



Board of Education Meeting
November 13, 2019
Superintendent Report



Superintendent Message

Dear School Board Members,

As I write the school board report and reflect on what has taken place in the district since my last board report I want to focus on student success and how the STEPP Plan and the training we are receiving from Todd White, Education Consultant, all ties into student success.

Student success is everyone's priority! KGBSD is about student success and I want to celebrate and relay this message to you and our community. I have the privilege of having my office in the high school. I see and hear students all day long. They are polite, engaged, intelligent and friendly. I have the privilege of being able to leave my office and visit schools, where I witness success all across the district that are from trainings, expectations and a process to improve in teaching and learning skills. What's important to remember is success comes in small steps daily and sometimes hourly. Success can also take time and can be something extraordinary.

I have been visiting schools and classrooms and learning so much myself. I was taught Tlingit words by first graders, shared in pumpkin coloring with kindergarten student's and listened to them read to their teacher. I witnessed explanations of math lessons by 4th graders and watched high school students weld and solve an auto problem. I listened to students explain to each other an AP English assignment and two of my days were spent smelling and tasting cooking lessons taking place in the kitchen area. Lessons that were extensions from a PE class on nutritional snacks and the other a culminating event to a Spanish lesson. I recently was invited to take part in "One School, One Book" program. I felt honored to be asked to participate in the program and it made me think about how this small invite made me feel such a part of being a Fawn Mountain Eagle.

Students are also starting to apply for colleges and scholarships, set their career paths in motion preparing for and taking the ACT, Workkeys or SAT, or even earning certification for post secondary jobs. The training and school improvement process set not only students up for success but the educators too.

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The STEPP Plan, (school improvement plan) is crucial for each school and the district to use as a guide for continuous improvement to maintain and improve student's success. When AK STEPP is implemented it will guide improvement teams through a continuous cycle of assessment, planning, implementation, and progress tracking using the domains and key indicators from the needs assessments administered yearly. The STEPP Plan replaces paper-based templates such as the District Improvement Plan and certain Title I planning and report requirements.

The training we are receiving from Education Consultant Todd White supports the teachers and principals in being able to deliver and assess effective teaching practices. Todd White has been on campus this week training administration and teachers about effective teaching practices. On Monday, all administration attended a training learning how Authentic Engagement is the convergence of the Behavioral Engagement, Social/Emotional Engagement and Cognitive Engagement. Throughout the week Todd modeled in the classrooms for principals and teachers the evaluation process and holding conversations with teachers post evaluation. On Thursday, a select group of teachers from each school met at the district office a full day of training that coordinated with the administrative training on Monday. Todd will return for a 3rd visit during the week of January 6-10 where the training of administration and teachers will continue.

This planning and training, just like the KGBSD Strategic Plan, provides guidance in “knowing where we are going as a district or school” to account for student success!

Beth Lougee, Interim Superintendent

Celebration

Ketchikan Charter School was nominated by the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development and the National ESEA Association, to apply for recognition in the National ESEA Distinguished Schools Recognition Program for 2019-2020. KCS is being honored for:

Category #3, Excellence in serving special populations of students.

- KCS is being identified for ensuring that all children have access to effective instructional strategies and challenging academic content; and demonstrating success in ensuring that all children, particularly educationally deprived children, make significant progress towards learning that content.
- The application has been submitted to DEED and final selections (2 Alaska Schools) will be made by DEED in late November. The two selected Alaska Schools will be able to attend the National ESEA Conference in Atlanta, GA, in February.

Director Reports

- Tongass School of Arts and Sciences Annual Report
- Bill Whicker, Technology Director-Report
- Brendon Roof- Student Report