
2006-2007 Year End Report to the Board

This report supplements the 2006-2007 midyear report to the Board submitted in January 2007 (text of that report is attached). Section One provides a compilation of the work of the board. Section Two provides a review of the work plans for District Office administration including the three Board of Education goals. Section Three is a superintendent's narrative of other significant items affecting the School District. Section Four includes artifacts supporting activities of the superintendent's office.

Section I: Summary of Official Board Meetings/Action

18 Meetings (including planning session)

79 Worksessions:

- 11 Board business (goals, AASB, evaluations, etc.)
- 7 Budget
- 5 Legislation
- 5 Kenai Conversations/School Consolidation
- 4 Charter Schools
- 3 Policy Review
- 3 Curriculum review
- 3 Hiring/Staffing Updates
- 2 Student Nutrition
- 2 Adequate Yearly Progress

Other:

Summer school, negotiated agreements, District Improvement Plan, busing update, Parallel Block Scheduling, Class Size Report, employee retirement system, Port Graham grade configuration, Tech Prep, software selection for HR/Payroll/Finance Departments, advisory programs, Calendar Committee Report, Kenai Peninsula Activity Association Grievance Procedures, due process, energy costs, Performance High School, school sponsored field trips, Public School Land Trust in Alaska, KCHS pool modifications, District Media Center and Connections relocation, staffing alternatives, Emergency Action Plan trainings, Quality Schools/Quality Students, scholarship changes, superintendent evaluation, standards for the Peninsula Optional School, NASA Explorer Schools on the Kenai Peninsula, Coaching Project updates, Assessment Report, Cocurricular Survey results

6 Student waiver requests (HSGQE)

2 Student discipline hearings

22 Awards presented

23 Reports (lease, financial, annual, assessment, goal progress, enrollment, etc.)

2 Resolutions

16 School reports
23 Policy and administrative regulation revisions
119 General public comments plus dozens of comments on Board action items

Section II: District Office Work Plan Progress

Non-instructional initiatives

Completed and/or now considered routine function:

- Capital Projects Bond
- Charter School Policy Implementation
- Conversion to Microsoft Exchange/Outlook for E-mail
- Developing Technology Plan 2007-2010
- Eligibility Changes
- Employee Safety Program
- Highly Qualified Alignment with Regulations
- Implementing IP phones in Seward, Homer, and Soldotna
- Pilot WebEx as a Technology Training Tool
- Policy Review of Sections 7000 and 8000
- Public Relations – Board Goal #3
- Teacher Housing at Remote Sites

Updates/working on completion:

Accounting for Pupil Activity Funds and Business Office Manual

- These two work plans have merged together and will be an ongoing project for the Business office during the 2007-2008 school year.

Human Resources Department Review, Assessment, Restructure

- Department work has been reviewed and reassigned, concerns regarding adequate staffing level will need to be addressed in the future.

Long Range Plan Development – Board Goal #2

- First draft distributed to Board and administrators; full review at site levels during 2007-2008 school year.

Research, Select and Implement New Finance/Payroll/HR Software

- On track for 2007-2008 implementation, weekly meetings with developers and providers.

Update Job Descriptions and Evaluation Tool for Support Positions

- Discussed at negotiations, the group formed for this task has not moved forward. A review of the charge and direction of how to proceed will be done in 2007-2008; this may need “outside” assistance.

Instructional initiatives

Completed and/or now considered routine function:

- Connections Program Review
- Developing and Implementing Professional Learning Communities
- Kenai Conversations
- Language Arts 7-12 Curriculum Review
- Language Arts K-6 Curriculum Implementation
- Math Curriculum Development K-12
- Performance High School, Credit Recovery
- Primary Frameworks Program Implementation
- Reaching for Excellence – Board Goal #1

Updates/working on completion:

Autism Staff Development

- Three additional trainings held and 60+ individuals signed up for June institute, staff attended Anchorage School District training.

Comprehensive Middle School Review

- Philosophies examined, exploratory classes reviewed, pre-remediation tutoring set up as option for second semester.

Developing Effective Practices in Small Schools and Culturally Responsive Schools

- Small schools institute set for July 30-August 3 in Homer: 50 signed up.

Develop KPBSD Organizational Profile

- Completion expected by fall, 2007

District Distance Education Program

- Hired two highly qualified teachers to deliver programs next year - targeted expansion in small schools. Angel product selected as Learning Management System.

District Student Academic Intervention

- Phase One of toolkits provided, draft of standards completed, focus on process training during 2007-2008.

