

# AASB Fly In Juneau February 2022

## Debbie Cary Board Report



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Thank you for the opportunity to go to Juneau with the AASB fly-in from February 12-15, 2022. I have included a lot of the informational material (along with links to the slides) that were presented to us. The information was thought provoking for me as to how we as a board perform but also how we as a board could improve our performance in the future. If you get the chance, please look over the material, I have included a high altitude fly over of the information presented for your entertainment.

Our two students attended the Youth Advocacy Leadership Program and then joined us when we went to the Hill to meet with legislatures one on one. We meet with over twenty legislators. The meetings were informative and both sides presented their opinions on numerous topics. The students were both afforded the opportunity to page on the Senate Floor. They were very articulate in all the meetings we attended and are a shining example of the quality of education we provide in our district.

For me the trip to Juneau was a way to interact with some people from other districts as well as other districts across the state. All districts have similar needs and wants. I think all districts with the question of "how do we provide the best education to every

student every day?" Juneau is a way to take a look into how the legislative process works and how legislatures think when evaluating the educational needs for the state of Alaska. I find it interesting that there were really two main thoughts regarding this subject. The first being that students are our greatest natural resource and as such we should invest in their educational future. The second was that Alaska is the lowest performing state and we are just throwing money at a problem as opposed to addressing the root cause of the performance. We should be demanding better outcomes prior to investing more into education.

The message I believe we as a district took to Juneau is, we struggle with increasing cost in areas we cannot control and therefore we are taking money out of the classroom to fund those areas. Areas such as property insurance, utility cost, fuel cost and supplies are increasing but the BSA has remained the same. I also believe when we ask for funding/increase to the BSA/inflation proofing the BSA we are also asking to be held accountable to increase the outcomes in our classrooms.

While on a personal level I feel the first thought is the correct one, Juneau did open my eyes to the fact that as a state we need to be held accountable to the state, the constituents but most importantly to the students to ensure we improve the outcomes for each student in the State

When asked directly for an example as to how increasing funding could be use to better outcomes by one of our local legislatures we gave the example of reading/math intervention were a struggling student would have one on one time to increase their skills.

*Upon arriving in Juneau, I took the opportunity to publicly testify in support of House Bill 272 & 273. The first bill would increase the student base allocation this year and again next year. We have not seen an increase to the BSA since 2017. The second bill 273 would inflation proof the BSA using an average over 3 years less minus the current year. This would ensure we would know our funding for the fiscal year early.*

The first two days were spent with AASB and preparing for the meetings at the legislative building.

## **Civil Discourse: Leading the Board Team with Grace in Challenging Times**

Commissioner Michael Johnson and John Sedor. Commissioner Johnson and Mr. Sedor did an excellent job in presenting this portion. We discussed the importance of having a conversation and listening to the other person for the intent purpose of learning where they are coming from and what they hope to accomplish. The presentation was both and interesting and entertaining. I agree with Commissioner Johnson that we should all take a day and do recess duty on an elementary play ground to get a better understanding of truly listening and communicating with one another.

## **Effective Meetings Matter! Tiffany Jackson and Timi Tullis, AASB**

[https://aasb.org/wp-content/uploads/2202\\_Meaningful-meetings.pptx-compressed.pdf](https://aasb.org/wp-content/uploads/2202_Meaningful-meetings.pptx-compressed.pdf)

It was interesting to me that this board has had many of these conversations and have adjusted how we do business. Like any business the board is an ever-evolving resource from which to effectively govern.

- Where does the Superintendent sit at meetings?
- How are board members seated at meetings?
- How does the Board address public participation at the meetings?
- How would you describe your Board's discussion of issues?

### **Presidents' Meeting Preparation Checklist**

It is important to remember meetings don't just happen there is a lot of preparation before time. Not only does the President work with the Superintendent the President also works with the board secretary to ensure a smooth meeting

- Check with board members
- Examine agenda for items that are not board responsibilities
- List administrative items as reports
- Estimate time requirements
- Place important items early
- Place public interest items early
- Place student presentations early
- Review final agenda
- Agree to avoid surprises

### **Ingredients for a Successful Meeting**

- Focus on board work
- Effective participation by each board member
- Effective leadership by the board chair
- Efficient procedures were used for routine business ● Well understood rules of order
- Roberts Rules if they're adopted by your board
- Good recording of the minutes and policies
- A mutually supportive relationship with the superintendent
- Policies were used to answer questions
- Public participation was orderly, and democratic

These are a few of the important topics covered in this sectional please see the link above for additional information.

