

AASB Use Only
PM ___ BY ___



Board of Directors Nomination Form

Nominations must be received by October 23, 2008

Name Liz Downing

Address 1247 Bay Avenue

City Homer State AK Zip 99669

Telephone (Home) 907-235-8555 (Work) 907-299-2501 cell

The following indicates the length of terms and number of seats vacant for each term.

<i>Length of Term</i>	<i># of seats vacant</i>	<i>Expiration Date</i>
3 years	5	2011
1 year	1	2011

Nominee is a current board member of

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District.

Dates of Service Since October of 2005

Year Current Term Expires October 2009

Offices held on local school board with dates:
See attached.

Other Education-related public service at the local, state or national level (Boards, commissions, task forces, committees) with dates and leadership positions held, if any:

See attached.

Other Non Education-related public service or cultural activities at the local, state or national level, with dates and positions held, if any:

See attached.

Ways in which nominee has **demonstrated advocacy for children:**

See attached.

Background Information

Education Masters Degree (see attached)

Present Occupation Education Advocate

Previous Occupation(s) University of Alaska (see attached)

Membership in professional or other organizations, if any.

Dates - Offices Held:

See attached.

This nomination form should be accompanied by a one page written statement from the nominee regarding that individual's views on:

1. The appropriate role of the AASB.
2. Three major issues facing AASB in the near future.
3. How AASB could better serve school boards?
4. Ways AASB can help school boards meet Board Standards.

If nominee is selected by Nominating Committee, this statement will be made available for the General Membership at the Annual Conference.

Formal action was taken by the Kenai Peninsula Borough

School Board on _____,

to submit the name of this nominee.

Signed _____

School Board President or designee

Nominations must be received in the AASB Office by October 23, 2008

Please return to:

AASB Nominations Chairman
1111 West 9th St., Juneau, Alaska 99801

Tel: 907-586-1083 Fax: 586-2995

Nominations form should be accompanied by a copy of the Board of Directors Job Description/ Code of Ethics, signed by nominee.

Board of Directors Job Description

Constitutional Responsibilities

The Board of Directors establishes policies to supervise, control and direct the business of AASB within the limits of, and consistent with, the Resolutions and Beliefs, and Constitution and Bylaws approved by the Delegate Assembly. Within these limits, the Board of Directors:

- Actively promotes the purposes of the Association;
- Interprets AASB's Constitution and Bylaws;
- Adopts such policies, rules, and regulations for the conduct of its business as it shall deem advisable;
- Employs and annually evaluates the Executive Director;
- Adopts and periodically adjusts the Association's budget;
- Provides oversight for the operation of the Legal Assistance Fund and AASB Scholarship Fund;
- Proposes changes to the dues structure to the general membership;
- Sets/approves/adopts the amount AASB will charge for all meetings, services and materials.

Corporate Responsibilities

In the exercise of its corporate responsibilities, the Board of Directors adopts and maintains a Board Policy Manual which sets forth procedures and guidelines for the Board's operations and Director's participation in AASB activities. In order to accomplish the overall mission of the Board of Directors and to achieve its corporate objectives, each member of the Board has several kinds of individual responsibilities. Members should:

- prepare well for each Board meeting, through full and careful study of the agenda and its support materials, other relevant materials and through discussion of agenda items, where appropriate, with school board association staff members, fellow school board members, and others as desired in the formulation of preliminary personal views on each topic in advance of the Board meeting. These judgments are to serve as a base point for further discussion in the meeting;
- attend the entire board meeting by arranging travel schedules in advance to permit on-time arrival and staying through the full meeting;
- participate effectively in the Board meeting by ensuring that the concerns formulated in the preparation stage are heard by the whole Board. Each Director is expected to retain an open mind until all the facts and view points on issues are before the Board. Conclusions on action items are sought that are believed to be in the best interests of AASB. And, once a decision is made, the director is expected to support such Board conclusions, even when one may have some reservations about them;

- evaluate and follow-up on the actions taken in the Board meeting, by keeping track (through published AASB reporting documents) of how the actions of the Board are being implemented in the short- and long-run, and bringing up any concerns with the President, Executive Director or Board of Directors, as appropriate;

- establish two-way communication through the Board Liaison Network and with their respective school boards to explain and discuss actions taken by the Board of Directors, and;

