



Watershed Charter School

2022-2023 Annual Report

Submitted by: Jarrod Decker, Principal

4975 Decathlon Avenue

Fairbanks, AK 99709

(907) 374-9350

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

WATERSHED CHARTER SCHOOL

BY THE NUMBERS 2022-2023

An abbreviated annual report to the Fairbanks North Star Borough School Board

*Demographic information based on Oct. 31 PowerSchool Enrollment Summary

199

TOTAL STUDENT ENROLLMENT

10

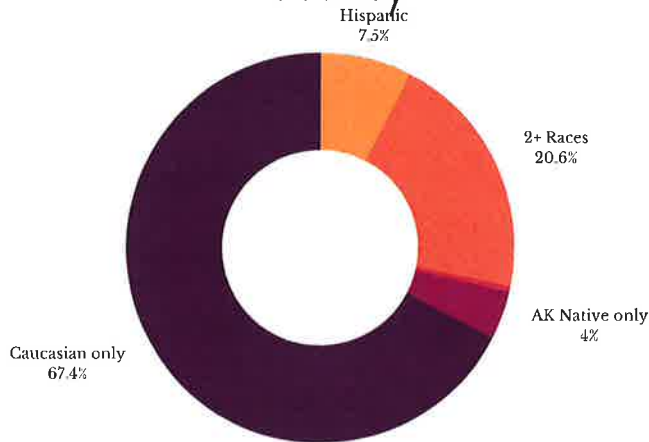
NEW STUDENTS ENROLLED THROUGH
THE LOTTERY

97%

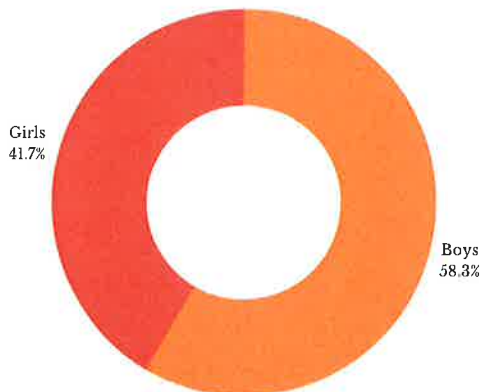
STUDENTS RETURNED FROM 2021-22
SCHOOL YEAR

- Watershed students continued to engage in the activities and experiences for which we are known - exploring their environment (often on skis), learning about the natural and cultural history of their place (through place-based instruction), and engaging with the community (through partnerships with local organizations and experts).
- Professional development focused on the Science of Reading and meeting the requirements of the Alaska Reads Act.
- Watershed's Academic Policy Committee (APC) participated in a 2-day training hosted by AASB, revised the principal evaluation tool, and started the process of developing a strategic plan.
- Watershed continues to enjoy a strong partnership with its PTSA and student council who host a variety of school community events.

