

SCOMM

125:10

Mat-Su School District

Meeting Location: Mat-Su Legislative Information Office
600 East Railroad Avenue
Wasilla

Meeting Time: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Directions:

Glenn Highway north toward Wasilla

Left on Parks Highway (first stoplight on Glenn)

Stay on Parks until you reach downtown Wasilla (past Wasilla Lake; McDonald's, Carrs)

Left on Knik Goose Bay Road (at light; if you turn right, it's Main Street)

Immediate left onto Railroad Ave. (Greater Wasilla Chamber of Commerce is on corner)

Follow to end of road--LIO is located in a "mini-mall" on right side

**Mat-Su Borough School District
Expected Participants**

Administration:

Patricia Chesbro, Superintendent
Dr. Don Chicarell, Asst. Superintendent of Instruction
George Troxel, Director of Elementary & Secondary Education
Michael Melear, Director of Student Support Services (Special Education)
Paula Harrison, Director of Human Resources

Hearing Coordinator: Kim Floyd, Mat-Su S.D. Public Information Specialist

Late additions:

Barb Morris, President, Mat-Su Education Association (MSEA)
Dr. Larry Jacobson, Principal, Teeland Middle School
Karl Schleich, Principal, Ron Larson Elementary School
Mac Whyte, Principal, Colony High School
Pam Fenstamaker, Assistant Director, Student Support Services
Kristin Forrester, Director, Career & Technical Education

That's all! Thanks for your patience!

Other education professionals and community members from Mat-Su School District may participate. Those names were not available when the packets were sent out.

Scheduled School District Participants

In the Mat-Su Borough School District, we are experiencing critical shortages in qualified teaching staff, specialists, and school-level administrators. Specifically, our district faces difficulties in hiring and retaining Special Education teachers, instructors of math and science, and critical support personnel such as counselors, nurses, school psychologists, and hearing and language specialists. In addition, the district faces challenges in the recruitment of principals.

Large-scale recruitment efforts, especially in the area of special education, have yielded some results. However, our ability to recruit is overshadowed by the teacher shortage being experienced on a national level. One of our area's greatest challenges is our inability to compete with higher salaries and greater benefits being afforded by districts in the Lower-48. The State of Alaska no longer holds the attraction of higher salaries and greater benefits.

Special Education:

Throughout the past three years, the Mat-Su Borough School District has experienced a critical shortage in teachers with special education endorsements.

- In 1999, we hired approximately 25 special education teachers, and were required to grant waivers to four additional teachers.
- In 2000, we hired approximately 38 new special education teachers, and were required to grant waivers to two additional teachers. Further, we involuntarily transferred six teachers from regular education to special education.
- In 2001, we hired approximately 35 new special education teachers, and involuntarily transferred four teachers from regular education to special education.

Math & Science:

In regular education we have noticed that the pool of quality applicants is shrinking in areas such as math and science.

Student Support Services:

The district has struggled to fill critical support positions throughout the past four years. In fact, during the 2000-01 school year, some of the following positions were left vacant as a result of the shortage:

- school psychologists
- counselors
- occupational therapists
- speech therapists
- physical therapists,
- school nurses

Alaska School District Profiles



Below is the information you have requested.

Mat-Su Borough Schools

125 West Evergreen
Palmer, AK 99645-0000

Phone: (907) 746-9255

Fax: (907) 745-0194

District E-Mail: jfelix@msb.mat-su.k12.ak.us

Website: www.mat-su.k12.ak.us/schdist

Superintendent: Patricia Chesbro, Superintendent

E-Mail: Patricia.Chesbro@msb.mat-su.k12.ak.us

School Board President: Robert Johnson

E-mail the Webmaster





MSBSD

Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District

"Developing productive citizens for an ever-changing world"

Tuesday, September 18, 2001 15:35:01

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Artwork by "KW" in Mrs. Zimmer's 4th Grade Class - Meadow Lakes Elementary

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District is nestled in the picturesque Matanuska-Susitna Valley, in an area commonly known as Alaska's "bread basket." The "Valley," the state's largest and most productive agricultural area, is located approximately 50 miles north of Anchorage. The district spans 24,502 square miles, an area larger than the entire state of West Virginia.

