



# 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](mailto:sisd@sisd.org)

---

## Board Report January 16, 2019

### Workshop

The workshop will offer suggestions on the Strategic Plan and review testing data.

### South Side Landslide

We do not know when the road will be repaired. It could be as late as this summer. We could not transport students using the alternative route on two of the first four days of school in January. The bypass road is long and tedious. It is being repaired but will still be a problem with snow and ice. There is an agenda item to address this issue. I propose hiring a local charter boat captain to make two runs each morning and afternoon between Davidson Landing dock and the Thorne Bay harbor dock. We would contract through the end of February and reconsider the decision at that time. It is hoped that the road will be in better condition and the concern with snow and ice will have declined. We also are paying a very modest transportation fee if parents prefer to boat themselves. We have also made transportation available if any wish to attend the school in Kasaan.

### Marksmanship Program Proposal

John and James Stevens have been looking hard at a marksmanship program. We had made attempts to get this program in place some years ago but have been thwarted by more cumbersome coach training requirements. We have some pellet guns but they are just sitting in general.

The second consideration is a program involving small caliber pistols or rifles. I have watched the video of this program and I am confident we would have high student interest.

The issue with both is the more expensive training for coaches and the hazards if coaches do not follow the protocols. Even with archery, we find that many do not review the video on techniques and not all students get the best coaching. Moving to firearms requires more diligence. If we proceed, the program would be implemented site by site and it would be a gradual process, as close supervision would be required. I support the program if James and John are willing to manage it.

One consideration would be the cost of training coaches. With travel out for training or bringing trainers in, we could expect to invest couple thousand dollars to train each coach. If bus driver training is any indication, not everyone who is trained will end up coaching and some those who do may end up coaching for only a short period of time. There are possible grants but you never know how that will work out.

## **Superintendent Search**

Following a recommendation after our last round of interviews, we have a team that will review applicants this Friday. We will plan for Board interview of several candidates next week on a day that works for the Board members. **We need to determine that date tonight** so sites have advance notice and can participate. We will, of course, consider all stakeholder feedback but the ultimate decision rests with the Board.

## **Teacher Contracts**

Most contracts went out earlier this week. We are sympathetic to the trauma imposed on those without contracts, but newer teachers simply have to wait longer in some cases. We are not required to issue contracts to non-tenured teachers until May. Hiring in Alaska is starting very soon and anyone seeking work at a good site in Alaska has to be looking very soon. Yes, some districts will have many openings in March. Many of those may not be the sites our teachers are interested in. We get contracts out as soon as possible so teachers have every advantage with their decision-making. It is also important for SISD, as candidates are hired quickly and we need to post early if we wish to have an applicant pool. Teachers who sign a contract and then change their mind may have a financial penalty. This provides additional motivation for teachers to be clear about where they want to be. It also helps with the additional costs of seeking replacements later in the year.

## **Whale Pass Generator**

AP&T would like to put the community generator on school property to allow us to use the generator heat for the school. We would incur some costs, but the long-term benefits are exceptional. We did a similar connection in Naukati and never used an ounce of fuel for heating during that time. We can liberate the fittings from Naukati and make the installation in a cost-effective manner. We will be responsible for some pad work and, if the noise is an issue, we would need to install a fence to block the sound. I do not anticipate a problem as we can place it further from the school and housing than we did in Naukati. I have asked the ASC to consider the proposal at their meeting January 22. If they have no issues I propose to proceed.

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

We would only have action if some discussion with strategic planning needed attention tonight.

### **9. B. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading, AR 3580.1 Criminal Justice Information Security**

Chris can speak to this briefly. **I recommend moving this item to a third reading** to allow time for additional review by the Board.

### **9. C. Marksmanship Proposal**

We are not prepared to make a proposal at this time. I will have discussed it during my Board Report. **This proposal can be tabled until we review it further.**

### **10. A. Thrive grant External Evaluator Contract Agreement**

The grant requires an outside evaluator and funds the position. **I recommend approval.**

**10. B. Silverthorn Charters, Inc. Contract to Transport Students Thorne Bay**

I have discussed this issue earlier in my report. **I recommend approval of the contract through the month of February.** By that time we hope to have a better idea on the slide removal.

**12. A. Planning for Next Board Meeting**

We also need to set a date for superintendent interviews during the week of January 21.

**12. B. AASB Leadership and Youth Advocacy Institute (February 9-12) in Juneau**

I have an opportunity to present at an innovation conference the week after that time and was going to suggest that one or two Board members and our student representative come with me and do a legislative visit at that time. We would leave February 19 and return February 22. We already know the Governor will have to cut funding to schools to fund the PFD as he promised during his election campaign. I do not think attending during the AASB conference will be as beneficial as attending separately. We will not be effective lobbying legislators when attending as part of a group. The conference will focus more on understanding what we can expect. It is far easier to get quality time with legislators when you visit at other times.

Sincerely,



Lauren Burch  
Superintendent