



Craig City School District

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FOR: School Board Members
FROM: Chris Reitan
DATE: May 17, 2023
SUBJECT: Superintendent Report

Student Learning

April 26 and 27 PACE In-service - The CCSD PACE staff met on Wednesday, April 26 and Thursday, April 27 in Ketchikan for our spring in-service. The in-service went well as our PACE personnel developed next steps to tighten our supports for our families working towards ensuring all families are moving forward and successful in our correspondence/homeschool environment. Additionally, the Alaska Reads Act was addressed specifically addressing how this legislation will play out in a correspondence/homeschool context. Additional items that were addressed were spending time with the newly adopted CCSD 2023-2026 Strategic Plan and what PACE’s responsibilities are within our plan, steps we can take to improve our graduation rate within PACE, and how we can continue improving our retention rate for our students and families.

August 2023 In-Service Planning - During our most recent CCSD admin collaboration meeting we have begun developing needs for our August in-service. One critical aspect of our 2023-2026 Strategic Plan under Goal Area C Educate the Whole Child is **Develop multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS) to meet the social, emotional, and academic needs of every student in each CCSD school.** This is an area that needs more work within our district. We invited Dr. Judy Elliott who is an expert in this field and has consulted with the State of Alaska as well as school districts across the country. Dr. Elliot provided our CCSD admin team with a MTSS Self-Assessment that each member is completing, and we will discuss at our admin collaboration meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 18. Our intent is to secure her guidance to support our efforts to improve our efforts of using student learning and behavior data effectively to support our efforts to improve our core classroom instructional strategies and help us develop processes and structures to provide more intensified instruction for those students who need additional support.

Alaska Science Assessment and AK STAR Assessment – CCSD has wrapped up our work with our state assessments. The information from these assessments will be available later this summer and will be a critical piece of how we structure our August in-service.

Resource Management

CCSD FY 24 Budget - The CCSD Board during our April 25 Board meeting adopted a balanced budget for FY 24 with a \$200,000 request to the City for additional local contribution and a significant transfer from our Capital Projects Fund to balance our budget. My prediction is that we will need to update our FY 24 budget in June once the Legislative Session concludes when we have a much clearer picture of what our actual state revenues will be. Also, we might need to adjust our budget based on what evolves from our request to the City for additional funding of \$200,000. Included with this report for your review is a cover sheet that was submitted to the City alongside our Board adopted FY 24 budget for the City’s consideration.

Staffing for the 2023-2024 School Year - Outlined below is an update about where CCSD currently stands with our certified staffing needs for next school year. We will keep working to fill all positions; however, we also must recognize that some of our positions might go unfilled next year. From my standpoint the two most critical unfilled positions currently are our 4th grade teaching position and our CMS special education teaching position. During our April 20 and 21 in-service with our Craig based educational staff members, David Harris and I met with our elementary teachers to discuss and make contingency staffing plans for next year. Two possible scenarios were developed for how we might manage our instructional program next year. One possible scenario is to split our 4th grade class next year down the middle with some of the students being served in the 5th grade classroom and some of the students being served in our 3rd grade classroom. This would potentially put both of those classrooms at 24 students which isn't an ideal student number for our elementary classroom based on square footage available. The second scenario would involve moving our 5th grade students to the middle school next year and develop a core classroom rotation with our 4 certified content teachers (ELA, science, social studies, and math). Middle school electives would be provided for all 5th-8th grade students. David Harris and I will be meeting soon with our elementary and middle school staff members to continue developing staffing options for the 2023-2024 school year in the event all advertised positions cannot be filled.

- CES Special Education Teaching Position - Advertised on the Alaska Teacher Placement website.
- CES 4th Grade Teaching Position - Advertised on the Alaska Teacher Placement website. We have a local teacher who has applied for the position. The candidate has been moved forward to the interview committee.
- CES 1st Grade Teaching Position Long Term Sub - We were fortunate to secure Bernie Grieve for our 1st Grade long-term substitute teaching position for the remainder of this school year. CCSD was able to hire him without negatively impacting his retirement benefits by utilizing CCSD Resolution 22-03 that is attached below. We are fortunate. We had three local retired educators apply for this position.
- CES PE Health Teaching Position - Advertised on the Alaska Teacher Placement website. We have a local retired teacher who has applied that will be interviewed. If all works out CCSD will utilize the attached Resolution 22-03 Reemployment of Retired Teachers that the CCSD Board adopted last year during our April 27, 2022 Board meeting. This resolution allows CCSD to employ retired Alaska teachers without negatively impacting their retirement benefits to teach for one year. The position would need to be readvertised next spring.
- CHS ELA Teacher – CCSD offered this position to a candidate. The candidate has been out of country for the past week on a trip to Ireland. We have provided the candidate until May 17, 2023 to respond to our offer.
- CEMS SEALS Teaching Position – Advertised on the Alaska Teacher Placement website. We have received some local inquiries about the position, however, at the writing of this report no applications have been submitted.
- CMS Special Education Teaching Position – Advertised on Alaska Teacher Placement website. One candidate applied and we received three solid informal references on this candidate and have moved this candidate to the interview committee. However, this candidate has been reached out to multiple times via email and voice messages and hasn't returned any communication.
- PACE Contact Teacher Anchorage Learning Center – Just advertised on ATP starting on May 4, 2023.

