

Valdez City School District  
Board of Education

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
School Board Room

MINUTES

Monday, January 11, 2010 7:00 P.M.

A. PRELIMINARIES

1. Call to Order

President Hull-Engles called the regular meeting of Monday, January 11, 2010, to order at 7:00 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  
Duane Edelman, 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

Kathleen Todd, Board Clerk and Dan Walker, Board Member were absent and excused.

Student Board Representative Quinn Verfaillie was in attendance.

Other people in attendance: 13

B. AGENDA

1. Adoption of the Agenda

**MOTION WAS MADE BY DOLORES GARD AND SECONDED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2010 WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES:**

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- **ADD: APPROVE 2009-2010 VALDEZ CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT CALENDAR DATE CHANGE AS NUMBER ONE UNDER ACTION ITEMS NEW BUSINESS;**
  - **ADD: POSITION: BUS DRIVER UNDER DISCUSSION ITEMS – NUMBER NINE;**
  - **REMOVE ITEM NUMBERS 4 THROUGH 10 (PERSONNEL ACTION REPORT; FINANCIAL REPORT; MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS REPORT; TECHNOLOGY REPORT; VALDEZ HIGH SCHOOL REPORT; GILSON JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL REPORT; HERMON HUTCHENS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REPORT) FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA.**
- VOTE: 5 YEAS, STUDENT ADVISORY VOTE: YES, MOTION PASSED.**

C. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

1. Valdez City School District Social Studies Curriculum

Melissa Reese Valdez City School District (VCSD) Curriculum Coordinator reviewed the draft of the VCSD Social Studies Curriculum noting that the top Social Studies Curricula in the nation were used to create this draft. Teachers who worked on this draft noted the following changes: grades 3 and 4 will be focusing on the Valdez Community and the State of Alaska; World History offered as a class because students need to focus in a Global sense; and the consideration of delivery online as opposed to hard cover books. The VCSD Social Studies Curriculum draft will be available for community review on the District Website ([valdezcityschools.org](http://valdezcityschools.org)) or in hard copy at the District Office.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There was no comment by the public.

E. REPORTS

1. Student Board Representative – Quinn Verfaillie

Student Board Representative Quinn Verfaillie reported to the Board:

- Basketball played at an ACS Invite in Anchorage and did well.
- Valdez hosted a Cross Country Ski Invite 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.

The Board decided Laurie Hull-Engles, Dave Lawrence and Duane Edelman will attend the Roundtable and bring Pizza for the students.

2. District – Superintendent Lance S. Bowie EdD

Superintendent Bowie reported to the Board:

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- Senator and Representative Visit: On Wednesday, January 13, 2010 the City of Valdez will host a meeting with Senator Coghill and Representative Harris at the City Council Chambers at 6:00 p.m. The community is invited.
- VCSD 2009-2010 Parent Teacher Conference (PTC) Date Change: The Administration has agreed to change the PTC date from March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010 to February 15, 2010. March 30, 2010 will become a regular school day with attendance for students.
- Architects/Master Plan: This past week a team of six from McCool Carlson Green Architects was on VCSD premises reviewing the facilities which is the first step of creating the Master Plan. Superintendent Bowie said the next step is program issues which will require the Board to become involved.

3. Board – Members of the Board

President Hull-Engles reported the following to the Board:

- Four copies of the *Alaska Education Plan* booklets from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development were passed to Flynn Stuparich, Board Administrative Assistant. One will go into the Board Binder and the other three will be available in the District Office for Board review.
- President Hull-Engles noted an article in *the Bridge* stating Valdez is among the winners of the Gold Award indicating workman's compensation losses are less than 10% of contribution. She congratulated the District. A copy of *the Bridge* article from the Alaska Municipal League Joint Insurance Association, Inc. will be in the January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010 Board Reading File.
- President Hull-Engles noted an article "*7 Actions That Improve School District Performance*" and asked that a copy of the *Newsletter from The Center* be included in the Board Reading file of January 25, 2010.
- President Hull-Engles asked that a copy of a letter from the Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB) regarding AASB's Board Liaison Network (BLN) be included in the Board Reading file of January 25, 2010.
- In behalf of the Board, President Hull-Engles thanked the members of the United States Coast Guard for helping out with the Valdez Cross Country Ski Invite.
- President Hull-Engles informed the Board that she would be interviewed this week by KVAK Radio Station regarding the Superintendent Search.
- President Hull-Engles met with John Weir of McCool Carlson Green Architects. He stated HHES was good but there were some concerns about GJH and VHS. She suggested the Board invite John Weir to a one hour work session before a regular meeting to inform the members of the Board about the four-step process of the Master Plan for VCSD. The Board agreed. Ms. Hull-Engles will contact Mr. Weir.
- President Hull-Engles encouraged the members of the Board to attend the Harris/Coghill Visit on January 13, 2010.

