



SOUTHEAST ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Board Report July 16, 2019 Sherry Becker, Superintendent

Fall Inservice – “Taking the Words Off the Wall...and into Practice”

Our theme this year was based on our newly revised Vision and Mission statements. This will continue to be our focus throughout the school year!

Vision: Students are equipped to realize their dreams and aspirations.

Mission: Together we will foster student skills to achieve their goals and adapt to an ever-changing world.

This year’s Fall Inservice was a success! Lots of newly trained kayak instructors and archery coaches have joined the ranks! Our New Staff/Teacher inservice was full of the usual procedural instructions as well as time for allowing us to get to know one another better. The main two days of inservice included a lot of the state mandated trainings as well as some teacher-led activities. We had presentations from individual staff and from teams. A big thank you goes out to all of the staff district-wide that assisted with the planning for the event and for assisting in ensuring that everything went smoothly throughout. It was a show of great teamwork!

Lead Teachers

Our Lead Teacher’s worked on updating their job description to better demonstrate what they are currently doing and what they would like to change, including any additional duties they would like to add. We have had some great input and will continue to finalize this over the next month. We will have fewer meetings this year – as the team felt that our time is more valuable when focused on planning for instruction and on improving teaching strategies, etc. Lead teachers will be provided with additional supports this school year with the intention of allowing for them to need less on-site supervision and to enable them to have more autonomy and authority at their individual school sites.

Google Calendars

There have been a few calendars added in Google Calendar. These are for various purposes, including a calendar of events for ALL of the public to see. These calendars will improve upon communication within the district, as well as with parents and other community members who would like to know what is going on district-wide. The link to this is SISD Public Calendar will soon be available under “Quick Links” on the district website. The Superintendent calendar is available to see for anyone district-wide.

Communication and Teamwork

As everyone has heard by now, my goal is to focus on communication and transparency this year. We have teams of individuals in place to assist in making most day-to-day decisions that

affect the entire district. Our communication starts at the School Board meetings and funnels all the way through to our students and community members. As a start, a new organizational chart has been developed to assist individuals with understanding who oversees what programs/sites district-wide. A few levels of teams have been established, which will allow for improved communication, shared-leadership and shared decision-making. Lots of great conversations are taking place to benefit the district as a whole. We are headed in the right direction. Our next step is to include students and parents/community members in these discussions and to encourage more input from all stakeholders in how we can best achieve our vision, mission and goals.

School is Now in Session

The first week of school is off to a great start! Having spent the first two days of school working with students at Howard Valentine Coffman Cove School, I can tell you, things were pretty exciting! The typical first week of school is all about getting settled into our routines and the staff at Howard Valentine Coffman Cove School did a great job preparing the students for what I'm sure will be a very successful school year.

Budget:

Working together as a school district, we will make it through our budget challenges this school year. After being flat-funded at the state level and experiencing the decreases in Title grants, we have hit the point of facing reality, similar in how the state has hit this point with the Governor's budget and veto's. We plan to continue to use district funds very wisely and to continue to seek other means of revenue. Our staff are all aware of the situation and have been very supportive and patient as we attempt to provide the additional supports that are needed for their student's success.

- Every penny being spent this year is being heavily scrutinized. We have many needs throughout the district and we have very few resources that can be used to meet these needs. We are continuing to work together to determine the absolute best way to serve the needs of all students. A cost-benefit analysis has been started in a few different areas and newly-created budget program codes will assist in this area. This will improve our ability to be prepared to make informed choices throughout the school year and as we prepare the FY21 budget that will be submitted to the School Board in the spring.
- Pre-Elementary Education Grant – Over \$116,000 has been awarded to our district for FY20! Priscilla and I put a few hours in obtaining these grant funds. We combined some of what SISD has done in the past with some of what my previous district has done. We believe we have an excellent plan in place and look forward to seeing lots of tiny little smiling faces in our schools soon! A huge thank you goes to Priscilla as she volunteered many hours of her time in making sure this grant application was polished and submitted to the state in time for review. This would not have happened without her, so please reach out to her and express our sincere gratitude for her assistance. More will be announced regarding the Pre-Elementary grant as we better determine the needs at each individual school site.
- One method of looking for additional revenue was to do a cost-analysis of continuing to own the float house and the restaurant. This sale was discussed and putting both buildings on the market was approved at our most recent School Board meeting. Formal agreements with the real estate firm have not yet been entered into and I would

