Special Board Meeting

Tuesday, September 29, 2020 5:30 PM
Zoom

A. **Call to Order**
1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Nome Public Schools Mission Statement
3. Roll Call
4. Approval of Agenda

B. **Opportunity for Public Comments on Agenda/Non-agenda Items (3 minutes per speaker, 30 minutes aggregate)**

C. **Action Item**
1. Approval of Resolutions for Submission to AASB

D. **Board and Superintendent's Comments & Committee Reports**

E. **Upcoming Events:**
- **Tuesday, October 13, Regular Meeting, 5:30 pm, NES Commons/Zoom**
- **Tuesday, October 27, Work Session, 5:30 pm, NES Commons/Zoom**

F. **Adjournment**

Our Mission

We inspire and empower students to be culturally grounded responsible citizens who are deeply connected to our community and world.

Our Vision

Together, strong in identity, purpose, potential

Board and Superintendent Guiding Principles

- Works to ensure academic success for all students
- Works to promote positive community partnerships
- Provides leadership and support to ensure reading proficiency by 3rd Grade
- Supports the recruitment and retention of effective staff

Board and Superintendent Goals

- Provide the resources for the development and adoption of curriculum as per Board Policy (BP 6141).
- Support the integration of a student's culture in the curriculum within the context of the community through implementation of the Alaska standards for culturally responsive schools.
- Work to ensure all students feel connected to their peers and the adults in their schools by improving school climate.

Nome Public Schools
PO Box 131
Nome, AK 99762
907-443-2231 – www.nomeschools.org

SCHOOL BOARD COMMUNICATION

Title: Approval of AASB Resolutions, Amendments and Support of Sunsetting Resolutions

Date: 9/29/2020

Administrator: Jamie Burgess, Superintendent

Attachments: AASB Resolution Sheet; AASB Resolution Submittals

X	**Action Needed**		**For Discussion**	X	**Information**		**Other**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Each year, the Alaska Association of School Boards requests that its member school boards submit new suggested resolutions, or amendments to existing resolutions. The resolutions act as both a platform for advocacy for school board members in discussion with governmental and legislative representatives, and also public statement of priorities for school boards across Alaska.

Following a work session to review the existing resolutions, discuss sunsetting resolutions, and prepare new possible amendments for association consideration, the Board and Administration developed three new resolutions for consideration, as well as one amendment to an existing resolution. In addition, all Board members expressed support for renewal of resolutions scheduled to sunset in 2020.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION

The Administration recommends approval of submission of the following to the AASB Resolutions Committee: A statement of support for renewal of all sunsetting resolutions, three new resolutions for consideration, and an amendment to Resolution 4.3 Alaska Statewide Educator Mentoring.

Sample Motion: I move to approve submission of the following to the AASB Resolutions Committee: A statement of support for renewal of all sunsetting resolutions, three new resolutions for consideration, and an amendment to Resolution 4.3 Alaska Statewide Educator Mentoring.

1) The Nome Public Schools Board of Education supports renewal of all resolutions scheduled to sunset in 2020.

2) Nome Public Schools submits the following new Resolutions for consideration by AASB.

School Funding During the COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has had an unprecedented impact on the Alaska education system for the 2020-2021 school year. A large number of families have chosen home-based schooling options, many of which are not in their home district, causing schools and districts to see a plunge in enrollment numbers, which may cause significant budget shortfalls for school systems already suffering from a lack of adequate funding. Districts with homeschooling programs have been inundated with large numbers of new students; however, these students may return to their home districts in the 2021-2022, resulting in significant swings in enrollment numbers.

Current state law provides for a hold harmless provision for drops in enrollment greater than 5%; however, decreases below the 5% threshold may also prove devastating for school districts. AASB urges the Alaska Legislature to enact a funding plan which protects school districts from a single year enrollment plunge by setting the funding levels for 2019-2020 as the base for the 2020-2021 school year, while also providing sufficient funding to support correspondence programs for districts grappling with a large enrollment increase.

Funding for COVID-19 Related Expenses for Education

While school districts received some additional funding for COVID-19 related expenses in April of 2020 through the CARES Act, the scope of these expenses was difficult to predict and in many cases, exceeded the allotted funds. Needs such as adequate ventilation for buildings, personal protective equipment, increased food service costs, costs for supporting internet connectivity for students, etc. are critical to allow schools to operate in a safe fashion for students.

AASB supports all efforts to provide additional funding to meet the needs of districts in the 2020-2021 school year, especially in the area of student safety.

Addressing Equity Issues with Internet Access and Connectivity

It is increasingly evident that student access to internet outside of the school day has a significant impact on student achievement and success. Many remote communities have limited infrastructure for connectivity, preventing students from utilizing a variety of internet-based resources for homework, virtual learning opportunities, etc., while students in urban and suburban areas can access richer supplemental educational experiences. Students residing in these remote communities are primarily children of color, whose families lack the resources to access a sufficient amount of bandwidth to support educational needs of their children.

AASB supports efforts of the Legislature to support increasing infrastructure for internet access to underserved communities through public-private partnerships, state-wide consortiums, etc., ensuring all children have access to reasonably priced, high speed, high bandwidth connectivity.

3) The Nome Public Schools Board of Education submits the following suggested amendments to Current Resolutions

4.3 ALASKA STATEWIDE EDUCATOR MENTORING

AASB applauds the willingness of veteran educators to serve as mentors to Alaska's teachers**,** administrators, and paraprofessionals. AASB urges the Alaska Legislature to provide adequate and permanent funding to continue professional staff mentoring. Mentors should also be trained to support new teachers to address implementation of the Alaska Cultural Standards, which is critical in ensuring our students of color have access to culturally relevant instruction.

