

OSBA/NSBA-Pacific Region Report

NSBA 2022 Pacific Region Meeting- Fairbanks Alaska

October 7-9, 2022

Annual winter meeting took place in Alaska and included state association board members and Executive directors from:

Alaska

Nevada

Oregon

Utah

Washington

NSBA Executive Director Remarks

Lon Garrison (AK) introduced **John Heim, NSBA's Executive Director**. John shared news about NSBA. The best news is that Sept. 29 was the anniversary of the letter being sent to President Biden and it wasn't mentioned on social media. They're partnering with PTA in the release of their new parent engagement standards. Those who are still with NSBA want to be there. Although they lost a lot of money due to members leaving and had to let some staff go, they can weather it. National connection, CUBE and the annual conference have all had record setting years so while people haven't joined as states, districts continue to interact with and be involved in NSBA. By outsourcing some services, they will save about \$1.5 million. Tim Garchow (WA) suggested NSBA provide a virtual option at the annual conference due to some people not wanting to go to the state of Florida. NSBA participated in media interviews with Axios, Education Week, Newsy, CNN, the Skimm and Capitol News in the last couple of months. They've

provided input on Department of Education regulations and lobbied bills related to title 9, STEM, mental health funding, nutrition flexibility, extended time to use COVID money and opposing vouchers.

Lon Garrison (AK) introduced Lori Grassgreen, AASB's Director of Conditions for Learning. Lori spoke about the conditions for learning work they are doing around the state. They shared how they have created a framework that brings together lessons learned by school staff, community members within Alaska while integrating school wide trauma -engaged approach to improve student outcomes.

I brought 2 resources to share :

Transforming Schools: A Framework for Trauma-Engaged Practice in Alaska

Stronger Together: The Power of Schools and Family Partnership[in Alaska

Nominations and Election of Chair-Elect

Sonja McKenzie (OR) nominated Linda Hanks (UT), Scott Rogers (OR) seconded. **Linda Hanks (UT)** accepted the nomination. Motion passed unanimously. Pacific Region Contingency Nominating Committee Report and Election

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Chair Linda Hanks (UT) asked Katie Oliver (AK) to report on the committee's work. Katie Oliver (AK) reported the committee met yesterday and interviewed three candidates. Katie Oliver (AK) moved on behalf of the nominating committee to ratify the committee's recommendation of **Dr. Sami Al-Abdrabbuh** for the vacant seat on the **NSBA Board of Directors**. Motion passed.

Pacific Region Beliefs and Resolutions Committee Proposals

Chair-Elect Sonja McKenzie (OR) reported the Beliefs and Resolutions committee met in September and reviewed the recommended bylaw changes. After a lengthy discussion the committee made changes to bylaws concerning future state vacancies and contingency plans and included the option for future NSBA board candidates to interview virtually if preferred.

NSBA Pacific Region Officer/Director Reports

Pete Hoepfner (AK) reported the board is exceptionally excited about John Heim's leadership. Staff has been reduced due to finances and they're down to about 30 staff members now. They're transitioning to outsourcing some services and moving forward in a position direction.

Marnie Maraldo (WA) reported she chairs the public advocacy committee which is the committee at the forefront of outreach right now. She attended the **Learning First Alliance** meeting, and it was a positive experience. The level of expertise and the caliber of people in the companies they are using to outsource is incredible. The public advocacy committee's number one focus is going to be IDEA.

Kristi Swett (UT) reported on the **Learning First Alliance** and how they're putting a spotlight on public education. They have a wonderful tool kit related to celebrating what is happening in public schools. Kristi encouraged everyone to consider joining councils and look at the national connections in their state. NSBA is looking at having a rural strand.

Discussion about rural school districts

Many agreed on the need for the rural strand and spoke about how they don't feel heard and how that affects their behavior. Ron Mabry (WA) asked what can NSBA do for the rural strand. **John Heim, NSBA's Executive Director** responded they are just in the infancy of developing it but they are going to have rural strands at their advocacy institute and annual conference.

Work-alike Group Report Outs

Presidents – Scott Rogers (OR) reported they value in person learnings and having relationships to draw upon and to have challenging conversations. They really like the presidents’ call with NSBA and the monthly calls with the region. They would like to consider the ongoing rural/urban divide conversation. They would like to see training around curriculum, relationships/turnover of board members, getting everyone on the same page, how to address goals around equity and training for state associations and their respective skills. Successes were culturally responsive training, board boot camp, online boards 101, new board member training and the rural advisory committee.

President-Elects/Vice-Presidents – Teri Rhodes (UT) reported we have great communication within the region but should take more opportunity to share outside the region. They would like more opportunities for shared professional development within the region. They would like to begin the monthly presidents’ meetings with a great highlight – five minutes from one state that’s assigned before the call. They would like to see training regarding curriculum, education finance, superintendent replacement, superintendent and board member relations. Successes were Oregon’s relationship with their color of caucus council and the board/superintendent training bill they are working on; Nevada is excited to be rebuilding and wants to be more present with their legislature; Alaska was able to leverage better access to their legislatures and their Alaska Reads Act was a great success; Washington said their greater emphasis on diversity has been a big success; and, Utah said their professional governance standards has been really great to get everyone on the same page of what’s expected of board members.

