



February 3, 2020

TO: Mayor Gary Paxton and City of Sitka Assembly Members
FROM: Sitka School Board President Elias Erickson
RE: FY21 Local Contribution to the Sitka School District

Dear Mayor Paxton and Members of the Assembly:

Throughout your deliberations in recent weeks, I have been encouraged by the conversations happening in regards to the City's local contribution to the Sitka School District's FY21 Budget. By the time school districts in Alaska must submit their budgets to their municipalities, they often don't know exactly what their final revenue amount is going to be, and therefore it is typically based on projections and educated guesses. It is greatly appreciated to be able to hear at the beginning of the budget process so clearly from City Administration and the Assembly regarding your intent in the amount of our local contribution.

The City's contribution of local funding is an important part of our overall revenue. As you know, our only revenue sources for our Operating Budget can come from the City, State, and Federal governments. Since the City's allocation is only a part of our overall revenue, we are not in a position to take official action on our FY21 Budget until we have all of our revenue sources clearly identified and/or projected. That being said, I wanted to make you aware of the process we will be going through to provide some indication of the School Board's intent regarding our request for our FY21 local contribution.

At our February 5, 2020 School Board meeting, I have added an agenda item so the entire Board can discuss our intention to honor the funding request identified in Interim Administrator Hugh Bevin's memo to you on the topic of our FY21 local contribution. Although I cannot speak for the Board, I do suspect that they may share my feelings of encouragement and support for the local contribution levels identified. Not only because they indicate a clear level of support for the Sitka School District, but also because of the advanced notification and interest in working collaboratively between our two elected bodies. I will then be able to share the results of our discussion at our February 6, 2020 Special Meeting.

It eases my mind to know that one of the major revenue sources we depend upon is making it clear this early on in the process in regards to what they plan to give. The way you distribute resources reflects the things you consider priorities in this City, and I thank you on behalf of the Board for making education so obviously a high priority for you.

Sincerely,

Elias Erickson