

Superintendent Report

February 2026

Professional Development

I have just returned from Nashville, where I attended the AASA National Conference on Education alongside more than 2,000 of the nation's superintendents. On Wednesday, February 11, I was honored to be one of approximately 18 superintendents—three of us from Alaska—who graduated with our National Superintendent Certification.

This work was made possible through the RTBAK (Raising the Bar for Alaska's Schools) grant, which has also been the driving force behind the Visible Learning professional development our teachers have been engaged in over the past two years.

Our teachers continue to dedicate Friday afternoons to professional learning, using student achievement data to reflect on instructional practice. At the heart of John Hattie's research on effective teaching are three guiding questions:

1. What are students learning?
2. Why are they learning it?
3. How will we know when they have learned it?

The RTBAK grant will come to a close in October 2026. Our plan is to continue this impactful work through support from the CLSD (Comprehensive Literacy Statewide Development) grant, which will provide funding for the next four school years.

Capital Improvement Project Updates

Roof Project

CBC Construction has been cleaning up and demobilizing their work area. We are currently awaiting the arrival of the final 20 vents. Once they arrive, the contractor anticipates needing approximately three days to complete installation, at which point the project should be fully finished.

Phase 2 – Security Upgrades

There were four bidders for Phase 2 of the Security Upgrades project. Samson Electric was the apparent low bidder, and we have already been in communication with their team.

The School Board is recommended to approve the contract in the amount of \$1,303,524. This project includes the following priority areas:

- **Priority 0-** Selective door replacements, including fire doors
- **Priority 1-** Electronic door controls of identified exterior doors and key administrative areas. Installation of all headend electrical control panels, equipment, and 120V circuits required for a complete project to include priority levels 1 through 4.
- **Priority 1b-** District wide intercom system with lockdown capabilities, push button handicap door openers for High School and video intercom system for Middle School entrance, High School entrance and elementary.
- **Priority 2 (Additive Alternate #1)-** Next level of electronic door controls includes key administrative areas and high frequency use areas.

Budget Spring Revision and FY27 Planning

We will soon bring forward the Spring 2026 budget revision, which will reflect a drawdown of district reserves to the State of Alaska's 10% threshold. These funds are being allocated to provide continued support for our staff, students, and facility needs.

Staff budget requests have been submitted and reviewed by district administration, and we have been working through each request carefully, following up where needed.

As the revised budget is recommended to the Board for approval, the below list represents the major areas of capital work in priority order. In addition to the list below, there are a large number of items identified in the Code and Condition Survey that may also be accomplished using capital funds. Our Facilities Committee will meet this spring with David Landis from SERRC (Southeast Regional Resource Center) to update and prepare the district's six-year Capital Improvement Project list for submission to the State of Alaska in August 2026.

Priority of Most Pressing District Facility Needs

- **Elementary School:** Underside support, drainage, and ventilation improvements (estimated \$37,000)
- **Elementary School:** Electrical upgrades (estimated \$360,500) **District-Wide: Long-term electrical CIP upgrades (estimated \$2,000,000)** *This item is currently listed on the 6-year CIP plan with the Alaska State DEED.*

- **Vocational Education:** Entry improvements, roof repair, and replacement (estimated \$1,024,300)
- **Mitkof Middle/Petersburg High School:** Heating and ventilation upgrades (estimated \$3,672,700+ depending on scope)
- **Mitkof Middle/Petersburg High School:** Window replacement and stucco repair/replacement to mitigate energy loss (estimated minimum \$361,400)

The attached document, ***Petersburg Condition Survey 2025 – Priority Work – District-Wide Local.pdf***, outlines additional projects that may be completed locally based on available resources as identified in the Summer 2025 Code and Condition Survey.

Preschool .5 ADM Funding

In January, Petersburg was one of four districts (along with Valdez, Skagway, and Mat-Su) notified by the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development that we would not receive the .5 ADM funding for general education students enrolled in preschool this school year.

The department shared that this decision was due to statutory limitations, as the number of approved districts exceeded the statewide funding cap. Although Petersburg received conditional approval after extensive application work last year, approval does not guarantee funding in a given fiscal year when statewide demand exceeds the available appropriation.

Our current preschool enrollment is seven students. Because several of these students are served through Individualized Education Plans, the financial loss is minimal and equates to approximately one student equivalent. However, the late notice and loss of funding remain a significant concern.

We are continuing ongoing communication with DEED regarding both the funding process and the impact this has on district planning.

Emergency Action Plan Flip Charts

We received 200 red folders for our Petersburg Emergency Action Plan flip charts during the first week of February. The folders are now being assembled by our PHS office student aides. Once completed, they will be labeled and distributed to all district rooms.

Medicaid Billing

Petersburg is one of nine districts exploring Medicaid billing for services provided to students with disabilities or health care needs. The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development, in partnership with the Department of Health, is working with ForHealth Consulting from the UMass Chan Medical School to assist districts with enrollment and training.

Finance Director Shannon Baird and Special Education Director Cyndy Fry have been in communication with representatives and will participate in professional learning opportunities throughout the rest of the school year to determine whether this is a beneficial option for Petersburg School District.

Congratulations: Carlee Johnson McIntosh

Please join us in congratulating our Food Services Director, Carlee Johnson McIntosh, on her well-deserved recognition at the recent Alaska School Nutrition Association Conference.

Carlee was honored with two prestigious awards for the outstanding work she does planning, coordinating, and feeding our Petersburg students:

- The **Dean Hamburg Award**, recognizing her lasting day-to-day impact and dedication to excellence
- The **President's Award**, honoring her unwavering commitment to elevating school nutrition and serving Alaska's children—body, mind, and spirit

We are proud of Carlee and grateful for all she does for our students and community.