



2024-2025

CHARTER SCHOOL ANNUAL
REVIEWS

*Kenai Peninsula Borough School
District*

CLAYTON HOLLAND,
SUPERINTENDENT

July 2024

Charter School Annual Review Form

Charter School: Aurora Borealis

Year: 2024-25

Purpose of this Form: Pursuant to the State of Alaska Charter School law (AS 14.03.255(b) (4)), the Academic Policy Committee shall meet with administration at least six times annually to monitor progress in achieving the committee's policies and goals in accordance with Kenai Peninsula Borough School District AR 6187. Pursuant to Kenai Peninsula School Board Policy 6187: this report will include information on the attainment of student performance expectations, meetings of the governing bodies of the charter school, descriptions of charter school activities, and other information of interest to the local School Board.

Use of this Form: This form should be filled out first by the Charter School's Academic Policy Committee during their annual review meeting. This form will then be signed by the APC chair and the administrator and sent to the KPBSD Board President, the Superintendent and the KPBSD Charter School Committee Chair.

Once signed by the KPBSD Charter School Committee Chair, a copy will be provided to the Charter School Administrator, Board President, and Superintendent. All Charter School Annual Review Forms submitted by KPBSD Charter Schools will be provided to the Board as a general information packet item.

Section 1: Breach of Contract

Examples of breach of contract include but are not limited to:

- failure to meet or make reasonable progress toward achievement of the content standards or pupil performance standards identified in the contract,
- failure to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management
- violating any provision of law from which the charter school was not specifically exempted.

Describe any possible Breach of Contract Concerns that have been brought forward this school year: No concerns were brought to the APC Board by KPBSD.

Remedies for the possible Breach of Contracts described above: None

Section 2: Charter School Review by APC

Meeting Dates

APC Meeting Dates this school year: 7-30-24, 8-12-24, 9-12-24, 9-17-24, 10-17-24, 10-21-24, 11-05-24, 12-19-24, 1-14-25, 1-31-25, 2-11-25, 3-31-25, 4-7-25, 4-21-25, 5-20-25

Policies & Goals: Reflections on the committee's policies and goals: The APC reviews policies throughout the year as concerns by the staff are brought to them.

Recommendations for next year: The APC wants to have Mr. McCanna notify them of every contract that is being implemented.

Budget: KPBSD Charter school budgets are developed using the Average Daily Membership (ADM) of the school entered into the State of Alaska foundation formula to determine that amount of funding. The Finance department reviews all finance transactions. The Charter schools budgets are developed during the preliminary budget process based on projected enrollment and then adjusted after the 20 day student count that takes place in the Fall of each year. ABC will be rolling over 10% of the budget.

Any Budget Concerns from APC: The timing of the funding has affected Aurora's ability to post open positions.

Enrollment:

Enrollment this Year: Enrollment updates were addressed in every APC meeting in the Administrator Report to the board. October count was 199 students. End of the year count was 195 students. Enrollment in the Fall should be 199 again. Students were not added mid-year.

Enrollment Concerns: None

Curricula:

Curriculum Concerns: Saxon math is currently scheduled to stop printing in 12/31/2027 according to Debra White, the Alaska Account Executive for HMH. Our language arts curriculum, Journeys, is also going out of print and thus we will need to start looking at a possible replacement for the 2026-27 school year. A curriculum review team will be put together to review possible Language Arts curriculums.

Activities

Co-Curricular Activities: ABC had a cross-country team, an A and B basketball team for girls and boys. Students went to KMS and NMHS for Track. We competed in Future Problem Solving, Battle of the Books, Lego Robotics and the Science Olympiad.

Reflections on Activities: No concerns were brought up.

Academic Performance

Review of Academic Performance: AK Star Math: ABC 90% Proficiency; KPBSD 37% Proficiency; AK Star LA: ABC 70% Proficiency; KPBSD 36% Proficiency. mCLASS and NWEA MAP benchmarking data was done and reviewed in the Fall, Winter and Spring. Intervention data was compiled weekly by the classroom teacher and the Interventionist. Classroom assessment data was reviewed by classroom teachers and administration.

List Academic Performance Concerns: Language arts is always the lowest of our scores. Not a concern, but an area the staff will be reviewing to determine specific areas where instruction can improve.

