



## HYDABURG CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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### Board Report October 20, 2016

#### Student Count

Mr. Mwarey can speak to how many students are in school today. Count for funding is expected to be just a little under 70. The best estimate today is that we are down about \$100,000 and will have to avoid any unnecessary expenses. I believe we can make it without dramatically affecting students if we pinch everywhere we can. We will address any further adjustments at our November Board meeting.

#### Repairs

Only critical issues are being addressed at this time. Some issues can be funded through grants and tough economic times always bring out community concerns when folks see an expenditure that they think would be better spent elsewhere. Grants are specific and grant funding must be spent on expenses allowed in the grant. As a result, we will not be able to use these funds to pay for many of our needed repairs.

Our income comes from student count in October. A student enrolled for the entire month of October brings in about \$14,000. Our only way to have money for projects is through increased student count and retaining students we have. School is going very well this year, even with the reduction of two teachers. Improvements to our school will reduce the persistent drain of students and their funding.

#### Office Position

We continue to have problems that could be easily corrected with a local hire. SISD is happy to return a portion of their contract if it means reducing staffing in Thorne Bay. As we earlier proposed, a full-time or even a 29-hour per week employee at the rate of pay identified in Hydaburg's classified pay scale is considerably more than the cost of a similar position in Thorne Bay and our budget today cannot cover that cost. We have not moved to fill the position we have posted. We have included a new idea with a position included in the Classified Handbook for consideration tonight. We could cover the cost of an individual working ten hours a week in Hydaburg to solve some of the more glaring issues brought about by distant financial management. If it can reduce the need for staffing in Thorne Bay, that money could fund the position.

## **Wood-fired Boiler Update**

An engineer from Coffman Engineers conducted their first site visit on Thursday, October 13th. He met with Jonathan Fitzpatrick, Southeast Island's employee who has been the project director of all the systems for the SISD, including Coffman Cove, Kasaan, Thorne Bay and Naukati. Jonathan will also be the project manager for the Hydaburg boilers. The engineer, Walter Heins was impressed with the site in back of the school as there is plenty of space for the building that will house both the boilers and the wood storage area.

All the engineering costs will be paid by the US Forest Service Woody Biomass grant of \$150,000. The 35% match (\$80,769) will come from the Alaska Energy Authority's grant and will be in equipment - probably the Garn wood-fired boilers. Once the engineering report is completed, we hope to move quickly on a contract for the building. Thanks to Priscilla for writing both of these grant proposals, which were awarded to the District.

## **Haida Language and Arts**

Both classes are going very well this year. In Yvette's Art classes, students are making cedar bark headbands and wristbands and younger children are working on form line drawing. Parents are reporting that their children are singing Haida songs and speaking Haida phrases to each other outside of school. This is exactly what we want to see happening!

Last year we had a grant that supported the arts classes; now the only funding source is the Indian Education grant. Existing funding for Haida Art **and** Haida Language will only carry us until January. Continuing those programs for second semester will require cutting something else. Priscilla is working hard on finding additional money so that we can fund both programs through the year.

The community is getting a multi-year grant for Haida Language through the Heritage Foundation. It is still unclear how this will impact Haida Language in our school. The grant is funding a language learning team. We suggested names when the grant was written. The degree these funds will support language in the school is still unclear.

## **SEL Grant**

Bart or Erin will provide an update on these activities.

If the board has other priorities for grants, please let us know!

## **School Climate**

If you have been to the school you will have noticed an amazing improvement in academic rigor. Students are on task and where they are supposed to be. Behavior problems are minimal. It is absolutely astounding. I have been in the trade for 40 years and have never seen this level of improvement, ever. Bart and our entire staff are to be commended for their dedication, consistency, leadership and modeling.

## **Technology**

David Staley is doing an outstanding job with our technology needs. He has dedicated countless hours to getting the program squared away. I am not sure when he is sleeping, but we certainly appreciate his dedication and determination to do what is best for our students.

### **10. A. 1. Action on Administrative Reports**

#### **Resolution Funding new Gym Lights**

If you attended games last Friday, you will have noticed students playing Basketball with inadequate lighting. The lights are way overdue for replacement with a LED system. Priscilla has found a grant that is due shortly. It requires a Board Resolution in support of the project. The grant can fund \$10,000 of the cost. My advice is to pursue the grant. I did not get it on the agenda in time and **ask that you approve a resolution during 10. A. 1. Action on Administrative Report**

### **10. B. 1. Resolution 2017-01 Wells Fargo Checking Account Signers**

**I recommend approval.**

### **10. B. 2. 1<sup>st</sup> Reading FY17 Classified Handbook Revision**

Chris and Bart can address additions. One of interest is listing a new position for a modest number of hours that could do some of the things currently being done in Thorne Bay. **I recommend moving this to a second reading.**

### **10. B. 3. 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, Board Policies 3300-3315**

**I recommend moving this to a second reading to give Board members more time to review.**

## **12. A. November Board Meeting**

We will have to meet within a certain number of days to seat a new Board member. I suggest scheduling the next Board meeting to meet that requirement. However that would place the Board meeting on about November 3. That may be too early. If we do the regular meeting later, we may need a special board meeting to seat the position.

## **12. B. AASB Annual Conference**

We currently do not anticipate funding to allow for sending Board members to conferences. If we do anything we should save it for a legislative visit if that looks like it could be beneficial.

## **15. Executive Session**

**There is no need for an executive session unless something comes up during the board meeting that would require such a discussion.** It is premature to make drastic cuts. We simply need to not spend.

Lauren Burch  
Superintendent