

# SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Dear School Board Members,

Thank you for what you are doing to make the beginning of the school year a success in these unprecedented times. As we begin another school year together, there will remain a level of uncertainty that will be overcome by the dedicated staff of KGBSD. I also want to thank our parents and community who have expressed thoughts, concerns and opinions. The Smart Start Plan is a reflection of those thoughts, concerns and opinions expressed over time that represent it as a whole plan for our students.

As we prepare to start school this fall it's important to reflect on what we have accomplished since March and how this coming school year is going to be remarkable for our students and staff. Thanks to our caring staff and community, we served thousands of meals to students, distributed hundreds of computer devices to families, hosted and attended numerous daily meetings to keep up with the ever changing health guidance, made sure graduation was meaningful and memorable for seniors, held reverse parades so students and families could say a summer goodbye to their teachers, and even cheering on that "last dance" that is part of all our growing up called prom.

The summer months have been full days for staff working non-stop to bring well organized starts to the school year so a student can attend school in person, online or through home school. Schedules are being adjusted to promote COVID-19 health and safety protocols, and professional development is being offered to staff to prepare for educating students at every risk level. Again, with our caring staff and community, we have accomplished so much for our students in a time of unknowns and what seems like a never ending evolving door to new guidance being released daily.

As the first days back to school approach the focus has turned to building, online, home school and classroom preparations. Our schools will look a little different with classroom set ups for spacing, lines formed for temperature checks and screenings, hand sanitize stations, required facemasks and more safety protocols. There is also signage posted as reminders and friendly guidance to get students from one place to another safely and promptly as needed.

We have our returning staff and our new staff to Ketchikan and some new a career in teaching all gearing up to start school with the focus on the students! Every department in the district is working to make sure needs are met. Sometimes given weeks or days to accomplish the task and at other times given hours, each time everyone accomplishes the task. Parents are making facemasks, conducting different PPE supply drives and working together to keep our students in school safely. Again, thank you.

We are in this together Ketchikan!

# INFORMATION UPDATE

- Kanayama Program Memo
- Enrollment Numbers
- Organizational Chart Update
- Committee Dates
- Smart Start Updates
- Current Open Positions for 1 year (Cares Funds) and (District Funds) Update

## DIRECTOR REPORTS

- *Al Jacobson-Filter Systems and Boiler Upgrade;*
- *Alonso Escalante- Online, Homeschool Updates;*
- *Katie Parrott-Lease Agreements for Annex;*
- *Terri Crofcheck- Special Education Updates;*
- *Cath Alilin- Telework/Work from Home Agreements;*
- *Bill/ or Jurgen- Technology Plan of Roll Out of Computers.*

# SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM ENDS AUGUST 24TH

## Reminder:

- In order to allow for all district staff to participate in the important training taking place in schools beginning August 25th (for paraprofessionals & school staff), we are ending our Summer Food Service Program on August 24th (last day).
- The National School Lunch program will resume on September 8th, the first student day back to school.
- Families with food security needs should contact Katie Parrott at [katie.parrott@k2lschools.org](mailto:katie.parrott@k2lschools.org) or 907-247-2116 for assistance.



July 8, 2020

To Beth Lougee, Superintendent, Katie Parrott, Business Manager, and member of the School Board:

Our board wants to thank you for your continued support of our program by approving funding for FY 2020-2021. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has once again exerted its influence on our program.

We recently received notification from the Gero Education Department in Japan that they have postponed the contract for the upcoming Japanese exchange teacher until next year's school term. The pandemic in Japan has caused the US Consulate in Osaka to indefinitely postpone the interviews required for the teacher to receive his visa for entry into the US. In addition, the Japanese government still has a Level 4 travel advisory for its citizens, and with the situation here in the United States it is doubtful that this would be changed prior to this year's school start.

Gero has been in contact with Sheri Boehlert, Principal, at Schoenbar Middle School concerning this postponement; Ms. Boehlert has been understanding with the concerns, especially since plans for the upcoming school year are still being discussed.

The funding from the school district helps pay the salary of the exchange teacher from Ketchikan working in Gero/Kanayama schools. In return, Ketchikan has a teacher from Gero working here in our schools. This mutual teacher exchange has been part of our program from the beginning. With no Japanese teacher arriving this year, we have also postponed the contract for our exchange teacher, Matt Armstrong, who was set to travel to Japan in August. As a result of these decisions, we cannot, in good faith, accept the approved funding for fiscal year 2021.

We do earnestly hope, however, that in no way would affect any consideration for our future school funding. We have all hope of being able to resume the exchange program next year.

Thank you for your consideration,

Ketchikan-Gero-Kanayama Exchange Governing Board

Patricia Perrier, Co-President  
Ole Sullivan, Co-President  
Colleen Castle, Treasurer