



**Association of Alaska School Boards
Board of Directors
REGULAR MEETING
March 28, 2015
Baranof Hotel, Gastineau Suite**

CALL TO ORDER

President Andi Story called the regular meeting of the Association of Alaska School Boards to order at 8:31 am.

ROLL CALL

Andi Story	Present	Tiffany Jackson	Excused
Pete Hoepfner	Present	Debby Edwardson	Present
Charlene Arneson	Present	Ignatius Chayalkun	Present
Sarah Welton	Present	Angie Washington	Present
Sunni Hilts	Present	Lon Garrison	Present
Richard Mauer	Present	Kathleen Plunkett	Present
Cass Pook	Excused	Mike Swain	Present
Sue Hull	Present		

ESTABLISH QUORUM

A quorum was established.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was lead by President Story.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION

Pete/Charlene moved/seconded to amend the agenda by moving up item 12a: Appointment of Executive Director and going into **Executive Session** next to discuss the appointment of Executive Director of AASB.

Motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session began at 8:37am. The board came out of Executive Session at 10:00am to allow Max Mertz to deliver AASB's Audit Report.

Audit Report

Max Mertz, a partner with Elgee, Rehfeld, Mertz, AASB's auditor, presented the 2014 audit report. He reviewed the Management Letter, the Letter to the Board of Directors, the Financial Statements and Schedule for 2013 and 2014, and the Federal Financial Awards Reports and Schedules

and answered questions. There was a finding related to our Consortium for Digital Learning (CDL) grant that Max Mertz thoroughly explained to the board and staff.

Comments/Discussion:

The board expressed appreciation to Diana and the staff for all their work on the audit and to Max for his professionalism and thorough report.

RECESS at 10:45am
RECONVENE at 10:55am

The board resumed the **Executive Session** for discussion of the appointment of Executive Director.

The Executive Session ended at 12:02 pm.

MOTION

Pete/Sarah moved/seconded to offer Norm Wooten a contract from May 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016 for \$120,000 for a 225-day contract prorated for the two months of May and June 2015.

Andi Story – Y	Tiffany Jackson – Excused
Pete Hoepfner – Y	Rich Mauer - Y
Charlene Arneson – Y	Iggy Chayalkun – Y
Sarah Welton – Y	Cass Pook – Excused
Sunni Hilts – Y	Kathleen Plunkett – Y
Angie Washington – Y	Mike Swain - Y
Sue Hull – Y	Lon Garrison – Y
Debby Edwardson - Y	

A voice vote was taken.13 ayes, 0 nays.

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION

Pete/Charlene moved/seconded to approve the November Board of Director’s Regular Meeting Minutes and the January Special Meeting Minutes as stated.

Motion carried unanimously.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

There were no visitors.

BOD WORKSHOPS AND ATTENDANCE

Tables for free workshops and board attendance over the last year were included in the BOD packet for review.

Discussion of the board followed.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was correspondence in the form of a letter to Commissioner Mike Hanley and a joint letter (AASB & ACSA) to Senator Dunleavy and Representative Keller. (See attachment)

REPORTS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

President's Report

President Story's written report was included in the board packet. Highlights included:

- Tiffany and Andi attended NSBA Annual Conference in Nashville. Overall the policy and resolutions process went well. Lots of work to be done with Capitol Hill reauthorizing ESEA and will keep everyone posted on any action/alerts that take place.
- Lon shared that the resolutions process is continuing to evolve, get better and is working. The delegates at the assembly were more engaged.

Discussion of the board followed.

Executive Director's Report

Joseph Reeves, AASB Executive Director, referred to his written report included in the board packet. He highlighted the following:

- We are doing really well with regard to membership dues
- We are in a good position financially and programmatically as an association, and in terms of staff.
- This is his last report as Exec. Dir. He looks forward to following AASB in the future.

Discussion of the board followed.

