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**Denali Borough Assembly  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
Virtual Meeting  
September 9, 2020**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Presiding Officer Jared Zimmerman called the public hearing to order at 6:02 PM.

**ORDINANCE 20-15: LOCAL OPTION ZONING**

Panguingue Creek area resident Susan Braun described some concerns for Ordinance 20-15: Local Option Zoning.

**ORDINANCE 20-16: CONDITIONAL LAND USE**

There were no comments.

**REGULAR MEETING**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Presiding Officer Jared ZIMMERMAN called the regular meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

**ROLL CALL**

Assembly members present: Jake HILL, Lisa MINER, Jared ZIMMERMAN, Tallon SHREEVE, Joe CHATFIELD, Jeff STENGER and Krista ZAPPONE. Absent: Jill BOELSMA and Eileen HOLMES. Mayor Clay Walker was also present.

Jake HILL MOVED to excuse Assembly member BOELSMA and Assembly member HOLMES. The motion was seconded. The VOTE by show of hands and voice confirmation was unanimous.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Vanessa Juszczak with the Denali Chamber of Commerce provided the attached written comment. (ATTACHMENT A)

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Jake HILL MOVED to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded. The VOTE by show of hands and voice confirmation to approve the agenda was unanimous.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**AUGUST 5, 2020 MINUTES**

Jake HILL MOVED to approve the minutes from the August 5, 2020 Work Session, Public Hearing and Regular Meeting. The motion was seconded. The VOTE by show of hands and voice confirmation was unanimous.

1 **REPORTS**

2 **PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT**

3 Mayor Clay Walker reported that the Planning Commission will continue their walking work  
4 sessions by exploring the Slate Creek parcel of Denali Borough lands and reviewing the  
5 land related issues specific to that area at their August meeting.

6  
7 **EMERGENCY PLANNER REPORT**

8 Emergency Planner Chris Noel verbally highlighted information provided in the attached  
9 written report (ATTACHMENT B).

10  
11 **SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT**

12 Superintendent Dan Polta verbally highlighted information provided in the attached written  
13 report (ATTACHMENT C).

14  
15 **MAYOR REPORT**

16 Mayor Clay Walker verbally highlighted information provided in the attached written report  
17 (ATTACHMENT D).

18  
19 **CARES ACT PROGRAMS REPORT**

20 Mayor Clay Walker verbally highlighted information specific to Cares Act Programs provided  
21 in the attached written Mayor Report (Appendix D).

22  
23 **ASSEMBLY COMMENTS**

24 Assembly members thanked those that provide reports and expressed appreciation for our  
25 communities and our schools.

26  
27 **COMMUNICATION AND APPEARANCE REQUEST**

28 There were no communication and appearance requests.

29  
30 **DRAFT ORDINANCES**

31 **ORDINANCE 20-17: DENALI BOROUGH CODE CHAPTER 3.25 TITLED OVERNIGHT  
32 ACCOMMODATIONS TAX**

33 Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to introduce Ordinance 20-17. The motion was seconded.

34  
35 Mayor Walker reviewed the proposed changes to Chapter 3.25 including the voter approved  
36 tax increase from 7% to 7 ½%.

37  
38 The roll call VOTE to introduce Ordinance 20-17 was unanimous.

39  
40 Jake HILL MOVED to postpone Ordinance 20-17. The motion was seconded. The VOTE by  
41 show of hands and voice confirmation to postpone was unanimous.

42  
43 **PENDING ORDINANCES**

1 **ORDINANCE 20-15: DENALI BOROUGH CODE CHAPTER 9.15 - LOCAL OPTION**  
2 **ZONING**

3 Jake HILL MOVED to postpone Ordinance 20-15 and to hold a work session prior to the  
4 November assembly meeting to discuss and review expressed concerns about this  
5 ordinance in more detail. The motion was seconded.

6  
7 The roll call VOTE to postpone passed 6 to 1 with ZIMMERMAN opposed.

