



SOUTHEAST ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Board Report December 21, 2021 Sherry Becker, Superintendent

Vision: Students are equipped to realize their dreams and aspirations.

Mission: Together we will foster student skills to achieve their goals and adapt to an ever-changing world.

Employee Recognition:

November 2020 Employee of the Month:

Matt Gore - Technology Director

December 2020 Employee of the Month:

To Be Announced During School Board Meeting

Volunteer Appreciation/Recognition:

Our Federal Program/Grants Coordinator suggested that we do a volunteer appreciation/recognition in addition to our classified and certified staff recognition. This is a wonderful idea as we have some great volunteers this school year. The first recipients of this award are Lauren Burch and Priscilla Goulding, who were nominated for the many hours that they volunteer in the greenhouses in our district, for the knowledge and resources that they share for agriculture and for improving educational services through educational activities for students, and for being available for continued advice and help. Thank you Lauren and Priscilla!

Parent Involvement Appreciation/Recognition:

The SISD Leadership Team has discussed doing an appreciation/recognition for parent involvement. This can be for involvement at the school or at home providing support for their child during homework, distance education, etc. We hope to have our first parent nominations and awards ready for the February School Board meeting.

Employee Evaluations:

Lead Teachers have been busy completing evaluations of their classified staff and Joanna Schneider and Carol Randolph have been finalizing their certified and classified evaluations of Thorne Bay School. The first evaluation for non-tenured certified staff is due by 1/21/21. The second evaluation for non-tenured staff is due by 5/15/21. Tenured staff that had a formal evaluation last year may complete an "Evaluation Alternative" if at least two of the standards were rated as *Exemplary*, with the remaining standards rated no lower than *Proficient* in the previous year's evaluation.

Staffing for 2021-22:

Letters of Intent have been distributed to all certified staff. These letters are for the purpose of informing the district of a certified staff member's intent to return this coming school year. It is not binding. The letter also asks the certified staff member if they are requesting a transfer and, if so, to what position/location. We will be distributing certified staff contracts soon for tenured staff. Non-tenured contracts will not be distributed until more is known about this coming year's budget and individual school enrollments/needs, etc. I have also been meeting with individual teachers privately to discuss their hopes for the coming school year. It is looking very promising that we will have little to no need to do any recruiting for certified staff for 2021-22.

Per an article in AASA Advocate (January 2021)

States have to spend at least 90% of their share on emergency relief funds to schools (though they can pursue a waiver on this requirement; we will be watching to see the extent to which states use these federal dollars to backfill cuts to state education budgets). The dollars will be allocated to the local level via Title I population, and the equitable services provision does NOT apply to private schools. The funding is intentionally broad and flexible, to be used for almost any expense. The package also includes flexibility and funding for child nutrition programs. Allowable uses for the K12 funding include technology, site-based needs, cleaning supplies, mental health services, summer and supplemental learning, and school facility repairs and improvements to reduce virus transmission and to improve indoor air quality, among others.

Legislation

As of the time of this writing, 1/13/21, there are currently no education-related or overall budget picture legislative hearings scheduled, and no news on the house or senate being organized.

Regarding the "Preparing Readers and Educating Kids (The Alaska Reads) Act," which can be found here: <http://www.akleg.gov/basis/Bill/Detail/32?Root=SB%20%20%208> - Löki Gale Tobin, staff in the office of Senator Tom Begich, shared the following:

- Regarding the question on whether in-classroom pre-K educators need to be certified teachers, the bill directs the State Board of Education to develop requirements of the new pre-K grant program through regulation. This process will include stakeholder input. We suspect pre-K classrooms will look similar to K-12 classrooms which include certified teachers, paraprofessionals, and other education professionals.
- Regarding the question on whether funding will be available to hire certified teachers for pre-K programs, once a district has an approved pre-K program, students in that program will be funded through the foundation formula. Additionally, the pre-K grant program provides funds for a school district to recruit, hire, and train educators and staff in building their high quality pre-K program.

