

Watershed Charter School

2018–2019 Annual Report

Submitted by: Jarrod Decker, Head Teacher

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<http://www.k12northstar.org/watershed>

Philosophical Foundation of Watershed Charter School

Watershed Charter School offers an education rooted in the philosophy and pedagogy of place-based education, defined by the Rural School and Community Trust (2003) as:

...learning that is rooted in what is local – the unique history, environment, culture, economy, literature, and art of a particular place. The community provides the context for learning, student work focuses on community needs and interests, and community members serve as resources and partners in every aspect of teaching and learning. This local focus has the power to engage students academically, pairing real-world relevance with intellectual rigor, while promoting genuine citizenship and preparing people to respect and live well in any community they choose.

Place-based education is closely related to and shares some fundamental elements of, environmental education, outdoor education, and community-based education. The model of place-based education used by the staff of Watershed Charter School integrates elements from these disciplines with the curricular content areas of reading, writing, math, science, and social studies.

Watershed Charter School Staff

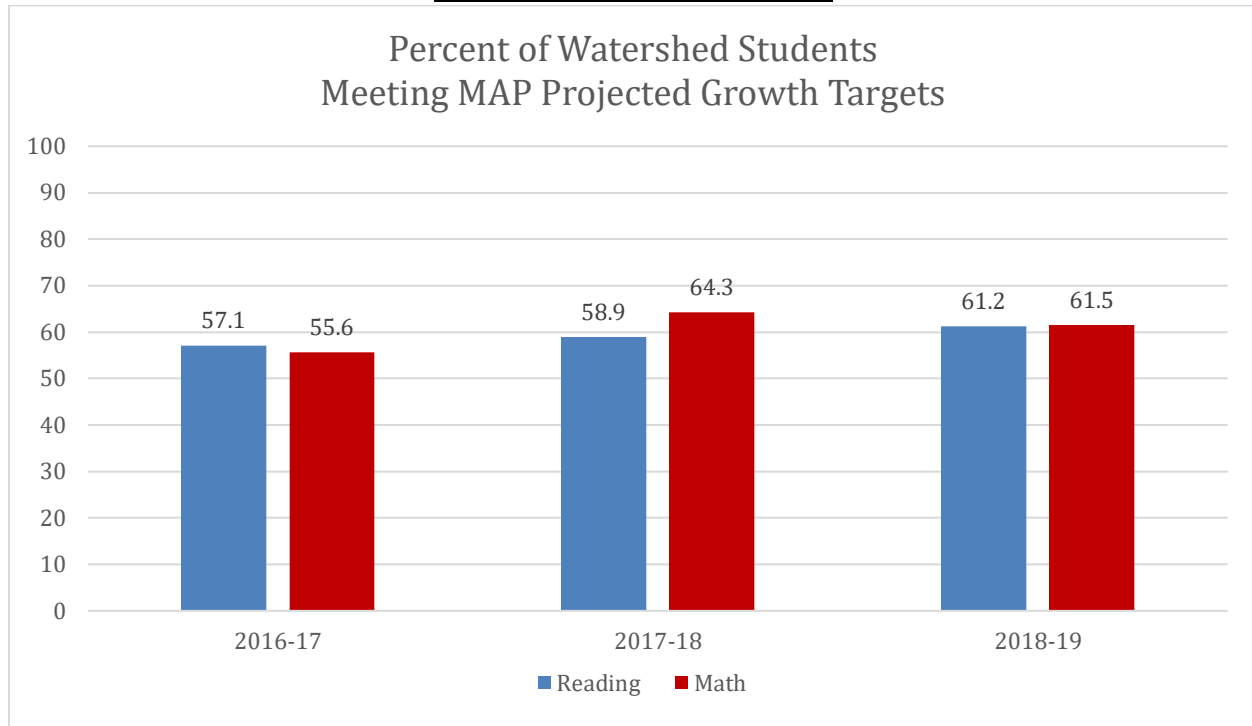
Marlene McDermott	Kindergarten
Peggy Haas	First Grade
Moira O'Malley	Second Grade
Amy Arneson	Third Grade
Dave Merrill	Fourth Grade
Erin Otness	Fifth Grade
Chasity Perez	Sixth Grade
Lisa Beattie	Math/Science
Becky Hansen	ELA/Soc. Studies
Abigail Paul	Special Education
Kate LaSota	Counselor
Alex Mihalich	Speech/Language Pathologist
Nuntarat Anderson	ELL Tutor/Instructor

Jarrod Decker	Head Teacher
Georgiana Smith	Administrative Assistant
Sharon Baker	Kindergarten Aide
Tyrone Burkhead	Custodian
Amy Kulp	Library Media Associate
Pam Laker	Aide
Rachael Peter	Aide
Jennifer Sampson	Aide
April George	Recess/Lunch Duty
Lynn Malzahn	Recess/Lunch Duty
Pauline Bennett-Gannon	Occupational Therapist
Alison Lankford	School Psychologist

Standardized Assessment Performance

Student performance results on the 2017-18 PEAKS and 2018-19 Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) are included below.

