

# ALASBO

## News Link...



February 2009

*A newsletter publication of Alaska Association of School Business Officials*

*ALASBO News Link*  
is published for the members of the Alaska  
Association of School Business Officials  
and its affiliate members.

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*Would you like to receive this newsletter in print,  
rather than e-mail? Contact Amy Lujan at the above  
address.*

## **President's Message**

*Karen Goodwin, Northwest Arctic*

Happy New Year and I hope the winter break provided either a well-deserved rest or an opportunity to work uninterrupted throughout the break.

The 2008 ALASBO conference was a huge success as evidenced by the sizeable number of attendees and their evaluations and of course by the never forgotten generous sponsorship.

Our most highlighted success, the first ever School Business Academy, proved to be informative and well received. This endeavor is part of ALASBO's strategic plan to provide professional development and ongoing training to our members. Plans are underway to enhance the Academy further during next year's conference.

I sincerely appreciate previous ALASBO Executive Director Duane Guiley's assistance to our incoming director, Amy Lujan making the transition smooth and efficient.

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## **C O N T E N T S**

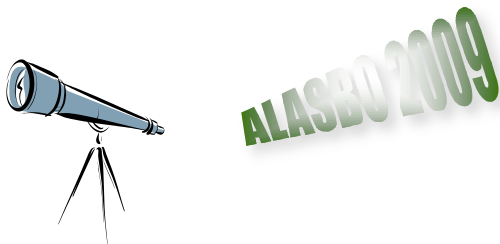
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Amy and the Board of Directors are meeting monthly to discuss numerous ALASBO business issues. For example, we are currently reviewing approaches to legislative issues and the association's response and direction to the state's funding issues, which directly affect education funding. Additionally, based on our member's conference evaluations and feedback we are working to improve the process involved in sharing joint resolutions with other profession organizations, such as the Alaska Council of School Administrators.

I know that we are all busy with end of year tasks such as distributing W-2 statements, closing the calendar year and developing next year's budgets. I would encourage all members to look back at our conference and find those business cards that were exchanged during our networking opportunities. ALASBO is not only filled with experience and talent, but also with generosity. When confronted with a challenge in your district, please do not hesitate to contact one of the many long time business officials.

Remember that there is no need to reinvent the wheel, and one of our members has probably met before any struggle that you are facing! One of our association's greatest strengths is our members' longevity and dedication to the school business profession. By using our membership's strengths we will grow in a successful and progressive direction which will result in making a positive difference in each of our school districts and advancing the practices of school business in the State of Alaska.



***"Vision without action is a dream, action without vision is simply passing the time, and action with vision is making a positive difference."***



## **Executive Director's Message**

*Amy Lujan, ALASBO Executive Director*

2009 is flying by already! I am off to a fast start as your new ED, thanks to the support of Duane Guiley and the ALASBO Board. Following on yet another great annual conference in December, I want to make sure you're aware of services ALASBO offers throughout the year.

- **Legislative Fly-In February 25-27, Juneau** – This is our next conference, a chance for ALASBO members to learn about this year's issues and share our own unique perspectives with members of the legislature. See details in this newsletter.
- **Board Liaisons** – This program supports the networking that makes ALASBO invaluable to its members. Included in this newsletter is a list of liaisons; if you haven't heard from yours yet, or you have a question about ALASBO or something you're working on, give him/her a shout! Note that this program is in addition to the individual mentor assignments given to School Business Academy participants. Your mentors and liaisons may not have all the answers, but they may be able find someone who can help.
- **Monthly Powerlunch** – Included with this newsletter is a schedule of topics for 2009. Don't miss this chance to call in for an hour each month. One or two tips can save loads of valuable time!
- **Alasbo.org** – I'm working on website updates now, and I hope that this website will be of increasing value as the year goes on.
- **Committees** – Included in this newsletter is a list of ALASBO committees, which will continue to meet via teleconference during the year. We welcome new committee members! If you'd like to volunteer, please contact the committee chair, or contact me. A description of committee responsibilities is on our website.
- **Email Q&A** – From time-to-time, you may want to get quick feedback about how other

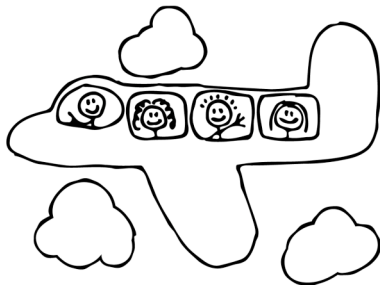
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districts are doing things. You are welcome to forward questions to me and if appropriate, I will forward to ALASBO members requesting their responses. Past examples include per diem rates and RFP's for specific items.

- **Leadership Conference July 24-26, Kodiak** – At this meeting, we plan for the annual conference and review ALASBO's strategic plan. We usually get some fishing in too!

