



**Association of Alaska School Boards  
Board of Directors  
REGULAR MEETING - November 13, 2017  
Anchorage Hilton Hotel**

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**ROLL CALL**

Mike Swain	Present	Tiffany Jackson	Present
Tammy Pound	Present	Peter Hoepfner	Present
Andi Story	Present	Trevor Shaw	Present
Dana Mock	Excused	Clarence Daniel	Present
Cass Pook	Present	Kathleen Plunkett	Present
Penny Vadla	Present	Sarah Welton	Present
Barb Amarok	Present	Lawrence Jones	Present
Josh Keaton	Present		

**ESTABLISH QUORUM**

A quorum was established.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Swain.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION**

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

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

### **MOTION**

Trevor/Penny moved/seconded to approve the July Board of Director's Meeting Minutes as presented.

Board discussion included mention of two minor edits to the minutes: a spelling error on page 6 and changing Cass Pook's roll call status from absent to excused.

Motion carried unanimously.

### **RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

Although there were no visitors present, Timi Tullis took the opportunity to introduce staff member Jenni Lefing. Jenni will be transitioning back to full time with AASB and taking over meeting planning for the Spring and Fall Academies, Fly-ins, as well as maintaining her School Climate and Connectedness duties.

### **BOD WORKSHOPS AND ATTENDANCE**

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

Board discussion followed.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence was included in the Board packet.

## **REPORTS**

### **AASB President's Report**

Mike Swain assumed his role as President and delivered an oral report highlighting some of the events he attended this year as President-elect:

- Met with Alaska's legislators and attended NSBA's Equity Symposium and Advocacy Institute in Washington DC in Feb. with Pete, Tiffany and Norm.
- Attended NSBA's Annual Conf in Denver with Pete and Timi. Picked up lots of good information at the conference, and made him appreciate our annual conference more. Most of NSBA's sectionals are vendor-based while ours are more member-based.
- Went to NSBA Leadership meetings in Chicago in late August. At the meeting there was some movement on AASB's resolution to grant a seat on the board of directors and voting rights to AI/AN.
- Attended the Pacific Region meeting in Portland in October where that same AASB resolution gathered more strength and moved forward.

Board discussion followed.

### **Past President's Report**

Pete Hoepfner detailed a couple of highlights from the past year, including an fortuitous situation that he found himself in regarding AASB's resolution for AI/AN:

- Being elected as an alternate to the Policy and Resolutions Committee at the NSBA Leadership meetings in Chicago, Pete was one of three voting members to move the resolution forward.
- Being voted to become the President-elect of NSBA's Pacific Region at the meeting in Portland, Pete will chair the Policy and

Resolutions Committee.

Board discussion followed, including questions about vouchers and their impact in the Pacific Region and passing public money to private schools. Some details about Arizona and Nevada schools were shared as well as NSBA's stance against passing public funds to private schools. Another question revolved around governance and self-evaluation. Pete explained that part of the Chicago leadership meeting focused on board development and governance. There was a self-evaluation tool shared at that meeting that his district is looking at using this year. He will share the tool with interested directors. Barb shared that Nome modified their board evaluation and can share it as well.

### **Executive Director's Report**

Norm Wooten, AASB Executive Director, referred to his written report included in the board packet framed around the five board goals and provided a brief overview of activities that he and staff have engaged in since the last regular meeting in Cordova. He was available for any questions.

Board discussion followed. Josh Keaton had a comment on forwarding the board goal of parent engagement, asking that we share some of the talking points and lessons learned from a Sunday sectional at conference. Tammy Pound included that Jenni Lefing visited Unalaska in the fall on the School Climate and Connectedness Survey and did a fantastic job.

### **NSBA Report**

Tiffany Jackson referred to her written report that contains board highlights that are shared after their meetings. Two highlights were:

- They are making some progress financially, but the pension plan still looms over NSBA. There will be further discussion on possible dues changes at their meeting next month.
- AI/AN did receive a non-voting seat on the board

Tiffany also wanted to point out a miscommunication in the report that stated NSBA was asked to cancel their subscription to Board Docs, when in reality it was merely asked to reevaluate its relationship with that vendor, as it is a competing brand of a member, state association.

