

## **SISD Grants and Federal Programs Board Report**

Feb. 18, 2019

The district applied for a grant from **Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)** called Rural Communities Opioid Response Program Planning. The grant was submitted in January and we will hear the result of the application in June. Heidi Young and Colleen Watson (public health nurse) did the lion's share of the work on this. If funded the grant will allow for planning of the best way to combat this issue in our communities. It will also open the door to an 'implementation grant' in the future.

### **Dancing with the Spirit**

Priscilla secured a small grant of \$5000 from Rural Cap Foundation to fund Dancing with the Spirit for next year. We are seeking a variety of other funds to take the burden off sites for fund raising. Some schools, notably Coffman and Naukati, have already reached the goal of raising \$3000 to host the musicians for two weeks!

Though the survey went out to sites, not all have submitted replies yet, so it is a bit challenging to know what to plan for at this point.

### **PreK around the district**

Since it was announced that the governor's budget would eliminate funding for PreK programs and Head Start, we are strategizing how to go forward next year. With a momentum built for welcoming 3-5 year olds in many of our schools, it is hard to think we would just drop the program.

Priscilla attended the Anchorage Association of the Education of the Young Children conference paid for by the state and heard that some districts are using Title I funds for their pre schools. This may be a viable option for the district moving forward. Research points to the many benefits of pre-school, not so much for academics but for socialization.

### **Farm to School grant (F2S) –**

Activities in this grant continue though January is a slow month for growing. As a result of the wood fired boiler in Kasaan breaking down at about the time school resumed after the winter break, Thorne Bay and Coffman greenhouses took on the fish are about ready to harvest some lettuce for the lunch program.

The grant paid part of the travel for Megan Fitzpatrick, (greenhouse manager), two AmeriCorps volunteers and a part-time worker to go to the Sitka Farmers' Summit. They came back with lots of new information and helpful hints that they will be sharing with sites interested in learning more about gardening in southeast.

### **Naukati School Improvement Planning grant –**

This was a non-competitive grant from the state of \$10,000. So far, the grant has paid for Janet Stout and the two Naukati teachers to go to an Effective Instruction Conference and to host local planning meetings on how to improve student achievement. The school was assigned a coach from the state, Joan Walsler, who has been meeting with the teachers, Nick and the parents and community. She is proving to be a wealth of information. In mid-March the district will apply for the next step, an Implementation grant of up to \$50,000 which may purchase curriculum specifically to address the school's needs, as well as provide for more training of the paraprofessionals and staff time to collaborate on instructional strategies. While it is not a desirable position that Naukati scores on state testing put them in the school improvement category, the end result will be a very well thought-out plan for moving forward and will result in a better-trained staff.