



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Office of the Borough Manager

350 East Dahlia Avenue • Palmer, AK 99645

Phone (907) 861-8689 • Fax (907) 861-8669

Mike.Brown@matsugov.us

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 26, 2021
TO: Mayor and Assembly
FROM: Michael Brown, Borough Manager
RE: Manager's Weekly Post

June Assembly Meetings: We have two regular Assembly meetings in June 2021 as well as a special meeting on roads scheduled for June 22. During the June 1 meeting, Peter Torkelson, Director of the Alaska Redistricting Board, will provide an update to the Assembly under Manager's comments on the redistricting process. On June 15 under Manager's comments, the Department of Transportation will provide a project update on summer construction projects and Borough staff will provide an overview of the American Rescue Plan funding. AIDEA is also tentatively scheduled to present a resolution at the June 15 meeting asking for support of Phase 3 of the West Susitna Access project. Finally, staff are preparing a transportation projects list for consideration at the June 22 special meeting as well as a discussion of revenue options for a potential future transportation infrastructure package.

Alaska Long Trail (Reso 21-045) and HB 170 and SB 123 Establishing Alaska Energy Independence (Reso 21-050): We have forwarded copies of the Assembly's Resolutions 21-045 and 21-050 to the State legislators requesting their support.

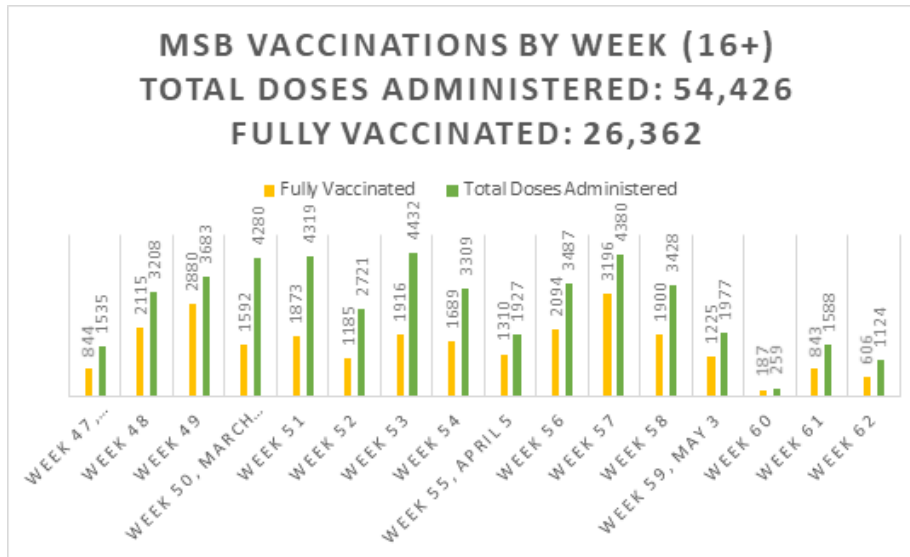
Houston Middle School: Attached is a copy of my letter to Dr. Trani dated May 24, 2021 outlining the progress toward an award of the construction contract for the Houston school.

Vaccination Weekly Update: Of Mat-Su Borough residents 16+, 37.5% have received at least one dose, and 33.1% are fully vaccinated. Of the residents 65+, 62.6% have at least one dose, and 58.8% are fully vaccinated. In all ages, regardless of vaccine eligibility, 27% have received at least one dose and 24.6% are fully vaccinated.

In the entire State of Alaska Residents 16+, 54% have received at least one dose, 48.2% are fully vaccinated. Of 65+, 76.9% have received at least one dose, 73.3% are fully vaccinated. All ages, 41.9% have received at least one dose, and 37.5% are fully vaccinated.

The data team is working on shifting the data from 16+ to 12+ to reflect the extended authorization of the Pfizer vaccine for 12-15 year olds.

Providing Outstanding Borough Services to the Matanuska-Susitna Community



Public Affairs Media Flyover:

State

- [Mat-Su projects prominent in state budget](#)
- [Burn permits suspended in Mat-Su](#)
- [Alaska forestry wildland fire managers have new tool at their disposal](#)

Assembly

- [Borough passes roof repairs for Wasilla Pool and Brett Ice Arena](#)

Fisheries

- [House Bill passes which could reinstate surcharge to sportfishing licenses](#)
- [Copper river dip net fishing set to open June 7](#)

Resource Development

- [Donlin Gold Announces Plans For Summer Exploratory Drilling Season/Verdict coming from state on key permit](#)

Borough Cities

- [City of Houston temporarily suspends use of fireworks](#)

Tourism

- [Legislation gives revives hope for summer Alaskan cruises](#)

Future Events:

- Monday, May 31, 2021 at 1pm, Memorial Day Ceremony, Mat-Su Veteran's Wall of Honor, Wasilla

ATTACHMENTS



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May 24, 2021

Dr. Randy Trani, Superintendent of Schools
Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District
501 North Gulkana Street
Palmer, AK 99645

Re: Houston Middle School Update

Dear Dr. Trani:

On Tuesday May 11, 2021, the Borough opened bids for the construction of the Houston Middle School. We have now entered the bid protest period and expect the Assembly to award the bid on June 1, 2021. All of the bidders are reputable firms with experience in school construction. Roger Hickel Contracting Inc. is the apparent low bidder, at \$33,637,029, for the base bid and all additive alternates. I have attached the detailed bid tabulation document for your information.

