



Craig City School District

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FOR: School Board Members
FROM: Chris Reitan
DATE: November 21, 2023
SUBJECT: Superintendent Report

Educate the Whole Child

PACE In-service November 7 and 8 - Our PACE staff members traveled to Anchorage the week of November 6 for our in-service on November 7 and 8 in our Anchorage office. The in-service went exceptionally well with the focus on updating specific areas of PACE's school improvement plans to continue improving the level of service PACE provides our families statewide and student outcomes and then developing the short and long term checks to gauge progress towards those goals. The district is really proud of our PACE staff members efforts. In the homeschool/correspondence arena, enrollment is a key indicator of the health of the program and the statewide perception of the program. PACE's enrollment has increased 92% from fall 2019 which is exceptional and frankly unheard of.

Elementary and Secondary Act Monitoring - CCSD will need to dedicate quite a bit of time and energy preparing for our ESEA Compliance Review. I met with Eli Barsey from the Department of Education and Early Development last week to ensure the district is on the right path with how the department would like CCSD to document all aspects of this compliance review. Our monitoring will take place the week of January 29, 2024 with all documentation needed to be submitted by January 5, 2024.

CES Native Youth Gathering - One significant aspect of our recent Indigenous Education Committee meetings has been the development of an elementary Native Youth Gathering scheduled for December 1, 2023. Last year CHS and CMS hosted a Native Youth Gathering for our high school and middle school students. The committee wanted to ensure our elementary students had the same opportunity this year. Included with this report for Board members' review is the schedule for our elementary Native Youth Gathering as currently developed.

Resource Management

CEMS Major Maintenance Rehabilitation Projects Grant Submission - CCSD is extremely proud that our major maintenance grant application is ranked #1 out of 95 applications that were submitted to the Department of Education and Early Development. There is an appeal process where districts can appeal their ranking and request reconsideration. Ultimately, I don't see any adjustments for CCSD's ranking as the #1 project for FY 25. Moving forward the next steps that CCSD will need to pay attention to is the release of the Governor's FY 25 budget that is obligated to be released by December 15. Our hope is that the Governor's budget has some monies dedicated to DEED's Major Maintenance Grant fund. If so, then our work during the spring legislative process will be much easier. I've never seen the legislature reduce the Governor's monies to this grant fund. More realistically is that the Governor's budget will not have any monies dedicated to DEED's Major

Maintenance Grant Fund and then our advocacy work for the spring legislative session will be for the legislature to dedicate some funding to DEED's Major Maintenance Grant Fund.

FY 25 Budget Preparations - The information below has been shared previously with Board members but I want to ensure everyone has as much information as possible about the district's current financial context as we begin preparations for our FY 25 budget.

- **Preparing for the 2023-2024 budget CCSD anticipated a budget deficit of \$796,928**
- **CCSD ultimately transferred \$531,928 from our Capital Projects fund to the general fund**
- **CCSD also will receive an estimated \$341,216 in one-time funding outside the Base Student Allocation from the State of Alaska as well as an additional \$134,000 from the City of Craig that was generated from the Secure Rural Schools Funding (Timber Receipts) that is provided to the City of Craig.**
- **The budget shortfall that we anticipated for the 2023-2034 school year still remains coupled with the increase in costs CCSD will experience from inflation, salary increases, insurance increases, etc.**
- **CCSD and all Alaska districts were able to withstand these inflationary costs during the pandemic due to the federal funding that districts received to address the pandemic; CCSD received \$860,052 in federal funding in response to the pandemic**
- **I'm predicting districts will receive one-time funding outside the BSA again as a stop gap measure from the Legislature and Governor for our FY 25 budgets.**
- **I'm anticipating the need to trim between \$500,000-\$600,000 from our FY 25 budget**

CES Propane Boiler Installation - Just a reminder that currently Craig Elementary School has one working boiler and that the City of Craig biomass system is not operational right now due to an issue with the chip dryer at Viking Lumber Company. Schmolck Mechanical is scheduled to do an install of our new propane boiler system for the Craig Elementary School starting the week of December 11 with a complete switchover to the new boiler system during the week of December 18 so that our students' school day is not impacted. This work is a major part of our Craig Elementary School Rehabilitation Project that has been awarded \$1,905,489 from a DEED Major Maintenance Grant with a local participating share of \$211,721 for a total project amount of \$2,117,210.

CHS Biomass Project - CCSD received communication from the Denali Commission that our statement of interest for Biomass gap funding passed the threshold review and that CCSD is invited to submit a full application per the attached Funding Opportunity Announcement for up to \$200,000 in additional funding for our CHS Biomass project. CCSD is currently developing our Biomass gap funding grant application and will have it submitted by the December 1 deadline.

Communication

CCSD Indigenous Education Committee – The CCSD Indigenous Education Committee is scheduled to meet on Monday, November 27, 2023 at 5:30pm in the SEALS classroom. Included with this report is the public notice for the meeting.

CCSD December Board Policy Meeting – The CCSD Board Policy Committee is scheduled to meet on Monday, December 11 at 5:30pm.