



## NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Nancy Rock, President  
Members of the School Board

**THROUGH:** Rich Carlson, Superintendent *RC*

**FROM:** Chelsie Overby, Board Secretary

**DATE:** October 29, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Rural Caucus /Joint Meeting with  
Northwest Arctic Borough School District

**Memo No. SB22-079**  
**(Work Session)**

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#### 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:

During the Association of Alaska School Boards Annual Conference, a Rural Caucus is hosted by our District or the Northwest Arctic Borough School District alternating every year. For this year, in preparation of the rural caucus, the Legislative Committee met on August 31, 2021 with the request for the whole Board to review the legislative priorities and supporting resolutions in order to host the Rural Caucus effectively.

During this work session, the Board will review the AASB 2022 Where We Stand Draft and the newly added and amended Resolutions brought forward by other School Districts. In this document, the Board will outline the legislative priorities within the Belief Statements and select supporting resolutions that our District will advocate for during the upcoming Legislative Session and/or discuss at the Rural Caucus with other school districts.

The legislative priorities that were identified previously by the Legislative Committee include: Local Governance; Meeting School Facility Needs for Alaska Students; Funding for Early Learning Programs in Alaska; Equity in Education; Alaska Native Teacher Hire & Retention; and Early Childhood Education. The supporting resolutions to identify and discuss at the Rural Caucus are as follows:

#### Governance:

1.1 Opposing Mandated School Consolidation;

1.12 Supporting Local Control for Determining School Board Term Limits and Sectional Representation;

2.1 Sustained, Reliable and Adequate Educational Funding for Alaska's students through nonvolatile funding source;

2.2 Urging Adequate, Equitable and Predictable Funding;

2.6 Funding Standards Based Early Learning Programs in Alaska;

#### Funding:

2.8 Following the Capital Improvement Project Priority List for Non-Bonded Projects;

2.26 Urging Revisions to the Step-Down Hold Harmless Clause for Reductions in ADM;  
2.29 Urging the State to Conduct and Fund Facility Condition Surveys (et al);  
2.41 Funding for Internet Services;  
2.51 Fully Funding the REAA Rural Construction Fund and Bond Debt Reimbursement;  
2.57 Addressing Equity Issues with Internet Access and Connectivity

Child Advocacy:

3.6 Opiates, Inhalants, Alcohol, Tobacco, Methamphetamine & Other Drug Abuse;  
3.7 Cooperation among service providers serving children;  
3.8 Suicide Prevention, Education, and Treatment Efforts;  
3.26 Supporting the Adoption of Trauma-Informed and Culturally Relevant Practices to improve student achievement and reduce behavioral deficits for all Alaskan students;

Personnel:

4.5 Addressing the teacher, specialist, and administrator shortage  
4.6 Repeal the social security government pension offset and windfall elimination provision

Education & Programs:

5.8 Supporting Regional career and technical education centers

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

For the Rural Caucus proceedings, there will be 10 groups of 3 or more, depending on attendance of other school districts, where the AASB 2022 Where We Stand document will be segmented to allow for roundtable discussions. At this time, the Board may appoint one member to each of these groups to review sections of this document and lead the discussion of legislative priorities. In addition to the Board members, Superintendent Rich Carlson, Chief Financial Officer Fadil Limani, and Board Secretary Chelsie Overby will be present, allowing for each of the 10 groups to have 1 NSBSD representative.

The groups are as follows:

Governance

- Group 1: 1.1 - 1.14

Funding

- Group 2: 2.1 – 2.16
- Group 3: 2.17 – 2.32
- Group 4: 2.33 – 2.49
- Group 5: 2.50 – 2.62

Child Advocacy

- Group 6: 3.1 – 3.14
- Group 7: 3.15 – 3.30

Personnel

- Group 8: 4.1 – 4.18

Education Programs:

- Group 9: 5.1 – 5.16
- Group 10: 5.17 – 5.33

Once each of the groups have reviewed and discussed the resolutions, the group itself will identify a spokesperson and note taker. There will be a notepad for each group to write their priorities (from the Belief Statement) and supporting resolutions.

Once this is done, everyone will come back together and present their priorities and why they were chosen. Some members may request an amendment to resolutions as well, if that is the case, the group will identify who will make the motion and who will second.

After the Rural Caucus ends, our Board and Northwest Arctic Borough School District will move into another room at the Hilton to discuss the Rural Caucus.

**Background:**

**Committee Members:** The Legislative Committee members on the Board are Robyn Burke, Frieda Nageak, and Qaiyaan Harcharek as alternate. This committee meeting included the participation of Robyn Burke, Superintendent Rich Carlson, Chief Financial Officer Fadil Limani, and Board Secretary Chelsie Overby.

**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