- provide personal liaison to the member boards through the Board Liaison Network or caucus leadership, or in such other ways as are determined by the President or Board of Directors;

- fulfill responsibilities of any collateral assignment as an AASB committee member or AASB appointed representative to other agency committees or task forces in accordance with the purpose of the committee or the nature of the representation on behalf of AASB and consistent with the precepts of preparation, attendance, participation and evaluation set forth above, and;

- participate actively in the legislative activities of AASB, in the most effective manner, to be jointly decided with the Executive Director, and;

- diligently participate in the annual evaluation of the Executive Director by completing the evaluation instrument and returning it to the designated officer in a timely manner, participating fully and constructively in the Board's evaluation discussion, and assisting in setting professional performance goals for the Executive Director, and;

- accept occasional public speaking assignments such as chairing caucuses and introducing speakers at meetings and giving reports as appropriate before the Board or general membership, and;

- acknowledge and abide by the AASB Board of Directors Job Description and Code of Ethics.

Additionally, the Board Member serves as an Ambassador of the Association. As such, each member of the Board functions as a representative of AASB to member school districts and the general public. Each Director must assume responsibility for explaining AASB's programs, the basis for governance decisions, AASB's vision for the future as described in the AASB's Long Range plan, and AASB's missions and goals, together with the action plans approved by the Board to realize that vision and attain those missions and goals.

Finally, the Board member serves as an advocate for AASB both at home and at the state level. Each member of the Board is part of the governance team selected by the AASB general membership. He or she is expected to be a vigorous, knowledgeable and articulate advocate of AASB and its programs, as approved by the Board of

Directors, so that the value of membership in AASB can be made fully and clearly known in the district from which the Director comes, as well as to all other school boards around the state. As a result of this advocacy, the attitudes, opinions and conclusions about AASB, formulated by school board members around the state, can be made with full understanding of all the facts that Directors can make available.

Code of Ethics

As a member of the Association of Alaska School Boards Board of Directors I will strive to improve public education, and to that end I will:

- Attend all three regularly scheduled AASB board meetings and other teleconference meetings, insofar as possible, and become informed concerning the issues to be considered at those meetings;
- Recognize that I should endeavor to make policy decisions only after full discussion at publicly held board meetings;
- Render all decisions based on the available facts and my independent judgment, and refuse to surrender that judgment to individuals or special interest groups.
- Encourage the free expression of opinion by all board members, and seek systematic communications between the board and member school boards;
- Work with other AASB board members to establish effective board policies and to delegate authority for the administration of the association to the Executive Director;
- Communicate to other AASB board members, and the Executive Director, expressions of member and public reaction to AASB resolutions, policies and programs;
- Inform myself about current educational issues by individual study and through participation in programs providing needed information, such as those sponsored by my state and national school boards association;
- Support the employment of those persons best qualified to serve as association staff, and insist on a regular and impartial evaluation of all staff;
- Avoid being placed in a position of conflict of interest, and refrain from using my board position for personal or partisan gain;
- Remember always that my first and greatest concern must be the educational welfare of the students attending the public schools.

My signature below indicates that I have read and agree to abide by the AASB Board of Directors Job Description and Code of Ethics.

Name Lebeth Downing

Date 09/29/08

**Association of Alaska School Boards
Board of Directors Nomination Form**

Name: Liz Downing

Address: 1247 Bay Avenue; Homer, AK 99603

Telephone: 907-235-8555 home 907-299-2501 cell

Applying for Term Length: 3 years

Current Board Member of: Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

Dates of Service: October 2005 – present

Current term expires: 2009 (eligible for re-election)

Offices Held: Clerk 2006-07

Vice President 07-08

Representative to KPBSD Charter School Oversight Committee 2002-present

Representative to the Kenai Project Grad Board of Directors 2007-present

Other education-related public service at local, state, or national level:

NSBA: Pre-K Legislative Committee 2008-present

Kenai Peninsula College Council 2008-present

Paul Banks Elementary School Site Council 2002-06, president 2003-06

University of Alaska Governance: Staff Alliance (University Wide) 2001-02

Administrative, Technical, Professional Staff Council 1992-96 president 2001-02

Joint KPBSD and Kenai Peninsula College: Career Development Committee, 1993-94

College & Career Fair Coordination and presentations at KPBSD high schools since 1987

