

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
School Board Room

MINUTES

Monday, January 25, 2010, 7:00 P.M.

A. PRELIMINARIES

1. Call to Order

President Hull-Engles called the regular meeting of Monday, January 25, 2010, to order at 7:03 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance:

President Hull-Engles led the pledge of allegiance.

3. Roll Call

Board members in attendance:

Laurie Hull-Engles, President
Grace Huhndorf, Vice President
Dolores Gard, Treasurer
Kathleen, Todd, Board Clerk
Duane Edelman, Board Member
Dan Walker, Board Member
David Lawrence, Board Member

Administration in attendance:

Lance L. Bowie EdD, Superintendent
Amber Cockerham, Business Manager
Ben Olds, Facilities Director
Doug Johnson, Technology Director
Geary Cantrell, Principal of VHS
Rod Morrison, Principal of GJH
Roz Strang, Principal of HHES
Clarence Haugan, Special Education Director

Student Board Representative Quinn Verfaillie was in attendance.

Other people in attendance: 14 for presentation – after 2

B. AGENDA

1. Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION WAS MADE BY DOLORES GARD AND SECONDED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2010 WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES:

- **REMOVE: EXECUTIVE SESSION NUMBER 1. ATTORNEY / CLIENT PRIVILEGE – PENDING LITIGATION: DAVIS VS. VALDEZ CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT;**
- **ADD: NUMBER 4 DISTRICT ATTORNEY – JOHN SEDOR UNDER AGENDA ITEM E REPORTS;**

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- **ADD: A SPECIAL PRESENTATION NUMBER 1 – TO BE ANNOUNCED BY SUPERINTENDENT BOWIE AND CHANGE THE EXISTING SPECIAL PRESENTATION NUMBER 1 BUS MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT – FACILITIES DIRECTOR BEN OLDS TO NUMBER 2.**
VOTE: 7 YEAS, STUDENT ADVISORY VOTE: YES, MOTION PASSED.

C. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

1. Signing of Letters of Intent – Cody Schell, James Hughes, Christian McCain

Superintendent Bowie introduced Mr. Brad Schell who introduced three young men – Cody Schell, James Hughes and Christian McCain who have been accepted at Mayville State University in Mayville, North Dakota to play Football and Baseball. The three young men signed letters of intent in front of the Board. Superintendent Bowie said he was proud of their commitment. The Board congratulated them and wished them well.

2. Bus Maintenance Agreement – Facilities Director Ben Olds

Superintendent Bowie introduced Valdez City School District (VCSD) Facilities Director Ben Olds. Mr. Olds explained the history of the bus transportation in Alaska noting that VCSD owns two small buses for student activities which have been and are maintained by First Student Bus Company by way of a verbal/handshake agreement. A copy of service that had been performed on the VCSD buses #101 and #102 was given to the Board. The VCSD buses are maintained to the same standards as the First Student buses. Superintendent Bowie said the District purchased Yellow Buses so that they would be the same as First Students buses and could receive State Inspections as well as the same level of service. Monica Conger the Manager of Valdez First Student told the Board First Student has serviced the VCSD buses every 90 days or 4000 miles and State Inspections are done two times a year. First Student calls the District for the mileage on the VCSD buses once a week to make sure service is done in a timely manner. She noted that there are no problems with the two buses at this time. Number 101 was out of service for a period of time because of a cracked windshield.

Director Olds said the District has chosen to be in the bus business and be a competitor to keep the cost of student travel down. Prior and Post Inspection Sheets are provided to the drivers of the buses. Drivers are asked to note any problems on the Inspection Sheets. Many of the drivers are volunteers who have completed the CDL for Bus Driving which is now a commitment of 50 hours of instruction time. The last class offered in Valdez was last spring. It is very difficult to recruit volunteer drivers who can take off for 50 hours of instruction – even though the District will pay for the instruction and physical. Administration stated that there is now a shortage of bus drivers available and this is a concern. Board member Walker expressed concern with requiring a coach to drive the bus when they are many times exhausted from the activities and sleeping on a classroom floor.