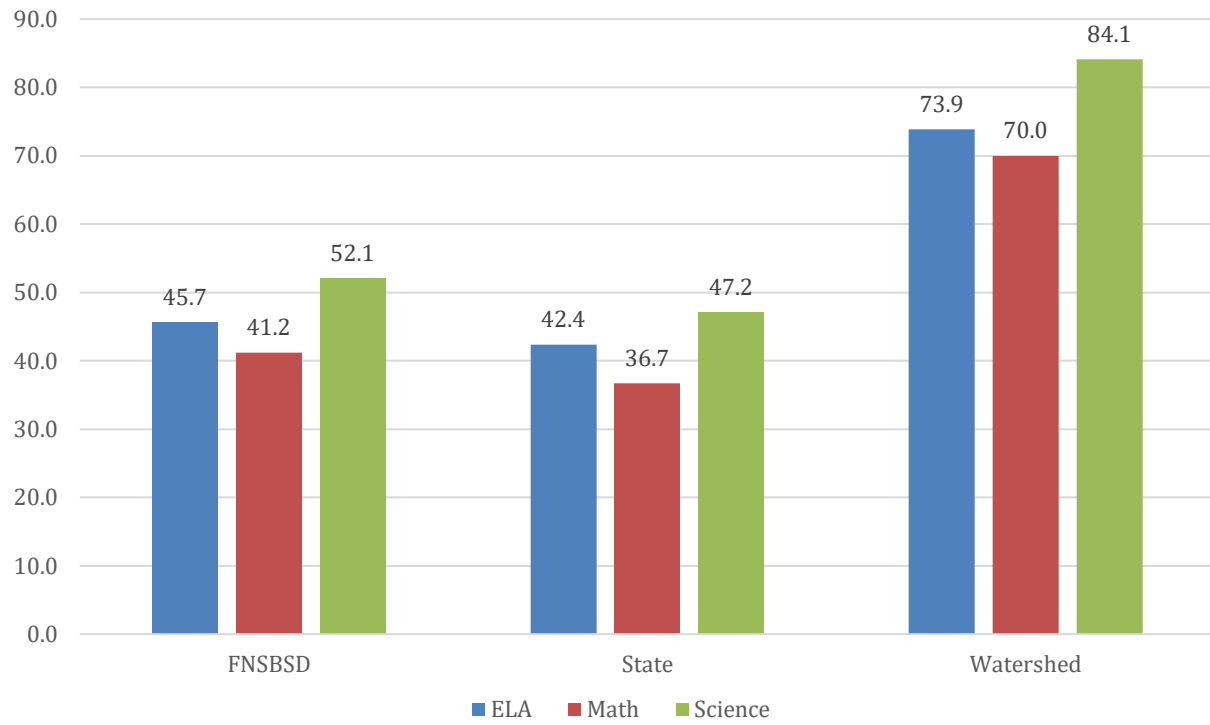
2017-18 MAP Growth Results*



**Please see "Interpreting the Percentage of Students Meeting or Exceeding Their Growth Projections Dr. Nate Jensen, Research Scientist at Northwest Evaluation Association for guidance on interpreting the data above. <https://www.nwea.org/blog/2013/interpreting-percentage-students-meeting-exceeding-growth-projections>*

2018 PEAKS Results

Percentage of Students Scoring Proficient or Advanced (grades 3 – 8)



School Improvement Initiatives

Curriculum, Instruction, and Professional Growth

- Several teachers participated in professional learning opportunities this year. Lisa Beattie, Rebecca Hansen, Chasity Perez, and Erin Otness attended the **Alaska State RTI/MTSS conference** in Anchorage in January. Teachers attended various workshops centered on close reading, intervention strategies, and student assessment.
- All staff was recertified in **Wilderness First-Aid** in the fall.
- **Peggy Haas received a grant** for \$5000 from Carrs Safeway to purchase three Tower Gardens for the school. She, along with Amy Arneson and Marlene McDermott, will incorporate these towers into their science curriculum. The produce grown will be used in the school and donated to the community food bank and soup kitchen.
- **Moira O'Malley spent 57 days in the Arctic** on a Russian Icebreaker in the capacity of Teacher-at-Sea. She wrote a daily blog including details of scientific studies, polar animals and their habitat, and ship life. Followers included teachers and classrooms worldwide. Chemical Oceanographer, Rob Rember, continues to work with the Watershed second graders.

Recruitment and Outreach

Watershed Charter School made several efforts to inform families in the community of the school and its application process.

