

Alaska Association of Student Governments



Spring 2010 Leadership Conference Resolutions Ben Eielson Jr/Sr High School

1. Restoring Anchorage Arts Money Cuts
2. Lifting the Grade Level Restriction for Participation in Athletics
3. Test Outs for Alaska Studies Course
4. Eliminating Race in the Admission Consideration at UA schools
5. Applicable Coaching System
6. Disposable Toiler Seat Covers
7. Martin Luther King Day
8. Increasing Safety on Whitshed Road
9. Four-Day (Optional Five-Day) School Week at Kodiak High School
10. Open Campus for Lunches
11. State-Wide Support of the Month of the Military Child
12. Revisions to Current Anti-Harassment Policy in the Anchorage School District
13. Classroom Expansion Funding



Alaska Association of Student Governments

Resolution: #1 (PASSED)

Restoring Anchorage Arts Money Cuts

Submitted by: Savannah Woolston

Be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments;

1. **Whereas**, in 2009, the Arts Commission was receiving \$261,000 in funding. In 2010, it was cut to \$150,000. This is a \$111,000 decrease in funding in one year. The funding provides money for 73 arts organizations around Anchorage (7);
2. **Whereas**, theatre, the imagined and enacted world of human beings, is one of the primary ways children learn about life -- about actions and consequences, about customs and beliefs, about others and themselves (3);
3. **Whereas**, there is a direct relationship between improved SAT scores and the length of time spent studying the arts. Those children who studied the arts for four or more years scored 60 points higher on verbal and 41 points higher on math portions of the SAT than students with no experience in the arts (6);
4. **Whereas**, involvement in the arts makes students two times more likely to win an award for academic achievement, four times more likely to participate in a math or science fair, nearly twice as likely to read for pleasure, three times more likely to win an award for school attendance, over three times more likely to be elected to a class office in school, over four times more likely to engage in community service (2);
5. **Whereas**, since the No Child Left Behind Act, there has been a national focus on closing the "achievement gap" between students of varying abilities, socioeconomic status, and other factors that may affect a student's academic success. The arts address this issue by catering to different styles of learning, and engaging students who might not otherwise take interest in academics (3);
6. **Whereas**, a 1992 Florida Dept of Education study of at-risk students, "The Role of the Fine and Performing Arts in High School Dropout Prevention," found that 75% said participation in the arts influenced their decision to graduate from high school (4);
7. **Whereas**, The Alaska Theater of Youth provides services to 170 artists or performers, 200 paying students, 35 teachers, 22 scholarship actors/students, 300 volunteers, and an estimated 18,300 audience members every year (5);
8. **Whereas**, "As the national financial crisis continues into its second year, youth arts

organizations like Alaska Theatre of Youth must continue to operate without government, foundation and corporate support that it had relied on for the past 26 years of operation. Such support is typical for non-profit arts organizations to draw upon to pay for operating costs, hiring experienced teachers, training, the creation of costumes-sets-props, etc.” (5);

9. **Whereas**, community theatre programs give back to the community by providing transportation to productions for low income students, scholarships for training programs, and free participation in productions (5);

10. **Therefore, be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments, that the cuts to money for arts programs in the Municipality of Anchorage be restored because arts organizations are indispensable programs that produce meaningful results to youth and the community, and they are not receiving the funding they currently need to be sustainable.**

Action Statement: If passed by the Alaska Association of Student Governments, this resolution will be sent to the following people and the author will present it to the assembly.

Anchorage Mayor Dan Sullivan
343-7100
SullivanD@ci.anchorage.ak.us

Anchorage Assembly Member Matthew W. Claman
343-4311
ClamanMW@ci.anchorage.ak.us

Anchorage Assembly Member Elvi Gray-Jackson
343-4311
Gray-JacksonE@ci.anchorage.ak.us

Anchorage Assembly Member Harriet A. Drummond
343-4311
harrietdrummond@alaska.com

Anchorage Assembly Member Mike Gutierrez
343-4311
GutierrezM@ci.anchorage.ak.us

References:

1. Camp, Julie Van. "Definition of "the Arts" by the United States Congress." 22 Nov 2006. Web. 13 Jan 2010. <http://www.csulb.edu/~jvancamp/361_r8.html>.
2. Catterall, James S., Shirley Brice Heath. "Multi-Arts Benefits." Ballet Arts. Web. 13 Jan 2010. <<http://www.tcballetarts.com/balletarts/reports/index.asp?pg=Multi-Arts.htm>>.
3. "The Effects of Theatre Education." American Alliance of Theatre and Education (AATE). Timberlake Publishing, Web. 13 Jan 2010. <<http://www.aate.com>>.
4. "Focus on Students." Support Music. 03 June 2007. MENC, Web. 13 Jan 2010. <<http://www.supportmusic.com/drjohn/archive/2007-06-03.mhtml>>.
5. Heppinstall, Christian. Personal Interview. 13 January 2010.
6. "Music Education." American Music Conference. 2006. Web. 13 Jan 2010. <<http://www.amc-music.com/musiceducation/sats.htm>>.
7. Young, Jocelyn. Curator of Public Art. 8 February 2010. YoungJH@ci.anchorage.ak.us



Alaska Association of Student Governments

Resolution: #2 (WITHDRAWN)

Lifting the grade level restriction for participation in athletics

Submitted by: Samantha McNelly

Be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments;

1. **Whereas**, in the Anchorage School District, students are required to complete 1.5 credits (3 semesters) of physical education to graduate, and successful completion of an ASD sponsored sport serves as a replacement for a physical education credit that is necessary for graduation ¹;
2. **Whereas**, there are 14 afterschool sports offered in the Anchorage School District, but approximately 10 physical education classes offered at each high school ²; therefore students have more flexibility in pursuing their chosen sport when participating in afterschool athletics;
3. **Whereas**, the ASD limits sports participation in the following ways:
“Interscholastic sports competition in the Anchorage School District is intended to provide participation in competitive programs for individuals at similar levels of skill development in that activity. Further, such competition should be provided within some age classification.
C team composition: 9th and 10th graders
JV team composition: 9th- 11th graders
Varsity composition: 9th-12th graders,” (page 26) ³
4. **Whereas**, schools are always looking for new ways to include and engage all students, and by not allowing certain students to participate in sports, this objective is not met;
5. **Whereas**, the ASD Student Activity Philosophy includes the following statements: “5. Help all students to increase their knowledge of and skill in functioning as leaders and/or as members of a group. 6. Help all students to develop a more realistic and positive attitude towards themselves and others. 7. Help all students to develop a more positive attitude toward school as a result of participation in the student activities program.” (page 1) ³ These traits, qualities, and learning experiences should not be limited to those with a high skill level in athletics;
6. **Whereas**, according to the ASD Objectives of the Athletic Program, a key objective of the ASD athletic program is encouraging the growth of its students “Socially: through service to school and community by developing respect for the dignity of mankind, respect for the rules of the game, public and private property, by developing courtesies of

the game and loyalty to self, team, school, and community” (page 10)³, and these are traits that should be displayed in every ASD graduate;

7. **Whereas**, according to the Athletics Philosophy, “More important than winning are the changes that take place in the participant, in the nature of becoming a more useful and loyal citizen; in the desire to achieve excellence; in living a more healthful and purposeful life; in the respect for the dignity of others; in the willingness to make a personal sacrifice for the benefit of the team; and in living by a high code of conduct. These, then, become the more lasting benefits of athletic participation for the individual.” (page 10)³;
8. **Whereas**, participation in sports or other physical activities throughout a lifetime promotes a healthy lifestyle, teamwork⁴, good sportsmanship, and healthy social interactions⁵;
9. **Therefore, be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Students Governments that the Anchorage School District athletic policies be revised to allow any student to participate in their chosen sport at the level (C team, JV or Varsity) their skill level indicates is appropriate, without regard to age or grade.**

Action Statement: This resolution, if approved by the GA of AASG should be sent to:

Carol Comeau, ASD Superintendent
5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd, Anchorage, AK, 99504
Comeau_carol@asdk12.org

Mike Henry, High School Education
5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd, Anchorage, AK, 99504
Henry_mike@asdk12.org

Todd Arndt, High School Supervisor
5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd, Anchorage, AK, 99504
Arndt_todd@asdk12.org

Sharon Vaissiere, Health and Physical Education
5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd, Anchorage, AK, 99504
Vaissiere_sharon@asdk12.org

Anchorage School Board
schoolboard@asdk12.org

References:

1. "Requirements." Graduation requirements and dates. Anchorage School District, 2010. Web. 14 Mar 2010. <<http://www.asdk12.org/Parents/graduation.asp>>.
2. "Sports." Alaska School Activities Association. Alaska Interactive, 2010. Web. 18 Mar 2010. <<http://asaa.org/sports/>>.
3. 2009-2010 Anchorage School District High School Activities Handbook. (2009): Print
4. Roth, David L. . "The Benefits of Team Sports for Kids." Ezine Articles (2010): 1. Web. 15 Mar 2010. <<http://ezinearticles.com/?The-Benefits-of-Team-Sports-For-Kids&id=3906160>>.
5. "Team Sports." kids exercise. N.p., 2010. Web. 15 Mar 2010. <<http://www.kidsexercise.co.uk/TeamSports.html>>.



Alaska Association of Student Governments

Resolution: #3 (FAILED)

Test Outs for Alaska Studies Course

Submitted by: Eagle River High School

Tanner Lyon

Be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments;

1. **Whereas**, the current statewide requirement for Alaskan students to take “Alaska Studies” has sparked several conflicts;
2. **Whereas**, Alaska Studies credits are non-transferable across state borders;
3. **Whereas**, students who fulfilled similar requirements in another state are not exempted from Alaska Studies classes;
4. **Whereas**, the State of Alaska hosts a high concentration of military personnel and families who continually rotate in and out of the state;
5. **Whereas**, the total population of the State of Alaska is 670, 053 people.
6. **Whereas**, the total military population of the State of Alaska is about 17,111 people.*
7. **Whereas**, any student that moves into the State of Alaska is subject to the requirement to take Alaska Studies to graduate.
8. **Whereas**, the requirement for Alaska students to take Alaska Studies unnecessarily restricts student choice;
9. **Whereas**, schedule flexibility is severely hindered by the Alaska Studies requirement;
10. **Whereas**, it is questionable as to whether or not the current curriculum is effectively implemented;
11. **Whereas**, taking Alaska Studies has the potential to lower an individual’s GPA if that individual is taking Advanced Placement classes that add weight to their GPA, due to the lack of an AP option for Alaska Studies.

12. **Therefore, be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments, to request the Alaska State Department of Education produce and provide a test out**

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alternative to high school seniors for the completion of the Alaska Studies requirement.

Action Statement: This resolution, if approved by the GA of AASG, will be brought before the Alaska Department of Education to be finalized and ratified on a statewide level.

*<http://censtats.census.gov/data/AK/04002.pdf>

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Alaska Association of Student Governments

Resolution: #4 (FAILED)

Eliminating Race in the Admission Consideration at UA schools

Submitted by: Monroe Catholic High School

Sierra Minder

Be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments;

1. **Whereas**, the students most prepared for college should have the best opportunity of getting in;
2. **Whereas**, race is no longer an accurate way to judge someone's educational opportunities*2;
3. **Whereas**, race no longer implies economic background*2;
4. **Whereas**, this leads to reverse discrimination*1;
5. **Whereas**, it would help lead to a truly color-blind society;
6. **Whereas**, the impact would result in an enhancement in the education system;
7. **Whereas**, it would encourage and promote competition;
8. **Whereas**, it is condescending to minorities to say they need affirmative action to succeed*1;
9. **Whereas**, it demeans true minority achievement; i.e. success is labeled as result of affirmative action rather than hard work and ability*1;
10. **Whereas**, this would not require any special funding;
11. **Whereas**, it would be practical to enforce by simply not allowing colleges to ask the ethnic background of prospective students;
12. **Whereas**, campuses can still be diverse;
13. **Whereas**, much progress has been made since 1978 and race does not need to be a factor at all anymore;

14. Therefore, be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments that University of Alaska eliminate racial consideration in the admission process.

Action Statement: This resolution, if approved by the GA of AASG, is to be presented to the University of Alaska Board of Regents:

Board of Regents

Suite 202 Butrovich Building
Fairbanks, Alaska 99775

References:

1. Messerli, Joe. "Affirmative Action." *Balanced Politics*. 04/01/2009. Web. 15 Oct 2009. <http://www.balancedpolitics.org/affirmative_action.htm>.
2. Chavez, Linda. "Of Race, Gender and Justice." *Center for Equal Opportunity*. 17/07/2009. Creators, Web. 15 Oct 2009. <<http://www.ceousa.org/content/view/707/68/>>.
3. "Regents of the University of California v. Bakke ." *The Oyez Project*. 2009. Web. 15 Oct 2009. <http://www.oyez.org/cases/1970-1979/1977/1977_76_811/>.