Ethnicity



Gender

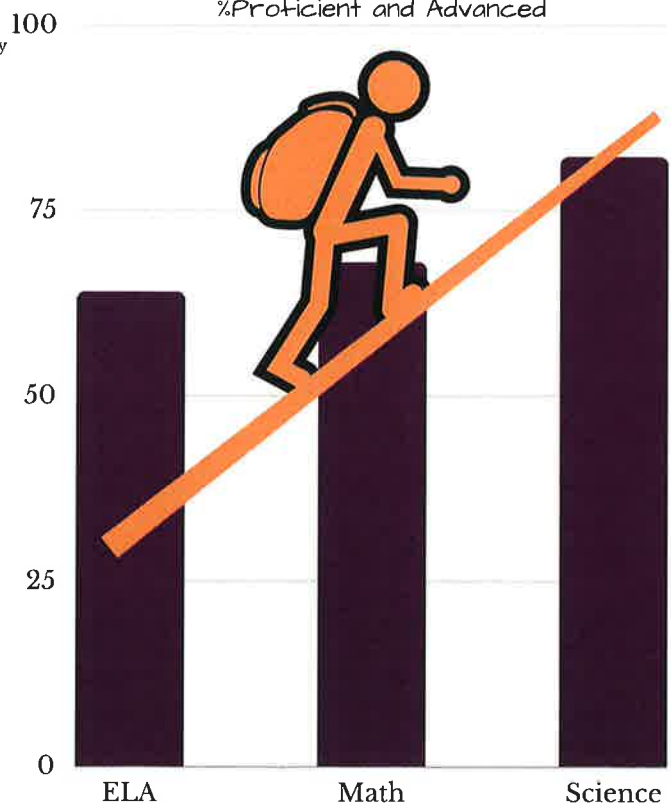


COUNTLESS

MILES HIKED, BIKED, AND SKIED

2022 AK STAR Results

%Proficient and Advanced





Watershed Charter School

4970 Decathlon Avenue Fairbanks, Alaska 99709
(907) 374-9350

April 10, 2023

Fairbanks North Star Borough School Board
520 Fifth Avenue
Fairbanks, AK 99701

President Sanderson and School Board Members,

Please see Watershed Charter School's enclosed annual report to the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District. The report includes notable school events, student enrollment data, standardized assessment results, and Academic Policy Committee meeting minutes.

I look forward to formally presenting this report and answering any questions you may have at the April 17th Board of Education work session.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Decker', written in a cursive style.

Jarrod Decker
Principal
Watershed Charter School

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 - Year in Review

Curriculum, Instruction, and Professional Growth

- Watershed's professional growth focus this year was preparing for the **Alaska Reads Act**.
 - **Science of Reading:** Staff members furthered their understanding of the Science of Reading during building professional development. The principal attended the Alaska RTI/MTSS Effective Instruction Conference in January. Kindergarten-2nd grade teachers will attend the Science of Reading Symposium in April.
 - **Literacy Screening and Intervention:** Watershed piloted the mClass benchmark/progress monitoring literacy screening tool and Amplify intervention lessons.
 - **MTSS Plan:** The principal and staff drafted a schedule providing core reading instruction and tiered supports for all kindergarten- fourth-grade students.
- In October, Watershed's Academic Policy Committee and principal participated in a 2-day **Charter APC and Principal Workshop** provided by the Alaska Association of School Boards (AASB). The APC developed two goals for this school year:
 - revise the **principal evaluation tool**
 - begin the development of a **strategic plan**

Recruitment and Outreach

Watershed Charter School is now using the **district's central lottery portal** to receive applications and conduct the spring lottery. Using the district's system enabled us to extend the application window by two weeks, which now ends on April 13.

- Watershed contacted preschool directors and posted notices about Watershed's application/enrollment window at local preschools, daycare centers, and the FNA Head Start program.
- Watershed has received **289 applications** to date (the application window is still open) for the 2023-2024 school year.

Community and Outdoor Engagement

Watershed Charter School worked to establish partnerships with community members and organizations to enhance the school's curricula and fulfill its mission. We are also committed to providing students with experiences that enhance their outdoor skills and connection to the natural world. Each class spent over 50 hours away from the school building fostering a stronger sense of

place. Through community partnerships and outdoor adventures, students developed deeper connections to the Tanana Valley, gained self-confidence, strengthened bonds with classmates, and engaged in activities that promote healthy lifestyles. Here are a few examples of this year's community and outdoor learning experiences:

- **Eighth-grade students participated again in the annual week-long trip to Kachemak Bay.** Students took part in a program led by the Alaska Center for Coastal Studies, experienced sea kayaking, explored tide pools, and learned about Alaska's marine and temperate rainforest ecosystems.
- Middle school students learned paddling skills and canoed the lower Chena River and Quartz Lake in September.
- Seventh graders skied to Lee's cabin for three days of winter camping in the White Mountains this April.
- Sixth-grade students attended **Denali Science Camp** at Denali National Park in 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.
- All seventh-grade students received **hunter education certification** in the first quarter. Eighth graders received **CPR/First Aid** training in April.
- Danielle Flaherty, Watershed's breakfast/lunch aide, led the eighth graders to receive their **Alaska Food Worker** certification and a day of **service-learning at Stone Soup Cafe**.
- The fifth-grade class partnered with Effie Kokrine Charter School to spend a night at **Howard Luke's camp** on the Tanana River. The class skied to the camp from school, learned about Howard Luke, and helped with camp chores.
- Watershed's annual **All School Ski Day** was held again in March. All students and staff members spent a 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.
- Fourth graders participated in the **Salmon in the Classroom** program in partnership with ADF&G. In collaboration with them, students were able to raise salmon from the egg stage to the fry stage in the classroom, go ice fishing at Chena Lakes, and invite ADF&G's Erik Anderson for several guest speaking engagements.
- All classes engaged in regular hiking, biking, and ski outings to local trails.

