

Relevant Committed* Empowered*



Alaska Association of School Board Meeting 2019

Board Report by Debbie V. Cary

11/7/19 Thursday

Keynote speaker Commissioner Michael Johnson

1. Advocacy
 - a. Be a strong advocate for ALL children, not just children within your district
 - b. Remember who we are. We are individuals with unique personalities, prospective and moods. Remember Recess Duty, meet people where they are.
 - c. Don't expect people to be what you want them to be. We are each unique the goal is to find common ground
2. Look to the students for guidance
 - . Be ethical, original, respectful
 - a. Don't use emotional appeals without evidence



*Don't bury anybody wholly
or partially in a snowbank*

3. Captivate with the ordinary
4. Law Day December 6th
 - a. Elevate understanding of How & when, subjects may include
 1. Business of Union Business
 2. Student safety
 3. Health Insurance
 4. Superintendent contract

The rest of the day was spent in Resolutions evaluating and fine-tuning resolutions that will be moved forward to the floor at the business meeting on Sunday.

While the actual work involved with evaluating each individual resolution is sometimes tedious and time consuming, I found this process rewarding. Having the correct and most impactful wording will strengthen the validity of the resolution.

11/8/19 Friday

The day started off with the TimberWolves Trailside Choir and a rendition of the Jungle Book. Approximately 50 students sang and danced original tunes. Students are always the highlight of the day and these students went above and beyond to entertain.



Tiffany Jackson spoke about this years' theme being

Relevant, Committed & Empowered

Starr Marsett: Anchorage School District Board President spoke about how it is ALL about the children. The children being the future. She welcomed the partnership with Lower Yukon School District and the King Tech High School which will be partnering with Anchorage School District to bring high school students in from the village for 9 week intervals and introduce them to CTE trades

Lorri Van Diest State Board of Education Second Vice-Chair, Alaska State Board of Education

Speaking on this year's theme:

Relevant: Closely Connected and aligned to the goals

Committed: Feeling Dedication, buy in to the goals

Empower: Make someone stronger, preparing students for their futures

How do we accomplish this?

1. Support all students to be successful in reading by 3rd grade

2. Increase CTE opportunities for students
3. Close the Gap between struggling learners and high achievers
4. Prepare attract and retain teachers
5. Safety- ensure all students are safe physically, socially and emotionally

Keynote Speaker for the morning was Michele Brooks and her presentation was on

Transformative Solutions in Education

In every encounter there is power. In the ordinary you can find the opportunity to learn and to teach.

“If you want to control the destiny of a people take over the education of their children” This is such a powerful statement and one to ponder.

What does transformation mean to you? When our table answered this question, we said:

Transformation was to grow and to change for the better. Transformation is a willingness to learn. It is what a caterpillar does before it becomes a butterfly. It is the baby chick breaking loose from the egg. Changing for the better.



No tribe was considered to have warriors more fearsome or more intelligent than the mighty Masai. Yet, the traditional greeting that passed between Masai warriors: "Kasserian Ingera," It means, *"And how are the children?"*

Even warriors with no children of their own would always give the traditional answer, *"All the children are well."* Meaning that peace and safety prevail, that the priorities of protecting the young, the powerless, are in place.

This is still the greeting today.

Michele Brooks

Other districts equated transformation to Harry Potter and the Phoenix. The slowing down and possibly painful dying of an idea or process to come back new and refreshed.

Learning & Understanding. Make sure to instill the love of becoming lifetime learner with the desire to do better.







The dictionary says transformation is:

“a thorough or dramatic change in form or appearance.”



A process for Transformation:

LEARNING AGREEMENTS

-  **BE PRESENT**
-  **BE OPEN**
-  **BE RESPECTFUL**
-  **BE ENGAGED**

-  Respect for human dignity
 -  Building positive community and family relationships which value cultural and family values
-  Heightened self-awareness
 -  By emphasizing the importance of education as a tool for self-improvement thru family and community involvement
-  Shift from deficit to asset-based mindset
 -  By removing barriers for all

I am here to learn or teach in every encounter

-  Family and Community have an effect on how teachers teach and students learn
-  Embedding Family engagement in student learning is critical to the success of students.

