

From: Lon Garrison lgarrison@asab.org
Subject: Amended Resolution 2.2
Date: January 10, 2024 at 5:10 PM
To: creitan@craigsschools.com

LG



Dear School Board Members and Superintendents,

I wanted to let each of you know about a highly unusual action the AASB Board took at my request last week at a special meeting. At my request and recommendation, the AASB Board of Directors met to consider a recommendation to amend the **\$1,655** figure that was adopted based on the All Urban-CPI calculator available on the US Bureau of Labor Statistics website. This figure was amended to **\$1,413** using the Alaska Urban-CPI data, which is the measurement that is commonly used in Alaska as a representation of inflation. This recommendation was proposed after a lengthy conversation with the AASB advocacy team (Norm Wooten, Andrea Watts, Steve Nelson, and me) and was made with great concern and respect for our resolution process. Following is the justification I provided to the Board for their consideration of the recommendation.

1. Discussion of the problem with **Resolution 2.2 URGING EARLY, ADEQUATE, EQUITABLE, AND PREDICTABLE FUNDING OF PUBLIC EDUCATION**

a. The approved figure of the **\$1,655** increase needed in the BSA is not appropriate. This figure was derived from the **US BLS CPI calculator for all US urban areas** and does not appropriately reflect the Alaska Urban CPI. The State of Alaska uses the Alaska–Urban CPI as the most appropriate index for Alaska to measure inflation. This is also the previous data used in 2022 by Anchorage School District to calculate the \$860 deficit figure the delegate assembly passed.

b. The calculations made by Andy Ratliff and Jim Anderson of the Anchorage School District use the Alaska Urban CPI data and project 2.00% inflation for 2023, 2024, and 2025. I have verified these calculations independently and come to the same conclusion: **the BSA should be increased by \$1,413 in FY2025** to account for the cumulative effect of inflation since 2017.

c. In my recollection, modifying a resolution adopted by the Delegate

Assembly has not been done, and I do not propose this without great trepidation and respect for our process. However, AASB's credibility is at stake, and this particular issue is critically important. It is unfortunate that this error was not addressed at the Resolutions Committee meeting prior to the Delegate Assembly. Nonetheless, we cannot, ethically and in good conscience, use inappropriate data. This is a highly visible and controversial issue, and as the executive director, I need to be able to truthfully justify the source and validity of the number to the best of my ability.

After lengthy discussion and debate, the Board unanimously approved the recommendation.

I have attached the [amended Resolution 2.2](#), which now also includes the rationale and a note about this action of the Board. This will be placed in the new resolution document.

[View Amended Resolution 2.2](#)

Respectfully,

Lon Garrison
AASB Executive Director

AASB's Mission

To advocate for children and youth by assisting school boards in providing quality public education, focused on student achievement, through effective local governance.

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