



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

October 26, 2016

Update on Thorne Bay Café and Neighboring Student Store

Overall Goals

- Provide opportunities for student fundraising by site, team, or specific activity.
- Train students in restaurant and business management.
- Train students in restaurant operation and associated jobs.
- Involve Culinary Arts class.
- Provide opportunity to showcase school greenhouses and gardens.
- Utilize commercial kitchen at Thorne Bay School to fund student activities.

Culinary Arts Class Goals

- Learn skills that can lead to work in our restaurant and further employment.
- Learn appreciation for health and safety through preparing own food.
- Utilize commercial kitchen to fund opportunities for the class.

Student Store Goals

- Encourage every site to have something for sale.
- Build entrepreneurial spirit by brainstorming products, packaging, and labeling.
- Promote greenhouse and garden produce and commercial kitchen products.

Thorne Bay Café Goals

- Train students in all aspects of restaurant operation and management.
- Promote the restaurant for student fundraising on specific evenings weekly.
- Code profits directly to student academic travel district-wide.
- Distribute tips directly to students to encourage good service.
- Minimize impact on competing business operations.
- Seek ways to support other business activities (advertising, specials, events).
- Use restaurant and lot for community events.

With these goals in mind, we have made significant changes to restaurant operations. Quite simply, we could not balance the books under the previous business model. The intent of the new model is for the business to be student centered. Child labor laws make it difficult to have student employees performing many of the food preparation and cooking duties. A complicated menu increases the need to have more adults on staff to prepare food.

The menu has been simplified to minimize adult involvement, reduce wait time, and improve service, while reducing costs. To further involve students, the high school Culinary Arts class is now involved in food preparation as part of the class curriculum

and younger students will also be present at the Café. Management has changed to facilitate this change in focus. We hope to increase sales with a take-out menu and take-and-bake pizza. We hope to market the pizza through other businesses.

We seek to encourage fundraising activities several nights a week, year round. If you attend an ASC dinner, you tend to see a different group of people than you would at a summer hamburger event with the city. We believe that regularly scheduled fundraising dinners could be very successful, while also providing a community service. These dinners can provide an opportunity for outer site schools to reach a larger market for fundraising.

Yes, we are a school district stepping into a business. No one else was stepping up when we offered to take over the restaurant. I don't think anyone else could have done the necessary remodel and, as a result, the café would have continued to flounder seasonally. We approached this as a community service. Now that the café is reasonably successful, multiple business owners have shown interest in it. We are currently not prepared to abandon the goals described above.

While we try to avoid selling items offered through other businesses in town, we may have occasional overlap in the types of items we sell. We have some responsibility to provide foods that our patrons desire. People will still purchase items that other businesses provide. What we provide is an opportunity to sit and have a meal. We are expanding dessert offerings to increase per client sales.

We still view the café as a community service and will work with anyone to promote improved sales for everyone in the community. We believe every additional business drives more traffic to the community and that we should find ways to encourage traffic to all of our businesses. We will happily advertise other businesses at the café and plan to add an area for these advertisements.

Café

Sydney-Elise Miller is now the Americorp Volunteer managing the restaurant, Culinary Arts class at Thorne Bay School, and the production kitchen. We have made dramatic changes to the café model. Adults are now very limited and students are far more responsible. We are open only two days a week, and a third day weekly is a student fundraiser dinner. I am including an explanation of how we are operating and **Nick Higson** will speak to the Board on how students are involved.

Count

Our five-week count period ends this Thursday. We expect no surprises.

Student Board Representative

To the best of my knowledge, there have been no applicants for the position.

Grants

In February, **Howard Valentine Coffman Cove School** was one of 10 schools chosen from a pool of 650 applicants to receive a \$1250 grant from BirdSleuth, which is operated under Cornell University. This grant has been used to revitalize the school garden through the purchase of tools, lumber, seed potatoes, bird feeders, and an incubator. The grant, which was sponsored by "Alaska Fertilizer," also provided us with organic fertilizer for the garden. We continue to make changes to sculpt the orchard into a better habitat for wild birds and pollinators.

In September, the school was also awarded \$4,000 to purchase food preservation materials, such as a pressure cooker, dehydrator, jars, vacuum sealer, canner, food processor, kitchen supplies, farm stand tent, along with other items to better our school farm. Much of the remainder of the grant will be used to get set up for honeybees in the spring. Some of these bees will live in an observational beehive (received from a grant last year) so that students can observe the bees at work during normal school days. There will be additional hives in the orchard, from which we plan on harvesting honey.

Action Items

11. A. 2. Coalition for Education Equity of Alaska Membership Dues

Heidi Young and Shannon Silverthorn will have an opportunity to attend a meeting of the organization while in Anchorage for the AASB Conference soon. **I recommend waiting for their return before making a decision on the funding.**

11. A. 3. 2nd Reading of BP 3550, Food Service

Unless a Board member has an issue after reading the Board Policy, **I recommend approval.**

11. A. 4. 2nd Reading of BP 5040, Student Nutrition and Physical Activity

I recommend approval.

11. B. 2. 1st Reading of Classified Handbook Revision

I recommend moving this to a second reading to allow time for Board review.

11. B. 3. Addendum 1 to the 2016-17 Student Handbook

I recommend approval.

11. B. 4. FY17 Professional Services Agreement with ITEC

I recommend approval

11. B. 5. FY 17 Professional Services Agreement with E-Therapy

I recommend approval.

11. B. 6. FY 2016-17 Café Lease Agreement with City of Thorne Bay

This has been adjusted and reduced the land lease to \$500 during limited operation in the off-season. **I recommend approval.**

11. B. 7. Whale Pass Community Association for school to be a shelter during a disaster

I recommend approval.

11. B. 8. Resolution AHFC Grant Support

This resolution expresses the Board's willingness to support a grant to replace lights in the Thorne Bay gym for energy efficiency. There will be some cost to the district depending on how they have to be installed. The grant should have about \$2,500 beyond material costs. Thanks to **Priscilla Goulding** for her efforts to apply for this grant. **I recommend approving the resolution.**

11. B. 9. Resolution updating signers for the port Protection Advisory School Council Bank Accounts

I recommend approval.

Sincerely,



Lauren Burch
Superintendent