

**Sitka School District Mission:**  
**The Sitka School District will intentionally develop**  
**Haa Latseení**  
**(Our Strength of Mind, Body, and Spirit)**  
**to inspire and prepare students to be compassionate, empowered,**  
**and equipped critical thinkers within a global community.**

## **School Board Meeting**

**Wednesday, September 3, 2025 | 5:45 PM | Harrigan Centennial Hall, 330 Harbor Drive, Sitka, AK**  
**99835**

### ***Proposed Agenda***

1. **Recognitions - 5:45 - 6:00 p.m.**
  - **Boys Track Team - State Champions**
  - **Boys Baseball - State Champions**
  - **Girls Softball - State Champions**
  - **New Staff**
  - **Jamie Bradley - Sealaska Heritage Institute (SHI) Distinguished Educator Award**
2. **Call to Order - 6:00 p.m.**
3. **Flag Salute**
4. **Land Acknowledgment**
5. **Roll Call**
6. **Approval of the Proposed Agenda and Consent Agenda**
  - 6.a. Minutes from August 13, 2025
  - 6.b. Personnel Report
7. **Persons to be Heard**
8. **Special Reports: Government to Government**
9. **Board Member Reports**
10. **Superintendent Report**
  - 10.a. Budget Update
  - 10.b. Enrollment Update
  - 10.c. Superintendent Update
11. **New Business**
  - 11.a. Executive Session - Superintendent Jenson's Mid-Year Evaluation Review
12. **Future Agenda Items/Upcoming Events**
  - 12.a. September 10, 2025 - Policy Committee | 5:00 p.m. District Office Boardroom
  - 12.b. September 20-21, 2025 - AASB Fall Boardsmanship Academy | Anchorage
  - 12.c. October 1, 2025 - School Board Meeting | 5:45 p.m. | Sitka High School Library
  - 12.d. October 24-25, 2025 - School Board Training with AASB
13. **Final Comments from the Public**
14. **Final Comments from the Board**
15. **Adjournment**

**Note:** All items listed under Agenda & Consent Agenda are considered routine by the School Board and will be approved in one motion. Items may be removed at the request of a School Board Member.

**Note:** Meetings will adjourn by 10:30 p.m. Alaska Standard Time (or Alaska Daylight Standard Time) unless by a majority vote of the board the meeting is extended 30 minutes to 11:00 p.m. Further 30-minute extensions will require each a separate motion that will require a unanimous vote of those members present and constituting a quorum.

**Note:** The School Board reserves the right to go into executive session as and to the extent permitted by AS 44.62.310 and Board Bylaw 9321. An executive session may be called to consider the following subjects: (1) matters, the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the District; (2) subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person, provided the person may request a public discussion; (3) matters which by law, municipal charter, or ordinance are required to be confidential; and (4) matters involving consideration of government records that by law are not subject to public disclosure. The motion to go into executive session must clearly specify the subject of the proposed session without defeating the purpose of addressing the subject in executive session.



There were no other board reports at this meeting.

**12. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

**Superintendent Jenson** reported to the board on a number of topics, including various professional development, MOU/MOAs and SOPs in the development stage, the food service program, the state of federal funding that the district receives, and several grants awarded to the district or applied for by the district, or on behalf of the district. Dr. Jenson also reported that the district's PreK program has 20 students enrolled, with a waiting list.

**Kathrynn Hollis-Buchanan**, Business Manager, gave an update to the board on the district finances.

**13. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. FY26 LUNCH PRICES**

**Ms. Williams** moved, and **Mr. Williams** seconded to approve the 2025-2026 school meal prices, as presented.

There was no public comment. There was no board comment.

Following a roll call vote, the motion PASSED unanimously.

**14. CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION**

There was no correspondence or information attached to the board packet for this meeting.

**15. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/UPCOMING EVENTS**

- a. AUGUST 27, 2025 – BOARD WORK SESSION – GOAL SETTING AND SELF-EVALUATION
- b. SEPTEMBER 3, 2025 – SCHOOL BOARD MEETING – HARRIGAN CENTENNIAL HALL

**16. FINAL COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no final comments from the public.

**17. FINAL COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD**

There were no final comments from the board.

**18. ADJOURNMENT**

**Mr. Williams** moved, and **Mr. Morse** seconded to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

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Phil Burdick, President

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Steve Morse, Clerk

# Sitka School District Personnel Report

as of 9/1/2025

<b>Certified Employees Recommended for Employment</b>		
Name	Current Position	Date Effective
<b>Certified Employees Left Employment</b>		
Name	Current Position	Date Effective
<b>Classified Employees Recommended for Employment</b>		
Name	Current Position	Date Effective
Ivy Cawthon (Aug Correction)	KGH Paraprofessional	08/13/2025
Sophia West-Carpenter (Aug Correction)	PreK Paraprofessional	08/20/2025
Peter Vu	SHS Paraprofessional	08/18/2025
Bonnin Jarvill	KGH Paraprofessional	08/18/2025
Jamie Doughty	Ventures Coordinator	08/20/2025
Sadie Maher	Food Service Assistant	08/18/2025
Jonathan 'Spence' Lack	Food Service Assistant	08/18/2025
Sydney Eubanks	SHS Paraprofessional	08/25/2025
<b>Classified Employees Left Employment</b>		
Name	Current Position	Date Effective
Claire Sheehan	Paraprofessional	05/22/2025
<b>Classified Employees Changed Positions</b>		
Name	Current Position	Date Effective

