



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Office of Superintendent

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M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: December 22, 2009

TO: Members, School Board

FROM: Steve Atwater, Ph.D. 
Superintendent of Schools

RE: Curriculum Management Audit

Background: One of the challenges that we face as an organization is how to determine our level of effectiveness and efficiency. Although we regularly assess ourselves on how well we are doing, the conclusions are often overly dependent on perception data that may or may not be accurate. While there is a state statute (AS 14.14.050) that requires the District to conduct an annual financial audit, there is no requirement for an outside agency to examine the instructional side of our organization. As a way to gain feedback on our curriculum and its use, we have contracted with Phi Delta Kappan to conduct a curriculum management audit of our district. The curriculum management audit is a diagnostic tool useful for designing plans to improve the quality of curriculum and instruction functions in a school system. Both curriculum policy, and the system in which curriculum functions, are analyzed by the audit team. The resulting audit report will provide specific recommendations to improve those functions. We are scheduled to have our curriculum management audit April 19-23. Note that the District is using state fiscal stabilization funds to pay for this audit. Paula Christensen, District Stimulus Coordinator, will be our point person in this process.

Reason for this worksession item: The lead auditor, John Rouse (superintendent from Salida, Colorado), will provide us with an overview of the audit process.