



**Association of Alaska School Boards
Board of Directors
REGULAR MEETING - November 10, 2014
Anchorage Hilton Hotel**

CALL TO ORDER

President Andi Story called the regular meeting of the Association of Alaska School Boards to order at 8:30 am.

ROLL CALL

Andi Story	Present	Mike Swain	Present
Tiffany Jackson	Present	Ignatius Chalyalkun	Present
Sunni Hilts	Present	Angela Washington	Present
Sue Hull	Present	Cass Pook	Present
Lon Garrison	Present	Kathleen Plunkett	Present
Debbie Edwardson	Present	Richard Mauer	Present
Peter Hoepfner	Present	Sarah Welton	Present
Charlene Arneson	Present		

ESTABLISH QUORUM

A quorum was established.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Story.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

A Moment of Silence was observed by the Board of Directors.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION

Sarah/Pete moved/seconded to approve the agenda as presented.
Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION

Lon/Debby moved/seconded to approve July Board of Director's Meeting Minutes.

Motion carried unanimously.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

There were no visitors present, but we did welcome our newest staff member Lori Grassgreen.

BOD WORKSHOPS AND ATTENDANCE

Documents showing BOD member use of free workshops and attendance at meetings throughout the year were shared with the board.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was included in the Board packet.

HOT TOPICS

Timi led a brief elbow-partner conversation activity around ideas for suggested books, films, and short videos to share with new board members. The resources included:

Yuuyaraq: The Way of the Human Being; Journey to Wholeness; Bully (documentary); Raising Ourselves; Habits of Mind; Blonde Indian; Two in the Far North; The Voice of Our Spirit; Alaskan Pilots; 50 Miles from Tomorrow; Another Culture/Another World; Blessings Bead; The Alaska Pen; New Psychology of Success; Board Basics; Fall Down 7 Times, Get Up 8; History of the Iñupiat: Nipaa I!itqusipta/The Voice of Our Spirit (documentary); Mary's Feast; Attu Boy; My Name is Not Easy; Conflicting Visions in Alaska Education; Chagudax; Reign of Error; Two Old Women; Nick Jans books; People of the Noatak.

REPORTS

AASB President's

Andi Story is excited about the coming year and her role as President. She discussed attending the NSBA President's Retreat and the Pacific Region meetings. A few highlights:

Bill Daggett was a speaker at the Pres. Retreat. A few ideas he shared for us to consider: Diversity is a positive for schools and exposure to other cultures is a plus for students; soft skills are important for students (behavior, responsibility); and the transition from 8th to 9th grade is critical.

Congrats to Sue Hull for becoming Chair of the NSBA Pacific Region!

Ideas/Comments that resonated with BOD attendees at PAC Region included:

- Things weren't working until they stopped focusing on graduation and looked beyond at career prep and college prep for students.
- Be the news source for your district. Being able to frame your story and share it out. Not depending on traditional media sources to share good/important news.
- A couple of districts are moving to standards-based report cards. What are the benefits? Potential drawbacks?

Need to add a new discussion item to the BOD agenda – National/NSBA Pacific Region - so that those involved in the Pacific Region can share a short written report with the board.

**Executive Director's
Report**

Joseph Reeves, AASB Executive Director, referred to his written report included in the board packet that provided an overview of activities since the last regular meeting. He highlighted the following:

- + Transition of Sally Rue's retirement and Lori Grassgreen hiring
- + We have done a number of workshops since July meeting, including the first ever Maintenance Directors workshop – good turnout.
- + Helping an artist group in Juneau to plan for a major grant. (Timi is leading)
- + Changing Winter Boardmanship Academy to include a pre-legislative planning day to let each other know of legislative priorities and to find commonalities -- Great Alaska Schools, CEAAC, ACSA/ASA, Anchorage School District.
- + AASB finances are on track

Discussion of the Board followed.

RECESS: 10:00
RECONVENE: 10:10

School Improvement Report

Norm Wooten, Director of School Improvement and Governmental Relations, referred to the written report included in the board packet. In his brief oral report he highlighted:

- Being awarded another contract from DEED to work with one- and two-star districts to provide services and trainings they think will be most helpful.

