Legislative Priorities & Bill Review

Norm Wooten
March 20, 2016
Lead to story: “Alaska’s schools are bleeding red ink.”
UA Budget Cuts

- House approved $35 million unallocated reduction to university budget in FY 2017.
- Senate approved $10 million unallocated reduction.
- Regents preparing reductions & reorganization plan at all campuses.
EED Budget Deletions

- **Early childhood** development grants to districts: $2 million
- **Parents as Teachers & Best Beginnings:** $926,000 (retained in Senate version of budget)
- **Mentoring program:** $1.5 million
- **ANSEP:** $1 million
- **Library, Archives & Museum:** $2.7 million (including Broadband access grant)
- Other reductions in EED: $2 million (approx.)
- **Total reductions:** House $9.8 million
  Senate: $8.9 million
Bills in Play
SB 79 Rehire Retired

- Re-opens rehire program for retired teachers & administrators
- Request for lower fiscal note pending
  - Status: Senate CRA Committee
  - HB 172 identical bill in House Education Committee

Sen. Mike Dunleavy, R-Wasilla
Bills in Play

SB 89 Parental Rights

- Requires districts to allow students to withdraw from tests or classes, with parental permission
- Prohibits districts from allowing Planned Parenthood on campus
  - Status: Passed Senate, in House Education Committee (Hearing on Monday 8 a.m.)

Sen. Mike Dunleavy, R-Wasilla
Imposes civil fines or penalties for violations of restrictions in SB 89 (ban on sex education from abortion service providers). Teachers and board members included.

Status: Senate Judiciary Committee

Sen. Mike Dunleavy, R-Wasilla
HB 102 Psychiatric Treatment Funding

- Requires districts to provide funding to residential centers for education of students under treatment
  - Status: House Finance Committee

Rep. Wes Keller, R-Wasilla
Bills in Play

SCR 1 Civics Education Task Force

- Creates 12-member task force to recommend civics education curriculum for K-12
  - Status: Passed Senate, in House Finance Committee

Sen. Gary Stevens, R-Kodiak
New Bills

HB 298 Layoffs of Tenured Teachers

- Amends 14.20.177(a) to allow layoffs for any reason
- Deletes requirement of decreased enrollment or drop in basic need of 3 percent
  - Status: House Education Committee (Hearing Wednesday, March 23)

Rep. Cathy Tilton, R-Wasilla

Association of Alaska School Boards
Advocates for Alaska’s Youth