I am very much enjoying my new role and adjusting to Juneau weather. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me: [alasbo@gci.net](mailto:alasbo@gci.net), 907-500-9086.



## **ALASBO Legislative Fly-in**

February 25-27, 2009  
Juneau, Alaska

It is important that we make our voices heard in Juneau! School business officials have a unique perspective that is valued by the legislators. Please let Amy Lujan know if you are able to attend the Fly-In ([alasbo@gci.net](mailto:alasbo@gci.net)).

### **Wednesday, February 25**

1:30 PM – Meet at Alaska Department of Education & Early Development, 1<sup>st</sup> floor conference room, 801 W. 10<sup>th</sup> Street

- Updates on legislative session status
  - Eddy Jeans, School Finance Director, Dept of Ed (EED)
  - Mary Francis, Executive Director, Alaska Council of School Administrators (ACSA)
  - Carl Rose, Executive Director, Alaska Association of School Boards (AASB) (tentative)
- Formulate ALASBO Talking Points for legislative visits

5 – 7:00 PM – Reception at Alaska Council of School Administrators (ACSA) Office, 326 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 404

### **Thursday, February 26**

8:30 AM – Meet at EED to finalize Talking Points (if necessary)

9 – 11:30 AM – Appointments with Legislators

Noon – Luncheon sponsored by Alaska Public Entity Insurance (APEI) – location TBA

1:30 – 5 PM – Appointments with Legislators

5 – 7:00 PM – Reception sponsored by AML/JIA at The Hangar, 2 Marine Way (blue building on the water at the end of Main Street)

### **Friday, February 27**

9 – 11:30 AM – Appointments with Legislators

Noon – Group luncheon and debriefing – location TBA

1:30 – 5 PM – Appointments with Legislators

#### **Hotels:**

- Westmark Baranof Hotel, 127 N. Franklin, 907-586-2660 - \$109/night government rate; this hotel is the closest to the Capitol
- Goldbelt Hotel, 51 Egan Drive, 907-586-6900 - \$119/night government rate

## **A “Bush” Alaskan Perspective: Reflections on ESEA and NCLB**

Karen Goodwin, Northwest Arctic Borough School District, ALASBO President

After his election in 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson pushed his social reform movement, The Great Society, which included a central program called the Elementary and Secondary Act (ESEA). The overall purpose of ESEA was to improve the educational opportunities for poor children, not as a general package of aid to all schools. The allocation formula in ESEA directed assistance to local education agencies (LEA's) with the greatest proportions of poor children. The funds were purposely distributed through state education agencies (SEA's) to avoid the perception that the federal government was intervening in the rights and obligations of states to provide public education and to use the funds as leverage to upgrade the capabilities of the SEA's themselves.

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No Child Left Behind (NCLB), signed into law in 2002, was the most recent re-authorization of ESEA. As a rural Alaskan “bush” school business manager, I am elated with the fiscal and administrative accountability NCLB brought to our school districts. On the other hand, there have been unintended negative consequences that should be addressed in the upcoming re-authorization process, one of which involves the inefficient way that the supplemental education provision is implemented in rural Alaska.

NCLB requires that districts set aside 20% of their federal funds for school choice, which is typically unavailable in rural Alaska, or for supplemental education. Under NCLB, low-income parents can get free after-school, weekend or summer tutoring for their children when their school has not met goals for three or more years. This provision has resulted in a reduction in federal funding for other routine education programs.



In bush Alaska, these supplemental services are either non-existent, unavailable, or are being supplied by the existing teaching staff in a manner that is more costly and inefficient than services provided prior to NCLB. Most villages do not possess accredited tutoring programs. In order to meet NCLB guidelines, the school district typically ends up contracting with external agencies for these programs. These agencies in turn employ the school district's own teaching staff in the remote sites to provide the services.

In summary, NCLB prohibits the school district from hiring its own teachers to provide supplemental services, making it necessary to expend additional funds to provide the same service through a third party that historically had been provided prior to NCLB. This service method does not meet the parental choice objective of NCLB, nor does it enhance the effectiveness or efficiency of the education system.

Supplemental education requirements are simply one aspect of NCLB that is not appropriate for rural Alaskan school districts. With the upcoming reauthorization of NCLB, we must advocate for appropriate and attainable provisions, not only for mainstream America, but also for the often forgotten children in bush Alaska, the majority of which are the children that President Johnson sought to help through ESEA.

## **Board Member Perspective**

*Mark Vink, Bering Strait School District*

I have been the Business Manager for the Bering Strait School District for the past two years. Prior to that, I worked in public accounting as a C.P.A. primarily dealing with tax preparation and small business accounting in Michigan.