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Association of Student Governments
Resolution: #5 (PASSED)
Applicable Coaching System
Submitted by Unalaska City High School
Katie Shae and Chelsea Karvia

Be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments;

1. **Whereas**, the UCSD School District has no current coaching selection system in place;
2. **Whereas**, the current UCSD coaches are hired with teachers getting first priority for the position;
3. **Whereas**, this excludes community members who are interested in the positions and possibly more qualified;
4. **Whereas**, limiting coaching opportunities to teachers only has a negative effect on community involvement;
5. **Whereas**, the UCSD mission statement includes providing a “safe environment in partnership with parents and community” (1);
6. **Whereas**, the desired “partnership” is being obstructed (1);
7. **Whereas**, UCSD should hire the most qualified person available;
8. **Whereas**, the coaches should be hired based on skills, abilities, education, experience, program priorities, and dedication to the job;
9. **Whereas**, UCSD should make various forms of public announcements announcing an open coaching position. Public announcements could include KUCB, Channel 8, the school website, and the school bulletin;
10. **Therefore, be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments that the UCSD School District implements an applicable coaching system; based on qualification, familiarity with the sport, and with the athletes’ best interest in mind.**

Action Statement: This resolution if approved by the GA of AASG will be presented to the UCSD Athletic Director and the UCSD School Board.

References: <http://www.ucsd.net/education/district/district.php?sectionid=1>

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**Alaska Association of Student Governments
Resolution: #6 (PASSED)
Disposable Toilet Seat Covers
Submitted by: Unalaska City School District
Katie Shae and Cassidey Walker**

Be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments;

1. **Whereas**, UCSD currently does not provide toilet seat covers;
2. **Whereas**, UCSD could provide toilet seat covers in all of their bathrooms for approximately 200 dollars per year (4,5);
3. **Whereas**, there are approximately 1,180 bacteria per square centimeter on a toilet seat(1);
4. **Whereas**, a person can contract **influenza, strep throat, herpes, parasites, and gonorrhea from sitting on a toilet seat(1,2)**;
5. **Whereas**, parasites can live up to two days without a host, making a person more susceptible to catch a parasite(3);
6. **Whereas**, 50% of women think public toilet seats are dirty to sit on, and 25% of women never use public restrooms (2);
7. **Whereas**, over 90% of women when using public toilets do not sit directly on the seat (2);
8. **Whereas**, when women urinate in a squatting position, the bladder does not completely empty, increasing the chance of getting a urinary infection (2);
9. **Therefore, be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments that the Unalaska City School provides toilet seat covers in every restroom stall.**

Action Statement: This resolution, if approved by the GA of AASG, will be presented to the UCSD principal, the UCSD superintendent, and the UCSD School Board.

References:

1. <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/1/disposable-toilet-seat-covers>
2. <http://www.sanicone.com/sanicone.html>
3. <http://www.womens-health.co.uk/crabs.html>
4. http://www.mednetdirect.com/ProductDetails.asp?ProductCode=LGSKRYK5000-P&utm_source=nextag&utm_medium=cpc_feed&utm_campaign=comparison_shopping_fees
5. http://ibuyofficesupply.com/Products/Plastic-wall-mount-toilet-seat-cover-dispenser--white__KRSKD100.aspx



Alaska Association of Student Governments
Resolution: #7 (PASSED)
Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Submitted by: Unalaska City School District
Catina Merrifield & Rachel Gulanes

Be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments;

1. **Whereas**, each year on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, federal offices, post office and banks across America close as they celebrate the national holiday. *1;
2. **Whereas**, 15 years after the death of Martin Luther King Jr., President Reagan signed a bill making Martin Luther King Jr. Day a national holiday to honor the life of Dr. King. *1;
3. **Whereas**, on January 18, 2010, Anchorage School District schools, Juneau School District schools, and Matanuska Susitna Borough School District schools were closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day;
4. **Whereas**, UCSD has 9% Alaska Native/ American Indian, 12% Latino, 33% Asian/Pacific Islander, 29% White, and 15% Mix. *5;
5. **Whereas**, UCSD has a very diverse and multicultural population. *5;
6. **Whereas**, students and faculty attend UCSD on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. *6;
7. **Therefore, be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments that AASG supports the significance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day by closing school in observance of the National Holiday in UCSD's 2011-2012 school calendar and in all future calendars.**

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Action Statement: This resolution, if approved by the GA of AASG, is to be presented to UCSD's School Board.