**Community Engagement
Report**

Sally Rue, Alaska ICE Director, referred to the written report included in the board packet. Highlights included:

- + Staff represented AASB with presentations at the National Indian Education Association Conference and the First Alaskans Institute Elders & Youth Conference.
- + Mark, Jenni, and Sally made 15 district visits this fall to debrief on School Climate and Connectedness data and perform other community engagement work.

Discussion of the Board followed.

Consortium for Digital Learning

Bob Whicker referred to the written report included in the board packet. Highlights included:

- + Development of the menu of services/sustainability of CDL.
- + Through the Connect Alaska audit, Chris Romine (contractor with CDL) has worked with over 35 districts so far on assessing/building technology capacity.
- + Looking at building a team of contractors to do professional development in the areas of vision, planning and cross-platform delivery of services as well as growing connections between schools and communities.
- + *Talk Story, Write Story* was very popular, maybe too successful. Lots of kids want to apply, but not enough help/time to give them.
- + Looking for funding this winter to continue CDL.

Discussion of the Board followed.

BLN Reports

The Board Liaison Network (BLN) has been in place since 1994 as a means of connecting the AASB Board more directly to its members. Each year the BLN has become increasingly effective in making contacts across the state and bringing our members' concerns to our board table, as well as promoting the value of AASB.

Suggested questions were sent to the Board prior to the Board Meeting.

Responses from districts were compiled in a written report included in the board packet. Current district priorities, activities and concerns, and languages spoken within the district were shared during the phone calls with the Board, to help Directors gain a broad perspective as to what AASB members are dealing with statewide and to allow them to share some of AASB's activities with their contacts.

There was discussion by the Board, with a debrief of district responses.

Alaska School Activities Association

Pete Hoepfner spoke on ASAA activities, referring to his written report. Highlights were:

- Transfer Waiver Task Force - addressing player eligibility issue
- Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC) was born to address the concussion issue with football and other contact sports.

- Tackling the issue of providing AEDs (Automated external defibrillator) in schools across the state.

Discussion of the Board followed.

Membership Committee Report

Charlene Arneson reported on Membership Committee activities. Highlighted were:

- Developing a primer for new/prospective BOD – video and/or narrative – focused on providing information (expectations and responsibilities, reading list, bios of current members, etc.) from the board’s perspective.
- Stressed the fact that with the diversity of cultures within the state, one size doesn’t fit all.

Discussion of the Board followed.

Report on Forum Meetings

AASB Directors reported on like-size district forums that met during the Annual Conference: Urban (large), Rural/REAA, Municipalities (Mid Size) and Single Site. Comments/issues discussed at each forum include:

- Like Sized: Priorities included teacher tenure, pathways for superintendents, TRS/PERS issues, funding.
- Single Site: Teacher tenure and impact aid were major items discussed.
- Large District: Priorities included funding, cost drivers (insurance, etc.), equity and cost factors, social emotional learning, Native languages, dual credit as a head start for students.
- Rural/REAA sites: Impact aid, energy relief, and serving traditional foods in school were items discussed.

Discussion of the Board followed and included the suggestion to develop a list of ideas/concerns (parking lot of ideas) that keep popping up and/or don’t get addressed in resolutions. Members can revisit/cull the list for potential resolutions.

Annual Conference Review

Timi Tullis, Director of Membership Services, gave a brief review of the Annual Conference. She thanked Board members and Board of Directors – Rich, Mike, Angie, Tiffany, and others for their willingness to lead sectionals and participate in the conference.

387 board members pre-registered for the conference, with over 100 in the Experienced Board Member Academy and 50 in the New Member Bootcamp.

Discussion of the Board followed, including ideas and suggestions for next year.

RECESS: 12:10 pm
RECONVENE: 1:00 pm

Charter School Membership

At its July 2014 meeting the Board was provided with information, and subsequently discussed, the training opportunities AASB provides to **Academic Policy Committees (APC) or Charter School Boards**. An additional issue raised for discussion was the possibility of offering APCs Associate Membership in AASB. The Board asked staff to provide further information, and a recommendation on that issue at the November, 2014 meeting.

In researching information about our experience with APCs, we found that in 1997 the AASB Board voted to offer Associate Membership to Charter Schools in Alaska. Unfortunately, there was no action to the Bylaws to accept that change.

