



SOUTHEAST ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Board Report August 29, 2018

Maintenance Staffing

Jonathan Fitzpatrick is primarily focused on the Hydaburg wood-fired boiler project. We have a cooperative agreement with HCSO to provide services for the AEA grant that funds this project and Jonathan will be paid from that grant through the length of that project. We have hired **Mike Congdon** to fill Jonathan's position as we anticipated difficulty covering those duties while Jonathan is working in Hydaburg. With the resignation of Bud Willard last year, we also have weak coverage for our heating systems. We do not have an employee with skills to address system failures while Jonathan is absent. If there is a crisis, we will try to pull Jonathan for assistance or have to contract for these services.

Count

Numbers are stable at all sites, though it is still early to predict count numbers. Thorne Bay is slightly below projections. We anticipated that the site would have at least 75 students, which would help with funding. We are below that number today. Students who attend Thursday electives in Thorne Bay are counted in Thorne Bay for those classes. Depending on interest, students attending Thursday electives may increase the final count at that site to meet our projection. There are no indications that enrollment at any site could fall below 10 students. The number of students eligible for intensive services is expected to meet projections.

Port Alexander

Port Alexander School is starting the year with 17 students. The District's commitment to the school, which was reinforced by our investment in housing for teachers, was reportedly a factor for some of the new enrollments.

Staffing

Sheila Nyquest will be leaving the district at the end of the first quarter. She has accepted an administrative position in Fairbanks. Fairbanks North Star Borough School District had wanted her to begin at the start of the school year; however, they were willing to hold the position until November to ease the transition for SISD. We have posted the position. We appreciate Sheila's dedication, good cheer, and hard work as both an administrator and teacher. While we will miss her strength, we understand the decision. Please take a minute to thank her for her work with SISD.

AmeriCorps Volunteers

We have three anticipated AmeriCorps positions: one in Hollis for the second year, one based in Coffman Cove, and one based in Thorne Bay. We expect the Thorne Bay placement to be responsible for greenhouse operation in Thorne Bay, Naukati and

Kasaan. Currently Kasaan's greenhouse is operating well. The greenhouses in Naukati and Thorne Bay are not producing. Naukati's greenhouse is ready to go and Thorne Bay's will remain idle until a better plan of operation is planned.

Coffman Cove Greenhouse

If you have an opportunity, stop by the greenhouse in Coffman Cove. It is gradually moving forward and is functioning at the best level since it was built. This is what we had in mind for our greenhouse program. It is exciting to see it functioning as we needed it to in order to improve our school food program. Thanks to **Megan Fitzpatrick** for her dedication and impressive efforts to turn the greenhouse around.

National Award

SISD has been recognized by an educational journal, District Administration, in their July 2018 publication as a District of Distinction for our efforts to create jobs with wood-fired boilers and to raise produce with our greenhouses and gardens to improve student meals. We are one of 45 districts from across the nation recognized for our accomplishments and are the only Alaska district that was recognized. I have attached the article for your review.

Project Funding

We were notified in late June that three of the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) requests that we submitted last year were funded. The projects include the covered play area in Kasaan, a new roof for the bus barn, and playground improvements (rubber chips) in Thorne Bay. We will put the bus barn roof and Kasaan covered play area to bid and will complete the Thorne Bay playground upgrades ourselves. These were awarded after it was determined at last moment that there were additional unspent CIP funds.

In addition, we received RAC funding for an improved water collection dam in Hollis, replacement of the shelter at Sandy Beach, and replacement the viewing platform at the Cavern Lake Cave in Whale Pass.

9.A. Action on Administrative/Board Reports

I recommend approval to host 3 AmeriCorps Volunteers for FY 2019. These are the positions discussed earlier in this report. Previously, you approved the hire of other AmeriCorps Volunteers. These positions generally cost us \$1,200 per month per person. In the past we have gotten a break on the total cost when we host multiple volunteers. I will have a firm cost at the Board meeting. These workers are an exceptional value when they are competent and have a good work ethic. Our candidates this year are excellent. The volunteers will be based in Hollis, Coffman Cove and Thorne Bay as discussed earlier in my report.

10. A. Capital Improvement Project List

A late addition to the District's CIP request is a new school for Hollis. To get the school on the list this year, we had to submit our request with a conceptual design from an existing plan. We borrowed from the Naukati and Coffman Cove design plans, as these schools are of similar size and would fit the site. The site staff would like to submit a different design with less expense. They have planned a year-long class where students will work on the design of a new school; both students and community members will be

involved in that process. There may be funding for the school this year if the project is approved to be on the State's CIP list. There would be cost to the district if we built the school. Construction would be far enough out that we can budget for that expense after it is funded. Other projects include the unfunded projects from last year's request. **I recommend approval.**

10. B. 1st Reading BP 5111, Admissions

I recommend approving this item. The changes identify the updated Brigance test that is used for testing students for early entry into school. The policy will need to be in place before we can approve any students whose parents request early entry into kindergarten and who meet the new test's requirements.

10. C. FY 2019 Teacher Handbook

I recommend approval.

10. D. FY 2019 Student Handbook

I recommend approval.

10. E. FY 2019 Parent Involvement Handbook

I recommend approval.

15. Executive Session

I recommend having a session to discuss Superintendent/Board relations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lauren Burch".

Lauren Burch
Superintendent