



Alaska Association of Student Governments

Resolution #15

**Reimplementing the Mat-Su Borough School District Student Advisory Board and their
Student Advisory Board Representative**

Submitted by: Hadley Spear & Colony High School Student Government

Submitted: October 24th, 2025

Be it Resolved that the Alaska Association of Student Governments supports efforts to reinstate the Mat-Su Borough School District Student Advisory Board and their Student Advisory Board Representative

1. **Whereas**, as of August 13th 2024, the accepted Mat-Su Borough School District (MSBSD) policy 9110 AR states, “The Superintendent or designee will identify different school sponsored student organizations from across the District and from a range of educational programs to provide a brief report to the Board at each of its regular meetings”, as well as “A Secondary School Student Government Report (SSGR) will be provided to the Board on a quarterly basis”¹;

2. **Whereas**, both of these options are not a unified Student Advisory Board, effectively muddling communication between students and the school board, causing confusion and misinformation;
3. **Whereas**, the Student Advisory Board had upwards of 3-4 representatives per school, including middle schools, in MSBSD in the 2023-2024 school year, consisting of at least one (1) upperclassman and one (1) underclassmen per school ²;
4. **Whereas**, the Anchorage School Districts Student Advisory Board is necessary in order to have effective communication to their respective school board;
5. **Whereas**, on June 5th 2024, the MSBSD Board voted to eliminate the Student Advisory Board Representative (SABR) position in a 6-1 vote, a seated position on the School Board ³;
6. **Whereas**, after this change, students from across the district rallied together to protest peacefully at the school board meeting following the decision, which was also wrongfully investigated by the board;
7. **Whereas**, the SABR served as a member of the School Board and a liaison between SAB and the school board since the 2020-2021 school year, and was elected by SAB school representatives ⁴;
8. **Whereas**, after the MSBSD School Board took away the school district's right to protest in 2023, the serving SABR at the time, Ben Kolendo, filed a lawsuit and won \$30,000 due to violation of student rights ⁵;
9. **Whereas**, MSBSD students deserve to have an advisory board and representative to voice student concerns from their respective schools and their district;

10. Whereas, Sitka School District, Anchorage School District, Haines Borough School District, Fairbanks North Star Borough, NorthWest Arctic Borough School District, Valdez City Schools, Aleutians East School District, Kenai Peninsula Borough School District, Alaska Gateway School District, Denali Borough School District, Skagway City School District, Delta-Greely School District, Kodiak Island Borough School District, Juneau School District, Unalaska City School District, Nome Public Schools, all have a student representative on their school boards;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Alaska Association of Student Governments supports the reimplementation of the Mat-Su Borough School District Student Advisory Board and their Student Advisory Board Representative.

Action Statement: if passed by the general assembly of AASG, this resolution will be presented to the Mat-Su Borough School District Board for further consideration.

Sources:

1. *BoardDocs® Policy: 4055 BP Political Activities of Employees.*
go.boarddocs.com/ak/matsu/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=C67RJ46E2B80#.
2. *MSBSD SAB/SGA - Rep Body.*
sites.google.com/apps.matsuk12.us/sab/options/rep-body?authuser=0.
3. Yelverton, Lex. “Mat-Su School Board Eliminates Student Advisory Board Representative Role.” *Copyright (C) 2025*, 6 June 2024,
www.alaskasnewsresource.com/2024/06/06/mat-su-school-board-eliminates-student-advisory-board-representative-role/?outputType=amp.

4. *MSBSD SAB/SGA - Head Rep.*

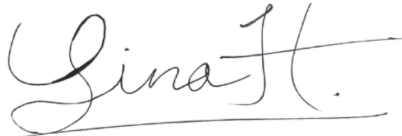
sites.google.com/apps.matsuk12.us/sab/options/head-rep?authuser=0.

5. Bushatz, Amy. "Mat-Su School District Reaches Settlement in Lawsuit Over Student Free Speech Rights." *Mat-Su Sentinel*, 10 Mar. 2025,

www.matsusentinel.com/mat-su-school-district-reaches-settlement-in-lawsuit-over-student-free-speech-rights.

The resolution passes with unanimous consent.

Passed by the Fall 2025 General Assembly of AASG



AASG Vice President, Lina Hischer



AASG Executive Director, Cassandra Mirosh