Special Education Parent Involvement/Education

- Parents and community members included in trainings, parent survey on web, working with community agencies to form a parent advisory group, involved with Peninsula Child Study Team.

Workforce Development Center

- Over 100 students registered for next year; transportation costs need to be addressed for long term.

Other Areas to Note

Several items were noted in the midyear report as other work priorities; those items that were not planned for in the work plan process but took substantial time/energy throughout the first part of the year. Below is a similar list for second semester:

- Valedictorian process
- Energy management review of proposals and options
- Unfilled Special Education positions and contingency plans for alternate services
- Alternative assessment preparation and training for Special Education
- Review of risk management “in-kind” services with the Borough
- Special Education reporting requirement changes
- State audit on intensive needs students
- E-Rate audit
- Field trip policy
- Work/research associated with tri-borough task force on gang and youth violence
- Concerned Citizens Coalition requests/information regarding consolidation
- Consolidation/moving of Kenai area elementary classrooms

Section III: Superintendent Comments:

Student achievement has been the focus of this School District for several years. Many factors came together during the 2006-2007 school year to make higher student achievement a reality. Specifically, based on preliminary Standards Based Assessment data, KPBSD made significant growth:

- in the number of students proficient in mathematics. Overall, our District grew by over 5% and students with disabilities grew by over 10%.
- in the number of students proficient in language arts. Overall, our District grew by 3% and students with disabilities grew by 5%.
- in all subgroups especially in the area of mathematics.

Final analysis and adequate yearly progress determination will be completed in early July. Several factors contributed to student growth. Teachers now have the ability to review data and target instruction to meet the needs of all students. After several years of using EdLine, parents are active participants in the conversation about student learning. All administrators have received extensive training in data review and analysis and are responsible for transferring this learning to their staff via inservices. The District’s additional training in alternate teaching models such as co-teaching and standards based instruction have taken root in many classrooms and changed the complexion of learning. Work on formative assessments to inform learning has begun in earnest at the classroom and school level. With a knowledge base of which students need assistance, the development of toolkits regarding “what to do” and the response to the intervention model has provided efficient targeted help in specific areas of need for individual students. This timely intervention has proven again and again that once we close the gaps in areas for students, they will often soar in all academic areas. This unwavering focus in the District on student achievement should continue but as Jim Collins describes in his book,

Good to Great, the flywheel has gained momentum and is now turning more and more quickly. Evidence of this is the multiple requests for report formats to assist teachers and schools in analyzing specific student needs and schoolwide needs.

Safety and wellness have been revisited this year throughout the District. Three particular projects demonstrate this. First, with the advent of the Wellness policy regarding food offerings at school and the Collective Bargaining Agreement expectation of a wellness component for employees, there is renewed emphasis on providing accurate information and incentives for healthy choices. Over 500 copies of the book, A Healthier You was distributed to District employees. Wellness will continue to be a focus of the District through the 2007-2008 school year. Second, Alaska schools must not only prepare for natural disasters but must also be ready for other disasters such as hostile intruders and such. Several years had elapsed since a comprehensive review, training, and drills have occurred in the safety realm. A full scale rewrite of the critical incident materials occurred, coordination with local emergency providers and the nuances of each community layout happened, and then came training of a team from every school. Next fall, a day of inservice is dedicated to review and practicing drills at each school site. This is something that should be done to this level about every five years. All feel more comfortable when a plan is in place, everyone understands their role in the plan, and the public can be assured that everything is being done to keep their children safe while they are in the District's care. Third, focused participation with the Tri-Borough Anti-Gang and Youth Violence Task Force has resulted in coordinated work on the peninsula. At the committee level, three task groups have been formed: prevention, intervention, and law enforcement. The work of these sub groups, as well as the policy team, is expected to continue through December 2007. Below is a list of accomplishments to date for the peninsula as noted by Mayor Williams in a May press conference:

- Outstanding and long-standing positive relationship between School District, government, and law enforcement as evidenced by sharing of information and joint working groups
- Local responder and School District (Kenai Police and Kenai Peninsula Borough School District) cooperative training on emergency response procedures, including hostile intruder drills
- Monthly child study teams with representatives of Juvenile Justice, Office of Children's Services, local providers and agencies, School District, Law Enforcement, Public Health, etc. to discuss peninsula wide needs for children and families
- Homeless liaisons with the School District actively work with families to provide necessary services and consistent schooling – 230 students K-12 served this school year
- Juvenile Justice Task Force chaired by Judge Huguelet reviewing and coordinating policies and practices of all local agencies for students at risk of incarceration
- Continuum of services provided through the School District and local mental health organizations (Central Peninsula Counseling, Homer Mental Health, SeaView) including assistance and supervision for at risk or violent students, alternative programs for out of school suspensions and expulsions, as well as schooling at the Kenai Youth Facility and Spring Creek prison
- Police Athletic League (PAL) partnership with the Kenai Police Department and the Boys and Girls Club to target at-risk youth for participating with positive adult role models, encouraging strong mentoring relationships – ping pong, dodgeball activities have been hugely successful
- Student Resource Office provided in Soldotna area schools; other schools utilize local police personnel for DARE and other programs
- Successful Youth Court peninsula wide, including and elementary school youth court in Homer, with minimum coaching stipends provided by the School District
- District Attorney's office cooperation in prosecuting parents for truancy violations – Three cases to court this school year

Future

Some areas that will be priorities for the 2007-2008 school year:

- Long Range Plan development
- Math Implementation
- Increased opportunities for high school students (vocational, college)
- Finance/payroll/HR software conversation
- Reimaging all computers
- Considering a position to review/suggest improvements regarding employee benefits
- Revisiting and improving K-2 elementary standards based report cards
- Developing diagnostic assessment tools for teachers

Section IV: Artifacts

In a District of data driven decision making, reviewing evidence is a priority. This last section of the Year End report provides a variety of items that represent work of the Superintendent's Office that provides evidence of leadership.

Newspaper:

Back to School Message, Peninsula Clarion, August 13, 2006

"Educational Partners: Kenai Peninsula groups and others provide students with lessons that will last a lifetime." Anchorage Daily News, August 4, 2006

Book Reviews and Articles:

Go For It! Finding Your Own Frontier (attached)

"Prevent student technology abuse from making your District look bad." Board and Administrator, January 2007

"Partnerships and collaboration: The Elements of Success." Written with John Musso, School Business Affairs, April 2007

Presentations (attached):

Administrator Meetings:

September 14, 2006

January 25, 2007

April 12, 2007

Role of District Office Staff 2006-2007

Navigating the Future (similar presentations used for administrators, parent meetings, Chambers of Commerce)

Kenai Conversation

Other:

Usual and customary activities:

Attendance and some assistance with AASA (Superintendent's Association) fall state conference, spring national conference, and legislative fly in

Presentations to service clubs

Monthly meetings with Borough Mayor's Office

Weekly meetings with School District Leadership Team

Direct supervision of thirty nine site level administrators
 Attendance and additional supervision at student activities weekly
 Attendance at community events, including Nanwalek fair
 Professional Teaching Practices Commission meetings
 SeaLife Center Board of Directors Meetings
 Attended Association of Alaska School Boards Conference
 Caring for the Kenai contest judging and awards banquet
 Conducted two leadership team retreats
 Conducted two District wide parent, site council, volunteer trainings
 Class presentations as requested
 Site council presentations as requested
 Monthly meetings with Kenai Peninsula College director
 School and classroom visits
 Board candidate orientation and new board member briefing
 Monthly peninsula Child Study Team meetings
 Weekly meetings with School Board president
 Project GRAD quarterly meetings
 Community briefing and supervision of hiring process for ten new to position administrators for 2006-2007
 Razdolna
 Susan B. English
 Port Graham
 Nanwalek
 Seward Middle School
 Nikolaevsk
 Kenai Alternative High School
 Mountain View Elementary
 Soldotna Middle School Assistant Principal
 Skyview High School Assistant Principal
[2006-2007 Midyear Report to the Board](#) (attached)

New activities:

Sammy Crawford's application for Don McKinnon Excellence in Education award
 Participation in Teachers College Columbia University 65th Superintendents Work Conference on "No Child Left Behind"
 Participation in statewide task group reviewing Special Education intensive needs funding
 Twice monthly participation and additional coordination work at the local level for the Tri-Borough task force on Youth and Gang Violence
 Tribal meetings in Tyonek
 "Leading with Impact" Presentation at International School Business Officials Conference
 Conducted book talk for administrators on Organizational Trust
 Chamber presentations: Seward, Anchor Point, Seldovia, Nikiski
 Participation in Leadership Matters, 10 hour webinar by MCREL
 Participation in "Fierce Conversation" training
 Participation in videotape production regarding State Mentor Program
 Conducted Classroom Walkthrough Training session for administrators
 Presented luncheon keynote at Alaska School Business Officials Conference
 Assisted with superintendent's Intern supervision program through UAF