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# CCSD Superintendent Report

## May 2026

### CCSD Appreciations

- National Education Week was celebrated from May 4-8, 2026. CCSD took the opportunity to honor the incredible dedication of our educators and school staff each day. With support from our local Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA), the week was filled with daily surprises. Mid-week, CCSD provided meat trays to the CEMS & CHS buildings as a small token of appreciation and gift cards to our Anchorage-based PACE Staff.
- A special thank you goes to Jeannie and Pat Rogan for their generous contribution. They donated small notebooks and pens to every CCSD staff member, board member, and substitute teacher.
- To all CCSD staff, thank you once again for inspiring, supporting, and empowering our students each and every day. Your work makes a lasting impact!
- Thank you to Ms. Kristine Cervera, Mr. Alan Burke, Ms. Tara Williams, and Ms. Sarah Yates for helping make the CCSD End of Year Staff Celebration a success. We truly appreciated the delicious spread they provided for staff - it was a highlight of the event!
- A special thank you goes to Mr. Earl Jeffrey for his thoughtful and creative contributions. He provided handcrafted metal art rockfish to staff members moving on to new chapters, and metal art bear paws to those retiring from CCSD.
- CCSD extends our best wishes to the following staff members who are moving on: **Ms. Marsha Browder, Mr. Alan Burk, Mr. Stephen DeHart, Ms. Marilyn Ensign, Ms. Kathy Freeman, and Mr. Bernie Grieve.**
- **CCSD extends its deep gratitude to Mr. Bill Seibel and Mr. Josh Andrews as they retire for their extraordinary service and dedication to our students and school community.** Bill devoted 23-years to CCSD, 25-years to education in Alaska, and 30-years overall as an educator. Josh dedicated 27-years to CCSD and 28.5-years overall, serving the District as a teacher, principal, and School Board member. Their lasting contributions have made a meaningful impact on generations of students, staff, and families. While they may be retiring, their stories, impact, and probably a few legendary school stories will continue around CCSD for years to come!

### CCSD Finances/Budget

- As noted in the Correspondence section of this month's Board Packet, Congressional Directed Spending (CDS) requests are federal funding opportunities submitted through our congressional delegation for specific local projects. These requests go through a multi-phase review process at the federal level and are highly competitive. For this cycle, and on behalf of CCSD, I submitted a request for a PA Bell system at Craig High School (CHS). I am pleased to report that the request has successfully advanced through Phase 1 of the federal review process. If ultimately funded, the District would receive \$159,000 to support this project. I will provide updates as the request continues through the remaining federal approval stages.
- As the second session of the 34th Alaska Legislature wraps up, lawmakers approved several significant education funding measures that could provide meaningful support to school districts across the state, particularly rural districts impacted by rising energy costs and ongoing budget pressures.
- The Legislature advanced an education package that would establish a state grant program to help offset annual school district energy costs beginning next year. Alaska districts currently spend approximately \$89 million annually on heating, fuel, and electricity. Under the proposal, the state could eventually reimburse

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up to 100% of those costs beginning in 2028, based on a district's three (3) year average energy expenditures. The funding would still require annual approval through the legislative process. The package also includes a teacher loan forgiveness pilot program.

- In addition, lawmakers approved one-time relief funding for schools as districts continue to face fiscal challenges. The final Operating Budget includes \$115 million in one-time education funding for schools (approximately a \$458 BSA equivalent) tied to oil revenues, along with \$29.1 million in school energy relief grants.
- The Capital Budget also passed both bodies and includes \$148.3 million for school major maintenance projects statewide, supporting the top 33-projects on DEED's statewide priority list. For context, CCSD's supplemental major maintenance request to address rotted beams and trusses at the CMS is currently ranked number one on that list.
- Both the Operating and Capital Budgets are now awaiting the Governor's signature and potential line-item vetoes in June.

