Legislative Priorities & Bill Review

Norm Wooten
March 29, 2015
Major Priorities

• Keep the Promise on one-time funding appropriated in 2014
• Eliminate Unfunded, Underfunded and Unnecessary Mandates
• Governor proposes repeal of one-time K-12 funding in FY 16 & 17
• Repeal contained in supplemental budget bills
• Status: SB 40 & HB 94 in Finance Committees
Mandates

- AASB & ASA offered 18 examples of mandates on districts
- Several incorporated as amendments to bills (SB 31, Erin’s Law)
  - Physical exams for teachers & students
  - Fingerprinting of Pre-K teachers

Sen. Mike Dunleavy, R-Wasilla
Budget Cuts

- Education Programs zeroed out in FY 16 (House version)
  - Parents as Teachers
  - Best Beginnings
  - Pre-K Grants to districts
  - K-3 Literacy Program
  - Statewide Literacy

Rep. Mark Neuman, R-Wasilla

Association of Alaska School Boards
Advocates for Alaska’s Youth
Budget Cuts

- Education Programs reduced in FY 16:
- Teacher Mentoring
- STEM grants
- Alaska Learning Network
- Broadband expansion
- **Total EED cuts:** $13.6 million

Mark Neuman, co-chair
House Finance Committee

Association of Alaska School Boards
Advocates for Alaska’s Youth
Budget Cuts

- Education Finance Subcommittee:
  - Broadband expansion: $5 million cut
  - Mentors for Principals: $1.1 million cut
  - ANSEP: $1.3 million cut
  - STEM: $1 million cut
  - Pre-K grants: $2 million cut

Sen. Mike Dunleavy, R-Wasilla
Budget Cuts

- Best Beginnings: $937,500 cut
- Online with Libraries: $761,800 cut
- Live Homework Hotline: $138,200 cut
- Various other cuts and add-backs
- **Total reduction** to EED: $18 million

Sen. Mike Dunleavy, R-Wasilla
HB 30
Constitutional History

- Requires districts to adopt curriculum on America’s founding documents.
- Denies diploma to students who do not pass the course.
  - Status: House Finance Committee

Rep. Wes Keller, R-Wasilla

Association of Alaska School Boards
Advocates for Alaska’s Youth
SCR 1

Civics Education Task Force

- Creates 12-member group to improve civics education in K-12
- One seat each for student, teacher & school board (AASB)
  - Status: Senate Finance Committee

Sen. Gary Stevens, R-Kodiak

Association of Alaska School Boards
Advocates for Alaska's Youth
HB 102
Residential Psychiatric Funds

- Allows foundation funds to follow a student during treatment in residential center
- Amended to specify student must be currently enrolled in a district
  ▪ Status: House Education Committee

Rep. Wes Keller, R-Wasilla
HB 157
Language Immersion Charters

- Allows establishment of charter schools in which at least half of instruction is in indigenous or foreign language
- Allows “limited” teaching certificates & recognizes certificates issued by tribes
- Also see SB 84 (Olson)

Rep. Jonathon Kreiss-Tomkins, D-Sitka
HCR 2
School Choice Week

• Declares Jan. 24-30, 2016 “Alaska School Choice Week”
• Mentions public schools among the choices available
  ▪ Status: Awaiting signature of Governor

Rep. Lynn Gattis, R-Wasilla

Association of Alaska School Boards
Advocates for Alaska's Youth
SB 31
‘Erin’s Law’

- Age-appropriate sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention training in K-12 classes
- Amendments requested by districts limit other mandates for duplicate physical exams and fingerprinting
  - Status: Senate Education Committee

Sen. Berta Gardner, D-Anchorage
SB 64
School Bond Moratorium

- Suspends school bond debt reimbursement program effective Jan. 1, 2015
- In 2020, reduces state share by 20% to 50% and 40% reimbursement
- 2015 Priority List contains 17 schools @ $253 million and 117 major maintenance projects @ $197 million
- Status: Passed Senate 17-2

Sen. Anna McKinnon, R-Anchorage

Association of Alaska School Boards
Advocates for Alaska’s Youth
SB 79
Rehire of Retired Personnel

- Allows districts to rehire employees who retired under TRS
- Must be retired at least three months
- Rehires remain retired during employment; no added service credit
  - Status: Senate Education Committee

Sen. Mike Dunleavy, R-Wasilla
- Requires legislative approval of education standards and assessments, after review by parent committee.
- Requires legislative approval of all federal education grants or program receipts.
  - Status: Senate Education Committee

Sen. Mike Dunleavy, R-Wasilla

SB 80
Education Standards/Federal Funds

Association of Alaska School Boards
Advocates for Alaska’s Youth
SB 88
Defined Benefits Retirement

- Creates new defined benefit tiers in PERS & TRS
- Allows employees who retired in mid-2006 or after to elect those tiers
  - Status: Senate CRA Committee

Sen. Dennis Egan, D-Juneau
SB 89
Parental Rights

• Requires districts to adopt policies allowing parents to withdraw children from activity, class, performance standard, test or assessment that is harmful to child
• Prohibits questionnaires without written permission
  - Status: Senate Education Committee

Sen. Mike Dunleavy, R-Wasilla
HB 163
School Fundraisers

- Authorizes EED to allow school fundraisers to sell food not approved under federal nutrition policy
  - Status: House Education Committee (first hearing Monday 8 a.m.)

Rep. Tammie Wilson, R-North Pole