Local Leaders Attend State School Board Conference

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Diana Gish/KMXT

The Alaska Association of School Boards held its conference in Anchorage this month.In attendance were all of the members of Kodiak's Board of Education.

The annual event features lectures and training on topics that school boards are required to keep up with.

Board member Petal Ruch called the annual event a "learning conference." She talked about its importance to the Kodiak Island Borough School District.

-- (State Board 1 "Part of this conference ...reach those goals.")

It takes money to send the school board and some administrators to attend the A-A-S-B gathering each year. Ruch thinks its money well spent and an investment in the district.

-- (State Board 2 "But its also ... be responsible for."

This year the theme of the state-wide conference was "Sparking Student Success."

-- (State Board 3 "I want to say ... part of our training."

The convention attendees generate a legislative wish-list of sorts; proposed legislation that addresses various education needs and concerns around the state. Some of the proposed legislation of interest to Kodiak's board included early education and early intervention.

According to Ruch , another topic of interest in Kodiak is continuing education.

-- (State Board 4 "Helping kids as ... forms of education."

One of the featured speakers at this year's convention was former Alaska legislator and Native leader Willie Hensley. Also featured was keynote speaker Frank Kros, president of the Upside Down organization, of Maryland.
Upside Down promotes the use of the latest research and insights from educational neuroscience.