F. ACTION ITEMS: UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Approve 2009 – 2010 Valdez City School District Calendar Date Change

**MOTION TO APPROVE 2009-2010 VALDEZ CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT CALENDAR DATE CHANGE OF THE PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCE FROM MARCH 30, 2010 TO FEBRUARY 15, 2010 WAS MADE BY DOLORES GARD AND SECONDED.**

Board member Gard recommended the change so that parents and teachers would have more time to work with students towards doing their best before the end of the semester.

**VOTE: 5 YEAS, STUDENT ADVISORY VOTE: YES, MOTION PASSED.**

Administration will notify the State of Alaska about the change of date on the 2009-2010 VCSD Calendar.

G. ACTION ITEMS: NEW BUSINESS

1. Approve Superintendent Search for Valdez City School District

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE COMMENCEMENT OF A SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH FOR VALDEZ CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT WAS MADE BY DOLORES GARD AND SECONDED.**

Board member Edelman said the Superintendent Contract is up for renewal this year and the Board wants to move in a different direction. Board member Lawrence said this action allows Superintendent Bowie early notification, which he had requested. President Hull-Engles said; "We are not displeased with Superintendent Bowie – it is good business to move forward and see what is out there".

The following people spoke during public discussion of this motion:

- Ruthie Knight (VCSD Teacher) – noting Dr. Bowie as being easy to work with, helpful to the Gifted and Talented Program, good Teacher Union/District relationship. During Superintendent Searches she has seen a lot of recycled Superintendents – Dr. Bowie was not one.
- Randy Ridderbush – (Parent/Taxpayer/Community Member) - expressed concern about a possible no contract renewal decision that may have been made in Executive Session, no evaluation for 2009, no written plan for expectations or improvement, a raise given last year and no extension of contract. He asked for concrete answers from the Board why Superintendent Bowie was not offered a renewal of contract.
- Barb Lyons – (VCSD Teacher) – She asked for clarification of conducting a Superintendent Search. Ms. Lyons noted that she appreciates that Superintendent Bowie is in all of the schools and the students know him. He is interested in the students and attends their events.

President Hull-Engles said VCSD has a lot of opportunities and funding now to do them. There has been progress in the past however not so much in the last 1 ½ years.

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Superintendent Bowie asked for early notification by January 15, 2010 so that he would have an opportunity to participate in the Educational Hiring Season if necessary. We have done that.

- Robert Huston – (GJH Teacher) – He did not agree with less progress being done in the last 1 ½ years. He noted the work completed on the Junior High – carpeting (no more duct tape on the floors), students all have computers, the new Common Area which the students use and enjoy etc... Mr. Huston thanked Superintendent Bowie for what he had done for the Junior High.
- Rod Morrison – (Principal of GJH/Parent) – He said progress has been made. Superintendent Bowie has allowed Administrators to do their jobs – he has let us do what is best for the students. GJH has the Boy/Girl Gender Blocks/ One to One Computers/ and the highest test scores in 5 years.
- Paul Childs – (VHS Teacher/Parent) – For the last 5 years Superintendent Bowie has been in place teachers and students have seen benefit - things are going well up to last year. Molding people is a process and a new person will go in a different direction and that is a gamble. The Board is taking a risk with students and teachers who have moved in a good direction at a good pace. Mr. Childs suggested the Board compare Valdez students with students around the state. He said he does not agree with the Board and advised the Board to work through the peaks and valleys.

President Hull-Engles disagreed with Mr. Childs and said there is no risk and the Board is not taking a gamble.

- Pam Verfaillie – (Parent and Substitute Teacher for VCSD) – She said her family would not have come to Valdez, Alaska if the education was not good. She has liked Superintendent Bowie and appreciates the Board for wanting to make the District the best it can be.