Board discussion followed, including on the topic of paperless meeting vendors – Board Book vs. Board Docs and other vendors. Norm shared that customer service was a factor in AASB's decision on going with BoardBook and added some clarification on the reasoning behind the issue stated in the previous paragraph. The main question and crux of the issue was: Should NSBA be advocating for one vendor as a sponsor of its conferences, etc. when it competes with the product of a member state association?

There was another question regarding the different regions of NSBA. There are 5 regions of NSBA -- Southern, Central, Northeast, Western, and Pacific Regions that are comprised of all member associations. Each region has three directors that sit on the NSBA board, in addition to other council seats also on the board.

### **AI/AN Council Report**

Tiffany Jackson explained the process of the AI/AN Caucus becoming a council. There were letters drafted asking for a non-

voting seat on the board and recognition as a council. Now that NSBA has accepted their request and they have been recognized as a council, the next step is moving to a voting seat. They are hopeful and excited that this will take place at this year's NSBA Annual Conference in San Antonio.

Board discussion followed including engaging more Alaska board members, Native and non-native, to join the AI/AN council to support Alaska Native students and American Indian students across the nation.

### **AASB Review**

Norm Wooten gave some background on the documents included in the packet: AASB Guiding Statements, BOD Code of Ethics and Job Description, 2018 BOD Calendar, and Policy #323. These documents are an introduction to new board members as well as a renewal of the commitment from current board members on how the board operates and behaves.

A goal of the board is to serve as a governance model for every school board in the state and committing to the code of ethics and paying attention to guiding statements and policies are a great step toward that.

The board had brief comments and discussion on these items.

### **Community Engagement Report**

Lori Grassgreen, Alaska ICE Director, referred to her written report included in the board packet and mentioned:

- Lots of interest in trauma-informed schools and culturally responsive teaching around the state
- Claudia and Konrad are involved around youth engagement and cultural integration projects. There is a new Helping Kids Succeed Alaska facebook page with information, videos, and memes uploaded. Follow the page, comment, and get others to do the same!
- Jenni Lefing has been busy with School Climate and Connectedness survey, and the ICE team has been carrying out student/community/boards/family/school staff workshops across the state.
- Heather has been super busy with CRESEL work, with lots of momentum around culturally responsive, social emotional learning

Board discussion followed, including the topic of welcoming the community into schools and into the discussion of raising achievement and addressing SEL needs of students within the CRESEL grant. Lori mentioned that they are being very intentional with the 7 districts and 30 communities that the grant touches and making sure that plans for each school involve community, student, and staff voice. Professional development from partners is also taking place with school staff. Feels like they are just scratching the surface but it's a good start.

Another question was about the Family Survey, an add-on to the School Climate and Connectedness Survey that districts can choose to take part in. There are a variety of different strategies AASB is using to get parent/family responses to the family survey and it may look different in each district. Discussions between districts, Panorama (AASB's vendor/partner), and AASB will determine what strategies will work best.

## **Board Development and Field Services Report**

Timi Tullis referred to her written report in the board packet and picked a few things to highlight, including:

- She and Lon Garrison picking up an additional 5-6 trainings with Charter School APCs and principals this year alone. This is in response to the annual Charter School Academies that Lon and Timi have done in recent years. Timi is happy to be ahead of the national trend to engage Charter schools.
- Facilitated webinars this fall, including one on Resolutions that positively impacted the process at this year's conference.
- She and Lon have found niches to provide services to the membership that districts are excited about. One example is the Maintenance Employee Workshop that Lon puts together and started a couple of years ago. Idea to hold it every other year was nixed by districts/attendees who wanted the opportunity every year.
- An increase in strategic planning trainings with districts.
- Supt. searches will kick into gear in the spring.

Discussion of the Board followed, including a new webinar idea covering social media (facebook, twitter, etc.) and/or giving a survey to gauge member interest on what topics might be of most use.

