



# Craig City School District

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FOR: School Board Members  
FROM: Chris Reitan  
DATE: March 15, 2023  
SUBJECT: Superintendent Report

## Student Learning

**March 9 and 10, 2023 In-service** – CCSD conducted our March in-service on March 9 and March 10. The outcomes that drove our in-service agenda are outlined below.

- Develop draft strategies, tasks and metrics aligned with CCSD Board adopted strategic plan goals
- Develop building level plans for AK STARS and PEAKs Science Assessments
- Ensure all staff can access and utilize the Tyler Technology School ERP Pro Employee Portal
- Ensure all CCSD staff are certified in CPR and First Aid
- Provide targeted time for staff collaboration and relationship building
- Develop CES specific plans to address the Alaska Reads Act
- Respond to building level needs

**Student College and Career Exploration** – Our high school counseling and administrative staff have been organizing a trip for juniors/seniors to travel to Anchorage at the end of March to explore post-secondary training options. Job Corps, UAA, APU, Trend Setters, IBEW, and the Iron Workers Union are currently on the schedule. Eleven students, so far, are signed up for this trip. Funding for this trip is provided through our Migrant Education Grant and our Project SOAR (ANEP) grant. This is a great opportunity for our students to either finalize their post-secondary plans (seniors) or put more definition to their post-secondary plans (juniors). We are really thankful for our collaborative ANEP grant (SOAR) that we have in partnership with our other island school districts.

**Alaska Science Assessment and AK STAR Assessment** – The testing window for our Alaska Science Assessment and AK STAR Assessment is from March 27 – April 28, 2023. CES, CMS, and CHS are finalizing our testing dates for each school. Since the assessments are online we work to ensure that we don't have all students testing at the same time so that there won't be any concerns with bandwidth issues or glitches with buffering.

**CES Special Education Speech Services** - As it is readily known, securing an additional elementary special education teacher position has been problematic during the last couple of years. The number of students our current CES special education teacher is serving is beyond optimal numbers. CCSD Special Education Director, Mike Hautala, has secured distance speech services to work with our students who only have speech services that will allow more time for our CES special education teacher to work with our other students who have other special needs. This contract for services is only for the remainder of this year. If we are able to secure two elementary special education teaching positions for next year, these services will not be necessary. However, if we find ourselves in a similar place next school year we will be able to quickly make similar arrangements.

## Resource Management

**Staffing for the 2023-2024 School Year** - Outlined below is an update about where CCSD currently stands with our certified staffing needs for next school year. I have reached out to other school districts about agencies they use to secure HBI and J1 teaching candidates. Given the fact that over 1400 jobs are currently advertised on the ATP website and that it is predicted that there will be hundreds of open certified positions in Alaska next September CCSD needs to explore all available options for securing teachers for our student programs.

- CHS Science and Math Teaching Position - Position offered and accepted by Stephen DeHart.
- CES 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teaching Position – Position offered and accepted by Grace Beckman
- CMS/CHS PE and Health Teacher – Position offered and accepted by Tricia Stock.
- CCSD Title I Teacher and District Test Coordinator - Position offered and accepted by Christy House
- 5th Grade Teaching Position - Position offered and accepted by Mike Nelson.
- CES Special Education Teaching Positions. Two positions remains advertised on the Alaska Teacher Placement website.
- CES 3rd Grade and 4th Grade Teaching Positions – Positions advertised on the Alaska Teacher Placement website
- CEMS SEALS Teaching Position – Position advertised on the Alaska Teacher Placement website