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The Board tasked Superintendent Bowie to meet with Monica Conger Valdez First Student Manager to create a Bus Maintenance Contract between VCSD and First Student for the service and inspection of the VCSD buses. Additionally, President Hull-Engles asked Administration to place “Student Travel for Activities” on the March 8th regular board meeting agenda under Discussion Items.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Roz Strang Principal of Hermon Hutchens Elementary School introduced Ms. Carmen Russo who is her Principal Mentee this year. Ms. Russo is in the process of completing her Alaska Administrative Certification – she will also have an opportunity to be mentored by Principal Morrison and Principal Cantrell this school year. The Board welcomed Ms. Russo.

E. REPORTS

1. Student Board Representative – Quinn Verfaillie

Student Board Representative Quinn Verfaillie reported to the Board:

- Basketball went to Kodiak and did well.
- Basketball went to Cordova last weekend and did well.
- The Ski Team traveled to Sky View and did well.
- The next Roundtable Discussion between VHS Student Council and VCS Board Representatives will be on January 27, 2010 in the VHS Library from 12:30 p.m. to 1:20 p.m.

President Hull-Engles and Board members Lawrence and Edelman will attend the Roundtable and bring Pizza for the students.

2. District – Superintendent Lance S. Bowie EdD

Superintendent Bowie reported to the Board:

- Sedor letter /re: conflict of interest: Superintendent Bowie referred the Board to a copy of a letter from the District’s Attorney John Sedor regarding Conflict of Interest and said it had arrived after the board packet had been completed – and would be needed later in the meeting.
- AASB Dues: The billing for VCSD 2010 AASB Dues has arrived and is \$8,215 and will be on the February 8, 2010 regular board meeting agenda for approval.
- NCLB Title I Audit: Last week auditors came from the State of Alaska and audited materials concerned with NCLB Title I. Superintendent Bowie congratulated VCSD Federal Programs Coordinator Tristy Morrison and her staff for doing an exceptional job. The audit went smoothly and was very good.
- Special Education Audit: Last week auditors came from the State of Alaska and audited the Special Education Department and records. This audit is conducted every 5 years. Superintendent Bowie congratulated Special Education Director Clarence Haugan and his staff for an excellent audit. There were no deficiencies.

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- United Way Grants: Superintendent Bowie reminded the Board, as a courtesy, the United Way Grants in the board packet for approval of submission – have already been submitted due to the grant deadline date coming before the board meeting.
- Virtual School Task Force: Superintendent Bowie again has been invited by Alaska State Education Commissioner LeDoux to attend another meeting of the Virtual School Task Force. He will be in Anchorage on January 26th and 27th.
- VCSD Voluntary Severance Plan: Superintendent Bowie distributed two draft letters – one to classified employees and one to certified employees for review and approval of the board members. President Hull-Engles asked Administration to put “Approval of the VCSD Voluntary Severance Plan” on the February 8, 2010 agenda under Action Items: New Business.

President Hull-Engles asked Superintendent Bowie if there was agreement from the attorney to present the Board with the drafts of the VCSD Voluntary Severance Plan letters outside of executive session. Superintendent Bowie nodded in the affirmative.

Vice President Huhndorf asked Superintendent Bowie if he could do a presentation about the Virtual School. Superintendent Bowie said he would see if he could put something together for the February 22, 2010 regular meeting of the Board.

Vice President Huhndorf asked about the winners of the Spelling Bees at the elementary and junior high schools. Phylcia Martel placed first in the Elementary Spelling Bee and Caj Rohrer placed first in the Junior High Spelling Bee. They will go to Anchorage to compete in the State Spelling Bee on February 26, 2010. Additionally, Robert Shidner placed first in the Geography Bee and has submitted the required written test to Washington D.C. If he ranks in the top 100 in the nation he will compete in the State Geography Bee in Anchorage in April. Administration will recognize these students in a Board meeting at a later date.

3. Board – Members of the Board

President Hull-Engles reported the following to the Board:

- Edline Comment: Edline (edline.net) is a very efficient online grade program parents of students can access to know how their student is doing. She noted that she was impressed and encouraged members of the Board to take a look. Parents have an access code for their student.