- Watershed Charter School participated in the **Interior Alaska Celebrate School Choice Fair**.
- Watershed Charter School contacted preschool directors and posted notices about Watershed's application/enrollment window at local preschools, day care centers, and the FNA Head Start program. Additional notices about informational meetings were posted in high-traffic areas around town.
- Watershed received **201 applications for fall enrollment**, 84 of which were for kindergarten. Thirty-five percent of first through eighth grade applicants were from outside of the district (non-district homeschool, military PCS, private school).

Community Engagement

Watershed Charter School continues to develop partnerships with community members and organizations to enhance the school's curricula and fulfill its mission.

- The third and fifth grade classrooms have been working in partnership with members from UAF to investigate relationships between the sun and Alaska's ecology.
- The fourth grade class has continued its ongoing **partnership with the Alaska Songbird Institute (ASI)**. Students constructed swallow nesting boxes for ASI to replace aging boxes at Creamer's Field and UAF. Students also participated in an ongoing swallow box survey with ASI collecting swallow nests at UAF that would later be analyzed by UAF graduate students.
- Second graders continue to visit the FNSB Animal Shelter. Students bake and donate dog treats and **spend a morning reading to the dogs**.
- The **kindergarten class continues to raise chickens and use the eggs** for a variety of learning and service projects including baking large batches of cookies that are donated to Stone Soup Café.

- **Students in kindergarten, sixth and eighth grade participated in the National Science Foundation sponsored Winterberry Project**, a citizen science project in which UAF scientists and community volunteers investigate how shifting seasons affect when berries are available to animals and people. For three years, students have made weekly trips to monitor changes in the plants and continue to report their data to UAF for the statewide.

Student Enrollment and Mobility

Demographics 2018-2019	
Caucasian only	76.3
African-American only	0.5%
Hispanic*	8.5%
Asian/Pacific Islander only	0 %
American Indian/AK Native only	3.0%
Two or More Races only	11.6%
<i>Ethnicity reporting data based on October 31 PowerSchool Enrollment Summary</i>	
Boys	56.3%
Girls	43.7%
Military Affiliated	7.5%
Enrolled in Special Education	10%
English Language Learners	2%
Total Enrollment	199

Transiency

Ninety-four percent of students enrolled during the 2017-18 school year returned to Watershed for the 2018-19 school year. We are anticipating that 96-98% of our currently enrolled students will return next year. All of our graduating eighth grade students are planning on attending a district high school next year.

Watershed Charter School Activities

Outdoor Learning Experiences

Watershed Charter School continued its dedication to providing students with experiences that enhance their outdoor survival and recreation skills. Through ski outings, extended camping trips, and regular walks in the woods, students developed deeper connections to their environment, gained self-confidence, strengthened bonds with classmates through shared experiences, and engaged in activities that promote healthy lifestyles. Here are a few examples of outdoor learning experiences from this year:

- **Eighth grade students participated again in the annual week-long trip to Kachemak Bay.** Students took part in a program lead by the Alaska Center for Coastal Studies, experienced sea kayaking, explored tide pools, and learned about Alaska’s marine and temperate rainforest ecosystems. Students camped, hiked, and took part in a beach cleanup activity in Homer.
- Seventh graders learned paddling skills and canoed the Delta Clearwater River in September.

- Seventh graders will ski to Eleazar's Cabin or Lee's cabin for three days of winter camping in the White Mountains this April. As part of the **Bureau of Land Management's Hands on the Land program**, rangers will meet the class at the cabin to discuss ANILCA and the creation of the White Mountains Recreation Area with students. Students are also reviewing old cabin log books and selecting entries for BLM's website to show how and why people use public lands.
- Eighth graders will celebrate the completion of their Watershed tenure with a rock climbing trip at Grapefruit Rocks in May. UAF DRAW instructors will teach students how to climb, belay, and rappel.
- Middle school students studied and received **hunter education certification last fall**. Eighth grade students received **First Aid/CPR certification this spring**.
- Watershed's annual **All School Ski Day** was held again in March. All students and staff members spent an entire day cross-country skiing and playing ski-related games at Birch Hill Recreation Area. The Watershed PTSA sponsored the event by providing funds for transportation and lunch.
- Sixth grade students were selected to attend **Denali Science Camp** at Denali National Park last September. This three-day camp supports the 5th/6th grade curriculum where students studied and identified permafrost, human impact on nature, animal tracking and identification, and Alaska's unique biomes.
- This winter the K-1-2 classes went on monthly ski outings to either Birch Hill or UAF.