State-wide Student Affairs Conference planning committee 1990-99, chair 1999

Parent Volunteer: Paul Banks and West Homer Elementary Schools, 2002-present

Other non-education-related public service at local, state, or national level:

District 35 Democrats, Committee Woman to State Democratic Committee, 2008 to present

Alaska Performance Excellence Program (APEX) Examiner, 2007-08

APEX Training Team 2008-present

Child Advocacy Coalition of Homer (CACH) since inception 2003-present

Homer Little League Board of Directors, Safety Officer 2002-04, T-ball coach, 2002

South Peninsula Womens Services Board of Directors 1992-95, president 1993-5

Human Service Providers Network (of Homer) 1987-2007

Evidence of demonstrated advocacy for children:

After my appointment by President Norm Wooten to NSBA's Pre-K Legislative Committee, I chose to focus on Alaska and took the following actions:

- ◆ Discussed Pre-K education with local public and non-profit organizations
- ◆ Discussed and queried several current state legislators and state and national candidates urging support for Pre-K, participated in writing the education plan for one candidate
- ◆ Presented NSBA's Pre-K information to Governor Sarah Palin
- ◆ Requested our superintendent to follow up with an inquiry on DEED's position when she travelled to Juneau in August followed by discussion with Commissioner LeDoux who stated that the Governor requested he include Pre-K funding in the current budget proposal.

Background Information

Education:	M. Ed. Higher Education Administration, Virginia Tech	1982
	BS Leisure Services, University of Maryland College Park	1979
	AA, Prince Georges Community College	1977

Present Occupation: Education Advocate

Previous Occupations:

U of AK, UAA, Kenai Peninsula College, Student & Enrollment Services Manager	1987-2007
North Country Charters, Manager and Reservationist, Homer, AK	1987-1990
Montgomery College, Student Activities Director, Rockville, MD	1983-1987
Virginia Tech University, Graduate Intern to VP Student Affairs, Blacksburg, VA	1981-1982

Professional Associations:

Current: NSBA Affiliate, Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development

Previous: National Association for Student Personnel Administration, Association of College Personnel Administration, Association of College Unions International, National Association of College Activities, Maryland Recreation and Parks Association (President of Student Branch), National Recreation and Parks Association 1977-2007

AASB Board of Directors Belief Statement - Liz Downing

What is the appropriate role of AASB?

AASB is the vehicle for professional development, collaboration, and advocacy for Alaska's school boards and, through them, for the children of Alaska.

Because school boards are citizen-based organizations, representatives come to the role with varying degrees of knowledge of the issues and abilities to advocate. AASB plays an essential role in by providing professional development for new and experienced members. Our school districts vary in size, environment, and culture. AASB provides focus to collaboration so we may learn from each other and join our voices to improve education in Alaska.

AASB has a is a thoughtful, non-partisan, respected association able to represent the collective views and needs of school districts from around the state. Maintaining this reputation allows for continued effective advocacy.

What are three major issues facing AASB in the near future?

Education funding is the perennial issue at the heart of our advocacy. Adequate, equitable, early, and advanced funding has been and will continue to be the call. Progress has been made but continuing efforts are needed to balance the short-and long-term financial picture with our needs. Focusing on energy costs and the impact of the national financial situation will be critical.

However, funding does not replace the value of caring learning communities in our schools and the impact it can have on achievement and the quality of life as our students grow. We must continuously improve achievement and advocate for educating the whole child. All of Alaska's children, from pre-k through their public education, deserve to love learning as they progress to graduation.

In addition to funding and student achievement, other efforts must continue to focus on the well-being of our children. Whether safety or health, both are essential for a child's ability to learn. Bullying-prevention, wellness, the quality of the food we serve, increasing access to physical education, teaching nutrition, and caring for ourselves and our loved ones will impact the quality of life in Alaska for future generations.

How can AASB better serve school boards?

AASB can improve collaboration from the Association and among members though greater online interactivity and mentorship. Enhancing the Association website with tools for e-learning, live interaction, blogs, and greater access to resources will improve board effectiveness.

What are the ways AASB can help school boards meet Board Standards?

I love the Board Standards. I think the issue is less, how do we meet the Standards but how do we communicate vision, structure, accountability, advocacy, and conduct-ethics to the public so we can heal the negative perception of public education.