Enrollment Update: Current enrollment is 1,233.55. Our projected enrollment was 1,244. Count date is in October.

Since the last School Board meeting:

- Welcome to Joe Pate who is the new Student Representative on the School Board!
- **Sitka Afterschool:** Sitkans Against Family Violence, Sitka Community Schools, Sitka Sound Science Center, Sitka School District’s STEPS Grant, Sitka Tribe of Alaska, Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium, and Youth Advocates of Sitka are working individually and collaboratively to try to fill the void left by the loss of our 21st Century Afterschool Learning Center grant. More than 200 students regularly attended the 21st Century program that provided afterschool academic support and enrichment activities. Sitka Afterschool will not be able to meet all of the need; however, it can fill a portion of the need to provide safe, academic, and enrichment activities for our K-8 students most in need of support during the afterschool timeframe. Visit the Sitka Community Schools website [https://sitkacommunityschools.com/] if you are interested in the details. Most of the costs are covered to offer Sitka Afterschool except for snacks. We have a need for up to $18,000 to provide healthy afterschool snacks to our students. Please contact Sitka Community Schools [info@sitkacommunityschools.com] if you would like to make a donation to support Sitka Afterschool. Thank you to our partners!
- We have a modest increase in the number of students who have recently immigrated, and have been identified to receive a small grant from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development to support these students.
- PowerSchool implementation is slow but steady. Thank you to all staff but especially our office staff for their patience as we learn how to use our new student information system and get it configured for efficiency.
- The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development’s Teachers Retirement System was audited, and we were selected to be a district to audit the State’s accounting practices. Thank you to the Business Office who has been dealing with our own annual financial audit, as well as the State’s Teachers Retirement audit at the same time.
- The Performance Evaluation for Alaska’s Schools (PEAKS) and the Alaska Science Assessment were administered in spring of 2018 to students in grades 3-9 and grades 4, 8, and 10, respectively. The assessments measure a student’s understanding of Alaska’s standards in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science. Parents of students tested will receive their child’s results in the mail towards the end of September. The PEAKS data is a critical component of a school’s accountability rating, which is scheduled to be released on October 23rd. If all goes at planned, this means we will present our student assessment and school rating results at our November School Board meeting.

Current Happenings:

- We look forward to hosting a lunch discussion between our Sitka School Board and the Alaska State School Board tomorrow. The lunch will be held at the SEACC building, and PHS students are providing the lunch!
- The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development is sponsoring a School Safety Conference in Anchorage September 18th and 19th. They are paying for district staff and alternative schools staff to attend the conference, which is closely aligned with our recent work in our Emergency Operations Planning and Social Emotional Learning. We will have a number of district staff attending this conference.

Things on the Radar:

- At our last meeting there was a suggestion to conduct an Exit Survey of students who left the district to attend MEHS. I haven’t been able to organize this yet, but wanted to let the Board know that this is on my radar to do.
- We recently received notification from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development that our Title programs will be monitored this spring. The Title programs provide $345,000 to supplement our FY19 budget. Specific Title programs help to fund our reading interventionists, class size reduction, Migrant education, and more.
- I will be traveling to Anchorage to attend the Alaska Superintendents Association’s Conference September 26th-30th. At this conference superintendents from around the state meet to plan legislative advocacy strategies, as well as learn about new statewide requirements and initiatives.