Other Notable Events

- Over half of all Watershed students participate in the school's incredibly popular **Battle of the Books** program. This year a new, exuberant coaching crew came on board: Benjamin and Caitlyn Overacker, supported by cookie-baking guru Renee Rember. Students met for lunch in the library from December-February to discuss and quiz one another on their grade level booklist. Our 1st and 2nd grade teams practiced in house, while the 3rd-8th grade teams participated at the District Battle.
- Watershed started up the **student council** again this fall (grades 5-8). Students attended a school district middle school student council workshop in March at West Valley. Students gained leadership skills and new ideas for school events.
- Students participated in a number of **after-school clubs** at Watershed this year including cross-country running, skiing, archery, MathCounts, air rifle, and jump rope.
- Air Rifle club received a grant from the **Civilian Marksmanship Program** for four new air rifles, targets, and pellets. The club also attended a marksmanship workshop with the UAF rifle team in April at the UAF rifle range.
- Watershed Charter School hosted one of the district's four cross-country running races for elementary students in September. Watershed also hosted the district's last cross-country race of the season for middle school students.
- Elementary education students and professors from **Hokkaido University in Japan** spent an entire school day at Watershed during their tour of Fairbanks schools in March.
- The Watershed PTSA continues to support the school community in a variety of ways. Every year they purchase sets of books for Battle of the Books, organize a community-wide 5K race and fun run, and host the Watershed Holiday Market. PTSA fundraising has helped fund ski club busing, the 8th grade rock climbing trip, and All School Ski Day.

Parent-Teacher-Student Association Members

Jennifer Wagaman	President
Kirsten Bell	Vice President, Fundraising
Lael Oldmixon	Vice President, Membership
Ashley Joseph	Secretary
Jennifer Humphrey	Treasurer
Jarrold Decker	Teacher Representative

Academic Policy Committee

Watershed Charter APC Members	
Jason Gillam (Chair)	Parent
Renee Rember (Vice-Chair)	Parent
Kelly Mansfield (Secretary)	Parent
Carie Green	Parent
Moira O'Malley	Teacher
Dave Merrill	Teacher
Lisa Beattie	Teacher
Abigail Paul	Teacher
Amy Arneson	Teacher
Jarrold Decker (ex-officio)	Head Teacher

The APC consists of nine voting members. Five of the members are permanent staff members, at least three of whom must be certified teachers. Four of the members are parents, who are not permanent Watershed Charter School staff members, of the students currently enrolled in the school. The principal/head teacher is a non-voting ex officio member of the APC, except in the case of a tie vote.

Appendix: APC Meeting Minutes

Watershed APC Meeting Minutes March 21, 2019

Members present: Jarrod Decker, Abigail Paul, Jason Gillam, Moira O'Malley, Lisa Beattie, Dave Merrill, Amy Arneson, Kelly Mansfield, Carie Green, Renee Rember

Meeting started 6:07 pm

Agenda Item 1: Review/approve minutes

There were a few suggested edits to the minutes. Jason moved to approve with the proposed edits, Moira seconded, all voted yes to approve.

Agenda Item 2: Cell phone policy

- a) Draft policy dissemination and feedback from parents and students
 - a. Posted in parent newsletter and Jarrod spoke with the middle school students during a lunch period
 - b. APC received 2 letters in response to the proposed policy: one was from the student council, the second was from an anonymous student
 - c. Jason spoke with a couple of parents. Only concern they had was about contacting students at the end of the school day [to arrange rides, etc.]
- b) Student council letter
 - a. APC was glad to see the student involvement by writing the letter
- c) Moira did some research on cell phone use
 - a. France has banned cell phones in school
 - b. S. Korea found decrease in neuron activity with cell phone screen-time
 - c. London School & Economics found banning cell phones in schools improved test scores
- d) Discussion about guidelines vs. hard rule
 - a. There was agreement that a hard rule (e.g., if a student is seen with a phone out, then staff know they can take the phone) is easier to enforce.
- e) Discussion about allowing use of cell phones for a brief period from 3-3:15 pm
 - a. Some APC members thought it would allow for students to check if parents texted or called students.
 - i. But there was concern if parents try contacting the student after 3:15 pm.
 - b. There's still possibility of younger students being exposed to screen time.
 - c. Could be difficult to enforce.
- f) Discussion about Phone Friday
 - a. Gives bargaining chip to lunch aid
 - b. Concern about monitoring content on cell phones during this time
- g) All APC members agreed to no cell phone use in the morning
- h) Because of the discussion of the option of allowing cell phone use for a short period after school, Abigail made a motion to change the drafted policy, Amy seconded.
 - a. Yay (to change): 3 (Renee, Amy, Abigail)

- b. Nay (to keep the draft): 6 (Jason, Moira, Lisa, Dave, Carie, Kelly)
- c. Motioned failed (draft kept)
- i) Discussion about wording in draft didn't clearly define field trips as being part of school property and whether the phones could be in possession but not seen.
 - a. A revision to the draft was proposed to incorporate these two points
- j) Revised Electronic Device Policy
 - a. "Personal electronic devices (including cell phones, tablets, mp3 players, etc.) may be brought to school, but must remain turned off and kept out of sight. Students may only use personal electronic devices with permission and supervision of school staff members."
- k) Amy moved to approved the revised policy, Renee seconded; all members voted yes to approve.