8  
9 **ORDINANCE 20-16: DENALI BOROUGH CODE CHAPTER 9.15 - CONDITIONAL LAND**  
10 **USE**

11 Jake HILL MOVED to approve Ordinance 20-16. The motion was seconded.

12  
13 The roll call VOTE to approve Ordinance 20-16 was unanimous.

14  
15 **RESOLUTIONS**

16 **RESOLUTION 20-15: DENALI BOROUGH RECORDS MANAGEMENT SCHEDULE OF**  
17 **DISPOSAL**

18 Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to approve Resolution 20-15. The motion was seconded.

19  
20 The roll call VOTE to approve was unanimous

21  
22 **RESOLUTION 20-16: SUPPORTING THE CRUISE INDUSTRY**

23 Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to approve Resolution 20-16. The motion was seconded.

24  
25 Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to amend Resolution 20-16 by adding the words “safe return” in  
26 the title of the resolution. The motion was seconded.

27  
28 The VOTE by show of hands and voice confirmation to amend Resolution 20-16 was  
29 unanimous.

30  
31 The roll call VOTE to approve Resolution 20-16 as amended was unanimous.

32  
33 **OTHER BUSINESS**

34  
35 **APPROVE THE 2020 DENALI BOROUGH ELECTION BOARD JUDGES AND**  
36 **COMPENSATION**

37 Tallon SHREEVE MOVED to approve the Denali Borough Election Board and  
38 compensation. The motion was seconded.

39  
40 The VOTE by show of hands and voice confirmation to approve was unanimous.

41

1 **SET DATE FOR CANVASS COMMITTEE MEETING: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2020 AT**  
2 **THE DENALI BOROUGH OFFICE AT 9:00 AM**

3 Jake HILL MOVED to set the date for the Canvass Committee meeting for Monday,  
4 November 9, 2020 at the Denali Borough Office at 9:00 AM. The motion was seconded.

5  
6 The VOTE by show of hands and voice confirmation to approve was unanimous.  
7

8 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

9 There were no public comments.  
10

11 **ASSEMBLY COMMENTS**

12 Assembly members commented on the following:

- 13 • Thanked the public for comments.
- 14 • Thanked staff for reports and information.
- 15 • Appreciates seeing progress on some agenda items that have been discussed for  
16 many years.
- 17 • Encouraged the public to stay safe through this pandemic.  
18

19 **TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

20 Upcoming assembly meetings will be virtual on the following dates and times:  
21

- 22 • Wednesday, September 23, 2020 at 6:00 PM  
23 Work Session Virtual Meeting regarding a Denali Borough Addressing System  
24
- 25 • Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at 6:00 PM  
26 Public Hearing and Regular Virtual Meeting  
27

28 **ADJOURN:**

29 Jake HILL MOVED to adjourn. The motion was seconded. The meeting was adjourned by  
30 unanimous voice vote at 8:14 PM.  
31  
32

33 APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
34 Jared Zimmerman, Presiding Officer  
35  
36

37 ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
38 Amber Renshaw, Borough Clerk  
39

40 Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

## Chamber comment

Amber Renshaw <arenschow@denaliborough.com>

Wed 9/9/2020 4:52 PM

To: Amber Renshaw <arenschow@denaliborough.com>

I'm not feeling very great.

Could you possibly read this at tonight's meeting?

Denali Chamber of Commerce

\* My focus lately has been on business support, outreach and work associated with various aspects of the Denali Recovery Alliance.

Projections are currently estimating recovery to pre-Covid-19 travel levels at approximately 4 years. Of course, this is based on a large amount of projection- there is still much uncertainty regarding border openings, the cruise industry and international travel.

Many businesses who remained operational this year, will not be able to financially weather another year, so our local economy is by no means out of the woods.

If you haven't been to

our website in awhile, we encourage you to visit. We have added a new community page, as well as a real estate page and a relocation page, for those moving to the Denali Borough.

