



BILL OEFELEIN

I have been an Alaska resident for 43 years. I grew up in Anchorage, graduating with honors from West Anchorage HS in 1983. After two years at the University of Alaska, I transferred to Oregon State University, graduating with honors in 1988 with a BS in Electrical Engineering. I joined the US Navy in 1988, beginning a 20 year career as a US Navy F/A-18 Fighter Pilot, Test Pilot, and NASA Astronaut. Upon military retirement in 2008, I formed two Alaska-based companies: Adventure Write and Discovery Aerospace. I currently live in Wasilla with my wife and son.

1. Why do you want to be part of the AAC Advisory Board?

I feel it is important to be directly involved with my son's activities, particularly his education. As part of the AAC Advisory Board, I can offer input into long-term decisions that affect and enhance his education, as well as that of his peers, and ensure the educational experience is custom fit to students' specific needs and interests. Doing so will prepare students for success in their future endeavors.

2. How are you currently involved with Mat-Su Central: (Homeschool background, classes or workshops taken, why are you part of Mat-Su Central?)

My son has been a Mat-Su Central student since Kindergarten. Though he began as a co-enrolled student, my wife and I decided to homeschool this year (his 1st-grade year) exclusively through Mat-Su Central, because it better fits his educational needs at this stage of his development. I am directly involved in developing his curriculum, teaching at home, and evaluating his progress. Additionally, I visited his Mat-Su Central Legos class upon his teacher's request where I conducted a Space-related Q&A with his classmates. Further, my Adventure Write partner is a Mat-Su Central educational vendor, providing PE and Creative Writing courses.

3. How will you help make the MSC program better or more relevant?

I have the most important investment in MSC one could have: the education of my son. With this motivation, I will help make the decisions necessary to ensure all MSC students benefit from a dynamic, personalized curriculum that produces critical thinkers and successful members of society. I will strive to understand the needs of all our students and families and will work with the Mat-Su Borough School District and educational vendors as necessary to seek out partnerships and opportunities which enhance students' educational options and modernize curriculum while promoting a positive learning environment for all MSC students.