Agenda Item 3: Charter Renewal Update

- a) Jarrod submitted updates to sections 3 and 4 of the Charter Renewal on 3/20 to Juneau
 - a. Section 3: how we address students who aren't achieving at expected levels
 - b. Section 4: added specific planned professional development
- b) Jarrod will update the school website with the most current version

Agenda Item 4: Head Teacher Update

- A) Budget
 - a. Jarrod spoke to the PTSA and staff about the budget
 - b. At the April meeting there will be a more detailed presentation showing what different percentage of cuts will look like
 - c. Public testimony opportunity on March 24 from 2-5pm at the legislative office on Sadler Way.
- B) Mission
 - a. Becky Hansen and student council: Becky has been doing a lot with the students
 - i. Took 5th-8th grade to a conference
 - ii. School dance
 - iii. Kids' movie night
 - iv. Talent show
 - b. Peggy Hass received a big grant, \$5,000, from Carrs
 - i. Plans to buy 3 vertical gardens for hydroponics to go in 3 classrooms
 - c. All School Ski Day – went really well
 - d. Visiting Japanese students visited last this week. They request to come to Watershed every year. Students from Japan and Watershed really enjoy the experience.
- C) Lease Renewal
 - a. Jarrod met with Jon Cook about renewal. No rush. Jon is willing to work with Watershed on any rate changes.
- D) Homework committee
 - a. Jarrod has books for the committee.
- E) Questions

- a. Is the lottery coming up soon?
 - i. The lottery is on March 29th with the information night on March 27th.

Agenda Item 5: Additional items

None

Agenda Item 6: Next Meeting

April 18th, 6pm

Meeting adjourned: 7:51pm

Watershed APC Meeting Minutes February 21, 2019

Members present: Jarrod Decker, Jason Gillam, Renee Rember, Moira O'Malley, Abigail Paul, Lisa Beattie, Dave Merrill, Amy Arneson, Kelly Mansfield

Meeting started 6:03pm

Jason asked how parent-teacher conferences were going and are teachers still liking the one full day and week of afterschool meeting times. The teachers said they liked it well enough. Jarrod said he had one parent comment about how the P-T conference calendar seems to be moving further away from the district, and he pointed out that the fall semester is pretty similar, but the spring is different.

Agenda Item 1: Review/approve minutes

Renee moved to approve, Amy seconded, all voted to approve

Agenda Item 2: Cell phone policy

- There was a parent concern about the use of cell phones by middle schoolers before and after school in the halls and Phone Fridays (in place now for 2 years; middle schoolers allowed to use cell phones during their lunch if they get a good behavior report) and the exposure to the younger students who are looking over the middle schoolers' shoulders
- It's hard to know what content is being accessed on personal devices
- There is no written policy for Watershed, although there is an agreed upon practice of no technology for K-2
- In the past, there was a time when middle schoolers could have cell phones, but weren't allowed to show the before, during, and after school in the building
 - o If a staff saw the phone, it was brought to the office and a parent would have to come pick it up
 - o Current teachers don't recall parents having a problem with that situation
- Middle school teachers have had some feedback from parents that Phone Friday could ostracize students because they aren't interacting with each other during that time (instead students are focused on their electronic devices)
- Other middle schools have electronic device policies
 - o Ryan Middle: phones must be off and in locker during all school hours.
 - o Randy Smith: Not allowed to have them during school day, keep in locker, not to bring to class unless a teacher asks to bring them in for a specific reason.
 - o Barnette Magnet: All electronic devices should not be brought to school as they can be disruptive. Cell phones and iPads not to be used in hallways or before or after school, or in classroom unless under direct supervision of the teacher.
 - o Chinook Montessori: They can bring them to school, but cannot use them during the day. They can keep them in their coats or give them to the front office during the day.
 - o North Pole Middle: No texting or calling during the day. They can have them at lunch or use in classrooms with permission from teacher.
 - o ICS/Monroe: Only allowed at lunchtime in the commons.

- Effie Kokrine: Cell phones, iPods, earbuds and other technology is expected to be off and out of sight in each class students attend. This policy is referred to as “out of sight, out of mind”. Teachers may grant permission to use technology and ear buds at their discretion.
- Eielson Jr. High: All middle school student’s phones must be away during the day, cannot have them in the hallways.
- Lisa referenced a section of in the APC handbook about the philosophy of Watershed
 - An electronic device policy should reflect the philosophy of the school
- Moira said she’s had parent feedback: concern about that younger students are being exposed to by cell phone use by the older kids
 - Content as well as the practice of using them
- District User Agreement for technology – use only for legitimate reasons
- There was discussion on whether to get student input before instituting a policy
 - Overall agreement was that the APC board will proceed with developing a policy and Jarrod will inform students of the upcoming change
- Jarrod moved to draft a policy to be voted on at the March meeting
- Draft Electronic Device Policy
 - “Students are not to use personal electronic devices (including tablets, cell phones, mp3 players, etc.) while on school grounds/property without permission from school staff.”
- Jarrod will include the draft policy in the next parent newsletter

Agenda Item 3: Charter renewal update

Jarrod submitted the renewal to the state board 2 days before deadline. He had to wait for the FNSBSD to finalize the reapplication and contract before it was sent.