Other Notable Events

- Watershed continued its **school breakfast and lunch program** this year. We serve meals to 15-25 students every day.
- Over 4,600 books have been checked out from the school library.
- Over half of all Watershed students participate in the school's incredibly popular **Battle of the Books** program coached by Amy Kulp, Watershed's library media associate.
- Watershed **student council** coordinated school spirit weeks, Watershed's Halloween celebration, social bonfires, dances, and game nights.
- Students participated in a number of **after-school clubs** at Watershed this year, including cross-country running, skiing, archery, debate, and MathCounts.
- Watershed Charter School **hosted cross-country running meets** for Interior elementary and middle school students in September.
- The **Watershed PTSA** continued to support the school community in various ways. Every year they purchase sets of books for Battle of the Books, organize a community-wide 5K fun run, staff appreciation events, "Pastries with Parents" breakfast, and more.
- Third and fourth graders participate in "**Wild and Local Food Friday**" every month where the menu is based on a food item gathered, hunted, or fished from Alaska. Students help prepare and clean up after the meals.
- **Neighborhood clean-up day** is planned for May 17th.

Watershed Charter School Staff

Chasity Perez	Kindergarten
Peggy Haas	First Grade
Moira O'Malley	Second Grade
Amy Arneson	Third Grade
Dave Merrill	Fourth Grade
Erin Otness	Fifth Grade
Alexis Palmer	Sixth Grade
Lisa Beattie	Math/Science
Becky Hansen	ELA/Soc. Studies
Abigail Paul	Special Education
Alex Mihalich	Speech Language Pathologist

Jarrold Decker	Principal
April George	Administrative Assistant
Pam Laker	Kindergarten Aide
Britan Wallace	Charter School Assistant
Amy Kulp	Library Media Associate
Jeff Misel	Aide
Danielle Flaherty	Lunch/Breakfast Aide
Lynn Malzahn	Recess/Lunch Duty
Alexis Gardner	School Psychologist
Heidi Kubichek	Occupational Therapist
Tina Fitzpatrick	ELL Tutor/Instructor

Academic Policy Committee

Watershed Charter APC Members	
Jason Gillam (Chair)	Parent
Sacha Layos (Vice-Chair)	Parent
Kelly Mansfield	Parent
Larissa Sommer	Parent
Pam Laker	Staff
Dave Merrill	Teacher
Becky Hansen	Teacher
Abigail Paul (Secretary)	Teacher
Chasity Perez	Teacher
Jarrold Decker (ex-officio)	Principal

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 is a non-voting ex officio member of the APC, except in the case of a tie vote.

Parent-Teacher-Student Association Members

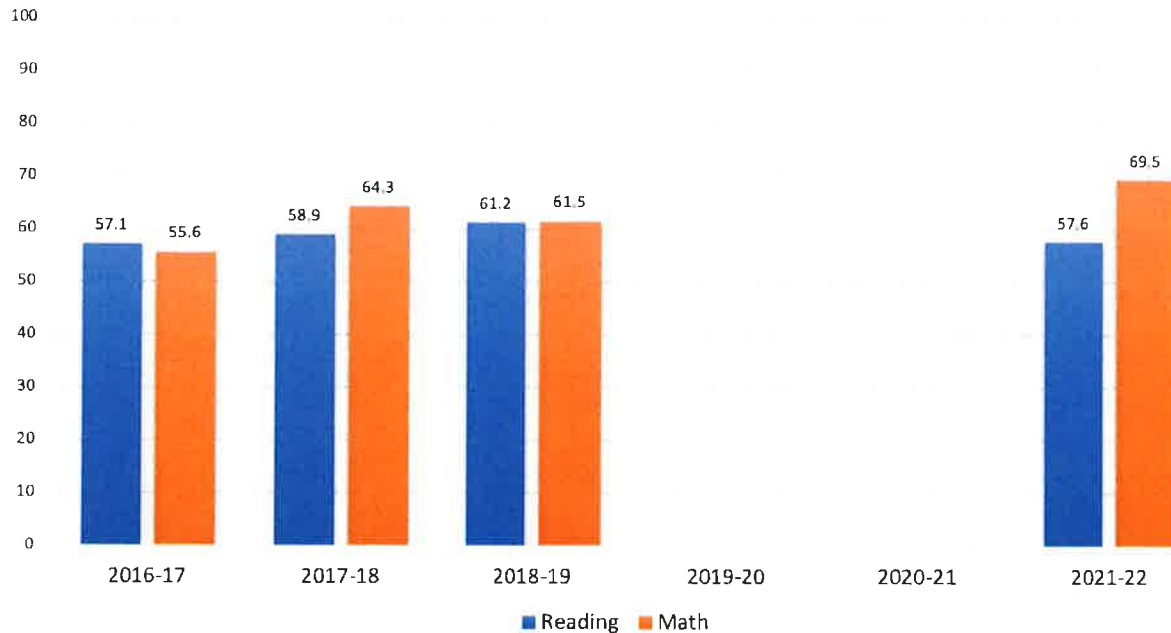
Suzy Fischer	President
Sadie Goddard	Vice President
Marita Bunch	Secretary
Jennifer Humphrey	Treasurer
Jarrold Decker	Staff Representative