Staff recommends that this issue be presented to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee for their consideration, along with a sense of the board in terms of offering membership to APCs, and recommending a change in the bylaws.

There was discussion from the board.

NSBA's Advocacy Network

At the summer board meeting there was a question regarding AASB's participation in the NSBA Advocacy Institute. The idea of our not participating has periodically been brought up over the last twenty years. The AASB Board has discussed it on each occasion and has determined there is value in continuing AASB's participation.

The Administrative Recommendation is for AASB to continue to send a team of three to NSBA's Advocacy Institute. Typically that team consists of the President, President-Elect, and for staff support the Director of Governmental Relations.

Discussion of the Board followed and included sharing information on the Advocacy Institute with districts to attend as well. If present we can help shape the educational discussion and/or shift the thinking if potentially harmful to Alaska and Alaska schools.

ACTION ITEMS

**Approval of
FY 2015 Budget**

Committee Chair Tiffany Jackson reported that the Budget Committee and staff met during the Annual Conference to review the proposed budget prepared by staff. Areas of change to specific line items from the previous year were identified in the budget narrative. The Budget Committee recommended that the Board approve the proposed budget.

MOTION

Tiffany/Kathleen and Mike moved/seconded the Board of Directors to approve the FY2015 budget as presented.

A discussion of the Board and staff followed about the budget.

A roll call vote was taken. With 15 in favor and 0 against, the motion carried.

Priority Issues for 2015

The Board identified three categorical headings as priorities around the resolutions adopted by the association: Raising the Bar, Investing in Alaska's Future, and Developing Alaska's Future.

Smaller- and whole-group discussion followed, including organizing resolutions under the three headings above.

(A copy of the 2015 Education Priorities is attached.)

2015 BLN Assignments

New BLN contact assignments were made so that every district will have a contact on the Board of Directors. *(See attached BLN Assignments.)* A supporting BLN packet will be sent to the Board of Directors as soon as the Membership Directory is updated.

Committee Appointments

The AASB Board makes significant use of the committee structure, using teleconferencing as an economical and effective way of holding these meetings.

President Story asked Directors to volunteer for the following committees for 2015: Policy, Constitution and Bylaws, Scholarship, Membership, and Sustainability.

(The attached 2015 list of committee assignments reflects those who volunteered.)

Health Reimbursement

The AASB Board engaged in discussion regarding a medical expense reimbursement plan. Due to a change in our Health Care Provider the Board is asked to adopt the attached corporate resolution that is required by certain sections of the IRS tax code.

MOTION

Sue/Rich moved/seconded to approve the medical expense reimbursement plan.

**Board
Comments**

Board Comments included:

- Admire the skills/talents of the board and the staff.

- Better wireless coverage with our conference this year
- This is a strong, cohesive board and a great staff that's a pleasure to work with.
- Appreciated the Native Language sectional. Bring it back to another conference!
- Thank you to Sunni for a good year. I look forward to another good year with Andi.
- Thanks very much to Sally. We're going to miss you. Welcome to Lori.

Future Business

- Idea of doing our own publicity/media at conference.
- Adding another question to the BLNs is a good thing. This year we asked about language and culture, which was excellent.
- Add board development aspect to each BOD meeting. Trying to be a better board.

**ADJOURNMENT
MOTION**

Charlene/Andi moved/seconded the AASB Board to adjourn the regular meeting of the Association of Alaska School Boards.

Motion carried unanimously.

President Andi Story adjourned the regular meeting of the Association of Alaska School Boards at 3:55 pm

A True record.

ATTEST:

Secretary/Treasurer

**AASB BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2015 BOARD LIAISON NETWORK (B.L.N.) ASSIGNMENTS**

Each Director on the AASB Board will be responsible for making contact with board presidents in the districts listed below.

