



Craig City School District

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FOR: School Board Members
FROM: Chris Reitan
DATE: June 14, 2023
SUBJECT: Superintendent Report

Student Learning

Alaska Staff Development Grant Opportunity - Attached for Board members’ review is a grant opportunity CCSD was invited to participate in with the Alaska Staff Development Network. ASDN has identified a new grant opportunity called the ‘Teacher and School Leader Incentive Program (TSL) Grant Program and intend to apply. **This grant focuses in on strengthening systems that support the retention and recruitment of educators in your district through professional development, strategic investments in leadership and the creation of a performance-based compensation system. There is also an important tie-in to implementation of literacy initiatives related to the Alaska Reads Act.** This TSL grant is a 3-year project with average awards to collaborative groups of \$4,300,000 over a 3-year period. There is a possibility that successful projects will receive funding for 2 additional years. ACSA/ASDN is writing a proposal that brings together a dynamic coalition of national experts and high needs Alaskan districts.

If CCSD chooses to engage in supporting this grant and ASDN is ultimately awarded the grant there could be some tremendous opportunities available for CCSD staff members. The only item that I see that could potentially get rocky is “the creation of a performance based compensation system” due to how this might conflict with our current negotiated agreements with our classified and certified union groups. Please review and let me know your thoughts.

August 24 and 25 In-service Preparation - The CCSD administrative team has been working on developing the outcomes and agenda for our August in-service. Balancing all of the district’s needs within a two-day in-service is difficult especially as we look to grow our Multi-Tiered Systems of Support processes across the district as outlined in our strategic plan, the work necessary to live into the Alaska Reads Act for our elementary staff members, as well as the myriad of individual building needs that need to be addressed prior to the start of a new school year.

Resource Management

Staffing for the 2023-2024 School Year - Outlined below is an update about where CCSD currently stands with our certified staffing needs for next school year.

- CEMS SEALS Teaching Position – We have conducted a prescreen and initial interview on a candidate. This position is advertised on the Alaska Teacher Placement website.
- CMS Special Education Teaching Position – Advertised on Alaska Teacher Placement website.
- CES Special Education Teaching Position - Advertised on the Alaska Teacher Placement website.

CMS and CES Major Maintenance Projects - CCSD is in the process of developing Major Maintenance grant applications to the Department of Education and Early Development for additional funding to complete these two projects. The grant application is due on September 1. However, we have run into a couple of issues with both our middle and elementary schools that are requiring some immediate steps.

- Our middle school gym boilers are out of commission and are out-of-date. The manufacturer does not make parts anymore that can be used to service the boilers. At this time, we are unable to provide heat to the middle school gym. We are working with MRV Architects and RESPEC Engineering to develop specific drawings and estimations aligned with our CMS Rehabilitation Project to isolate the middle school gym boilers and move heat from our current middle school boilers to the gym. This will take some upgraded pumps, isolation valves, etc. to provide heat to the middle school gym.
- Our elementary school has two diesel fired boilers. One is out of commission, is out of date, and can not be repaired. We have been running on one boiler this past winter and the CES and CMS building are not receiving much benefit from the City's wood chip boiler. RESPEC Engineering are developing specific drawings to remove the two diesel fired boilers and install two propane boilers, new pad for a propane tank, propane tank, and appropriate piping.
- CCSD is in communication with the Department of Education and Early Development to ensure that the work that is conducted is aligned with our project agreements and could be reimbursed by the grants we have been awarded.
- CCSD has also been meeting with MRV Architects to develop limited scope and estimations for these projects so that we can secure quotes to bring back to the Board for your consideration and approval.
- Both of these needs are critical because of the need to ensure heat to the buildings next winter.
- We have not heard back from DEED yet, but due to the limited scope and cost of these projects we are hoping we do not need to go to a full sealed bid process and can only request quotes.

CHS Biomass Project - CCSD has received verbal communication for the Denali Commission that we can move to a Forced Accounting management model for our CHS Biomass Project. We are still working with Southeast Conference and USDA to receive permission from USDA to move to a Force Accounting management process. USDA has some concerns about the road work needed on the trail behind the high school for the delivery of wood chips infringing on wetlands. We have staked out exactly where the road would be and shared those pictures with Southeast Conference and USDA. We are waiting on their final approval. However, the longer this process takes the more I become concerned that we won't be able to begin addressing the first phase of this project in a timely enough fashion to be prepared for the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year. As a reminder, Forced Accounting would provide CCSD flexibility with our biomass project because we would divide the project up into specific isolated projects to begin a step-by-step process. Our architects and engineers have advised us that the first step should be the remodel of the current CHS woodshop this summer that would provide the necessary electrical and carpentry work to prepare for the project. It would also add the additional instructional space that will be taken up by the installation of the biomass boiler. As more information becomes available I will share that with the Board immediately.

Communication

CCSD Business Manager Operations - Melinda Bass and I have been in regular contact this year regarding potential life changes in her world. She is contemplating moving south to Michigan to address family issues. She has done a tremendous job as our business manager managing our transition into our new business software system and managing the regular business operations of the district. This is a position, given the new software, that could be managed off island. If this is a move she ultimately needs to make during the 2023-2024 school year I'd recommend we continue having her serve CCSD as our business manager. Her understanding of the district's needs is of the highest level. We would need to consider her traveling back to Craig on a regular basis (I'd recommend once a quarter). No decision has been made on her end yet, but I wanted to ensure the Board was aware of this potential shift.

CCSD Board Policy Committee Meeting – The next CCSD Board Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 2, 2023 at 1:00pm. The Public Notice for the meeting is attached for your review.