



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: January 7, 2022

RE: Superintendent Report for January 12th meeting

Drive-Up Testing

- On Sunday, January 2, 2022 we had our first Drive-Up COVID testing opportunity. Contracting with Creekside Clinic provides us the opportunity to offer drive-up testing for our staff, students, and families. We had over 60 participants. This service will be available from 12:00PM-4:00PM on Sundays in Houghtaling Elementary's Parent Pick up Line until further notice.

COVID

- COVID Case Dashboard: The school district will begin sharing a dashboard each Sunday in which we note the COVID-19 case counts at each school, broken down by students and staff. The KGBSD weekly dashboard will start on January 9, 2022.
- CDC K-12 Guidelines Change: On the evening of January 6th, the CDC updated their [guidelines for K-12 schools](#). These changes will affect isolation and quarantine periods (both of which are shortened to five days), the district's Test-to-Stay program, and many of the protocols and documents in our current COVID mitigation plan and appendix documents. We are working to update all affected protocols and documents, and will share them with stakeholders ASAP.
- Surveys: The three COVID surveys close at 11:59pm on Friday, January 7th. Survey data will be collated and shared with stakeholders.

Inclement Weather

- The weather since the start of school in January has been very cold. We chose to implement a delayed start to school on Monday, January 3rd, 2022. The reason for the delayed start was because the cold snap turned our wet weather to ice. Having delayed starts helps the Ketchikan (state, borough, and city) road crews and the KGBSD Maintenance crew time to work on the roads, parking lots, and sidewalks, meaning safer conditions for our students, staff, and parents. I want to thank all staff, students, and parents for their patience while we worked (and continue to work) to mitigate the icy conditions at various buildings.



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

Business Manager:

- **Health Insurance Liability:** We continue to track the performance of our self-funded health insurance program, with the help of the District's insurance brokers USI. The last two months have shown some improvement in the fund. However, total COVID-related costs are now \$1,734,693 and the sizable deficit remains. We have commenced quarterly Insurance Committee meetings where the District meets with representatives from the bargaining groups to discuss the program and seek feedback. At the last meeting it was determined that it would be in the best interest of all to commence the Health Insurance Task Force a year early to proactively address the difficult decision-making process that is needed to address the ongoing financial deficit in the program. A team will be assembled, and committee work will begin this month. At the end of the Task Force's work, a recommendation will be provided to the Board which will inform decision-making moving forward. This will be especially important in light of the upcoming FY23 budget cycle.

Curriculum/PD/Assessment:

- ALICE rostering is happening. Principals might be able to participate in a short webinar and all staff should be able to dive into the first module soon.
- Todd White - Scheduling
- AK STAR - Test Security Agreements