



SOUTHEAST ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

P.O. Box 19569, 1010 Sandy Beach Road Thorne Bay, Alaska 99919
(907) 828-8254 Fax: (907) 828-8257 E-mail: sisd@sisd.org

Board Report March 20, 2018

Budget Discussions

We will have discussed our first pass through our budget preparations for the next school year. We will continue to refine our budget as we get updates of what the Legislature will do regarding school funding. An additional challenge is predicting our own student count. Most of our sites are stable. Of concern is Barry C Stewart Kasaan School with a prediction of nine students next year. Additionally, Port Alexander School is seriously at risk. If we gamble and fully staff the school, we risk a significant shortfall financially. Lucienne will have explained options in greater detail during the workshop at 4:30 today. For the moment, we will proceed on the presumption that both schools will have at least ten students. Should this not be the case, there will be significant belt tightening.

Certified Staffing 2018-19

We are in the process of securing teachers for our open positions. Rebecca Stratton-Cooper, a secondary and SpEd teacher, has signed a letter of intent for Naukati. Carlyn Wooten, an elementary/middle school/SpEd teacher, who is also working on an Administrative Certificate, has signed a letter of intent for Thorne Bay. She will be responsible primarily for SpEd duties. Chad Dillman, formerly with Hyder School, has accepted a secondary position in Coffman Cove.

We have not made offers for the elementary position in Coffman Cove or for the elementary and secondary positions in Port Alexander. All positions will be filled with individuals who also have SpEd certifications when possible. Any time we have students with SpEd needs and do not have a teacher with SpEd certification on site, additional resources are required to provide services to those.

Dancing with the Spirit

All sites have committed to raising money to pay towards the weeklong event at their site next fall.

Greenhouses

A weeklong wood-fired boiler training has been completed in Coffman Cove which included individuals from Tok, Tazlina, Hydaburg, Anchorage, and Fairbanks. Trainers included individuals with skills with greenhouses. We had staff participate in both trainings.

We have had a variety of problems with each greenhouse system we have used. Straight hydroponic systems managed to have periodic catastrophes due to water flow or chemical imbalances. Aquaponic systems with fish make aphid control more

complicated and we have managed to kill entire crops of fish repeatedly in Coffman Cove and Naukati.

We will continue with the aquaponic systems in Kasaan, Naukati and Thorne Bay. Other sites will go to a soil-based system or floating hydroponic beds. Our goal has been to involve students in the greenhouses. No one wants to spend their class time every day looking for aphids. We are also switching to plants that are more easily monitored. In systems without fish, there are less labor-intensive ways to control pests.

Site Repairs

As stated before, I am going to ask for a cost estimate on new carpet in the Whale Pass School and the Hollis School. We would install the carpet over the summer. The buildings at both sites need some leveling, which has kept us from proceeding with these projects for a number of years. The Hollis School in particular is pretty serious. If our own crew can correct the leveling issues, we would proceed with new carpet installation.

Hollis, Kasaan, Naukati and Coffman Cove need additional wood storage. The wood we get tends to be wet and requires more than one year to dry. This requires more storage capacity.

The repair of the Hollis dam is scheduled for this summer. Much of this cost will be covered through a grant.

Maintenance Help

We will need some additional maintenance support during the time that Jonathan Fitzpatrick is assigned to wood-fired boiler installation in Southeast Island School District and, this coming summer, in Hydaburg. While he works on these projects, his salary is funded largely through those grants. We expect to have one of our on-call maintenance technicians work for 29 hours per week until Jonathan can return to his normal duties.

Crisis Drills

Recent mass shootings remind us to review our own policies. While it is easy to think this will never happen in our schools, one can never know. Bethel had an incident several years ago. We live in a unique situation. Law enforcement can be hours or days away. We have small schools and do not have to concern ourselves with finding 1500 students after we exit a building. We are currently reviewing our plans for each site. They are all unique. In general, we advocate exiting the building by whatever means necessary and getting away from the school. There is absolutely no logic to hiding under your desk or in your closet. For obvious reasons, I resist suggesting we will collect at a nearby building.

Transgender Policy

We are monitoring policies that other small Alaskan districts adopt as they address this topic before we make a proposal.

Site of District-wide Events

As stated last month, we have received feedback suggesting that the location of District-wide events be alternated at different schools around the district. We currently have three schools large enough to host most any event. We will begin to prioritize having events at other sites.

Map Testing

We recently completed this testing and look forward to using the information to improve our student outcomes. Thanks to **Amy McDonald** for her efforts to have this occur correctly and without problems. As always, **Airica Tripple** is working in the background making sure everything works as it should.

Title II Funding Concern

The Supporting Effective Instruction State Grant program, or Title II, Part A, is the third-largest program in the U.S. Department of Education's budget that goes to K-12 education. According to the publication *Education Week*, the current administration has proposed eliminating this funding:

http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/campaign-k-12/2017/03/trump_cut_teacher_funding_meaning_schools.html

Title II supports teacher professional development and teacher recruitment. This year our funding is \$20,944.00

Café

We are reviewing options. I still desire the educational opportunity for our students but it requires a plan that can financially sustain itself.

9. B. FY 2018 Revised Budget

Lucienne will speak to this item. **I recommend approval.**

10. A. Professional Services Contract for Special Education Support

As reviewed at the last Board meeting, we have been seeking a skilled, retired Special Education teacher to do contract work reviewing and working on the paperwork and testing needed around the district. We have found an individual and have proposed a contract for remainder of this school year. Dawn Rosenlund of Coffman Cove has agreed to contract with us in this capacity. She would be contracted at a modest level for the remainder of the school year. Should this work out well for the district we will pursue continuing the relationship. **I recommend approval.**

10. B. 1st Proposed Budget for FY 2019

This early in the year, a budget estimate is just that. There will be revisions as we have more information. **I recommend moving to a second reading.**

10. C. Purchases over \$10,000.00

As stated previously, we are striving to get back to our original intent of rotating vehicles before we have costly repairs. Purchasing through federal agencies at the lowest possible cost requires action within a couple of days and often over a weekend. I am asking for preapproval because we have to be prepared to act quickly when a vehicle

that fits our needs becomes available. It does not mean a purchase will be made. It simply allows us to be in a position to acquire vehicles at the lowest possible cost. There are two requests: one is for vehicles that would be used for student transportation and one is for equipment that could be used to move wood pallets at sites with wood-fired boilers. **I recommend approval.**

10. D. 1st Reading, BP 4133/4233/4333, Travel Expenses

We have not updated our per diem rates for a number of years. I recommend adjusting this to reflect current expectations. There is a suggestion included. **I recommend moving this item to a second reading.**

10. E. 1st Reading, BP 5144, Discipline

10. F. 1st Reading, AR 5144.1, Suspension and Expulsion


10. G. 1st Reading, BP 5131.41, Violent and Aggressive Conduct

All three have updates that need inclusion. This is a good opportunity to review our policies. In light of a recent incident at one of our schools I have approached each of the other island districts about having a coordinated policy and action regarding any incidents. Currently there is no policy that would deny a student access to a neighboring district if expelled from another. **I recommend moving these three items to a second reading**

9. H. 1st Reading, BP 6161.4, Internet

This updates policy to reflect current laws. **I recommend approval.**

Sincerely,



Lauren Burch
Superintendent