

ALASBO

News Link...



November 2004

A newsletter publication of Alaska Association of School Business Officials

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is published for the members of the Alaska
Association of School Business Officials
and its affiliate members.

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the above address. The format is Acrobat PDF.*

President's Message

*Mike Fisher, Fairbanks North Star Borough
School District*

Are you a *Highly Qualified Business Official*?
Have you made *Adequate Yearly Progress*
towards mastering your job? Have all your sub-
groups (payroll, personnel, purchasing, accounts
payable, food service, transportation etc.) also
made adequate yearly progress? Are you
wondering what I'm talking about?

Don't worry; I'm just trying to grab your attention
by using the educational phrases we have all
become accustomed to seeing in recent years.
And they are very important concepts, whether
they apply to teacher qualifications or student
performance.

-continued, page 2-

C O N T E N T S

- 1-2 President's Message
- 2-3 Executive Director's Message
- 3 Alaska Districts Receive Awards
- 3-4 ASBO International News
- 4-5 Governor's Press Release and Related Information
- 5 Kidspeak!

INSERTS:

- Conference Registration/Schedule
- Proposed ALASBO Bylaw Changes
- Professional Development Grant Application

President's Message (Continued)

But we can also apply those concepts to our own professional development. And there is no better or more cost effective way to gain valuable professional development than by attending our 32nd Annual ALASBO Conference. Please join me in Anchorage on December 6th, 7th, and 8th for a personally and professionally rewarding conference. Together we can work on "*Forming Friendships and Facing Challenges*."

Once again the ALASBO Board has tried to include a wide variety of topics of interest, whether you are a seasoned business official or new to the profession. And we try to structure our conference sessions in a number of different ways, hopefully offering you the best opportunity to interact with colleagues, speakers and vendors. This year's conference includes a combination of general sessions, round table presentations, cracker barrel discussions, and the more in depth sectionals. Included in this newsletter is a tentative *Schedule at a Glance*.

Additionally, we have student music scheduled for our welcoming address, invited guests, a conversation with legislators, and what promises to be a very entertaining keynote address. And don't miss out on the ever-popular slide show during Tuesday's lunch. During the conference we have a number of sponsor-supported social events, including morning refreshments, luncheons, evening receptions, and the banquet. We thank them greatly for their support. Please plan on attending and enjoying these great professional development opportunities. The conference concludes with our annual general membership meeting, election of officers, and changing of leadership on Wednesday at noon. Don't forget the door prizes and the announcement of professional development scholarship winners.



**ALASBO - Forming Friendships
and Facing Challenges
Annual Conference
December 6-8, 2004**

Plus, we still provide ample time to visit all our sponsors and vendors, without whose support this conference would not be possible. Please

visit their booths and thank them for their support. They are grateful for our business and we are grateful for their friendly and valued service to our districts.

As is customary, we hope to have a number of staff from the Departments of Education and Early Development and Administration to help present on numerous topics and more importantly, be available for questions and discussions in a more casual setting. An important part of this conference is getting to know those individuals you may have spoken to or e-mailed, but have never met. It's important to finally place a face with a name.

ALASBO is a completely volunteer organization, from the Executive Director to the Board Members, to the Committee Members, to conference volunteers. It is important that we continue to bring in new ideas, fresh perspectives, and a touch of enthusiasm. Please consider offering your time and services on behalf of the organization. We will be distributing nomination forms and committee application forms at the annual conference.

As my term as President winds down, I would like to thank all those who have contributed their time on behalf of ALASBO. It has been an honor to serve the members of our organization, and I look forward to seeing everyone in Anchorage in December.

Executive Director's Message

Tammy White

Approximately 15 ALASBO members attended the professional development opportunities at the ASBO conference in Cincinnati. Although the turnout was less than the past few years, the training offered was excellent. We enjoyed the seeing each other again and look forward to next year in Boston, along with Anchorage in December.

Our current president, Mike Fisher is working very hard to insure a top of the line conference with a multitude of professional development. All school business offices staff around the state should experience these training opportunities. Along with training, vendors will provide an excellent exhibit of the newest supplies, equipment, software, and services available to increase productivity.

-continued, page 3-

Executive Director's Message (Continued)

The opportunity to hear from legislators who will attend is vitally important this year. Governor Murkowski has unveiled his plan to ask the Legislature for a \$208 million increase the base allocation funding for K-12 schools. The increase will let all districts know the amount of funding they can expect for the next two fiscal years. (see related articles, pp 4-5)



With the TRS and PERS issues districts are facing, along with the increased cost of utilities and personnel, this is a very important step. It will be good to see the increased revenue the state is receiving from the price of a barrel of oil directed to the entities that will be paying these increased prices.

The enormous substance of this year's conference should not be missed. But the greatest asset you will take back to your office is the network of colleagues you will establish or revitalize.

Alaska Districts Receive Awards

The following Alaska districts have received recognition from the ASBO International for 2002-2003 reporting documents.



Certificate of Excellence – for preparation of the comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR)

- Anchorage School District
- Bering Strait School District
- Fairbanks North Star Borough School District
- Kenai Peninsula Borough School District



Meritorious Budget Award – for preparation of annual FY04 budget

- Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

ASBO International News

Melody Douglas, Vice-President

The ASBO Board met October 14, 2004 and took action on important issues for the Association and the membership. Board Action includes:

1) The formation of a Membership Committee (beginning in 2005). – A chair and vice-chair will be appointed and the rest of the committee will be comprised of members selected from applications received from ASBO members expressing interest in serving on this committee. The purpose of the Membership Committee as presented in the proposal includes:

- Serve as a core contact group for ASBO members
- Work with liaisons from each affiliate to actively promote the recruitment of new members and review membership variances at each affiliate level
- Contact members who have been in the Association three years or less
- Be accessible to all members of the Association
- Function under the procedures set forth in the Committee Manual of Operation

2) The formation of a Futures Task Force – Mr. Dennis Costerison, Executive Director of Indiana ASBO and Dr. Pam Deering, Past-President of ASBO have been selected to serve as chair and vice-chair of this task force. An audio conference will be held November 12, 2004 to select 7 ASBO members to service on this task force. Questions to be considered include: 1) What must ASBO look like in 5 years? 10 years? 2) How do we develop the thoughtful, bold leadership to lead well-calculated change? 3) How do we meet the needs of a significantly changing membership?

