



SOUTHEAST ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Board Report November 18, 2020 Sherry Becker, Superintendent

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.

Employee Recognition: To Be announced at School Board Meeting

Alaska Superintendent Fall Conference: The Superintendent's Fall Conference this year is being held virtually. This 5-day virtual conference series began in September and has covered many topics pertinent to issues affecting school districts statewide. Keynote speakers included: George Couros, author of the book, *The Innovator's Mindset: Empower Learning, Unleash Talent, and Lead a Culture of Creativity* and his latest book, *Innovate Inside the Box*; Weston Kieschnick, International Center for Leadership in Education and author of the books, *Bold School*, and *Breaking Bold*; and Noelle Ellerson Ng, ASAA Associate Executive Director, Advocacy and Governance. Noelle directs the legislative and advocacy efforts of AASA in Congress and the U.S. Department of Education. Her team is responsible for representing the voice and priorities of the nation's public-school superintendents in all aspects of federal education policy and uses member networks, outreach, policy analysis, and surveys and research to advance their work. She speaks regularly on federal education policy to school leaders across the country.

Day 4/5 of this virtual conference series will be held on Nov. 17th and will include a presentation by Senator Gary Stevens, Chair of Senate Education & Representative; Andi Story, Co-Chair of House Education, and Alaska's United States Senator Lisa Murkowski. The day will also consist of preparations for the upcoming Legislative Sessions.

Advisory School Council/Community Council/City Council Participation: This past month, I have participated in numerous Advisory School Council (ASC) Meetings and completed training for most ASC members. In addition, I have been attending as many Community/City Council meetings in an attempt to stride toward meeting one of our four Strategic Plan Goals: Improving Communication District and Community Wide.

Alaska Superintendent's Association (ASA) COVID-19 Collaboration: Meetings continue to take place regularly with the Alaska Superintendent's Association, the Alaska Department of Education, and the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services regarding COVID-19. Other agencies involved in these meetings include the Alaska Association of Secondary School Principals, Alaska Association of Elementary School Principals, and Alaska Association of School Business Officials. These meetings have been very

useful in gaining a better understanding of how other districts in the state are managing the various challenges associated with running a school district during a pandemic.

Conditional Use Permit: On November 2, 2020, SISD was officially approved by the City of Thorne Bay Planning Commission to use the house across the street from Thorne Bay School as a preschool, magnet school and/or as a site for additional education programs (attached as an informational item).

AK-TRAILS Correspondence/Homeschool - Currently there are four students receiving their education services through the AK-TRAILS program. This program is coordinated by me and by our curriculum coordinator, Charles Becker. We currently have one elementary student and 3 high school students enrolled and the program is going well for all students/families. Charles follows the students academically and communicates with the parents regarding their child's academic progress, curriculum, etc. I complete the paperwork (Individual Learning Plan) and coordinate the various supports/services needed. Others are involved in the program based on the individual student needs. We have students using district technology and students receiving special education and related services. Our Technology Coordinator, Matt Gore has been extremely helpful to the program enrollees by checking out technology equipment and going the extra mile in helping the parents understand how to monitor their child's use of the technology at home.

School Health Liaison/School Health ECHO meetings/POW Medical Stakeholders Meetings: Andy Cook continues to serve as the district's School Health Liaison. He attends the weekly School Health ECHOs and the bimonthly POW Health Medical Stakeholder's meeting, gaining information, giving reports and taking notes for me when I am unable to attend. These meetings are extremely helpful in better understanding the statewide issues that potentially affect our schools in relation to COVID-19 and the POW Health Medical Stakeholder's meetings have allowed school districts on POW to be involved in conversations directly with the local medical community. SISD greatly appreciates all that the Department of Public Health and all of our local and state health care workers do for our students and our communities. We appreciate being included in the school-related discussions taking place by the healthcare community. Thank you Andy for your continued support in serving as the SISD Health Liaison!

Parent/Teacher Conferences/PowerSchool Student Information System: Quarter One Parent Teacher Conferences were scheduled for November 3rd and 4th. Most of these meetings were held virtually when we had the ability to do so. Some parents came into the school to speak with their child/ren's teacher(s). A huge thank you goes out to Matt Gore and Amy Jennings for getting report cards printed in time for all schools. They spent countless hours on assisting teachers district wide in getting grades in and getting things set up correctly in PowerSchool so that report cards could be printed on time for parents. Thank you, Amy and Matt, for going above and beyond as usual! We continue to have technical difficulties with PowerSchool, as are most districts primarily due to COVID, and this have been a very trying and exhausting experience for our scheduling team. Amy McDonald and Charles Becker along with Matt and Amy Jennings have spent a lot of time attempting to figure out what some of the technical issues were and how to avoid them in the future. They have made significant progress and hopefully scheduling, attendance, grading, report cards, etc. will go more smoothly for the remainder of the school year due to their hard work.

Student School Board Representatives Training and School Visits: I had the privilege of spending two days with our two Student School Board Representatives on November 9th and 11th. We did some basic School District training to assist the student representatives in better understanding what a School Board does, how a school district runs, and what their role as student representatives is. They spoke with students in Hollis and in Whale Pass about their role and let them know that they are here to represent

all students in the district. Both Caitlin and Kaylee did a great job in working with the students and demonstrated a better understanding of how to fulfill their duties. Please support our Student Board Representatives in communicating with students at all of our schools. Sandy Curtis got to tag along on our visit to Whale Pass and it was a great learning experience for us all. The more we can get our School Board members and Student Board Representatives out into other communities and visiting other schools in the district, the better they will be able to understand how their decisions affect all schools and all students/staff. Without seeing the schools, their communities, and speaking with the students and staff, it is very difficult for School Board members to make the best decision possible for the entire district.

Business Items:

9.B. I recommend approval of the Volunteer/Chaperone Packet

10.D. I recommend approval to the Ratification of Purchases over 10,000: Naukati Fire System Repair

10.E. I recommend approval of the Memorandum of Agreement for Hollis School Commissioning