References:

1. Holidays on the Net. "Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday." 2010. <<http://www.holidays.net/mlk/holiday.htm>> (March 16, 2010)
2. CBS 11 News Staff. "MLK Day city closures." January 17, 2010. <[http://nl.newsbank.com/nl-search/we/Archives?p_product=KTVB&p_theme=ktvb&p_action=search&p_maxdocs=200&s_dispstring=allfields\(MLK%20Day%20City%20Closures\)%20AND%20date\(2010\)&p_filed_date=0=YMD_date&p_params_date=0=date:B,E&p_text_date=0=2010&p_field_advanced=0=&p_text_advanced=0=\(\"MLK%20Day%20City%20Closures\"\)&xcal_numdocs=20&p_perpage=10&p_sort=YMD_date:D&xcal_useweights=no](http://nl.newsbank.com/nl-search/we/Archives?p_product=KTVB&p_theme=ktvb&p_action=search&p_maxdocs=200&s_dispstring=allfields(MLK%20Day%20City%20Closures)%20AND%20date(2010)&p_filed_date=0=YMD_date&p_params_date=0=date:B,E&p_text_date=0=2010&p_field_advanced=0=&p_text_advanced=0=(\)> (March 18, 2010)
3. Juneau School District. "Juneau School District 2009- 2010 School Calendar." June 6, 2010. <http://www.juneauschools.org/documents/back_to_school/2009-2010_Calendar.pdf> (March 19, 2010)
4. Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District. "Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District 2009-2010 School Calendar." March 18, 2009. <http://www.matsuk12.us/matsu/lib/matsu/_shared/msbsd_forms/msbsd/2009-2010districtcalendar.pdf> (March 19, 2010)
5. Unalaska City SD-AK. "Unalaska Item-by-Item Report 2009." October 20, 2009. <http://ucsd.net/education/sctemp/0341930d5235b397ad3151c1b12234a4/1268800324/Unalaska_Item-by-Item_Report_2009.pdf> (March 15, 2010)
6. Unalaska City SD-AK. "Approved School Calendar 2009-2010." 2009. <<http://ucsd.net/education/components/docmgr/default.php?sectiondetailid=134&linkid=nav-menu-container-4-70>> (March 16, 2010)



Alaska Association of Student Governments
Resolution: #8 (PASSED)
Increasing Safety on Whitshed Road
Submitted by: Cordova Jr/Sr High School
Keegan Crowley, Laura Kacsh, Angie Kelly,
Christina Morrisett, and Alvin Velasco

Be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments;

- 1. Whereas**, the portion of Whitshed Road from the Copper River Highway to the new park, “Field of Dreams” is used heavily by pedestrian and bicycle traffic where there are no shoulders on the road, a cliff on one side, and a drainage ditch on the other, thereby inhibiting safe passage;
- 2. Whereas**, there are 130 children in Cordova Little League between the ages of five and fifteen that use the “Field of Dreams” for baseball and softball practices and games (Reggiani);
- 3. Whereas**, the Cordova Parks and Recreation Department have made available a new multi-use soccer, volleyball, kickball, football field that can also be used for festivals and community events adjacent to the “Field of Dreams,” thereby significantly increasing use of the property (Herschleb);
- 4. Whereas**, there are blind corners before and after the “Field of Dreams” on Whitshed Road in which drivers cannot see pedestrians until within short distances of them;
- 5. Whereas**, within 1/8 of a mile of the ball field there is a Public Works building, a working gravel pit, and a baler facility, requiring the use of heavy industrial vehicles that pass the ball field throughout the day;
- 6. Whereas**, there is increased summer traffic on Whitshed Road throughout the summer going to the Eccles Creek boatyard;
- 7. Whereas**, the new road development at the end of Hartney Bay Road will further increase traffic including residential traffic and construction crews;
- 8. Whereas**, many drivers tend to drive 1 to 5 miles per hour over the posted speed limit, thereby increasing the average miles per hour to 40 miles per hour;
- 9. Whereas**, although posted speeds are not necessarily the same as travel speeds or impact speeds, the data gathered by the U.S. Department of Transportation clearly suggest a

strong relationship between higher vehicle speed and the greater severity of resulting personal injury due to pedestrian/vehicle accidents (“Literature Review on Vehicle Travel Speeds and Pedestrian Injuries”);