Policies and Goals: (Reflections on the committee's policies and goals)

The implantation of the school mission is the goal of the school each year. Recognizing a Student of the Month using our new Foundation Stones was reported as a positive change by staff and parents.

Stakeholder Feedback

Review of Feedback: Survey Monkey entitled "Parent Feedback for Mr. McCanna's Evaluation" was reviewed. There is a Parent/Staff Comment section at the beginning and at the end of every APC meeting. Feedback from parents is usually provided to teachers and the administrator through phone calls and e-mails.

Other Areas of Discussion:



APC Chair Signature:

Date: 5-23-2025



Charter School Administrator Signature

Date: 5-23-2025



KPBSD Charter School Committee Chair Signature:

Date: 6/2/2025

Charter School Annual Review Form

Charter School: Fireweed Academy

Year: 2024-2025

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- failure to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management
- violating any provision of law from which the charter school was not specifically exempted.

Describe any possible Breach of Contract Concerns that have been brought forward this school year: {Describe any concerns that were brought to the attention of the APC or the KPBSD School Board.} **None.**

Remedies for the possible Breach of Contracts described above: {Write 'None' if no remedies where described by the district or if none where needed.} **None.**

Section 2: Charter School Review by APC

Meeting Dates

APC Meeting Dates this school year:

September 5th

October 3rd

November 7th

December 5th

January 9th

February 6th

March 6th

April 3rd

May 1st

Policies and Goals

Reflections on the committee's policies and goals: **This year our APC adopted a technology policy, revised our bylaws, and made work strides towards our charter renewal process in FY27. There was also significant work done by the One Campus Dream committee, which will soon be taken over by the Friends of Fireweed Academy (FoFA) nonprofit.**

Recommendations for next year: **Next year's primary focus will be on the charter renewal process.**

Budget: KPBSD Charter school budgets are developed using the Average Daily Membership (ADM) of the school entered into the State of Alaska foundation formula to determine that amount of funding. The Finance department reviews all finance transactions. The Charter schools budgets are developed during the preliminary budget process based on projected enrollment and then adjusted after the 20 day student count that takes place in the Fall of each year.

Any Budget Concerns from APC: **None**

Enrollment:

Enrollment this Year: **107**

Enrollment Concerns: **While there are no specific concerns, we would like to see enrollment at or above 105 for next school year**

Curricula:

Curriculum Concerns: **None**

Activities

Co-Curricular Activities: **K-2 MakerSpace afterschool art program in**

**collaboration with Homer Council on the Arts, Girls on the Run,
Collaboration with WHE for 3-6 afterschool sports**

Reflections on Activities: We would love to see our afterschool programming increase and are working alongside the Homer-based initiative 'Planet Youth' to make this a reality.

Academic Performance

Review of Academic Performance: NWA MAP assessments/AK Star, Aimsweb+ Math, and mCLASS ELA.

**List Academic Performance Concerns:
None.**

Stakeholder Feedback

Review of Feedback: {What feedback did the APC receive and review from stakeholders? How was the feedback received; by using Survey Monkey, paper surveys, Hanover, etc....} Open meetings, monthly 'Coffee w/APC' sessions, Surveys via Google Forms or printed, 'Fireweed Feedback' Google Form.

Other Areas of Discussion:

Tessa Sullivan
APC Chair Signature:

Date: 4/17/25

[Signature]
Charter School Administrator Signature

Date: 4/17/25

[Signature]
KPBSD Charter School Committee Chair Signature:

Date: 6/2/25

Charter School Annual Review Form

Charter School: Kaleidoscope Charter School Year: 2024-2025

Purpose of this Form: Pursuant to the State of Alaska Charter School law (AS 14.03.255(b) (4)), the Academic Policy Committee shall meet with administration at least six times annually to monitor progress in achieving the committee's policies and goals in accordance with Kenai Peninsula Borough School District AR 6187. Pursuant to Kenai Peninsula School Board Policy 6187: this report will include information on the attainment of student performance expectations, meetings of the governing bodies of the charter school, descriptions of charter school activities, and other information of interest to the local School Board.

Section 1: Breach of Contract

Describe any possible Breach of Contract Concerns that have been brought forward this school year:

- Communicating and performing board business through email, beyond just scheduling meetings.
- Bylaw review process.

