



# Craig City School District

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FOR: School Board Members  
FROM: Chris Reitan  
DATE: April 27, 2022  
SUBJECT: Superintendent Report

## Student Learning

**April 21 and 22 In-Service Planning** - CCSD partnered with the American School Counselors Association for our April in-service to provide follow-up training for our Craig based staff. Unfortunately, the flights for Sylvia Hollins were cancelled and we were forced to move from an in-person format to a virtual/distance in-service format. Our work focused on each school developing a trauma sensitive system-wide implementation plan that incorporates 2-3 universal strategies that will be used in each school that will be tailored for appropriate implementation within an elementary, middle, and high school setting. Provided for your review is the agenda and outcomes for our in-service.

**Voices of the Land Alaska Native Education Program Grant** – CCSD partnered with Sealaska Heritage Institute on an ANEP grant entitled Sharing our Stories: Voice on the Land. Cody Williams (CES's SEALS instructor) worked directly with Sealaska Heritage Institute on the grant objectives. Students in our 4th and 5th grade classes worked with Abel Ryan, a form line artist and storyteller. The major aspects of the grant are outlined below.

- Develop six art kits
- Develop and deliver three-week residencies in storytelling, performing arts, and digital storytelling
- Develop summer intensive that will be offered in-person and distance.

**Sealaska Heritage Institute MOAs** - CCSDs principals and I met with representatives earlier this month from Sealaska Heritage institute on two ANEP grant opportunities that will be submitted later this spring. One of the grant opportunities is dedicated to middle school STEAM opportunities especially focused on our SEALS and math/science program (Opening the Box: Culturally Responsive STEAM Education for Middle School). The grant will provide support for two teachers to participate with the wider Sealaska Heritage Institute, professional development for the teachers engaged in the project, materials to integrate cultural content and pedagogies into our middle school SEALS and math/science courses, and access to a STEAM Summer Academy. The second grant (Thru the Cultural Lens) will provide training to teachers, administrators, and support staff through the Thru the Cultural Lens Seminar Series, culturally proficient coaching for teachers and administrators, virtual training on culturally responsive approaches to instructional unit design, and funding for teachers and administrators to engage in a Culturally Responsive Education Conference held annually in Juneau.

**PACE April In-service:** Our PACE staff conducted their spring in-service on April 20 and 21. One key component of the PACE in-service was our attendance at the IDEA Curriculum Fair in Anchorage on April 21. The IDEA Curriculum Fair is the premiere homeschool event in Alaska, where participants can learn about homeschool products from dozens of homeschool curriculum providers. The purpose for our attendance was to grow our PACE staff's awareness of curricula options dedicated to homeschooling families so that we can ensure we are helping our families utilize curricula that best meet the needs and learning styles of their child(ren). Additionally, PACE continued our work on program improvements to improve our service model and provide better support for the homeschool families we serve across the state.

**AK STARS Statewide Testing** - CCSD has completed our AK STARS (grades 3-9) and PEAKs science assessments (grades 5, 8, and 10). We will have some makeups that we will need to address for some of our students. Our next step is to meet as a statewide assessment team (admin, testing coordinator, and IT personnel) and determine what worked well for us and what adjustments will we need to make moving forward to improve the testing context for our students and staff as we adjust to this new state assessment platform.

## Resource Management

**CCSD Certified Instructional Recruitment for 2022-2023 School Year** - CCSD is currently advertising for three certified teaching positions for the 2022-2023 school year.

- CMS Special Education Teacher
- CHS PE/Health Teacher
- CES .5 Special Education Teacher

As of the writing of this report we have one applicant from overseas who has completed the application and one applicant who has started the application for the .5 CES elementary special education position but has not completed it. We also have one applicant who has started the application for the CMS special education teaching position but has not completed the application. We have made two offers for the CHS PE/Health position and both candidates have declined the offer and are currently in the process of scheduling an interview with a new candidate.