Consortium For Digital Learning Report

Joseph Reeves reported on recent CDL activities on behalf of Bob Whicker, CDL Director, who couldn't make the meeting. Highlights of the report were:

- CDL is moving in a little bit of a different direction due to budget constraints
- We are getting lots of requests from school districts for assistance – for mentoring (how to put things together) and technical assistance
- We had three Alaska students win Gates Scholarships last year with mentoring through the *Talk Story, Write Story* workshops. This year, there are six students who are taking steps to be eligible for the award. We have no more funding to help support *TS, WS* but we hope to drum up support for the future.

Discussion of the board followed. Andi Story shared that a Lunch-and-Learn was taking place at the capitol with The America Bridge Project and to attend if possible. Joseph remarked that we started out funding the America Bridge Project in Alaska and now they are contracting with us to help them.

School Improvement Report

Norm Wooten, Director of School Improvement and Governmental Relations, reported on recent School Improvement related activities with the current School Improvement districts. Highlights included:

- We continue to work with and deliver workshops in districts throughout the state of Alaska
- Working with intervention districts that have schools classified as one- and two-star.
- We are crossing our fingers that we will receive the EED grant for next year to continue our work with these districts.

Alaska ICE Report

Lori Grassgreen, Alaska ICE Director, referred to her written report included in the board packet. Highlights of the report included:

- The 3rd and 4th grade School Climate and Connectedness Survey was launched this year. Great accomplishment. Seven districts are participating but we hope to expand that.
- ANDORE discussions from the First Alaskans Institute held a sectional at the AASB Annual Conference on Alaska Native racial equity (past and present) and how to improve student success. FAI expressed interest in working with AASB staff and the AASB BOD on how to work together on some of the topics covered – Parent/Family engagement, Ensuring language and culturally specific programs in schools, Training and retaining Alaska teachers, Youth empowerment, and Community well-being.
- Meeting with superintendents, school board and community members and asking them about their needs from AASB/ICE and what they may want support around.

Discussion of the board followed.

Board Liaison Network (BLN) Reports

AASB Directors contacted 13 districts during this round of BLN calls. They were:

Annette Island, Chatham, Copper River, Cordova, Denali, Fairbanks, Hydaburg, Iditarod, Juneau, Kashunamiut, Kuspuk, Lower Yukon, and Sitka.

Board discussion followed, including a verbal report from Angie Washington for Aleutians East (possible school closure due to enrollment, lots of turnover there this year, they would like a sectional on dealing with difficult board members); Bristol Bay (doing well); no success contacting the Pribilofs.

Alaska School Activities Association Report

The Alaska School Activities Association (ASAA) is the governing body that regulates interscholastic activities, contests and programs statewide. A board that is elected from their association membership and includes a voting representative from the AASB Board governs ASAA.

Highlights included:

- The Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC) wants ASAA to demand that all districts have AEDs at each practice and competition (cost

to rural districts is a concern) and an emergency action plan at each venue and practice.

- ASAA is looking at developing a transgender policy
- New app: ASAA 365. Fans, parents, students, athletes, and coaches now have unprecedented access to scores, stats, schedules, photo and video sharing, and more! (<http://www.asaa365.com/mobile-app>)

Discussion of the board followed.

NSBA Pac Region Report

Sue Hull, selected by Anne Byrne to chair the NSBA nominations committee, referred to her written report for the Pacific Region. She briefly mentioned the upcoming summer meeting in Alaska.

- The Pac Region conference is taking place in Fairbanks in June. The group will work on resolutions and bylaw changes for NSBA and discuss public school choice from an Alaskan perspective. There will be presentations on how adverse childhood experiences impact young brains and how to improve student performance in schools with high poverty populations.

Board discussion followed.

Executive Director's Evaluation Process

Joseph Reeves commented on the Executive Directors evaluation process, and the self-assessment shared with the board prior to the evaluation. He also offered that the self-assessment could be a valuable tool in preparation for long range planning taking place at the board meeting this summer. The evaluation comes to the board in digital form (through Survey Monkey) and takes place in late May/early June.

AASB Board Self-Assessment

Sunni Hilts mentioned to the board that the self-assessment piece will once again be online and be disseminated in late spring. She would expect to see 100% participation.

President Story reiterated the importance of the two surveys, stating that it's a "really good use of our time."

