

October 5, 2009

Parents, Educators, Community Members and Students,

The Valdez City School Board (VCSB) would like to give you a status report on the Town Hall Next Steps. We began by compiling all the raw data captured on the flip charts on to topic sheets for analysis. After compiling the information we spent time reading, understanding, and identifying themes. We then worked with the District Administrative Team to discuss the results. Together, we concluded we have a solid base to begin taking action by establishing focus groups.

Foreign language beginning in Elementary and a 4-day school week are complex ideas that will require further research. No decision has been made for implementation. Additionally, laws and regulations review and public opinion sessions will need to be held to determine if this is right for the schools in Valdez.

Currently the School District is partnering with the City in developing a Master Plan for our facilities. Once the Master Plan has been completed, school renewal projects will move forward utilizing a public process, accepted recommendations from the architectural firm and approval of funding. Preliminary discussions have included a steering committee comprised of parents, educators and community leaders to lead us forward.

Town Hall attendees sent a clear message that the VCSB needs to take a close look at two defined pathways for our students. We heard that not all students go to college and trades are a viable option. We also heard that college bound students should have courses that focus on college preparation. As we discussed Graduation Requirements with the District Administration, we concluded there are exciting avenues for a work group to flush out for the benefit of all our students.

The 2-year school calendar was an obvious slam dunk. Many school districts have 2-year calendars and make minor adjustments for year 2. VCSB requested an advertisement be published in the Valdez Star as soon as possible for a committee to begin drafting a 2-year school calendar.

A consistent theme throughout the Town Hall was that ACADEMICS are the beginning. Our students, your children, must have a solid educational foundation that will carry them forward into a global community. We are extending an invitation to you to join us in this endeavor. Please contact Flynn Stuparich, Valdez City School District Administration Office, 835-4357 for more information.

Best Regards,

Laurie L. Hull-Engles, President
Valdez City School District Board of Education