recommend that additional discussions take place with our tenants who are leasing the restaurant. These tenants have provided for our district and for our communities in ways that may not be as obvious to the public as to some. Improving communication and community relations is one of our goals and this is an area, specifically with the café, that we have failed. I, as Superintendent was not aware of some of the discussions that took place between the previous superintendent and the current café lessees. I failed to approach this potential sale from a point of view of *all* stakeholders. I failed to appropriately communicate the potential sale of this property with the lessees. I have spoken to the lessees and have expressed my sincere apology for this. I am not above admitting when I have made a mistake. I believe this to be an important leadership trait. Given this, I recommend that further discussions should take place with this lessee to determine a way to improve upon our relationship and to determine a way to keep them as tenants of our property.

Special Education

Special education training will be held for all staff and a few parents at Naukati School on Friday, August 30, 2019. This will be the first of a series of trainings that will be provided district-wide. Our general education teachers, all of our classified staff, and especially, our students' parents need to have a much better understanding of what a disability is and how to best assist a student with a disability in both accessing and progressing in the general education curriculum. Our students' parents are an integral part of ensuring their child's success. More to come on future training schedules!

Count

Numbers are still coming in from all sites and will be changing quite a bit over the next few weeks as student records are being requested and new enrollments are coming in. Preliminary numbers are favorable however. We will be watching this very closely over the next month and updating the School Board at our September Board meeting. Official State Count period for our district will begin on September 23rd and extend through October 25th.

Coffman Cove Greenhouse/AmeriCorps

On Tuesday, 8/27/19, we were given news that we will be losing our AmeriCorps worker in Coffman Cove. Eric has been a great asset to the school district; however, he has chosen not to participate in the AmeriCorps program this year. He would still like to volunteer as he is able, and may be available to work part time in the school, but is no longer going to be available for full time support of the district-owned Coffman Cove greenhouse. Our general funds for the greenhouse program, for supplies and for staffing, were cut from the district budget this past spring. Starting July 1, we began extending classified staff funding for greenhouses on a month-by-month basis with general funds in hopes of finding additional grant funds to continue this support. Our Farm to School grant is unable to bear the full weight of continuing to support this commercial-size greenhouse. We have been looking at alternate sources; however, at this time, I do not believe we can continue to sustain the costs for electricity (apx. \$4,000 per month) or for the amount of staffing needs to keep it running successfully. As agreed at the last three regular School Board meetings, funds that most closely affect our students (books, paraprofessional support, student activities, etc.) need to have priority. Given this, I recommend the 2019-20 Memorandum of Agreement with AmeriCorps be tabled for a future meeting. If we are assigned another AmeriCorps worker, we should revisit this agreement at that time.

Social Media

In an effort to meet one of our district's DRAFT goals, "Increase Visibility to Share Lifestyle and Increase Enrollment", individual school sites have been encouraged to update and maintain their school's individual website as well as their individual Facebook pages. We also recently opened a district account with Twitter in an effort to "show off" statewide, and eventually nation-wide, the amazing attributes of our school district!

10.A. District Goals Developed by the Strategic Planning Committee

I recommend approval of District Goals Developed by the Strategic Planning Committee.

10.B. 1st Reading, 2019 AASB-supplied Board Policy Updates

I recommend moving the 2019 AASB-supplied Board Policy Updates to a 2nd reading.

A number of the policies are optional or have optional sections that may be revised. A list of these will be provided so a committee of stakeholders can review prior to the next meeting.

10.C. Other Policy Updates

I recommend moving Other Policy Updates to a 2nd Reading, allowing additional review by a committee of stakeholders prior to approval.

10.D. Reconsideration of Selling the SISD Cafe in Thorne Bay

I recommend approval of a motion to "rescind the approval to list and sell the SISD Cafe in Thorne Bay"

15. Executive Session

I recommend having a session to discuss Superintendent/Board relations.