Advocacy Report

Sue Hull referred briefly to the written report included in the board packet. She also brought up the importance of testifying (and getting community members to testify) before the Senate Finance Committee this Monday and Tuesday. Participation will send the right message to legislators on K-12 education.

Preparation for Revision of Long Range Plan

Joseph Reeves gave an overview of the Long Range Plan, its purpose and usefulness for the association. Since 1988, AASB has had a LRP and every three years the board revises it. "This is your opportunity to set the direction for the association for the next three years...to see where we are, and where we want to be."

RECESS: 1:23pm
RECONVENE: 2:00pm

**Annual Conference
Planning**

Timi Tullis, Director Membership Services, referred to her report and asked if there were any questions from the board. Having none, the board moved ahead and held discussion of a conference theme for next year. Ideas toward a theme included: Leading Children to Excellence, Promise our Children Excellence, What if Tomorrow Were Today, Through the Eyes of a Child, and ideas around thinking Seven Generations ahead.

The board discussed possible guest speakers: Salome Thomas-El, Thomas Alsbury (for Exp. Bd. Mem), Doug Reeves, Samuel Johns, Mao Tosi, Bill Daggett, and possibly Eva's nephew Jeff Kinuviak (sp?). Other ideas include young people, those who have gone through our school system, gotten through hard times, or perhaps a feel-good speaker.

The board also talked about various sectional ideas: dealing with negative people, educational apps for phone, technology in the hands of youth, personal qualities/productivity secrets, professional development for staff, racial issues and educating our youth, early literacy, and teacher effectiveness.

One idea for youth entertainment for the conference is from LKSD. Timi will speak with Clarence at LKSD.

Acceptance of Audit Report

MOTION

Sunni/Lon moved/seconded to accept the 2014 audit report as presented.

Sunni Hilts – Y	Andi Story – Y
Tiffany Jackson – Y	Rich Mauer - Excused
Charlene Arneson – Y	Iggy Chayalkun – Y
Sarah Welton – Y	Cass Pook - Excused
Peter Hoepfner – Y	Kathleen Plunkett – Y
Angie Washington – Excused	Mike Swain - Y
Sue Hull – Y	Lon Garrison – Y
Debby Edwardson - Y	

By a vote of 13 ayes, 0 nays the motion carried.

AASB Policy Revisions

MOTION

Sunni Hilts moved that the board accept the recommendations of the policy committee. (note: *Because the motion came from committee, there was no need for a second*)

Discussion of the board followed.

With no opposition, the motion carried.

**Summer Meeting
Location and Date - 2016**

President Story asked the Board for recommendations for the 2016 Summer Meeting Location and Date.

There was board discussion to hold the meeting in Sand Point on July 22-24, 2016 depending on the availability of facilities. Other dates suggested were July 15-17. Because Tiffany wasn't present, and the availability of facilities was unknown, there was no motion made. The staff will work with Tiffany on dates and securing rooms.

Discussion of the Board followed.

AASB Scholarship Awards

Sunni Hilts, Scholarship Committee Chair, reported the committee met March 27, 2015 to review applications for the June Nelson Memorial Scholarship Awards. The selection committee was made up of: Tim Navarre (Kenai), Sherri Thomas (Bristol Bay), Tom Conley (Sitka), Andrea Korbe (Chugach), Vern Carlson (Denali), and Mark Calvert (AASB). AASB received a total of 91 applications (87 first time, 4 return). Funds were available to award 11 scholarships this year.

The Committee recommends the AASB Board of Directors award the selected slate of students the June Nelson Memorial Scholarship. Committee report is attached.

MOTION

Sarah/Debby moved/seconded that the Board accept the Scholarship Committee recommendation and award the June Nelson Memorial Scholarship to the named students.

With no objection, the motion carried.

Bank Signature Resolutions

Joseph Reeves explained policy 505 providing for check signing authority to the Executive Director or designee.

MOTION

Sue/Mike moved/seconded that the board approve the resolution authorizing the new executive director Norm Wooten, Timi Tullis, and Lori Grassgreen to sign checks.

By a voice vote of 13 ayes, 0 nays the motion carried.

Approval of Amicus Brief

Joseph Reeves explained the background of the Ketchikan lawsuit and his discussions with John Sedor and Saul Friedman for developing an amicus brief.