In many of the round table discussions we heard how important it is for the community to welcome the teachers and the administration to the community. How extracurricular activities in clubs or sports help students to become more well rounded and have a desire to be in school.

Students spoke of the need for inclusion in school and not exile as a reason for out of school suspension failing the student. True education about the effects of drug, alcohol, tobacco or vaping on students and caring adults in their lives. Please look over Michele Brooks Family Engagement presentation and her co-authored paper on “Taking it to the Next Level”

<https://aasb.org/wp-content/uploads/11-7-19-Michelle-Brooks-Family-Engagement.pdf>

<http://iel.org/sites/default/files/Taking%20It%20To%20the%20Next%20Level.pdf>

The Board members present split up after the morning general session and attended different Hot Topic Sectionals from 10:30-12:00pm

I chose to attend Board Development Vision Standard

Speakers were Rusty Creed Brown National Indian Education Association & Donald Austin School Law Attorney

Rusty Creed Brown

<https://aasb.org/wp-content/uploads/11-8-19-Hot-Topics-NIEA-Education-Initiative.pdf>

Who is NIEA. “ The National Indian Education Association advances comprehensive culture-based opportunities for American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians”

How can NIEA help

- Educator Recruitment
 - Teach.NIEA.org Website Provides certified teachers or applicants interested in teaching with information about the culture and benefits of Native-serving schools.
 - NIEA Job Board and Application Provides a free job board and application to express interest in teaching and non-teaching positions in Native-serving schools and districts.
 - School- and District-Level Talent Management Resources Provides school and district leaders with free, high-quality resources to support the interview process, selecting teachers to best meet the needs of your students
- Advocacy
 - Native Educator Support and Training (NEST) Act (S. 458) Establishes scholarships, loan repayment programs, institutional grants, and Native language program grants to attract teachers to Native majority schools.
 - Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Title II - Section 2103(b)(3)(B) (B) developing and implementing initiatives to assist in recruiting, hiring, and retaining effective teachers, particularly in low-income schools with high percentages of ineffective teachers and high percentages of students who do not meet the challenging State academic standards, to improve within-district equity in the distribution of teachers...
 - Title VI in ESSA ``(1) to meet the unique educational and culturally related academic needs of Indian students, so that such students can meet the challenging State academic standards; ``(2) to ensure that Indian students gain knowledge and understanding of Native communities, languages, tribal histories, traditions, and cultures; and ``(3) to ensure that teachers, principals, other school leaders, and other staff who serve Indian students have the ability

to provide culturally appropriate and effective instruction and supports to such students."

- Culturally-Based Teaching
 - NIEA Online Resource Repository
 - Provides free and open access to cultural curriculum, lesson plans, and teaching tools. The repository serves as a clearinghouse for quality curriculum respectful of cultural and traditional knowledge and utilizing instructional strategies to ensure Native students succeed.
 - NIEA Trauma Informed Strategies and Solutions Training
 - Trains educators in Native schools to understand and support Native students impacted by trauma. Participants are guided through the experience by trained facilitators (who read the script and assume the roles of European explorers and settlers) and Indigenous Elders or knowledge keepers.
 - NIEA National Board Certification Resources Since 2015, the National Board has been working with the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) to achieve the goal of having 1,000 Board-certified teachers across the 183 BIE and tribally-operated schools in the United States. Since its inception, this project has engaged more than 450 affiliated teachers and seen a 25% increase in the number of National Board Certified Teachers.

NIEA is just branching out to assist in Alaska and as such this presentation was informative on what resources could be available with a high emphasis on the need for Hiring educators from within to meet the needs of the Alaska Native population of students.

Donald Austin's presentation on the role of the Superintendent & the School Board on Protecting Children from Sexual Abuse in schools

https://aasb.org/wp-content/uploads/11-8-19-Hot-Topics-Protecting_Children-From-Sexual-Abuse-in-Schools.pdf

This was an amazingly powerful presentation for me. Mr. Austin & Norm Wooten have produced a new board policy for AASB (and for all Alaska School Boards to consider for adoption) to address the needs for professional boundaries between students and staff members. Most of the following information is copied directly from the slides presented. We all should recognize that sexual abuse of students happens, and sexual predators groom their victims. Being able to recognize the grooming is process and developing and maintaining Professional boundaries is crucial to the well being of students.