4. District Attorney – John Sedor

District Attorney John Sedor referred the Board to letter they have received from Signature Hill Attorneys at Law regarding the William Davis case against Valdez City School District and Superintendent of Schools filed about one year ago. The case was regarding the non renewal of a contract. Mr. Sedor said the case is over and there has been a settlement in the amount of \$5,000 which is considered a nuisance settlement.

F. ACTION ITEMS: UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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1. Approve First Reading of AASB Board Policy Updates
 - a. Education of Native/Indian Children BP 6174.1(a-e)
 - b. Education of Native/Indian Children Administrative Regulation AR 6174.1(a-c)
 - c. Indian Policies and Procedures E 6174.1(a-e)

MOTION TO APPROVE EDUCATION OF NATIVE/INDIAN CHILDREN BP 6174.1(A-E) AS PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONS:

- **ADD THE WORDING “OR RESPONDANTS” AFTER ATTENDEES IN SUB-SENTENCES A THROUGH D UNDER NUMBER 2;**
- WAS MADE BY DOLORES GARD AND SECONDED.**

President Hull-Engles met with VCSD Federal Programs Coordinator Tristy Morrison and aligned BP 6174.1 (a-e) with the needs of the VCSD Native/Indian children educational program. After review of AR 6174.1(a-c) and E 6174.1 (a-e) it was recommended not to consider approval of those for VCSD policy. They do not fit the needs of the present program. The Board agreed by consensus.

VOTE: 7 YEAS, STUDENT ADVISORY VOTE: YES, MOTION PASSED.

G. ACTION ITEMS: NEW BUSINESS

1. Board Member Conflict of Interest

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION WAS MADE BY DOLORES GARD AND SECONDED. VOTE: 7 YEAS, STUDENT ADVISORY VOTE: YES, MOTION PASSED.

There was discussion among the Board regarding the letter they received from District Attorney John Sedor regarding conflict of interest.

The following three members of the Board declared their possible conflict of interest:

- Board member Duane Edelman declared his wife is a classified employee in the Food Service Department.
- Board member Dan Walker declared his wife is a certified employee and works as a teacher at Valdez High School.
- Board member Dave Lawrence declared his daughter (not living at home) is a certified employee and works as a teacher at Hermon Hutchens Elementary School.

The Board decided to make the following three separate motions:

MOTION TO WAIVE THE CONFLICT DECLARED BY BOARD MEMBER DAN WALKER AND ALLOW HIM TO PARTICIPATE IN BOARD DISCUSSIONS AND DELIBERATIONS PERTAINING TO DISTRICT COLLECTIVE BARGAINING WITH VALDEZ AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS (VAFT) WAS MADE BY DOLORES GARD AND SECONDED.

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VOTE: 3 YEAS, 3 NAYS (DUANE EDELMAN, KATHLEEN TODD AND DOLORES GARD). MOTION FAILED.

Board member Dan Walker will not participate in the discussions; deliberations or vote pertaining to district collective bargaining with VAFT.

MOTION TO WAIVE THE CONFLICT DECLARED BY BOARD MEMBER DAVE LAWRENCE AND ALLOW HIM TO PARTICIPATE IN BOARD DISCUSSIONS AND DELIBERATIONS PERTAINING TO DISTRICT COLLECTIVE BARGAINING WITH VALDEZ AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS (VAFT) WAS MADE BY GRACE HUHDORF AND SECONDED. VOTE: 6 YEAS. MOTION PASSED.

Board member Dave Lawrence will participate in the discussions; deliberations and vote pertaining to district collective bargaining with VAFT.

MOTION TO WAIVE THE CONFLICT DECLARED BY BOARD MEMBER DUANE EDELMAN AND ALLOW HIM TO PARTICIPATE IN BOARD DISCUSSIONS AND DELIBERATIONS PERTAINING TO DISTRICT COLLECTIVE BARGAINING WITH VALDEZ AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS (VAFT) WAS MADE BY DOLORES GARD AND SECONDED. VOTE: 6 YEAS. MOTION PASSED.

