

Superintendent's Report

June 2025

Celebrating Our Colleagues

Becky Martin

Please join me in congratulating Becky Martin, who was recently named one of four finalists for the *State of Alaska Teacher of the Year*. The award ultimately went to Pete Daley from Hutchison High School, where I had the honor of serving as principal for nine years. Knowing both of these exceptional educators, I can only imagine how difficult the final decision must have been. We are so proud of Becky—not only for her unwavering support of our students, but also for the leadership she brings to our Instructional Leadership Team. Her work guiding our professional development through collaborative coaching conversations continues to make a meaningful impact across the district.

Shannon Baird

A big congratulations to Shannon Baird as well! She has just completed her second year of the *New Business Manager Institute (NBMI)*, which is a highly specialized training program for school business officials—think of it as earning a master's-level certification. Her commitment to professional growth and excellence in school finance is deeply appreciated and continues to benefit all of us.

Budget Update

There's been quite a bit happening at the state level when it comes to school funding. The Alaska Legislature passed HB 57, which increased the Base Student Allocation (BSA) by \$700. Governor Dunleavy initially vetoed that increase, but the Legislature overrode the veto with a 46-14 vote—great news for schools across the state.

However, when the Governor signed the final budget, he reduced the education funding line item by \$50.64 million, which brought the BSA down from \$6,660 to \$6,460 per student. This means we're now facing a \$180 per-student decrease from last year's one-time funding boost. With

expenses continuing to rise, this reduction will certainly have an impact on our operations.

We are now working through these numbers to finalize our proposed FY26 budget, taking a close look at current expenditures and known future costs so we can present an updated, balanced plan to the board while identifying some potential scenarios should the legislature override the line item veto when they reconvene.

Capital Improvement Projects

District Condition Survey

LCG was on site the week of June 9 to begin work on our long-awaited Condition Survey. Their team walked through all of our district's buildings—snapping photos, reviewing documentation, and inspecting everything from crawlspaces to mechanical rooms. Their findings will help us identify priorities as we prepare our updated 6-Year Capital Improvement Plan, which is due to the State this fall.

Office Remodel

Our office remodel is coming along nicely! We've finalized choices for carpet, paint, tile, countertops, and cabinetry. Framing is complete, and the trades are now hard at work on plumbing, electrical, and other finishing details.

Roof Repairs

Thanks to some good weather, the roofing team has been able to make great progress. Unfortunately, during the work over the high school's administrative wing, they uncovered more water damage than expected—plus they discovered only 4 inches of insulation instead of the required 6. Huge thanks to Rock and Road Construction, who stepped in on short notice to weld and install new beams so the project could keep moving forward.

Because of these surprises, we do expect the roofing work to go over the accepted bid. It's always tough when hidden damage emerges during a project like this, but we're addressing it as quickly and responsibly as we can.