The renewal should be on the state board’s June agenda.

Agenda Item 4: Head teacher update

a) Last meeting follow-up answers

- At the last meeting the question was asked if it would be possible to do a follow-up on past students to evaluate their accomplishments. The answer from the district was this isn’t allowed.
- Playground equipment update: Boreal Sun did not reply to Jarrod’s questions about their playground equipment and funding

b) Mission

- a. Watershed did great at the Battle of the Books: 3-4 grade took 2nd place
- b. Watershed placed 2nd at Math Counts and will be going to the state competition in Anchorage
- c. 2nd graders did service learning project: baked dog biscuits and read to animals in the Animal Shelter

c) Budget

- a. Governor proposed a 23% reduction to the BSA. He also proposed removing the ability of the Borough to levy oil taxes, so this would decrease revenue for the Borough.
- b. The lease prepay “buys” Watershed one year to weather budget cuts.
- c. Jarrod presented some scenarios of budget cuts.

- i. Looked at trimming \$40K (cuts to SAS, class supplies, library, student travel, school supplies, professional development) to come up with a new target budget
- ii. If the reduction is large, then one result would be increasing class sizes, which would need to happen during the 2019-2020 school year because of the way BSA is calculated.

Agenda Item 5: Additional items

None

Agenda Item 6: Next Meeting

March 21, 6pm

Meeting adjourned: 7:55pm

Watershed APC Meeting Minutes January 17, 2019

Members present: Jarrod Decker, Renee Rember, Jason Gillam, Lisa Beattie, Abigail Paul, Amy Arneson, Dave Merrill, Carie Green, Kelly Mansfield, Moira O'Malley

Meeting commenced at 6:05 pm.

Agenda Item 1: Review/approve minutes

Amy moved to approve, Dave seconded; unanimous vote to approve

Agenda Item 2: Charter renewal update

- The timeline moved up to meet deadlines.
- There was a FNSBSD School Board Work Session held on 12/3/2018 to go over Watershed's charter renewal application.
 - Gender balance during lottery process was topic of concern at the work session.
 - EEO officer in FNSBSD looked into the matter.
 - Jarrod asked ANC School District for any info
 - Final word from state was that gender balance will be allowed for Watershed (and other schools in AK).
 - Dept. of Ed asked if could use Watershed's language for a Kenai school
- 1/15/2019 the School Board approved the Watershed charter renewal unanimously.
- Need to do:
 - Get signed resolution, contract and fiscal assurance letter from the school district
 - Jarrod will update the renewal application with any edits and update page numbers in TOC
- Jarrod inquired if the Dept. of Ed if Watershed's renewal could be considered at the March mtg (probably won't happen because we missed the 90-day deadline from the School District approval), but it will likely be on the June agenda

Agenda Item 3: 2019-2020 calendar

- The draft was reviewed and discussed. No APC members received feedback from parents.
- Abigail moved to approve, Dave seconded; the calendar was approved unanimously

Agenda Item 4: Homework policy discussion

- There were no school district updates at this time.
- Jarrod believes Watershed should have its own homework policy given Watershed has a different curriculum than the school district and because of the age range (K-8).
- A Homework Subcommittee was elected
 - Members: Abigail, Renee, Jarrod, Carie
 - Ideas for research: teacher input, parent input, maybe student input

- Student input in the form of a math lesson (7th & 8th grades), class discussions, citizen science (6th grade – Carie)

Agenda Item 5: Head teacher update

- A. Budget
 - a. On track for spending
 - b. After the renewal application is finished, need to work on the lease renewal, which is up in June 2019
 - i. Chinook Charter School (same landlord) lease went up, so may need to expect the same for Watershed
 - ii. Lease is based on base student allocation
 - c. Jarrod is looking into new recess equipment with PTSA assistance (maybe monkey bars): cost?
 - i. Carrie mentioned Boreal Sun’s plans for their equipment as a possibility
 - 1. Jarrod will touch base with that school
 - d. New cart of laptops for middle school: cost?
 - e. Need new flooring for K-2 classrooms (10 yr-old carpeting): cost ~ \$20K
 - f. Planning on holding onto the pre-pay as a way to absorb budget cuts
- B. Mission
 - a. Staff are continuing to incorporate stewardship lessons: middle school poster, 1st grade poster (acknowledges kindness), K made a book of how to take care of yourself
- C. Enrollment application window and lottery
 - a. Application period opened on 1/7/2019
 - i. Already received 50 applications
 - b. Kindergarten only grade we know for sure of available seats (re-enrollment hasn’t been conducted yet)
 - c. Going to post flyers soon
 - i. Preschools
 - d. School of Choice Fair – March 2nd
 - e. For 2020, try to make lottery digital, both application and drawing
 - i. Contract out the set-up
 - 1. Jarrod has been in contact with School Mint
 - a. They will set up the only application
 - b. Sibling waitlist from year to year might be a problem, but could be programmed
 - c. An automated email will be sent to applicant telling them what number they were drawn (this should reduce the amount of phone calls the school receives)
 - d. Waiting on a quote for pricing
 - 2. Power School is another company to get quotes from