Superintendent Bowie thanked everyone who attended and spoke in his favor. When asked by the audience about his first choice of employment, he noted Valdez, Alaska would have been his first choice. The average life of a Superintendent in Alaska is 2.2 years and he has been at VCSD for 5 years. He committed to keep the students and District moving forward during the time he is here.

**VOTE: 5 YEAS, STUDENT ADVISORY VOTE: YES, MOTION PASSED.**

H. CONSENT AGENDA: INFORMATION AND REPORTS

Items 1 through 3 and 11 and 12 (minutes of November 23, 2009; December 14, 2009 and January 4, 2010 and Special Education Report and Activities Report) were approved by consent agenda. The following items 4 through 10 were removed from the consent agenda to be approved separately:

4. Personnel Action Report

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**MOVE TO APPROVE THE TEMPORARY POSITION OF BUS DRIVER WAS MADE BY DOLORES GARD AND SECONDED.**

Superintendent Bowie explained that the temporary Bus Driver was hired as a Laborer on the VCSD Salary Schedule to perform the duty of bus driving students to and from activities.

Amber Cockerham, Business Manager spoke to the Board and said there was no advertising for the temporary position – if you want us to advertise we will. This is an exception – it was a fix to a problem. There is no policy on temporary hires. This is a fiscally responsible decision regarding the Travel Budget. There has been a shortage of volunteers who are willing to drive the activity buses. If the District rents a bus and driver from First Student the cost is significantly more.

Board members Huhndorf and Lawrence advised the Board not to micro-manage the District. President Hull-Engles said she does not want the District to be in the bus business. Board member Edelman said he would have liked to have had this discussion about the lack of bus drivers earlier.

There was some discussion about coaches and their responsibility to drive the buses. Teacher Ruthie Knight said staff is stretched now with multiple commitments and they are not always available to drive. Coaches are tired after the activities and do not always make the best bus drivers

**VOTE: 3 YEAS, 2 NAYS (LAURIE HULL-ENGLES AND DUANE EDELMAN)  
STUDENT ADVISORY VOTE: YES, MOTION FAILED.**

5. Financial Report

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 11, 2010 FINANCIAL REPORT WAS MADE BY GRACE HUHDORF AND SECONDED.**

President Hull-Engles referred the Board to page 22 of the Financial Report and asked why there was a difference of figure between last month and this month. Amber Cockerham, Business Manager said a bookkeeping adjustment was made moving an item from Capital Projects to Operations and Maintenance. She noted that these types of adjustments are normal and made throughout the budget period.

**VOTE: 5 YEAS, STUDENT ADVISORY VOTE: YES, MOTION PASSED.**

6. Maintenance and Operations Report

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 11, 2010 MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION REPORT WAS MADE BY DAVID LAWRENCE AND SECONDED.**

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President Hull-Engles asked about the status of the \$28,500 for Culinary Arts and the Food Service Storage Building.

Ben Olds, Facilities Manager said the money is in Geary Cantrell's Budget. \$25,000 has been set aside for equipment – waiting for the completion of the Master Plan. Some conservatively priced small stoves were purchased and installed for Culinary Arts however; large stoves are required which will require a re-model of the facility. Regarding the Food Service Storage Building – Architect John Weir is addressing that in the assessment section of the Master Plan so it is presently on hold.

**VOTE: 5 YEAS, STUDENT ADVISORY VOTE: YES, MOTION PASSED.**

7. Technology Report

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 11, 2010 TECHNOLOGY REPORT WAS MADE BY DOLORES GARD AND SECONDED.**

There was discussion about the tracking of the Technology Plan. Doug Johnson, Technology Director said the tracking of the Technology Plan is a work in progress. Many times they track by survey of the three schools. Administration is pro-active regarding changes to move forward. Technology is in a “wait and see” mode as it is tied into the assessments of the Master Plan. The Elementary School hardware needs to be updated. Fires are being put out. Superintendent Bowie said we will not spend money now – we are trying to be fiscally responsible.

**VOTE: 5 YEAS, STUDENT ADVISORY VOTE: YES, MOTION PASSED.**

8. Valdez High School Report

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 11, 2010 VALDEZ HIGH SCHOOL REPORT WAS MADE BY DOLORES GARD AND SECONDED.**

Some members of the Board asked with concern about the 17 Suspension number on this month's report. Principal Geary Cantrell said the figure was cumulative from the first of the 2009-2010 school year and not a monthly figure. The Board thanked Dr. Cantrell for his answer. The Board asked about the use of the VHS Library Media Center. He noted that the Media Center is used all of the time for various activities, testing and classes.

