



## **SOUTHEAST ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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### **Board Report February 2018**

#### **Workshop on Transgender Students and Employees Policy Language**

We are expected to have a policy. We extended the review period to make certain that each site was able to review the policy. Nick and Alan will review the feedback they have received during the workshop and any interested individuals or ASC representatives can comment.

#### **School Board Recognition Month**

Governor Walker has proclaimed February 2018 as School Board Recognition Month. This is a well-deserved honor. Each of you unselfishly contributes your time and talents, working to ensure that our schools are providing the best education possible for the children in our communities. You represent a continuing commitment to local citizen control and decision making in education. Thank you for everything you do to support our students and schools in Southeast Island School District.

#### **Funding**

We had to appeal decisions regarding whether several students met the State's eligibility requirements to receive funding for intensive services. That process is complete and our funding is secure for this school year. Lucienne can comment to the state of our finances in her report and under 10.B. FY 2018 Revised Budget.

#### **Certified Staffing 2018-19**

The initial round of contracts were distributed on January 19. For teachers who wish to accept, signed contracts must be received in the District Office by this coming Sunday. Several tenured staff are still thinking about their decision and have not signed their contracts yet. We are in communication with those staff and supporting their efforts to do what is best for themselves and their families. We are keenly anxious to complete this process so that we can finalize decisions with our own nontenured teachers and begin our search for the best candidates for the remaining unfilled positions.

We had to appeal a number of determinations regarding our eligibility for funding to provide intensive services for several students this year. The appeals were successful, but it gave us cause to review our procedures. We have hired teachers at sites with the expectation that they complete special education work along with those other duties. The modest review of procedure suggests the paperwork is suffering.

We need an additional position or part of a position that would be responsible for special education paperwork. Our goal will be to seek a retired special education teacher on the island who could do this work under contract. If this search is unsuccessful we would expand that search and may need to hire an additional certified teacher.

### **Dancing with the Spirit**

Priscilla has reviewed costs for the 2017 program, which averaged about \$3800 per site. I am asking sites and/or their ASC's to commit to \$1500 towards that cost to demonstrate some "skin in the game." Thorne Bay would need to have the program for two weeks and would be responsible for \$3000. Sites will have adequate funds in their travel budget to cover this cost and can also ask the local ASC to cover the entire cost or some percentage. The alternative would be a commitment to fundraising. Sites will need to give a written commitment to Priscilla Goulding by February 28, 2018. We will schedule the activity for participating sites early for delivery in September and October of 2018. All sites, with the exception of Barry C Stewart Kasaan School, have agreed to participate and contribute to the cost. Kasaan is still weighing the decision.

### **Volunteers in the Greenhouses**

Sites are requesting volunteers to assist in the greenhouses. As soon as there is a pool of interested individuals, a training will be conducted.

### **Site Repairs**

I am going to ask for a cost estimate on new carpet in the Whale Pass School and the Hollis School. We would install carpet over the summer. Both schools need some degree of leveling, which has been the sticking point for some years. The Hollis School in particular is pretty serious. If our own crew can correct the leveling issues, we would proceed with new carpets.

### **Vehicles and Fleet Equipment**

We have moved forward on acquiring two vehicles through the Forest Service. We will promptly sell our only Ford pickup and one other of our fleet vehicles. The purchases are about \$10,000 each. We hope to recover about \$10,000 from the sale of the two vehicles we currently own.

As stated a number of times before, our intent has been to consistently replace SISD vehicles as they age to reduce repair costs, which escalate with the age of the vehicle. This plan only works if we continue to sell and replace our older vehicles. We need to keep aware of good values if we are to keep our operation costs down. At next month's meeting, I will request permission to purchase up to two additional vehicles, not to exceed \$10,000 each, as the opportunity arises.

We have discussed purchasing used forklifts to reduce labor costs of moving wood at sites. We are not finding these at a price we can afford or in a location easily accessible. I would like to expand that search to include used bobcats or similar equipment. This type of equipment does not have the capacity to lift pallets three high, but we do not have that need at outer sites. The District will not recover any of the cost of these items through sale or replaced equipment. At next month's meeting, I will also request board approval for the purchase of two pieces of equipment capable of moving pallets of firewood, not to exceed \$15,000 each.

### **Float House**

We have scheduled an inspection of the structure to see if it is viable to pull the house off onto a shore site. We are getting nowhere with the sale after a year with a listing with a real estate agent. We have considered listing it with a Seattle real estate agent, but the cost of transportation at about \$500,000 between a tug and insurance seems to make that an unlikely event.

### **District-wide Events**

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.

### **9. A. Action on Administrative Reports**

Nothing at this time.

### **9. B. 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading AR 5145.3, Transgender Students and Employees**

After the workshop, we should have a better idea of any concerns or proposed changes from our stakeholders and ASC's.

### **9. C. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading, BP 4117.2, Resignation**

**I recommend approval.** Chris can speak to the policy.

### **10. A. Resolution 2018-02: A Resolution Supporting and Advocating for Implementation of Alaska's Education Challenge**

We have been asked to support this "challenge" through a resolution. **I recommend approval.**

### **10. B. FY 2018 Revised Budget**

Lucienne will speak to this item. News is positive. **I recommend approval.**

### **10. C. MOA Between Community Connections and SISD**

The MOA is not changed from past years. We still have the right to decline services or adjust expectations at any time. I would remind the Board that no student or parent is required to use the service. Students are being served at parent request. I believe it is important to allow this opportunity in our schools. **I recommend approval.**

### **10. D. FY19 Professional Services Contract with Indy Spuds**

Janet continues to provide a valuable service at a very reasonable rate. We could not find similar affordable services from any other source. **I recommend approval.**

Sincerely,



Lauren Burch  
Superintendent