



SOUTHEAST ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Board Report July 1, 2019

First of all, I would like to thank all of the individuals that recommended that I be selected as Southeast Island School District's Superintendent. I would like to thank the School Board for entrusting me with the leadership and the stewardship of the district. I look forward to getting to know the students, staff, and community members better and support them as we go forward together to make this a more phenomenal district than it already is!

So many wonderful things are already established in this district. These are the result of the many years of leadership by now fully retired, Lauren Burch. I will have some pretty big shoes to fill in taking over what he has already built. His dedication to the success of this district is obvious and I'm sure he will be missed my many! Priscilla Goulding and Janet Stout have also retired and are no longer with the district. These amazing ladies provided so much for our students and for our communities. Their dedication to the unique programs they have started/supported will not be discarded and will not be forgotten. I have no doubt that these individuals will be missed and that they will live in the hearts of many over the years. The foundation each of these individuals has helped to establish and the programs they have built have provided so many unique opportunities for our students. I will do my very best to honor their hard work and to continue to lead in a manner which will respect and support their hard work. We will have some challenges, but we will all work together as we adjust to the transition. I am confident that we can do this together. We will keep students as our priority in all decisions made. This WILL be a great year!

I certainly didn't expect for my first year as a school superintendent to be a year in which there would be so many drastic/dramatic political issues at the state level. During my interviews for this position, I stated multiple times that it was not my goal to change things in the district unless something was broken. The state of Alaska has handed school districts across the state a budget that has required very difficult decisions regarding changes that MUST be made. Our budget was broken, so I worked hard with many others over the last few months to make cuts that least affected students so that we could submit a balanced budget to the state as required by statute.

Recently, the Governor approved a state education budget that, fortunately, did not require districts to make the significant cuts for which we had initially planned. There are still legislative issues regarding education going on at the state level; however, our foundation funding from the state is not going to be affected. We finally received our last deposit for our portion of the \$20 million that was

approved by legislature and by the Governor last spring. We are also waiting to hear if we will be getting our portion of the \$30 million that was forward funded for FY20. We will wait and see how these issues affect our school district. Until then, we are assured of full funding under the foundation formula. We now need to make some decisions on how we will be adding back some of the cuts that were previously recommended to and approved by the School Board.

After speaking with numerous individuals over the last few months: those affected by the budget cuts, those not affected, and those with the perspective of the students; and after reviewing the results of the Strategic Planning survey and the recent strategic planning session, I now have a detailed understanding of the needs and preferences of a representative sample of our school district stakeholders. This information, combined with the previous Superintendent's recommendations, assisted me in deciding the order in which items should be added back to our FY20 budget. I respectfully recommend the following order in which previous cuts are returned to the district budget for FY20.

1. Site supplies, materials, and media: \$9,000 (\$50/student for 180 students)
2. Curriculum consumables: \$15,000
3. Student travel: \$17,000
4. Benefits for a recently split funded position that should be a full time position. This position will be assigned the following responsibilities: Food Services Coordinator (already budgeted); Special Education Assistant (already budgeted), Library/resource clerk (the portion which was previously grant funded), THRIVE assistant (grant funded)
5. District Office – HR/Legal (change to .8 FTE with benefits)
6. Thorne Bay Office position/PowerSchool – 1.0 FTE with benefits for 11 months
7. Vehicles: \$5,000/ Mechanic assistant: \$20,000
8. Technology funding: \$35,000
9. STEAM week every other year: \$25,000 per year
10. Visiting music program: \$20,000 (may be grant funded)
11. 2nd teacher Kasaan: approximately \$15,000 (Special projects/CTE only, etc. – or an additional aide)
12. Board stipend: \$800.00
13. Greenhouse worker/AmeriCorps/hours for daily worker (some paid from grants; \$60,000 if AmeriCorps where using aquaponic systems); may be less – AmeriCorps worker may not require any district funds
14. Staff and board travel: \$15,000
15. Reimburse for ASC minutes, site newsletters, board reports (all will be required): \$8,000

Sincerely,

Sherry Becker
Superintendent