Standardized Assessment Performance

Student growth and achievement results on the 2021-2022 Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) and AK STAR, and AK Science assessments are included below.

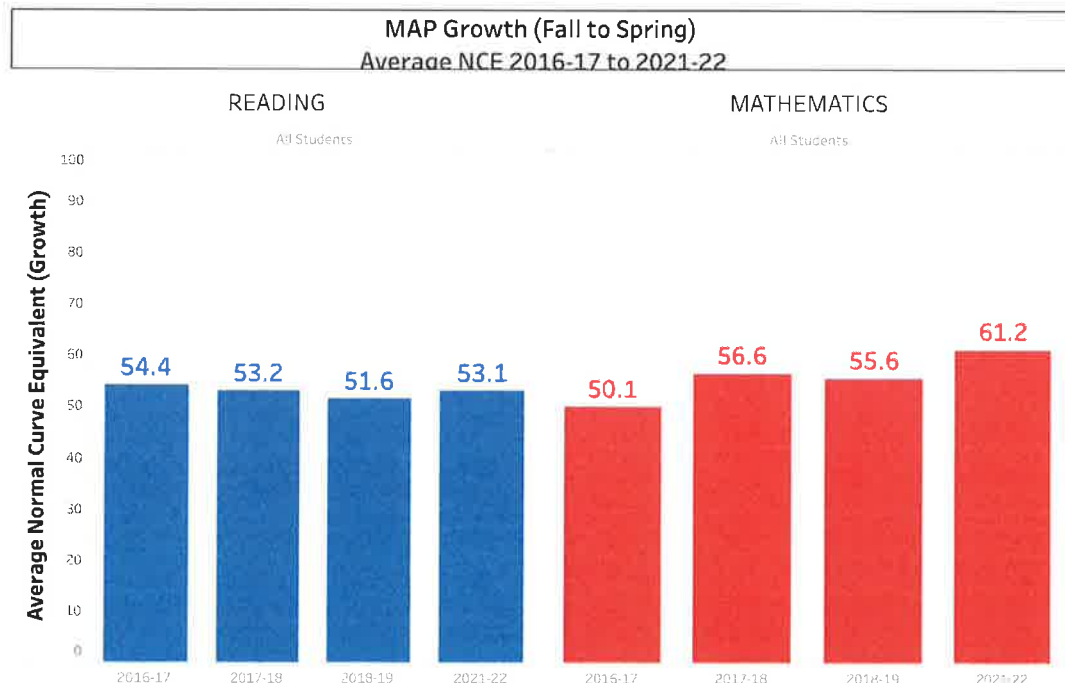
MAP Growth Results*

Percent of Watershed Students Meeting MAP Projected Growth Targets



*Yearlong MAP Growth was not assessed during remote learning from 2020-2020. 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>



2022 AK STAR Achievement Results - English Language Arts



2022 School Summary Report - English Language Arts
 District: FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
 School: WATERSHED CHARTER SCHOOL

	# Students Tested	Mean Score	Median Score	% of Students by Achievement Level
WATERSHED CHARTER SCHOOL	133	1615	1613	
FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT	6046	1593	1588	
ALASKA STATE ORG	54745	1591	1585	

Achievement Levels

Overall scores on the AK STAR Assessments are divided into four achievement levels: Advanced, Proficient, Approaching Proficient, and Needs Support.