Peter Hoepfner (Cordova)

Kashunamiut
Lower Yukon
Valdez

Sarah Welton (Mat-Su)

Chugach
Annette Islands
Cordova

Charlene Arneson (Chugach)

Hydaburg
Copper River
Iditarod
Kuspuk

Angie Washington (Kotzebue)

Aleutians East
Bristol Bay
Pribilof

Sue Hull (Fairbanks)

Denali
Nenana
Fairbanks
Mat-Su

Richard Mauer (Delta/Greely)

Delta/Greely
Galena
Yukon Koyukuk
Alaska Gateway

Michael Swain (Bristol Bay)

Tanana
Dillingham
Southwest Region
Craig
Unalaska

Deborah Edwardson (North Slope)

Lower Kuskokwim
North Slope
Bering Strait

Lon Garrison (Sitka)

Wrangell
Ketchikan
Petersburg
Mt. Edgecumbe
Pelican

Ignatius Chayalkun (Kashunamiut)

St. Mary's
Southeast Island
Nome

Sunni Hiltz (Kenai Peninsula)

Northwest Arctic
Kenai
Yakutat

Tiffany Jackson (Aleutian East)

Chatham
Haines
Sitka
Juneau

Cass Pook (Sitka)

Aleutian Region
Skagway
Yupit
Lake & Peninsula

Andi Story (Juneau)

Hoonah
Kake
Klawock

Kathleen Plunkett (Anchorage)

Anchorage
Kodiak
Yukon Flats

**AASB Board of Directors
2015 Committee Assignments**

POLICY

Sunni Hilts, Chair
Richard Mauer
Charlene Arneson
Lon Garrison
Tiffany Jackson

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

Pete Hoepfner Chair
4 others from membership

SCHOLARSHIP

Sunni Hilts, Chair
Tiffany Jackson
Debby Edwardson
Cass Pook
Mike Swain
Sarah Welton

MEMBERSHIP

Lon Garrison, Chair
Charlene Arneson
Ignatius Chayalkun
Andi Story
Kathleen Plunkett
Sue Hull

SUSTAINABILITY

Mike Swain, Chair
Debby Edwardson
Angie Washington
Pete Hoepfner

Ad Hoc Advocacy Committee

Sue Hull, Chair
Lon Garrison
Andi Story
Angie Washington
Kathleen Plunkett
Pete Hoepfner

Center for Alaska Education Policy Research

Sue Hull



2015 Education Priorities

Association of Alaska School Boards

RAISING THE BAR

AASB Belief Statement B.19, EDUCATIONAL IMPROVEMENT

AASB believes the elements of a quality educational improvement effort should address the following key areas:

- **Parental Involvement:** Should encourage a high degree of parental involvement in all aspects of their child's education, collaboration on societal issues outside schools that impact children's learning (schools and various agencies must collaboratively plan to provide services to children to effectively meet their needs); and accountability to the public to assure desired results – a "world class" education.
- **Community Engagement:** Should involve many different sectors of the community in the schools to broaden the experience afforded students and promote the shared responsibility of adults in our communities in supporting Alaska's youth to achieve academic success, engage in positive, thriving behaviors and reduce unhealthy behaviors.
- **Student Standards:** Should include the development of educational programs to meet high standards and identified competencies (they should be delivered by a variety of means that the diverse educational and cultural needs of students and prepare them to be contributing and productive citizens in a rapidly changing world).
- **Professional Standards:** Should include the highest standards of professionalism by school employees throughout the district.
- **Learning Environment:** Should include adequate and appropriate space, furnishings, equipment, supplies and technology.

AASB Belief Statement B.11, LANGUAGE, CULTURAL AND ETHNIC DIVERSITY

Alaska is a vast state and is populated by persons of diverse culture, ethnic, and linguistic backgrounds. Our schools must promote an environment that respects the ethnic, linguistic and cultural diversity of the student populations. AASB honors and celebrates those languages and cultures indigenous to Alaska and supports those programs that

integrate indigenous languages and ways of knowing into the delivery of academic programs.

2.42 URGING A TRANSPARENT PROCESS WITH STAKEHOLDER INPUT AND PRIORITIZATION OF EQUITY CONCERNS IN STATE STUDIES

AASB urges the responsible agencies to conduct education studies in a transparent process with multiple opportunities for stakeholder input. The studies should use relevant Alaska data from all parts of our diverse state, promote educational best practices, benefit all students in an equitable manner providing an adequate education for all.

5.6 ENCOURAGING CIVIC EDUCATION IN SCHOOL DISTRICTS

AASB encourages member districts to develop well-articulated curriculum for civic education (local, state and national in a global context) for students and provide effective teaching strategies for civic instruction, including meaningful student government opportunities at all levels.