Agenda Item 6: Additional items

- A. School security at the end of day
 - Carie brought up a concern of security of kids being picked up at the end of the day

- Jarrod said that the benefit of smaller school is that staff recognize parents (often acknowledged by name) and persons that are unfamiliar who will be addressed
 - There are staff out in the parking area at the end of the day to monitor
 - Bussing has helped because 25% of students ride the bus (30-40 fewer cars in the parking area)
 - K-2 teachers are in the hallway checking on kids being picked-up
 - ALICE related – parents in the school make it safer for the school
- B. Jason's comments

A thought that came about from the School District Work Session discussions was what is the vision for the next 10 years for Watershed. It would be a good idea to come up with some goals for the school.

Examples: Homework policy, tracking Watershed students after they leave (graduation rates?), etc.

Agenda Item 7: Next meeting

February 21st

Meeting adjourned at 7:25pm.

Watershed APC Meeting Minutes
November 15, 2018

Members present: Jarrod Decker, Dave Merrill, Lisa Beattie, Abigail Paul, Jason Gillam, Amy Arneson, Kelly Mansfield

Meeting started 6:05pm

Agenda Item 1: Review/approve minutes

Paul moved to approve, Arneson seconded; unanimous vote to approve

Agenda Item 2: Road maintenance update – Gillam

a) Gillam presented 4 paving/graveling estimates he researched for Decathlon.

	300 ft (just in front of school)	600 ft (all of Decathlon)
Gravel to pavement	\$45,999	\$91,998
High float	\$28,158	\$56,316
4" Brown Hill gravel	\$9,462	\$18,924
4" plus new gravel base	\$12,768	\$25,536

b) Current grading in front of school costs \$225/hr.

c) Snow plowing status – Decker said we don't have a parent volunteer any longer, so he has hired Groundhogs to plow snow

Agenda Item 3: Head teacher report

a) Budget (see handout)

a. \$25K increase in salaries with no teacher turnover

i. Expect an increase next year if no turnover

b. Schoolwide supplies are where we can make up the difference in overages in other categories

c. Extra money in the budget can be used to prepay lease

d. Chinook Charter School had to replace their boiler, which was paid by the building owner.

e. Watershed maintains good boiler maintenance

b) Mission

a. Stewardship

i. Asking teachers to include more in lessons

c) School Safety

a. ALICE

i. Teachers had training

ii. PTSA will have a presentation at the next meeting in December

b. Other measures (see handout)

i. Big field trip SOGs – Watershed revises these as needed

ii. Watershed purchased 3 new inReach units

iii. NCLB (no child left behind) - Teaching students how to be safe outside and prevent getting lost

d) Enrollment/Lottery

a. Tentative date for posting applications online: Jan. 7, 2019

b. Hold 1 (non-mandatory) informational meeting in March before application deadline

c. Deadline for submitting application: March 29

d. Lottery drawing: April 18

Agenda Item 4: Charter renewal requirements

- a) August is when the current charter ends
- b) APC will have a work session with the borough school board
 - a. Possible dates: Dec. 11, Jan. 14, Jan. 16, Feb. 4, or Feb. 6 – Decker is supposed to be notified which date on Nov. 16.
 - b. Watershed will need to provide documents to the borough school board, most of which is already submitted annually
- c) State school board meetings are March and June
- d) Decker presented another K-8 charter schools' renewal application for reference.
- e) Decker will begin gathering some of the information for the application and ask teachers/APC for assistance where needed, including reviewing the draft when ready.

