



Association of Alaska School Boards

HISTORIC HIGHLIGHTS

1940s

1940 - NSBA formed.

1950s

1954 - AASB formed with four districts – 1st Annual Conference held.

1957 - AASB joined NSBA.

1970s

1972

- The first full time Executive Secretary (now called Executive Director) hired; Bill Overstreet.
- The Resolution Process Started.
- First issue of Commentary published in July.
- A 7 member BOD was formed with members from Ninilchik, Nome, Dillingham, Anchorage, Kodiak, Juneau and Cordova.

1974 - 29 out of 32 districts attended the annual conference.

1976

- 21 REAA school boards joined AASB.
- Governor Hammond created 20 new school districts as of July 1, 1976.
- 46 of the 52 districts attended the annual conference held in Kodiak.
- The Board of Directors increased to 15 members, where it has remained since.

1977 - The 2nd Executive Secretary was hired; Bob Greene.

1978 - 1st REAA training was offered by the Association.

1979 - Sand Point votes to become First Class City and became the 52nd District.

1980s

1982 - AASB offered first Superintendent Search Service.

1984

- Sharon Young began her career with AASB as the Director of Membership Services.
- AASB began offering in district board workshops.
- AASB Started offering policy review and development.
- The Boardsmanship Awards started.

1985

- Dick Anderson, from Delta Greely, was nominated to the NSBA Board of Directors and interviewed for the position. In April, 1985 he became first Alaskan to serve on the NSBA Board of Directors
- Developing an AASB Insurance Program was researched and investigated.

1986

- AASB purchased its first office building located at 316 W. 11th, Juneau.
- Alaska Schools Insurance Company started July 1, which later became APEI.
- Dick Anderson of Delta Greely was elected to a 3 year seat with NSBA after filling one year seat last year.

1987 - The Board of Directors hired Carl Rose to be the next Executive Director. He interned in the position for one year before taking it over officially.

1988

- Carl Rose was hired as the 3rd Executive Director.
- The first Associate Executive Director was named: Sharon Young.
- With Carl and Sharon at the lead, AASB developed it's first Long Range Plan, Pathways. Goal areas were:
 - Legislative services: strengthen political influence and improve lobbying efforts.
 - Board In-service: increase board member participation and provide professional development.
 - Information Services: enhance communication with members. This process occurs every three years, starting from this year.
- Bought the first fax machine for \$1795 :)
- A Board Self Assessment was first offered as a Board Tool and workshop.

1989 - AASB partnered with UAS to offer the first AASB/UAS Boardsmanship Academy and established the 'new' Boardsmanship Award System.

1990s

1991

- AASB led the search for a new Commissioner of Education, resulting in Jerry Covey being hired.
- At the summer meeting, the Board created AASB's official slogan: "Advocates for Alaska's Youth."
- The "Student Leadership Workshop" began at the annual conference, it was geared towards the youth representatives on the boards.

1992

- A Policy Reference Manual developed/Policy Service established, 6 districts in the original rollout.
- The First Scholarship winner was announced; Rebecca Baldwin Kenai Central HS. There were 93 applicants, and one winner for \$500. The question for the essay was "What motivates you to learn?"
- The Railbelt REAA School district and parts of Yukon Koyukuk and Iditarod merged to create Denali Borough School District.
- AASB offered the first Employee Management Workshop held in December in conjunction with the Labor Relations conference.

1994

- AASB hired its first consultants to assist with board training. Both were past presidents of the association.
- 16 student representatives attended the AASB annual conference and for the first time gave the closing keynote address.

1995

- During the summer meeting the Board voted to create a Director of Child Advocacy position.
- The Charter School pilot program was established through legislation. The State Board of Education set guidelines.

1996

- The annual conference had historically been held Saturday to Tuesday. However, this year, after a membership poll vote, it was shifted to the current schedule of Thursday to Sunday.
- Iditarod, Galena and Fairbanks were first 3 charter schools in Alaska:
 - Iditarod: Takotna Training Center
 - Galena: Project Education School
 - Fairbanks: Chinook Charter School



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1990s

1997

- In January, the first-ever School Board Appreciation Month was established. Both Governor Knowles and President Clinton issued Executive Proclamations to mark the occasion.
- AASB memorialized the Scholarship Fund in June Nelson's name (started in '89) and received 115 applicants this year.

