



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Office of Superintendent

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M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: February 9, 2010
TO: School Board
FROM: Steve Atwater, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools
RE: Soldotna Area High Schools Conversation

Background: In the 1970s the District Board took the position that it wanted, when possible, to have high schools with enrollments lower than 800. I believe that it was because of this position that the District built a second high school in Soldotna (Skyview) rather than adding on to its existing Soldotna high school. Looking ahead to the coming years (a graph detailing this trend is attached to this memo), the projected enrollment for the two Soldotna area high schools will decline to the point that it will compromise the two schools' ability to offer their current level of service. I do not feel that it makes sense to offer two independent high schools to the approximately 850 high school students in the Soldotna area. Another consideration is that River City Academy is slowly increasing its enrollment and may have an impact on the Soldotna area enrollment trend.

In August the District will offer two shared learning opportunities for the Soldotna area high school students as a way to begin creating a more dependent relationship between the two schools. While this change is relatively small, it does raise a lot of questions and concerns on what will follow. It is important to note that the District has no intention of closing Skyview. The reason for creating a more dependent relationship between the two schools is to allow the District to better meet the needs of its Soldotna area high school students. I view this change in how we serve our area high school students as an ideal way to establish a more directed course of study for them. For example, a career pathway in the health sciences could be designed to allow students to focus their studies so as to prepare for a career in this area. Finally, the establishment of a directed course of study (career pathway) will serve as a model for the District that could be replicated or delivered by distance.

Reason for this Worksession Item: Our plan to begin combining services between the two high schools is causing a lot of concern because of the unknown of what the shared services will look like in the coming years and also on how this change will affect activities. I feel that it is important that you understand why the Administration is being proactive in response to the declining enrollment.

Skyview Enrollment Trend

School	04-05	05-06	06-07	07-08	08-09	09-10	10-11	11-12
Skyview High School	526	516	486	459	448	359	372	406
Soldotna High School	530	527	565	538	529	528	506	490