My wife moved up from Michigan before me and is a SPED teacher. She was here when Kerry Jarrell announced his retirement after 21 years with the District. Kerry has been a great help in my transition to the position.

Our school district serves around 1,650 students in 15 villages along with NACTEC, a joint venture with the Nome Public Schools. Our District covers approximately 80,000 square miles. Our operating budget last year was over \$47 million.

My job includes the oversight of the various accounting functions for the District. These include the normal functions of payroll, purchasing/payables, budgeting, and general ledger review. I also oversee our travel department, food service program and our insurance programs for both health insurance and property insurance.

I enjoy the continual change in the job. You are never quite sure all of the time of what projects you will be working on during the day. I can say that I have a fantastic staff and the support from our Superintendent and other District administrators is great.

The challenge of the position as I see it is to help make the jobs of our teachers and principals easier by being able to provide them with the resources to do their jobs.

I have also learned much about the position

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from my contact with ALASBO and its members. The people of ALASBO have been very helpful with sharing information and giving me a place to ask questions and receive information on various matters.

My participation in the School Business Academy during the 2008 conference was an excellent learning tool. The wealth of information shared by Dennis Neidermeyer and Tammy White along with others is information that I will be using for years to come.

As a newly elected board member, I hope to be able to help continue the educational opportunities for ALASBO members. I know what its like to be at your desk and say "now, how do I do this?" I know myself that I have a lot to learn and look for ways through ALASBO to continue my professional growth as well as the continued growth of ALASBO.

## 2009 ALASBO Board Liaisons

**Cindy Reilly, Past-President** – 746-9225

Cindy.Reilly@matsuk12.us

- Alaska Gateway Schools
- Aleutian Region Schools
- Aleutians East Borough Schools
- Anchorage School District
- Annette Island Schools
- Bering Strait Schools

**Luke Fulp, Secretary** – 481-6105

lfulp01@kodiakschools.org

- Bristol Bay Borough Schools
- Chatham Schools
- Chugach Schools
- Copper River Schools
- Cordova City Schools
- Craig City Schools

**Kim Johnson, Director** – 895-4657

kjohnson@dgsd.k12.ak.us

- Delta/Greely Schools
- Denali Borough Schools
- Dillingham City Schools
- Fairbanks North Star Borough Schools
- Galena City Schools
- Haines Borough Schools
- Hoonah City Schools

**Mark Vink, Director** – 624-4256

mvink@bssd.org

- Hydaburg City Schools

- Iditarod Area Schools
- Juneau Borough Schools
- Kake City Schools
- Kashunamiut Schools
- Kenai Peninsula Borough Schools
- Ketchikan Gateway Borough Schools

**Pamela Roope, Director** – 874-2347

proope@wrangellschools.org

- Klawock City Schools
- Kodiak Island Borough Schools
- Kuspuk Schools
- Lake and Pen Borough Schools
- Lower Kuskokwim Schools
- Lower Yukon Schools
- Mat-Su Borough Schools

**Jim Farrington, Director** – 465-2748

james.farrington@alaska.gov

- Nenana City Schools
- Nome Public Schools
- North Slope Borough Schools
- NW Arctic Borough Schools
- Pelican City Schools
- Petersburg City Schools
- Pribilof Island Schools

**Eunice Boston, Director** – 742-4342

Boston\_Eunice@asdk12.org

- Saint Mary's Schools
- Sitka Schools
- Skagway City Schools
- Southeast Island Schools
- Southwest Region Schools
- Tanana Schools
- Unalaska City Schools

**Jenny Martens, Director** – 443-6190

jmartens@nomeschools.com

- Valdez City Schools
- Wrangell City Schools
- Yakutat City Schools
- Yukon Flats Schools
- Yukon-Koyukuk Schools
- Yupiit Schools



## Your Moment of EXCEL Zen

When creating formula in EXCEL, the savvy spreadsheet artist always keeps in mind **Operator Precedence**. EXCEL will perform operations in a formula in a particular order. The order of precedence is:

Symbol	Operator
colon(:), comma(.), space( )	Reference operators
-	Negation
%	Percent
^	Exponentiation
* And /	Multiplication and division
+ and -	Addition and subtraction
&	Text concatenation
=, <, >, <=, >=, <>	Comparison

Use parentheses to override and control EXCEL's order of precedence. For example:

10	
20	
2	
50	=C12+C13*C14

You may expect that 10 + 20 would equal 30, and twice that sum, to equal 60. Because the \* is calculated first Excel sees the calculation as C7 \* C8 resulting in C7\*C8.

Because EXCEL, like in algebra, performs operations in parentheses first, the correct answer is achieved thus:

10	
20	
2	
60	=(C27+C28)*C29

By placing parentheses around (C21+C22) Excel performs this part of the calculation first, resulting in C21+C22 and then the resulting sum multiplied by C29.

