Superintendent Report – September 2016

Enrollment: Currently 1,273, which is lower than our projected enrollment of 1,300

Since the last School Board meeting:

- Welcome to the new teachers and staff! I have been very impressed with our new employees, and have already seen how they are adding to what we can offer our students.
- Welcome to Elias Erickson, who has already been active in his role as Board Student Representative!
- Congratulations to the SHS Symphonic Band who has been invited to perform at the National Association for Music Educators conference in Bellevue, Washington!
- Thank you to SHS administrators Lyle Sparrowgrove and Sondra Lundvick for also serving as Activities Director until we got some excellent subs to help out. We now have the job posted as an administrator.
- There was some concern recently with the heavy rain and high wind warnings regarding the recent announcement that Keet Gooshi Heen is at moderate risk for a landslide. The City will receive a detailed report from the contractor later this fall, and when we learn more we will update our emergency preparedness and emergency response plans accordingly. In the meantime, I want to reassure families and the community that we take the safety of our students and staff very seriously, and we actively monitor heavy rain/high wind situation and are prepared to take action if the situation warrants.
- SERRC Board Meeting: By state statute all SE Alaska schools must have a representative serve on the SE Regional Resource Center (SERRC) Board, and I was at the recent SERRC Board meeting in Juneau. At the meeting we were able to talk with Commissioner Johnson, and he informed us that Governor Walker’s veto of the $50 increase to our Base Student Allocation (BSA) was overturned on a technicality, which means $69,976 will not have to be taken out of our reserves to meet the loss in funding that resulted from Walker’s original veto; however, this amount of funds is subject to change due to legislation appropriation. Additionally, my participation in the SERRC Board meeting allows us to have a voice in shaping educational issues that impact us. At the SERRC Board meeting I was also officially elected to serve on the Executive Committee of the SERRC Board.
- Alaska State Council on the Arts Meeting: As a Council Member, I attended the recent Alaska State Council on the Arts meeting in Anchorage, which is of critical importance to Arts Education in Alaska. In addition to conducing routine business of the Council, we also prepared for the Governor’s Awards for the Arts and Humanities that will be held in January in Juneau. Non-district funding allowed me to participate in both meetings.

Current Happenings in the District:

- We currently have no applicants for our vacant school board position. The closing date is September 23rd.
- Teacher webpages have moved to Schoology, which is our learning management and gradebook resource, so if you visit our school webpages and things look different than how they used to that is because we now have a better-equipped resource to provide support for students and families to access class work.

Things on the Radar:

- I will be in Fairbanks for the day on September 16th to attend a training for our Preschool Planning grant with travel paid for by the grant. I will also be traveling to Palmer to attend the Superintendent’s Conference from September 16th to the 25th. At the Superintendent’s Conference we will be able to talk with Dr. Jim Johnson, President of the University of Alaska, and also Dr. Dan Domenech, Executive Director of The School Superintendents Association (AASA). Additionally, we will work on establishing a statewide advocacy plan.
- We are in the process of hiring a grant-based funded position to help support our Arts, Culture, and Technology (ACT) standards and curriculum project. The new staff member will be able to provide direct support to teachers and they implement our locally designed and developed ACT standards with students.