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CORDOVA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Kim Hanisch
Superintendent Board Report
Nov. 6, 2026

BOARD DIRECTIVES/PRIOR MEETING FOLLOW-UPS

- Scholarship Granting Opportunities (SGO's)
  - Review: As part of the Federal Scholarship Tax Credit (FSTC) program, a SGO is a non-profit organization that receives donations and uses these to fund eligible k-12 students. Beginning Jan. 1, 2027, Individual donations to an SGO of up to $1700 will receive a 1:1 tax credit. An eligible student includes those from low to middle-class families.
  - Answers to board member questions from October meeting:
    - **Payroll Contributions:** Payroll contributions or after-tax donations. This would be a voluntary opt in for employees. Other companies can, also, provide this payroll deduction to their employees to donate to an SGO of their choice. These payroll deductions can be defined by the employee (1-time, monthly, other). Currently, RISE is working on processes so that an employee with monthly deductions would not have to specify the SGO fund every month
    - **Tax filing:** Donors do not need to itemize. They can take the standard deduction and claim the credit using the additional IRS form designated for it, currently Form 8525.
    - **Multiple SGOs:** As far as we could determine, there is no federal requirement to work exclusively with one SGO. Cordova students could potentially receive scholarship support from multiple SGOs, provided combined payments don't exceed the cost of the same expense.
  - **Next Steps:**
    - Review **BP 3290 to determine if scholarships from an SGO would be considered a gift. If they are, then our policy may need revision to be able to accept as the donor as selected.** For example, as is, if the scholarship is determined to be a donation to the district and that donor specified it to go to music fees, then we may not have the right to say the donation automatically become "district property." AASB is working on this and will advise
    - Determine if CSD will join RISE as a sponsoring SGO
    - Determine what fees we want to include as funds for donations
    - Begin a communication campaign

2026–27 Board Priorities for Superintendent – October Highlights:

- Build and strengthen positive relationships
  - Joined 2 city council meetings to stay engaged in their budgeting processes and decisions; also shared CSD highlights as public comment
- Focus on raising student achievement
  - Our leadership team finished analyzing all 5 pillars of our strategic vision. A summary of our findings will be shared. Following that, identified focus areas for next steps will be developed.
- Actively search out creative alternative funding sources
  - SGO's: Information was above.
  - Those involved with the Alaska Presidential Physical Fitness grant met to brainstorm uses of the funding. A preliminary budget has been approved by the state.
- Lead long-term facility and financial planning

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- See regular agenda for CIP SERRC contract and RFP
- City Manager, Sam Greenwood, continue to meet on a regular basis. Next week, Cheryl Gleason will join us to help me understand the approach to funding since our fiscal years don't match up. She and Malvin (city maintenance) will join me and Chris Moreno in a CIP planning meeting with SERRC's David Landin on Nov. 18th.
- Ms. Greenwood is planning to join our board meeting next month. If you have any questions or topics, related to school district funding and relationships, please let me know.

POLICY REVIEW/INFORMATION

- The Policy Committee met on Nov. 3rd to review policies 3515.6 through3590. Three policies have recommended changes which are in the board packet as first reading. Our next meeting is Dec. 1st. This link will provide you more information about which policies will be reviewed throughout the year, .

- During the AASB conference, I was able to join sessions regarding new laws resulting from the 2026 legislative session and potential new/revised policies as a result. I will share these with our policy committee.

BUDGET AND FINANCE

- Federal Level: changes in E-rate funding still unknown. Public comment period has ended.
- State Level:
- City Level:
- District Level: See Financials for current revenues and expenditures;
  - October Count: Our October count (enrollment) was 356.75. Our budget was built on 372. This equates to roughly a $300,000 difference in anticipated revenues.
  - FY26 Audit: Due to several challenges in work to get all needed information to our auditors, we will not have a final audit prepared for the state's Nov. 15th deadline. To help CSD through this process, we are contracting with an outside accounting firm to help us provide needed documentation to our auditors. They will be on-site Nov. 9-13th. Our auditors will be available Nov. 30- Dec. 3rd to perform the audit. If they are able to complete this work with acceptable findings, we will be able to share these with the board Dec. 9 and submit to the state by Dec. 10th. By doing so, no state funding will be withheld.

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION:

- Our next curriculum meeting is Nov. 23rd
- Several small curricular purchases have been made during the 1st quarter to supplement current resources and best meet needs of all of our students.

PERSONNEL:

- Mr. Gyasi has arrived! His first day with students was Nov. 9. Ms. Danielle Specht, contracted services, will stay with us through Dec. 18th to ensure we have a smooth transition for both students and Mr. Gyasi.