Rationale. Surveys have shown that far too many teachers and principals leave the profession within their first five years out of frustration or lack of success. Mentors who serve to provide advice and support during these critical early years are a proven remedy to this dropout phenomenon. A focus on developing culturally competent teachers will ensure teachers in rural districts develop strong relationships with their students and communities, reducing feelings of isolation, burnout and discouragement. Alaska should invest money in mentoring programs to ensure that they exist into the future, when federal funds may not be available.
Adopted 2005, Amended 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2018 (Sunsets 2023)

AASB Resolution Submission Form

Section *(Click the drop down arrow to select the section)* **:** Funding

Resolution Number (staff generated) :

Title: School Funding During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Proposed Resolution, Amendment or Comment: (please write your new resolution, an amendment to an existing resolution or a comment concerning a resolution in this text box. Rationale for a new or amended resolution is on the next page.)

AASB urges the Alaska Legislature to enact a funding plan which protects school districts from a single year enrollment plunge by setting the funding levels for 2019-2020 as the base for the 2020-2021 school year, while also providing sufficient funding to support correspondence programs for districts grappling with a large enrollment increase.

Rationale :

The COVID-19 pandemic has had an unprecedented impact on the Alaska education system for the 2020-2021 school year. A large number of families have chosen home-based schooling options, many of which are not in their home district, causing schools and districts to see a plunge in enrollment numbers, which may cause significant budget shortfalls for school systems already suffering from a lack of adequate funding. Districts with homeschooling programs have been inundated with large numbers of new students; however, these students may return to their home districts in the 2021-2022, resulting in significant swings in enrollment numbers. Current state law provides for a hold harmless provision for drops in enrollment greater than 5%; however, decreases below the 5% threshold may also prove devastating for school districts.

Proposed by : Nome Public Schools Board of Education

Date Submitted (M/D/YY) : 9/29/2020

AASB Resolution Submission Form

Section *(Click the drop down arrow to select the section)* **:** Funding

Resolution Number (staff generated) :

Title: Funding for COVID-19 Related Expenses for Education

Proposed Resolution, Amendment or Comment: (please write your new resolution, an amendment to an existing resolution or a comment concerning a resolution in this text box. Rationale for a new or amended resolution is on the next page.)

AASB supports all efforts on the part of the Alaska Legislature and the Federal Government to provide additional funding to meet the needs of districts created by the COVID-19 pandemic in the 2020-2021 school year, especially in the area of student safety.

Rationale :

While school districts received some additional funding for COVID-19 related expenses in April of 2020 through the CARES Act, the scope of these expenses was difficult to predict and in many cases, exceeded the allotted funds. Needs such as adequate ventilation for buildings, personal protective equipment, increased food service costs, costs for supporting internet connectivity for students, etc. are critical to allow schools to operate in a safe fashion for students.

Proposed by : Nome Public Schools Board of Education

Date Submitted (M/D/YY) : 9/29/2020

AASB Resolution Submission Form

Section *(Click the drop down arrow to select the section)* **:** Funding

Resolution Number (staff generated) :

Title: Addressing Equity Issues with Internet Access and Connectivity

Proposed Resolution, Amendment or Comment: (please write your new resolution, an amendment to an existing resolution or a comment concerning a resolution in this text box. Rationale for a new or amended resolution is on the next page.)

AASB supports efforts of the Legislature to support increasing infrastructure for internet access to rural and underserved communities through public-private partnerships, state-wide consortiums, etc., ensuring that all children have access to reasonable priced, high speed high bandwidth connectivity.

Rationale :

It is increasingly evident that student access to internet outside of the school day has a significant impact on student achievement and success. Many remote communities have limited infrastructure for connectivity, preventing students from utilizing a variety of internet-based resources for homework, virtual learning opportunities, etc., while students in urban and suburban areas can access richer supplemental educational experiences. Students residing in these remote communities are primarily children of color, whose families lack the resources to access a sufficient amount of bandwidth to support educational needs of their children.

Proposed by : Nome Public Schools Board of Education

Date Submitted (M/D/YY) : 9/29/2020

AASB Resolution Submission Form

Section *(Click the drop down arrow to select the section)* **:** Personnel

Resolution Number (staff generated) :

Title: Alaska Statewide Educator Mentoring (Amendment)

Proposed Resolution, Amendment or Comment: (please write your new resolution, an amendment to an existing resolution or a comment concerning a resolution in this text box. Rationale for a new or amended resolution is on the next page.)

AASB applauds the willingness of veteran educators to serve as mentors to Alaska's teachers, administrators, and paraprofessionals. AASB urges the Alaska Legislature to provide adequate and permanent funding to continue professional staff mentoring. Mentors should also be trained to support new teachers to address implementation of the Alaska Cultural Standards, which is critical in ensuring our students of color have access to culturally relevant instruction.

Rationale :

Rationale. Surveys have shown that far too many teachers and principals leave the profession within their first five years out of frustration or lack of success. Mentors who serve to provide advice and support during these critical early years are a proven remedy to this dropout phenomenon. A focus on developing culturally competent teachers will ensure teachers in rural districts develop strong relationships with their students and communities, reducing feelings of isolation, burnout and discouragement. Alaska should invest money in mentoring programs to ensure that they exist into the future, when federal funds may not be available. Adopted 2005, Amended 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2018 (Sunsets 2023)

Proposed by : Nome Public Schools Board of Education

Date Submitted (M/D/YY) : 9/29/2020