

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
School Board Room

MINUTES

Monday, October 12, 2009 7:00 P.M.

A. PRELIMINARIES

1. Call to Order

Treasurer Dolores Gard called the regular meeting of Monday, October 12, 2009, to order at 7:13 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance:

Treasurer Gard led the pledge of allegiance.

3. Roll Call

Board members in attendance:

Dolores Gard, Treasurer
Duane Edelman, Board Member
Dan Walker, Board Member

Administration in attendance:

Lance L. Bowie EdD, Superintendent
Amber Cockerham, Business Manager
Rod Morrison, Principal GJH
Clarence Haugan, Special Ed Director

Laurie Hull-Engles, President attended by phone.

Quinn Verfaillie, Student Board Representative was present.

Other people in attendance: 3

4. Oath of Office for New School Board Members

Superintendent Bowie administered the Oath of Office to re-elected School Board Members Kathleen Todd and Grace Huhndorf and newly elected School Board Member David Lawrence.

5. School Board Officer Elections

Board member Gard conducted the election of the President for the Valdez Board of Education. Nominations for the position of President were called for. Laurie Hull-Engles was nominated by Board member Huhndorf and seconded. There were no other nominations for the position of President. Nominations were closed and the vote was unanimous.

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Laurie Hull-Engles was re-elected President of the Valdez Board of Education.

President Hull-Engles asked Board member Gard to conduct the election process of the Vice President.

Board member Gard called for nominations for the position of Vice President. Grace Huhndorf was nominated by Board member Lawrence and seconded. Dave Lawrence was nominated by Kathleen Todd and seconded. There were no other nominations for the position of Vice President. Nominations were closed. The election was conducted by paper ballot.

Grace Huhndorf was re-elected Vice President of the Valdez Board of Education. The gavel was passed from Board member Gard to Vice President Huhndorf.

Vice President Huhndorf called for nominations for the position of Treasurer. Dolores Gard was nominated by Board member Edelman and seconded. There were no other nominations for the position of Treasurer. Nominations were closed and the vote was unanimous.

Dolores Gard was re-elected Treasurer of the Valdez Board of Education.

Vice President Huhndorf called for nominations for Board Clerk. Kathleen Todd was nominated by Board member Gard and seconded. There were no other nominations for the position of Board Clerk. Nominations were closed and the vote was unanimous.

Kathleen Todd was re-elected Board Clerk of the Valdez Board of Education.

President Hull-Engles disconnected from the call.

B. AGENDA

1. Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION WAS MADE BY DOLORES GARD AND SECONDED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2009 WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGE:

- **CHANGE THE NUMBER POSITION OF THE TWO SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS: 1. VALDEZ CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT FY'09 AUDIT; 2. SCHOOL CLIMATE AND CONNECTEDNESS SURVEY – ANDRE' LAYRAL**

VOTE: 6 YEAS/1 EXCUSED. MOTION PASSED.

C. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

1. Valdez City School District FY'09 Audit

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President Hull-Engles reconnected with the meeting during the Audit presentation.

Tim Altman a representative of the Valdez City School District's auditing firm Altman, Rogers & Company presented the FY'09 Audit to the Board giving the District a clean audit opinion. Further stating, there were no material weaknesses; findings or issues with management. He complimented the staff on the preparation and clean audit work. He told the Board the audit went smoothly.

Treasurer Gard asked Mr. Altman to correct some grammatical/language errors made in the audit presentation materials.

President Hull-Engles, Superintendent Bowie and some of the members of the Board congratulated Business Manager Cockerham and her Staff on their efficiency.

2. School Climate and Connectedness Survey – Andre' Layral

Andre' Layral presented the results of the AASB School Climate and Connectedness Survey by Power Point to the Board. He noted that overall there were no significant changes. He defined School Climate as factors that contribute to the tone and attitudes in a school and School Connectedness as students' school experiences and their perceptions and feelings about school. Mr. Layral told the Board Valdez City Schools has reason to celebrate because the progress is trending in the right direction. He complimented the staff and students on the progress they had made in the last year noting the most improvement had been made in the Junior High School.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Randy Ridderbush thanked the Board and Superintendent Bowie for answering his letter and noted that he would fill out the controversial issues form provided for public inquiry. Additionally, he expressed concern about the status of the Timber Receipts in the amount of 2.2 million dollars which was supposed to be allocated for the use of schools by the City of Valdez. He encouraged the Board and School District to have discussions with the City Council about the allocation of those funds.

Some of the members of the Board asked Superintendent Bowie to set up a Roundtable Discussion between the School Board and the City Council where questions like that could be addressed.

