Since the last School Board meeting:

- Congratulations to all of the 72 PHS and SHS graduates and their families!
- Congratulations to Abigail FitzGibbon for winning State in the Letters About Literature writing contest!
- Congratulations to Mandy Evans for being seated on the SESA Board!
- We successfully closed out the 2015-16 school year!

**Budget Update:** The Alaska Legislature re-introduced and passed the budgeted $50 increase to the Base Student Allocation during the special session, which now awaits Governor Walker’s approval before it is finalized.

**Alaska State Council on the Arts (ASCA) Meeting in Anchorage:** As a member of the Alaska State Council on the Arts, I attended our Annual Meeting earlier this month. At this meeting we made some significant decisions about how best to move forward given Alaska’s current financial crisis, and we celebrated a new opportunity for Alaskan’s to support the Arts by purchasing a special license plate, which was a bill advanced by our own Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins. (Note: My travel is funded by the Arts Council)

**AmeriCorps:** Similar to last year where we were asked to step in and help the AmeriCorps members stranded around the state when SAGA abruptly closed, we have again been asked to help another group of AmeriCorps who are struggling. The new AmeriCorps in need are in Juneau, and by helping during the 2016-17 school year we will be able to hire additional staff and also provide more AmeriCorps members to help with school district needs. I also visited with Wendy Spencer, CEO for the Corporation for National and Community Service.

**Calendar:** Our 2016-17 Calendar was approved by the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. Our calendar requires a waiver due to how we save 10 minutes a day and apply it to create the DIID PD days.

**Communication:** I started a new internal communication email newsletter called Superintendent’s Spotlight, which will be sent weekly to share news about our district initiatives and also highlight the amazing learning happening in classrooms. I will also be starting an external community email newsletter for the community.

Current Happenings in the District:

- **Policy:** We are still working on our recommendation regarding BP 6146.1 High School Graduation Requirements.
- **Community Schools:** We just completed our annual review of the first 9-months of the new model of Community Schools. We appreciate the opportunity to work with the Contractor to celebrate the accomplishments and to plan for ways to make things run even more smoothly in the future.
- **Re-Org:** We just put the final touches on a re-organization using existing special education funds to provide better support to students and schools. Our Special Education Director has had some low-level skills taken away from her plate and a new focus has been added. Special Education functions will now be run from the Learning Support Department, which will bring together all of our existing resources that support the personalization and enhancement of learning supports we offer students, such as gifted education, English as a Second Language, Special Education. Additionally, the new department will help support teachers in providing interventions to students struggling to master the curriculum through a Learning Support Coordinator position. No new funds were used in the re-organization and no specific student or school support was taken away in the process.

Things on the Radar:

- I will be on vacation and traveling out of the country June 22 – July 6.
- I have been asked by UAS to teach the digital leadership class for the new cohort of superintendent candidates. Classes will be held online on weekday mornings from July 18-29. In order to honor the language in my contract around employment outside of my superintendent responsibilities, I will teach this class as part of my job, and UAS will donate to the school district what I would have earned in salary for teaching the class. This is similar to the time commitment I had when I was taking superintendent classes during the past two summers, and the district will receive a financial bonus as a result. I am honored to be considered as a superintendent worthy of helping to mold the next generation of superintendents in Alaska!