Scale Scores

The number of students and median and mean scale scores are reported at the school level in the table below. The median is the middle score in the ordered list of all students' scale scores. The mean is the average scale score by grade.

Comparisons: District and State

- did better than the district and state mean for the reporting category
- did about as well as the district and state mean for the reporting category
- did not do as well as the district and state mean for the reporting category
- did not attempt any items in this category



ELA Summary By Grade

Grade	# Students Tested	Mean Score	Median Score	% of Students by Achievement Level	Reporting Category	Comparison	
						District	State
3	23	1585	1582		Reading	↑	↑
					Writing and Language	↑	↑
4	22	1597	1605		Reading	↑	↑
					Writing and Language	↑	↑
5	23	1605	1609		Reading	↑	↑
					Writing and Language	↑	↑
6	23	1620	1623		Reading	↑	↑
					Writing and Language	↑	↑
7	20	1634	1635		Reading	↑	↑
					Writing and Language	↑	↑
8	22	1651	1657		Reading	↑	↑
					Writing and Language	↑	↑

2022 AK STAR Achievement Results - Math



2022 School Summary Report - Mathematics
 District: FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
 School: WATERSHED CHARTER SCHOOL

	# Students Tested	Mean Score	Median Score	% of Students by Achievement Level
WATERSHED CHARTER SCHOOL	133	1577	1571	
FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT	6061	1545	1539	
ALASKA STATE ORG	54688	1542	1537	

Achievement Levels

Overall scores on the AK STAR Assessments are divided into four achievement levels: Advanced, Proficient, Approaching Proficient, and Needs Support.

Scale Scores

The number of students and median and mean scale scores are reported at the school level in the table below. The median is the middle score in the ordered list of all students' scale scores. The mean is the average scale score by grade.

Comparisons: District and State

- did better than the district and state mean for the reporting category
- did about as well as the district and state mean for the reporting category
- did not do as well as the district and state mean for the reporting category
- did not attempt any items in this category



MA Summary By Grade

Grade	# Students Tested	Mean Score	Median Score	% of Students by Achievement Level	Reporting Category	Comparison	
						District	State
3	23	1535	1538	Needs Support: 22% Approaching Proficient: 9% Proficient: 43% Advanced: 26%	Content	↑	↑
					Argumentation and Modeling	↑	↑
4	22	1538	1544	Needs Support: 32% Approaching Proficient: 14% Proficient: 23% Advanced: 32%	Content	↑	↑
					Argumentation and Modeling	↑	↑
5	23	1565	1559	Needs Support: 13% Approaching Proficient: 13% Proficient: 48% Advanced: 26%	Content	↑	↑
					Argumentation and Modeling	↑	↑
6	23	1581	1584	Needs Support: 9% Approaching Proficient: 13% Proficient: 43% Advanced: 35%	Content	↑	↑
					Argumentation and Modeling	↑	↑
7	20	1605	1603	Needs Support: 10% Approaching Proficient: 15% Proficient: 55% Advanced: 20%	Content	↑	↑
					Argumentation and Modeling	↑	↑
8	22	1642	1624	Needs Support: 23% Approaching Proficient: 18% Proficient: 18% Advanced: 41%	Content	↑	↑
					Argumentation and Modeling	↑	↑

2022 AK Science Assessment Results



Science Assessment

Alaska Department of Education
& Early Development

School Summary Report

District Name: Fairbanks North Star Borough School District **Subject:** Science
School Name: Watershed Charter School **Test Date:** Spring 2022

Achievement Level Summary

Group	# Tested	% in Each Level			
School	45	6.7	11.1	33.3	48.9
District	2,419	33.8	22.6	30.6	13.1
State	21,806	39.1	22.8	27.5	10.6