## Human Resources/Staff Updates

- Please join me in welcoming the following staff to CCSD: Ms. Meri Miller (CHS Science Teacher), Ms. Erin Terwilliger (CCSD Accounts Payable, Administrative Assistant, & PACE Financial Coordinator), Mr. Jacob Bradley (CCSD Food Service Aide).
- CCSD currently has the following positions posted: CMS Custodian

## CCSD Curriculum/Instruction & Professional Development/PLC Committee Updates

- CCSD is currently pursuing an in-person professional development opportunity with James Nottingham, creator of *The Learning Pit*, a widely used instructional framework that supports a school culture where challenge is viewed as an essential part of learning. Mr. Nottingham is a teacher with over 30-years of experience and is a well-known international speaker, consultant, and author.
- While he was not available for CCSD's 2026-2027 In-service Dates, he will be in the United States in September 2026 and has offered discounted professional fees for that window. For September dates, he offered a 40% reduction on his professional fees, with a smaller discount available for other dates.
- CCSD has currently penciled in Friday, September 18, 2026. With the 40% fee reduction, the estimated cost would be \$6,400 total (\$5,400 in fees plus \$1,000 travel and accommodation). This option would include classroom based support with teachers in the morning (approximately 8:00-1:45) followed by 1.5 hours of District-wide professional development. A two-day option is also being considered to expand classroom modeling, provide additional leadership/admin collaboration, and deepen implementation. The estimated cost for a two-day visit with the same discount would be \$9,800 total (\$8,400 in fees plus \$1,400 expenses).
- All costs would be charged to Title II-A grant funds, which can only be allocated to professional development; however, available balances must be carefully managed to ensure enough funds remain for other CCSD Inservice and/or professional development needs.

## CCSD Special Programs

- The following itinerant staff will be returning to CCSD next year: Theresa Slavik (School Psychologist), Sean Whittacre (Physical Therapist), Jamie Adkins (Occupational Therapist), and Claire Cereghino (in-person Speech-Language Pathologist).

- Our virtual Speech-Language Pathologist, Adriene Taalak, will unfortunately not be returning next year. SERRC is currently in the process of recruiting a replacement virtual SLP, and I will keep the Board updated as soon as a provider is secured for CCSD.
- CCSD has recently advertised a Child Find notice in compliance with federal and Alaska state regulations. Under 20 U.S.C. § 1412(a)(3) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and in accordance with Alaska Administrative Code 4 AAC 52.120, school districts are required to identify, locate, and evaluate all children with disabilities who may be in need of special education and related services, regardless of the severity of their disability. This notice helps ensure that families are aware of available services and that all eligible children have access to appropriate evaluations and support.

## CCSD Projects

### CEMS Rehabilitation Project

- The CMS guardrail has been installed, and it is my understanding that punch list items will be complete by May 26th with **Commissioning scheduled for May 28-29, 2026** as we move into final project closeout.
- As a reminder, the Board was emailed on May 12th regarding the CMS Drainage Change Order Proposal (COP) and issue at CMS. Please make note, CCSD will be completing this work in-house, rather than proceeding with the \$13,000 COP from McG for the above ground drainage work or the \$85,000 COP from McG for the underground drainage work. After review and discussion with Maintenance, it was determined the work can be completed internally this summer using existing civil guidance and documentation.
- Once Commissioning has been completed, the only remaining closeout items include final approvals from Architects Alaska and RESPEC, as well as completion of all O&M manuals, warranties, and staff training documentation. Once these items are complete and accepted, the project will be ready for final turnover to CCSD! We are currently anticipating this will happen the week of June 1, 2026.

## Current/Upcoming District Events

- May 27th: CCSD Regular School Board Meeting (May)
- May 28th: CHS Graduation
- May 29th: Kindergarten Graduation
- June 2nd: CMS Luau & 8th Grade Promotion
- June 4th: CCSD Last Day of School
- June 5th: CCSD Teacher Work Day

\*Please be sure to check CCSD's Website for specific dates of events and activities at CES, CMS, and CHS.