1998

- In April a group of 17 individuals gathered to develop AASB Board Standards including Norm Wooten, Carl Rose, and Jerry Covey .
- The first printing of Helping Kids Succeed was published. (45,000 books)
- Insurance arm separates from AASB to become Alaska Public Entity Insurance (APEI).

1999

- The Alaska Legislature combines and creates Dept. of Education & Early Child Development.
- Staff emails as we know them now were started.
- AASB's first website www.aasb.org is launched.
- AASB Board of Directors nominates Norm Wooten to the serve on NSBA Board of Directors.
- Chatham, Kashunamiut, Kodiak, Kuspuk, Pelican, Sitka, Wrangell and Yakutat become the first school districts to adopt Board Standards.

2000s

2000

- Receives first Initiative for Community Engagement (ICE) grant and hires 8 new staff to work on the projects in schools across the state, doubling the size of staff.
- The first Youth Advocacy Institute (YAI) was offered as part of the 2001 Legislative Leadership Fly-In.
- Strategic Planning facilitation and development was established and offered as a service.
- Galena employee, overseeing sister grant to the Alaska ICE project, Timi Tullis rents space at AASB and joins the ICE/AASB team after 6 months.

2002

- AASB hosted its first webinar for newly elected members to welcome them, provide an overview of the organization, and prepare them for the annual conference.

2004

- New building purchased at 1111 W 9th Street to house all staff under one roof.

2005

- The School Climate and Connectedness Survey piloted.
- Norm Wooten nominated and elected to serve as Secretary/Treasurer of NSBA and in line for the Presidency.

2007

- Sharon Young retires and Joseph Reeves becomes the Associate Executive Director.
- Timi Tullis transitioned from the ICE grant to the Board Development team.
- Norm Wooten served as President of the National School Board Association (2007-08) and the NSBA board of directors met in Kodiak.

2008

- Policy Online services offered for the first time.
- Lon Garrison elected to the AASB Board of Directors at the Annual Conference.

2010s

2010

- Tiffany Jackson elected to the AASB Board of Directors.

2013

- Carl Rose resigned and Joseph Reeves became the fourth Executive Director

2014

- The first Maintenance Employee Conference offered by AASB

2015

- Joseph Reeves resigned and Norm Wooten became the fifth Executive Director.
- Carl Rose passed away from his battle with cancer.
- Lon Garrison was hired as School Improvement Coordinator; deeply involved with DEED's School Improvement Initiative
- Sue Hull, Fairbanks, elected as president of the Pacific Region

2016

- Tiffany Jackson was elected to the NSBA Board of Directors and was the first Alaska Native/ American Indian to sit on the board in the history of NSBA.
- With a growing need, AASB offered the first Charter School APC Academy held in Anchorage, over 75 people attended.

2017

- A new logo for the association was created and shared with membership
- This year was the first time we used a Conference App and did NOT a published booklet for the conference

2018

- NSBA added a seat to their board from the AIAN group! Tiffany Jackson and Mike Swain were on the AIAN board.
- AASB Hosted the summer National Federation of Trainers group in Juneau. Lon, Timi and Jenni planned the event and almost 60 colleagues from across the nation attended.

2019

- The Transforming Schools Framework published in partnership with DEED
- Through the RWJ grant 12 Alaskans from different aspects of education (principals, teachers, school board members, AASB staff) visited Aotearoa, New Zealand.
- AASB offered it's first Regional Trainings for boards, one on POW and one in Fairbanks.

2020s

2020

- Lon Garrison was hired as the sixth Executive Director of the association.
- DEED begins work on Tribal Compacting, an outcome of the Alaska Education Challenge.
- AASB led coordination of the statewide strategic plan for Alaska's early childhood system.
- Stronger Together; Family Partnerships Framework rolled out.
- Tiffany Jackson hired as Director of Membership Services.

2021

- Facilitated Superintendent Evaluation offered as a service.

2022

- The ICE team was rebranded to expand their scope of work and is now called the Conditions for Learning Team.

2024

- Katie Oliver named as the fourth Associate Executive Director after Timi's retirement.
- Tiffany Jackson named Chief Financial Officer.