

## Memorandum:

Date: October 3, 2020

To: Penny Vadla, KPBSD Board President

From: Patricia Truesdell, KPBSD Board Member

Subject: 2020 Virtual Fall Boardsmanship Academy  
Report

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Let me start off by thanking you for sending me to this workshop ... I really enjoyed the two-day entire meeting and learned a lot!

8:45: Our first question of the day in small groups was: ***What is a unique way your district has handled the Covid-19?*** We began our morning by talking in small groups ...

We started out with a slide show given by ***Mike Swain and the Department of Education!***

The slide show covered a lot of information including programs offered at the state Department of Education including: Beyond the Bell, New Teacher Talks, Aklearns.org .. some of the discussion and questions following the slide show were about the need for Broad Band for the entire state, BAG Grants (Who can Apply?) and support for Emergency Teacher Certificates.

9:15: ***“Legal Give and Take and take and Give”*** by John Sedor came next. This was extremely interesting. Mr. Sedor focused primarily on Social Media, Facebook, Twitter, and the others, and spent a lot of time talking about the risks involved for Board members in using social media. His presentation gave a lot of “room for thought” about how even “sharing” a meme, or deleting a message can get a Board member in trouble and

that we all need to be extremely cautious in anything we post or share in our personal use on social media. Lots of good information here!

We then moved into Lunch & Learn ... I found these (Saturday and Sunday) to be my favorite part of the two days – Mostly because they were an informal time to break off into small groups and just get to know Board members from other Districts and talk more informally. We spent both Saturday and Sunday sharing this time talking about our Districts and sharing (okay bragging a little) about our programs and how our back-to-school programs were going!

At this point in the morning .. it was noted that there was going to be a grant from AASB for 80,000 masks for the students in Alaska. WOW!! What a wonderful donation from AASB!

Saturday afternoon ...

We opened at 1:00 with ***Team Optimizing Project TOP: What Does the DATA say about Teacher Retention?*** A survey completed by teachers can be used by Districts to improve teacher retention. The data from that survey was discussed and reviewed.

2:00: Moving along on a similar topic .. Teacher Recruitment & Retention during COVID-19 .. Toni McFadden with the Alaska Teacher Placement Program at UAF of Alaska – Fairbanks shared changes made to the recruiting process, challenges faced and answered questions related to recruiting teachers. Four goals were listed as part of this program:

Recruiting teachers from Alaska, developing a high school program for students wanting to be teachers (I would have loved that in high school!!), more professional development, mentorship.

We moved into small groups and discussed this issue until closing time at 2:45. Some of the barriers to retaining teachers in Alaska were discussed ... wages, retirement issues, and issues for teacher retention.

**Sunday Morning – September 20, 2020**

8:45 Lon Garrison – ***Governance without Policy or Being Blindfolded:***

Slideshow ... The importance of Board policies ... We started the morning in small groups where members were challenged by asking if they could access their Board policies... could find them and how often they were reviewed. The slideshow talked about the policy of reviewing policies and how important it was that policies were part of an important part of a Board's responsibility.

9:45: ***Curriculum*** – What do I need to know and does it matter? Ted Wilson and Lon Garrison ... We broke off into small groups here and talked about identifying what defines curriculum? What a student needs to know? Learn? Achieve? It is not just a book ... What information do we want them to learn .... What span of knowledge ... It is a broad span -- and then how do you bring the staff on board with a new curriculum? We discussed this in our small group.

10:45 ***Stronger Families – Building Families:*** Break out question ... Claudia Plesa AASB.

What helped you succeed in school or life? A lot of discussion around this question. Amazing how many AASB members talked about their favorite teacher or coach!

1:00 ***What has been your biggest challenge or success in partnering families during COVID-19?*** Another break out question *for the* afternoon ... I really did enjoy these times we could break out and talk among ourselves. We came back together and shared how our District was working through our SEL program to assist families.

Finally, in small groups we discussed how to establish and maintain relationships with families, students, and each other every day.

FINAL NOTES: These are just a few of my notes from the two days of training ... The virtual meeting aspect of the meetings in some ways made the meetings easier (at least we could be at home and not have to travel) and in some ways made it harder ... It is nice to be able to actually talk to people and visit. I did lose the Zoom connection at one time and it took me a few minutes to reconnect. I enjoyed the small groups best. I felt that AASB did a great job on their end of providing the technical support, the small groups, and the speakers and guests. I feel the discussions were helpful to me as a fairly new board member, and allowed me to grow in confidence.

Three things I know now for sure ...

1. I will check before posting or sharing anything on Facebook. (May have to re-think the entire FB thing!)
2. I want to check to be sure I can find all my Board policies (I will do that this week).
3. Finally, there are some programs at the state level that I did not know about

Thanks again for this opportunity to meet with other board members throughout the state. I appreciate it very much.

Patti Truesdell