Much of this is in response to needs identified in the Denali Borough Economic Recovery Plan, which we are still accepting feedback on.

Discover Denali, Visitor Center

\* We have opened enrollment for the Visitor Center, and established a fee for services provided.

We are in the process of establishing a new database and website, to help visitors learn about the Borough as a whole, and encourage exploration of our area in addition to DNP.

Everything should be operational prior to Jan 1.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

## MEMO

**To:** Denali Borough Assembly Members

**From:** Chris Noel, Emergency Manager

**Date:** September 9, 2020

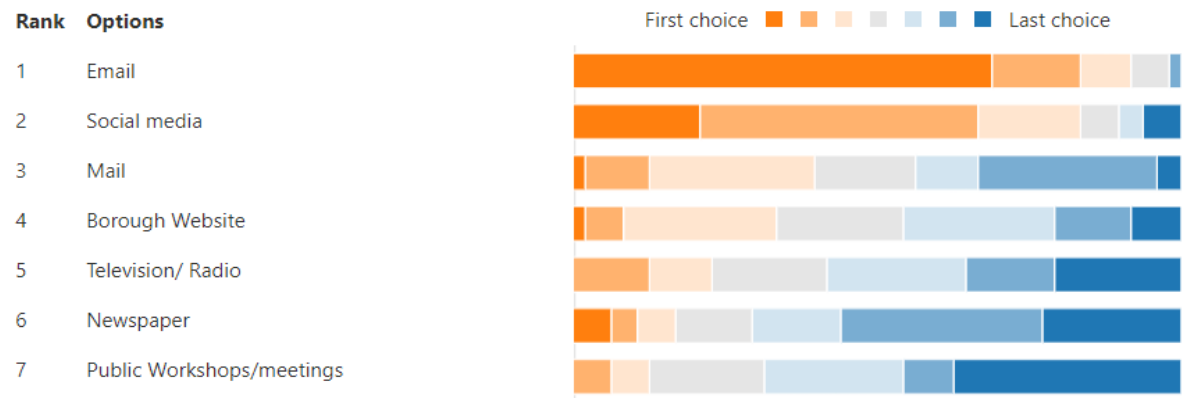
**Re:** COVID-19 emergency planning update

- Congratulations to the Denali Borough school district on hitting the two-week mark back to school, for many in person. It is not without incredible adaptation and perseverance on the part of students, families, and district staff. I want to also acknowledge and offer support to families who opted into a different schooling model this year- what a change this has likely placed on the family, keep up the strong work.
- RN Anne Barker spent time putting together informational packets to send to a variety of local businesses and houses of worship. This included some stickers, "Mask Up Alaska" style informational flyers, and information about the community testing program. Supply levels are robust and local businesses are welcome to set up regular employee screening for COVID-19.
- I participated in a Statewide ECHO call regarding the COVID-19 vaccine. While it is NOT presently available, the state is actively planning for its arrival, distribution, and regular information sharing from the Centers for Disease Control as it arrives. The State is focused on collaborative planning to determine where initial limited supplies of the vaccine will be allocated. They expect an initial small distribution could come as early as November, with larger quantities arriving in 2021. The focus is on providing a vaccine that is both safe and effective. We will continue regular meetings of the Denali Area healthcare provider group and through this coordination, help plan for vaccine distribution through traditional channels (primary care providers, public health, school districts). The States charge to communities and local governments; "Identify barriers to receiving the vaccine and troubleshoot them and consider a point of dispensing plan to boost distribution if and when supplies allow."
- The annual flu vaccine is now available in some locations in Alaska and will be more widely available in October. Please get the vaccine this year and encourage those around you to do the same. This is a small step that helps reduce the incidence of the annual flu, reducing demand on limited healthcare resources, and lessening the impact of missing school and work.

