



SOUTHEAST ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Board Report
February 11, 2023
Deidre Jensen

Professional Development

Almost 15 staff attended the RTI/MTSS (Response to Intervention/Multi-Tiered Systems of Support) in Anchorage. Travel costs were funded by several different grants (Title I, School Improvement Grant, ELA curriculum grant, and literacy grant). This conference offers top notch expert researchers and presenters in the area of meeting student needs. Feedback from most attendees, if not all, is positive; either confirming what they are doing in the classroom, reminding them of past practices they have forgotten or giving them new ideas. We have been providing more of these learning opportunities to our paraprofessionals, including our in-service days with the teachers. There are graduate level classes and other learning opportunities that staff can participate in as well that our grants can pay for.

State and Federal Programs

We are working on updating our school-wide plans for each school, as well as our parent engagement plans. Amanda Hotch will be attending each ASC meeting to gather information about activities that we have done in the schools that meet our goals for our Title grants as well as get input from community and parent stakeholders for how to use our Title funds to meet the needs of our students. Frequently these funds have been used to pay for paraprofessionals in the classrooms, offering extra assistance to the students and teachers with the varied grade levels in our classes. Ideas for meeting the needs of these students can vary greatly and if anyone would like to brainstorm suggestions, give input, or have questions about these grants please attend our ASC meeting or reach out to Amanda Hotch ahotch@sisd.org. This year we have been training our paraprofessionals to progress monitor students using mClass; a reading fluency screener. Then as students are identified they are used to help students with individual help. Our next steps are to develop a committee and choose resources to address instructional gaps and reinforce skills.

Literacy Grant

We have posted for an extra duty contract Comprehensive State Literacy Development (CLSD) Grant Coordinator to assist with the collaboration of the five districts in the consortium as well as tracking and revising the grant in GMS (Grant Management System). With this grant we also have a Parent Engagement Coordinator in each school to organize literacy events for students and parents. Some examples are literacy game nights, Dr. Seuss events, and our Battle of the Books coaches and meets, which are occurring this week and next.

English/Language Art Curriculum Grant

The ELA grant committee consisting of five people attended one more day prior to the RTI conference to participate in a session previewing materials. We looked at our needs in our district and various communities in order to focus our search through the curriculums. This committee has been involved in a selection process and we are now given four different curriculums to select from to make our purchase. We have a little over \$50,000 for the base purchase of this curriculum (one year of supplies – not including consumables the second or following years). Our next steps will be to pilot these curriculums in the classrooms and reconvene to see what meets our districts needs best. Considerations the committee

has decided are important are easy to use (minimal pieces in the curriculum since our district is so spread out and we share materials among sites), and strong foundational instructional component, yet leaves room for our teacher autonomy, since we know our individual students needs so well.

District Test Coordinator

Amy McDonald has previously been district test coordinator for many years and has agreed to help take these duties on through this interim period. Rest assured, she will finish the duties this year thoroughly.

MOU for Bus Use

Klawock School District did not end up using the bus we had prepared for them; however, shortly after, Craig City Schools reached out for assistance as they were experience a bus breakdown. We signed the same MOU for Craig that was previously presented to the Board for Klawock. It is important to build relationships amongst our island districts and this is one way to do that.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Deidre Jenson".

Deidre Jenson Ed.D.
Interim Superintendent