And... did you know that there are some very famous cells in EXCEL? Surely, you've heard of A1, the steak sauce cell. How about V8, the vegetable juice cell? ☺

## 2009 Power Lunch Schedule

11 AM to 12 PM, the 3rd Tuesday of each Month

<b>February 17</b>	- Security of Employee Personal Data
<b>March 17</b>	- E-Reporting
<b>April 21</b>	- Grants - Applications
<b>May 19</b>	- Audit Prep
<b>June 23</b>	- Taxable Fringe Benefits
<b>July 21</b>	- Security/Crisis Response
<b>August 18</b>	- Grants - Reimbursement Forms & Budget Revisions
<b>September 15</b>	- Indirect Cost Form
<b>October 20</b>	- Grants - Time & Effort Reporting
<b>November 17</b>	- 1099/W2's
<b>December</b>	- ALASBO CONFERENCE

To connect, call 218-862-6100.  
The pass code is 252726 (spells ALASBO!)

## Conference Awards and Prizes!

Thanks to all our generous sponsors, who donated prizes and awards during our annual conference:

- **School Business Official of the Year, Penair** – Laura Hylton, Lake & Peninsula SD
- **Scholarship to attend ASBO International, RBMS** – Nancy Hollis, Denali Borough SD
- **Lowell Thomas Professional Development Grant, CORE, Inc.** – Laurie Olson, Kenai SD
- **AV Projector, The Chariot Group** – Isabelle Harrington, Iditarod SD
- **Movie Library, AML/JIA** – Rene' Spracklen, Copper River SD
- **Binoculars, AESOP/Frontline** – Robin Mullins, Fairbanks North Star SD

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- **Air travel certificates, ERA Aviation** – Wylie Vahle, Dillingham SD and Amy Lujan, ALASBO
- **Fleece Jacket, First National Bank** – Robin Mullins, Fairbanks North Star SD
- **Gift basket, AIG** – Nancy Hollis, Denali Borough SD
- **Shredder, Northern Office Supply** – Henry Henson, Matsu SD
- **Robin Mullins, Mikunda, Cottrell** - \$50 Best Buy gift certificate



## Mack Easton Memorial Scholarships

Congratulations to the following students on their \$1,000 scholarship awards:

- Kristofer Maenhout, Wrangell Public Schools
- Irene Park, Anchorage School District

The 2009 application packet will be available soon on the ALASBO website!

## ALASBO 2009 Committees

Thanks to all the volunteers for committees this year! Committees are an important part of what makes ALASBO work. Descriptions of the role of each committee are included in the Committee Handbook, available on the ALASBO website.

If you would like to serve on a committee, please contact the committee chair or Amy Lujan, [alasbo@gci.net](mailto:alasbo@gci.net).

### Audit

Chad Stiteler	Chair	Anchorage
Kim Johnson		Denali
Pam Roope		Wrangell

### Bylaws

Tammy White	Chair	CORE, Inc.
Loreen Kramer		Copper River
Jenny Martens		Nome

Laurie Olson  
Rene' Spracklen

Kenai  
Copper River

### Services

Yodean Armour

Chair/  
Historian

Klawock

Ken Canete  
Susan Edwards  
Karen Goodwin

Kodiak  
Lake & Pen  
NW Arctic  
Yukon-  
Koyukuk  
Matsu  
Kuspuk  
Matsu  
Wrangell

Edith Hildebrand  
Terrie Irwin  
Martha Morgan  
Cindy Reilly  
Pam Roope

### Professional Development

Cindy Reilly  
Lee Ann Andrew  
Nancy Barto  
Colleen Fitzgerald  
Laura Hylton  
David Means  
Kaye Norback  
Leslie O'Connor  
Danny Sihabouth  
Rene' Spracklen  
Stephanie Stickle

Chair

Matsu  
SW Region  
Juneau  
Fairbanks  
Lake & Pen  
Juneau  
Iditarod  
Yukon Flats  
Anchorage  
Copper River  
Denali

### Legislative

Dave Jones  
Melody Douglas  
Luke Fulp  
Laura Hylton  
Tammy White

Chair

Kenai  
Kenai  
Kodiak  
Lake & Pen  
CORE, Inc.

### Awards

Robin Mullins  
Morna Harrison-Davis  
Isabelle Harrington  
Liz Hayes  
Holly Holman  
Lana King  
Dennis Niedermeyer  
Cindy Reilly

Chair

Fairbanks  
Anchorage  
Iditarod  
Kenai  
Unalaska  
Kenai  
Hon. Member  
Matsu

### Nominations - to be appointed by the President Sponsorship - inactive