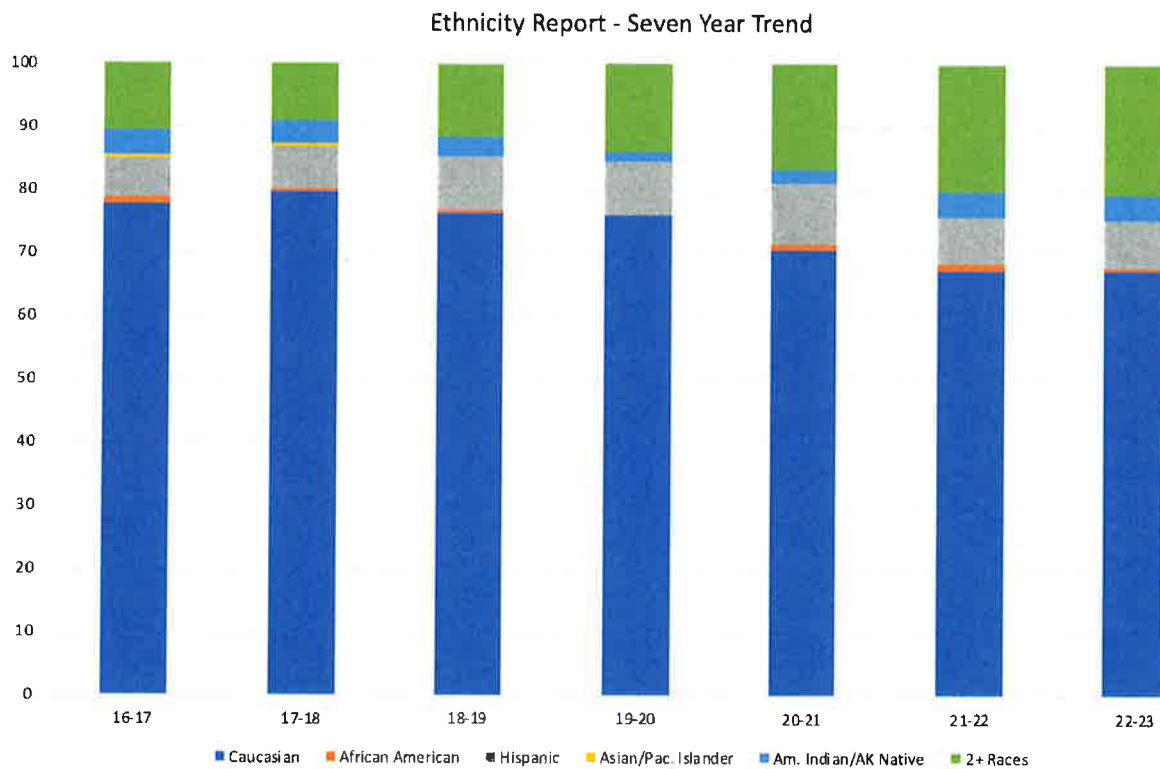
Achievement Level Summary | By Grade

Grade	Group	# Tested	% in Each Level			
5	School	23	13.0	8.7	34.8	43.5
	District	907	29.7	21.9	35.1	13.3
	State	8,043	33.3	24.6	31.4	10.7
8	School	22	0.0	13.6	31.8	54.5
	District	834	38.2	20.9	28.5	12.4
	State	7,487	44.7	20.3	24.8	10.2



Student Enrollment and Mobility

Demographics 2022-2023	
Caucasian only	67.3%
African-American only	0.5%
Hispanic*	7.5%
Asian/Pacific Islander only	0 %
American Indian/AK Native only	4.0%
Two or More Races only	20.6%
<i>Ethnicity reporting data based on October 31 PowerSchool Enrollment Summary</i>	
Boys	58.3%
Girls	41.7%
Military Connected	9%
Enrolled in Special Education	13.6%
English Language Learners	2%
Total Enrollment	199



Transiency

Ninety-seven percent of students enrolled during the 2021-22 school year returned to Watershed for the 2022-23 school year. Ninety-nine percent of currently enrolled students have indicated that they plan to return to Watershed next year. All our graduating eighth-grade students plan to attend an FNSBSD high school next year.

