



HYDABURG CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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May 25, 2017 Board Report

Federal Grants Update from Priscilla Goulding

I will be turning over the federal grants to David and Bart at the end of June. These include:

Title I

Title IC – Migrant Ed

Title IIA – Supporting Effective Instruction

Carl Perkins – Vocational Technical

Special Education

These grants are managed and applied for on-line on the state's Grants Management System. David is writing the applications as it makes sense since he will be in charge of carrying them out.

Indian Education: This is a separate application and management program directly through the Federal government. Bart has asked me to complete the application this spring. There is an 'annual performance report' due in Sept. or Oct. and I am certainly willing to complete this **or** turn it over to David.

There are a number of grants that are going to be hanging and will be trickier to turn over to staff in Hyدابurg. The biggest of these are:

Wood Innovations USFS grant for engineering of the wood fired boiler system and the **Alaska Energy Authority (AEA), Wood-fired boiler grant.** Though we have the 100% design for the boilers from Coffman Engineers, they can't do a final inspection until the building project is complete. So I have just submitted a request to extend this grant until Dec. 31, 2018. This grant total is \$150,000.

The AEA grant (\$620,977) requires regular progress reports, even though the project has not really begun yet. Jonathan Fitzpatrick, the project manager, will start the

building in the summer of 2018. Seeing as he will have built about six of these systems, he is really the best choice for a project director.

Alaska Housing Finance Corporation Kickstarter grant:

This grant in the amount of \$10,000 is to replace the gym lighting to LED lights. The lights have been ordered and the grant money will pay for the electrical contractor for the installation. Bud Willard, also from SISD, is currently in charge of this project.

There are also many grants I have not mentioned because I feel they're in good hands: Social Emotional Learning (SEL) – Erin Wright taking the lead, Farm to School – Nicole Nelson taking the lead.

I have tried to keep this to 'just the facts,' but there is a lot of management of these programs that goes on in the office, such as being sure purchases are coded correctly so that expenses do not come out of the general fund. I'm willing to help with the transition any way I can, and am willing to help out if the district decides to pursue a language grant, as it is one of my passions.

Priscilla - pgoulding@sisd.org

Legislative Funding: The Senate continues to insist that there be significant cuts to education. The House and the Governor insist that there not be cuts. We do not know what the outcome will be. We have budgeted on the presumption that the end will find us somewhere in the middle.

Secure Rural Schools: There is about an even chance these funds will return. These dollars come to us through the city. Historically it brings an additional \$50,000.00 to \$60,000.00 to the district.

Transition: Charity has been receiving training and increasing responsibilities. The transition is going well. Payroll will be handled by Charity in June. We increased her hours temporarily this month as there were extra demands on her time with Bart being out and absences in the office. Issues will quiet down over the summer. At some point the position will have to be reviewed as her competence, responsibilities, and efficiency increase. SISD will provide any guidance we can.

Currently, SISD employees are called on for specific maintenance/repair projects when they are the most cost effective means of completing projects. It has been very handy for things that come up and "we need it fixed today." Contractors are generally not that responsive. SISD has charged their daily rate, which is well below what a contractor would charge. We can continue to provide that service as requested on a case-by-case basis.

An alternative is for HCSD to contract with the maintenance individuals for specific services. This would be outside of the umbrella of SISD and between the individual and HCSD.

Our most complicated unresolved issue with the separation is how the boiler project will be completed. By any measure, you will desire to have Jonathan Fitzpatrick and his crew do the installation. They have done a number of them for SISD. It is more complicated without SISD involvement. I do not think we could install the system with the price of a contractor and it is not the kind of project that "local hires" can complete. We will work with Bart in June to figure out a cost effective plan.

As suggested in Priscilla's report, the engineering is complete with the exception of the final inspection. That particular grant will have to sit until the end of the project (sometime in 2018) or the extra \$45,000.00 yet unspent would have to be returned. In theory construction could begin this summer, but Jonathan Fitzpatrick is still tied up with several boiler installations in SISD. It would not begin until the ground thaws next spring. I know there has been interest in supplying firewood. That will have to wait until there is a structure to stack it in or we would be moving it multiple times.

As we near the end of the relationship I have been reflecting on what we found when we entered the relationship. The financial situation was approaching desperate. The primary cause was not utilizing grant funds correctly or simply not using them at all. Money either had to be returned or it had to be returned and inappropriate expenses coded to the general fund. \$100,000.00 was lost in the blink of the eye when someone had not hit the send button for Impact Aid even though the paperwork was complete. The other factor was inattention to the most cost effective ways to schedule travel and short notice that drives up costs. We had a lot of trouble even controlling those travel issues with SISD involvement. We are down to one Board member with any memory of these events, and I worry that we could slip back with the transition. I encourage the Board and Bart to be attentive to these concerns.