E. REPORTS

1. Student Board Representative – Quinn Verfaillie

Quinn Verfaillie reported that four students will be representing Valdez City Schools at the Alaska Student Association of Government (ASAG) Conference this year. Four students are in the process of getting ready to attend the Association of Alaska School Boards Youth Leadership Conference in November. Kudos to the Valdez Swim Team

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who came in 1st at the Invitational last weekend. Hannah Norris a Valdez student received recognition for being the Best Overall Swimmer.

2. District – Superintendent Lance S. Bowie EdD

Superintendent Bowie reported the following:

- VAFT, the teachers union, asked Superintendent Bowie for dates the Board would be available for Negotiation Collaboration Training. The Board agreed on October 27th and 28th in the evening.
- Students participated in “Meet the Candidates” evening sponsored by Rotary. The evening was a success –the students were acknowledged and thanked.
- Dr. Geary Cantrell is heading up the Strategic Plan Sub Committee for Valdez City Schools. He will be sending out an email for people who are interested in participating. Board member Todd said she would like to participate and would be available on Mondays or Thursdays.
- The District is working with Pam Sherrill a representative of the Valdez Health Department regarding the N1H1Flu and vaccine.
- The “Alert Now System” is set up and the District will be working with the program.

The Superintendent Conference was very good. The following are items of interest:

- Education Northwest Programs now has a service that provides reviews from actual users of various educational products -- very helpful materials.
- There was a lot of discussion about resolutions particularly whether or not education should be mandatory for students up to the age of 18. The concern is who will act as enforcement – it looks like it would fall towards the schools.
- The Work Keys Program looks like it may have to be a voluntary student testing program school by school. It may not be viable to try to make it mandatory throughout the State of Alaska.
- There was discussion about the Legislature adding \$200 to the base student allocation figure which may actually be a total of \$300 due to past legislation proposing an additional \$100 previous to the additional \$200 now proposed by the Legislature. A committee is being formed from the Alaska Superintendent Conference to create a united front to back one figure for the purpose for lobbying.
- Superintendent Bowie announced he had been elected to the Board of Directors for the Alaska Superintendent Association. The Board extended their congratulations.

3. Board – Members of the Board

There were no reports from the Board.

F. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business this meeting.

G. NEW BUSINESS

1. Approve FY'09 Valdez City School District Audit

MOTION TO APPROVE THE FY'09 VALDEZ CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT AUDIT WAS MADE BY DOLORES GARD AND SECONDED.

Superintendent Bowie thanked Business Manager Cockerham and her staff for the excellent job they have done on the last five years of audits for the District.

President Hull-Engles said she will abstain on this motion and the next because she has not had time to review the supporting materials.

VOTE: 6 YEAS/1 ABSTAIN (LAURIE HULL-ENGLES), MOTION PASSED.

2. Approve the Valdez City School District FY'11 Budget Request to the City of Valdez

MOTION TO APPROVE THE VALDEZ CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT FY'11 REQUEST TO THE CITY OF VALDEZ IN THE AMOUNT OF \$9,435,733 WAS MADE BY DOLORES GARD.

Business Manager Cockerham reviewed the numbers and noted that the Cap goes up because of the increase in valuation. There will be additional costs to the District next year due to deferred maintenance of VCSD facilities that must be addressed and an increase in salaries due to negotiations.

Superintendent Bowie said the figure is only a place holder. The timing of the VCSD budget cycle is different from the timing of the City of Valdez budget cycle. It is impossible to know the exact needs of the District for next year.

VOTE: 6 YEAS/1 ABSTAIN (LAURIE HULL-ENGLES), MOTION PASSED.

3. Approve Funding for Paraprofessional Position

MOTION TO APPROVE THE FUNDING FOR AN ADDITIONAL PARAPROFESSIONAL POSITION OUTLINED IN BUDGET AMENDMENT NUMBER 10-3 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$23,666 WAS MADE BY DAN WALKER AND SECONDED.

Clarence Haugan Director of Special Education reviewed the memorandum and noted that there is a student with intensive needs that will require the assistance of a paraprofessional.

VOTE: 7 YEAS, MOTION PASSED.

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4. Board Appointments 2009-2010

a. Certified Sick Leave and Bereavement Bank Committee – Appoint Two Board Members

Board members Duane Edelman and Dolores Gard volunteered to serve on the Certified Sick Leave and Bereavement Bank Committee. The Board agreed.

b. Classified Sick Leave and Bereavement Bank Committee – Appoint Two Board Members

Board members Dan Walker and Grace Huhndorf volunteered to serve on the Classified Sick Leave and Bereavement Bank Committee. The Board agreed.

c. Legislative Liaison – Appoint One Board Member

Board members David Lawrence and Duane Edelman volunteered to share the responsibility of Legislative Liaison. The Board agreed.

