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PACE CCSD School Board Report — October 2025

October is enrollment month and PACE staff has been working hard to make contact with families and finalize the enrollment process. As of this writing, PACE has 399 students enrolled (385.25 FTE). We have been working with Kyle Schneider to finalize our OASIS report. That is a big task that would not be possible without support from all of the PACE staff but in particular Bobbi Cotton and Bobbie Duerksen - thank you!

Efforts are underway with MBA for a customized PowerSchool plugin that will allow us to migrate our student and family information to PowerSchool. This move will allow for much simpler reporting and test rostering, and will streamline enrollment and tracking processes as well. There was concern early on about tracking allotments and SLPs with PS. The developer we have been assigned from MBA is very familiar with our needs and works with correspondent schools across the country as well as Canada. I have spent several hours in 1:1 sessions with him as we work through our needs and define our processes. We are in excellent hands and I expect our final product will be well-received by staff.

It is good to note that IDEA, the largest homeschool in the state, also uses PowerSchool as its SIS backbone. MBA and Kyle Schneider (our powerschool guru) helped to develop their system.

A lot of time has been spent discussing current policies and developing policies where they are lacking. Dual enrollment has been at the forefront and I think that the policy before the board tonight will strengthen our program. Alaska defines FTE for part time students (dual-enrolled) as 25% per class taken. That means that students who are enrolled in other public school districts in the state will receive 25% funding for each class they are enrolled in. Four classes are considered to be 100% FTE for funding purposes. In the past, PACE has enrolled students who have been enrolled in 4 or more courses with other districts. Because brick and mortar schools receive priority funding, PACE has received no funding for these students.

State regulation also requires that when two districts enroll a student part time, those districts must have a written/signed agreement indicating the funding percentage expected by each district. As you can imagine, some districts enter into this as a dual enrollment rather than a dual enrollment. Because our margins are so thin, we are vigorously pursuing these agreements for each dually enrolled student.

Ms. Hanson and I have had several discussions about various operational practices that require tracking of family account balances for multiple years. Currently, PACE tracks unspent allotments per student for two years. The state

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does not require districts to rollover unspent funds, and they constitute an annual liability of several hundred thousand dollars and are very difficult or impossible to budget for.

I tried to determine how other correspondence programs accounted for unspent allotment funds but was unable to locate a single handbook from another school. Websites post limited information about the “benefits” of their programs.

PACE currently allows for Family Purchased Technology, with annual reimbursement payments up to \$400 until the item is paid off. There is no cap to the purchase, no interest charged, no ability to manage the device, and the district retains no ability to ensure that the device will be returned to the district. This requires the district to track payments against the original purchase for the life of the debt. CCSD provides devices for families via a 3 or 4 year lease agreement. There is a buy-out option at the conclusion of the lease. When families enter into these lease agreements, the devices provided by PACE are tracked via JAMF and it is clear they are the property of the District.

There are a good number of district-owned devices currently checked out to families who are no longer enrolled with PACE. We are working to develop a process to get at least a portion of this property returned. Some families may be deterred from returning laptops and iPads due to mailing challenges. There are several companies who specialize in mailing electronic devices. Ms. Hanson has approved the use of one of these services and I am hoping that by providing a simple means of returning a device, we will be able to recoup some of these losses.

We are in family contact mode and tracking down ordered curriculums. Parents are getting ready to submit grades for the first quarter, progress artifacts are being uploaded, and IEP meetings are being conducted. I enjoy meeting parents and students from around the state. PACE staff remain busy and dedicated to the support of our PACE families.