10. **Whereas**, it was concluded that 3.7% of pedestrian/vehicle accidents are fatal at 25 miles per hour vehicle speed, but 12.5% of pedestrian/vehicle accidents are fatal at 35 miles per hour vehicle speed (“Literature Review on Vehicle Travel Speeds and Pedestrian Injuries”);
11. **Whereas**, reducing the speed limit by 10 miles per hour would increase commute time in that half mile section by approximately 20 seconds, a negligible increase;
12. **Whereas**, the Cordova Parent Teacher Organization received a grant through the Safe Routes to School program from which \$185,000 will be allocated to designing a bike path to the “Field of Dreams,” providing funding for a part of the project;
13. **Therefore be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments that the City of Cordova reduce the speed limit on Whitshed Road from the Copper River Highway to the “Field of Dreams” to 25 mph and install a bike/pedestrian pathway along this same stretch of road as soon as possible to avoid potential injuries and death among the members of our community.**

Action Statement: If ratified by the GA of AASG, this resolution is to be presented to the Cordova City Council and the Cordova School Board by a delegation from Cordova Student Council, and the Vice-President of the Executive Board will present the ratified resolution via mail to the same bodies.

References:

1. Herschleb, Susan. Telephone interview. 11 March 2010
2. “Literature Review on Vehicle Travel Speeds and Pedestrian Injuries.” *U. S. Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration*. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. October 2009. Web. 11 March 2010. <<http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/research/pub/hs809012.html>>
3. Reggiani, David. Telephone interview. 11 March 2010.



Alaska Association of Student Governments
Resolution: #9 (PASSED UNANIMOUSLY)
Four-Day (Optional Five-Day) School Week at Kodiak High School
Submitted by: Kodiak High School Student Council

Be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments;

1. **Whereas**, the implementation of a four-day (optional five-day) school week at Kodiak High School will exceed the required number of instructional hours set forth in AS 14.03.030, by allotting 6.75 hours of instructional time per school day;
2. **Whereas**, if approved, classes may be scheduled from 8:00 A.M. to 3:50 P.M. Monday through Thursday to meet the required instructional hours;
3. **Whereas**, if approved, formal classes will not be scheduled on Fridays, enabling students and teachers to travel off-island for extracurricular activities without missing official instructional time;
4. **Whereas**, a total of 867 student absences, equal to approximately 3,900 total hours of lost instructional time, is attributed to student activities and traveling on 19 Fridays during the first, second, and third quarters of the 2009/2010 school year (Willis);
5. **Whereas**, a four-day school week at Kodiak High School will increase direct instructional time as a result of improved student and teacher attendance;
6. **Whereas**, personal appointments, professional development, special events, and parent conferences can take place on Fridays, without interruption of instructional time;
7. **Whereas**, high school faculty will be required to work 16 Fridays per year and support staff will be required on Fridays, so that all staff will work the same number of hours per year as during the traditional five-day school week;
8. **Whereas**, students will have access to school services on Fridays, including tutoring, counseling, library access, teachers' office hours, and free and reduced-price lunch for eligible students;
9. **Whereas**, Fridays will provide students with increased opportunities for work, volunteer, and internship experiences, as well as club meetings and outdoor learning activities such as field trips;
10. **Whereas**, an extra day of non-instructional time will enable students to complete schoolwork and pursue extracurricular activities with reduced stress and a greater balance amongst school, work, and personal commitments;

11. **Whereas**, a four-day school week will further enable the construction of the new Kodiak High School in select areas without interrupting instructional time;
12. **Whereas**, the Administrators of Kodiak High School recognize the high school's transition to a four-day school week as an effective means to increase instructional time;
13. **Whereas**, the transition to a four-day school week was suggested by students, and later voted on by the student body of Kodiak High School as the top initiative for school improvement over other issues in December 2009, as part of Student Council's RSVP (Raising Student Voice and Participation) program;
14. **Whereas**, a study of schools which implemented a four-day school week in Idaho, Oregon, and Colorado reports an increase in both student and teacher attendance in nearly all school cases; test scores in these same schools either increased or remained constant (Beesley);
15. **Therefore, be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments that Kodiak High School transition to a four-day (optional five-day) school week for the 2010/2011 school year.**

Action Statement: Upon approval by the AASG General Assembly, this resolution is to be submitted to the Kodiak Island Borough School District Board of Education and the Alaska State Commissioner of Education.