Unresolved Issues:

Business Services I recommend retaining Lucienne Smith as Business Manager.
\$42,480.00

Grant Management Bart believes grant management can be managed internally. I recommend an additional stipend to David Staley of **\$12,000.00**

Wood-fired Boiler Grants: I would recommend contracting with Priscilla Goulding to manage the existing wood-fired boiler grant from AEA and the Wood Innovations grant for the Engineering and Design.

Checks and Balances: When we entered this relationship two Board members reviewed every check. I believe the Board should discuss this issue with Lucienne. As we exit the arrangement there is some deterioration of oversight as fewer people have their finger in the pie. I do not know the answer. It probably is not a return to Board members signing every check but I am concerned with fiscal oversight.

Clean Up Enrollment Paperwork: Parents should not have to write the same information 15 times in the same pile of documents. It needs to be streamlined before enrollment in the fall. We also need to better utilize the tools we possess to inform parents of when school begins and what is expected of them.

9. B. 3rd Reading, Curriculum Materials for Sex Education: From what I can see from other districts is that this is being approved. It is a legislative mandate. The intent is for parents and guardians to opt out of specific educational components of the program. It will require permission forms to be signed by a parent or guardian. Those permission slips are being developed at SISD and could be easily adapted for HCSD use. It is hard to argue against this education when parents can opt out. **I recommend approval of the proposal.**

9. C. 3rd Reading Board Policies 4112.1-4116 (except 4112.4/4212.4/4312.4)

Unless Board review brings up issues, **I recommend approval.**

9. D. 3rd Reading Board Policies 4117.2-4119.12

Unless Board review brings up issues, **I recommend approval.**

9. E. Purchase-Service Agreement with DotCom, LLC (Special Education): If I understand the issue correctly, later in New Business there is a competing proposal from Sarah Charles. I have not followed this closely and would encourage you to get Janet's comments before approving either contract. With either move, we are pulling out Special Education Speech and Language services that would have been provided by SERRC. SERRC is expecting a decision tonight on their contract. If we go another way on this part of their services, (which I believe we should do), there is no going back later in the year. Should Sarah not be able to provide the service through certification issues we could be in a bind on these services next fall and be a captive to a far higher rate of compensation for the service, if we could find services on short notice. **I recommend considering this issue after the Board looks at the New Business later in the meeting.**

10. A. Speech and Language Therapy Proposal (Special Education) Sarah Charles: I believe you should hear from Bart, Janet and Sarah on this issue. I have not followed it. Local hires are always best, and Sarah is an excellent instructor and

individual. We would be lucky to have her in our school. My concern is whether Sarah can have the certifications required in Alaska by September 2017.

10. B. SERRC Accounting Services: I have not been a party to this discussion. Would it be replacing Lucienne or just reducing the hours and responsibilities for Charity? Typically SERRC is expensive and may require buying a different accounting system. I presume this would directly impact how many hours Charity would be required to work and perhaps save some money that could help pay a small part of this service. I would advise discussing this with Lucienne before approving this arrangement. **Annual Fee - \$57,216. One time Setup and Implementation Fee -\$7,000, Additional costs for long distance phone, forms and travel, (total – upwards of \$64,216.)**

10. C. FY18 Professional Services Contract: As stated before, this is all interwoven on the decision on Speech services. By this time in the Board meeting tonight, those issues have been resolved and you should be able to approve this contract for the other services.

10. D. Data Collection Addendum to CRESEL Memorandum: The grant has expectations of data collection and it is in our best interest to satisfy this expectation in the hope the grant will be continued into the future. Unless Bart has an issue with this addendum, I recommend approval.

10. E. Additional Teacher for FY 2018: The need is apparent. The money is not. If the plan is to reduce other expenses by providing a teacher in place of multiple aides, the dollars do not add up. Other money would have to be acquired. Janet can speak to Special Education requirements and if aide replacement is possible. Lucienne needs to be involved if we think we are pinching pennies elsewhere to cover the cost. An additional teacher with benefits is as much as \$100,000.00. There is an outside chance Secure Rural School money could appear and cover half of that expense. There is an equal chance the Legislature will cut more than we predicted and further reduce our funding.

10. F. Professional Contract with Janet Stout for Special Education: My experience is that Janet is an exceptional value, keeps us safe with audits and can make sure paperwork is in order to be sure we get the funding we are entitled to. I believe she is offering a reduced rate, as there is less on the plate this next year. **I recommend approving the contract.**

Lauren Burch

Superintendent
Hydaburg City School District