

MEMORANDUM

TO: NWABSD Board of Education
Members

DATE: September 20, 2023

NUMBER: 24-043

FR: Office of the Superintendent

SUBJECT: Adoption of Board Self-
Improvement Plan

STRATEGIC PLAN/BOARD GOAL:

Improve Stakeholder Communication.

ABSTRACT:

It is recommended that Adoption of the Board Self-Improvement Plan be a formal Board action.

ISSUE:

At issue is to adopt the Board Self-Improvement Plan.

BACKGROUND AND/OR PERTINENT INFORMATION:

In accordance with Board Bylaw 9400, the Board completed an annual self-evaluation that was facilitated by the Alaska Association of School Boards (AASB) at a Board worksession on August 28th, 2023. AASB submitted a report with a self-improvement plan and recommended that the Board formally adopt the plan.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Adopt Board Self-Improvement plan as presented;
2. Do not adopt Board Self-Improvement plan as presented;
3. Take no final action.



Northwest Arctic Borough School District

Monday August 28, 2023

School Board Workshop

Report Out

Provided by:



Timi C Tullis and Katie Oliver
AASB Board Development Team

Attendees:

Margaret Hansen, President
Carol Schaeffer, Vice-President
Marie Greene, Treasurer
Tillie Ticket, Secretary (virtually)
Alice Adams, Board Member

Ellen Coffin, Board Member
Shannon Melton, Board Member (virtually)
Joanne Harris, Board Members (virtually)
Cindy Fields, Board Member (a.m. virtually)
Terri Walker, Superintendent

** Board members in attendance earn **5 Boardsmanship Points**, which are applied towards their level in AASB's Carl Rose Leadership Awards Program.*

Facilitators:

Timi C Tullis and Katie Oliver, AASB Board Development Team

Workshop Report Out:

Follow-up:

- AASB will send the Board Orientation guide document to Margaret, Jasmine, & Terri
- Jasmine could connect Board Members representing villages with the village principals so they can share the ASC meeting calendar, thus facilitating Regional Board Member attendance at ASC meetings

Opening Activity:

What do you want to get out of today (Board responses):

- To learn how to work together as a team
- Inspire all of us
- Would like to see unity within the board, work together, inform each other and be open
- Improve for our children, be supportive
- Get to know each other more
- Get a clearer understanding of role as a board member and to see more progress on goals
- Understanding
- Trust and inspire
- Reach a consensus on the why
- Get to know board members better, build relationships, develop a better understanding of how to serve you

What do you want to get out of today (staff responses):

- Honest reflection that results in actionable outcomes to improve our educational systems
- Hear about board priorities
- Listen, learn, find out about the goals of the district



- Learn about the goals for us
- How can I help with board improvements

Notes as we work through the Self-Assessment

- We should include in every board meeting some highlights of student achievement or student voice
- My words and questions at a board meeting are my own
- It's good to disagree, disagree with respect
- In order to have mutual trust and respect, we have to be trustworthy; are we trustworthy and respectful to one another
- Conduct should follow mutual trust and respect;
- How do I help my fellow board members trust me; what have I done to build relationships with fellow board members
- Board members wear different hats and are able to distinguish their roles and act in the interest of the boards and organizations they serve; Board members are good at focusing on district matters
- Difficult to work together as a team when half the team is not here
- Board has improved in listening to one another and listening for understanding
- The Supt is always available to us, her door is always open
- Supt checks in with board members and makes individual interactions with all
- Strategic calendaring - we should calendar and structure our meetings to make good use of staff time and address priorities
- Directors took the lead on presenting to the board on Strategic Planning process. Strategic planning process is inclusive
- Have we allocated funds to help our Superintendent with plan goals
- We need data based on our own curriculum; focusing on our area; Highlight cultural knowledge
- The Board keeps the public informed through regular newsletters, reports, and contact with the media
 - Can't just rely on one way - there has to be multiple ways
 - Community Forums,
 - ASCs - policy development
 - Newsletters, Radio
 - Facebook
 - Local bulletin boards
 - VHF

What are the major strengths of the board

- Combination of experienced board members and new board members
- Working together with respect
- One voice



- We work hard on advocacy
- We are Student-focused
- We have compassion for students

What are the key issues

- Involvement and public input
- Board Member roles & responsibilities

How can the board improve?

- Board meeting schedules (balance staff work loads)
- Community relations (have follow-up and closure on concerns)
- Commit time to be prepared for meetings
- Board packs readily available in a timely manner

Effective

- Board training & Development (webinars, teams, on-site trainers)
- Implement student government to communicate Board updates
- It's ok to agree to disagree!
- Budget for travel - villages represented
- Work sessions or meetings in villages

Review of the Board Self-Improvement Expectations for 2022 - 2023

CONTINUE TO FOCUS ON POLICY REVIEW AND POLICY WORK. INCLUDE BP 1312 ON COMPLAINTS.

- The Board has made good progress in this area and currently has strong staff support. Intends to continue to focus board work on Policy review.

More emphasis on student achievement and student data. Not just test scores but other areas of success.

- Made some progress, but still a need
- Data: Discipline and Suspension, Attendance, Graduation Rates, ask the Admin to identify what student data metrics they think are the most important for the board to track.



Connect with all the sites we represent. Engage with families, showcase volunteers and what we put the \$ towards. Work with ASCs.

- Can the Board see the schedule of meetings for the ASCs. Have Jasmine connect village board members with the principals of those schools so they can learn about the ASC meetings.

Focus on board professional development and creative cost-effective ways to grow as a board.

Ensure that we get materials according to our policy (10 days in advance). Also fix glitches with board book and agenda prep.

- What is the sweet spot for materials being presented to the board in advance of a meetings?

Board Self Improvement Plan for NWABSD
Regional Board 2023 - 2024

Task	Who will champion this moving forward
Orientation: Understanding Board Member Roles and Responsibilities	Ellen
Ad-Hoc Committees for Outreach/Engagement	Margaret
Communications / Advocacy	Tillie (?)
Board Comprehension of Student Data (AK Reads Act)	Marie
Board Member Training Opportunities - a schedule in advance would help Board Members plan their schedules - Creating a Professional Development Plan for the Board	Jasmine
Check in periodically on board self-improvement plan goals	Margaret
Continue work on Board Policies	Bunny

