Superintendent Report
November 2015

Enrollment: 1,315.2 [budgeted for 1,305]
Intensive Student Count: Currently 38 with 5 of those new claims that are not guaranteed [budgeted for 37]

Since the last School Board meeting:
• Congratulations to the Boys and Girls Swim teams! The Boys won the Region V title and the Girls got 2nd at Regions!
• Thank you to the SHS Student Council for taking time to meet with us.
• Community Schools update – Activities and athletics are happening through Community Schools. We are still working out the details of the liability insurance and scheduling tweaks; however, things are up and running!
• Schoology Update – We are still configuring Schoology, and ask parents to be patient with us in the process. Every child will have a report card; however, this is not yet our official new report card format, as we are still configuring.
• Calendar Changes – There have been a few comments from parents with concern over the new calendar. To review, previous to this year we were pulling teachers from the classroom in order to provide required professional development. This was disruptive to learning, and so we implemented a new calendar. For years we have heard from parents that they wanted more long weekends to take mini-vacations, so our new calendar was planned to meet this request. In implementation, the grouped inservice days that create long weekends don’t work as well as anticipated. Consequently, next year when we plan our calendar we will not plan for multiple long-weekends.
• The Sitka School District is the first in Alaska to be welcomed into the League of Innovative Schools, which is a group of 73 school districts from around the nation who are committed to being innovative to meet student’s needs specifically in the area of using digital tools to inspire deep learning of academic content. This is an honor that we earned because the school board listed to students seven years ago when they asked for more access to learning with and through digital resources. The entire school district has been working since then to use technology in meaningful ways in our classrooms, and consequently we are now part of a group that can help us continue to move forward on our long-established goal of weaving arts, culture, and technology into all classrooms!
• Teachers.org identified Sitka as the #3 school district in Alaska, which is based on factors including our support for teachers and student achievement!
• We are through the student count period that will set our funding level for this school year. Thanks to everyone for all of the work that went into correctly counting our students including our students with intensive needs.
• Welcome Eric Van Cise to the school board, and thank you to Jennifer Robinson for her years of service.

Current Happenings in the District:
• Alaska’s Measures of Progress test results will be released in early November. The results were supposed to be released mid-October; however, the data on some of the reports was correct but the graph didn’t display the data correctly, so the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (EED) delayed the release of the data until the graphs can be corrected. Due to this, EED decided not to implement the pilot performance questions this spring.
• Parent/Teacher Conferences are this week with early release Monday-Thursday and no school on Friday. We look forward to meeting with families to share student learning progress.
• Veterans Day – We added an early release day to our calendar to encourage student and staff participation in the Veterans Day parade; however, this year the Veterans Day parade will be this Saturday, so all day school on the 11th.
• November is National Native Heritage Month, and all 2nd graders will be involved in activities to learn from Elders and artists, sing our Wooch.een song, and have a big celebration of foods and stories. This is possible people of our strong working relationship with the Sitka Tribe of Alaska and because of our own amazing Cultural Department!
• SEA has asked to open negotiations starting the week of November 16th, so I will be talking to Tim Fulton about appointing a school board member to be on the district’s negotiations team.

Things on the Radar:
• Traveling to the AASB Conference in Anchorage (November 5-8) – No School Board meeting with the Auditors
• New Superintendent Conference in Anchorage (November 13-15)