## How to Save Legal Fees... From a Lawyer! And Stump the Lawyer John Sedor

- Early advice is often times cheaper than when you are well into the forest.
  - Sometimes, most of the time, it is better to involve your attorney early rather than later
- Understand your insurance
- Three simple rules: Facts/Facts/Facts
  - Regardless of what you might think is not important it is best to get all the facts out early
- Regardless of your view of attorneys, an attorney ambush (if yours) is never good

The Importance of your Board Calendar; Policies, Board Development and Superintendent Evaluations Lon Garrison, AASB

<https://aasb.org/wp-content/uploads/Board-Leadership-Planning-Scheduling-220212.pdf>

- Be Proactive
  - Plan your governance year – calendar events
    - 1. Board self-evaluation and goal setting
    - 2. Policy review – how and when
    - 3. Superintendent evaluation
    - 4. Budget process
    - 5 Curriculum Review
    - 6. Advocacy (local, state, national)
    - 7 Opportunities to review & discuss student success
- Begin with the end in Mind
- Put First Things First
  - **The crisis of the next crisis! It seems as a board we are always focusing on the next crisis as oppose to focusing on the next course of business**
    - Creating a Board calendar helps avoid succumbing to crisis and chaos.
    - Creating a schedule leads to expectations
    - Sticking to the schedule builds confidence and reliability
- Think Win-Win
- Seek to Understand, Then Be Understood

From Stephen R. Covey

Day two

Legislative Process & Context 2022 Norm Wooten, AASB Director of Advocacy

<https://aasb.org/wp-content/uploads/LegislativeProcessContext-compressed.pdf>

Update from D.C. Pete Hoepfner, AASB BOD President, Cordova City School District

[https://aasb.org/wp-content/uploads/Update\\_From\\_DC-PeteHoepfner-compressed.pdf](https://aasb.org/wp-content/uploads/Update_From_DC-PeteHoepfner-compressed.pdf)

Key Legislative Issues and Bill Review Norm Wooten, AASB Director of Advocacy

<https://aasb.org/wp-content/uploads/LegislativeProcessContext-compressed.pdf>

- [HB 18](#) – Teachers: National Board Certification – Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins (D-Sitka)
- [HB 19](#) – Limited Teacher Certificate; Languages – Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins (D-Sitka)
- [HB 60](#) – Public School Mental Health Education – Rep. Matt Claman (D-Anchorage)
- [HB 164](#) – Early ED Programs; Reading; Virtual Ed – Rep. Chris Tuck (D-Anchorage)
- [HB 220](#) – Retirement Systems; Defined Benefits Option – Rep. Grier Hopkins (D-Fairbanks)
- [HB 259](#) – PFD’s 25/75 POMV Split – Rep. Ivy Spohnholz (D-Anchorage)
- [HB 272](#) – Increase Base Student Allocation – Rep. Andi Story (D-Juneau)
- [HB 273](#) – Increase Base Student Allocation Inflation – Rep. Andi Story (D-Juneau)
- [SB 34](#) – State-Tribal Education Compact Schools – Sen. Gary Stevens (R-Kodiak)
- [SB 72](#) – Secondary School Civics Education – Sen. Gary Stevens (R-Kodiak)
- [SB 80](#) – Public Schools Mental Health Education – Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson (D-Anchorage)
- [SB 111](#) – Alaska Academic Improvement and Modernization ACT – Senate Education Committee
- [SB 119](#) – Oath of Office – Sen. Lora Reinbold (R-Eagle River)

Keynote Speaker: Neil Steininger, OMB Director

[https://aasb.org/wp-content/uploads/FY2023\\_Budget\\_Overview\\_NeilSteininger-compressed.pdf](https://aasb.org/wp-content/uploads/FY2023_Budget_Overview_NeilSteininger-compressed.pdf)

Like Size District Forums (3) Large/Urban, Rural/REAA’s, Mid-Size/Municipalities & Single Sites

Please check out the other resources available to us

- [2022 Legislative Talking Points](#)
- [Like Size District Forums Notes](#)
- [Agenda](#) (PDF)
- [2022 AASB Legislative Priorities](#)
- [Who Represents Your School District?](#)
- [Your Guide to Lobbying the Alaska Legislature – A Primer for Alaska School Board Members](#)

*Again thank you for the opportunity to attend the Juneau AASB fly in and for entrusting us to represent the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District*