



SOUTHEAST ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Superintendent's Board Report March 2016

Grants

Priscilla Goulding, Colter Barnes and Sarah Richards have completed a USDA grant application that would cover about half of Colter's salary costs and give him more time for the Greenhouses.

SISD was just awarded \$1,250 for the Coffman Cove garden from the BirdSleuth Garden Grant. **Sarah Richards** applied for the grant on behalf of the district; her application resulted in the district receiving one of ten grants awarded from 650 applicants.

Prince of Wales Chamber of Commerce Trade Fair

Nick Higson, Susan Powell, Megan Fitzpatrick and two students, Sasha and Tyrell, worked hard to show off and sell our lettuce, tortillas and pizza at the event in Craig to raise awareness of our products and restaurant. By all accounts, it was a huge success. Megan set up an aquaponic gardening system for educational purposes, including the fish. Colter plans to do something similar with an upcoming Health Fair.

Democratic Caucus at the Thorne Bay Café date and time

There was an announcement that no one was willing to sponsor the event in our legislative district on the island. **Susan Powell** agreed to host the event at the restaurant and **Jessica Goldman** volunteered to manage the actual activity. The event will help to promote our emerging tortilla, lettuce, and pizza enterprises.

Budget for Next Year

I have heard that there is an emerging proposal to give districts the extra \$50 per student in the base student allocation (BSA) and increase the district's portion of retirement costs. I presume this would generate a net loss for the district. This proposal is currently just gossip, as no related legislation has been submitted.

Buy Out

There has been some staff interest in a buyout offer, which would offer some teachers, based on seniority, a lump sum amount to resign from employment with the district. This has not created short-term gains for the district in the past. The district will not offer a buyout to encourage resignations this year.

Port Protection

At this time, I expect to close Port Protection School next year.

Naukati

Naukati student numbers may require a second teacher.

Hollis

Hollis School should have additional academic support. The school operates as a well-oiled machine and I hesitate to mess with the chemistry of the school. One suggestion has been to increase one of the paraprofessional positions to full time. If we do this, the cost of that position, including insurance costs, will approach the cost of a 0.49 FTE teacher.

Whale Pass

Whale Pass must remain a one-teacher site.

Funding Priorities

Everything we cut has intended and unintended consequences. There is a price for every cut. Instituting cuts is a difficult process. We have prepared a list of items that could be cut for the workshop tonight. A separate pro/con commentary on each possibility will be available at that time

Encourage stakeholders to complete the Funding Priorities Form introduced at the workshop this evening. This needs to be completed by April 10, 2016, so that we have time to review and consider the feedback when adjusting the budget for the next Board Meeting.

4-Day Week

I believe we have checked in with almost every ASC, with the exception of Port Alexander. Feedback has indicated overwhelming support of continuing with the 4-day school week. I have asked the calendar committee not to spend time creating two more calendars for consideration. This year, we will review two 4-day alternative calendars. Should a site request a 5-day calendar, I will ask the calendar committee to develop a 5-day school week calendar that closely follows the 4-day school week calendar. Having only one or two sites on a 5-day calendar is a big strain on distance classes, and the teachers working at 5-day school week sites miss the workday opportunities. Nick can speak to this at the Board Meeting. With that said, I oppose any cuts to Friday activities, as the primary concern with the 4-day school week is about what opportunities exist for the younger students on Fridays. We have noticed that, when sites offer activities, parents seem to be happy with the 4-day school week.

9. A. 2. 2nd Reading of Criteria to determine Valedictorian, Salutatorian, and the UA Scholar

I recommend approval.

9. B. 1. 1st Reading BP/AR 5121, Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement and BP/AR 5123, Student Progress

I recommend moving this item to a second reading to allow time for review.

9. B. 2. Review and Approval of FY 2015 Financial Statements and Audit Reports

Lucienne can speak to the report before approval. **I recommend approval.**

9. B. 3. 1st Reading of the FY 2017 Proposed Budget
I recommend moving this to 2nd reading.

Sincerely,

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

Lauren Burch
Superintendent