- September is National Preparedness Month. The theme is “Disasters Don’t Wait, Make your plan today.” Consider what disasters might impact your family, and make a plan to communicate following the incident, build a kit to keep in your pantry, and teach those in your household what to do in the event of an emergency.
- Our Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan has received Federal Emergency Management Agency approval. A huge thank you to the 50 plus residents who participated in the Hazard Awareness Survey during the update process, as well as those who contributed during the public meetings. A clip of two of the responses is listed below. The updated plan including the entire survey and results are available on the website at [denaliborough.org/emergency](http://denaliborough.org/emergency).

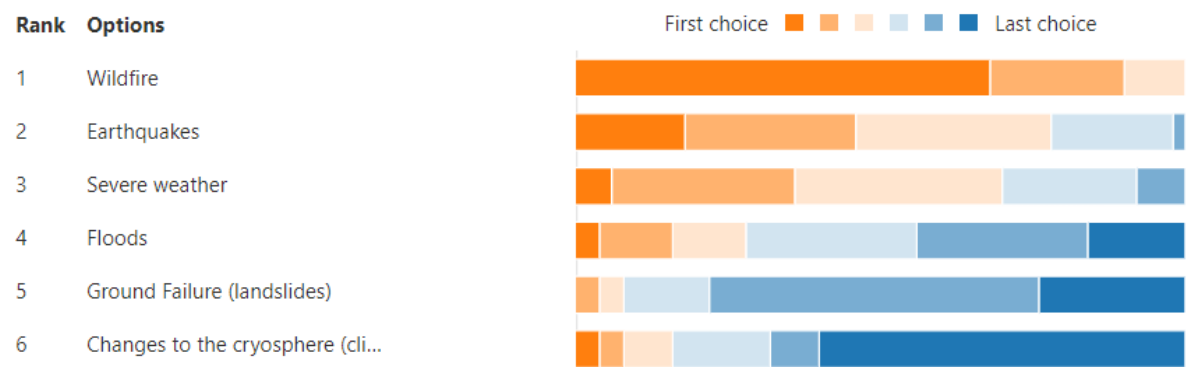
4. What is the most efficient way for you to receive information on emergencies and other Denali Borough topics (please rank in order of best to worst with 1 being the best way to receive information)?

[More Details](#)



5. Which hazards present the greatest risk to you (please rank in order of highest to lowest with 1 being the hazard of most concern to you, followed by the second most hazard of concern, etc.)?

[More Details](#)



## **DENALI BOROUGH**

P.O. Box 480 • Healy, Alaska 99743

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Email: [dbgovt@mtaonline.net](mailto:dbgovt@mtaonline.net)

Website: [www.denaliborough.org](http://www.denaliborough.org)



*Clay Walker, Mayor*

### **September 2020 Mayor's Report to the Denali Borough Assembly**

This report speaks primarily to non-agenda items. Agenda items will be discussed in meeting.

#### **Community COVID-19 Testing Collaboration**

- Free to the public COVID testing is being offered through the Denali Borough at the testing trailer on the west side of the Tri-Valley Community Center parking lot:
  - Monday 9:30 am to 12:30 pm
  - Wednesday 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm
  - Thursday 9:30 am to 12:30 pm
- The borough program has now conducted over 500 COVID tests.
- The month of August saw two positive test results, one asymptomatic resident, one symptomatic non-resident; neither of which, evidently, was contracted here nor resulted in any community transmission.
- Ample testing supplies and the timely filling of additional supply requests lead to continued offering of testing to whomever desires a test.

#### **2020 Virtual Alaska Municipal League Summer Legislative Conference August 10-14**

- This online conference, originally scheduled to be held in Fairbanks, included sessions on Local Transportation Planning, COVID-19 and CARES Act Implementation, a State Budget Deep Dive with the Neil Steininger, the Office of Manager and Budget Director, and a plenary session on Legislative Priorities.
- Guest speakers included Governor Dunleavy, Sen. Murkowski – who included a shout out to the Denali Borough, Senator Sullivan and Congressman Young.
- Among the take-aways:
  - State Budget Deep Dive – 73% of state revenue comes from structured Percent of Market Value draw from the Permanent Fund Earnings Reserve Account, 17% from oil revenue, 10% other revenue.
  - Legislative Priorities – Large state budget deficits (\$2.3 billion gap with a full statutory Permanent Fund Dividend) are likely to result in more cost shifting, or responsibility shifting, from state to municipalities in the years ahead.
  - Federal Transportation Funding – Alaska receives \$732 per person, while Oregon, for example, receives \$132 per person.

