



Craig City School District

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FOR: School Board Members
FROM: Chris Reitan
DATE: April 25, 2023
SUBJECT: Superintendent Report

Student Learning

April 20 and 21, 2023 In-service – CCSD conducted our April in-service on April 20 and April 21. The outcomes that drove our in-service agenda are outlined below:

- Grow CCSD staff members' awareness of current district initiatives as well as recent state legislation that will impact district operations.
- Develop academic and SEL goals for CHS for the 2023-2024 school year
- Develop flexible CEMS staff schedules to address potential staff shortages for the 2023-2024 school year
- Develop CES specific plans to address the Alaska Reads Act and data collection
- Increase CCSD's special education teachers and paraprofessionals knowledge of and skills with serving our students
- Provide targeted time for staff collaboration and relationship building
- Respond to building level needs

April 26 and 27 PACE In-service - We are pleased to host our PACE in-service in Ketchikan this spring. Our Mat-Su and Anchorage based staff will be traveling down on April 25. The in-service is focused on developing a stronger system of support (MTSS) to better serve our families and students.

Alaska Science Assessment and AK STAR Assessment – Last week we wrapped up our testing with the spring 2023 Alaska Science Assessment and AK STAR Assessment. Our students have done an excellent job in approaching these assessments with a positive effort. Our staff has done an excellent job with adjusting schedules, monitoring students, and supporting these important efforts.

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. I have reached out to other school districts about agencies they use to secure HBI and J1 teaching candidates. Given the fact that over 1400 jobs are currently advertised on the ATP website and that it is predicted that there will be hundreds of open certified positions in Alaska next September CCSD might need to explore all available options for securing teachers for our student programs. If we do pursue the J1 route, CCSD will have to have secured housing for the candidates prior to their arrival. Given the current housing climate in Craig and on POW this could be problematic.

- CHS Science and Math Teaching Position - Stephen DeHart.
- CES 1st Grade Teaching Position –Grace Beckman
- CMS/CHS PE and Health Teacher – Tricia Stock.
- CES 3rd Grade Teaching Position - Melody Wiggins
- CCSD Title I Teacher and District Test Coordinator - Christy House
- 5th Grade Teaching Position - Mike Nelson.
- CES Special Education Teaching Position – Marsha Browder
- CMS Math Teacher – Howie Daggs
- CES Special Education Teaching Position - Advertised on the Alaska Teacher Placement website.
- CES 4th Grade Teaching Position - Advertised on the Alaska Teacher Placement website.
- CES PE Health Teaching Position - Advertised on the Alaska Teacher Placement website.
- CEMS SEALS Teaching Position – Advertised on the Alaska Teacher Placement website.
- CMS Special Education Teaching Position – Advertised on Alaska Teacher Placement website.
- PACE Contact Teacher Craig Learning Center – Currently advertised in-district. If there is no in-district interest it will be advertised on the Alaska Teacher Placement website starting on April 21, 2023

HB 139 State Funding for Correspondence Study – Representative Ruffridge from the Kenai Peninsula introduced HB 139. HB 139 would increase funding for homeschool correspondence students to include 1.0 of the BSA x 1.20 Special Needs Factor. I testified in support of this bill on Monday, April 17, 2023. I was contacted by Representative Ruffridge’s chief of staff. I was asked to attend the House Education Committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 19, 2023 to serve as a resource for House Education Committee members about statewide correspondence programs in general and how special education services work with correspondence/homeschool families. Included with this report is the communication with CCSD’s Board adopted resolution that was shared with the House and Senate Education and Finance Committees.

HB 65 and SB 52 - SB 52 has language to increase the BSA by \$1000 and HB 65 had originally had language to increase the BSA by \$1250 and it has been adjusted to an increase of \$680. I have been paying close attention to the House Education and Finance Committee meetings and Senate Education and Finance Committee meetings. I do believe there is some political will to address the public education funding crisis in Alaska but I’m uncertain if the final settlement will be anywhere near the \$1000 increase as outlined in SB 52. Upshot, there is a strong appearance that there will be an increase to the BSA for FY 24. What that amount might be still remains to be determined.

Classified Hourly Negotiations – Negotiations on a successor agreement for our classified hourly employees began Monday, April 17. We met for three hours. A follow-up meeting will be scheduled in May. Heather Mendonsa and Hans Hjort are representing the CCSD School Board during these negotiations.

CMS and CES Major Maintenance Projects - Bids were due on April 13 at 2:00pm for our CMS and CES Major Maintenance projects. One bid was submitted for a total base bid amount of \$12.8 million. CCSD has secured through our DEED Major Maintenance grant applications with our required contributing local share of \$8.3 million. Unfortunately CCSD will not be able to move forward with these projects during the 2023-2024 school year. CCSD will take two steps in response to this issue:

- Request through Senator Stedman’s office supplemental funding of \$4.5 million to address the funding shortfall. Given the current political context in Juneau this is a long shot response, but you never know what you can get unless you ask. That letter is included for Board review.
- Develop another Major Maintenance Grant Application through the Department of Education and Early Development’s Major Maintenance grant fund to submit by the September 1, 2023 deadline for additional funding for the project. The funding we have received to date is solid for five years until we would need to apply for an extension.

As noted in previous communications, the CMS project is the most critical given the failing systems, especially the roof.

CCSD Bus Transportation Services - We are still waiting for new injectors to arrive and be installed. Once that work is completed we will be transitioning back to CCSD's busses. Once again, SISD deserves a ton of gratitude for their support of our needs.

Communication

CCSD Board Policy Committee Meeting – The next CCSD Board Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 5, 2023 at 1:00pm