

To: **Members of the State Board of
Education & Early Development**

January 22, 2025

From: Dr. Amy Phillips-Chan, Director, Libraries, Archives & Museums Agenda Item:9

◆ **ISSUE**

The board is being asked to approve the highest bid for the sale of the Stratton Library with proceeds directed towards needed renovations at the Sheldon Jackson Museum.

◆ **BACKGROUND**

- The Stratton was built in 1974 down the hill from the Sheldon Jackson Museum. The State purchased the Stratton from the Sheldon Jackson College in 2010 to address pressing facility needs at the Sheldon Jackson Museum, including inadequate collections space and a dedicated area for educational programming. Due to persistent building problems and the high cost of renovation, the Stratton has been inadequate for safeguarding and sharing the historic museum collections. Proceeds from the sale of the Stratton will help to address these critical needs for preservation of the collection and public access.
- Sale of the Stratton building by the Department is authorized under AS 14.07.030(a)(6), powers of the department: Sec. 14.07.030. Powers of the department. (a) The department may . . . (6) acquire and transfer personal property, acquire real property, and transfer real property to federal agencies, state agencies, or to political subdivisions;
- A public presentation on the condition of the Stratton Library and the Sheldon Jackson Museum was provided by the Division during the Alaska State Board of Education & Early Development “Board of Education” meeting on June 8, 2023. The Board of Education approved the motion to dispose of the Stratton on July 26, 2023, with proceeds directed towards the Sheldon Jackson Museum.
- A Preliminary Best Interest Decision on the “Stratton Library Property Sale” was disseminated for public notice in April-May 2024. Archived at: [Preliminary Decision of Land Conveyance Stratton Library, Sitka - Alaska Online Public Notices \(state.ak.us\)](#) The Department received 9 public comments on the Preliminary Best Interest Decision. The Board of Education reviewed the comments and determined no alternative action to the sale was needed.
- The Invitation to Bid (ITB) was open to a federal agency, state agency, or political subdivision of the state that falls under statutory authority of the Department to transfer real authority (AS 14.07.030(a)(6). Following close of the ITB, the Board of Education is being asked to review the highest bid for the Stratton.
- The Board of Education’s decision on the bid will be considered final unless, upon issuance of the Final Finding and Decision, a person affected by the decision who provided timely written comment or public hearing testimony on the preliminary decision requests reconsideration and the request is acted upon by the commissioner. If the

Department does not dispose of the Stratton to a federal agency, state agency, or political subdivision, the property will remain with the Department under management of the Division for continued operation or future disposition.

- Dr. Amy Phillips-Chan, Director, Division of Libraries, Archives & Museums, will be present to brief the board.

◆ **OPTIONS**

Sale of the Stratton.

Continue to manage as is, take no action.

◆ **ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION**

Support sale of the Stratton Library to the highest bidder.

◆ **SUGGESTED MOTION**

I move that the State Board of Education and Early Development authorize and approve the commissioner to sell the Stratton Library to the highest bidder with the following conditions:

- Proceeds from the sale of the Stratton Library shall be directed towards the Sheldon Jackson Museum; and,
- the Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums within the Department of Education and Early Development shall retain oversight of the Sheldon Jackson Museum including its facilities, operations, and grounds.