#### **Alaska Municipal League's new Fiscal Policy Working Group**

- I have accepted an invitation to participate in this working group. The goal of the group is to advise on sustainable State fiscal policy that minimizes negative impacts to local governments.

## **Great American Outdoors Act Signed into Law August 4, 2020**

- In 2017, the Denali Borough Assembly approved Resolution 17-14, “Encouraging Congress to Create a Reliable, Predictable Stream of Resources to Address Deferred Maintenance Needs in America’s National Park System, Including Denali National Park”. The resolution identified a \$50 million deferred maintenance backlog at Denali National Park, the majority of which was in the Denali Park Road.
- This landmark conservation legislation, which saw bi-partisan support, provides funding to clear the \$12 billion NPS maintenance backlog while also permanently funding the Land Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). Congressman Young, who has worked toward permanently re-authorizing the LWCF for over 20 years, said the LWCF “has been essential to getting America’s families outside to enjoy our natural areas and cultural heritage.”
- Locally and specifically, the funding required to achieve a long-term solution on the Polychrome Landslide area of the Denali Park Road is made possible with the passage of this Act.
- The Assembly supported this effort. I lobbied our Congressional Delegation in support of this effort and have thanked our delegation for their diligent efforts. This is a positive development for the Denali Borough and our long-term economic health.

## **Denali National Park Published the Winter and Shoulder Season Visitor Environmental Assessment (EA) Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)**

- Proposed Actions in the EA, which the Denali Borough provided comment in supported of, are:
  - Allow private vehicle access to the Denali Park Road (Park Road) west of Headquarters to the Teklanika rest area after the first winter weather event of the fall
  - Plow a portion of the Park Road during winter months, up to approximately mile 12 beginning in February
  - Install a seasonal footbridge near Mountain Vista to facilitate access to traditional winter routes
  - Create a connector trail for mushing access at the Mountain Vista rest area
  - Allow commercial guiding for non-motorized winter recreation in some areas of the Denali wilderness
  - Groom trails in the park entrance area, and potential trails in the Nenana River area
  - Allow concessioner transit and tour bus service starting May 10
  - Allow parking on the Park Road west of the Savage River for private vehicles during the shoulder seasons
  - Open the Savage River and Teklanika campgrounds earlier in the spring and later into the fall
  - Install facilities at the Teklanika rest area including parking lines, signs, and informational kiosks

## **Clear Air Force Station (CAFS) Long Range Discrimination Radar (LRDR) Update**

- The Missile Defense Agency has published the Environmental Assessment and the signed Finding of No Significant Impact regarding the proposed performance testing of the LRDR at CAFS. Under evaluation were the potential environmental impacts associated with the Proposed Action to conduct time-constrained performance testing and to limit the use of affected airspace through a Temporary Flight Restriction during testing. The testing periods as proposed are 16 hours daily for 12 to 18 months. The EA and FONSI are available at: <https://www.mda.mil/system/lrdr>.

## **Bison/Antler Trailhead Parking Area Project Update**

- Alaska Department of Transportation (DOT) is carrying out this project primarily funded through a Federal Highways grant program. There is consensus among the project partners (Denali Borough, DOT, and Denali National Park) that the best west side parking site is on the north side of Antler Creek, primarily due to soil characteristics. Poor soils exist nearer Bison Gulch while good gravels are found on the north side of Antler Creek. Also, the more varied upland terrain lends itself to a better trail experience.
- Two parking lot options were presented: 1. A pull out to a traditional separated parking area which would require use of borough entitlement land. 2. A long, narrow strip parking area near the highway and within the existing highway right of way. The option preferred by all partners is the separated parking area, which will require a grant of easement from the borough. Construction timelines vary depending upon the length of the planning and easement process but could happen in 2021.