Appendix: APC Meeting Minutes

The Watershed School

Academic Policy Committee

Minutes for September 15, 2022 6:00 PM

Location: Watershed Charter School – Ms. Hansen’s Room

1. **Present:** Jarrod Decker, Jason Gillam, Pam Laker, Becky Hansen, Chasity Perez, Dave Merrill, Larrisa Sommer, Sacha Layos
2. **Testimony** none
3. **Principal report**
 - a. Budget update
 - i. not yet set but likely 2.173M; may change because of the Reads Act which is tied to the BSA (Base Student Allocation)—would bump Watershed up 10-15K but won’t happen this year; biggest change to budget will come from results of ESSA & FEA negotiations
 - ii. \$205K rollover from last year
 - iii. To help with staff costs, got a contractor for janitorial services; also pursued janitorial contractor because FNSBSD is short on custodial staff; District helped to arrange contract which is \$4500/mth for 10 months; differences: contractor is strictly cleaning (no lawn care or minor maintenance like Tyrone); includes yearly refinish of floors and carpet shampooing. Overall savings = \$30,000
 - b. Enrollment update – we are 1 student over projected enrollment
4. **Discussion Items:**
 - a. Officer election/selection
 - i. Chair: Jason Gillam elected; will continue for another term
 - ii. Vice chair: Sacha Layos elected; will continue for another term
 - iii. Secretary is tabled—approach Abigail Paul to see if still interested in running
 - b. APC self-assessment
 - i. Agree good to tool to use to communicate with FNSBSD Board
 - ii. Agree important to complete
 - iii. Jarrod to turn into Google form to help with collection of comments/edits
 - c. Strategic plan
 - i. Jason Gillam: APC should work in conjunction with strategic plan for Watershed

- ii. APC: what do we want strategic plan to look like? Asked for Decker opinion/ideas: 1) sustainable building model; 2) energy consumption in line with school values (solar panels? Natural gas conversion? Recycling center @the school?)
 - iii. Academic side: curriculum review role for APC who should approve scope & sequence on a broad level
 - iv. Since Watershed has emphasis on parental engagement, important to have process
 - v. Review of strategic plan should be on a cyclical basis—every 3 years review of science, reading, and outdoor/place-based curriculum
- d. Goal setting for the 2022-23 school year
- i. Set strategic plan goals with assistance during AASB training this Oct/Nov
- e. Review of MAP scores
- i. Similar reading goal as last year
 - ii. 1st grade scores down—likely due to remote learning during critical development time
 - iii. Discussion of developing flow down intervention process in progress for struggling readers which includes middle school helpers (reading buddies); Jeff Misel and Jarrod Decker
 - iv. Emphasis on professional development will be in reading instruction

5. Adjourn

The Watershed School

Academic Policy Committee

Meeting Notes for Thursday, November 17, 2022 6:00 PM

Location: Watershed Charter School – Ms. Hansen’s Room

1. Welcome

- a. Call to order: 6:02 PM

All members were present

(Larissa Cramer attended by phone)

- b. Review minutes from previous meeting: unanimously adopted

2. **Public comment:** Received public comment letter from Vicky Phipps. The letter was acknowledged without discussion.

3. Principal’s report

- a. Budget update - documents explaining the budget were presented on the projector
- b. 2022 AK STAR test results - Watershed scores are strong compared to the FNSBSD and charter schools statewide
- c. Questions from the board - board members asked questions about AKSTAR, janitorial services effectiveness and changes around the school due to the visit by insurance adjusters

4. Discussion items:

- a. APC self-assessment - results were presented by projector and areas of “needs improvement” were reviewed:
 - student/staff presentations to the APC
 - haste of the principal evaluation tool process
 - staff recognition
 - recognizes importance of staff development and provides time and funds
 - well-defined process for developing, reviewing and adopting the budget
 - annual evaluation considers strategic plan (still developing a strategic plan)
 - comprehensive orientation for new APC members
 - regular review of bylaws and policies (handbook review for example)
- b. Strategic plan preparation: involves multiple stakeholders in the Watershed Charter school community - where we want our school to be in the future - how we will achieve our mission,

vision, values, goals - develop a committee and have a goal of drafting it in 2023 with ideas from the committee presented in January

5. Action items:

a. Principal evaluation tool review

-David Merrill moved to use the same tool as last year for this coming principal evaluation for January 2023 through December 2023 (Sacha Layos seconded) and it was unanimously approved

-Jason Gillam moved and Kelly Masfield seconded to put together a principal evaluation tool for the following calendar year and that motion was unanimously approved