5. Approve AASB Nomination

MOTION TO APPROVE THE NOMINATION OF DUANE EDELMAN TO RUN FOR A SEAT AS A DIRECTOR OF THE ASSOCIATION OF ALASKA SCHOOL BOARDS WAS MADE BY DOLORES GARD AND SECONDED.

Board member Walker nominated Board member David Lawrence to also run for a seat as a Director of AASB however Mr. Lawrence declined.

VOTE: 6 YEAS/1 NAY (GRACE HUHDORF), MOTION PASSED.

H. CONSENT AGENDA

Items 1 through 14 were approved by consent agenda.

I. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. AASB Annual Conference Attendance – Quinn Verfaillie, William Cullen, Raechyl Huisingh, Leah Johnson

The Board decided that Board members Huhndorf; Gard; Edelman; and Walker would attend the AASB Annual Conference. Board member Todd may represent VCSB by attending the Section on Resolutions. Mr. Walker volunteered to drive a Van to transport the four Student Representatives. Superintendent Bowie will also be attending the Conference. Board member Gard volunteered to coordinate the registration and travel with Ms. Porritt at the VCS District Office. Board member Edelman volunteered to Chaperone when available.

2. Student Board Representative – Board Policy

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A copy of a recommendation for board policy language received from Joseph Reeves was distributed to the Board along with a copy of VCSD Board Bylaws BB 9110 (a) Board Membership. The Board decided to bring back BB 9110 (a) for a first reading on October 26, 2009 with the addition of the following language:

Student Board members may cast advisory votes on all matters except those subject to executive session discussion. Advisory votes shall be cast prior to the official Board vote and shall not affect the outcome of a vote. Advisory votes shall be recorded in the Board minutes.

3. 2010 AASB Resolution Committee Members

Board member Todd volunteered and will attend the 2010 Resolution Section of the AASB Conference to represent the Valdez City School Board.

4. Board Members as Champions

President Hull-Engles led the discussion. She noted that there are major items coming up for discussion/focus groups that will need to have volunteers from the Board to be leaders/facilitators. The topics from the Town Hall Meeting and the Pre-K Grant need to be addressed as well as plans of action for approval of the Board and ultimately the implementation of the District. President Hull-Engles volunteered to facilitate the 4-Day School Week.

The Board asked Administration to bring back “Board Members as Champions/Focus Group Committees” as a discussion item on the October 26, 2009 regular meeting agenda of the Board.

MOTION TO EXTEND THE MEETING TILL 10:45 P.M. WAS MADE BY DAN WALKER AND SECONDED.

VOTE: 7 YEAS, MOTION PASSED

J. BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT QUESTIONS/CONCERNS

Superintendent Bowie distributed a section of the VCS Board Policy Administrative Regulation AR 4121 Substitute Teachers. Administration will raise the daily pay of the Substitute Teacher holding a current Alaska Teaching Certificate to \$130.00 and a Substitute Teacher without a current Alaska Teaching Certificate to \$100.00 per day beginning October 21, 2009 which is the beginning of the Districts’ next pay period.

Superintendent Bowie shared a composite of Student Based Assessment (SBA) scores he had received from the Superintendent Conference. The composite included the top 16 Alaska School Districts of which Valdez School District came in 5th in the State. He complemented the Board and Staff for that accomplishment. He noted that this composite was an unscientific poll.

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K. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Superintendent Contract

MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 10:32 P.M. FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING THE SUPERINTENDENT CONTRACT; A SUBJECT THAT TENDS TO PREJUDICE THE REPUTATION AND CHARACTER OF ANY PERSON, PROVIDED THAT THE PERSON MAY REQUEST A PUBLIC DISCUSSION WAS MADE BY DAN WALKER AND SECONDED.

VOTE: 7 YEAS, MOTION PASSED.

MOTION TO END EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 10:38 P.M. WAS MADE BY DOLORES GARD AND SECONDED.

VOTE: 7 YEAS, MOTION PASSED.

L. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN THE REGULAR MEETING AT 10:40 P.M. WAS MADE BY DAN WALKER AND SECONDED. VOTE: 7 YEAS, MOTION PASSED.

Submitted by,

Board Approval Date: October 26, 2009

Flynn Stuparich
Administrative Assistant to the Board
and Superintendent

Laurie Hull-Engles, President

Kathleen Todd, Board Clerk