



# SOUTHEAST ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

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## June 10, 2016 Board Report

### Staffing

We have offered a 0.49 FTE contract to Sarah DeVore for **Howard Valentine School**.

The potential of additional students in **Naukati** who receive intensive services is adding pressure to add a teaching position there. I am quite nervous about waiting too long for this hire. Our success rate on late hires is not high. We already posted for another position in Naukati for FY17, so we can move quickly. Gambling on intensive services funding is stressful, as we do not know until November if funding for these services is approved. We also cannot know for certain those students will still be enrolled on the last day of count in October when funding is decided. All I can do is look at probability. If we feel we have a reasonable chance for funding, we will hire soon. If we wait until November, the time spent providing intensive services to multiple students will have impacted the education of the other students at this one-teacher site.

A **Superintendent** working less than half time has already been calculated into the budget to get it balanced. Our legal advisor has been working with the Division of Retirement and Benefits to seek the means to do this. Retirement has been struggling financially and does everything they can to resist having people retire and continue to work. It comes down to arguing about how to interpret Alaska Statutes. I meet with the attorney Monday, but predict that I will resign before the end of the month and that SISD will then seek a part-time Superintendent to keep the budget balanced without further cuts. I will send you an update Monday afternoon.

### 7. A. Approval of Contract for Thorne Bay Electrical Installation

These projects include contracted costs of over \$25,000, and therefore fall within Title 36 and require Little Davis Bacon wages. It drives up the cost considerably. I fret some that the costs on the other boilers we are putting in will swell beyond grant funding. We have an obligation to contribute a portion of the cost of the project and we hope this will cover costs. It could slow us up on the last of the boiler installations. The last one is expected to be in Whale Pass after completing boiler projects in Naukati and Hollis. **I recommend approval of the contract.**

### Schools

There is still not a hint of even one student in **Port Protection** or Point Baker. I have been dragging my feet on the closure, but there appears to be no way to retain the school for next year. We have sent up a team to return the most valuable items and made arrangements to have the site maintained and heated periodically. We are moving to notify DEED of the official closure.

**Hyder** is secure for next year and should be fine for some time. **Whale Pass** and **Port Alexander** are stable for this year. Port Alexander is going to be an issue soon.

**Howard Valentine** is expected to be stable for this year and I am confident the future is excellent. We have a current issue with secondary students. I expect that some secondary students will commute to schools across the island. It has been a persistent issue in Coffman Cove for what seems like about ten years. Concerns have been related to staffing and being

required to fundraise to participate in sports. Craig and Klawock do not require fundraising or have more modest expectations.

Over time, fundraising concerns should become a nonissue. The new greenhouse, should these same students choose to assist in operation, will provide funding for a multitude of educational, leadership or sports costs. The greenhouse can provide \$50,000 a year to the school with the primary intent being to support student activities. Students actively engaged, will quite literally be able to travel the world.

We have set up accounts for our various enterprises with the expectation that they will pay for their own seed, pots, potting soil, etc. I need to discuss with Lucienne, but it is my intent to create a fund within those accounts so that when a student that participated in these activities graduates, there be a financial award at graduation based on participation. This would occur for any activity that generates income, whether tortillas, the café, student store, or greenhouses.

**7. B. Certified Addendums for Helen Powell, Tracy Gunkel and Allen Erickson**  
**I recommend approval of the addendums.** Chris can clarify what each is for.

**7. C. Pet Deposit/Pet Fee for District Housing**

I am not sure there are many landlords in America that do not charge a pet deposit. To be honest, we could never make the deposit high enough to cover the potential damage from irresponsible pet owners. A deposit simply encourages pet owners to be responsible and motivated to return the unit in the condition they found it. Any action must include consultation with the teacher's union. Any recommendations for the policy that are identified today should go to a second reading to allow time for that discussion to occur. I am not prepared to have it await the next negotiated agreement. I want something in place as employees complete their rental agreements. New teachers start moving in by the last half of July. Teachers need to know of the cost before they load the car. My experience is that it often affects pet decisions before the move.

With that said, my advice is to go with a pet deposit that can be refunded. It can be paid in monthly installments to reduce front-end costs, especially for teachers just moving to Alaska. **I recommend a decision on a proposal. Move it to a second reading that we vote on within a couple of weeks.**

**7. D. INDYSPUDS Contract**

We budgeted for this contract. Janet Stout is a superior value. We could not cover that service for double the price. **I recommend approval of the contract.**

Sincerely,



Lauren Burch  
Superintendent