Where Child Sexual Abuse Occurs

1. Home and in the family (probably most often)
2. Community in general
3. Communities of Faith
4. Youth activities and sports
5. Schools (a very, very low percentage)

Who Child Sexual Abuse Harms

- Victims
- Families
- Communities
- Communities of Faith
- Youth activities and sports
- Schools
- Careers
- Public perceptions of public education

Potential Harm to Victims The following are possible life-time problems associated with being sexually abused as a child:

- Self-esteem
- Mental health
- Education
- Employment
- Alcohol and/or drug abuse
- Family
- The law

2004 Summary of Who in the school offends:

Teachers 18%
Coaches 15%
Sub. Teachers 13%
Bus Drivers 12%
Aides 11%
Other 10%
Security Gd. 10%
Principals 6%
Counselors 5%

Educator sexual offenders are:

- Often well-liked
- Often excellent teachers
- Trusted by parents and staff
- Have private access to students
- Target vulnerable kids
- Create Special Relationships with vulnerable students.

So, as a school board we need to have policy in place providing **Professional Boundaries**

Snapshot Session

From 1:30 to 3:00 we split up and went to as many snapshot sessions as we could. Snapshot sessions are brief introductions to a topic you may want to explore further.

E-Sports-is about teamwork, communication, strategic thinking and leadership. Billy Strickland

- 🎮 40% of students had never participated in a school activity
- 🎮 Activities put another caring adult in a child's life
- 🎮 Currently the state is playing 3 games, League of Legends, Rocket League and SMITE
- 🎮 Lost cost for travel because most of the season is over the internet
- 🎮 8th graders who are at least 13 may participate
- 🎮 No first-person shooter games

<https://aasb.org/wp-content/uploads/11-9-19-E-Sports.pdf>

PLCP's and AKCIS- online personal learning and career-planning tool, helps students explore and evaluate careers and postsecondary education options, set goals, and make plans for their future. Julia Renfro

- ✦ Main office is in Juneau
- ✦ Outreach office in the Diamond Mall in Anchorage
- ✦ AKCIS syncs with power school so students have access to all available scholarship opportunities out there
- ✦ AKCIS is there to help assist and guide you into the future
- ✦ <https://acpe.alaska.gov/PLANNING/AKCIS>

Recognize Alaska Teens for their Positive Community Involvement
Students tend to receive public acclaim for academic and sports-related achievements but not for community involvement. Spirit of Youth Recognizes Youth for their commitment to community. Karen Zeman

- 📌 Spirit of Youth improves how our communities view teens
- 📌 Spirit of Youth Radio series highlights young leaders
- 📌 Alaska Teen Media Institute
- 📌 Criteria used to evaluate nominations
 - Outlines a youth-initiated or youth-led project
 - Highlights individuals or groups who are organizing and leading unique activities or projects that typically don't get noticed

- Describes youth who help others and improve the quality of life in the community
- <https://www.spiritofyouth.org/>