INVESTING IN ALASKA'S FUTURE

AASB Belief Statement B.7, EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND FUNDING AS TOP PRIORITY

Article VII, Section 7 of the Alaska State Constitution states that the Legislature shall establish and maintain a system of public schools open to all school age children. Public education is fundamental to democracy and economic advancement of the state. AASB calls upon the Governor and the Alaska Legislature to make sustainable, adequate and equitable funding a top priority for the exemplary education of our youth.

2.2 URGING ADEQUATE, EQUITABLE, AND PREDICTABLE FUNDING OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

AASB urges the State of Alaska to provide adequate, equitable, and predictable funding of public education. AASB believes that adequate funding should include the following:

- State funding of the TRS-PERS retirement liability;
- An increase to the Base Student Allocation to account for both inflation and adequate pre-K through 12th grade education;
- Recognition of the need to keep pupil-teacher ratios to a level in line with research-based best practices;
- Career and technical education.

AASB urges the legislature to review and recommend appropriate adjustments to the AS.14.17.460, District Cost Factors, to ensure equity in school funding.

AASB urges the legislature to provide stable forward funding that addresses inflation, including the use of an educational endowment to ensure funding predictability.

2.44 FUNDING FOR INTERNET SERVICES

AASB urges the Alaska Legislature to provide full funding for internet services for rural schools provided for in HB 278 and to extend those benefits to urban school districts as well. Digital literacy is a fundamental skill in the 21st century; equitable internet access will allow students to develop this skill.

3.2 PROMOTING STUDENT SUCCESS THROUGH SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING AND POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT

AASB encourages each neighborhood, faith community, civic organization, community, school district, tribal entity and state agency to review the research in order to advocate, create and sustain programs of social and emotional learning and other initiatives that build assets in Alaska's children and teens, provide positive adult role models and support, and incorporate culturally responsive awareness.

3.8 SUICIDE PREVENTION, EDUCATION AND TREATMENT EFFORTS

AASB requests the legislature to provide funding for statewide suicide prevention efforts coordinated among the peer helper programs, mental health centers, and village based suicide prevention efforts. Prevention efforts should include a statewide program to

bring professional mental health counselors on-site to visit schools or support school-based counseling programs. Further, we urge school districts, tribal entities, appropriate agencies and communities to actively engage in responding to this serious, ongoing challenge.

DEVELOPING ALASKA'S WORKFORCE

2.6 FUNDING FOR EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS IN ALASKA TO INCLUDE AGES 3-7

AASB supports legislation to add additional funding for the planning and programming of voluntary early learning and family support programs for all pre-school children as an important long-term investment in Alaska's workforce and citizenry.

2.11 EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

Because of the global economy of which our youth are a part, AASB urges the state and federal governments:

- a. To strongly encourage state leadership by virtue of student rights to equitable educational opportunity to ensure all classrooms are provided affordable, adequate, and equitable broadband access to the national and international information infrastructure.
- b. To implement appropriations or matching grants for instructional technology that would address hardware and software purchases, communication, infrastructure, curriculum expansion and training needs of students and staff.
- c. To fund continuation and expansion of Digital 1:1 efforts for districts and AASB Consortium for Digital Learning.
- d. To join in urging Congress to fully fund either the provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (E-rate program) or a robust educational technology substitute that protects the Universal Service Fund to help provide affordable telecommunications to rural areas.

2.26 SUPPORTING EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ARTS, AND MATH INSTRUCTION

AASB recognizes and supports national efforts to increase the nation's scientific and engineering talent pool in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM/STEM) fields. AASB urges the Governor and the Alaska State Legislature to establish a fund or provide grants to invest strategically in STEAM/STEM education, focusing on professional development, materials and equipment needed for active, hands-on-learning for K-12 students in classrooms across the state.

2.32 URGING THE CONTINUATION OF FUNDING FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL (VOCATIONAL) EDUCATION

AASB supports the funding of Career and Technical (Vocational) Education through the foundation formula in AS 14.17.420.

2.36 ADDRESSING THE NEED FOR REMEDIATION

AASB supports the goal of the Alaska Advisory Task Force on Higher Education & Career Readiness to help students complete high school with sufficient skills to enter the workforce or study at a postsecondary institution, without the need for remedial coursework.