



**Alaska Association of Student Governments**

**Resolution #14**

**Replacing disposable utensils with reusable silverware in all Valdez schools**

**Submitted by: Gaea Bard**

**Submitted September 22, 2018**

**Be it Resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments that:**

1. **Whereas**, Plastic accounts for around 10 percent of total waste we generate;<sup>1</sup>
2. **Whereas**, It takes 500-1,000 years for plastic to degrade;<sup>1</sup>
3. **Whereas**, 100,000 marine mammals are killed annually from plastic in our oceans;<sup>1</sup>
4. **Whereas**, Plastic pieces outnumber sea life 6 to 1;<sup>1</sup>
5. **Whereas**, Plasticware is made out of polystyrene which is a very difficult material to recycle. Therefore, only 1% of plasticware is recycled;<sup>2</sup>
6. **Whereas**, Minnetonka Middle Schools replaced plasticware with silverware, the silverware lasted 500 times longer than the plasticware;<sup>3</sup>
7. **Whereas**, Minnetonka Middle Schools spent \$14,818 instead of \$38,218 on utensils;<sup>3</sup>
8. **Whereas**, Minnetonka Middle Schools increased dishwashing loads by only 3.5 loads;<sup>3</sup>
9. **Whereas**, Duluth, Champlin, Waconia, Minneapolis, Forest Lake, and Mahtomedi have implemented silverware instead of plasticware;<sup>4</sup>

**Therefore, be it resolved that the Alaska Association of Student Governments** supports the replacement of the disposable plasticware with reusable silverware. We support working to create a more environmentally conscious school.

**Action Statement:** If passed by the general assembly of AASG we will work with the Valdez Schools student council, principal, superintendent, and school board to make a smooth transition into using silverware. Though we are trying to just replace plasticware, this is just one step closer to the overall goal of using the least amount of disposable items we can.

Sources:

1. <https://www.ecowatch.com/22-facts-about-plastic-pollution-and-10-things-we-can-do-about-it-1881885971.html>
2. <http://vivbizclub.com/2010/08/20/plastic-cutlery>
3. <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/living-green/case-study-schools-move-reusable-utensil>
4. <https://www.jeffersfoundation.org/wrap/8-Washable-tray.pd>

**Passed unanimously by the fall 2018 General Assembly at Skagway of the Alaska Association of Student Governments.**



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**Vice President, Kyle Hasse**



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**Executive Director, Denise Greene-Wilkinson**