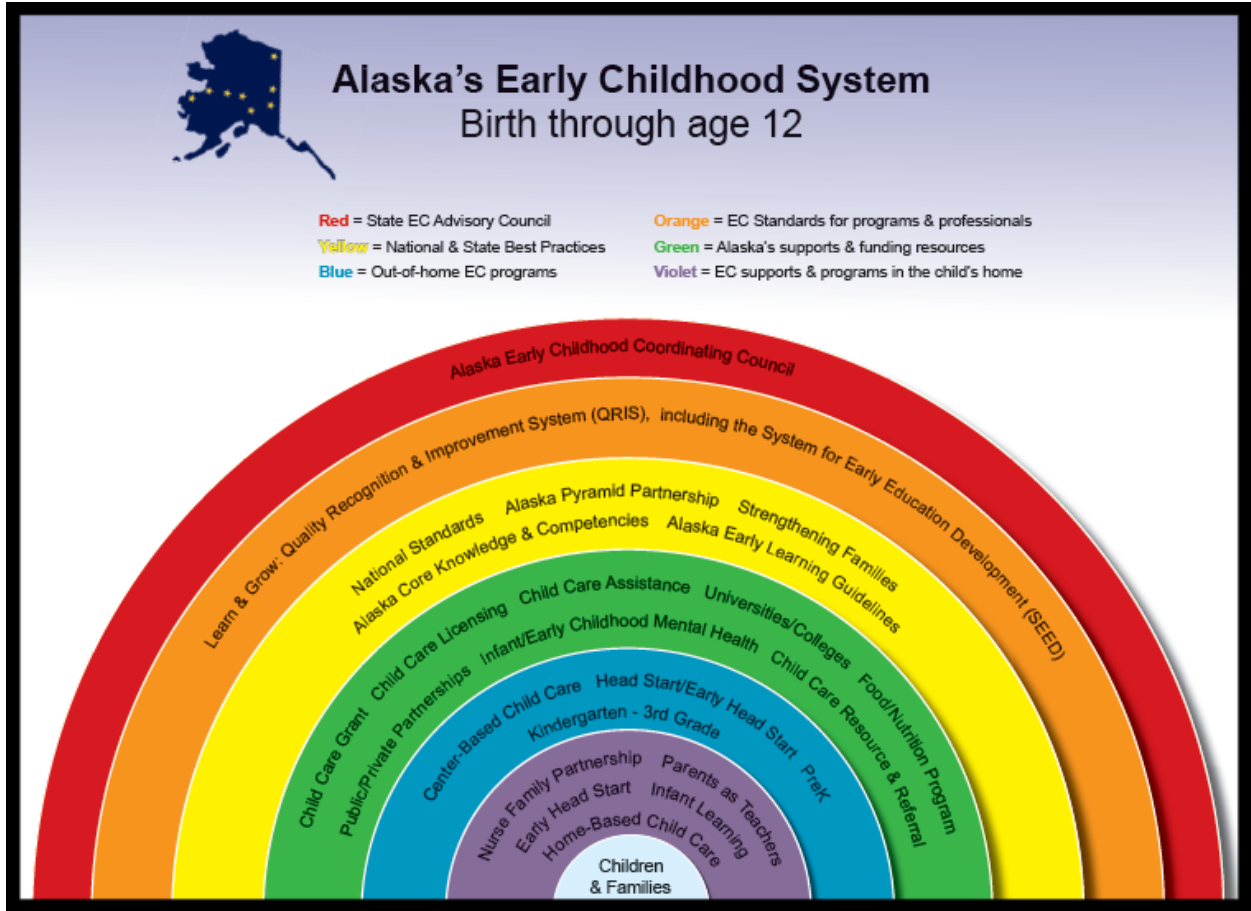
Update on the New Statewide Plan for Early Childhood Care and Education – update on the new needs assessment of Alaska’s early childhood care and education system Betsey Brenneman & Christina Hulquist

McDowel Group Findings:

- Strengths
 - Culture of caring
 - Rich cultural traditions
 - Tribal funding
 - Options for schooling
 - Learning opportunities
 - Committed to early childhood workforce & advocates
- Needs and Challenges
 - Transitions are not always supported
 - Workforce recruitment and retention
 - Mental Health & Family Situation impact child’s ability to participate
 - Funding
 - Governance

Joint Task force DEED DHSS & Southcentral foundation have joined forces to accomplish two shared goals

1. Statewide needs assessment
2. Develop Unified Strategic Plan



11/9/19 Saturday

[11-9-19 Alaska Native Culture School Yup'ik Choir sings This Land Is Your Land](https://aasb.org/wp-content/uploads/Alaska-Native-Culture-School-Yupik-Choir.mp4)

<https://aasb.org/wp-content/uploads/Alaska-Native-Culture-School-Yupik-Choir.mp4>

[11-9-19 Donna Oser Keynote – Welcome Superheroes](https://aasb.org/wp-content/uploads/11-9-19-Donna-Oser-Keynote-Welcome-Superheroes.pdf)

<https://aasb.org/wp-content/uploads/11-9-19-Donna-Oser-Keynote-Welcome-Superheroes.pdf>

Donna Oser Keynote speaker reminded us that within each of us there is a Superhero. To better our schools, district, state & country we need to tap those powers for the betterment of the students.

