

FEBRUARY 13, 2020
SISD SCHOOL BOARD REPORT

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Across the district, we have many events and activities occurring in our schools, strengthening our students, and in turn our district. From a teacher's perspective these are opportunities for growth, learning, and may be crucial in the development of a student. To a student, the lens shows a different view, and now, we get to hear it.

If one thing is for certain, this past month has been very busy and exciting. A variety of events, people, teaching moments, and moments that were simply joyous. For a start, Dancing with the Spirit has made their rounds to Thorne Bay, Whale Pass, and Hollis. Currently Jason and Stella are enjoying their second week at Coffman Cove school, sharing music and spreading joy with its students.

In our other schools, many other exciting moments have taken place. In Thorne Bay, the girls high school basketball team won their first game in seven years! The boys team is on an undefeated streak as of 2/05/20. On another note for the basketball teams, they wound up stranded in Hoonah and Juneau for a bit, which included playing a lot of Monopoly to kill time outside of homework. In addition, new electives were added as classes for this semester, including psychology, coding, EMS, film, and critical thinking. Over in Whale Pass, students enjoyed their time with Dancing with the Spirit, and learned to tie fishing ties. Here in Hollis, students celebrated their week with Jason and Stella by hosting a hoe down at the local fire department. The night was a huge success, with music, dancing, good food, singing, and laughter.

This month, the Student Point of View form I sent out to students and lead teachers across the district, got a lot of input and response. With that input came ideas to improve the schooling experiences and overall quality of life within the district. To summarize, students suggested more elective classes be open to rural students and that there be more social events. We should get involved more in volunteer/service related projects. That we open our doors to homeschooling, so that families that prefer to do so, may do it, while their children are counted in our school count and can if they would like, be included in our sports/activities. Students also suggested that they would like to do more for fundraising, one suggestion being to host movie nights at Thorne Bay school. Students would like to see more being done with the greenhouse and welding shop; they've suggested making the greenhouse more dirt based so they could learn botany, and to seek out more funding for the welding shop. They would also like to see our

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schools become more involved with learning things that occur outside the island and after we graduate. One idea stated

that the student would be interested in us performing a student model of the United Nations to promote critical thinking, and help us understand the world we will be entering when we become adults. In addition, the student stated that they would appreciate learning things such as how to do taxes. Finally, the last suggestion stated covered food served at lunch and what they would like to see change as far as their meals go. One idea, would be having students fill out a survey so we can get an idea of what foods are working and not working with our students, and determine if there is anything we can do to change that.

As a result, this past month has ups, downs, lefts, and rights, but I think I can speak for the students of the district when I say, it was pretty great. Hopefully, we have many more great experiences and months to come.