




NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Nancy Rock, President
Members of the School Board

THROUGH: Board Legislative Committee

THROUGH: David Vadiveloo, Chief School Administrator 

FROM: Chelsie Overby, Board Secretary

DATE: September 1, 2022

SUBJECT: Legislative Committee Update

**Memo No. SB23-043
(Discussion Item)**

NSBSD Strategic Plan Goal:

4.0 Financial & Operational Stewardship: Effectively employ our operational and financial resources to support our strategic goals and long-term stability of the district.

Issue Summary:

The Legislative Committee met on August 29, 2022 at 3:00 PM. The committee reviewed the Association of Alaska School Boards Where We Stand document, their resolution process and timeline, Board of Directors sun-setting resolutions, and draft resolutions proposed by AASB staff. The purpose included setting the groundwork for the work session “Resolutions,” setting the groundwork for the Rural Caucus during the AASB Annual Conference; and to set the legislative priorities for the legislative session.

The legislative priorities were derived from the Belief Statements to set the “Big Picture” which included: Local Governance; Educational Programs and Funding as Top Priority; Meeting School Facility Needs for Alaska Students; Funding for Early Learning Programs in Alaska; Language, Cultural, and Ethnic Diversity; Supporting Sobriety and Substance Use Prevention; Prevention/Early Intervention; Equity in Education; Alaska Native Teacher Hire & Retention; Quality Staff Improves Student Learning; and Early Childhood Education.

In these priorities in the Belief Statements under subject area, the committee identified resolutions within the AASB Where We Stand document to discuss during the Rural Caucus. The resolutions are as follows:

Governance:

- 1.1 Opposing Mandated School Consolidation;
- 1.3 Maintaining Local Control in Charter School Formation;
- 1.11 Recognition of Chronic Absenteeism and Truancy in the Role of Education;
- 1.13 Land Acknowledgement;
- 1.14 Cultural Regalia for School Ceremonies;
- 1.15 Opposing the REAA Reapportionment and Recasting of Seats for REAA’s Impacted;

Funding:

- 2.1 Sustained, Reliable and Adequate Educational Funding for Alaska’s students through nonvolatile funding source;
- 2.2 Urging Early, Adequate, Equitable and Predictable Funding of Public Education;

- 2.3 Secure Rural Schools;
- 2.4 Encouraging the Legislature to Fund a Grant Program For School Improvement Strategies;
- 2.5 AASB Advocacy on Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA);
- 2.6 Funding for Early Learning Programs in Alaska;
- 2.7 Funding for Intensive Needs Pre-School and Other Intensive Needs Students Enrolling Post-Count Date or Leaving a District in a Single Year;
- 2.8 Following the Capital Improvement Project Priority List for Non-Bonded Projects;
- 2.9 Local Contribution in the School Funding Formula;
- 2.10 Education Endowment;
- 2.11 Educational Technology;
- 2.12 School Construction Debt Retirement For Bonded Indebtedness;
- 2.14 Pupil Transportation;
- 2.19 Legislative Financial Relief for Ongoing TRS and PERS Employer Rate Increases;
- 2.20 Energy Cost Relief;
- 2.22 Supporting Bypass Mail in Alaska;
- 2.23 Funding for Schools by Establishing the Base Student Allocation in Advance;
- 2.25 Supporting Excellence in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math Instruction;
- 2.29 Urging the State to Conduct and Fund Facility Condition Surveys for Districts to Support CIP Requests for Major Maintenance and Facility Replacement Projects;
- 2.30 Urging the Establishment of a Funding Pool to Help Fund Travel for Students to Attend State-Level Competitions;
- 2.31 Urging the Continuation of Funding for Career and Technical (Vocational) Education;
- 2.32 Supporting State Funding for School Meals;
- 2.34 Focus on Grade Level Proficiency for Kindergarten to Grade Three Students;
- 2.35 Addressing the Need for Remediation;
- 2.36 Comprehensive Statewide Energy Plan;
- 2.37 District Cost Factor
- 2.39 Urging a Transparent Process with Stakeholder Input and Prioritization of Equity Concerns in State Studies;
- 2.40 Supporting the Use of Federal Impact Aid by Affected Districts;
- 2.41 Funding for Internet Services;
- 2.42 Funding for Students Who Return to School to Get a Diploma;
- 2.45 Urging the Legislature to Address Inequities in School Funding;
- 2.46 Resources to Effectively Implement the Alaska Safe Children's Act;
- 2.50 Inflation-proofed Base Student Allocation (BSA) Investments;
- 2.51 Fully Funding the REAA Rural Construction Fund and Bond Debt Reimbursement;
- 2.52 Support the University of Alaska Systems;
- 2.57 Addressing Equity Issues with Internet Access and Connectivity;
- 2.58 Teacher Education Loan Expansion;
- 2.59 School Funding During the COVID-19 Pandemic;
- 2.61 Funding for Skill Proficiency and Credit Recovery Related to COVID Disruptions;
- 2.62 Support for the Adoption of Legislation for State Funded Voluntary Early Childhood (Pre-K) Education in Public School Districts;

