Superintendent Report – November 2016

**Enrollment:** 1, 273; however, this is not yet a confirmed number - projected enrollment was 1,300. At the December School Board meeting we will present the first budget revision, which will accommodate for the loss of income.

**Since the last School Board meeting:**

- Thanks to all of the families, teachers, and administrators for successful Parent Teacher Conferences!
- We had meaningful discussions with the Native community regarding equity in education. The meeting was facilitated by First Alaskans Institute, and is part of our continuing work in the area of Culturally Responsive Embedded Social Emotional Learning skills and work with Alaska’s school board association.
- Sitka High School hosted a College Fair in October. Thanks to all of the work that SHS counselors put into this important event for all of the students in Sitka!
- Thanks to FOPA for re-activating and being a partner with the district.
- Maintenance Director Mark Bautista recently facilitated a test of our domestic drinking water for each of our school district buildings. With all of the recent national news about lead in drinking water systems, we wanted to make sure that our water was safe for our students and staff. All results showed that our Limit of Quantitation (LOQ) was significantly lower than the allowable regulatory limit.
- Arts Council Meeting: I attended the Alaska State Council on the Arts Annual Meeting in October. At this meeting we set a direction for the coming year. As you know, I was appointed by Governor Parnell to be on the Arts Council and I am the only K-12 educator in the state currently seated on the Council.
- League of Innovative Schools Meeting: I recently spent time in Baltimore County School District for the fall meeting. While there I was able to visit 4 schools and over 50 classrooms, and most importantly talk with other superintendents from around the nation to learn best practices to evolve our own initiatives.
- We have all been concerned about the dangerous intersection of HPR and Peterson, and recently the Alaska Department of Transportation was awarded a federal Highway Safety Improvement Fund grant to put in an island and make other major improvements to the intersection. Representative Kreiss-Tomkins was involved with helping to make this happen for us. Stay tuned for more!

**Current Happenings in the District:**

- I have been asked to testify before the Civics Education Legislative Task Force later this month to share our district practices and educational opportunities regarding Civics education.
- The school board will meet with the Auditors when in Anchorage for the AASB Conference.
- The Board has identified that we will have a new budget process starting this year. We have been working towards this goal for two years now, and we are actively working with the new budget process this year. Our November work session will be a review of our new budget process for the Board and community. It is a LOT of work to transition to the new budget process; however, I am very excited about the increased transparency and focus on support for our student-focused initiatives that will drive the budget.

**Things on the Radar:**

- Strategic Planning meeting will be Saturday, January 14 from 9 am to 2 pm. We will be looking for key stakeholders from the community to join us, so please contact Laurie Seehafer if you are interested in being considered for this important work. Dr. Sonny Magaña will facilitate our meeting, and Jennifer Robinson will also be involved in sharing information to help inform our collaborative processes.
- I will be traveling to Anchorage for the *Future of Learning Symposium* hosted by Education Matters and the AASB Annual Conference. I will be in Anchorage from Wednesday, 11/9 - Sunday, 11/13.