



SOUTHEAST ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Board Report

4/27/17

Grant Update

Visiting Playwright

Zack Desmond from the Island Institute of Sitka (<http://www.iialaska.org/>) came to SISD for a period of three weeks. Zack is part of the Story Lab program and is a playwright interested in rural school story labs. Zack creates a “vehicle for writers/artists/storytellers to create unique learning experiments that focus on developing critical thinking, creative empathy, and literacy and storytelling skills with students.” The purpose of the Story Lab project is to “empower students to think innovatively and express themselves with clarity, purpose and imagination.” Students will be involved in writing plays, improvisational acting, writing compelling dialogue, building a one-act play and learning about dramatic recitation and stage movement. Isaac Martin met Zack in Sitka, and then Priscilla wrote a grant for the AK State Council on the Arts for \$1000 to make this possible. This is a rare opportunity!

Other grants from the AK Council on the Arts

Both Laura Anania and Chad Dillman wrote grants for an ‘arts excursion,’ where they travelled together to Ketchikan to visit the Saxman Totem Park, the Southeast AK Discovery Center and the Potlatch and Totem Bight State Parks. Hats off to Laura and Chad for going after the money!

This Week

I am hoping Nick is present to go over all of the activities taking place currently and ones recently past. We are expecting some students tonight and we hope they will be willing to talk about what they are doing during public comment. At the last word I had, we are expecting a presentation from a couple of students from Hollis regarding a sign we wish to post at each school.

Funding

The Senate is still pushing for a 5% reduction. Whatever that really adds up to is a bit complicated. The impact to our budget of a 5% reduction and other factors is much greater than the last time I reviewed cuts. The House and the Governor have been supportive of Education and there is still a glimmer of hope that they will resist the cuts to education.

I have been dragging my feet on making the painful cuts in different programs hoping for the best. We only have a month left before we have to submit our budget. There is

the potential of an additional teacher cost. We are still deeply in the red. I cannot avoid cuts that will impact employees.

- We are starting a liquidation of vehicles and trailers. We are selling one every month or two so that we do not saturate the market and give them away. This will result in savings on maintenance, repairs and insurance.
- Unless I can see a plan guaranteeing financial success, the restaurant will close at the end of the school year. Currently, it is tied into the culinary arts class and is still available for fundraising. I am not prepared to sell the building. We have planned to have items created at different schools available for sale and we will still try to do that. It is possible that past data can show a plan of operation that would be reasonable for continued operation.
- I recommend we eliminate the current shop maintenance position and seek a certified mechanic that can fill several roles that currently are filled by several people. With a reduction in vehicles, eliminating contracted mechanical services and less skilled support staff we can expect a significant savings.
- As we see a need for additional cuts before the next Board meeting, we will look at reductions in supplies, site budgets and travel to balance the budget.
- Consolidate SpEd delivery where possible Savings: \$5,000
- **Food Service Manager** Reduce hours mid-year Savings: \$5,000
- **Librarian** Reduce hours mid-year Savings: \$5,000

Staffing

Whale Pass may have another boost in enrollment and go beyond twenty students. We will have to consider an additional teacher at the site if this comes to pass. We will not consider it until we are confident in the count. It is possible that there could be a couple of additional students who are eligible for intensive services, which would offset the cost another teacher. We will not consider an additional hire until we have confidence in the count.

I believe we will make count in Port Alexander and are pursuing a second teacher at the site.

We thought that Howard Valentine Coffman Cove would be close to ten students. The student count is increasing as we speak. It is possible that HVCC could need a second teacher. There is no anticipation of additional funding to cover that cost and any addition would be a direct general fund hit. Unless the numbers go up significantly, we will try to find a solution that does not include an additional full-time teacher.

Unfinished Business

9. B. Budget

I did not ask Lucienne to rewrite the budget from the last review. I encourage your comments on potential cuts. **I recommend moving this to a fourth reading and final reading before submission.**

9. C. 2nd Reading, Curriculum Materials for Sex Education

Craig Public Health is responding to recent legislative mandates regarding the delivery of Sex Education. This will be of interest to our parents and should be reviewed. I do not believe Nick or our teachers have had much of an opportunity to give this serious consideration. **I recommend moving this to a third reading.**

New Business

10. A. Returning Dollars to HCSD

As we transition away from HCSD, they have added an office person. This resulted in the reduction of hours for an employee at the District Office. The Addendum returns those unused funds to HCSD. **I recommend approval.**

10. B. Collective Agreement

I would suggest moving this item to follow an executive session tonight to allow an opportunity for Lucienne to comment to the costs of the agreement.

10. C. School Calendar

Alan will address the outcome of site involvement in the calendar selection.

10.D. Purchase Agreement for Speech and Language Support

Janet has found a means of reducing costs by doing some services through video conferencing. She can speak to it if she is present. **I recommend approval.**

Sincerely,



Lauren Burch
Superintendent