



This week's community highlight: New Stuyahok at the Chief Ivan Blunka School (Photo Credit: Robin Jones)

February 14, 2020

Happy Valentine's Day! The fourth week of session is wrapping up and with the week ending, we are seeing budgets close out in the House and the schedule get more crowded. Here are some things you might be interested in checking out, and don't forget to look over the "On Deck" to see what's coming up next week.

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You can also email
me directly at
Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov

- The **House Finance Transportation Subcommittee** held its meeting last night to consider amendments to the transportation operating budget. The committee approved **an increase in the AMHS budget to the tune of \$18.7 million**. This isn't a full recovery from the \$43 million cut made to the system last year, but we have been assured **the system can reach more than 300 weeks of service** if that appropriation is approved by the senate and signed by the governor. We look forward to making the case for the ferries and returning some normalcy to our transportation system. You can watch the hearing for yourself [here](#).

Right: Speaker Edgmon, Rep. Thompson (R – Fairbanks), and Rep. Neal Foster (D – Nome) speak to the Capitol Press Corp



- The House Special Committee on Tribal Affairs heard an overview of **Alaska Tribal Health Compacting**. Tribes have compacted for healthcare with the federal government since 1994. That compact has been referred to as the most successful compact in the history of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act. Even in the face of severe underfunding, tribal leaders continue to find



Getting Happy Valentine's Day greetings from local pre-school students



Attending the New Stuyahok Class of 2019 Graduation on May 18, 2019



Rep. Neal Foster and former Rep. Ivan Ivan

innovative ways to deliver high quality healthcare to Alaska Natives across the state. You can find that hearing and presentation [here](#).

- The House Special Committee on Tribal Affairs will continue work next Tuesday, February 18th on Rep. Kopp's (R – Anchorage) bill that would **provide for long-deserved state recognition of federally recognized tribes**. There is much work to do in recognizing tribal contributions and I believe this is a first step in that direction. You can **watch that hearing on Feb. 18th at 8:00am** by heading to www.360North.org
- The House Judiciary Committee heard from Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins (D – Sitka) about his resolution HJR15 which would put a question to the **people of Alaska asking whether they would support lowering the budget veto threshold to 2/3**. Alaska is the **only state in the Union** with a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote majority threshold to override a governor's budget veto. Last year's budget battles laid bare how far apart our differences can drive us, and many are working to prevent a repeat of that. I'm watching this resolution as it moves through the process and will update you on its progress. You can find the most recent hearing [here](#), and more information on the resolution [here](#).
- The House Finance Committee heard Senator Hoffman's (D – Bethel) bill to **increase broadband speeds** in every school across the state. Some years ago, the Alaska Legislature passed a bill with funding to bring internet speeds up to 10mbps in every school. Senator Hoffman's bill, SB74, **would raise internet speeds in Alaska schools to 25mbps**. This would be a game changer for Alaska students, especially in rural parts of our state. Access to high-quality educational programs that are largely delivered via internet is a key to future success. Our students should have the same opportunity to be prepared for the future just like students in Anchorage or Juneau.
- All department budgets are expected to be closed out by next week in the House. Stay tuned for updates as the budget begins its process in the House Finance Committee and for opportunities to testify about the programs important to you.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with any issues or concerns and remember, I work for you.

All the best,

Boyu Edgman



Met with a delegation from the Pribilof Islands to discuss legislation on Funter Bay

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PS I'm so happy to be receiving pictures back from the district. Please keep them coming! Showing off D37 to the Capitol is a bright spot down here.

On Deck Next Week...

Next week **House Finance** is scheduled to meet

Monday – Friday 1:30 PM

The committee's main focus will be on [HB 205](#) (Operating Budget)

and [HB 206](#) (Mental Health Budget), there will be public testimony this week on the budget.

Monday, February 17

House Education – 8:00 AM

[HB 181](#) – Public Schools: Mental Health Education

Joint Education Committee – 9:00 AM

Presentation: State Board of Education Annual

House Resources – 1:00 PM

[HB 138](#) – National Resource Water Designation

House Judiciary – 1:00 PM

[HB 201](#) – Defense of Public Officer: Ethics Complaint

House Labor and Commerce – 3:15 PM

[HB 24](#) – Limited Teacher Certificates; Languages



Great to meet with Seth Clavette, a Close-Up student from Dillingham

Tuesday, February 18

House Tribal Affairs – 8:00 AM

Presentation: Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact by Natasha Singh, Tanana Chiefs Conference

[HB 221](#) – State Recognition of Tribes

House Transportation – 1:00 PM

Consideration of Governor's Appointees: Board of Marine Pilots

House State Affairs – 3:00 PM

[SB 144](#) – Establish June 7 as Walter Harper Day

[HB 74](#) – Repeal Ocean Rangers Program

[HB 239](#) – Establish State Lottery Boards/Lotteries

House Health & Social Services – 3:00 PM

Improving Public Health with Comprehensive Sex Education

Wednesday, February 19

House & Senate Joint Session 11:00 AM

US Senator Lisa Murkowski

House Education – 8:00 AM

[HB 155](#) – Alaska Performance Scholarship; Eligibility

House Resources – 1:00 PM

[HB 203](#) – Transportation of Live Crab

[HB 137](#) – Limit Nonresident Taking of Big Game

House Labor & Commerce – 3:15

[HB 91](#) – Naturopaths: Licensing; Practice

[SB 106](#) – Homeowner/Renter Insurance Renewal



Shaking hands with retiring Justice Craig Stowers of the Alaska Supreme Court

[HB 113](#) – Military Family Employment Preference

House Finance – 5:00 PM

[HB 205](#) Public Testimony on the Operating and Mental Health Budget (844) 586-9085

Thursday, February 20

Joint House State Affairs & House Tribal Affairs

Presentation: REAL ID Implementation

House & Senate Joint Session 11:00 AM

House Fisheries – 11 AM

[HB 218](#) - Salt Water Fishing: Operators/Guides

[HB 247](#) – Sport Fishing Enhancement Surcharge

House Transportation – 1:00 PM

<Pending Introduction & Referral> Alaska Marine Highway System Corporation

Joint House Health & Social Services and Labor & Commerce – 3:00 PM

Presentation – Presentation: Alaska Healthcare Transformation Project & [HB 229](#)

House State Affairs – 3:00 PM

[SB 144](#) – Establish June 7 as Walter Harper Day

[HB 148](#) – Marriage Witness

[HB 225](#) – Prostitution/Trafficking; Vacate Conviction

House Finance – 5:00 PM

[HB 205](#) Public Testimony on the Operating and Mental Health Budget (844) 586-9085

Friday, February 21

House Judiciary – 1:00 PM

[HB 124](#) – Electronic Documents and Notarization

House Resources – 1:00 PM

[HB 203](#) – Transportation of Live Crab

House Labor & Commerce – 3:15

[HB 113](#) – Military Family Employment Preference

[HB 24](#) – Limited Teacher Certificates; Languages

[HB 229](#) – Health Information/Database/Public Corporation

[HB 235](#) – Alaska Workforce Investment Board: Allocations

House Finance – 5:00 PM

[HB 205](#) Public Testimony on the Operating and Mental Health Budget (844) 586-9085