



Alaska Association of Student Governments
Resolution #15
Polaris Week of Cultural Celebration
Presented by: Jesse Tyrrell & Maggie Cothron
April 21, 2024

Be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments that AASG supports Polaris K-12 in having a week dedicated to celebrating and embracing the diversity among Polarians to encourage appreciation and representation through traditions, languages, and foods.

- 1. Whereas**, multiple schools across the nation have either a day, night, or week reserved to celebrate diversity within their communities through STOMP Out Bullying's National Culture Week¹;
- 2. Whereas**, Polaris lacks an adaptation to these types of events that encourage cultural representation and appreciation among students, their families, and the staff;
- 3. Whereas**, the elementary and secondary student's primary direct interactions often happen through infrequent planned activities, like the "all-school seminar," between secondary advisories and elementary family groups, and don't always create the meaningful conversations they intend to;
- 4. Whereas**, according to the second definition from Oxford Languages for the word "culture" states that "the customs, arts, social institutions, and achievements of a particular nation, people, or other social group."²;
- 5. Whereas**, the Polaris Week of Cultural Celebration would ideally happen twice during the school year, once each semester, during the second week of the second and fourth quarters of the school year, following a five day Monday-Friday schedule;
- 6. Whereas**, the Polaris Week of Cultural Celebration will hopefully be comprised of activities such as:
 - a. Conducting meaningful discussions between advisory-family group partners on the meaning of cultural identity and how to appreciate others. While also teaching the ideas

- of “culture shock,” how to be respectful towards others with different practices and beliefs, and importance of traditional/cultural wear;
- b. “Ice breaker” games or other activities that promote sharing and learning about different cultures within Polaris’s community that change each year;
 - c. The wearing of traditional/cultural wear throughout the week;
 - d. Advisory-family group partners working together to create a banner that includes all students and teacher’s illustrations and ideas that will be hung in the school;
 - e. Using food and language to continue the conversation of cultural identity with a potluck between the family group and their corresponding advisory partner;
7. **Whereas**, the Polaris Week of Cultural Celebration will have a section in the yearbook from both weeks, with any pictures submitted by family group and advisory teachers or students and their families along with the yearbook committee.

Therefore, be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Government, supports Polaris K-12 in having a week dedicated to celebrating and embracing the diversity among Polarians to encourage appreciation and representation through traditions, languages, and foods.

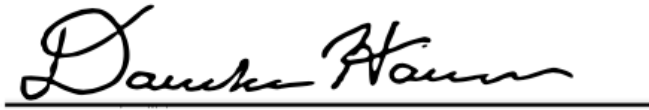
Action Statement: If passed, the author will bring the resolution to Polaris stakeholders composed of students, staff, and PTA.

Sources:

1. “National Culture Week.” *STOMP Out Bullying*,
<https://www.stompoutbullying.org/national-culture-week>.
2. “Oxford Languages and Google - English | Oxford Languages.” *Oxford Languages*,
<https://languages.oup.com/google-dictionary-en/>.

The resolution passes with unanimous consent

Passed by the Spring 2024 General Assembly of AASG hosted by Barrow High School

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Danika Hamm", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above a solid horizontal line.

AASG Vice President, Danika Hamm

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kathleen Navarre", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above a solid horizontal line.

AASG Executive Director, Kathleen Navarre