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PACE Statewide Homeschool

MAY BOARD REPORT

Josh Andrews

While PACE sees graduates throughout the year, May is definitely Graduation Season! There have been 8 PACE graduates this month from communities ranging from Ketchikan to Wasilla. Several more are very close to meeting graduation requirements. There have been a total of 20 PACE graduates this year. Congratulations to Clark Sawyer, Jordan Howell, Brayden Lokey, Jacob Graham, Kaylee Andrew, Mireya Gessells, Ethan Sundara, Tara Ridge, Tori Ridge, Caleb Forbes, Myleigh Jenkins, Katie Schrepfer (UA Scholar), Payton Tilton, Michael Bernier, Cole Cerutti, Maia Hayes, Kaden Widmer, Marina Doyle, and Travis Huggett!

The PACE handbook has been completely revised. It was an important document that contained a tremendous amount of historical data and practices. Over the years, it had a number of editors. Last year's handbook contained some conflicting information, erroneous references, confusing language, and editorialized content. Every effort was made for clarity, accuracy, and ease of reference. Staff has had a chance to review the revised handbook, ask questions, and make suggestions. Because this was a complete rewrite, I have not included a document with revision tracking. Major changes include: addition of language recognizing PACE Homeschool as a state correspondence school, reiteration of need to have curriculum be aligned to state standards, clarification of dual enrollment (no dual enrollment with private schools), inclusion of CCSD AR outlining allotments, inclusion of APS and UA Scholars, clarification of tutors, further outlining of PE requirements, allotment rollover clarification, removal of family purchased technology.

Progress continues on the development of the PowerSchool Plugin that will allow us to migrate away from FileMaker Pro. Superintendent Hanson and Ms. Bass joined the last Teams meeting for a preview and I think they were impressed by the product. We are expecting a fully-functional plugin in early June.

Enrollment and SLP development is already in full swing. It will be advantageous to have some SLPs already completed for the migration process. Instead of teachers having to learn on the fly with a family on the phone, they will be able to start by transferring existing SLPs and enrollment packages without the pressure of an audience. I don't think it will take too many SLP entries for staff to appreciate the workflow being defined by the new SIS.

This is my last report as PACE principal. Thank you for the opportunity to learn more about or PACE program. I have truly enjoyed working with each of the staff and want to thank them for their patience with me as I worked to understand PACE more completely.

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I am confident that PACE fills a need for many Alaskan families. I know the PACE staff is concerned with supporting a high-quality education because every time I had a question, concern, or directive based on improving education for our students, there was nothing but support. Our conversations always centered on how we could work together to improve our educational outcomes. This leaves me hopeful that PACE will continue to refine its policies and practices with the ultimate goal being that while each of our PACE students will receive an individualized education, each student will also meet the goals and standards set for them by the State of Alaska. As with our CHS graduates, every PACE graduate will be prepared to pursue whatever interests they might have, wherever those interests might take them.