

An invitation to apply for the position of
Superintendent
Valdez City Schools



Valdez, Alaska

The Position

The Valdez City Schools, Valdez, Alaska Board of Education, is seeking a highly qualified and fully certified Superintendent. The Board wishes to have the successful candidate assume the responsibilities of the position on or before July 1, 2021.

McPherson & Jacobson, L.L.C., Executive Recruitment and Development has been engaged as the consultant in a search for outstanding candidates. They will assist the School Board in identifying and screening the candidates.

The Qualifications

The candidate must have the background, skills, and abilities essential for excellence in educational leadership. The board recognizes that selecting a superintendent is one of the most important decisions it will make. The board has identified the following desired characteristics:

- Possess strong leadership skills and management skills with a respect for the opinions of others to establish a good working relationship and focus on excellence with students, staff members, district patrons and the Board of Education. Be a visible and active participant in the school and community.
- Well versed in quality educational ideals. Has the ability to create a climate for strong educational values. Have a proven track record on successful implementation of effective educational programs.
- Possesses excellent interpersonal relationship and public relationship skills. Has the ability to work effectively with all stakeholders, listening to all, while maintaining the focus of the district.
- Has the ability to identify strengths of others and build upon those strengths and develop collaborative relationships. A positive team builder with ability to delegate and create a climate for positive risk-taking.

The Community

Valdez, Alaska is situated at the beginning of the Richardson Highway. With an active harbor and airport, Valdez is accessible by land, air, or water. Fairbanks is 365 miles to the north, and Anchorage is 300 land miles to the west.

The town and the surrounding area boast spectacular scenery and diverse wildlife. Its location makes it ideal for fishing, kayaking, sailing, hiking, skiing, ice climbing, hunting, and snowmobiling. Its sound tax base provides library, swimming pool, community college, and gyms. Community, college, and school groups share the Civic Center Theater with weekend movies, and events like the Last Frontier Theater Conference, Gold Rush Days, Silver Salmon Derby Kick Offs, Ducks Unlimited and other banquets, and oil transportation industry meetings share the ballroom and meeting rooms.

The largest employers in this city of 4,000 residents include Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, Providence Medical Center, City of Valdez/Valdez City Schools, and the Coast Guard. Both commercial and sport fishing are important in the summer. Locals are also employed in other tourism pursuits in the summer and increasingly in the winter.

Higher educational opportunities are available from Prince William Sound College, which offers several associate level degrees, certificates, and continuing education opportunities.



Valdez City Schools

- Educates 665 students
- Has three school buildings and a homeschool program
- Is lead by 7 administrators
- Has 60 certificated teachers
- Has 62 classified staff members
- Has high achieving students
 - * 90.57% graduation rate for 2018-2019
 - * 92.93% average attendance for all grades
- The district is financially stable due to funding received from the City of Valdez (assessed valuation \$2,378,267,670), both up to the state cap on operating budget funding and beyond for activities, technology, and special projects.
- Used its previous investment in technology to quickly transition to devices and internet connections for every child during the COVID shutdown. Has been in continuous full-time brick and mortar school this fall with online back up for quarantined students and staff.



Programs and Activities

- ELOP (Gifted and Talented Program)
- Title I
- Migrant and Indian Education
- Bilingual Education
- Career and Technical Education Classes
- Preschool
- Many extracurricular and sports activities
- Dual credit academic and vocational classes with Prince William Sound College

Board of Education

The Board of Education consists of seven members who are elected to serve three-year terms. The incumbency of the Board members range from 1 to 14 years.

Name	Occupation	Years Served
Joe Prax, President	Business Owner	8 years
Kathleen Todd, Vice-President	Family Physician	14 years
Jamie Winchester, Treasurer	Homemaker	4 years
Shannon Groundwater, Board Clerk	Homemaker	2 years
Joe Lally	Program Manager for Environmental Non-Profit	3 years
Carey Wade	Business Owner	1 year
Ana Hinkle	College Administrator	1 year

MISSION STATEMENT

Schools, parents, and community united in education for life: instructing, inspiring, and empowering every student in a safe environment

Find out more about Valdez City Schools:
www.valdezcityschools.org

APPLICATION & SELECTION PROCEDURE

Available at www.macnjake.com



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Selection Timeline

- 1. Application deadline:**
February 18, 2021
- 2. Finalists selected by Board of Education:**
March 5, 2021
- 3. Interviews with Board of Education:**
March 8-15, 2021
- 4. Selection of new Superintendent:**
April 2021
- 5. Start date: July 1, 2021**



An application for superintendent should include:

- A letter setting forth personal qualifications, experiences and reasons for interest in the position
- A current résumé
- A completed application form
- Reference letters, certificates and licenses, and academic transcripts from colleges/universities indicating degree(s)

Candidates are asked to not contact board members directly. Any effort to do so may eliminate them from consideration. Names of applicants will be held in strict confidence whenever possible; however, McPherson & Jacobson complies with individual states' Freedom of Information laws.

Valdez City Schools is an Equal Opportunity Employer.