



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

Catherine Alilin, Human Resources Manager • Alonso Escalante, Curriculum Director

Derek Meister, Special Services Director • Linnaea Troina, COVID Communications and Public Relations Director

Memo

To: KGBSD School Board Members

From: Melissa Johnson, Interim Superintendent

CC: Kerry Watson, Board Clerk

Date: October 8, 2021

RE: Superintendent Report for October 13th meeting

I attended the Alaska Superintendents Association (ASA) Fall Conference September 29th to October 2nd and it was phenomenal. I was able to celebrate the Superintendent of the year, Bridgett Weiss, who is from the Juneau School District.

MAPs Testing:

The MAPS Growth testing window for the fall is now until December, and some schools began testing last week.

Kayhi Cross Country:

Congratulations to the Kayhi Cross Country team who competed in the Cross Country Region event. Good luck to Paige Boehlert, Carol Frey, Mickey Lapinski, Kyle Congdon, and Casey Styles as they compete at the State Tournament.

Fall Parent/Teacher Conferences:

All schools are currently participating in Parent/Teacher conferences and the principal at each school came up with an appropriate plan for their school community. A friendly reminder that we do not have school on Friday October 15th as a trade day due to the hours of work teachers will be putting in outside of the regular school day to hold Parent/Teacher Conferences.

HR Manager:

As you know, our HR Manager resigned effective October 20th. The plan in the interim is to train Linnaea Troina to fill in the gap until the new Superintendent is hired. The new superintendent can then decide to hire either a HR Manager, a HR Director, or some other way to fill that position. Linnaea will be working with the current HR Manager over the next 10 days, focusing on learning the day-to-day operations. I will be assisting in the transition.



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COVID Communications Director/Public Relations

- **Start Strong 2021-2022:** The committee will meet on 10/19/2021 for its second monthly review of the approved COVID mitigation plan.
- **Testing Coordinator:** The district's testing coordinator has been hired; she is now working with HR on her hiring/onboarding process, and will begin working as soon as possible.

Curriculum/PD/Assessment:

- 22-23 Calendar survey results (which will be covered as a discussion item)
- DEED has announced the name of its new state assessment, AK STAR - Alaska System of Student Readiness

Special Services Director

- With the blessing of the board, we intend to hire a new, very experienced, full-time, on-site speech-language pathologist (SLP)

Business Manager

- The District has been working on end of the year close-out processes ahead of the issuance of the final audit report for FY21 later this month. While the District's fund balance was protected in FY21 and some special revenue funds saw an increase in revenue to help offset existing deficits, the District has incurred another sizeable deficit in the Health Insurance Reserve Fund, and is recommending the alignment of resources to address this deficit in the short and long term.