

January Board Report Thorne Bay School

The new year started off great with Jason and Stella coming and working with our students with Dancing with the Spirit program. The students and teachers enjoyed their time with Jason and Stella and it really helped us come back from the break on a high note. :) Thanks to Priscilla and Brian for following up on grants so that this is possible for our students! It was a great week of learning, playing and fun with music!!

Classes are winding down to the end of the semester and students and teachers have been working tirelessly to finish off assignments and projects to complete their classes. Grades will be out next week to show how well the students all did. Thanks to the students, teachers and aides and staff for a great first semester!!

In the careers and portfolio class the students finished off their class by completing their physical portfolio's. They organized their personal essays, letters of recommend, resume' and other important documents. They participated in a mock interview contest and learned a lot about the process to help them get jobs in the future. Thanks to Karen, Janelle and Airica for interviewing the students and the feedback you gave them.

The Girls and Boys basketball teams are currently on a trip to play Gustavus, Skagway and Hoonah. We wish them well and will be glad to get them back home. Janelle has had to get really creative to make the travel possible with all the cancellations with the ferry's.

New Elective classes will start this next Thursday and the students will be able to choose from Coding, Woods, Fabrication, Sewing, Culinary, ETT, ceramics Critical Thinking, Digital media, Psychology and Auto II. We feel like these are some great options and will help the students to get an idea what they will have an interest in the future.

THRIVE Grant, Testing, and Counseling

Amy McDonald
January 2020

Counseling

Great fun working with students and staff at SISD. Laura Anania hosted a great **Anchor Night in Naukati**. There was a wonderful discussion about what's best for the kids in Naukati School! I loved being a part of the strengths-based discussions! Way to go Laura and the parents in Naukati!

Charles, Joe and I have been working on some policy language for **testing out of courses and dual credit courses** for our students. SISD does a great job supporting the post-secondary options for our youth!

Testing

SISD will have an optional **MAP testing** window from February 3rd to February 10th. Teachers wishing to have another set of data to drive their instruction will participate in this testing session.

Recently, the US Department of Education and Early Development set a new regulation about observations of the **PEAKS, English Language Proficiency and Alternate Assessments**. Starting this spring, all schools will be required to have an observer that is not the test administrator observe one of each of the above mentioned assessments. Charles, Alan and I are discussing the implementation of this at SISD. More to come in this area.

THRIVE Grant

We had a wonderful couple of days of training in Anchorage in November with the **Creating Resilient Youth: The Power of Webs of Support and Preparing for Lift-Off: Applying Trauma-Informed Practices to Launch Student Success** trainings. POW was represented well with adults and youth from all four school districts. It is especially rewarding to see our youth shine! They are instrumental in supporting the learning of the adults who attend these trainings.

We are preparing for our first **PHlight Camp** on POW. We will be working with the 1st and 2nd graders from Klawock School and the K through 3rd graders from Thorne Bay School on March 5th. A huge thank you to Tracy Gunkel and Aly Howell for jumping in with both feet for their students! Last weekend, I was fortunate enough to be invited to Homer to do my first PHlight Camp with 54 3rd through 5th grade students. It was a wonderful experience and prepared me for our event on POW. PHlight Camp is different

than PHlight Club! And I am so excited to be sharing this framework with our younger youth.

Our **spring PHlight Club** has been confirmed for April 2nd through 4th in Hydaburg. I am excited to work with Camille Booth as the administrator in support of this event! This will be our 15th PHlight Club on POW! We are working with the Web Masters, a group of students who have been to multiple PHlight Clubs, to improve upon our event. We will be doing some new things and doing some old things differently in April. Please join us, for whatever time you can carve out, to support our youth on POW!

I have been working with the crew at Brightways Learning on defining what a **Web of Support School** looks like. SISD has become a model that we look at when having these discussions. I know we have not fully integrated the framework, but even without the language we are a good example of supporting the future development of our youth.

I am excited to report that we have three teachers in SISD who are starting the implementation of the **Prism Lessons**. A huge thank you to Tracy Gunkel, Aly Howell, and Jo Schneider for the support!

Over the last couple of months, I have been collaborating with others on POW and staff at Brightways Learning to submit an application for the **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Culture of Health Award**. The award is for communities who have worked toward a culture that values the wellbeing of all people. To learn more, go to: <https://www.rwjf.org/en/how-we-work/building-a-culture-of-health.html>. Our application showcases what various organizations and communities have done to collaborate to build a connected community across POW. In November we submitted our Phase 1 Application. There were 136 applications submitted from all over the US. On December 6th, we were notified that we were one of 34 applicants that had been selected to move on to the Phase 2 Application! It is very exciting! On January 15th we submitted the Phase 2 Application. There is more work to be done and we are hopeful to move on to be one of the, up to 16, applicants to be awarded the \$25,000 award. Many people have supported the submission of these applications, specifically, Kerrie Carl, Amanda Blankenship, Sarah Alford, Abigail Hills, Brayde Dilts, Dante' Huffine, and Jennifer Lutey, Lisa Kerscher, and Tina Hamilton of Brightways Learning. If you see one of them, THANK THEM! As part of the Phase 2 Application, we had to submit a video about the work being done on POW. Here is a link to the video: <https://youtu.be/UsGUq7W2LGI>. In a future board report, I hope to be able to tell you that we were selected to move onto the next phase!

Recently, and in the next few months, I have been invited to do both **in person and virtual trainings and presentations around the state**. This is exciting as it is getting the word out there about the wonderful things happening on POW and especially SISD. We were involved at the start and now PHlight Clubs and educator trainings are occurring all over the state! Way to go SISD!

Technology Board Report for January 2020

We have just finished up the RFP for our internet service provider. The top bidder was GCI who is our current provider. Approval is going before the board for GCI. We are excited as this will limit the extra work of transitioning to a new provider.

Sisd is part of a group that was awarded RUS grant funding. We are preparing an RFP to purchase new VTC equipment. WE are looking for an install date of early fall.

The tech room has working on the upcoming year's network and device demands and are putting together our expected budget needs to inform next years' budget.

Airica Tripple
Technology Coordinator

Food Service -

We received our closing letter for the Audit/review and have fulfilled the corrective action required at this time. The review recommends some changes prior to next school year. They are: 1) "The SFA should evaluate the micropurchase threshold for food services and consider raising it to the federal threshold of \$10,000. Any purchase from vendors that are anticipated to exceed the documented threshold should be documented with a minimum of 2 quotes." 2) "The SFA must obtain quotes from an adequate number of qualified sources prior to making purchases. A vendor can reply 'not interested' and that is considered a quote."

The cooks are really doing a wonderful job at each site - I am very pleased with everyone's team effort to provide a great food program for our kids. I am also happy to report that I think it is likely we can have one more site qualify for C.E.P. meaning that all kids meals are reimbursable from the state for 3 years at that location even if income changes. I have just begun the process to see if we can make that happen. Currently 5 sites are C.E.P. and 3 are not. I am working to save money anywhere possible while still providing a quality program.

January 2020 Curriculum Report

Due to a highly effective cataloging system the district has had in place for many years combined with the care students and staff have taken, district expenditures for curriculum materials (specifically textbooks, which are the most costly) are far below expectations at this time. Additionally, sites have been quick to return materials when they are no longer needed. Staff have also been careful to seek Title I, Migrant, and other grant funding to meet needs that would otherwise have to come out of the general fund.