## **Consortium for Digital Learning Report**

Bob Whicker referred to the written report included in the board packet and gave a review of CDL for the newest board members. He also highlighted that:

- CDL's initial mission (from 2006) was to provide high access digital learning environments in schools across the state. (Idea was to 140 projects across the state)
- CDL 2.0 and 3.0 emphasized communication, connecting, and expanding opportunities to continue various projects around the state, some of which are still going strong.
- 40 action plans coming out of the Modernization and Finance committee of the AK Education Challenge that Bob facilitated. All of the action plans coming out of the committee align with CDL work.
- Professional development services going on. Yukon Koyukuk – 30 digital books for a period of three years starting this spring.
- Expanding policy online services with Ryan and Microscribe Publishing has been in the works. We will be increasing our service capabilities with policy audits for subscribing districts, keeping their manuals better up to date.
- Steve Nelson's talents and efforts with AASB Commentary have been very well received by districts/members across the state.
- Social media joint effort with Alaska ICE is also being headed up by Steve Nelson.

Discussion of the Board followed.

## **Alaska School Activities Association Report**

Due to health issues of the former board member Angela Washington, there is no report on ASAA activities at this time.

## **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 revolved around the resolutions and priorities that the forums wanted to bring forward. More specific forum priorities will be discussed during the 2018 priority issues later in the meeting.

Discussion of the Board followed, including the question of bridging the urban/rural divide among districts.

## **Annual Conference Review**

Timi Tullis, Director of Board Development and Field Services, gave a brief review of the Annual Conference day-by-day and asked for feedback from the board. She thanked the Board of Directors for their participation during the weekend and asked for ideas, suggestions, and comments for next year. A few ideas and comments follow.

-Enjoyed having the exhibitors in the same ballroom. They seemed to appreciate it as well.

- Possible BLN question for March meeting: How did the app/board game work for you? Ways to get good feedback about that from membership.

- How can we keep highlighting the topic of equity? Zaretta has agreed to contribute monthly articles to Commentary this next year and coming back to conference.

- Have a snapshot about “What it means to be on this Board?” Tiffany fielded some questions from board members.

Discussion of the Board followed, including board of director assignments at conference, having a better snapshots legend of who is at which table, having vendors in the main ballroom, the app in general, JNMS fundraiser and donations, the board game on the app, the flow of the banquet went well, and moving the Friday schedule to start at 8:15am to accommodate for introductions.

## **Policy Committee Report**

Tiffany Jackson briefly stated that the policy committee met, their report is in the packet and they have developed action items for the board to consider. With this, the board moved on to Action Items and policy revisions.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **Policy Revisions**

The Policy Committee met and reviewed three policies – #302, #304, and #323 and provided recommendations for each.

### **MOTION**

Policy #302 (Qualification of Board of Directors ) moved from committee the proposed changes in section 2 – adding the words “regular or special” after the word “next” in the fourth line, and striking the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraphs. This changes the policy of bringing a board member who is no longer on their local board to the conference at AASB’s expense. The exception to this policy change being the immediate past president. This would require every AASB board member, with the exception of the Past President, to be a sitting, local school board member.

Motion carries.

**1. MOTION**

Policy #304 (\* Powers And Duties of The Board of Directors) moved from committee the proposed changes, adding a ninth bullet that states: *The Board of Directors shall have the authority to create and submit resolutions to be considered by the Delegate Assembly. Resolutions to be considered by the Board of Directors must be forwarded to the AASB office three weeks in advance of a regular or special meeting so they may be included in the meeting agenda and give the Directors sufficient time to consider them prior to the regular or special meeting.* This action is to make sure there is adequate time to review the resolutions and avoid the need of editing language or creating new resolutions on the spot.

Board discussion followed.

Motion carries.

**MOTION TO AMEND**

Trevor/Tiffany moved/seconded to amend the motion to replace “and” with “to” so it would read: “may be included in the meeting agenda to give the Directors...”

Motion to amend carried.

Back to the main motion as amended.