References:

Beesley, Andrea D. "Four-Day School Week: Information and Recommendations, The." *Rural Educator, The*. FindArticles.com. Fall 2007. Web. 23 Feb 2010.

Willis, Amy. "Friday Activity Code Attendance Report: September 4, 2009 – February 5, 2010." *Powerschool*. 17 Feb 2010.



Alaska Association of Student Governments
Resolution: #10 (PASSED)
Open Campus for Lunches
Submitted by: Juneau-Douglas High School
Brian Kenyon

Be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments;

1. **Whereas**, our school is on a phase-in closed campus plan; currently freshmen and sophomores are not allowed off campus and next year juniors will not be allowed off campus, either;
2. **Whereas**, school lunch program serves unappealing food to students;
3. **Whereas**, our school is located in the downtown district with a large number of healthier and more affordable food vendors within walking distance;
4. **Whereas**, the number of people who live in the downtown district have the ability to eat healthier foods at home;
5. **Whereas**, the school's hallways would not be as filled with loiterers;
6. **Whereas**, students would be able to leave, get fresh air, and exercise in ways that would not be possible with an on-campus plan;
7. **Whereas**, 220 out of 312 students think that the prices of the school lunch program are not fair *1;
8. **Whereas**, the vast majority of students do not agree with the phase-in closed campus plan *2;
9. **Whereas**, most students believe they all should be able to eat lunch off campus *2;
10. **Therefore, be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments that AASG supports continuing letting juniors and seniors off campus at Juneau-Douglas High School.**

Action Statement: Upon approval by the General Assembly of AASG, the resolution will be brought before the Administration of Juneau-Douglas High School.

References:

1. Survey conducted of all the students at JDHS asking questions about the school lunch program
2. Survey conducted of all the students at JDHS asking questions about the phase in closed campus plan the school is implementing.

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Alaskan Association of Student Governments
Resolution: #11 (PASSED)
State-Wide Support of the Month of the Military Child
Submitted by: Dion Torres and Tyler Young

Be it resolved by the Alaskan Association of Student Governments;

1. **Whereas**, the State of Alaska has long understood the value of caring for and celebrating children of service members;
2. **Whereas**, April has been designated The Month of the Military Child since 1986 by then Secretary of Defense Casper Weinberger, thereby underscoring the important role military children play within the armed forces community;
3. **Whereas**, the Month of the Military Child is a time to support military families and their children for the daily sacrifices they make and the challenges they overcome;
4. **Whereas**, military children face many obstacles unique to their situation, such as having a parent deployed for extended periods of time and frequently being uprooted from school, as well as living with uncertainty and concern for their parents on a daily basis;
5. **Whereas**, the Month of the Military Child stresses the importance of providing children with quality services and support to help them succeed in the mobile military lifestyle;
6. **Therefore, be it resolved that the Alaska Association of Student Governments supports the Month of the Military Child and fully encourages all schools across the state to recognize both active and retired military members, their spouses, and their children.**

Action Statement: Should this resolution be passed, we would like it to be sent to all school principals and school boards within the state of Alaska

References:

1. Proclamation: "Month of the Military Child Ideas 2009"



Alaska Association of Student Governments
Resolution: #12 (PASSED UNANIMOUSLY)
Revisions to Current Anti-Harassment Policy in the Anchorage School District
Submitted by: Chugiak High School
Caroline Streff

Be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments;

1. **Whereas**, harassment is one of greatest difficulties faced by modern teenagers and preteens;
2. **Whereas**, one in four children in the United States experiences bullying;
3. **Whereas**, there has been increase in bullying related teen suicides 1*;
4. **Whereas**, 30% of students grades six to ten are involved in moderate to severe forms of bullying, whether as bullies, victims, or both 2*;
5. **Whereas**, 43% of students fear harassment in school bathrooms and other unsupervised areas;
6. **Whereas**, 282,000 students experience physical attack each month, nationwide;
7. **Whereas**, 100,000 children carry guns to school, nationwide, per month, in the interest of self-defense;
8. **Whereas**, those who experience bullying suffer from low self-esteem, poor confidence, and are less likely to pursue post-secondary education;
9. **Whereas**, schools do not always pay adequate attention to problems of bullying;
10. **Whereas**, the consequences concerning bullying as stated in school policies are not outlined to greatest clarity;
11. **Whereas**, violence in later life is often linked to victimization as a child or as a young adult;
12. **Whereas**, those who participate as aggressors in bullying are often linked to criminal acts in their near future;

13. Whereas, consistent district-wide consequences will deter the vast majority of students of participating in harassment.