Remedies for the possible Breach of Contracts described above:

- Continue to receive training on Robert's Rules and review periodically to ensure no violation is occurring.
- Taking proper steps to ensure bylaws are changed only with processes that have been established.

Section 2: Charter School Review by APC

Meeting Dates

- August 20, 2024 @ 4:00 PM
- September 10, 2024 @ 4:15 PM
- October 8, 2024 @ 4:15 PM
- November 5, 2024 @ 4:15 PM
- January 7, 2025 @ 4:15 PM
- January 28, 2025 @ 4:30 PM-Budget Work Session
- February 4, 2025 @ 4:15 PM
- March 4, 2025 @ 4:15 PM
- March 18, 2025 @ 4:00 PM
- April 8, 2025 @ 4:15 PM
- May 6, 2025 @ 4:15 PM

Policies and Goals

This year the KSAS APC followed the policies previously established and signed. In September 26, 2024; members participated in a board training, with other local charter school with AASB staff leading the training at the Kenai Public Library. The intent for the remainder of the year was to focus on the SDP goals as a group and the KSAS 5-year strategic plan goals that were established in May of 2023. However, the focus became administrative evaluation flowchart with work sessions from December until the remainder of the year focusing on this process.

Recommendations for next year: The APC will continue to build upon the strategic goals, provide board training for new board members to ensure everyone on the board has the tools necessary to help us achieve our goals. Additionally, the board plans to review the bylaws that are currently set in place.

Budget: KPBSD Charter school budgets are developed using the Average Daily Membership (ADM) of the school entered into the State of Alaska foundation formula to determine that amount of funding. The Finance department reviews all finance transactions. The Charter schools budgets are developed during the preliminary budget process based on projected enrollment and then adjusted after the 20 day student count that takes place in the Fall of each year.

Any Budget Concerns from APC: Over staffing of the school and the large percentage of specials education students in the school (over 25%) has forced us to have to dive deep into our rollover funds. The APC and administrator will need to look into reducing staff due to PTR and over staffing classroom teachers. The administrator will also need to ensure that we are able to meet the needs of students as a charter school, as we are resource based program for special education services and have stretched our budget and staffing to try to meet the needs of multiple intensive needs students.

Enrollment:

Enrollment this Year: 205

Enrollment Concerns: Tulen Charter School, which is down the road from our school, will continue to be a challenge for Kaleidoscope, as we typically have 50% of our students enroll from their preschool program.

Staffing and Funding and Advertising: Overstaffed in classrooms, which greatly affected our budget. Advertising efforts continued and were effective to reach a wide range of the community.

Curricula:

Curriculum Concerns: AK Reads Act was a concern and how that would affect our charter with our integrated curriculum. All but 2 teachers have completed the required training that needs to be completed by July 2025.

With our benchmark scores in January, the district team recommended we immediately implement UFLI, as a Tier 1 (classroom instruction) need was identified.

Singapore Math: Teachers started using a new math curriculum last year that was selected by a math committee and shared out to the staff. Teachers met at the start of the year to discuss continued professional development for this program. The grade levels teams all chose to meet as grade level teams during our in-service days in September and October to review the program, dive-deep and prepare for the year.

Activities

Co-Curricular Activities: Running Club (fall)

Reflections on Activities: The stipend cost was greater than participation of the event.

Academic Performance

Review of Academic Performance: We reviewed benchmark scores with individual teachers and the ITeam during data days in September and January. These discussion helped us move forward with interventions for students and the requirements for the state through the AK Reads Act. Additionally, the data received from Report Card to the Public and AK Star data was shared with staff and the school community. Our school was identified by the State as an Assisted School of Improvement. The school has and will continue to work closely with the district to ensure our 3 year plan for improvement is implemented and monitored.

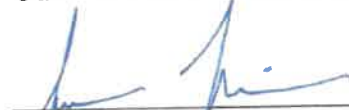
List Academic Performance Concerns: Reading.

Our students were making very little growth in language arts, as shown on our MClass benchmark testing. After a tier 1 needs was identified in a specific grade level, we implemented UFLI (K-2) and Phonics for Reading (3-5).

Stakeholder Feedback

Review of Feedback: Only an electronic survey was sent to stakeholders and no responses were given. The APC should consider going back to the paper copies so we have information about the school from our stakeholders and it is accessible to all of our school community.