We must have an attainable vision for the district that aligns to the goals of the stakeholders, parents, community and students. It takes a village to raise a child!

- Put resources in place to accomplish the vision
- Invite stakeholders, parents, community and students to make that dream a reality
- Put measures in place to measure achievable goals

11-9-19 Youth On Boards

<https://aasb.org/wp-content/uploads/11-9-19-Youth-On-Boards.pdf>

Many districts have students serving on their school boards.

School Board members and students discussed the value and barriers to having students on their school boards. Just like a new school board member it takes time to get up to speed on the intricacies of being on a board. For students this can be intimidating and frustrating at the same time. Some of the procedures we could put in place to ensure the success of the student would be:

- Specify a specific agenda item where the student speaks
- Assign a mentor for student representative who would meet with them prior to the meeting to go over the agenda and answer questions
- Have the school board attend student council meeting when possible, (for our district have school board attend the annual all student council meeting)
- Rotate meetings to different sites
- Student Advisory Vote taken first
- Student Voice have representatives reach out to other students and sites to address concerns or ideas on school needs and wants.
- Student Representative train replacement, who is elected at the annual all school student site council meeting in the spring (possibly have a Junior and Senior serve on our board. They would serve a two-year term with the Junior moving to the Senior position and training the incoming Junior)

Saturday afternoon we all attended the Urban/Large District Forum where we talked about resolutions which align to our goals and strategic plans.

Sunday 11/10/19

We all attended the business meeting where resolutions were pulled and discussed, amended and moved forward.

The final Meeting, I attended was **Relationships Matter**

We all recognize the importance of relationships and the challenge when trying to implement those positive relationships.

We broke out into groups to answer 3 how questions within 4 sub groups:

- 👉 How do we Establish Relationships?
- 👉 How do we Maintain Relationships?
- 👉 How do we Restore Relationships?

Board to youth

- 👉 **Establish:** Meet with students annually, invite to join the board and committees. Food, be genuine, Lead by example, Start conversations outside of comfort zone, value and respect students and opinions.
- 👉 **Maintain:** Remind youth we hear them, Keep up youth -board initiatives. True relationships
- 👉 **Restore:** Be creative in reaching youth, keep asking, Youth speak easily its our job to teach resiliency & keep encouraging youth

Board to Superintendent:

- 👉 **Establish:** Trust (without trust the working relationship is broken). Working Relationship, Positive Environment, Honest Communication, mentorship, honesty, Be open & sincere, Respect
- 👉 **Maintain:** Support, Culture, Respect, Value, Honesty, Support each other, Do not patronize, welcome, Sincere, Trust
- 👉 **Restore:** Communication (Open honesty) Culture, Healing circle, Restorative justice/practice, Equity focus, Grow & Learn, Separate personal friendship

Board to Board

- 👉 **Establish:** Be kind! Board to board relationships are already established by statute
- 👉 **Maintain:** Be kind to each other, Value & Respect other board members opinions. Communicate respectfully with one another

👑 **Restore:** Keep an open mind

Board to Community

- 👑 **Establish:** Communication thru positive information sharing, making proper introductions and understanding the relationship, Invite others to share “Words of Wisdom” Holding the board to the highest professionalism. Respect for concerns of the community. Invite community partners to present on progress
- 👑 **Maintain** we did not address this aspect, most of our time was spent on establishing relationships
- 👑 **Restore:** Own our mistakes both historical and present, Offer options to a concern, Invite sharing of ideas and concerns.

In closing I would like to say:

Thank you for the opportunity to grow and learn with this experience. Every time I have attended a meeting I have walked away with a wealth of knowledge and hopefully the ability to implement some of the ideas to become a better board and board member.

Education empowers people with the knowledge, skills and values they need to build a better world!