

My name is Leslie Young, and I believe our community deserves full transparency and accountability.

While overseeing the district's finances, I discovered serious irregularities in the use of district-sponsored travel benefits—specifically the Alaska Airlines mileage account. Before the account was transferred to the Business Office in 2023, two employees had exclusive control. Records suggest that miles and companion fares earned through school-related travel may have been used for personal vacations—including trips to Hawaii, Colorado, and multiple visits to Fairbanks—with **no documented district purpose**. These concerns were raised with my supervisor and later brought to the School Board at the time of discovery.

Since my retirement, I have remained committed to seeking accountability. I filed a report with the Professional Teaching Practices Commission, submitted a report to the Sitka Police Department, and provided documentation supporting these concerns. The records available to me at the time span only a three-year period; to determine the full extent of the misuse, I believe a formal records request to Alaska Airlines is necessary to establish how many additional years of activity may be involved. I firmly believe the evidence warrants a **full, independent criminal investigation**—not merely another internal review by the Superintendent.

In addition to my earlier submissions, on August 31, 2025 I formally communicated these concerns in writing to the Superintendent's office and the School Board. The Superintendent's written response on September 3, 2025 indicated the matter was “investigated” and described it as a “personnel matter.” That response is unacceptable. Public funds or resources are never intended for personal use. Misappropriating them is not a personnel matter—it carries potential criminal consequences.

Under AR 3515.4, the District is obligated to report losses of public property, investigate thoroughly, cooperate with law enforcement when appropriate, and pursue recovery of misused resources. This duty cannot be ignored.

Historically, the District's practice has been to involve law enforcement before conducting internal investigations. Today, at minimum, I call on the District to request an **independent law-enforcement investigation** into the misuse of mileage benefits and associated funds.

This is not about assigning blame—it is about upholding integrity. The teachers, staff, and families of Sitka work diligently for our students, and it is deeply painful to see the actions of a few erode public trust.

Although I regret having to bring this publicly, I cannot remain silent—because silence allows wrongdoing to continue. It is time for openness, accountability, and a renewed commitment to doing what's right—for our students, our taxpayers, and our community.

Thank you.