Board member Duane Edelman will participate in the discussions; deliberations pertaining to district collective bargaining with VAFT however he will recuse himself from voting on the classified issues.

2. Approve Proposal and Contract for Superintendent Search

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION WAS MADE BY DOLORES GARD AND SECONDED. VOTE: 7 YEAS, STUDENT ADVISORY VOTE: YES, MOTION PASSED.

President Hull-Engles distributed copies of a proposal search from McPherson & Jacobson L.L.C. to each board member and explained that this proposal was received today.

The Board took a 5 minute break to read over the proposal.

The Board discussed the proposals and made the following motion:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE ASSOCIATION OF ALASKA SCHOOL BOARDS (AASB) PROPOSAL AND CONTRACT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,500 PLUS EXPENSES WAS MADE BY KATHLEEN TODD AND SECONDED. VOTE: 7 YEAS, STUDENT ADVISORY VOTE: YES, MOTION PASSED.

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Per Board discussion, President Hull-Engles will contact AASB and discuss what the cost would be for them to work on a Superintendent Job Description as well as a 6 month and 1 year evaluation. Another request is to provide a workshop for the Board and new Superintendent regarding Positive Relations – to build a good working relationship between the two. President Hull-Engles will follow up with the Board regarding costs and dates.

3. Approval of the Submission of United Way Grant Applications

MOTION TO APPROVE THE SUBMISSION OF THE NATIVE YOUTH OLYMPIC GRADES 7-12 GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,000 AND THE AFTER THE BELL SCHOOL PROGRAM FOR GILSON JUNIOR HIGH GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15,000 WAS MADE BY GRACE HUHDORF AND SECONDED. VOTE: 7 YEAS, STUDENT ADVISORY VOTE: YES, MOTION PASSED.

4. Approve Reclassification of Position to Classified Salary Schedule

MOTION TO APPROVE THE ADDITION OF FOOD SERVICE I WAREHOUSE/FREIGHT POSITION TO LEVEL B ON THE CLASSIFIED SALARY SCHEDULE WAS MADE BY GRACE HUHDORF AND SECONDED.

The Board thanked Business Manager Cockerham for the information provided in the board packet. There was some question about the Lifting/Carrying Maximum weight. Administration noted that the Lifting/Carrying Maximum weight is the same for the Food Service I and the Food Service I Warehouse/Freight however the number of boxes lifted is multiplied with the former position. Administration will make sure the job descriptions reflect the same number (75lbs).

VOTE: 7 YEAS, STUDENT ADVISORY VOTE: YES, MOTION PASSED.

H. CONSENT AGENDA: INFORMATION AND REPORTS

Items 1 through 3 (minutes of January 11, 2010; January 14, 2010 and the Personnel Report) were approved by consent agenda.

President Hull-Engles asked Superintendent Bowie if Principal Cantrell had notified the District of the two students that would be traveling with the Board to the AASA Legislative Fly In. Teanna Hutchison and Melissa Knolle will be the student representatives.

Student Board Representative Quinn Verfaillie was excused from the rest of the meeting by President Hull-Engles.

I. DISCUSSION ITEMS

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1. Staff Development Plans

Superintendent Bowie referred the Board to the board packet for the Staff Development reports from all of the Administrators. He noted that the District buys additional training like Alert Now when the system was installed. The board members thanked the Administrators for the Staff Development information and how they tied it into dollars spent. The Administrators told the Board that Staff Development is increasing every year. They would gladly accept additional money allocated towards that purpose. There was discussion about the difference of going away to conferences and bringing presenters to Valdez. Community member/parent and substitute Pam Verfaillie suggested that going to a conference allows networking with others and sharing of ideas which is a very important part of the conference experience.

2. Valdez City School 2010-2011 & 2011-2012 Calendars

Board member Gard Co-chairperson of the Two-Year Calendar Committee explained the inservice dates on the one set of calendars to the Board. There was discussion about offering only one set of calendars for public review. Board member Gard was tasked by the Board to go back to the Committee members and provide the Board with a set of calendars that started earlier and ended before the holiday; and a set of calendars that had a two week spring break for the next regular meeting of the Board on February 8, 2010.