6. Adjourn: Jason Gillam moved to adjourn at 7:18 PM and there were no objections

The Watershed School

Academic Policy Committee

Thursday, January 19, 2023

6:00 PM

Location: Watershed Charter School – Ms. Hansen's Room

1. **Executive Session:** Principal evaluation
2. **Welcome**
 - a. Call to order 6:07 PM
 - b. Review minutes from previous meeting: Approved
3. **Public comment:** Parent commented in person at the meeting that Chinook offers a learning contract and she would like Watershed to adopt a learning contract for students who go on trips. She would like the APC to consider reviewing Watershed's attendance policy.
4. **Principal's report:** Details of reports are not included in the meeting minutes. Please use hyperlink to access the document.
 - a. Budget
 - b. Lottery update
 - c. Attendance report
 - d. Highlights
 - e. Questions from the board:

Board members asked questions and made comments about the lottery and attendance policy.
5. **Discussion items:**
 - a. 2023-2024 Calendar: No comments
 - b. Strategic Plan Committee report:
 - community stakeholders are an important aspect of Watershed's program and encouraging further partnership with the community and community involvement by students would be useful
 - Watershed's mission statement could potentially be streamlined
 - the committee is looking into creating a survey for staff, students, parents and alumni to help refine the strategic plan
 - discussed organizing a final strategic plan team and hiring a mediator for the final phase
 - discussed that the strategic plan team could be staff, students, alumni, and other stakeholders
 - c. Principal Evaluation Committee report (modifying evaluation instrument)
 - repetitive verbiage was removed from the document by the committee
 - changes were made to create an instrument more unique to Watershed School (Place-Based Education)
 - some sections were moved and new language was added
 - discussed waiting for more input from the APC at large

6. Action items:

a. Principal evaluation - decision

-discussed that the evidence for the evaluation submitted by the principal to the APC was shared with staff members serving on the APC for comment prior to the executive session

-Kelly Mansfield moved to retain Jarrod Decker as principal

-Sacha Layos seconded the motion

-Motion passed unanimously

7. Adjourn: 7:44 PM

8. Next Meeting February 16, 2023

The Watershed School

Academic Policy Committee

Meeting Notes

Thursday, February 16, 2023 6:00 PM

Location: Watershed Charter School – Ms. Hansen’s Room

1. Welcome

- a. Call to order 6:04 PM: Chasity Perez, Jarrod Decker, Pam Laker, Larissa Sommer, Sacha Layos, Abigail Paul, Kelly Mansfield, Jason Gillam and Becky Hansen were in attendance
- b. Review minutes from previous meeting: no objections

2. Public comment: None

3. Principal’s report: Please see principal’s report as separate document

- a. Budget
- b. Highlights
- c. Questions from the board: no questions

4. Action items:

- a. Principal evaluation instrument: motion to adopt for the 2/23 calendar (Dave Merrill) second (Kelly Mansfield) and passed unanimously
- b. 2023-2024 Calendar: Discussed changing the calendar so that the professional development day falls on President’s Day , February 19, 2024. Full-day PT conferences would be on February 9, 2024, evening conferences February 12-15, 2024 and a regular school day on February 16, 2024. Kelly moved (Sacha seconded) to put this new calendar idea out to the school population for another month and it unanimously passed. The APC will vote on the calendar next month.

5. Discussion items:

- a. School start/end times: Our current school start and end times were designed to align with bussing and shuttles, but we no longer have access to bussing, so the APC was asked if we should change our start and end times again. Jarrod Decker will bring it up with staff.
- b. Strategic Plan Committee update: At their last meeting, members brainstormed ideas for how to get community partners involved and how to survey stakeholders. Strategic plan committee notes are on a separate document. Input from the board on survey questions was to think about how the information would be used. Would you be able to respond to concerns with programmatic changes or not. Discussed ways to contact Watershed alumni with surveys moving forward. A Google form

could be designed (Jarrod Decker) so that different populations can answer different survey questions.

- c. Graveling the intersections around Watershed needs to be done more regularly.
- d. Superintendent selection may impact charter schools.
- e. Suggested agenda items for next meeting:
 - 1. legal representation for the charter school contract to help with defining in the contract what the district is responsible for providing

Next Meeting: March 23, 2023 6:00 PM

**Adjourn: 7:26 (Jason Gillam moved and Kelly Mansfield seconded) approved
unanimously**