Other Areas of Discussion: NONE



APC Chair Signature:

Date: 04/08/25



Charter School Administrator Signature

Date: 4/8/25



KPBSD Charter School Committee Chair Signature:

Date: 6/2/25

Charter School Annual Review Form

Charter School: Soldotna Montessori Charter School Year: 2024-2025

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Describe any possible Breach of Contract Concerns that have been brought forward this school year:

No Breach of Contract concerns were raised in the 2024-2025 school year.

Remedies for the possible Breach of Contracts described above:

None.

Section 2: Charter School Review by APC

Meeting Dates

APC Meeting Dates this school year:

- August 29, 2024
- September 19, 2024 (Gen. Membership)
- September 26, 2024 (APC Training @ Kenai Library 9:30-3:15)
- October 17, 2024
- November 14, 2024
- December 12, 2024
- January 23, 2025
- April 24, 2025
- May 15, 2025

Policies and Goals:

Reflections on the committee's policies and goals:

Current Goal: *By May 2025, the APC will have completed oversight of the SMCS Charter Renewal effort resulting in a final draft ready for presentation to the school board for approval in the fall.*

Reflection – The APC was apprised of the SMCS charter renewal application progress at the November 14, January 23 and April 24 APC Meetings. The final draft proposal of the Charter application renewal was presented at the May 15 APC meeting for bringing forward to the KPBSD Charter School Oversight Committee for final review in the fall prior to submission to the KPBSD Board. The APC met the goal of ensuring the charter renewal application was completed in time for the fall 2025 deadline.

APC Role & Responsibilities:

- *The APC conducted an annual review of the administrator in coordination with the KPBSD Superintendent evaluation of the administrator, and voted to retain the administrator.*
- *Reviewed APC goal and determined APC successful achievement of goal by hearing statements from APC members at May 15, 2025 meeting.*
- *An ongoing practice of the APC is to financially support staff in Montessori certification. The APC has authorized use of school funds to pay for two staff members to gain their Montessori certification in the past three years. The APC is pleased to note that April Dixon completed her Montessori certification through the Center For Guided Montessori Studies, achieving a MACTE (Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education) accreditation recognized by the American Montessori Society. She completed both the Elementary I (Ages 6-9) and Elementary II (Ages 9-12) programs; This is a course length of 26 months and also required time traveling and training outside of Alaska. Currently, Rachel DeRaeve, is completing her Montessori certification also through the Center For Guided Montessori Studies.*

Recommendations for next year:

The APC will be using the May APC meeting to discuss possible future APC goals. Some options for considerations are:

- *SMCS Policy Review*
- *Develop an APC New Member Orientation*
- *Develop an APC Annual Training Schedule*
- *Improve principal annual review process to include a measurable goal.*

Budget: KPBSD Charter school budgets are developed using the Average Daily Membership (ADM) of the school entered into the State of Alaska foundation formula to

determine that amount of funding. The Finance department reviews all finance transactions. The Charter schools budgets are developed during the preliminary budget process based on projected enrollment and then adjusted after the 20 day student count that takes place in the Fall of each year.

Any Budget Concerns from APC:

There were no budgetary concerns raised by APC or by members of the public in APC meetings. The APC would like a BSA increase to occur at the state level, which would benefit all schools including SMCS.

Enrollment:

Enrollment this Year: 164 maintaining 100% capacity over multiple years

Enrollment Concerns: Our waitlist is larger than our enrollment capacity. We continue to be concerned that we are turning families away from a school of choice that serves district families. Our waitlist increased again this year from 218 to 235. It is possible that we could double our school size and have waitlist numbers persist, but we lack space to grow.

Curricula:

Curriculum Concerns: Aware that the Alaska Reads Act will continue to be impactful in delivering reading instruction and satisfied that DEED has approved the SMCS Core reading program, through the MTSS process (which includes Montessori materials), SMCS is still developing complimentary programming that is not inherent in the Montessori materials. Teachers will pilot complimentary supporting materials in subsequent school years. The APC will be reviewing program recommendations from SMCS staff and will choose to adopt or not adopt developing Montessori language arts complementary components.