The Alaska Legislative Session – CCSD has been tracking HB 65, SB 52, HB 139, and HB 165. HB 139 and HB 165 are bills directed at statewide correspondence/homeschool programs. HB 139 was developed based on the attached resolution that the CCSD Board adopted during our December 2022 meeting along with six other school districts. This bill was passed out of House Education and is currently in House Finance. Given the amount of time left in the legislative process I don't see this bill moving out of the House and being heard in the Senate. However, it will be in House Finance next spring for the second year of our current legislative session. This bill is a solid bill for correspondence/homeschool programs because it would provide the 1.20 funding factor for all students enrolled in correspondence/homeschool programs. HB 165 has been amended significantly since it was first introduced. As originally developed it would have killed every

correspondence/program in the state because it would have forced every program to utilize all funding received for each correspondence/homeschool program for each individual student's curriculum allotment providing no monies for operating costs (teachers, offices, support personnel, etc.). Attached is the written testimony I provide to the House Special Committee on Ways and Means for your review. This amended bill was passed out the House Special Committee on Ways and Means last night to be picked up next year. The battle that remains is educational funding. HB 65 was reduced to one-time additional funding of \$680 toward the Base Student Allocation. All districts would prefer that the funding is embedded within the Base Student Allocation so that the funding remains for upcoming years to help offset the continued increases in costs due to inflation. CSSB 52 calls for an increase of \$680 within the Base Student Allocation passed out of the Senate to the House on May 11, 2023. Neither bill has been heard by the other house yet. Upshot, the Senate and House will form a Conference Committee of three representatives from each body to work out the details of the states FY 24 operating budget which includes school funding. Our hope is that an increase to the BSA is built within the BSA funding formula instead of outside the funding formula as one-time funding because it is then there for upcoming years to support K-12 schools across the state.

Classified Hourly Negotiations – Negotiations on a successor agreement for our classified hourly employees began Monday, April 17. We met for three hours. A follow-up meeting was scheduled for Monday, May 15 2023.

CMS and CES Major Maintenance Projects - There are no new developments with our CMS and CES Major Maintenance Projects.

- We requested through Senator Stedman's office supplemental funding of \$4.5 million to address the funding shortfall and have not heard back from Senator Stedman's office. Given the current political context in Juneau this is a long shot response, but you never know what you can get unless you ask.
- We will be developing another Major Maintenance Grant Application through the Department of Education and Early Development's Major Maintenance grant fund to submit by the September 1, 2023 deadline for additional funding for the project. The funding we have received to date is solid for five years until we would need to apply for an extension.

CHS Biomass Project – CCSD in collaboration with R&M Engineering, Inc. has reached out to our two major grant funding sources (Denali Commission and Southeast Conference) to determine if each funding agency would allow us to move forward with this project as a forced accounting project. A forced accounting project would allow the district to manage the project and put each specific aspect out of the project out as an individual project or if it is relatively minor to hire a contractor to complete the work. As of the writing of this report, I have received verbal confirmation from Southeast Conference that this would be doable for the \$900,000 in funding we received through Southeast Conference via the USDA grant. I'm still waiting to hear back from the Denali Commission.

Communication

CCSD Draft Truancy Accountability Plan - The CCSD administrative team has been meeting regularly and developing and truancy accountability plan to help address some of our chronic student absentee issues. The accountability plan is based on adopted Board Policy and provides a flow for the steps the district would take for each given situation. CHS principal, Betty Hall, has been leading this work for the district. Please review and provide any questions about the current draft or comments about items the district might need to consider.

CCSD Weight Room - During our April 25, 2023 Board meeting there was one public comment about potentially moving the CCSD weight room to the CHS campus. Daniel Nelson, CCSD maintenance director,

has developed options that have been shared with the CHS principal and AD. Included for your review are the options that have been developed to date.