Pre-Filed Bills:

There are a number of pre-filed education related bills. We will be watching the movement of all of these bills but paying special attention to the following:

SB 8 - PRE-K/ELEM ED PROGRAMS/FUNDING; READING - "An Act relating to early education programs provided by school districts; relating to school age eligibility; relating to funding for early education programs; establishing early education programs and a voluntary parent program; relating to the duties of the Department of Education and Early Development; relating to certification of teachers; establishing a

reading intervention program for public school students enrolled in grades kindergarten through three; establishing a reading program in the Department of Education and Early Development; establishing a teacher retention working group; and providing for an effective date."

SB 17 - ENERGY EFFICIENCY & POLICY: PUBLIC BLDGS - "An Act relating to the retrofitting of certain public facilities and community facilities; relating to the performance of energy audits on schools and community facilities; relating to the duties of the Alaska Energy Authority and the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation; creating a rapid economic recovery office in the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority; and relating to the state energy policy and energy source reporting by state agencies."

SB 20 - OUT OF STATE TEACHER RECIPROCITY - "An Act relating to recognition of certificates of out-of-state teachers."

SB 32 - COLLEGE CREDIT FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS - "An Act establishing the Alaska middle college program for public school students; and relating to the powers of the University of Alaska."

HB 7 - INTERACTIVE COMPUTER SVC CONTENT RESTRICT - "An Act relating to restrictions placed on users of interactive computer services based on content or viewpoint; and adding unlawful acts to the Alaska Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Act."

HB 15 - TEMP PERMITS & LICENSES; MILITARY LICENSE - "An Act relating to occupational licensing; relating to temporary licenses and permits; relating to certification of teachers; and providing for an effective date."

HB 25 - PUBLIC SCHOOLS: SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL LEARNING - "An Act relating to the duties of the state Board of Education and Early Development; relating to statewide standards for instruction in social-emotional learning; and providing for an effective date."

HB 49 - APPROP: EARLY LITERACY PROGRAMS - "An Act making special appropriations from the general fund for early literacy programs in public schools; and providing for an effective date."

Strategic Planning Goals and Objectives Survey Results

To be announced during School Board meeting

Advisory School Council/Community Council/City Council Participation:

I continue to participate in all school Advisory School Council meetings either in person or by distance. I have also started attending City/Community Council meeting for outer sites. I continue to attend the Thorne Bay City Council Meetings when possible.

Port Alexander

While picking up a float plane passenger in Naukati, I met with the pilot (and new mayor of Port Alexander) Kevin Mulligan, and discussed growing concerns with the future of the school due to decreased population in Port Alexander and declining enrollment. I shared brainstorm ideas with the Mayor and it was requested that SISD attend the upcoming City Council Meeting to share some of the concerns and ideas. The meeting took place on January 4, 2021 and was very well attended by Port Alexander residents as well as a team of SISD staff. By the end of that meeting, it was decided that

they develop a committee to discuss the ideas and determine how the district and the City of Port Alexander could work together to solve this problem. Additional meetings with the committee are planned and SISD staff will be members of the committee, which will be led by the City of Port Alexander.

AK-TRAILS Correspondence/Homeschool:

A team of SISD staff are planning to meet over the next couple of months to develop a strategic plan for our Correspondence/Homeschool Program. We will be focusing on policy, procedures, curriculum and an advertisement campaign. More information on the team's progress will be announced as it becomes available.

Business Items:

10.A. I recommend approval of the Electrical Quote from Tongass Electric for VEEP LED Lighting Upgrades for \$29,380.00

10.B. I recommend approval of the Edna Bay Library Memorandum of Agreement, 2021 - 2025

10.C. I recommend moving all of the board policy updates (10.C.1. BP 3300, Expenditures/Expending Authority, 10.C.2. BP 3310, Purchasing Procedures, 10.C.3. BP 3311, Bids, and 10.C.4. BP 3312, Contracts) to a second reading.

10.D. I recommend approval of the addendum to the Memorandum of Agreement with Hydaburg City School District for Special Education Services

10.E. I recommend ratifying the Agreement with Apptegy for Mobile App and Website Development Services

10.F. I recommend approval of the FY21 General Fund Budget Revision

10.G. I support the decision of the School Board on their choice for the appointment of the Legislative Liaison