I am recommending that the Assembly award the first six additive alternates using existing funds. These include the bleachers, culinary equipment, dual fuel provisions, small engine repair equipment, theater lighting and mat hoist. The remaining two additive alternates are improvements to the parking area that include replacing the light poles, for \$316,140 and sealing the asphalt surface, for \$50,720. If you would like these two items awarded in this contract, I need your concurrence to commit \$366,860 in School District funds. The additive alternate for light poles was not the lowest bid for that item of the bids received. We can use the funds already provided for this project or any other funding source you want to make available. Please let us know how you would like to proceed.

FEMA has determined that the repair cost for the damaged building is approximately \$36,200,000, and is offering us a capped project, obligating FEMA to cover the cost of reimbursable construction up to that amount. If we accept, we would be responsible for any costs above that cap. We can request a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers review of the cost estimates that, if favorable, could produce an uncapped project offer covering all reimbursable costs. However, that review could also result in a lower capped project if the repair estimate does not compare favorably with the new construction cost estimate.

Given the risk of a potentially lower capped award and the fact that \$36,200,000 appears more than adequate to cover our known reimbursable costs of \$32,400,000, we intend to accept the capped project without further review.

Although the schedule is very aggressive, we expect the contract and current schedule to produce a completed building in the fall of 2022. You should also be aware that we are already seeing construction delays in other projects caused by long procurement lead times for key construction materials like steel. These delays stem from raw and manufactured material shortages caused by COVID-19 related industrial shutdowns and labor shortages. These conditions put the completion date at risk and we will keep you

Dr. Randy Trani
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informed as developments arise so that you can plan accordingly to occupy the facility for the 2022-23 school year.

We will also have to work together closely on the installation of the movable furniture, fixtures, and equipment (FF&E). The contract we expect the Assembly to award does not include FF&E procurement, which will be necessary before the new facility is usable. We estimate the cost of FF&E at approximately \$1,500,000 but this can vary quite widely depending on what items the School District selects. The Borough is not planning to provide the funding or procurement services for these items but we are prepared to coordinate with your staff to allow safe and timely installation as final work on the building is completed.

Sincerely,



Michael Brown
Borough Manager

Enclosure: Detailed Bid Tabulation

cc: Mayor and Borough Assembly

DETAILED BID TABULATION:						
21-150B Construct Houston Middle School						
BASE BID				UNIT COMPANY	Watterson Construction Co.	Roger Hickel Contracting Inc
Line Item	Description	TOTAL PRICE	TOTAL PRICE	TOTAL PRICE		
1	Base Bid – Construct a new School as specified in the bid documents.	\$ 33,750,000.00	\$ 33,667,000.00	\$ 32,410,000.00		
2	ENSTAR Allowance (Section 01 21 00 1.03.A)	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00		
3	MEA Allowance(Section 01 21 00 1.03.B)	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00		
4	MTA Allowance(Section 01 21 00 1.03.C)	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00		
TOTAL BID AMOUNT		\$ 33,810,000.00	\$ 33,727,000.00	\$ 32,470,000.00		
ALTERNATE BIDS						
Item Number	Description	TOTAL PRICE	TOTAL PRICE	TOTAL PRICE		
1	Bleachers (Section 01 23 00 1.03.A)	\$ 161,000.00	\$ 149,000.00	\$ 147,158.00		
2	Cullinary Equipment (Section 01 23 00 1.03.B)	\$ 205,000.00	\$ 215,000.00	\$ 274,146.00		
3	Dual Fuel Provisions (Section 01 23 00 1.03.C)	\$ 45,100.00	\$ 52,000.00	\$ 45,436.00		
4	Small Engine Repair (Section 01 23 00 1.03.D)	\$ 117,000.00	\$ 129,000.00	\$ 132,640.00		
5	Theater Lighting (Section 01 23 00 1.03.E)	\$ 167,000.00	\$ 174,000.00	\$ 164,837.00		
6	Mat Hoist (Section 01 23 00 1.03.F)	\$ 18,750.00	\$ 23,000.00	\$ 35,952.00		
7	New Parking Lot Light Poles (Section 01 23 00 1.03.G)	\$ 320,000.00	\$ 275,000.00	\$ 316,140.00		
8	Clean and Seal Parking Lot (Section 01 23 00 1.03.H)	\$ 51,000.00	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 50,720.00		
		\$ 1,085,850.00	\$ 1,077,000.00	\$ 1,167,029.00		
		\$ 34,895,850.00	\$ 34,804,000.00	\$ 33,637,029.00		
				\$ 35,318,880.45		
				\$ 1,681,851.45		