14. Therefore, be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments here assembled to assist in redesigning the draft of the Anchorage School District Student Handbook policy on harassment and outline minimum district wide consequences, to be carried out in all incidences, and to be escalated at the school's discretion, so as to better combat the harassment that plagues American schools.

Action Statement: If approved by the GA of AASG, this resolution is to go to the Superintendent of the Anchorage School District.

References:

Effects of Bullying on the Victim-

<http://librarythinkquest.org/O7aug/00117bullyingconsequences.html>

Statistics-

http://zoomvita.org/zoomvitamultimedia_.016htm

<http://librarythinkquest.org/O7aug/00117bullyingconsequences.html>



Alaska Association of Student Governments
Resolution: #13 (PASSED)
Classroom Expansion Funding
Submitted by: Mt. Edgecumbe High School
Candace Schaack and Zoe Mercurieff

Be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments;

1. **Whereas**, Mt. Edgecumbe High School (MEHS) is a state run public boarding school in Sitka that serves 400 students from rural communities all around Alaska;
2. **Whereas**, the school has played an important role in preparing generations of rural and Native Alaska Leaders;
3. **Whereas**, currently there are four classrooms located on upper campus two of which positioned in a building known as 'Kuspuk Hall' and two more in the dining hall facility;
4. **Whereas**, this semester there are 166 students taking classes on upper campus;
5. **Whereas**, it as an approximate seven minute (440 yards/ 1320 feet) walk from lower campus to upper campus;
6. **Whereas**, MEHS passing periods are only 5 minutes;
7. **Whereas**, students with classes on upper campus do not have time to use the bathroom during passing periods;
8. **Whereas**, a student may have to go back and forth multiple times within a school day in rain and snow just to get to their classes;
9. **Whereas**, Sitka's average rainfall each year is 86 inches*1;
10. **Whereas**, students already have to walk to upper campus to get to the cafeteria for lunch;
11. **Whereas**, if funding were granted to MEHS, students with classes located on upper campus would be able to stay on lower campus, eliminating walking long distances in inclement weather;
12. **Whereas**, the new wing will connect the gymnasium and activity center;

13. **Whereas**, in addition to a new set of classrooms, there will also be a commons area established for students;
14. **Whereas**, “the goal is to bring all the classes together so that it makes a greater collective learning environment”^{*2};
15. **Whereas**, in Girls Main Dorm and Boys Main Dorm currently there are up to 6 students living in one room;
16. **Whereas**, MEHS currently has to get a Child Care Licensing Waiver to have 5-6 students sleeping in one room^{*3};
17. **Whereas**, if the classrooms located in Kuspuk Hall & above the dining hall were moved to lower campus then they would be renovated into dormitory housing;
18. **Whereas**, the expansion project is estimated to cost a total of \$9.3 million ^{*4};
19. **Whereas**, at the Fall Conference 2009 at West High School, the GA passed a resolution supporting funding for the renovation of Kodiak H.S.
20. **Whereas**, any of MEHS school’s construction projects must be funded with direct appropriations by the legislators and governor ^{*4};
21. **Whereas**, if the budget was approved, the expansion project would begin as early as summer 2012 ^{*4};
22. **Therefore, be it resolved, that the Alaska Association of Student Governments strongly supports the appropriation of capital funds to meet the long-standing needs of Mt. Edgecumbe High School.**

Action Statement: This resolution, if approved by the GA of AASG, is to be sent to the Alaska State Legislature, the Governor, and the Department of Education.

References:

1. <http://www.weather.com/outlook/driving/interstate/wxclimatology/monthly/graph/USAK0224>
2. Hutton, Bill, Superintendent, Mt. Edgecumbe High School
3. Violation of Alaska Administrative Code Title 7(AA-7-50.530.d.4)
4. “Mt. Edgecumbe High School Preliminary Study for a New Academic Wing.” March 12, 2010. Northwind Architects Alaska. (907) 586-6150