



SOUTHEAST ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Board Report January 2018

Certified Staffing 2018-2019

We have made the initial assignments for next year and those contracts were distributed on January 19. Several non-tenured teachers have not been placed in positions at this time. We strive to make these decisions as soon as possible. We will know more about our openings in one month when contracts are due back and will make the final determination regarding non-tenured staff who have not yet been placed at that time. While we do not have to make the decision until April 30, we choose to make the determination earlier to give the teachers who aren't retained enough time to seek desirable positions in Alaska or elsewhere, as many of those positions are filled early in the year.

We have made a few staffing/position changes for next year.

- We currently plan to stay with just the one existing teacher at Hyder and reduce our total teaching staff by one teacher.
- Laura Anania and Megan Fitzpatrick have both been offered contracts with assignments at Howard Valentine Coffman Cove School.
- We are changing directions with the Special Education position in Thorne Bay. We will seek an individual with additional endorsements and, preferably, an additional Type-B (administrative) certificate.

Article 15(7) of the Collective Agreement states "*Positions for the following school year are not required to be posted until after initial assignments have been made. Unfilled positions that remain after initial assignments are made will be posted.*" As a result, we have posted all positions that we did not assign a teacher to in this first round of contracts. This includes both positions in Port Alexander, one position in Kasaan, the special education position in Thorne Bay, and one position in Naukati.

Administrative Contracts

We will continue with our current administrative team. The roles for Alan Schwab and Nick Higson will remain essentially the same. I would like to enter into a professional services contract with Janet Stout similar to our contract with her this year. She helps with professional development, special education and evaluations. We would like to expand her role with evaluations. She has been assisting Nick Higson with the second evaluation of teachers at our smaller sites. We find this a very effective way to assist with teacher improvement. We would expand this service to teachers at Thorne Bay School.

Dancing with the Spirit

Priscilla has reviewed 2017 costs for the program. These costs average about \$3800 per site. I am asking sites and/or their ASC to commit to \$1500 towards that cost to demonstrate some "skin in the game." Thorne Bay would need two weeks of the program and would be responsible for \$3000. Sites are to give that commitment in writing to Priscilla Goulding by the end of February 2018. Each site has adequate funds in their travel budget to cover this cost. They can also request their ASC to cover the entire cost or some percentage. The alternative would be a commitment to fundraising. We will begin scheduling next year's Dancing with the Spirit program for participating sites in early March.

Crossett Foundation Award

Priscilla secured \$20,000 for musical instruments to be distributed to all schools, based on need and desire to use the instruments. More details are included in her grant report.

AmeriCorps

We had planned to have a third position this past fall. We did not fill it. We would like to do so at this time, but the program does not have openings. When someone in Alaska leaves an AmeriCorps position, we hope to add an additional individual to assist with the greenhouses. We had been trying to get the job done with volunteers through a national program. Even with background checks, we had some problems. We were responsible for housing and feeding these volunteers and generally they were only coming for short periods of time, which made them less than effective. We have more control over AmeriCorps positions and it is the more responsible course of action with students involved.

Hollis Water

We have run into difficulty with the RAC funding for this project. The dam is on Mental Health Trust property. Since we cannot afford to buy the property, we will invest that funding toward a well. Whether the well is placed on Forest Service or Mental Health land, there are a variety of steps necessary because the water is supplied to the Forest Service in addition to the school. We expect to put the existing funds into those Forest Service requirements and hope to secure future funds through the Forest Service. Mental Health has tentatively agreed to allow some work on the dam with a commitment from SISD that we are moving towards installing a well.

Whale Pass Water

The Whale Pass School has water issues. We are discussing splitting the cost of a well with the community of Whale Pass, as the school is the emergency shelter site.

Whale Pass Projects

The boiler building is up and includes a greenhouse. Plumbing and electrical are yet to be completed. A kitchen remodel is largely completed.

Funding

Our available funding is not established at this moment. There are several claims for intensive special education services under review. The outcome of that review late in February will determine our final funding for the 2017-2018 school year.

Seley Housing Unit

The Board had approved the purchase of a one-bedroom housing unit from Jim Seley. The approval was for \$50,000. We asked that the unit have attention from a certified electrician. That has raised his asking price to \$60,000. If Travis Tripple were still available I think we could do as well ourselves. I am going to put this on the back burner for the time being.

Craig Dive Club

The Craig Dive Club instructor has graciously been teaching one of our teachers so that we are able to offer a scuba diving class again next year. I request that we make a donation of \$1,000 to the Craig Dive Club in honor of this effort.

Student Board Representatives to Juneau

We have encouraged both student representatives to the to work with Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tompkins for a week during the session. They will need a chaperone. They will leave Prince of Wales on a Saturday and return on a Saturday. I would encourage a Board member as chaperone, as there would be opportunity to visit with legislators. Responsibility would be to get the students to the office each morning and supervise them in the evening and overnight.

9. A. Action on Administrative Reports

I recommend approval of a \$1,000 donation to the Craig Dive Club.

9. B. 4th Reading BP 5040, Student Nutrition and Physical Activity

I recommend approval. Alan Schwab can speak to the changes that are proposed.

9. C. Student Request for Early Graduation

I recommend postponing consideration of this request.

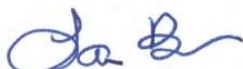
10. A. 1st Reading, BP 4117.2, Resignation

I recommend approval with Option 2 selected.

10. B. Approval of Public Health Nurse Support in the Classroom

I recommend approval.

Sincerely,



Lauren Burch
Superintendent