The Mat-Su Borough School District is home to 30 schools

ranging in enrollments from 32 to more than 1,000 students. With a districtwide enrollment of approximately 12,600 students, Mat-Su is the third largest school district in Alaska--behind Anchorage and Fairbanks, respectively. Our educational facilities include 16 elementary schools, 3 middle schools, 2 junior/senior high schools, 3 comprehensive high schools, 2 K-12 schools, 2 alternative schools, a correspondence program, and an online computer school. The district is scheduled to open four new schools within the next several years: an elementary and middle school in fall 2001; a high school in fall 2002; and, a elementary school by fall 2004. The district is the Borough's largest employer with approximately 1500 staff members; more than half the district's employees are teachers.

The district prides itself in the quality of its employees, which is evidenced by the number of state and national awards won each year by its teachers, administrators, and staff. Currently, the district employs the 2001 Alaska Teacher of the Year, the Alaska National Distinguished Principal (1999, 2000, & 2001), a Milken Family Foundation Educator, Alaska's 2001-02 Christa McAuliffe Fellow, and more National Board Certified Teachers than any other district in the state.

On the first round of state testing on Alaska State Standards, Mat-Su students fared better than or equally well as every other large district in the state. In fact, the district's 10th graders recorded the highest scores of all large schools in the state on the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam (HSGQE). The district is very involved in the state's Quality Schools Initiative and is recognized throughout the state as a leader in education. Innovative and successful teaching practices better ensure "that no students are left behind."

The district's number one priority is student safety and healthy, positive learning environments. The district is also committed to reducing class sizes at all grade levels, and high school and Kindergarten classes will see reductions in the upcoming school year. In an exciting announcement recently, the district unveiled plans to reduce Kindergarten class sizes to no more than 18 students during the 2001-02 school year.

The district's annual operating budget for the 2001-02 school year is approximately \$117 million. Funding for the district is provided through federal, state, and local resources, with the majority of the funding being provided by the state. Approximately 89.9 percent of the district's operating budget is dedicated to personnel salaries and benefits. At only three percent of operating costs, the district's administrative overhead continues to be one of the lowest in the state.

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Members

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BOARD ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Julena Felix
125 W. Evergreen Street
Palmer, AK 99645
PHONE: (907) 746-9272

If you have questions regarding this website, contact JFelix@MSB.Mat-Su.k12.ak.us

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Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District

Schools

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Elementary Schools

[Big Lake Elementary](#)

[Butte Elementary](#)

[Cottonwood Creek](#)

[Elementary](#)

[Finger Lake Elementary](#)

[Goose Bay Elementary](#)

[Iditarod Elementary](#)

[Meadow Lakes Elementary](#)

[Pioneer Peak Elementary](#)

[Sherrod Elementary](#)

[Snowshoe Elementary](#)

[Sutton Elementary](#)

[Swanson Elementary](#)

[Tanaina Elementary](#)

Middle Schools

[Colony Middle](#)

[Palmer Junior](#)

[Middle](#)

[Wasilla Middle](#)

High Schools

[Burchell High](#)

[Colony High](#)

[Palmer High](#)

[Wasilla High](#)

Charter & Other Schools

[Academy Charter School](#)

[Community Technology Center](#)

[Correspondence School](#)

[Glacier View School](#)

[Houston JR/SR High School](#)

[Mat-Su's Online Learning](#)

[Program](#)

[Midnight Sun Charter School](#)

[Susitna Valley JR/SR High](#)

[School](#)



MSBSD

Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District

"Developing productive citizens for an ever-changing world"

Certified Openings

Teaching Vacancies

Special Education (multiple)
Counselors (multiple)
Math/science
Language Arts
Elementary

Speech Therapist (2)
School Psychologist (2)

Band/Music (Middle School and High School)
Counselors (multiple)
VOCATIONAL ED - ALL AREAS

For further information please contact:

Marilyn Feller, Personnel Specialist
Mat-Su Borough School District
125 West Evergreen Avenue
Palmer, AK 99645
Phone: 907-746-9242 Fax:
907-745-0667

Marilyn Feller



mfeller@msb.mat-su.k12.ak.us

Administrative Openings

Classified Openings

The Mat-Su Borough School District employs approximately 800 teachers, nurses, counselors, therapist and specialist. The following is required to be on file in the Human Resources Department prior to consideration for a certified vacancy: Application, transcripts, placement file, three confidential letters of recommendation, teacher certification, screening interview (All application materials must be submitted collectively - confidential references must come in sealed envelopes and be sent with the application package.)

Teacher Application Packet

Counselor Application Packet

Nurse Application Packet

Librarian Application Packet

Specialist Application Packet (includes: psychologist, behavior specialist, visually impaired specialist, audiologist, resource specialist, work study specialist)

Therapist Application Packet (includes: occupational therapist, speech pathology, physical therapist)

Salary Schedule