



Craig City School District

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FOR: School Board Members
FROM: Chris Reitan
DATE: August 23, 2023
SUBJECT: Superintendent Report

Student Learning

August 24 and 25 In-Service - Attached for Board members' review is the agenda with outcomes as well as the processes CCSD will utilize to analyze our most recent student learning data (MAP Growth) from the Fall 2022 testing window to the Spring 2023 testing window.

AK STAR Assessments (Spring 2023) - CCSD's spring AK STAR student assessment data won't be available until later in the school year, most likely sometime after October. Cut scores that mark the proficiency levels for the AK STAR standardized assessments were established by DEED in June 2022. Alaska educators from around the state participated in the process and established cut scores based on Alaska standards for grades 3-9 in English Language Arts, Math, and Science. These cut scores were approved by the State Board of Education in July of 2022. In May 2023, using data from Spring 2022 and Spring 2023 AK STAR assessments, DEED conducted an evidence based validation study process. This process was used to evaluate the accuracy of existing cut scores and determine if any changes needed to be made in the Alaska assessment cut scores. DEED is currently conducting a policy review with state leadership to evaluate the final cut scores.

AK Reads Act - The Alaska Reads Act kicks in with full force during the 2023-2024 school year which significantly amps up school districts' responsibilities for reading instruction and reading intervention for students in grades K-3. By September 1 every district is required to submit their K-3 MTSS plans to DEED and make revisions as needed based on DEED's review and feedback. Our CES and PACE MTSS plans are being finalized and will be submitted to the state by the September 1 deadline. By October 6 each district is required to conduct a beginning of year reading screener for all K-3 students and submit that data to DEED. Districts are then required to create an Individual Reading Improvement Plan (IRIP) for each student with identified reading deficiencies, notify parents within 15 days and meet with parents to develop a plan and implement the IRIP within 30 days of identification. By January 26 each district is required to conduct a middle of the year screener and develop an IRIP for each newly identified student with a reading deficiency. 45 days before the last day of school districts are required to meet with parents and discuss grade progression options. By May 24 each district is required to conduct an end of the year screener, verify progression decision with parents as indicated by screener results, and develop an IRIP for any newly identified students.

I'm predicting that CCSD's (CES and PACE) MTSS Reading Intervention Plans will need to be updated/adjusted based on what we learn from the process during the upcoming school year.

Resource Management

Staffing for the 2023-2024 School Year - Outlined below is updated information about the current certified positions CCSD has advertised.

- **CEMS SEALS Teaching Position** - This position continues to be difficult to fill. One candidate was moved to the interview committee but was not recommended by the committee to move to the next phases of our screening. The majority of applicants would require a J1 visa and would not be a good fit for this position.
- **CMS and CES Special Education Teaching Positions (2)** - Given the quality of the small number of applications we have received these positions continue to be difficult positions to fill. There have been no new applicants for more than a month.

FY 23 Audit - Representatives from Altman Rogers were in Craig during the week of August 14 to conduct the district's FY 23 audit. As a reminder this is the 4th and last step of our FY 23 budget cycle. Typically the final audit report is completed for Board review and adoption during our October or November Board meetings.

FY 25 Budget Development - As a reminder, as CCSD prepared for the FY 24 budget cycle we were looking at an estimated \$800,000 deficit. With the additional \$135,000 funding the district received from the City, the additional one-time funding from the state of approximately \$341,217 (based on our estimated FY 24 enrollment), and the monies the Board approved to be transferred from our Capital Projects Fund to the General Fund has made the district whole moving into the 2023-2024 school year. However, I'm estimating a deficit over \$1,000,000 for FY 25 given the \$800,000 we were already in the hole at the start of the FY 24 budget cycle plus the additional inflationary costs CCSD will need to address. The City of Craig can't guarantee additional funding each year, and it is impossible to predict what might happen during next spring's legislative session. Although I do not believe we will need to reduce our budget by \$1,000,000 I do believe it will be prudent for the district to reduce our budget by at least \$600,000; my sense is that we could most likely assume at least the same amount of one-time funding from the state (estimated \$341,217) that we are receiving this year. The district will need to work with our staff, our parents, and ultimately the school board to determine how we most appropriately plan for these reductions. These discussions won't be easy and will cause angst and concern across our island community. However, I don't believe we have any other choices. To not prepare for potential reductions would be irresponsible.

CHS Biomass Project - The bid process for supplying the material for a metal building to house our wood shop closed on Monday, August 7 at 2:00pm. CCSD received one bid for a total amount of \$297,433.

As a reminder CCSD has secured a \$500,000 Denali Commission grant for this project, a \$750,000 grant from USDA funneled through Southeast Conference for this project, and the CCSD Board allocated \$355,000 towards the project. It's important to remember that the district has spent down some of the \$355,000 in the purchase and shipping of the Twin Heat biomass boiler that is currently stored in a connex behind the high school.

Our goal would be to then move to constructing the new wood shop during the fall semester, move our wood shop classes into the new building for the spring semester and then begin the next phases of the project converting the "old" wood shop to our biomass boiler facility. This is an aggressive timeline and subject to be modified.

CMS Gym Heat Issues - CCSD has purchased a new boiler to be installed to heat the middle school gym. It is estimated to arrive in October and work to install will begin immediately. CCSD has reached out to local contractors for proposals to install. We are concerned about the timing of the arrival and ensuring we have adequate heat to the middle school gym since October is at the very beginning of our heat season.

CES Propane Boiler Installation - We are out for bid to install two propane boilers to replace the oil-fired boilers. Design and estimations have been completed. They are attached for your review.

Communication

CCSD Board Policy Committee Meeting – The CCSD Board Policy Committee is scheduled to meet on Friday, September 1 at 3:45pm in the district office. Included with this report is the public notice for this meeting.