

Principal's Report

January 18th, 2023

By Branden Strauch



Students:

437 Students.

Students were fortunate to complete winter assessments between the snow days and winter break. I plan to share student results and analysis at the next meeting.

Student enrollment lottery will open on February 1st. ASD is currently providing training on the new lottery system in preparation for this launch. Rilke will provide lottery information to the community once the portal opens.

Staffing:

41 Staff Members.

Our evening custodian, Arnel, has retired effective February 3rd. We will be pursuing a couple of options to fill this position in a timely manner. All other positions are filled besides ELL tutor.

There is also discussion between charter schools to hire and share a school counselor. In this role, I foresee a counselor being at Rilke two days a week to focus on student mental health, helping students transition to high school, and other student services as needed. I would like to request APC support and funding for this potential position.

At this point, I expect three teaching positions and one paraprofessional position to be open beginning next school year. However, I will be conducting an informal survey to learn more about all employee intentions for next year in order to prepare.

Curriculum and Instruction:

Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) is providing funding through the Alaska Reads Act to ASD to adopt a new ELA curriculum that has been approved by DEED. ASD is reviewing the curriculum options, and will likely adopt one of the options. It is my intention to follow ASD's lead and adopt the same curriculum for Rilke Schule. There are several reasons for this decision:

1. The proposed curriculum has been meticulously vetted by educators at the state and district level to best meet the needs of our students.
2. The state and the district will provide funding for materials and training to support the implementation of the proposed curriculum.
3. This is the last year of our current curriculum contract and we would need to renew or adopt a new curriculum anyways. However, if we deviated from the rest of the district, we would need to use our own funds or seek out our own funding from the state.

Budget:

The OASIS count, which is based on student attendance and is used to calculate school funding, resulted as expected. However, we benefited from some other factors which increased our funding. Details below:

- The budget was initially built on 463 students so there was a loss of 26 ADM.
- Part of that loss was mitigated by being in the last year of State Hold Harmless funding which adds about 25% of the loss back.
- Rilke also had 1 additional student with intensive needs which adds 13 to the adjusted ADM.
- The overall increase in funding is a combination of the enrollment related losses and increases in State one-time funds.

As a result, Rilke will receive money from ASD rather than pay the district back for low enrollment.

Facility:

Jason and I met with Dave Whiting today to learn about the remodel process. Our first step is to create a proposal to send to Kiska for approval. Once we receive the approval, we will work with ASD to make the updates.

Marketing:

Social media marketing has been going very well. The data indicates that hundreds of people have viewed our marketing videos. Furthermore, we have had over 25 families sign up for school tours. Furthermore, our social media marketing has created some buzz across the district and we have been asked to meet with other immersion schools to share this strategy.

Rilke will be participating in three school fairs over the next month, including the Immersion School Expo which will be held at Rilke Schule. Our goal is to connect with families and invite them to join our community.