

Draft Proposed:

2.28 Reconstitution and Active Management of the Public School Land Trust and Permanent Fund

AASB supports reconstitution of the Alaska Public School Land Trust, active management of the trust and working with Alaska PTA and other educational stakeholders to that end.

Rationale: A promise was made to Alaska public school children on March 4, 1915 when "An Act to reserve lands to the Territory of Alaska for educational uses, and for other purpose," (38 Stat. 1214, Public Law 63-330/Chapter 181, 63 Congress, Session 3) was approved by Congress and signed by President Woodrow Wilson. PL 63-330 requires when federal lands are surveyed, Sections 16 and 36 in each township shall be and were reserved for the support of common schools in Alaska.

Alaska PTA, celebrating its 50th year with approximately 9,000 members and 157 local units, is the only statewide organization representing parent, school and community volunteers who advocate for all Alaska children. On April 29, 2005 a resolution supporting the education of parents, educators, policy makers and the public; reconstitution of the trust; and management of the trust consistent with legally recognized trust principles was adopted by Alaska PTA Convention. A comparable National PTA resolution was adopted by convention in June, 2006 confirming the national significance of public school land trusts granted to states.

Alaska PTA requests AASB join in the effort to ensure these historic trusts fulfill the purpose for which they were originally created. Alaska public school children benefit when AASB cooperates with educational stakeholders such as Alaska PTA to find common ground and create a unified voice.