Activities:

Co-Curricular Activities:

- *International Day of Peace Night*
- *School Garden & Farmers Market*
- *Craft Night*
- *Winter Program Concert*
- *Concert Band & Choir Concert*
- *Community Service Outreach*
 - *4th Grade Kindness Brigade - Positive Community Messages*
 - *5th Grade Visits to the Food Bank*
 - *6th Grade Heritage Place Visits*
- *Food Pantry*
- *Lego Robotics*
- *Battle of the Books*
- *Scripps Spelling Bee*
- *KPBSD Forensics Competition*
- *Modern Band Concert*
- *School Family Field Day/Picnic*
- *Art Night*

Reflections on Activities: The school held its annual International Day of Peace night, which provided an opportunity for students, together with their parents, to choose the flag of a country, color it, and write a message of peace for display in our hallway. We also shared a meal and sang our traditional "One Voice" song together.

The school participated in Lego Robotics. Approximately 30 students attended the after school robotics club. SMCS had a school winning team compete at the Kenai Qualifier. The team was recognized for the Motivate Award, "a team that embraces the culture of the First LEGO League through team building, team spirit, and enthusiasm."

SMCS held Battle of the Books sessions for students in grades 1-6. We had 40 students participate. Our grades 3-4 team and grade 5-6 team participated in the district Battle of the Books competition. Liam Toews won the school spelling bee, and qualified for the state spelling bee competition by making it through the regional qualifier.

SMCS had 10 students place in our school-level Forensics competition due to the canceled district competition, we were only able to hold a school level event students who were place winners at the competition: 1st: Simon Williams, Brooklynn Bott, Liam Toews, and Nathan Nelson; 2nd: Libby Toews, Dylan Duffy, and Alyson Evans; 3rd: Isabella Munoz, and Escher Nash.

The SMCS garden was maintained over the summer and resulted in a harvest that provided for the school Farmers' Market, which is open to the public. The market was carried out by students in Mrs. Dixon's class in October. The garden was prepped and planted again in May 2025 for harvest in fall of the 2025-2026 school year.

SMCS Intermediate students carried out their annual 3rd quarter community outreach efforts. This year the 4th grade students continued as a "Kindness Brigade" providing positive/encouraging messages in the community by decorating and sharing positive messages; this year they continued this effort on insulated coffee sleeves that were supplied to area coffee vendors. The 5th grade students visited and volunteered at the Food Bank in support for lunch service or stocking food. The 6th grade students visited Heritage Place and spent time with residents there.

The SMCS food pantry continues to operate, and is filled daily by SMCS students. The students have placed 1413.7 lbs. of food in the food pantry to feed community members in need this school year from August 27 to May 6.

The SMCS Quest students participated in the Mind-a-mazes competition, the Film Festival, and TriMathlon. A SMCS team took 2nd place at the MAM competition.

This was our first year having a Student Leadership Committee. The committee was made up of one 3, 4, 5, and 6th grader from each class for a total of 12 students. The committee met monthly. The SLC organized school spirit days, two whole-school movie viewing events, assisted with the kindergarten balloon parade, and developed an "Idea Box" for getting student input. The SLC also made progress in: developing and posting school 4-square rules, gaining placement of a water bottle filler closer to classrooms, and securing authentic flags for capture the flag.

Academic Performance:

Review of Academic Performance: SMCS staff reviewed our 23-24 STAR, MAPS, and mClass academic data and Hanover SEL data during the August 19, 2024 in-service. Staff consider the following questions during the review:

- Data may provide obvious focus area(s)*
- What observed needs might be goals that can be simply addressed, monitored, and measured?*
- Can we target goals to mesh with school direction? (Conscious/Positive Discipline, Montessori Growth, Community Outreach, Science of Reading, Etc.)*

The results of this data review led the staff to develop a School Development Plan goal for math: By May 2025, All students in grades 3-6 will meet or exceed their Spring projected Math growth RIT score as measured by the Winter or Spring MAP Math assessment.

Staff engaged in review of student benchmark and academic performance during the following Data Days, September 10, 2024 and January 14, 2025. Staff reviewed mClass (reading), AimsWeb (math) and MAPS (reading, language arts, and math) data and student performance to establish instructional decisions for Quest, Intervention and Special Services. Students received updated instructional plans because of this review.

Staff also reviewed student performance data for in-class work at monthly team collaboration days, weekly during PLC meeting times.

