

2023 AASB Leadership Academy & Legislative Fly-In
February 4 - 7

Report by Patti Truesdell, School Board Representative

Let me start off this report by thanking Board President Cary for allowing me to attend the Academy and Fly-in this year. I very much appreciated the opportunity.

The Leadership Academy and information provided for two days the AASB was extremely informative and prepared us for meeting with the Legislators on Monday and Tuesday. On Saturday we began by hearing from Norm Wooten with Lon Garrison who reviewed current Legislation priorities and resolutions relative to Education that the 2023 Legislators would be considering this season. We reviewed the AASB 2023 Legislative Priorities and Supporting Resolutions including topics such as “Sufficient and sustainable Public Education Funding,” “Recruitment and Retention of Teachers, Administrators and Staff” and finally “Student wellness and School Safety” For the lunch the speaker was Loki Tobin.

In the afternoon, we began to look at Advocacy and how to approach our visit to the Capitol.

On Sunday, we got started early, and had “The Art of Advocacy” with Marissa Rathbone, Director of Strategic Advocacy, Washington State School directors’ Association. We worked in small teams, and this was the beginning of preparing us to meeting with Legislators on Monday. For the lunch the speaker was Neil Steininger, Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

In the afternoon on Sunday, we practiced our advocacy skills in small groups and and began to prepare for Monday.

Now for the big day .. Monday morning and we were going to have a busy busy day. We had a board meeting as well as a day of meeting with the Legislators! Wow. Some of the Legislators we met with were: Representative Galvin (I have worked with her previously). She is a newly elected Representative in Alaska ... Will be very supportive for Education! She is extremely supportive of education and was very supportive of our group! Representative Ortiz, Senator Gary Stevens .. also we spent a great deal of time talking with him. Very supportive of Education. We met with Jesse Bjorkman of course! Wonderful seeing Jesse again! Representative Andi Story, a strong advocate for education. Representative Justin Ruffridge .. another one of our own .. from the Peninsula. Throughout our visit we heard a lot of great feedback and he and Jesse and everyone expects great things for these two newcomers from the Peninsula! We had great meetings with both Representative Ruffridge and Senator Bjorkman!

In addition to visiting with Representatives and Senators, we were also able to listen to a speech from Senator Sullivan AND our own Board Member, Tim Daugharty, when he gave testimony before the State House Committee.

I very much appreciate being allowed to attend the Leadership Academy and that the Board for this opportunity. I learned and I am proud of the work accomplished by our “team” of Board members. But I have to say, I was tired and ready to get home.

Thank you very much for this opportunity.

Patricia Truesdell
KPBSD Board of Education