



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Office of the Borough Manager

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 21, 2022
TO: Mayor and Assembly
FROM: Michael Brown, Borough Manager
RE: Manager's Weekly Post

Mat-Su Central School: Borough administration met with School District administration on September 19 to discuss alternatives to the Borough's proposal, listed below, for constructing Mat-Su Central. The proposal would avoid additional debt and a 20-year debt repayment. Funding for construction is as follows:

- \$10.5 million from the School District originally programmed for Houston High School construction. More recently, this funding was discussed as being utilized to assist in funding the Borough's Transportation 21 package in exchange for the Borough bringing forward a ballot proposition for Mat-Su Central bond funding. The Borough Assembly will be considering another option for transportation funding to allow this funding to remain with schools.
- The Borough would provide \$5.8 million toward the project.
- The School District received one-time funding of approximately \$7.7 million in the FY2023 State budget. The Borough requested consideration for \$3.0 million for Mat-Su Central.
- The School District would be responsible for the estimated \$1.3 million for furnishings, fixtures and equipment (FF&E).
- The Borough would front \$3.4 million and the District would repay this over 5 years after occupancy using the annual lease payments for the existing school. The District will retain these funds after pay back.

This proposal constructs a permanent, Borough-owned facility that averts an annual debt service payment of approximately \$1.8 million over 20 years. Following repayment of the \$3.4 million, the District retains funding for its current lease payments of approximately \$600,000 annually. This allows for construction of a new facility prior to the expiration of the current lease agreement and the District does not repay the \$3.4 million until after it occupies the new facility.

The District has included two agenda items on its September 21 agenda:

1. School Board Resolution 23-002 authorizing the transfer of \$13.5 million to the Mat-Su Borough for the construction of Mat-Su Central School. This resolution would make

available \$10.5 million as well as an additional \$3 million in current year resources to support the construction of Mat-Su Central School. If approved, District administration will utilize Federal ESSER III (COVID) funds for current year expenditures that would make available \$3 million for the construction of Mat-Su Central School.

2. School Board Resolution 23-003 committing \$1.3 million for Mat-Su Central School furniture, fixtures, and equipment (FF&E). If approved, District administration will execute a budget transfer of \$1.3 million of unassigned fund balance for FF&E.

These resolutions will be up for School Board discussion on September 21, 2022 and for Board action on October 5, 2022. Borough administration also agreed to bring forward School District legislative priorities for consideration as part of the Assembly’s legislative priorities package. These include: 1) increased funding for the base student allocation (BSA); 2) increased funding for student transportation; 3) support for a legislative-funded charter school construction package; and 4) support for ending the moratorium for school bond debt reimbursement.

Proposed MSB Code Changes: The Planning Department is currently working on the following Assembly-directed ordinances. The September 19 Planning Commission meeting was cancelled due to a lack of a quorum. This will result in changes to the timeline for the following items:

- Public hearing for Floaters conditional use permit is moved to October 17.
- Planning Commission resolutions associated with repeal of MSB 17.05, essential utility services, and 17.06, electrical generating facility, will be moved to October 17.
- Assembly introduction for legislation associated with Title 43 Subdivisions and Chapter 17.02 Land Use Permits will be moved to November 22.

Ordinance	Sponsor	Anticipated Assembly Introduction
Repeal of MSB 17.05 Essential Service Utilities	Sumner	October 4, 2022 November 22, 2022
Repeal of MSB 17.06 Electric Generating & Delivery Facility	Sumner (referral)	October 4, 2022 October 18, 2022
MSB 17.02 Land Use Permit	Yundt & Sumner	October 18, 2022 November 22, 2022
MSB 17.60 Marijuana Update	Hale	October 18, 2022 December 6, 2022
MSB 17.30 Gravel Extraction Overhaul	Yundt	Working Group to be formed in November 2022
MSB 17.55 Setbacks Overhaul	Yundt	March 2023
MSB 17.10 Overlay District Repeal	Aviation Advisory Board	September 27, 2022
MSB Title 43 Update	Platting Board	October 18, 2022 November 22, 2022
MSB 17.59 Beverly Lake Management Plan	Beverly Lake Residents	December 6, 2022

Localized Flooding: Heavy rain in the area has caused several roads to be topped with water, which are being monitored by Public Works and DES for possible closures. More rain is expected. Road updates can be found at <https://ready.matsugov.us/pages/flooding>. We will continue to monitor and update the public via social media and the flooding map.

Public Affairs Media Flyover:

MSBSD

- [Mat-Su school board considers mandatory classroom ‘moment of silence’ to start the day](#)
Anchorage Daily News
- [New Mat-Su school policy threatens transgender students, advocates say. It may also be illegal.](#)
Anchorage Daily News
- [New Houston school will be only partly finished in December, borough says](#)
Frontiersman

Community

- [Wildlife officials are searching for a bear raiding chicken coops near Butte](#)
Anchorage Daily News

Tourism

- [U.S. Department of Commerce invests \\$6.7 million in American Rescue Plan Funds to support tourism sector through development of Gateway Visitor Center](#)
Frontiersman

Energy

- [Groundbreaking commences for Houston Solar Farm](#)
Frontiersman

Elections

- [November election candidate lists are final for assembly, school board seats](#)
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Facebook Posts

- [Houston Solar Farm](#)
31, 574 Post Impressions; 29,662 Post Reach; 7,924 Post Engagement
- [Emergency Preparedness Expo – Get Ready](#)

Future Events:

Sat., Sept. 24, 2022 from 10am to 3pm – 14th Annual Mat-Su Emergency Preparedness Expo, Curtis D. Menard Memorial Sports Center, 1001 S. Clapp Street, Wasilla

Thurs., Oct. 20, 2022 from 3pm to 7pm, Mat-Su Transportation Fair, Curtis D. Menard Memorial Sports Center, 1001 S. Clapp Street, Wasilla