The APC reviewed school academic performance data at the May 2024 and October 2024 APC meetings. They also reviewed principal survey data at the December 2024 APC meeting. Additionally, they will review Spring Benchmark Academic Performance Data and Hanover SEL data at the May 2025 APC meeting.

Attached to this document is a summary of the school data for the year for academics as well as the data provided by the 23-24 Hanover survey. The data was reviewed and shared with the APC at the May 2025 APC meeting.

List Academic Performance Concerns: Based on the data, our academic concerns are in various areas. We have relative strengths and weaknesses among every grade. Noteworthy is that Grade 3 is the first time students take the MAPS benchmark battery and the assessment format is novel, lengthy, and rigorous resulting in the lowest scores in all subject areas among grades 3-6 on the MAPS assessment.

Reading is an overall strength with an average of an 86% proficiency rate among K-3 grade students on the mClass reading assessment with 25%+ being considered proficient, and an average of a 96% proficiency rate among 4-6 grade students on the MAPS reading assessment with 25%+ being considered proficient. However, student reading growth data is the lowest among subject areas in MAPS Fall 24/25 to Spring 24/25 (42% growth) and Spring 23/24 to Spring 24/25 (63% growth). PERFORMANCE CONCERN - Low Reading Growth Scores

Math is also an overall strength with an average of an 80% proficiency rate among K-2 grade students on the AimsWeb math assessment with 25%+ being considered proficient (also the overall average proficiency rates went from 72% proficient in 23/24 to 80% proficient in 24/25), and an average of an 87% proficiency rate among 4-6 grade students on the MAPS math assessment with 25%+ being considered proficient. Additionally, student math growth data is the highest among subject areas in MAPS Fall 24/25 to Spring 24/25 (83% growth) and Spring 23/24 to Spring 24/25 (76% growth). Grade 3 was the lowest performing grade at 63% proficient on the spring MAPS math assessment. PERFORMANCE CONCERN - Grade 3 Math Achievement Scores on MAPS Math Assessment

Language Arts is only measured in grades 3-6 is an overall weakness with the lowest achievement scores with an average of an 83% proficiency rate among 4-6 grade students on the MAPS language arts assessment with 25%+ being considered proficient. Grade 3 was the lowest performing grade at 54% proficient on the spring MAPS language arts assessment. Additionally, language arts growth scores were only marginally better than the reading growth scores with language arts growth scores Fall 24/25 to Spring 24/25 (49% growth) and Spring 23/24 to Spring 24/25 (66% growth). PERFORMANCE CONCERN - Lowest Achievement Scores for Grade 3-6 and Low Growth Scores

Overall - Language Arts is the largest performance concern for grades 3-6. It is notable that grade 3 performance is the lowest, but must take into account that it is the first time students take the MAPS benchmark battery and the assessment format is novel, lengthy, and rigorous resulting in the lowest scores in all subject areas among grades 3-6 on the MAPS assessment. The school will likely focus on Language arts performance in the 25-26 school year. For Reading and possibly Math, the school will also increase the proficiency standard from 25%+ to 40%+ for reading and math. The proficiency standard will be supported by tiered intervention support for students in the 1%-40% range (1%-25% - Tier 3 & 26-40% - Tier 2).

Stakeholder Feedback:

Review of Feedback:

Feedback was gained through three sources. The principal evaluation survey prepared and evaluated by the APC using a Google form; a school survey prepared and shared by the principal using a Google form, and the 2023-24 Hanover student survey (grade 3-6), prepared by the district and delivered by teachers. Additionally, a separate special school survey was prepared and delivered to SMCS parents regarding a possible school facility move and consideration for school expansion to include Pre-K, Middle School (Grades 7 & 8) and additional K-6 grades.

The APC reviewed the Principal Evaluation survey at the December 2024 APC meeting. The APC reviewed the special school survey data at the April 2025 APC meeting, The School Survey data and 23-24 Hanover data is reviewed at the May 2025 APC meeting.

Principal Evaluation Review:

The data reviewed by the APC in December resulted in issuing a contract to the principal. Survey results regarding the principal performance were positive.

Special Survey Review:

The data reviewed by the APC in April resulted in continuing to include a middle school option in the Charter School Renewal Application, in agreement with the survey results.

