

Memorandum:

Date: November 23, 2021

To: Zen Kelly, KPBSD Board President  
Lisa Gabriel, Administrative Assistant KPBSD

From: Patti Truesdell, KPSBSD Board Member

Subject: Report of Attendance at AASB Annual Conference November 4-7, 2021/Virtual Attendance

9:00 am Friday – November 5 – Keynote Speaker – Heather Lende: Excellent Speaker ... Totally inspirational! A great way to begin this virtual meeting. Be Kind, Be Brave Be Thankful!

She talked about having good friends that mirror our blind spots, and asking ourselves ... “Why was I given this day?” She closed with “Be kind, be brave, be thankful” and a poem by Odanahei “What did I learn today?” I thought it was an excellent way to begin the conference!

10:30 – 12:00 School Law with Allen Clendaniel, Clint Campion, and Michael Caufield. Areas covered in this section included: The Opens Meeting Act and Expelling Students From School. I was particularly interested in this because it is different if a student is in Special Education and on an IEP versus a regular education student and whether they need to continue to have school work provided for them or not and then there was a discussion about Board Members and their right to free speech! Board Members have been censored for speaking out on Board decisions and then have come back and sued their Boards! So there was a lot of information covered in a short time. Lots of information covered in a short time. I took a lot of notes. I worked as a SPED aide in one of my first jobs with the District so the information about Special Education students versus the regular students as it pertained to suspensions was very interesting.

3:15 – 4:30 Robert’s Rules of Order! Pretty basic information. Reviewed many rules on holding a meeting. committee meetings, etc. It did have one idea that might be helpful to our board. One of the discussions they had was how to have the Board set up or where all the members should be sitting. and they suggested the President and VP should sit next to each other, so the VP can help facilitate the meeting. When people are for example, testifying, and the President is calling on them, it could be the VP’s job to keep track to help the President track who has already talked, how long, etc....the VP could be keeping the tally, etc. Anyhow, it was just one of the suggestions for how the Board could be set up.

Saturday – November 5<sup>th</sup>:

9am: General Session began with Keynote Speaker, Nikki Whaley from the Arizona School Board Association. “Leading for Equity” How schools make or break their promises to support all their students. Another excellent speaker talked about how we need to support our students where they are; and that are school buildings and programs have to be safe for all our students and staff!

10:30 – 11:45 -- I admit it. This was my favorite of the Conference. Dr. Deena Bishop of the Anchorage School District talked about their program preparing high school students to enter a career in teaching. There is no doubt that we need to have our students raised in Alaska come back and teach in Alaska. The need for teacher retention is well known and the reasons and well known for losing our teachers after a few years ... teachers who come to Alaska to teach and end up leaving after just a few years. Anchorage School District has developed a plan/a statewide academy “focused on supporting the effort to grow a diverse, local, teacher work force in Alaska.” The goal of the program is to reduce teacher attrition. I admit to being somewhat unclear how it all comes together, but they have a combined program between Kings Career Academy, UAA, and Anchorage School District to move high school students into teaching careers the last two years of high school, and all their work is done here in Alaska. I think it sounds like a wonderful program. It seemed that many students from the Bush communities come to the Anchorage School District and enroll in this program to finish high school and begin the program to become teachers through the Kings Career Academy. It sounded like a terrific idea!.

Without a doubt, KPBSD needs to work on a program similar to this ... This might be possible through River City Academy and the Middle College when that program gets developed ... But I could think for now. even if we just offered a half credit to students who want to learn about teaching and visit elementary classrooms, etc. Like an “Introduction to Teaching” sort of class for high school students. We need to get our students interested in a career in education. I enjoyed Dr. Bishop’s presentation very much!

Sunday – November 6<sup>th</sup>:

AASB Business Meeting & Delegate Assembly:

Board Member Vadla and I worked together. She was in the Chambers and I was on line and we worked together to cast our ballots for the resolutions we felt most supported the views of our KPBSD Board. Ms. Vadla was well prepared on the various resolutions, and we spoke often throughout the session. Penny and I worked well together. We even had a little excitement when a group of protestors broke into the meeting and scared me! I was worried about Penny and the phone line went dead as the meeting was disrupted. Whew! But order was restored, and I found Penny again ... She said the protestors ran right by her! Exciting. I guess attending the conference virtually has its good side ... you don’t have to worry about protestors rushing in and interrupting the meeting! Just kidding.

In conclusion ... I enjoyed the Conference and thought it was informative and well worth attending. I thought staff at AASB did a good job with the virtual attendees. We had three or four break-out sessions that allowed us to discuss topics with people attending from other Districts. I enjoyed the Keynote speakers and learned a lot. I believe the training was beneficial to me as a Board member and hope I can bring back what I learned to work on the Board and for the people in my District. Thanks so much for the opportunity.

Patti Truesdell,  
KPBSD School Board