



# SOUTHEAST ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

P.O. Box 19569, 1010 Sandy Beach Road Thorne Bay, Alaska 99919  
(907) 828-8254 Fax: (907) 828-8257 E-mail: [sisd@sisd.org](mailto:sisd@sisd.org)

---

## Board Report November 2017

I will have just returned late Wednesday from a trip to Fresno, California where I spoke at the Western Statewide Wood Energy Team Forum. I was asked to speak on the innovations we are doing that are associated with the wood-fired boilers. I am pleased to report that they paid for the trip.

I will not get back to the island in time for the Board meeting. Please start without me. I should be able to call in from the Klawock airport by the time allotted for my board report.

### Music Program

Dancing with the Spirit, ([www.dancingwiththespirit.org](http://www.dancingwiththespirit.org)) is the music and dance program we are offering at all sites this fall. They finish up this week in Thorne Bay. Surprisingly, we made it through Hyder and Port Alexander with only one lost day due to weather. The program has gone very well and has been very good for our students. I recommend committing to a week per site for next year if sites commit to raising half of the cost.

### Housing

The Board approved purchase of a housing unit that could be moved to a site after construction elsewhere on the island. We currently intend to move that unit to Thorne Bay.

Even more pressing is housing in Port Alexander. I have been reluctant to make such a large investment until the student count seems adequate to carry the school into the future. My understanding is that the community may be willing to supply the lot to place a home on. The new housing unit would need to be either a three or four bedroom unit. We built a similar unit in Whale Pass for about \$140,000. The same type of construction might cost as much as \$200,000 in Port Alexander, given the remote location. Lucienne suggests that this is beyond our capability at this time. We can submit a proposal through CAPSIS legislative funding, but there is not expected to be any money there if the legislature does not adopt a solution to the funding crisis.

There are many other financial needs for the district. Lucienne can comment to how much we could come up with if this is a priority we wish to fund. I would not recommend proceeding until we are certain that there are ten students for the site this coming year. We may be able to have some confidence by February. If we decide to proceed at that point in the year, there would be time to build something during the summer for use in the fall.

## **Purchase of Equipment**

We are selling three vehicles this month. Our intent has been to rotate our stock of vehicles and reduce as we can. Over time, the board has approved acquisition of a number of vehicles and various pieces of equipment that we didn't end up purchasing. The reason for this is that we strive to be ready to move if there are opportunities. Organizations like the Forest Service and Coast Guard post items at reduced rates to qualified buyers for three days (generally Friday through Monday morning) and then the price goes up. We want to be ready to move on an item while the price is modest. Since this short turnaround time does not allow us enough time to call a Board meeting, we should probably renew this Board approval yearly.

## **Boardsmanship**

Shannon Silverthorn received the Basic Boardsmanship Award from AASB for her boardmanship efforts during the 2016-2017 School Year. Board members who receive this award have attended the *Board Room Boot Camp* session during the AASB Annual Conference, have participated in the on-line training series for new board members, and have attended workshops in three separate board standards at the Annual conference.

**Great job Shannon!**

## **9. A. Action on Administrative Reports**

**1. I request permission to move on any of these purchases if the opportunity presents itself during the current fiscal year.**

- a. Up to two forklifts at a maximum of \$10,000 each**
- b. Up to three motor vehicles at a maximum of \$10,000 each**
- c. A man lift at a maximum of \$10,000**

There is not a high probability for purchasing any one of these items. I want our new mechanic to be alert for opportunities. Forklifts will reduce labor costs with firewood and a man lift is a safety and rental cost issue. We plan to reduce our fleet but need to be alert for good values on government vehicles so we can continue to rotate our stock as needed to avoid old age repair costs. With a finite timeline, we can revisit our needs for the coming year next June.

**2. I request that we adjust the classified pay scale to reflect a \$2.00 per hour increase for all beginning classroom aides. Higher levels of experience would include the 3.5% proportional raise on this payscale.** This is included in Agenda Item 9.C. on the classified agreement. I have placed it here as well but I believe it can be passed under agenda item.