Agenda Item 5: Additional items

- None

Next meeting: Dependent on work session dates, possibly prior to Jan. 14, 2019

Meeting adjourned 7:00pm

Watershed APC Meeting Minutes October 18, 2018

Members present: Jarrod Decker, Amy Arneson, Abigail Paul, Dave Merrill, Jason Gillam, Renee Rember, Carie Green, Kelly Mansfield, Moira O'Malley

Agenda Item 1: Review/approve minutes

Arneson moved to approve, Paul seconded; unanimous vote to approve

Agenda Item 2: Nomination/election of APC officers

Chair: Jason Gillam

Vice chair: Renee Rember

Secretary: Kelly Mansfield

Agenda Item 3: Head teacher update

- a. Road commission/service area (Decathlon is private road)
 - a. A parent currently plows snow as part of volunteer hours. Next school year Watershed will need to pay someone or find another parent to take over
 - b. Road commission cuts brush every other year
 - i. Watershed pays to have brush cut yearly where needed
 - c. Watershed pays for grader to smooth out Decathlon
 - i. *Question:* Could the road in front of Watershed on Decathlon be paved? Cost? Would Sadler and Gramma Francine agree to paving?
 1. Gillam will bring in pricing for paving at next meeting
- b. Staffing
 - a. Arneson returns Nov. 1; no long-term sub until then, Decker filling in as sub because it's been easier (and saves Watershed money)
 - b. 2 new school aids hired
 - i. 2 new students attending because of new hires (staff kids) – one new student in 2nd grade and 5th grade
 - ii. 10% SPED enrollment is about avg in district
- c. Budget
 - a. Comparison of last 2 years: FY19 down about \$3K
 - i. Staff cost increased
 - ii. Watershed budget doesn't have borough money, only state
 1. The current debate with the FNSBSD and FNSB is about money to cover borough owned buildings
 2. Watershed's building is leased so doesn't affect the school
 - b. All of FY19 lease paid for (\$350K from FY18 budget prepaid FY19)
 - i. The amount of prepaying has been consistent over the past few years (\$350K)
 1. Should some of that money be used for other things so that we are not carrying over that amount every year?
 - a. Decker suggested adding support staff as an option
 - i. A full-time aid costs \$42-43K a year; It would take 8 years to use up the \$350K that's been used to prepay the lease

- ii. Discussion: Want to make sure to maintain some reserve for “rainy-day” (e.g., boiler repair/replace)
 - b. Another suggestion was adding a portable classroom/outbuilding for extra teaching space
 - i. Considerations: heating, security
 - c. Bus purchase?
 - i. Decker said not interested because
 - 1. Don’t want maintenance on a bus
 - 2. Don’t want to obligate staff to drive
 - 3. Often need 2 buses to transport students
 - ii. Lease is up in 2019 (same schedule as Charter)
 - 1. *Question:* What will the cost of lease be upon renewal?
- d. APC parent election results
 - a. Nobody on APC received feedback from parents about election.
- e. Mission reflection
 - a. Service learning
 - i. 4th grade ASI project: swallow boxes at UAF
 - ii. 5th grade teaches science project to preschool class
 - iii. K, 6th-8th grades Winter Berry Citizen Science
 - b. Academics
 - i. MAP vs. PEAKS results
 - 1. Take home: look at multiple sources to get bigger picture
 - ii. Attendance
 - 1. Letters being sent home with report cards to students at risk of exceeding allowed days if they continue at same rate of absences (>5) or lots of tardies
 - iii. Homework policy discussion
 - 1. Watershed follows district homework policy
 - 2. District working on revisions to policy (see working draft handout)
 - a. There was concern by the APC about the possible new changes to the policy
 - b. Watershed could adopt its own homework policy if APC feels the need
 - 3. 2 categories of homework: Projects (e.g., moon journals, sub-arctic home design) and Practice (e.g., math sheets, spelling)
 - c. Outings
 - i. 8th grade week long (7 days) in Homer
 - ii. 7th grade canoed Delta Clearwater River: Decker and Merrill assisted, plus many parent volunteers to pull this off
 - iii. 6th grade Denali Science at Murie Ctr (train to and from) – must apply every year and Watershed has been able to go for last 3 yrs
 - iv. 6th grade hiked 11 miles; 5th/6th grade biked a lot...in the rain
 - v. Canoe Chaos

Agenda Item 4: Charter renewal

- Deadlines are approaching. Decker is waiting to hear from district on dates
- Decker asked other charters for advice on renewals and is waiting for replies

- **TASK**

APC members review the Renewal Charter School Application before the next meeting.

Agenda Item 5: Additional items

- None

Next meeting: November 15 at 6pm

Meeting adjourned 7:15pm

Watershed APC Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2018 at 5:30PM

Members present: Jarrod Decker, Amy Arneson, Abigail Paul, Jason Gillam, Renee Rember, Kelly Mansfield

Agenda Item 1: APC Elections (parent seats)

- Begin advertising and recruiting for board candidates on September 17, 2018 via Watershed's Daily Bulletin, e-mail to all parents from the principal, and personally contacting potential candidates.
- The application window will extend from September 24 through October 4, 2018. Applications (fillable pdf) will be submitted directly to Jarrod Decker.
- Electronic voting window will extend from October 8 through October 11, 2018.
- Announcement of winners will be made Monday, October 15.

New Business

- Jason inquired about the local road commission's responsibility for maintaining Decathlon Avenue in front of the school. Jarrod will call Rural Services and report back during the October APC meeting.

Meeting adjourned 6:48 PM.