Child Advocacy:

- 3.1 Declaring Children of Alaska Our Most Valuable Resource and their Health, Safety, Welfare, and Education is of Paramount Importance;
- 3.2 Promoting Student Success Through Social and Emotional Learning and Positive Youth Development and Support;
- 3.3 Fetal Alcohol and Drug Exposed Students;

- 3.6 Opiates, Inhalants, Alcohol, Tobacco, Methamphetamine, Marijuana, Designer Drugs and any Illicit Substance Use;
- 3.7 Cooperation Among Service Providers Serving Children;
- 3.8 Suicide Prevention, Education, and Treatment Efforts;
- 3.9 Safe, Caring, and Connected Schools;
- 3.13 In Support of the Alaska Children's Trust;
- 3.15 Supporting the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act;
- 3.17 Student Wellness;
- 3.18 Promoting Awareness of the Importance of Early Childhood Brain Development;
- 3.24 Tobacco Free Schools;
- 3.25 Supporting Sex Abuse Awareness and Prevention Education;
- 3.26 Supporting the Adoption of Trauma-Informed and Culturally Relevant Practices;
- 3.27 Support the Treatment of Abuse of Opiates;
- 3.28 Education on the Dangers of Tobacco, Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems, Marijuana Use and Secondhand Smoke;
- 3.30 Safe and Inclusive Learning Environments for LGBTQ+ Students

Personnel:

- 4.3 Alaska Statewide Educator Mentoring;
- 4.4 Special Education and Related Services Training;
- 4.5 Addressing the Teacher, Specialist, and Administrator Shortage;
- 4.6 Repeal the Social Security Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision for Public Educators;
- 4.7 Relating to Defined Benefit Retirement;
- 4.11 Alternative Pathways to Certify Effective Teachers;
- 4.16 Supporting Effective, Culturally-Integrated Pedagogy In Alaska;
- 4.17 Addressing the Paraprofessional Shortage;
- 4.18 Establishing a New Teacher Incentive Program for Alaska;

Education & Programs:

- 5.1 Career-Exploration Programs;
- 5.3 Alaska Native Indigenous Language Program Development;
- 2.7 Requesting the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development to Provide Standards-Based Assessments in Alaska Native Indigenous Languages;
- 5.8 Supporting Regional Career and Technical Education Centers;
- 5.9 Urging Flexibility in Testing to Support Indigenous Language Programs;
- 5.10 Supporting Universal Access to Education for Alaska's 3 and 4 Year-old Learners;
- 5.12 Urging Continuation of the Alaska Native Education Act;
- 5.13 Relating the Postsecondary Classes for Secondary Students;
- 5.26 Request for an Alaska DEED Graduation Success Program for Students Ages 19-21;
- 5.28 Supporting the Preservation and Restoration of Alaska Native Indigenous Languages;
- 5.29 Urging a Statewide Annual Alaska Indigenous Language Conference;
- 5.30 Requesting a Thorough Analysis of the Statewide Testing and Accountability System;
- 5.31 Alaska Standards for Culturally Responsive Schools;
- 5.32 Alaska History Textbook;