MOTION

Mike/Sue moved/seconded to approve the filing of the Amicus Brief on the Ketchikan Borough lawsuit.

Board discussion followed.

By a voice vote of 13 ayes, 0 nays the motion carried.

BOARD COMMENTS

Comments included:

- Thank you to Joseph, best of luck!
- Look forward to working with Norm
- Thank you to Lon for putting his name forward for the Ex. Dir. position
- Appreciate the work of the board, for being mindful, respectful

- Thank Andi for her leadership in a tough meeting with difficult discussions to have and hard decisions to make.
- Congratulations to the June Nelson Memorial Scholarship winners

FUTURE BUSINESS

There was none discussed at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

Sarah/Pete moved/seconded to adjourn.

MOTION

President Story adjourned the regular meeting of the Association of Alaska School Boards at 3:52 pm.

A True Record.

ATTEST:

Secretary/Treasurer



2015 June Nelson Memorial Scholarship Award

On March 27, 2015 the Scholarship Review Committee met from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to review applications for the June Nelson Memorial Scholarship. Due to the interviewing of candidates for the AASB Ex. Director position, the scholarship committee of the BOD was unavailable, so the committee was made up from the membership at large. The Committee consisted of the following board members: Tim Navarre, (Kenai) Sheri Thomas (Bristol Bay), Tom Conley (Sitka), Andre Korbe (Chugach), Vern Carlson (Denali), and Mark Calvert (AASB Staff Member) who joined the committee for the day. AASB Staff Kristen Plosay and Timi Tullis provided support to the Committee.

AASB received a total of 87 first time applications and 4 returner applicants, the committee reviewed them all.

Scoring for the applications was based on the following criteria:

- 20 Points – Essay Writing Rubric
- 20 Points – Unique Circumstances
- 12.5 Points – Community Service
- 12.5 Points – Student Leadership
- 12.5 Points – Cultural Activities
- 12.5 Points – Student Activities
- 5 Points – Letters of Recommendation

The Committee was able to recommend a total of 11 winners this year. The scholarships are to be applied toward the recipients' post secondary education.

The Committee recommends the AASB Board of Directors award the following students the June Nelson Memorial Scholarship.

Jeffery Moore	Mt. Edgecumbe High	Sitka
Kaya Duguay	Sitka High	Sitka
Zoe Anelon	Newhaven High	Lake and Peninsula
Conrad McCormick	Bethel Regional High	Lower Kuskokwim
Lindsey Hammer	Cordova Jr./Sr. High	Cordova
Ciera Kelly	Juneau-Douglas High	Juneau
Marieana Larson	Sand Point	Aleutians East
Kristian Chun	Eagle River High	Anchorage
Keri Albrite	Nenana City	Nenana
Peyton Kuzakin	King Cove High	Aleutians East
Kennedy Trabold	East Anchorage High	Anchorage

The committee read 4 essays and would recommend 1 past winners as scholarships recipients based on their essay.

Student	High School/college	District
Abigail Sweetman	Ketchikan HS St. Joseph's University	Ketchikan



February 20, 2015

Senator Mike Dunleavy
 Chairman, Senate Education Committee
 Alaska State Capitol
 Juneau, Alaska 99801

Representative Wes Keller
 Chairman, House Education Committee
 Alaska State Capitol
 Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Dunleavy and Representative Keller:

As you requested, the Alaska Council of School Administrators (ACSA) and the Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB) have worked together to produce a list of potential efficiencies and cost savings in K-12 education that are responsive to the current fiscal shortfall. ACSA surveyed its membership and AASB worked through an exercise with its membership to create the following list. This coversheet identifies areas jointly identified.