School Survey Review:

Community - 0 Responses

Comments: The school received zero submissions from the community on this survey. Informal communications from community members are positive and express a favorable view of the school.

Parents - 32 Responses

Comments: When asked how often they participate/communicate with the school each month 69% reported 1-5 times, 22% reported 6-10 times, 3% reported 11-15 times, 3% reported 16-20 times, and 3% reported 21+ times. Of those reporters, 100% stated they are greeted, 97% stated staff listens to their concerns, and 100% indicated that their student has had a positive learning experience. 91% stated that communication from the school is "Great," 6% said it was "Okay," and 3% said "Could be better."

The bulk of open ended comments expresses that parents like the family feel, friendly staff, the kindness that exists among all members, Learning outside school walls, a positive climate, the Montessori approach, the staff's passion for students, the class sizes, differentiated instruction, communication, community mindedness, welcoming environment,

and positive communication between students. Other comments included an appreciation for the location, multi-age, and engaged parents.

Open ended recommendations for improvement by the state & district were: Increased funding for schools (BSA), Facilities improvements (New facilities needed), and healthier school meals had the most comments, other improvements were increased student support for ADHD students, A new school board, holding admin accountable for failing classrooms, holde teachers students accountable for poor testing, 4 day school week, increase teacher pay, more PE/Recess, support for Art/Music, don't lower standards, increased science theory and reasoning instruction, and let Montessori school be a model for district.

Open ended recommendations for improvement specific to the school were: New/bigger building not tied to SOEL, more space for school/classrooms, adding pre-K, middle school, and high school to SMCS, keep high standards for students, emphasize healthy food options and physical activity, and communicate beginning of the year events or hold open house in addition to stop-by-say-hi and Peace Night.

Hanover Student Survey Review:

The 2023-24 Hanover data reviewed by the APC in May resulted in noting areas of school strength and areas for possible focus for improvement.

Other Areas of Discussion:

The school was recognized as a 2025 U.S. News & World Report Best Elementary Schools Public & Charter, demonstrating that the school continues to thrive and performs at a high level, garnering recognition from entities that monitor school performance. This is the second year in a row for this recognition.

As noted in the APC Policies & Goals section, April Dixon completed her Montessori certification through the Center For Guided Montessori Studies, achieving a MACTE (Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education) accreditation recognized by the American Montessori Society. She completed both the Elementary I (Ages 6-9) and Elementary II (Ages 9-12) programs. In addition, Dara Friday, and Jan Marquis completed their Montessori Assistance training and received a certification from the National Center for Montessori in the Public Sector. Currently, all classified staff have their Montessori assistant's certification. Rachel DeRaeve is completing her Montessori Certification with a MACTE accredited institution and will be completed in 2026. SMCS has two classroom teachers who are not Montessori certified and are not currently enrolled in a Montessori certification program. The school has two additional certified staff, who provide intervention and physical education instruction and are not prioritized to gain a Montessori certification.

The school community is very concerned about facility placement stability as two factors now cause concern for our families. Recently the KPBSD board considered closing and consolidating schools, which had the possibility of displacing our school from its current location. This was a huge concern for our current families. Additionally, the school community continues to be discouraged by the extensive delay in gaining a new facility location as part of the 2022 bond initiative that was passed by voters. There is limited transparency about why this process is so delayed and gives the appearance that the bond, and more specifically Soldotna Montessori Charter School is not a priority, despite a steering committee development. It is hoped that definitive direction and action is confirmed and shared publicly so that future facility placement is established and secure.

SMCS continues to enjoy high demand from the community as evident by the growing waitlist. We have grown from a waitlist of 178 in 2023 to a waitlist of 244 in 2025, while maintaining our current enrollment of 165 students. The SMCS APC continues to urge the KPBSD school board and leadership to consider options for allowing the school to expand due to demand. The APC is disappointed that many families are turned away from a school of choice due to limitation of space allocated to the school. Additionally, the school is looking into the feasibility of adding middle school grades (7th & 8th grades). We are including an option to develop this level in our charter renewal application, which will be put forward in the fall of 2025.



APC Chair Signature:

Date: May 15, 2025



Charter School Administrator Signature

Date: 5/15/2025



KPBSD Charter School Committee Chair Signature:

Date: 6/2/2025