Currently our classroom aides start at \$11.01. We have not raised this compensation in a number of years. It is not competitive and we want the best employees available in each community. A \$2.00 raise for all classroom aides will cost about \$17,000 per year. Our student count will support this additional cost. I cannot predict the coming years. It will focus our dollars close to our most precious resource. I would hope to improve our candidate pool and improve the quality of our education.

**3. I request permission to reinstitute a program that gave back half of the savings to each site when they could reduce their energy costs.** This would go directly to the school budget rather than to the ASC. I found it was much harder for students to see the benefit of their efforts when the dollars were further from their control and input. Port Alexander runs on a generator and funds there would be based on fuel savings.

**4. I request permission to compensate each ASC \$50 for each month's ASC regular meeting minutes submitted for the board packet during the 2017-18 school year.** These are very valuable to our Board as it is often the only way they have of keeping up on individual sites.

**5. I request permission to compensate each school directly \$50 per regular board meeting for a site report given during public comment.** Some sites do and some sites do not. I find their comments on what they are doing to be very valuable as is their hearing what other sites are doing during public comment.

**6. I request permission to compensate each school \$50 directly for a student-driven monthly newsletter submitted to the Board and to each site.**

#### **9. B. 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading, Energy Management Plan**

Nick has reviewed with each site and this represents site feedback. **I recommend approval.** One issue that was raised at sites is a popular district policy that has returned half of measurable energy cost savings on electricity to the site. This was designed to motivate sites to be engaged in reducing costs. The problem I found was that the money went to an ASC account and there was not necessarily any observable reward for staff and student hard work to reduce costs. I have a proposal under action on administrative reports to reinstitute this program.

#### **9. C. 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading, FY18 Classified Handbook Update**

It is always a work in progress. Chris has spent a considerable amount of time on adjustments. **I recommend approval.** Under Action on Administrative Reports I have a last minute recommendation for an adjustment to the pay scale.

#### **9. D. 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading, Student Nutrition and Physical Activity**

Alan has worked on this item and there are some adjustments.

The first change would make the following adjustments to Section D, paragraph 3: *Middle ~~and high~~-school students shall be provided at least the National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE) recommendation of 225 minutes of physical education per week, for the entire school year. When enrolled in a physical education course, high school students shall be provided at least the National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE) recommendation of 225 minutes of physical education per week for the duration of the course.*

The second change would make the following adjustments to Section E, paragraph 1: *Elementary ~~and middle school~~ students will be provided with at least ~~45-30~~ minutes each day of physical activity, not including time spent in physical education. This time may be accumulated throughout the school day and may include recess and before/after school-sponsored activities. Whenever possible, all students shall be given opportunities for physical activity through a range of programs including, but not limited to, intramurals, interscholastic athletics and physical activity clubs. Elementary students will be provided at least 20 minutes each day of structured, active recess. Classroom based physical activity is encouraged and counts toward the ~~45-30~~ minute requirement as long as it does not replace recess.*

Since it is not exactly as previously proposed, **I recommend it be moved to a 4<sup>th</sup> reading** to allow further Board review.

**9. E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading, Charter School Application**  
**I recommend approval.**

**9. F. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading, Indian Policies and Procedures**  
**I recommend approval.**

**10. A. Student Request for Early Graduation**  
There is an acceptable post graduation plan. The student cannot attend tonight. **The motion should be tabled until the student can attend at the next Board meeting.**

**10. C. 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, Health Examinations**  
This adjusts our policy to reflect an administrative code that has been repealed. **I recommend approval**

**10. D. 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, Sick Leave**  
This is simply adjusted to reflect our four-day school week rather than reference to a five-day week. The sick day allowance remains exactly the same. **I recommend approval.**

**12. Advance Planning**  
**I recommend skipping the December Board meeting and scheduling the next regular meeting in January** (Board Bylaws do not require a December meeting).

Sincerely,



Lauren Burch  
Superintendent