**AS 14.17.430 State Funding for Correspondence Study** – CCSD along with our partner districts have submitted our request and the Board resolutions to the House Education and Finance Committees and the Senate Education and Finance Committees. I did have a phone meeting with Representative Himschoot who represents Craig and who also sits on the House Education Committee about the request. This request is not getting much traction due to the conversations in the legislature about potentially raising the Base Student Allocation (SB 50 and HB 65). SB 50 has language to increase the BSA by \$1000 and HB 65 has language to increase the BSA by \$1250. At this point our funding request to increase Correspondence student funding to include the special needs factor of 1.20 appears to be dying on the vine. I have been paying close attention to the House Education Committee meetings and Senate Education Committee meetings. I do believe there is some political will to address the public education funding crisis in Alaska but I don't believe the final settlement will be anywhere near the \$1000 increase that SB 50 calls for or \$1250 increase the HB 65 calls for. My prediction when the legislative session ends is that we will see an increase to the BSA but it will be a nominal increase. At this point, any increase to the BSA would be welcomed by CCSD. Outlined below are some facts associated with the BSA and funding in Alaska that superintendents and Board members from around the state are utilizing as part of their testimony.

- Public education has been flat-funded since 2017. During that time inflation has risen 18%.
- Schools are being closed, learning opportunities are being stripped from students, and educators can't make ends meet.
- From 2011 to 2022, the Base Student Allocation has increased by less than 5%, while Alaska's urban consumer price index has risen by 24.6%.
- A January 30, 2023 memo from the Legislative Finance Division calculated that the BSA would need to increase by \$1,348 to match the buying power of peak year 2015.
- There are 2,100 fewer educators in Alaska classrooms today than 10 years ago.
  - As of today, There are over 1400 open positions across the State of Alaska.
  - There are 1,000 fewer certificated classroom teachers in Alaska than in 2010-2011.

**Classified Hourly Negotiations** – Negotiations on a successor agreement for our classified hourly employees are scheduled to begin on Monday, April 17.

**CHS Biomass Project** - We officially went out for bid on Friday, February 24 for our CHS Biomass Project. To date three companies have registered to bid on the project.

**CMS and CES Major Maintenance Projects** - On behalf of CCSD, MRV Architects submitted updated design and bid documents to the Department of Education and Early Development for their review. DEED had a couple of questions and MRV Architects is addressing those questions. We are planning on going out for bid a second time in the near future once DEED provides their final approval. On a side note, it has been arranged for our CMS and CES staff to tour the Liberty Baptist Church this afternoon.

**CCSD Bus Transportation Services** - Cummings sent technicians to POW to address the emission issues on our busses and completed the work. During their work they recommended replacement of injector units on our busses. The injectors have been ordered. Once they arrive and are installed we will return to using our busses for transportation services. I can't thank SISD enough for their help. If they didn't have a bus available we would have been in a really difficult place for our transportation services.

## **Communication**

**CCSD Internal Communication Survey** – The report from our internal communication survey that was facilitated by SERRC should be available for Board review in the near future.

**Alaska Statewide Family Engagement Grant** - The Association of Alaska School Boards was awarded an Alaska Statewide Family Engagement Grant. Fourteen school districts, spanning 203 schools across the state, signed on to access professional learning and support from AASB and the Alaska Statewide Family Engagement Center (ASFEC) partners. These include Aleutians East, Anchorage, Bering Strait, Bristol Bay, Craig City, Dillingham City, Juneau Borough, Kake City, Lower Kuskokwim, Lower Yukon, Nome Public, Northwest Arctic Borough, Saint Mary's, and Yukon Flats. The grant aligns with AASB's long commitment to strengthening family/school partnerships and increasing equity-centered practices to improve student outcomes, it also aligns well with some of the objectives and goal areas associated with our strategic plan. CCSD attended virtual training scheduled on February 15 with a follow-up in-person training on April 27. CCSD has five staff members and parents committed at this time to support our work in these areas (Aubrey Gamble, Betty Hall, April Hoy, Melissa Peavey, and Chris Reitan).

**CCSD Indigenous Education Committee Meeting** - CCSD's next Indigenous Education Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 16 at 4:00pm.

**CCSD Board Policy Committee Meeting** – CCSD's next Board Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 7 at 1:00pm.