**VOTE: 5 YEAS, STUDENT ADVISORY VOTE: YES, MOTION PASSED.**

9. Gilson Junior High School Report

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 11, 2010 GILSON JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL REPORT WAS MADE BY DOLORES GARD AND SECONDED.**

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Some of the members of the Board asked for an explanation of why the VCSD Strategic Plan had been included in the report. Principal Rod Morrison explained that under each area of the VCSD Strategic Plan a comment was made how Gilson Junior High School had worked with that area of the Plan. The Board thanked him for his report and the progress that has been made at Gilson Junior High School.

**VOTE: 5 YEAS, STUDENT ADVISORY VOTE: YES, MOTION PASSED.**

10. Hermon Hutchens Elementary School Report

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 11, 2010 HERMON HUTCHENS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REPORT WAS MADE BY DOLORES GARD AND SECONDED.**

President Hull-Engles thanked Principal Strang for the “Teacher Testimonials for Mr. Moeller’s Success Project” sheet. Principal Strang distributed an additional memorandum regarding the “Use of Tutors” in answer to questions the Board expressed previously. Principal Strang noted HHES has made huge strides in technology. Additionally, regarding the “shots for school” there are no exclusions – all paperwork has been completed.

**VOTE: 5 YEAS, STUDENT ADVISORY VOTE: YES, MOTION PASSED.**

I. DISCUSSION ITEMS

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

Board member Gard Co-Chairperson of the Calendar Committee referred the members of the Board to the two calendars in the Board Packet. She said the end of quarter dates will be entered and they will be brought back before the Board at the next regular meeting January 25, 2010. She thanked the members of the committee: Ruthie Knight VHS; Beverly Colapietro and Cheryl Derifield HHES, Ray Sutton GJH; Laura Saxe and Anna Hinkle Community Members and Co-Chairperson Kathleen Todd.

During public comment Amber Cockerham, VCSD Business Manager asked why the end of contract date is after a holiday. She said a paid holiday is not a necessary expenditure and some of the Board members agreed. The committee said they would take a look at the holiday.

2. Superintendent Evaluation

Notation for the Record: The Superintendent Evaluation was put on hold by President Hull-Engles after December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009 regular meeting of the Board.

President Hull-Engles said she received counsel from the District’s Attorney that Superintendent Bowie may choose if he wants the Board to complete a 2009 evaluation

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for him – since the contract will not be renewed. Superintendent Bowie deferred to the Board saying he has not been given clear expectations. The Board decided to complete the 2009 Superintendent Evaluation Process. The District will advertise in the paper on Wednesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010 and all evaluation forms will be provided to Administrators, VCSD staff. Additionally, evaluation forms will be available for Community Members at all three schools, the District Office and may be downloaded from the District Website. The deadline for returning the forms is Friday, February 5, 2010. Board members will have an opportunity to review the completed forms from February 8<sup>th</sup>, through the 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Board member evaluation forms are due on Friday, February 12, 2010 and President Hull-Engles will pick up all of the forms. She will compile the information and the final Superintendent Evaluation will be delivered on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February in an Executive Session at the regular meeting of the Board.

3. Finalize Legislative Priorities

Board members Lawrence and Edelman share the responsibility of Board Legislative Liaison. Administration was tasked with delivering the following information to Jenny Benda to put together a tri-fold brochure for the Board to take to Juneau: pull the Legislative Priorities from the December 14, 2009 regular board meeting minutes; provide the four Town Hall Meeting Initiatives the Board is considering (Graduation Requirements, Foreign Language for Elementary School, Four-Day School Week and Capital Improvement Projects); mention school successes such as the One to One Computer Program at the Junior High School.

4. Finalize AASB Legislative Fly In Attendees

The following people will attend the AASB Legislative Fly In: President Hull-Engles and Board members Edelman and Lawrence. Superintendent Bowie will attend as well as two students. Some of the members of the Board recommended Quinn Verfaillie as one of the students. Superintendent Bowie will remind Principal Cantrell to let Administration know who the two students will be.

Board member Edelman suggested they travel to Juneau on the Thursday, February 4, 2010, before the Conference so that appointments may be made for Friday, February the 5<sup>th</sup>. Board members Edelman and Lawrence will provide a list of names to Administration so Ms. Stuparich can set up appointments.