Efficiencies or cost savings identified across both entities include the following:

1. **The 70 percent rule** ([AS 14.17.520](#)): How much time and expense are devoted to collecting data to comply with this law at the district and state level? The rule itself applies an arbitrary percentage to a complex system.
 - Repeal of AS 14.17.520 requested, per AASB Resolution 2.20.
2. Streamline and share costs associated with new [teacher evaluation](#) requirements by creating models that could be used by districts. The State Board of Education should revise the requirements to allow districts flexibility in implementing the use of student test scores in teacher evaluations. More than fifty districts creating teacher evaluation and administrative evaluation tools is duplicative, an unfunded mandate, and is time intensive.
 - a. AASB resolution 4.13 *“urges the State Board of Education & Early Development to reconsider the weight ascribed to student growth measures in the educator evaluation system and the timeline for implementation. Specifically, the AASB encourages the Board to revise regulations pertaining to the local incorporation of student data so that districts have the authority to decide, now and in the future, the appropriate weight ascribed to student learning data, at a figure no less than 20 percent, thereby giving districts greater flexibility in the implementation of the system. AASB also urges the Legislature to fund resources and training needed for districts to implement the new teacher evaluation system.”*

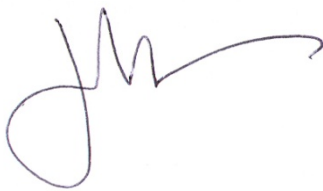
2. **Mandated training.** <http://education.alaska.gov/ELearning/> Districts are required to train employees to recognize sexual abuse, prevent suicides, administer CPR and first aid, restrain and isolate students in emergencies, among many. Many of these requirements were approved with fiscal notes showing no cost at the state level, but require substantial effort and expense to comply with at the district level. Identify those trainings that could be eliminated or changed to a multi-year cycle. Another example is technology assessments for teachers (which should not apply to elementary schools, pre-school teachers, gym teachers, music teachers, etc.). <https://www.eed.state.ak.us/mandatedtraining/>
3. Both ACSA and AASB have strongly advocated elimination of the mandatory **PERS termination studies and “below the floor” charges.** (AS 39.35.255). The contribution floor that requires the studies and past service cost payments to PERS/TRS in excess of 22 percent for employees who are separating from service is outdated and onerous for local governments and school districts.
4. Expand **technology and broadband capability** in communities and districts to reduce the cost of providing basic instruction in some districts; the delivery of services by licensed professionals to students; the acquisition of textbooks and other curriculum materials, and the cost of performing tests and assessments.
5. Allow districts to **rehire retired** individuals (at least temporarily) to fill crucial employment needs. Districts should be able to hire who they need for superintendents, principals, teachers and other staff positions by accessing a pool of seasoned professionals that are currently statutorily excluded from consideration.
6. Streamline **school maintenance** reporting requirements.
7. **Consolidation of student information supplied to the state:** Many of the reports provided to state and federal agencies from the school are repeated. Examples include much of the District Report Card, reporting of dropouts to the Alaska Military Academy, pre-school reports, and AK STEPP.
8. Allow school districts and municipalities to share interest earned on school district funds in **centralized treasuries.**
9. Clarify that the responsibility for the cost of **physical examinations** for kindergarten students rests with parents or guardians, not school districts. Reference AS14.30.070. Some physicals (such as for kindergarteners) could be eliminated, and perhaps the schedule could be stretched.
10. Consider a **biennial cycle** for adopting the state budget. Local governments and school districts would likely follow. An alternative would be to forward-fund K-12 education or adopt K-12 budget bill early in each session to better coordinate state and local budget processes.

11. Eliminate the requirement of **preschool teachers** that are certificated to be fingerprinted and background checked twice.
12. Eliminate the requirement for district run **pre-school facilities** to be reapproved by local fire marshals.
13. Eliminate the district's responsibility to pay for **mandatory health exams** for staff.
14. Provide incentives to districts to **share in health care pools**.
15. Provide state models for **opt-out testing** as opposed to being created by individual districts.
16. Increase the **10 percent ceiling** on reserves, which can be in conflict with requirements for bond reserves needed to retain low interest rates.
17. Include a **local fiscal note** in addition to the state fiscal note on any legislation that is introduced.

Attached please find the full survey results from the ACSA membership. We appreciate very much the chance to provide input as we all work together to move education forward within the constraints of current fiscal realities.

We look forward to being a resource to you as the legislative session moves forward.

Best regards,



Joseph Reeves
Executive Director, AASB



Lisa Skiles Parady, J.D., Ed.D.
Executive Director, ACSA/ASA