## **Street Naming Update**

- The Assembly passed the street naming code (Chapter 9.12) last year. Staff has been actively building the borough's street map in the GIS system, including both constructed and platted but currently unconstructed streets. In code, we said there shall be no duplicate street names, so all duplicates were flagged along the way. The "no duplicate" rule was recommended as a standard and contributes to a uniform system. There are far more duplicates than first estimated. Also, for street name suffixes to conform to the uniform standard, many suffixes will need to be changed. The process to work through any street name or suffix changes includes a public process and associated Planning Commission action. The borough is planning to engage this process and take this important step toward street addresses.

## **Revenue Forecast Update**

- As expected due to pandemic mandates and travel restrictions, the final quarter of Fiscal Year 2020, which ended June 30, saw a dramatic decline in overnight accommodations tax revenue. Preliminary numbers show a 96% decline. Overall, the preliminary numbers for FY 2020, which will be finalized and audited in the months ahead, show a more modest net contraction in our financial position, thanks to a robust first quarter of receipts.
- The level of bounce back next visitor season depends upon many factors. I have spoken visitor industry leaders and have heard different levels of 2021 projections. Without cross gulf sailings in 2021, projections are maybe twice the level of visitation we saw this July and August. With cross gulf sailings, we could see a much more significant rebound.

Happy September, happy hunting season. As always, feel free to call me or staff if you have any questions.

Stay well,

Clay



**Superintendent's Report  
Denali Borough Assembly  
Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

Dear Denali Borough Assembly and Mayor Walker,

1. Appreciation/Congratulations

- a. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to get us ready to open our buildings for our students for the first in-person day of school in DBSD since March 13<sup>th</sup>!! From preparing the building, to designing lessons and welcome back activities, to building our remote learning option, the work everyone did provided our students with at least 10 days with their teachers. This is 10 days more than the majority of students in our state so far this school year.
- b. Congratulations to former DBSD Teacher, Tricia Turley. Tricia is the recipient of the 2019 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. Last year, Ms. Turley was recognized as a state finalist for this recognition. In addition to our congratulations, we continue to wish Tricia and her family all the best in their new home and thank her again for her service to our students.
- c. Congratulations to Karen Martin. She was recently notified that her publication along with Ute Kaden has been accepted for publication. Also, she was informed by DEED that she will be provided another grant this year of \$35,000 to support her work establishes the professional teachers' network AKRise. DBSD will continue to support this effort by serving as the fiscal agent as directed by Karen and DEED.

2. Smart Start 2020 -

- a. Health Level Advisory Committee - The Committee has met several times this school year and reviewed case information for the Denali Borough along with statewide trends. This is subject to sudden change on receipt of information on local cases. I am working with our technology department to add a color-coded banner to our district and school websites to help families quickly and easily see our current operating level.
- b. Calendar Approval - DEED approved the revised school calendar which the Board adopted in the summer. This extended summer for students until August 26<sup>th</sup> and places a full week of in-service in October .
- c. Numbers - Based on our actual first day count, our in the building numbers for this year so far are; Anderson - 28, Cantwell - 9, Tri-Valley 115, and

**Mission Statement**

*Nurturing, empowering and inspiring today's student to positively shape tomorrow's world.*

PEAK 1000. Students in Remote learning are also enrolled in their “home school” (as opposed to homeschool) which will increase these numbers slightly for all sites a little bit for state reporting and funding.

- d. Success of Mitigation Efforts - This week I learned of an anecdotal story that reinforces the effectiveness of following multiple mitigation efforts. In the Nome School District, volleyball was holding full day practices prior to the start of school. One of the athletes tested positive for coronavirus after practice one day. Practices were being held following the protocols under ASAA. All 20 team members began a quarantine period. Seven days into the quarantine all players were tested, and all were negative. They completed the remain period of quarantine and are now able to attend school in person.

