



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Information Services

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MEMORANDUM

TO: KPBSD Board of Education

FROM: Eric Soderquist, Director of Information Services *ES*

DATE: May 25, 2017

SUBJECT: Website Update Project Status – May 2017

Updates to the KPBSD Website continue. As of May 2017, development is nearing completion on a responsive version of the website, designed to provide an improved user experience when navigating the site from a mobile or tablet device. With these changes, the site will dynamically resize and arrange elements to display appropriately on these smaller screens (rather than requiring users to zoom in order to read or interact with the site). Final testing is occurring now for the responsive changes, with the expectation that these changes launch during June 2017.

In parallel, the various departments represented on the main KPBSD website are identifying and reorganizing content with an emphasis on continued streamlining of information and content posted. See the timeline details below for specifics on progress made to date.

Longer-term, Information Services continues to evaluate various options for migrating away from our current web platform, Ektron. Ektron was purchased by EpiServer, and current Ektron customers need to either migrate to another platform, or migrate to the EpiServer product. Since the original site design on the Ektron platform, many additional platforms have matured to support enterprise-level use. One platform currently under evaluation for migrating district website resources to is WordPress.

Of note, school websites are currently served by WordPress. Part of the long-term vision includes a redesign of the school websites to include additional template work to bring consistency among school websites, allowing schools flexibility to establish their own color scheme and branding, while giving schools better tooling for publishing content such as school newsletters, calendar events, and blog posts.

I expect to bring forward additional updates during a work session at the August Board meeting.

Web Update – Timelines

Completed

- **April 2016:** Content index has 27,452 unique items.
- **June 2016:** Release upgraded search infrastructure, improving “crawl” time (time for newly-added or changed content to appear in search index)
- **July 2016:** Search interfaces change to introduce “faceted” search (ability to add incremental search filter criteria)
- **September 2016:** Upgrade the web platform to the latest Ektron codebase, bringing forward bug fixes and improved device compatibility
- **December 2016:** Homepage cleanup, phase 1. Eliminated hidden content behind accordion elements and improved content accessibility.
- **April 2017:** Efforts continue to reduce obviously duplicated or outdated content. Content count stands at 20,474 items, 12,189 of which are documents (pdf, Word, Excel, PowerPoint), 8,285 of which are web pages.
- **May 2017:** Responsive site testing

Ongoing / Upcoming

- **June 2017:** Release responsive version of website; Information sent to departments on remaining form and content items
- **Mid-July 2017:** Decision point on new platform
- **August 2017:** Information back from departments on which items can be purged or reorganized
- **August 2017 – June 2018:** Assist schools with migration to new platform and training. Migrate district-level assets to new platform.
- **July 2018:** Launch new district website alongside updated school webpages.