3. Valdez City School Board Policy Review Schedule

The Board reviewed Bylaws of the Board Administrative Regulation AR 9311 and decided they would start their review at Year 2 (Chapters 4 through 5) since they had covered Chapters 0 through 3 in the past. President Hull-Engles will divide the chapters into small portions among all of the members of the Board and will set dates for them to report any changes they would recommend. Board member Gard suggested the members compare the policies online with the hard copy policies to make sure both are the same.

4. Status of Curriculum Review Schedule

The Board reviewed Board Policy Administrative Regulation AR 6141(e) Curriculum Development and Evaluation and reported some discrepancies with what is actually happening at VCSD and what is on the spreadsheet. Superintendent Bowie said he would invite Melissa Reese VCSD Curriculum Coordinator to come to the February 22nd regular meeting of the Board to talk about the curriculum schedule.

5. Legislative Climate Regarding Education

The draft Legislative Tri-fold Brochure was reviewed by the Board. They said they really liked it. There were suggestions offered for change that will be communicated to Jenny Benda, the author. The Board thanked Ms. Benda for the great job she has done. The brochure will be finalized and made ready for the Board members trip to Juneau.

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Board Legislative Liaisons Duane Edelman and Dave Lawrence said there is a lot of reading to be done regarding the bills that have been presented for this Session. They are in the process of preparing for the legislative meetings in Juneau. Duane Edelman said he would coordinate with Flynn Stuparich Board Administrative Assistant regarding appointments with legislators.

6. Temporary Position Policy

President Hull-Engles referred the Board to the copies of the Board Policies regarding temporary positions and hiring guidelines. She noted that there are many inconsistencies throughout the policies. Board member Lawrence suggested the Board not review these policies tonight as they are included in Chapter 4 which is in the review process for this year. The Board agreed by consensus.

President Hull-Engles asked Superintendent Bowie to call a Special Meeting of the Board if approval was needed for any temporary positions before the policies were reviewed.

J. BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT QUESTIONS/CONCERNS

Duane Edelman, Laurie Hull-Engles and Dave Lawrence will travel to Juneau on Thursday, February 4th so that they can attend appointments with legislators that Friday.

President Hull-Engles tasked Administration with placing the “Approval of the Tenure Contracts” and the “Approval of the VCSD Voluntary Severance Plan” on the February 8th regular meeting agenda noting there should be a recommendation from the Superintendent for the Approval of the Tenure Contracts.

President Hull-Engles asked Administration to schedule room at Representative Harris’s office for board members attendance at the regular school board meeting February 8th by telephone conference. Board member Huhndorf will be calling in from a different location; a GCI Conference Call will be set up.

Some of the board members asked that Kasey Walker come to a meeting and give a brief presentation about the Students on Ice Program which he attended in Antarctica during the Winter Break. It was suggested that he present at the March 8th meeting.

President Hull-Engles asked Administration to include an article about the Power Packs Project in the February 8th Board Reading File.

President Hull-Engles told Superintendent Bowie a member of the community called her and said District Employees were using the VCSD Loader to clear their personal property and asked if that was acceptable. She gave him a copy of VCSD Board Policy 3512 regarding equipment. Superintendent Bowie said he would follow up with VCSD Facilities Director Ben Olds and let her know what he found out.

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Board member Gard gave a letter sent to her from the Alaska Food Coalition to Superintendent Bowie regarding food and nutrition for students. Superintendent Bowie said he would follow up on the letter.

Board member Dave Lawrence and Dr. Bowie told the Board he would not be in attendance for the March 8, 2010 meeting.

K. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN THE REGULAR MEETING AT 10:27 P.M. WAS MADE BY DAN WALKER AND SECONDED. VOTE: 7 YEAS. MOTION PASSED.

Submitted by,

Board Approval Date: February 10, 2010

Flynn Stuparich
Administrative Assistant to the Board
and Superintendent

Laurie Hull-Engles, President

Kathleen Todd, Board Clerk