Legislative Process & Context

Your Status as a School Board Member

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The Pressure is On!

- This is the 2\textsuperscript{nd} Session of the 32\textsuperscript{nd} Legislature. All legislative bills lapse upon adjournment and the introduction of bills begins anew with the convening of the 1\textsuperscript{st} Session of the 33\textsuperscript{rd} Legislature.

- 149 education-related bills have been introduced in the 32\textsuperscript{nd} Legislature. Every lawmaker wants their bill to cross the finish line and today is Day 27 of the session!

- This is an election year and legislators cannot accept contributions nor campaign as long as the legislature is in session.
● The PFD question remains unsettled. Many legislative campaigns ran on a platform of adhering to the “statutory PFD formula” and in some cases a “back payment” for those years of “shorting” the PFD amount.

● The electorate has a long memory concerning the PFD. Sitting legislators want to hit the reelection campaign trail with a positive PFD message.
The Role of School Boards & School Board Members

I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the constitution of the United States and the constitution of the State of Alaska, and that I will honestly, faithfully, and impartially discharge my duties as a school board member to the best of my ability.

AS 14.12.090
Your responsibilities are numerous (and sometimes, onerous)

Oversee the finances of the district, provide an annual fiscal audit, provide bonding for the CFO, create and update board policies & administrative regulations, oversee an educational program for students, approve and revise curriculum, permit usage of school facilities, employ teachers & administrators, employ support staff, set school calendars, provide for the safety of students & staff, maintain student records, apply for and comply with grants, enter into contracts, purchase insurance, approve and oversee charter schools, operate a correspondence program, provide student transportation, you are subject to lawsuits and court orders...
You are often the largest employer in your community or region

You are such a ”big deal” that the legislature has indemnified, or protected you from personal liability as long as you are acting as a board!
You have tremendous Compliance Responsibilities

- Fair Labor Standards Acts (FLSA)
- Occupational Safety & Health Act of 1970 (OSHA)
- Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA)
- Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act (HIPAA)
- Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA)
- Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)
- Civil Rights Act of 1964
Know your status as a School Board Member

As a school board member you are an agent of the State of Alaska.

The Constitution of the State of Alaska, Article 7, Section 1, establishes a “*system of public schools open to all children of the State.*”

You, as a school board member, were elected by the people of your community to govern and oversee that “*system of public schools open to all the children of the state.*”
What’s the Purpose of this conversation?

Don’t ever forget that oath of office you took as a newly elected or reelected school board member:

“I will honestly, faithfully, and impartially discharge my duties as a school board member to the best of my ability”
A legislator is not “doing you a favor” by agreeing to meet with you!

By traveling to Juneau you are faithfully discharging your duty as a school board member by advocating for the students of your district!

You enter a legislative office as an elected agent of the State of Alaska doing your job – just as every legislator is doing their job.

Never be apologetic for coming to Juneau and advocating for students. It’s your job!
The outcome of the 2022 gubernatorial election could have a profound impact on state policy issues no matter the winner.

A crowded field of candidates for governor!

Governor Dunleavy (R), Rep. Christopher Kurka (R), Kenai Mayor Charlie Pierce (R), Former Rep. Les Gara (D), Former Governor Bill Walker (I), William Toien (L), Bruce Walden (R).

Ballot Measure Two, Ranked Voting, passed in 2020. It will be a much different election this year.

On January 19, the Alaska Supreme court upheld a lower court ruling affirming the constitutionality of the voter approved Ranked Voting system.
The Primary Election will be a “top four.” Voters will vote for one candidate in each race and the top four candidates from each race will go on to the general election.

All candidates will be on the same ballot, and all voters will get the same ballot, regardless of their political affiliation.
Ranked Voting - General Election

- **Round 1** – Only your 1st choice is counted. If a candidate gets 50% +1 vote, they win. If not, the counting goes to Round 2

- **Round 2** – Candidate with the fewest votes gets eliminated. If you voted for the eliminated candidate, your vote goes to your next choice and still have a say in who wins. If more than two candidates are left, counting continues.

- **Round 3** – (and beyond) – If two candidates are left, the candidate with the most votes wins.
Capitol Entry Protocol

- The Capitol is open to the public with certain COVID health protection protocols in place.
- Legislators & staff are undergoing regular testing.
- Masks are required at **ALL TIMES** for **EVERYONE** entering the Capitol.
- Social distancing is to be maintained.
- If you experience any COVID-like symptoms or have come into contact with anyone who has since tested positive for COVID, do not enter the Capitol.
- Be aware that the Legislative Council may amend Capitol entry rules or even shut down access at any time.
Your Interaction with the Legislature is Important

“We in America do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate.”

- Thomas Jefferson