



WRANGELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS



SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE – NOVEMBER 2020
To Educate and Inspire Every Student

Greetings team!

We expected to have the **Average Daily Membership ADM** in hand before sending this newsletter out, but we ran into a snag with our Fall OASIS reporting. Some students enrolled in homeschool programs before the year started had concurrent enrollment in our district. DEED requested contacting the homeschool organizations and provide evidence of true enrollment. We were able to show the students were formally enrolled and attending regularly. However, we have not received the correspondence back from the homeschool companies to attach to our reporting to the state. This should be cleared up by the end of the week.

Having said that, our enrollment to date for the district is 185. Our preliminary budget is developed after enrollment projections created in October provide the basis for staffing levels. The basic framework for the upcoming fiscal year will be presented to the Board of Education this month and the preliminary budget document will be presented in February. Community and stakeholder input will be sought in various ways for use by the Board in considering changes to the budget before action is taken on the spending plan. Approval by the board usually takes place in March. The general fund receives revenues based on the enrollment projection and calculations through the State educational funding formula. The formula also provides the basis for calculation of the minimum local effort contribution. Changes to the funding formula are enacted by the Alaska Legislature and then approved by the Governor.

Federal and other State funds are also received for specific purposes and are accounted for in special revenue funds of the district by using various accounting codes.

Wrangell Public Schools will present a budget revision for SY21 at our next regular School Board meeting on Dec 14. Journal entries have been made because the first quarter spending was not exactly what we planned during the summer months. Everything has been unpredictable and new. Once journal entries are approved, the revision can be completed and presented at the meeting on the 14th. We will have two more revisions this school year.

In order to prepare a preliminary adopted budget by April 1, the district must make certain **assumptions** for revenue and expense categories prior to the State's Legislative session. Therefore, we do not always know our full funding in a timely manner. Additionally, Public Health Education Trust usually establishes a renewal rate for their insurance premiums after the Legislation closes. We are negotiating this year and we may not have numbers reflecting our collective bargaining agreements.

WPS turned in a projected enrollment of 259 for next year. This is an assumption the Legislators will use to make their decisions about how much to give school districts. We are assuming flat state funding and the same local contribution as discussed in our joint meeting with the Assembly last spring. A full list of Assumptions will be presented to the school board on Dec 14.

The next newsletter date is January 31, 2021 and the topics will include proposed budget considerations.

Have a safe and happy holiday,
Dr. Debbe Lancaster - Superintendent

