



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Office of the Borough Manager

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 3, 2025
TO: Mayor and Assembly
FROM: Michael Brown, Borough Manager
RE: Manager's Weekly Post

Port MacKenzie Open House: Over 80 people attended the two-day Open House event on August 26 and 27. Rep. Kevin McCabe, Port Director Dave Griffin, and Deputy Manager George Hays were on-site to help answer questions, and provide perspective and feedback. Rep. McCabe secured a chartered helicopter from AKDOT to provide a birds-eye view to those interested in learning more about regional development, the Port MacKenzie Rail Extension (PMRE), and the West Susitna Access Road. The first day AKDOT Deputy Commissioner Katherine Keith led the helicopter tour; on day two Commissioner Ryan Anderson provided tour narrations. Additionally, from 10am-4pm each day ground tours of the dock and Port District took place every hour. Visitors learned about the existing port infrastructure – barge dock, deep draft dock, bow ramp berth; future expansion plans; the design, engineering, and construction of the barge haul out facility; and other infrastructure development taking place in the region.

Visitors walked away with a better understanding of the Port and the role it plays in our community; the importance of the Port's strategic location, and the benefits of having a port situated on the west side of Cook Inlet; and the access it provides to southcentral and interior Alaska, as well as a gateway to the world. The discussions also included the Port's role in economic growth for the Borough and the State, mining and natural resource development, export/import potential of bulk commodities, fuel storage, military training activities, and supply chain resiliency for the State.

Visiting legislators included seven Mat-Su Valley legislators and seven other legislators from across the State. Visiting members of the public included Point MacKenzie Community Council President and Vice President; and several residents of Big Lake, Wasilla, Point MacKenzie, Palmer, and Anchorage. Business interest visitors included representatives from Crowley Fuel, Furie Operating Alaska, Meritage Communities, Papoose Milling, AKDOT Syn Fuel, and Meridiam.

Feedback received overall was very positive, and others who could not attend requested an open house date on a weekend. The Port staff are working to provide another open house date on a weekend in October for the public to attend.

Joint Assembly/School Board Committee Meeting: During the August 25 joint meeting on school issues an Assembly Member requested two items. These items have been provided:

- Dr. Trani’s presentation, now viewable under Manager’s Documents on the Borough website here: <https://matsugov.us/manager>.
- Summary of position reductions, part of the FY 2026 adopted budget, set out in the table on the next page.

STAFFING COMPARISON

FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)

CERTIFICATED STAFF	2025 REVISED	2026 ADOPTION	NON-CERTIFICATED STAFF	2025 REVISED	2026 ADOPTION
DIRECTOR	9.35	7.35	SCHOOL BOARD	7.00	7.00
SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR	67.45	65.95	DIRECTOR	7.00	7.00
CLASSROOM TEACHER	756.41	696.69	SUPERVISOR	38.50	36.50
SPED TEACHER	187.45	182.70	INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT	421.86	384.16
SPECIALIST – SCHOOL	96.28	92.23	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT	162.22	148.11
COUNSELOR	33.95	33.85	CUSTODIAL	109.31	105.31
NURSE	32.35	30.10	SPECIALIST – DEPARTMENT	85.19	82.69
SPECIALIST – DEPARTMENT	96.95	71.92	NON-CERTIFICATED FTE	831.08	770.77
CERTIFICATED FTE	1,280.19	1,180.78			

TOTAL FY 2026 STAFFING FOR ADOPTION

1,951.56 FTE

MSBSD 2026 BUDGET FOR ADOPTION PRESENTED 05/21/2025

7

Public Affairs Media Flyover:

Resource Development

- U.S. Goldmining advances 2025 exploration-Sen. Murkowski visits-Whistler Gold-Copper project in West Susitna
U.S. GoldMining Inc

2025 Election

- Here are the 2025 Mat-Su Assembly and School Board candidates
Mat-Su Sentinel

Natural Resources

- Alaska officials impose statewide ban on two kinds of invasive trees
Mat-Su Sentinel
- Forest Service makes another step toward repealing Roadless Rule
Alaska Sporting Journal

Agriculture

- Su Valley Voice: Agriculture in the Upper Susitna Valley
KTNA

Alaska State Fair

- A cabbage named Clyde was set to vie for Alaska State Fair glory. Then he went missing
Mat-Su Sentinel
- ‘Post Office’ delivers in Alaska State Fair cabbage weigh-off
Mat-Su Sentinel

Community

- [Mat-Su's new glass recycling program set to launch next month](#)
Mat-Su Sentinel
- [Mat-Su to distribute millions in opioid help under new borough-city partnerships](#)
Mat-Su Sentinel

Assembly

- [Mat-Su Borough Senior Tax Exemptions Explained](#)
KTNA

Port MacKenzie

- [The next governor must make Port MacKenzie a priority](#)
Must Read

Education

- [School board receives Charter school building updates](#)
Frontiersman

Fishing/Hunting

- [The fall hunting season has begun](#)
Frontiersman
- [The 'Coho Bros'](#)
Frontiersman
- [Mat-Su salmon fisheries counting down](#)
Frontiersman
- [Journalisms failure – Farmed fish in Alaska](#)
Craig Medred

Top Facebook Posts

- [Flooding on roadway PSA -](#)
Views: 119,094
- [Fuel Excise Tax Open House Events](#)
Views: 14k
- [Final Slate of candidates for 2025 Reg. MSB Election](#)
Views: 14k
- [Port MacKenzie Fall Legislator Open House](#)
Views: 21k

Future Events:

- American Charter School Groundbreaking, Thurs., Sept. 4 @1pm, corner of Church and Seldon Roads
- Big Lake Recreation Center Open House, Fri., Sept. 12 from 3pm to 7pm, 2942 Lions Circle, Big Lake, AK 99652
- Mat-Su Emergency Preparedness Expo, Menard Center, Sat., Sept. 20 from 10am to 3pm
- Fuel Excise Tax Informational Open Houses at 6pm:
 - Wed., Sept 17 @6pm – Butte Elementary School Gym
 - Tues., Sept 23 @6pm – Willow Area Community Organization Center
 - Mon., Oct 6 @6pm – Meadow Lakes Elementary Gym
 - Mon., Oct 13 @6pm – Knik Elementary Gym
 - Wed., Oct. 22 @6pm – Mat-Su Central School
 - Thurs., Oct. 23 @6pm – Upper Susitna Community & Senior Center, Talkeetna