Within these resolutions, the Legislative Committee prioritized the following:

Governance

1. Class Size

1.1 Opposing mandated school district or local school consolidation

2. Meeting School Facility Needs for Alaska Students

2.8 Following the Capital Improvement Project priority lists for non-bonded projects

2.29 Urging the State to conduct and fund facility condition surveys for Districts to support CIP requests for major maintenance and facility replacement projects

Funding

3. Funding for Early Learning Programs in Alaska

2.1 Sustained, reliable, and adequate State fiscal plan and educational funding for Alaska's students through a non-volatile funding source

2.50 Inflation-proofed Base Student Allocation (BSA) Investments

Child Advocacy

4. Language, Cultural, and Ethnic Diversity

1.13 Land acknowledgement

1.14 Cultural regalia for school ceremonies

5.3 Alaska Native Indigenous Language Program

5. Supporting Sobriety

3.6 Opiates, inhalants, alcohol, tobacco, E-Cigarettes/electronic delivery systems, methamphetamines, marijuana, designer drugs, and any illicit substance use

3.28 Education on the dangers of tobacco, electronic nicotine delivery systems, marijuana use, and second hand smoke

6. Prevention/Early Intervention

1.11 Recognition of chronic absenteeism and truancy in the role of education

3.1 Declaring children of Alaska our most valuable resource and their health, safety, welfare, and education is of paramount importance

3.2 Promoting student success through social and emotional learning and positive youth development and support

3.8 Suicide prevention, education, and treatment efforts

3.26 Supporting the adoption of trauma-informed and culturally relevant practices

7. Equity in Education

1.3 Maintaining Local Control in Charter School Formation

2.14 Pupil Transportation

2.20 Energy Cost Relief

2.22 Supporting Bypass Mail in Alaska

3.30 Safe and inclusive learning environments for LGBTQ+ students

5.7 Requesting the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development to provide standards-based assessments in Alaska Native indigenous languages

5.13 Relating to postsecondary classes for secondary students

5.31 Alaska standards for culturally responsive schools

Personnel

8. Alaska Native Teacher Hire & Retention

4.6 Repeal the Social Security Government pension offset and Windfall Elimination provision for public educators

4.7 Relating to Defined Benefit retirement

4.16 Supporting effective, culturally-integrated pedagogy in Alaska

4.18 Establishing a new teacher incentive program for Alaska

9. Quality Staff Improve Student Learning

4.11 Alternative pathways to certify effective teachers

4.17 Addressing the paraprofessional shortage

Education Programs

10. Early Childhood Education

5.12 Urging continuation of the Alaska Native Education Act

While there are other resolutions that effect or are inclusive of the North Slope, the committee felt these resolutions were prevalent this fiscal year.

Background:

Committee Members: The Legislative Committee members on the Board are Madeline Hickman, Robyn Burke, and Qaiyaan Harcharek as alternate. This committee meeting included the participation of Robyn Burke, Madeline Hickman, and alternating between Qaiyaan Harcharek, and Frieda Nageak.

Rural Caucus/REAA: North Slope Borough School District; North West Arctic Borough School District; Alaska Gateway, Aleutians East; Bering Strait; Chatham, Chugach, Copper River; Delta/Greely, Denali; Iditarod; Kashunamiut, Kuspuk; Lake & Peninsula, Lower Kuskokwim, Lower Yukon; Pelican, Pribilof; Southeast Island, Southwest Region; Yukon Flats, Yukon Koyukuk, Yupiit