**MOTION TO AMEND**

Andi/Trevor moved/seconded to amend the motion to read “Board of Director members shall have the authority to create...to be considered by Board of Director members...”

Board discussion followed.

Motion to amend was withdrawn.

Back to the main motion as amended.

**MOTION TO AMEND**

Andi/Barb moved/seconded to add to the second sentence “by an individual board of director member” after “to be considered by the Board of Directors...”

Board discussion followed.

Motion to amend failed by a roll call vote of 4 yeas to 10 nays.

Back to the main motion as amended.

The motion carried.

**MOTION**

Policy #323 (Authorized Travel and Expenses) moved from committee the proposed changes to bullet number nine, reading “*The Immediate Past President and Directors to the AASB Annual Conference if that individual no longer sits on a local board after defeat or did not run in the October election.*”

Board discussion followed.

Motion carries.

**RECESS: 12:05**

**RECONVENE: 12:45**

**Ratification of Executive Committee – AASB Logo**

The new logo was approved by the BOD at the July meeting. Since that time staff has been identifying items that need to be updated with the new logo. It became apparent that there was going to be

considerable expense involved in this effort. The items needing updated ranged all the way from a new building sign to business cards. It would be almost impossible to transfer funds out of the operating budget to cover these costs. A proposal was forwarded to the Executive Committee to use funding out of undesignated reserves to cover the cost of converting to the new logo.

**MOTION**

Clarence/Penny moved/seconded to approve the ratification of the logo by the Exec. Committee.

Motion carried.

**Approval of  
FY 2018 Budget**

AASB staff Norm Wooten and Diana Miller gave an overview of this year’s budget, budget process, and background of AASB’s work and services, including a thorough explanation of the accrual accounting method that AASB uses to get/give a clearer picture of the financial state that the association is in.

Board discussion followed and Norm and Diana answered questions. The board appreciated the attention to detail and transparency that Diana and Norm offered through the budget narrative and entire budget packet.

**MOTION**

Trevor/Tammy moved/seconded to approve and adopt the FY 2018 budget as presented.

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

Michael Swain	Yes	Tiffany Jackson	Yes
Tammy Pound	Yes	Pete Hoepfner	Yes
Andi Story	Yes	Trevor Shaw	Yes
Cass Pook	Yes	Kathleen Plunkett	Yes
Barb Amarok	Yes	Lawrence Jones	Yes
Sarah Welton	Yes	Clarence Daniel	Yes
Penny Vadla	Yes	Dana Mock	n/a
Josh Keaton	Yes		

A roll call vote was taken. With 14 in favor and 0 against, the motion carried.

**Priority Issues for 2018**

The board broke into groups to discuss key points brought up in the like-sized forums during conference. After these conversations, Timi brought the board back together as a whole to facilitate a discussion to find alignment among the topics highlighted from each group. One thought was to frame these key points/priorities around the work that came out of committees from Alaska’s Education Challenge.

AASB staff was given direction to draft language based on the commonalities found among the groups. The topics discussed ranged from early adequate funding to trauma-informed and culturally responsive teaching practices, from pre-K programs and broadband/tech access to teacher recruitment/retention, equity, and healthcare costs.



## **2018 BLN Assignments**

New BLN contact assignments were made for the three newest members who joined the board and a few other changes were made. *(See the attached BLN Assignments.)*

## **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 Swain asked Directors to volunteer for the following committees for 2018: Policy, Constitution and Bylaws, Scholarship, Membership, Sustainability, and Ad hoc Advocacy.

*(The attached 2017-18 list of committee assignments reflects those who volunteered.)*

## **Board Comments**

Board Comments included:

- Welcome to Lawrence, Trevor and Josh, new Board of Director members!
- Appreciate being a part of this board and thank you to each of you for the work that you do for all of Alaska's kids.
- Appreciate the board's willingness to be flexible at Conference and model for our membership.
- We need to stress the importance of professional development for our school boards, as we do for our site administrators and teachers.
- Appreciate the leadership that Norm has shown for the association.
- Excited for what this year hold's for public education and what we can do to advocate for the students of Alaska.

