

**Board Legislative Committee Meeting  
January 10, 2023  
Meeting Notes**

**Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement Statement**

Board Member and Committee Member April Smith called the Legislative Committee Meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. She read the Land Acknowledgement Statement, "As a committee of the school board, we would like to take this moment to respectfully acknowledge we are residing on the traditional land of the Dena (pronounced duhNAY) people."

**Mission Statement**

Mrs. Smith read the district's Mission Statement: *Our mission is to provide an excellent, equitable education in a safe, supportive environment so all students will succeed and contribute to a diverse and changing society.*

**Roll Call** (0:00:32)

**Committee Members Present & Comprising a Quorum:**

Chrya Sanderson, Committee Chair & Board President (joined the meeting at 5:25 pm)

April Smith, Board Committee Representative

Melissa Burnett, Board Committee Representative

Karen Melin, Chief School Administrator

Carly Sween, FPA President

Sandi Ryan, FEA President,

Brytan Felter Essa Vice President

Janet Farris, Community Representative

**Absent & Excused:**

Danielle Logan, ESSA President

**Staff Present:**

John Ringstad, District Lobbyist

Andrea DeGraw, Chief Operations Officer

Jahanara Carreon, Executive Director of Facilities Management

Rebecca Hurbi, Executive Director of Communications, Development & Engagement

Carm Richardson, Executive Assistant to the Board & Committee Administrative Support

**Lobbyist Update on Current and Future Legislation** (001:41)

John Ringstad, district lobbyist, reported on:

Meetings with individual legislators prior to the legislative session:

- Senate came together rather quickly with a process of how they are going to do business, with a short list of priority issues, the number one was education funding.
- The House is still working on putting organization together. They are split down the middle, having a hard time going either way.
- Session is to start on Tuesday, January 17, 2023
- Karen, Andy and John have been meeting with our interior group. They have spent an hour with each one, with the exception of Mike Cronk and Maxine Dibert. They let them know where we are at, what the money means to us, and what we saw coming.
- They all recognize a need to increase funding. How, by changing the BSA or one time monies, and how much is uncertain.
- Concerns about how do we know we are getting our monies work is in the House, not the Senate. Trying to prove results is an issue we had ahead of us.
- Not a lot of interest in changing the formula to the BSA, that is usually a multi-year project.
- Meetings went well and all were happy and willing to talk and recognize it is time to do

something other than status quo funding.

- We would be looking at schedules for going down to Juneau. The first two weeks are less productive, so possibly sometime in February. Mrs. Melin suggested we be strategic in when we visit so we can maximize our time down there.

### **2023-2024 Legislative Priorities Work** (0:07:02)

Committee discussion on priorities included:

#### **#1 Improve Education Funding**

Base Student Allocation: Increase the BSA to \$6,800

Deferred Maintenance: Fund more than one improvement capital project across the biggest five school districts per year.

Funding Calendar: Adjust how and when students are counted so school districts have a more reliable way to predict and budget for funding.

#### **#2 Staff Recruitment and Retention**

School districts need a better benefits system with shared risk between employer and employee. The State of Alaska needs to be a competitive education employer compared to other states, attract employees, and offer security in their retirement.

The administration would make the committee's suggested revisions to the document and the document would be brought before the full board for approval.

The committee meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm

Submitted by Carm Richardson, Legislative Committee administrative support & Board of Education executive assistant.

