



# Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District

333 Schoenbar Rd. • Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Ph. (907) 247-2109 Fax: (907) 247-3820

Melissa Johnson, Interim Superintendent • Katie Jo Parrott, Business Manager

Linnaea Troina, COVID Communications and Public Relations Director • Alonso Escalante, Curriculum Director

Tiffany Batura, Human Resources Manager • Derek Meister, Special Services Director

## Memo

**To: KGBSD School Board Members**

**From:** Melissa Johnson, Interim Superintendent

**CC:** Kerry Watson, Board Clerk

**Date:** February 4, 2022

**RE: Superintendent Report for February 9, 2022**

### Senior Class Auction

- A special Thank You to the Senior Advisors who raised over \$10,000 in the 1st annual hybrid auction, using both Zoom and in person platforms. The Senior Advisors are: Sean Powell, Allegra Machado, Meri Miller, and Robin Hartman. The Senior class would also like to thank the community who donated money to the Senior Class and in the words of Mr. Powell, “thank you to the people who bid \$200 for a \$100 gift certificate.” We live in a great community!

### COVID-19:

- [Determining Levels of the KGBSD starting February 1st, 2022](#)

As of January 31, 2022, the local public health data (the “dashboard”) is no longer available to inform our risk level setting. The only numbers on which we can rely are the numbers available at our schools: positive cases reported to the schools. However, cases in which the COVID-positive staff/students were NOT in the buildings during their infectious periods are not considered immediate risks to the school populations. *Therefore, we are using the number of cases reported to the schools that require contact tracing due to the COVID-positive staff/students being in schools during a portion of their infectious periods.*

If we use the same multipliers that we’re currently using to set operational risk levels based, but we use those multipliers on the school district overall population in schools (2446 building staff/students enrolled in “brick and mortar” schools as of 1/14/22 [not including FastTrack students]), and we increase our tolerance by two times, the threshold numbers that we would use to determine district-wide risk levels are:

- **Low:** 1 or fewer cases of COVID-positive staff/students in the schools during infectious periods
  - **Moderate:** 2 cases of COVID-positive staff/students in the schools during infectious periods
  - **Substantial:** 7 cases of COVID-positive staff/students in the schools during infectious periods
  - **High:** 13 cases of COVID-positive staff/students in the schools during infectious periods
- **Contact Tracing:** The KGBSD district nurse expressed concern that our contact tracing procedures are no longer feasible and are not serving their original purpose. Public Health has phased out their contact tracing practices, and are only able to complete contact tracing on about 1 in 10 positive cases. The district nurse’s recommendation is to focus our contact tracing efforts on in-school exposures. Focusing only on the in-school exposure contact tracing will free up our health



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paraprofessionals and district nursing staff to complete the other tasks associated with their positions (all of these positions were already full-time positions before COVID, and some tasks/duties have been lessened/ignored while COVID became the focus).

- **Survey Results:** Survey Results are located on the [KGBSD Website](https://www.kgbsd.org/) (<https://www.kgbsd.org/>)

### **Curriculum/PD/Assessment:**

- Test security agreements, test administration training, and scheduling for the new state assessment, AK STAR, are being prepared.
- Budget priorities for the KNEPC (Title VI) are being drafted and have been shared with Saxman IRA and will soon be with KIC.
- Most grade levels and the charter schools have reached a consensus on what math curriculum they would like to adopt for the next cycle. The Illustrative Math pilot with K-2 teachers is underway. The goal is to bring K-12 recommendations to the school board by the first meeting in March.
- Todd White was in Ketchikan last week working with the Eval Pilot principals and teachers.
- The School Climate and Culture survey started last week and the window goes through February 18th.
- June 6-10 we will be hosting the Alaska Arts Education Consortium's Arts Institute where educators from the region will be able to learn about integrating art and Native studies into existing curriculum.

### **Business Manager**

- Legislative Advocacy
  - As a member of the Alaska Education Funding Work Group, I was able to provide some information to legislative sponsors of HB 272 and 273 related to the rising fixed costs of the District and increasing/emerging needs of our student population that will assist in their presentation of the bills through the committee hearing process next week. The presentation is available on the District's website at
- FY23 Impact Aid Application submission
  - On Monday we submitted an application for the Impact Aid 7003(b) Basic Support Payments program. The 7003(b) program is designed to help local school districts that educate federally connected children including children of members of the uniformed services, children who reside on Indian lands, children who reside on Federal property or in federally subsidized low-rent housing, and children whose parents work on Federal Property. In general, to be eligible for assistance a local school district must educate at least 400 such children in average daily attendance,



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or the federally connected children must make up at least 3 percent of the school district's total average daily attendance. Based on the membership counts of students submitted in the application with parents who are active duty Coast Guard, we believe we will qualify for these funds for FY23. This will be the first time since 2014 that the District has applied for these funds after a time of being previously ineligible.

- FY23 Budget Survey
  - The FY23 Budget Survey will be released on February 10th to offset from the Superintendent search activities and other competing stakeholder/feedback requests, along with requests for additional budget asks from department heads and administrators.