



SOUTHEAST ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Board Report

September 21, 2016

Schools

All schools are stable. Teachers are outstanding, administrators, office, and support staff are doing an excellent job, and issues have been minimal.

Site	<u># Students eligible for count</u>
Hollis	25 total; 1 may be part-time
Port Alexander	11 total
Whale Pass	18 total
Hyder	12 total
Naukati	23 total; 2 may be part-time
Howard Valentine	17 total
Barry Stewart	12 total
Thorne Bay	69 total; multiple part-time students, so count is at mid 60's

Wood-fired Boilers

Jonathan and his dedicated crew are working hard to get new wood-fired boilers functioning. The Naukati boiler is under construction. Installation is complete at Thorne Bay. The boilers at Hollis and Whale Pass are not expected to be operational before next season.

Grants

This month, we were awarded a kitchen equipment grant to renovate the Kasaan School kitchen. The tiny triple sinks and malfunctioning stove need to be replaced. The grant provides \$15,000 for new sinks, a stove, a refrigerator and an under-counter dishwasher.

Colter Barnes and Sarah Richards secured a \$4000 grant from RuralCap in Anchorage to purchase food-preserving supplies such as a pressure cooker/canner and food dryer. They will use this new equipment while teaching the students in Coffman Cove about preserving food.

We are about to receive a final announcement regarding a \$45,500 grant from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Though we have already received an award letter, we have received additional requests for more paperwork; all of the requests have now been answered. This grant would pay for a portion of Colter's salary for the next two years, supporting his work as our Agriculture Education Coordinator and developing curriculum for all grades that focuses on the greenhouses and farming venture.

Friday Activities

With the help of the Peace Health Network, the district has an exciting menu of Friday activities lined up for the fall. Christy and Mike are continuing “Friday Youth” in Thorne Bay, providing a variety of activities for students such as a hike in Craig last Friday, games and other activities, and movies in the evenings. Naukati and Coffman Cove have been scheduling interesting activities as well. Sites can share some of their plans during the forum tonight.

Café

Susan Powell, who was contracted as the Café manager, has returned to the lower 48. We are radically changing the model for operating the café. An AmeriCorps volunteer, Sydney-Elise Miller is arriving in the next few days. She is an experienced chef and brings great enthusiasm for her new position managing the café. This change alone could reduce our operating costs by about \$39,000 over the course of a year. Nick Higson is the administrator of the project.

In August, we grossed about \$34,000 between the Café operations and catering, although with costs, we still are not breaking even. We have a good group of students working at the Café and the challenge now is having enough adult workers to supervise the students. The menu and overstaffing have been stumbling blocks. We have yet to make pizza dough that competes very well with other options. An immediate priority is to improve the dough, start making breads, and move pizza sales into commercial u-bake operations. The pizza also has to be economically made, and involve students and possibly the Culinary Arts class. Hydaburg School wants to get into the pizza business and would be a ready market for our dough. Stores across the island would sell our ready-to-bake pizza if we can get the price to a competitive level.

We are seeking student teams to commit to running the Café on a consistent basis on specific days of the week. There is clearly a market for affordable dinners. We cannot do this with \$400 in labor costs a day. Sports teams can provide dinners without these overhead costs, enabling them to reduce prices and still raise enough money for travel, to go to a camp, or to participate in off-season opportunities. We would like to schedule these student fundraisers for as many evenings a week as can be committed to for a lengthy period of time. Our attempt to implement this failed last year as it is too hard to buy supplies for an individual event. We think a better plan is to have the Café stock what is needed and assess the cost for supplies used at the end of the event, making it easier for teams to operate. There could be pizza nights, spaghetti nights, taco nights, bread and soup nights or anything else they can dream up.

We will evaluate operations in the next week and adjust the schedule to assure a balanced Café budget. Most likely, it will be a split schedule concentrating on lunch and dinner with a menu that can be supported with minimal staff during the winter.

We were close to a \$5,000 donation to the café for being included in a reality television segment for the “Bush People”. According to the show’s representative, there was negative community feedback to the city and it was cancelled. I am working on it. While

those shows are silly, I do not believe they put communities in a bad light. Publicity for the community seems like a good thing and I would encourage it.

**9. A. 1. Action on Administrative Reports
AmeriCorps Position at Thorne Bay School**

We have an opportunity for a six-month worker at a reduced cost. Our cost would be about \$6,500 for an AmeriCorps worker who would work 40 hours per week. The individual is an engineer and is accompanying our AmeriCorps worker for the Café. He has experience with Robotics and could offer opportunities district-wide. We have talked about a Friday chess club that could involve all of our schools. He could work closely with Mark Gunkel in the classroom. Of keen interest to me is a floundering effort to move forward on a small hydro project in Thorne Bay. I had assigned this to Colter this year, but with the decision to have him teach half-time, Colter will not have much time to dedicate to this project. If this position is approved, I would like the AmeriCorps worker to commit much of his time to moving this project along. I did not get this item on the agenda and **request that the board approve the agreement with AmeriCorps to add this position.**

9. A. 2 Coalition for Education Equity of Alaska Membership dues (\$4,000.00)

Sarah Sledge will speak to the request. **I recommend tabling this request to our next meeting to give the Board Members time to review the proposal.**

9. A. 3. FY17 Teacher Handbook

I recommend approval.

9. B. 4. BP 3550, Food Service

I recommend moving this item to a second reading.

9. B. 5. BP 5040, Student Nutrition and Physical Activity

I recommend moving this item to a second reading

9. B. 6 FY17 Memorandum with Craig City School District for Grant Reporting and Assessment Services

I recommend approval.

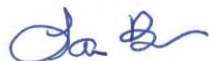
11. B. AASB Annual Conference

Heidi has been asked to chair an activity and I have told her to get with Teri and schedule the trip. I am concerned about funding this year and Lucienne can speak to finances and if we can afford to send additional members or students.

14. Executive Session

I do not see a reason for an executive session at this time.

Sincerely,



Lauren Burch
Superintendent