Superintendent Report – December 2016

Enrollment: 1,275.66 is our official count this year - projected enrollment was 1,300.

Since the last School Board meeting:

• We are all saddened by the loss of our beloved Teri Rofkar. She will live on in her many robes and in our memories. She was a bright light and a great advocate for students. I will miss her infectious energy...
• Congratulations to Shasta Smith for being named SHAPE Alaska High School Health Education Teacher of the Year for 2016-2017!
• Congratulations to Cass for being elected to the AASB Board again!
• Congratulations to Jenn and Eric for earning their Basic Boardsmanship Awards!
• Thanks to SHS Assistant Principal of Co-Curricular Activities Susan Ross for creating a Coaches Manual!
• Thanks to all of the people who helped to make our 2nd Grade Tlingit Celebration a success during National Native Heritage Month!
• The state Capital Improvement Projects list came out, and we have one project on the list – the renovation of the Keet covered play area. We continue to be placed in the middle of the list, so Maintenance Director Mark Bautista is looking into some options for us to get the play area repaired another way.

Civics Education Legislative Task Force Testimony: I was asked to be one of two superintendents to testify before the Alaska Legislative Task Force on Civics Education. During my testimony I was able to convey the rich civics education we offer our students throughout the grades, and my testimony was well received.

Future of Learning Symposium hosted by Education Matters: While in Anchorage for the AASB Conference, I attended the Future of Learning Symposium that focused on helping to move the state forward in regards to personalized learning and specifically Competency Based Education. There were speakers from around the country and from within Alaska and lots of table discussion around the topic.

AASB Conference: I attended the AASB Conference with the school board members in November.

Current Happenings:

• ALICE (Alert Lockdown Inform Counter Evacuate) Training Update: In partnership with Sitka Police/EMS/Fire and Mt. Edgecumbe High School, we will be participating in an ALICE training workshop in Sitka on December 12 and 13. The training is for key people from each organization who will become trainers for others. We will have about 10 people participate from the school district. ALICE training is the new established response for schools where there is an active shooter. Mt. Edgecumbe has been using this strategy for a few years now, and previously we were asked by and participated with Sitka Police/EMS/Fire in ALICE training in Juneau, which gave us a good overview and helped us to commit to this strategy.

Statewide Student Assessment: The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development has selected a new student assessment vendor – DATA Recognition Corp (DRC). Consequently, there will be a spring assessment for students in grades 3-10 in English Language Arts and Math. Additionally, there will be a Science assessment for students in grades 4, 8, and 10.

Things on the Radar:

• Strategic Planning: Our Strategic Planning stakeholder meeting will be held on Saturday, January 14 from 9 am to 2 pm in the SHS Library. We will be looking for key stakeholders from the community to join us, so please contact Laurie Seehafer at the District Office if you are interested in being considered for this group.
• I have been asked to be one of a few superintendents invited to participate in a discussion between K-12 and UA on the topics of College Readiness and Teacher Preparedness. The meeting will be in Anchorage.
• Winter Break – no school –December 19th to January 2nd.
• It is the season for our Winter Music Concerts, and I hope people enjoy celebrating our student’s success!