### 3. Finances

- a. FY20 Audit - We completed the virtual “site visit” for the FY20 Audit. A draft report for administrative review should be provided in September. Altman Rodgers believes that the final audit will be ready for BOD review and submission to DEED within the statutory timelines.
- b. FY21 Budget - Reena and I completed an initial revenue projection for FY21 based on enrollment at the end of last week. Interestingly, the hold harmless provisions in statute is applied prior to considering enrollment in correspondence programs. This limits the reduction in state aid from brick and mortar enrollment while allowing the district to realize gains related to Denali PEAK enrollment. This month we will refine expenses projections especially related to increases in staff numbers and hours and additional allocations for PEAK student allotments. This will begin to provide us a better picture of our overall projections and position for this fiscal year.

### 4. Facilities

- a. Tri-Valley Boiler - The State inspector reviewed the installation work on the boiler controls and approved this work. Interestingly, this analysis from the state inspector was done visually, with the boiler off. We are arranging for Alpine Plumbing and Heating to come in and do operational tests to confirm that the boiler, temperature sensors and controls actually perform as intended.
- b. Anderson Roof Project - We are only waiting on two steel posts to complete the canopy structure to finish phase one of the roof project. Phase two will be completed in summer of 2021.
- c. Server Room Fire Suppression - As part of our work on the fire suppression system we also learned that the air intake for the air conditioning unit that cools this space does not have any air filters. The coil of the AC was packed with dirt and debris. We worked to clean this coil as the AC could not dissipate heat and turns itself off after a matter of minutes. We completed cleaning of the air conditioning unit and it is cooling the room. We want to bring the temperature down a little bit more

but are able to return items to the room. We completed the pressure test for the room and can complete the entire project.

- d. Electrostatic Sprayers - We received two of the five electrostatic sprayers we ordered in the spring. These devices spray an electrically charged mist of disinfectant on surfaces. The ionization allows a super fine mist to cover surfaces easily and quickly and will help us in sanitizing large areas efficiently. As our supplier receives additional units, they will continue to distribute them on a pro-rata basis so that each school district receives some of it order.
- e. Activity Bus - Thank you to Usibelli Coal Mine for helping repair the breaks on the District's activity bus. It is now ready for service.
- f. Building Air Filters - Our new air filters have arrived and we are now working to install these new, higher quality air filters in our HVAC systems.
- g. Automated Door Locks - We are reviewing the final quote on this project and should be able to sign it in the coming week.

## 5. Personnel

### a. Certified Staff

- i. I expanded Kaitlyn Weitzel's teaching role from part-time to full time.
- ii. Denali PEAK enrollment continues to grow, largely with students in the Anchorage and Mat-Su areas, therefore we opened a certified position in this program.
- iii. Due to challenges with providing special education services at Tri-Valley while adhering to our cohorting needs, we opened a special education teaching position at Tri-Valley.

### b. Classified Staff

- i. We hired Nicole Dawn Christensen for one of the open TA positions at Anderson.
- ii. We hired Brenda Ebel for one of the open TA positions at Tri-Valley.
- iii. We hired Susan Carlson for the Remote Learning TA position. With Susan, once the Board approves this hire in a board meeting, I will send a formal request to the Commissioner for his approval.
- iv. We hired Anastasia Breese for an open TA position at Anderson.
- v. We hired Yuka Honda for an open part-time custodial position at Tri-Valley.
- vi. We continue to recruit for part-time TA positions at Tri-Valley.
- vii. We opened an additional secretarial position at PEAK Anchorage.

### c. Exempt Staff

- i. We accepted the resignation of Alesha Ferguson and are distributing and refining the roles of existing staff to ensure continuity of our program

Sincerely,  
Dan Polta  
Denali Borough School District