



SOUTHEAST ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Board Report October 10, 2018

Workshop Cancelled Strategic Plan

Nick had offered to review the plan with Alan. That did not occur in time for this meeting. A review will come at the next regular Board meeting.

Port Alexander Visit

John Stevens accompanied me to Port Alexander this past week. We transported supplies to PA and unneeded materials and rubbish back. John worked with archery students and reconditioned bows. We appreciate his dedication and bravery riding with me in the boat. I am especially appreciative of John volunteering a week of his time. This is especially true as we lost one engine returning to Craig with a mountain of stuff, which made it impossible to get into the engine compartment. Fortunately, he did not have to paddle the last ten miles.

I am pleased with our staff in Port Alexander. Our new teachers and staff are performing well and the continuing staff provide the cement that holds the place together. Students are focused, attentive and wonderful in general. Students pitched in with unloading and transporting a thousand pounds of food and supplies inbound and doing the same with a mountain of unneeded material outbound. Each trip from the boat to the school was about a quarter of a mile in each direction.

Count

Counts remain stable. While the number of students who are eligible to receive intensive services has decreased, we have also had a number of new students enroll, which will bring funding to our schools. Thorne Bay continues to hover near 75 students.

Legislator Visit

Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins is on the island this week. He met with students at Thorne Bay this morning. I am anxious to hear his opinions on how the elections this November may affect small schools.

Grants

We are part of a group that was awarded a grant from the Department of Education for the Teaching Harmonious Resiliency for Virtually Every situation (THRIVE) program. This program involves SISD, Klawock and Hydaburg school districts and the goals are to increase graduation rates and improve student college/career exploration opportunities. Amy McDonald is the project manager and the main partners are Brightways Learning and the Klawock Cooperative Association. Brightways Learning did most of the heavy lifting to apply for this grant, which will be a three-year project with funding of about \$500,000 per year.

We are providing services for PreK children ages 3-5 with funding from the state of \$50,000. Sites include Thorne Bay (9 students), Port Alexander (3), Whale Pass (3), Naukati (3), Hollis

(4). Coffman Cove may also start services. The difference in school readiness between children who have had some exposure to school-type activities and those who have not is substantial. Just ask a kindergarten teacher! We will be applying for additional available funding, as there is a big emphasis on service to 4-year-old children.

AASB Conference and Youth Leadership November 8-11

I would encourage Board members and our student representative to attend the conference in Anchorage. There is always good information at this meeting and it is valuable for our student leaders as well. Decisions need to be made immediately so that travel plans can be made.

10. A. Appointment of Student Representative

We have one applicant for the position and I recommend approval.

10. B. PowerSchool Registration Program Purchase

We discussed this briefly at the last Board meeting. This is to reduce the paperwork burden on parents enrolling students. Board comments were mixed. My concern is that once we commit for a year, will the price increase. Nick has contacted PowerSchool and scheduled a demo of the program for next week that he will attend along with Alan Schwab, Janelle Wehrman, and Chris Page Haufe. **I recommend moving this to a second reading.**

10. C. 1st Reading Board Policy 3310, Purchasing Procedures

This includes the dollar amounts that require Board approval prior to action. **I recommend moving this to a second reading to allow time for further Board review.**

10. D. Career and Technical Education Draft 5-Year Plan Review

This item is for discussion. With Board feedback it will undergo further revision.

10. E. AASB Resolutions

I had mentioned that we would probably not endorse vouchers or anything that would encourage closing small schools. Depending upon the out come of November elections this year, we may face less support for small schools. There are rumors of a push for more boarding of students with the intention of forcing more school closures. It seems early to predict and I do not know where to focus a resolution that would not be covered by existing AASB Resolutions. **My one suggestion would be a resolution that opposed legislation that would fund and create more space to board students at existing boarding schools.**

Sincerely,



Lauren Burch
Superintendent