CCSD received a list of registrants two weeks ago from the Oregon Job Fair from the Alaska Teacher Placement Office. CCSD emailed every candidate who currently has a special education teaching certification and invited them to apply for our middle school special education position. CCSD also reviewed all recent applicants (January – April ) on the Alaska Teacher Placement website with special education certification and PE/health certification or experience and personally invited each applicant to apply for our open positions.

Certified recruiting across the entire state is problematic. On Wednesday, April 13, 19 Alaska school districts traveled to Minneapolis, MN for the Minnesota Alaska Teacher Placement Job Fair. Five potential applicants attended the job fair. The Alaska Teacher Placement website currently has over 1200 open certified and classified positions statewide. There is a critical supply and demand issue nationwide for certified teachers and classified hourly staff which are heightened due to the specifics of teaching and working in Alaska.

Representative Grier Hopkins has introduced HB 220 Retirement Benefits; Defined Benefit Options to develop an updated defined benefit retirement system for Alaska's Teacher Retirement System (TRS) and Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) to help Alaska be more competitive with other states in the union in our recruiting and retention efforts of teachers and public employees. Alaska is the only state in the union that currently doesn't have a defined benefit retirement system for

educators. This bill is currently being held in House Finance and would need to be passed by the House and moved over to the Senate for deliberation. As more information becomes available about HB 220, I will share with the Board.

I was contacted and am now serving on a teacher recruitment and retention working group. The purpose of the working group is to develop and propose specific solutions and funding sources to improve our certified recruitment and retention efforts statewide. The working group is comprised of over 40 individuals who represent the UA system, educational consultants, Department of Education and Early Development personnel, the Alaska Teacher Placement office, certified teachers, and certified administrators across the state.

Additionally, there is still a lot of dialogue regarding the bigger school districts needing to cut staff due to funding shortfalls. Contracts have not yet been issued to teachers in some of these districts, I'm assuming but have not heard for sure, because they are waiting to see if there will be additional funding for the Base Student Allocation (BSA) coming out of the legislature (HB 272 and HB 273) so that they can be more deliberate with their layoffs. There will be many teachers in the relative near future looking for employment.

**CCSD Strategic Plan** - The CCSD Strategic Plan survey is running from Monday, April 15 and running it through Monday, May 2; a two-week window for our stakeholders to respond. Once we receive all the survey information, I'd recommend the Board hold a work-session to review the survey data and begin deliberations about next steps the Board wants to take to update the district's strategic plan.

**Craig High School Biomass Project** - The Craig High School biomass project has secured additional funding from the Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy Investment (SASSI) fund. At the writing of this report, we are still not sure of the exact funding amount or when the money will be released. At this time, we are anticipating a fall 2022 bid process so that the project can be awarded, and the contractor can begin ordering all materials and preparing to mobilize for a summer 2023 construction. Some of the items associated with the project also have at least a six-month lag time and we want to ensure there are no delays with the project due to materials not being available. Because CCSD is a sub-unit of the City of Craig and that the City of Craig owns the buildings, CCSD was not able to move forward with executing agreements with the USDA, who is administering the SASSI funds. The City of Craig adopted the attached resolution (Resolution 22-11) authorizing the Craig City School District to execute all agreements and associated documents with the USDA, rural development regarding grants related to the CHS biomass boiler at their Thursday, April 21 Council meeting. CCSD is grateful for the Craig City Council approving this resolution so CCSD can continue moving forward with the USDA to process all documents related to the SASSI funding source.

## Communication

**CCSD April 25 Indigenous Education Committee Meeting** - The CCSD Indigenous Education Committee met on Monday, April 25 at 4:30pm.

**CCSD Board Policy Committee Meeting** - The CCSD Board Policy Committee is scheduled to meet on Monday, May 9 at 5:30pm.

**CCSD Board Mitigation Advisory Committee Meeting** – The CCSD Board Mitigation Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, May 10 at 6:30pm.