
District-Wide Student Council : Legislative Fly-In

Travel dates
02/05 - 02/09

Overview

Goals

- Introduce students to legislative process
- Have students advocate for important issues regarding themselves and their community/ district

Students that participated

From Kiita Learning Community

- Braxton Suvlu - 12th Grade
- Jim Sanchez - 11th Grade
- Kaden Kigniq - 11th Grade

From Tikigaq School

- Gracianna Frankson - 12th Grade
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Overview of the Fly-In

Talking points

- Students met before the trip to go over the priorities of the district and concerns important to them
- Some of them included
 - Mental Health / Life coping skills
 - More Counselors
 - Better Broadband
 - Support to rebuild Kaveolook School
 - Better teacher incentives to help retention
 - BSA increase

Accomplishments

- At first shy, students after the first meeting began to talk about more personal details to support arguments
 - Testimonies with personal details were well received by the representatives and encouraged to share to broader audience
 - All representatives found it refreshing that money was not the main focus of our group
- Each student had a specific representative that really clicked with them
 - Rep Mina - Gracianna
 - Sen Dunbar - Kaden
 - Rep Schwanke - Jim & Braxton

Meetings - Total 10 meetings

House Representatives

- Rep Fields
- Rep Jimmie
- Rep Schrage
- Rep Burke's Team
 - Met with Burke at a later date
- Rep Dibert
- Rep Schwanke
- Rep Gray
- Rep Mina

Senate

- Sen Dunbar
- Sen Olson's team

Details of talking points

- Mental Health
 - With the recent events that took place while we were at the fly-in, mental health took center stage in all meetings
 - They share the need of positive role models, counselors and people who can help them cope with these emotions
- Talked about better broadband infrastructure
 - Jim gave a very personal testimony that the lack of internet and communication had on him
 - Students also shared how much harder day-to-day learning is with slow internet
- Rebuilding Kaveolook
 - They all talked about how important school is for the community as a meeting point and a place to learn
- Better teacher incentives to help retention
 - Mentioned that its harder to learn or trust adults when a new teacher comes in every year without knowing if they will stay
 - Shared concerns about feeling like current staff don't care / reach out to connect with them
- BSA increase
 - Talked about how this could provide more opportunities for everyone
 - More electives, better teachers / curriculum
 - Gracianna urged the need to fund a rec center or place for youth to hang out

Events to highlight

- Students really enjoyed visiting Juneau as was the first time visiting the capitol
 - Additional activities they enjoyed were :
 - Swimming
 - Taking a nature hike to the Glacier
 - Learned about the history of it from the park ranger
 - Bowling
- All students really had the best time talking to Reggie. Our lobbyist really had a good time talking to them individually. Giving them words of encouragement and telling stories.
- Representative Burke was able to meet with us over Zoom since she had personal matters to attend.
 - She shared how to navigate the Legislative website
 - Updates on the house bills
 - Overall encouraging the students to continue to advocate for themselves and the district she calls home

Overall updates

Since the fly-in, we've arranged additional meetings on preparing student-led testimonies for bills on:

Mental health services (HB 52/others) and raising the age and taxes on nicotine products (HB 49).

While working on the testimonies, this coincided with preparing resolutions for the AASG Conference to engage other youth leaders across the State to show a unified student voice on these issues to the legislature.

For the AASG conference, student delegates are able to draft resolutions where issues are introduced, debated, and voted on by the student delegation for a unified student voice to provide at the local, state, and national levels.

These resolutions must include factual statements, including citation of sources, and be presented as an individual, council, or district.

Once presented, the floor will open for debate and voted on by the delegation. If approved, these resolutions would demonstrate that the AASG delegation, a unified student voice for the State of Alaska, supports the resolution.



Rep Mina



Rep Gray



Rep Schwanke



Rep Jimmie



Rep Fields



Rep Schrage's
team



Sen Dunbar





North-West
Artic Board



In front of
committee hall



Picture with Reggie



House Floor



Rep Burke's Team



State Capitol
Building



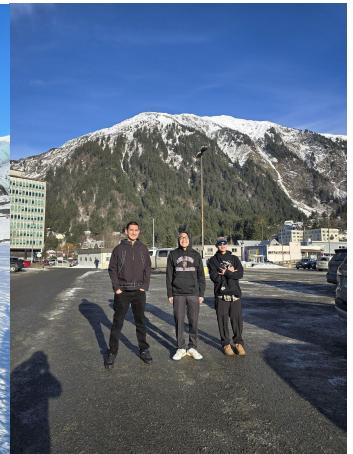
Sen Olson's team



Dinner at the Wharf



Dinner with North West Arctic Borough School District



Hiking at the Glacier