## **Future Business**

- What can we do as a board to advocate for areas of children's needs and services, such as continuing Denali KidCare and similar organizations that offer healthcare to families in Alaska?
- Our federal advocacy as our leadership travels to meet with U.S. legislators with a focus on: maintaining local control with charter schools, opposing vouchers, and continuing to work toward providing the "glide path" for IDEA and special education funding that was promised from the federal government.
- Send a card to Melvin Pauken from our board with our deepest sympathies for his loss.
- Update from Norm when we get more information about the AK Education Challenge
- Attendees from Alaska to the NSBA Annual Conference to publish names and phone numbers to keep in touch with one another while in San Antonio.
- Collaborations with other departments/organizations to help reduce energy costs to offset budget shortfalls.

## **ADJOURNMENT MOTION**

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

Motion carried unanimously.

President Mike Swain adjourned the regular meeting of the Association of Alaska School Boards at 3:10 p.m.

A True record.

ATTEST:

---

Secretary/Treasurer

**AASB BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
2018 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

**Trevor Shaw (Ketchikan)**

Hydaburg  
Copper River  
Iditarod  
Kuspuk

**Tammy Pound (Unalaska)**

Aleutians East  
Bristol Bay  
Pribilof  
Lake & Peninsula

**Penny Vadla (Kenai)**

Denali  
Nenana  
Anchorage  
Mat-Su

**Dana Mock (Delta/Greely)**

Delta/Greely  
Galena  
Yukon Koyukuk  
Alaska Gateway

**Michael Swain (Bristol Bay)**

Dillingham  
Southwest Region  
Craig  
Unalaska

**Barb Amarok (Nome)**

Lower Kuskokwim  
North Slope  
Bering Strait

**Cass Pook (Sitka)**

Wrangell  
Petersburg  
Mt. Edgecumbe  
Pelican

**Lawrence Jones (Northwest Arctic)**

St. Mary's  
Nome  
Southeast Island

**Clarence Daniel (LKSD)**

Northwest Arctic  
Kenai  
Yakutat

**Tiffany Jackson (Aleutians East)**

Chatham  
Haines  
Sitka  
Juneau

**Josh Keaton (Juneau)**

Aleutian Region (w/ Norm)  
Skagway  
Yupiit  
Tanana

**Andi Story (Juneau)**

Hoonah  
Kake  
Klawock  
Ketchikan

**Kathleen Plunkett (Anchorage)**

Fairbanks  
Kodiak  
Yukon Flats

**AASB Board of Directors  
2018 Committee Assignments**

**POLICY**

Pete Hoepfner, Chair  
Kathleen Plunkett  
Tiffany Jackson  
Tammy Pound  
Trevor Shaw

**CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS**

Tammy Pound, Chair  
4 others from membership

**SCHOLARSHIP**

Tiffany Jackson, Chair  
Tammy Pound  
Mike Swain  
Sarah Welton  
Kathleen Plunkett  
Cass Pook  
Lawrence Jones  
Andi Story  
Penny Vadla –Alternate

**MEMBERSHIP**

Clarence Daniel, Chair  
Josh Keaton  
Pete Hoepfner  
Penny Vadla  
Dana Mock  
Barb Amarok

**SUSTAINABILITY**

Sarah Welton, Chair  
Dana Mock  
Lawrence Jones  
Trevor Shaw  
Tiffany Jackson  
Cass Pook

**AD HOC ADVOCACY COMMITTEE**

Pete Hoepfner, Chair  
Kathleen Plunkett  
Andi Story  
Clarence Daniel  
Trevor Shaw

**CENTER FOR ALASKA EDUCATION POLICY RESEARCH**

Sue Hull

**ALASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION  
REPRESENTATIVE**

Clarence Daniel

**GOV. TRIBAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Tiffany Jackson

**ALASKA EARLY CHILDHOOD  
COORDINATING COUNCIL**

Josh Keaton, Cass Pook, Sarah Welton, and Pete Hoepfner are interested.