

Seward Site Based Council Resolution 2018-001

FY18 Budget/Staffing Formula

WHEREAS, Seward Site Based Council is very concerned about the current PTR (Pupil Teacher Ratio) increases and subsequent teacher reductions that are in the current FY18 draft budget. We understand the need for a conservative budget during these times of uncertainty and we appreciate how responsible the KPBSD has been over the years in their budget process. However, these current PTR increases will cause extreme difficulties for the smaller middle and high schools across the district.

WHEREAS, KPBSD currently has some of the highest achieving students in the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, extensive research has shown that Pupil Teacher Ratios directly affect the quality of the education that an individual student receives; and

WHEREAS, Seward schools have two classes of students (class of 2023 and 2028) that are approximately half the size of the rest of the classes. Three years ago, our schools and site council saw that this type small class would significantly affect our 7th and 8th grade middle school once they reached that school. We tried to mitigate this by going through the very difficult and controversial process of moving our 6th graders from the elementary school to the middle school. The purpose of moving the 6th grade to the middle school was to reduce the impact that these small classes was going to have on our staffing levels.

WHEREAS, It is possible that the larger middle and high schools can absorb this PTR increase without causing this kind of damage because they have larger staffing numbers and an inherent economy of scale. These schools might lose one of many elective positions instead of a core curriculum teacher and several of very few electives.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE SEWARD SITE BASED COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:

1. Modify the staffing formulas (or make a formal allowance) to account for a student class size anomaly such as the one we have in our schools.
2. Set a minimum staffing number for the smaller schools in these categories that can allow for all the required classes to be taught.
3. Remove the PTR increase from the FY18 Budget. The State Legislature is currently intending to fund the foundation formula fully and might also add \$100 per student to the formula. The Kenai Peninsula Borough is also seriously looking at ways to increase

funding to our District. Any remaining deficit should be covered using the General Fund Balance.

4. Before making any further increases to PTR, make cuts in other areas of the budget, such as computers, instructional support, travel, administration, testing, supplies, PR, software, technology, maintenance and fuel. None of these will be easy but educating our children is and must remain, the primary goal for our school district. Our district is one of the best in the state; let's find a way to keep it that way!
5. If PTR increases are absolutely necessary, increase the PTR only at schools that have a certain number of students, such as over 200 or over 350 ADM. These are delineations already used in the formula. These schools have an economy of scale that would make this PTR increase less drastic.

Seward Site Based Council, this 29th Day of March 2018.

**Mica Van Buskirk, President
Seward Site Based Council**