5. Status of Capital Projects

This topic was discussed previously under Maintenance and Operations Report (refer to # 6 of the Consent Agenda).

6. Status of Year One of the Technology Plan

This topic was discussed previously under Technology Report (refer to # 7 of the Consent Agenda).

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Technology Director Johnson distributed a copy of the Technology Addendum for the State of Alaska Department of Education. Section A Goals, Standards and Strategies, Question 1; and a list of recommendations from Technology Committee member Steve Brockman to each member of the Board.

7. Status of Staff Development

President Hull-Engles said there is \$54,000 in this year's budget and the Board would like to see a Staff Development Plan with dollars linked to the Plan. Board member Gard asked Administration for an Inservice Plan for 2009-2010.

Superintendent Bowie noted that there is a lot of training that happens within the schools i.e. Dell Computer Training etc. Staff Development is used when and where it is needed. This year more people will be sent to the ASTE Conference for training and staff members attend conferences all during the school year.

Ruthie Knight (VCSD Teacher) asked if Staff Development money is available for all staff. Superintendent Bowie said Principals make recommendations for staff development – staff needs to go to the Principals and ask for use of the funds.

Pam Verfaillie, Parent and VCSD Substitute asked if Staff Development money could be used for training of Substitutes. She noted inservice opportunities she would have liked to have attended. Superintendent Bowie said the priority of the funds is for staff however he said he appreciated her input and it might be considered as a long term goal.

Vice President Huhndorf said she had seen a very nicely presented Staff Development Plan by Bering Straits School District at a recent conference. She suggested VCSD talk with them.

Student Board Representative Quinn Verfaillie left the meeting at 10:29 p.m.

8. Status of the Technology Committee Recommendations

A list of recommendations from the Technology Committee, previously presented to the Board by Steve Brockman a member of the Technology Committee, was distributed to each member of the Board by Technology Director Johnson during Status of Year One of the Technology Plan agenda item.

**MOTION TO EXTEND THE MEETING FROM 10:30 P.M. TO 11:00 P.M. WAS MADE BY DUANE EDELMAN AND SECONDED. VOTE: 5 YEAS, MOTION PASSED.**

9. Position: Bus Driver

Mark Dickman and Julia Vogt stated they are employed as Bus Drivers for First Student and addressed the Board. They shared their concerns about Valdez City School District

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recently employing a person as a temporary Bus Driver to drive students to Student Activities without advertising the position. Further, Mr. Dickman and Ms. Vogt expressed concerns about the safety and service of the VCSD Activity Buses stating service had not been performed on bus #101 and that bus did not hold up to State Standards.

Superintendent Bowie stated the VCSD has maintained a service agreement with Laidlaw/First Student for the activity buses since they were purchased. He said he will visit with Facilities Manager Ben Olds and look into the bus service records. Regarding the temporary position – Superintendent Bowie said not all temporary positions are advertised.

J. BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT QUESTIONS/CONCERNS

Superintendent Bowie said Administration will inform the Board by email of the date and time of the FY 11 Valdez City School District Budget Presentation.

Board member Huhndorf offered two ideas/opportunities for student learning in the area of Vocational Education: Videography and Apprenticeships offered through the university regarding positions with the local hospital.

**MOTION TO EXTEND THE MEETING TO 11:15 WAS MADE BY DUANE EDELMAN AND SECONDED. VOTE: 5 YEAS, MOTION PASSED**

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Teacher Negotiations

**MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 11:01 P.M. FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING NEGOTIATIONS, MATTERS THE IMMEDIATE KNOWLEDGE OF WHICH WOULD CLEARLY HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT UPON THE FINANCES OF THE DISTRICT WAS MADE BY DAVE LAWRENCE AND SECONDED. VOTE: 5 YEAS, MOTION PASSED.**

**MOTION TO END EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 11:15 P.M. WAS MADE BY GRACE HUHDORF AND SECONDED. VOTE: 5 YEAS, MOTION PASSED.**

No action was taken by the Board.

L. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION TO ADJOURN THE REGULAR MEETING AT 11:16 P.M. WAS MADE BY DAVE LAWRENCE AND SECONDED. VOTE: 5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED.**

Submitted by,

Board Approval Date: January 25, 2010

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Flynn Stuparich  
Administrative Assistant to the Board  
and Superintendent

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Laurie Hull-Engles, President

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Kathleen Todd, Board Clerk