3) Endorsed a NCLB letter of support and proposed changes that 19 other education associations signed.

4) Approved several policy revisions; all updated policies will be posted to the ASBO website by January, 2005.

5) Approved an investment strategy for capital reserves.

The Board received information on:

- updated YTD Key Result Measures targeting ASBO's Strategic Plan
-continued, page 4-

ASBO International News (Continued)

- an offer to purchase the ASBO office building
- an Association self audit undertaken by ASBO staff
- establishing a Facilities Award Program
- changes to the Eagle Institute
- reconvening the ASBO Election Advisory Panel to review the election rules
- the 2005 Annual Meeting scheduled October 21-25, 2005 in Boston

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the 91st Annual Meeting & Exhibits, "Celebrating the Success of Children", in Boston, Massachusetts, October 21-25, 2005!

Please let me know of any concerns, suggestions and ideas you would like addressed concerning ASBO International. I may be reached at 907-714-8847 or mdouglas@kpbsd.k12.ak.us.

Press Release: Office of the Governor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 5, 2004

Governor Proposes Two-Year Funding for K-12 Schools

(Anchorage) – Governor Frank H. Murkowski will ask the Legislature for a \$208 million increase in K-12 education funding over the next two years, he announced Friday to the Association of Alaska School Boards at their annual meeting in Anchorage.

The governor's proposal would fund education for the next two years and include increases to help absorb the rising costs of retirement systems, as well as other day-to-day increases such as insurance and fuel. Murkowski will ask the Legislature for early funding of the proposal.

"Our schools and our students deserve a predictable level of state funding so that good teachers are rewarded with a 'thank you' at the end of the year instead of a pink slip," said the governor. "Early, stable funding will let our school districts focus on teaching rather than on money."

School districts have seen dramatic increases in retirement system costs, personnel costs due to new labor contracts, fuel expenses, insurance expenses, and other day-to-day costs. Many

districts have been forced to reduce staff, trim programs, and increase class size to compensate for the budget increases.

If approved by the Legislature, this two-year funding plan would also shelter education from end of session budget fights and give schools more certainty in budget planning.

The initiative would increase the student base allocation to \$4,869 in fiscal 2006, which begins July 1, 2005, and increase the per student amount to \$5,174 in fiscal 2007. The per student allocation within the foundation formula is currently set at \$4,576.



"Education is one of my top priorities and I've put my money where my mouth is. This school funding proposal would mean my administration has delivered on a 29 percent increase in per student education spending during our first four years in office," Murkowski said.

The increase includes \$39 million in fiscal 2006 and \$40 million in fiscal 2007 to cover increased retirement system costs for school districts. It also includes an estimated \$23 million in increased funding for fiscal 2006 and \$24 million the following fiscal year to cover increases in day-to-day costs such as insurance, fuel, and other fixed costs.

"We know what our schools need right now to educate our children tomorrow. Let's give it to them now, let's not make them wait," Murkowski said.

Further Information from the Governor's Office

Governor Murkowski's K-12 Funding Package

- **Predictability in future funding.**
Approve two years of funding (Fiscal Year 2006 and 2007) instead of only one year so school districts will know on how much state funding they can rely.

-continued, page 5-

Governor's Funding Package (Continued)

- **State pays PERS and TRS increases.**
The state will cover the increased retirement system costs for school districts, estimated to increase \$38 million next year and another \$39 million the year after.
- **More state funds to cover other increased costs.**
Additional funding to cover increased costs of day-to-day delivery of education. Using a three-year average for Anchorage CPI, this would provide an estimated \$24 million in increased funding next year and another \$25 million increase the following year.
- **Increase state's "student base allocation."**
Increase the per student education funding formula by \$293 (to \$4,869) next year and by another \$305 (to \$5,174) the following year.
- **The bottom line: \$208 million more for K-12 schools**
The state's support per student will have increased 29% during the first four years of this Administration. This translates into a \$208 million increase in state support for education.



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Kidspeak

NUDITY

A little boy got lost at the YMCA and found himself in the women's locker room. When he was spotted, the room burst into shrieks, with ladies grabbing towels and running for cover. The little boy watched in amazement and then asked, "What's the matter haven't you ever seen a little boy before?"

POLICE # 1

While taking a routine vandalism report at an elementary school, I was interrupted by a little girl about 6 years old. Looking up and down at my uniform, she asked, "Are you a cop?" "Yes," I answered and continued writing the report. "My mother said if I ever needed help I should ask the police. Is that right?" "Yes, that's right," I told her. "Well, then," she said as she extended her foot toward me, "would you please tie my shoe?"

POLICE # 2

It was the end of the day when I parked my police van in front of the station. As I gathered my equipment, my K-9 partner, Jake, was barking, and I saw a little boy staring in at me. "Is that a dog you got back there?" he asked. "It sure is," I replied. Puzzled, the boy looked at me and then towards the back of the van. Finally he said, "What'd he do?"



**Alaska Association of
School Business Officials**

C/o Cindy Reilly
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ALASBO Annual Conference
December 6 - 8, Anchorage
Register Today!!