) than female students.

**2016 STATEWIDE HIGHLIGHTS:**
- The higher a school’s climate ratings, the fewer student risk behaviors reported at school or school events.
- New CASEL (Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning) social and emotional learning scale for grades 6-12.
- Revised risk behavior questions, including a new stand-alone marijuana question.

**2016 STAFF OPINIONS OF SCHOOL CLIMATE**
- Significant increases in Student Involvement and School Leadership and Involvement from 2011 to 2016.
- Declines in Staff Attitudes from 2011 to 2016.

**GRADE 3-5 STUDENT SURVEY RESULTS**

**OBSERVED STUDENT RISK BEHAVIORS FROM 2011 TO 2016**
- Student & staff reports of Delinquent Behaviors ↓
- Student reports of peer Drug and Alcohol Use decreased ↓
- Staff reports of student Drug and Alcohol Use stable →
AASB’s Consortium for Digital Learning (CDL) supports our members through awareness, outreach and training activities that include educating policy makers about new possibilities, inspiring school leaders to reach for more, and engaging and supporting teachers in high-level learning models with positive, relevant student outcomes.

CDL provides member support through digital learning services and demonstration projects based upon research, best practice, innovation and outcomes. Our team can assist with the design and coordination of 1:1 technology implementation, deliver a range of professional development and technical services, provide world-class technology-based experiential STEM projects, create interactive digital publishing resources that incorporate multiple reading levels and Native languages, and more.

For more than a decade, CDL has been the only Alaska organization actively working with districts to launch successful 1:1 projects in schools across the state, while advocating to political, business, and private organizations for continued expansion of digital learning opportunities for all Alaska students.

How can we assist your school district?

web: cdl.aasb.org  email: rwhicker@aasb.org  phone: 907-463-1660
AASB 2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TIFFANY JACKSON  
President  
Aleutians East

PETER HOEPPNER  
President-Elect  
Cordova

MIKE SWAIN, JR.  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Bristol Bay

ANDI STORY  
Past-President  
Juneau

CHARLENE ARNESON  
Chugach

IGNATIUS CHAYALKUN  
Kashunamiut

CLARENCE DANIEL  
Lower Kuskokwim

DEBBY EDWARDSON  
North Slope

SUE HULL  
Fairbanks

DANA MOCK  
Delta Greely

KATHLEEN PLUNKET  
Anchorage

CASS POOK  
Sitka

TAMMY FOWLER POUND  
Unalaska

ANGIE WASHINGTON  
Northwest Arctic

SARAH WELTON  
Mat-Su

STAFF

Norm Wooten  
Executive Director

Timi Tullis  
Director of Board Development and Field Services

Lori Grassgreen  
Director of Alaska ICE

Bob Whicker  
Director of Consortium for Digital Learning

Lon Garrison  
Coordinator of School Improvement

John Greely  
Chief Editor

Diana Miller  
Business Manager

Steve Nelson  
Public Information Coordinator, Project Coordinator

Jenni Lefing  
SCCS Program Manager, Community Engagement Educator

Mark Calvert  
Community Engagement Educator

Heather Coulehan  
Community Engagement Educator

Konrad Frank  
Community Engagement Educator

Ryan Aguilar  
Executive Administrative Assistant, Communications Specialist

June Johnson  
Accountant

Laurie Miller  
Administrative Assistant
Financial Highlights

AASB is in sound financial standing. Our revenue is generated from a variety of sources, and not limited solely to dues. Over the years, we have been able to use our dues as a foundation for staffing services that provide good value to our members at costs that are substantially lower than if they were offered by consultants or business.

Our successful efforts at securing grants has allowed AASB to assist members and their communities in areas that no other state school boards association offers. This year the percentage of revenue from those grants is 54%.

Our grants not only provide income to the association, they also allows AASB to pass on to our members additional sources of revenue to assist in things such as community engagement and digital learning.

These graphs show the major components of revenue and expenses/disbursements budgeted for the current year.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anchorage</td>
<td>Annual Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annette Island</td>
<td>Fly-In &amp; Academies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wrangell</td>
<td>Work with Boards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bethel</td>
<td>Policy Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nome</td>
<td>Supt.. Search</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poag Bay</td>
<td>Digital Learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Michael</td>
<td>Community Engagement (ICE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sitka</td>
<td>School Climate Survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Mary's</td>
<td>Scholarship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X̱aaska</td>
<td>Scholarship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yukon Flats</td>
<td>Scholarship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yukon Koyukuk</td>
<td>Scholarship</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* = Scholarship applications
◊ = Scholarship winners