

Alsea School District

January 2025 Board Meeting Board Report

Krista Nieraeth, Superintendent and Special Education Director

1. Transportation

I would like to thank the district staff for their hard work in figuring out our transportation needs last week and our families for their patience as we figured out how to cover routes with a reduced number of bus drivers. In a district that spans the road miles we cover, it is sometimes a challenge to figure out how to get our kids to school with a minimal amount of CDL drivers who can drive buses, especially when CDL drivers are out. The district has staff who are Type 10 and Type 20 trained but having home to school routes done with Type 10 can only go so far and we cannot use Type 20 buses for home to school without a CDL driver.

We are currently working on an agreement with First Student Bus Company to temporarily contract a bus driver for one of our routes until we can find a permanent driver. Thank you to Todd Miller, superintendent at Santiam Canyon, for getting us in touch with First Student. I really appreciate the collegiality of the superintendents in our region.

As a charter school, transportation is hugely important for us to bring in not only students who live within our district boundaries, but also those other students who live outside, but chose to come to Alsea. If we want to increase our student enrollment, this is an issue that is high priority.

The district is also working with a mechanic in Monroe to provide mechanical and maintenance services for our vehicles. We have had the mechanic position on an as needed basis, posted, but have not had anyone apply for that position. For the size of our fleet and number of routes, it is not cost effective for the district to employ a full time mechanic. Rather, it is more cost effective to find a mechanic to work on our vehicles on a as needed basis.

2. Seismic Grant / Construction /Facilities Updates

I appreciate how much work Nancy and Chris Giggy are putting into our Seismic Grant that will happen this summer. There are some glitches in terms of cost vs. budget, but they are working very hard to ensure that the school building gets what it needs. Mr. Elbers and I will be working with the Giggys to look at what projects the district can expand upon, such as painting walls that aren't touched by the construction, sheet rocking all the walls in the HS office, flooring, etc., and then estimate the cost for them to be done. The locker rooms will be reconfigured so that there are individual showers and bathroom stalls, so we will be upgrading the water heater system in both so that there is hot water, which is something that we will pay out of pocket for. Previously, the water was heated from the boiler. Now that the boiler is not in service, there is no hot water in either room.

As Chris and Nancy Giggy put in their reports, a small addition is being made to the recently completed HVAC Upgrade under the bond program. The heat pump that serves the storage room where the server is located needs to be disconnected from the heat pumps in the adjacent offices because of operational

conflicts. The original design didn't consider the heat generated by the server which causes the office heat pumps to shut down when it goes into cooling mode. The equipment will be installed in late January. This is a necessary item, as our server must be kept at a certain temperature, which may not always be conducive to human comfort. It was easier to give that room its own system, rather than fight the shutdown.

We have had some issues with leakage in the ceilings in classrooms, hallways and offices. The district hired Dakota Roofing to review the roofing work CB Construction did. Overall, the work to ensure that there is no more leakage in the roof was done correctly. However, there are some issues with the trees in the back courtyard and the debris they put onto the roof over the high school hall. It is their opinion that the debris will more than likely start causing the water to back up on the flat section of the roof and around the HVAC penetrations, which may start causing more damage to our roof, and increase the likelihood of more leakage. We will be getting quotes to take those trees out of the courtyard.

3. Pre – ETS meeting

I met with representatives from the Oregon DHS Vocational Rehabilitation to discuss our contract for Pre-ETS. We discussed if some of the money that was given to Alsea SD through the Pre – ETS could be used for summer employment at the school. As of now, we are able to hire students who qualify through this program to work for the school district this summer using the Pre - ETS grant. Ms. Cessnun, who is our Pre – ETS coordinator, Mr. Elbers, and I will be working on getting the logistics, such as hours per day, days per week, and how many weeks, as well as how much money is available to make a decision on how many student spots we will have available for hire.

4. COPS Grant

I met with representatives from eCareUSA to discuss reapplying for the COPS grant, which is a grant specifically for School Safety. I applied for the grant last spring and in the grant asked for an intercom system and brand new doors with an automatic locking system, and we were not chosen for the award. I plan to reapply this spring for the grant, and perhaps pare down what was asked for. eCareUSA representatives will help me work through the grant, ensuring that we have the best chance possible to receive it.

5. RUS/DLT Grant

I met with the superintendents of Central Linn and Harrisburg, as well as the business manager from Central Linn, to discuss the implementation of the funding for the RUS/DLT grant that we, as a consortium, have received. Central Linn SD will be the financial agent for this project. I'm excited to bring updated technology to our district, which will open opportunities for our students to be able to have access to a variety of classes, experiences, as well as increase our capacity for HD video equipment and sound for better quality for those classes, experiences, and meetings.