Demographic / Enrollment (Headcount) Breakdown

As of 9/2/2025

	XTS	KGH	BMS	SHS	PHS	RCH	Total
PK	31					0	31
KG	74					4	78
1	53					4	57
2		62				8	70
3		83				3	86
4		69				7	76
5		57				7	64
6			67			7	74
7			66			1	67
8			84			1	85
9				91	7	3	101
10				64	7	2	73
11				86	12	1	99
12				75	9	1	85
<b>Bldg Total</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>1046</b>



Dr. Deidre Jenson  
Superintendent Report  
9/3/25 Board Meeting

**Professional Development:** (Strategic Plan Strategy 4: We will produce a Professional Development/Mentorship/Induction program for SSD staff. Strategic Plan Strategy 1: We will Identify strategies to close learning gaps. Strategic Plan Strategy 2: We will Strengthen culturally responsive programming.)

***Our professional development will focus on Tier I Instruction to promote alignment across K-12 content areas, utilizing research and evidence-based practices to enhance student engagement and overall collective efficacy.***

- Several teachers, counselors, and administrators will be attending the Alaska School Safety and Well-being Summit Conference in Anchorage. Travel is covered by grants. Topics include trauma informed practices, bullying and suicide prevention, community and family partnerships, emergency operating procedures, and other student mental health topics.
- Schools are continuing their work on PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Support) strategies and structures throughout the year.
- We are offering stipends through grants for grades K-5 teachers to participate in learning and implementing the Ravens Write curriculum which explores cultural heritage through writing, arts, and community activities, enhancing literacy and language skills while fostering connection with local traditions and placed based learning.

**Food Service Update:** (Strategy 6 of our Strategic Plan: We will expand opportunities and remove participation barriers for students.)

- We have 3 people hired and are still looking for a head cook, a full-time cook and a part-time cook.
- Many are pitching in to fill in the gaps.
- Food discarded appears to be less.
- We have run short of food just a few times in a couple of buildings but have been able to cook a bit more or transport from another building so all can get fed except for maybe 3 students. Then we found other food so they could eat.
- One of the challenges of knowing how much to cook is that more students are eating so our counts are increasing daily.
- Counts in the secondary schools compared to last year are slightly lower in August, but it could be for a number of reasons; lunch balances that we were trying to address at the end of the year, skepticism of how good the lunches might be, and the quality of the PHS lunches, Pizza Friday's last year, and this is only 8 days of counts right now:

August School Meal Sales Comparison SY25-SY26		
	Total Breakfasts Sold	Total Lunches Sold
Xóots SY25	51	190
Xóots SY26	109	250
Keet SY25	213	487
Keet SY26	232	513
Blatchley SY25	65	503
Blatchely SY26	37	410
Sitka High SY25	75	352
Sitka High SY26	54	262
Pacific High SY25	66	92
Pacific High SY26	30	53

- While we have not achieved the quality that PHS lunches were prior YET, we consistently hear from staff in all the buildings that students like the food.
- Here are some sample pictures of breakfast and lunch (one from elementary and one from high school), but we have had such a good variety, including chili, tacos, mac and cheese, and more.



**Assessment:** (Strategic Plan Strategy 1: We will Identify strategies to close learning gaps.)

- AK STAR (Alaska System of Academic Readiness) and AK Science district and school scores will be released to the public on September 5th, and I will report more on this at the October meeting. Individual student reports will be mailed home in the next few weeks.
- Each district has been required by DEED to have a certified facilitator in each district, but we have not had one due to staff capacity. This year we have selected a certified facilitator and will be sending this administrator to this training. “The certified facilitator role is an internal position within a district to support the state assessment literacy initiative. Certified facilitators will provide professional learning directly to schools and districts to ensure educators and stakeholders across the state have a very clear sense of what assessment is, its value, and how to use assessment data to empower students, teachers, and communities to thrive.” One can learn more about this requirement at [DEED Launching Alaska Certified Facilitator Program to Build Assessment Literacy - Education and Early Development](#)
- While we know that assessment data is not the only piece of data we want to measure success, we hope through this certified facilitator and other administrators

to strengthen our understanding, consistency, and use of assessment to guide our instruction as well as provide parents and students goals and outcomes.

**Capital Improvement Projects:**

- CIP application with DEED was submitted on September 1<sup>st</sup>. However, it was missing some vital parts so SERRC does not think it will score very high. They will help us resubmit next year and we will negotiate on contracts for this year and next year.

**Continued Projects:**

**SOPs:** (Strategic Plan Strategy 5: We will develop an internal and external District communication)

- While we continue to have discussions about these, we have not completed any since our last meeting, due to the busyness of starting school.

**MOUs:** (Strategic Plan Strategy 3: We will Expand and strengthen partnerships.)

- Similar to SOPs, we have not completed any work on this, however conversations continue with Sitka Tribe of Alaska as well as the City of Sitka.
- CBS (City and Borough of Sitka) Administrator and SSD (Sitka School District) Superintendent are working on a meeting with staff to review the Parks and Recs MOU and the City Maintenance MOU. The city administrator and the superintendent are also discussing ways to disseminate this with the Assembly and School Board once it is updated.

**Budget Update:** Work in the business office has been focused on preparing for the audit which occurs the first week of September as well as updating coding changes with expenditures, grants and staffing in our accounting program.

**Superintendent Travel:**

September 18<sup>th</sup> I will be attending

September 23-27 ASA superintendent's mentor meetings and superintendent's conference.

28-29<sup>th</sup> I will be taking personal days (Monday) returning to work on Tuesday.