

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Valdez City Council Chambers
MINUTES

Monday, April 11, 2005, 7:30 P.M.

A. PRELIMINARIES

1. Call to Order:

President Duane Edelman called the regular meeting of Monday, April 11, 2005 to order at 7:35 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance:

President Edelman led the pledge of allegiance.

3. Roll Call:

Board members in attendance:

Duane Edelman, President
Dolores Gard, Treasurer
Melodie Mackey, Board Clerk
Douglas Johnson, Leg. Liaison
Kathleen Todd, Member
Laurie Hull-Engles, Member

Administration in attendance:

Ernie Manzie, Superintendent
Amber Cockerham, Business Manager
Terry Gregory, Technology Director
Geary Cantrell, Principal VHS
Rod Morrison, Principal GJH
Roz Strang, Principal HHES
Clarence Haugan, Special Ed Coordinator
Dave McCahan, Facilities Director
Tracy Pressley, District Test Coordinator/Counselor
Barb Lyons, Dean of Students

Joseph Tapangco, Student Board Representative

Douglas Desorcie, Vice President, was absent and excused.

The approximate number of the other people in attendance was three.

B. AGENDA

1. Adoption of the Agenda:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE SCHOOL BOARD AGENDA FOR MONDAY,

APRIL 11, 2005 AS PRESENTED WAS MADE BY DOLORES GARD, SECOND BY DOUGLAS JOHNSON. VOTE: 6 YEAS, 1 ABSENT AND EXCUSED (DOUGLAS DESORCIE) MOTION PASSED.

2. Presentation of Agenda Items

President Edelman read the agenda to the Board and public.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Regular Meeting, March 28, 2005

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING MARCH 28, 2005 AS PRESENTED WAS MADE BY KATHLEEN TODD, SECOND BY MELODIE MACKEY. VOTE: 6 YEAS, 1 ABSENT AND EXCUSED (DOUGLAS DESORCIE), MOTION PASSED.

2. Special Meeting, March 29, 2005

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING MARCH 29, 2005 AS PRESENTED WAS MADE BY MELODIE MACKEY, SECOND BY KATHLEEN TODD. VOTE: 6 YEAS, 1 ABSENT AND EXCUSED (DOUGLAS DESORCIE), MOTION PASSED.

3. Special Meeting, April 1, 2005

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING APRIL 1, 2005 AS PRESENTED WAS MADE BY DOLORES GARD, SECOND BY MELODIE MACKEY. VOTE: 6 YEAS, 1 ABSENT AND EXCUSED (DOUGLAS DESORCIE), MOTION PASSED.

4. Special Meeting, April 5, 2005

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING APRIL 5, 2005 AS PRESENTED WAS MADE BY KATHLEEN TODD, SECOND BY DOLORES GARD. VOTE: 6 YEAS, 1 ABSENT AND EXCUSED (DOUGLAS DESORCIE), MOTION PASSED.

D. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

1. School Highlights:

a. Hermon Hutchens Elementary School

Roz Strang, Principal, reported to the Board. A recent project, "Design on a Dime",

was completed. Twenty-three older chairs in the library were re-covered by many volunteers in the community. Money was provided by the PTA for material purchased on E-Bay. She said the library received a much needed face lift. Principal Strang thanked the community.

Principal Strang expressed to the Board how pleased she was about the sledding hill in Hermon Hutchens playground area which was developed, and is maintained by community members. She noted that the students are enjoying themselves and discipline issues are down because many students are sledding and participating in an orderly manner.

b. Gilson Junior High School

Rod Morrison, Principal, reported to the Board. He shared a discipline comparison between last year and this year. He noted that discipline issues have dropped significantly because staff are working together to enforce consistent school rules, and he is able to be present in the building more this year.

Principal Morrison thanked the Shriners for their donation of new chairs for the staff. He said it was like Christmas and everyone is very appreciative.

c. Valdez High School

Geary Cantrell, Principal, reported to the Board. He said he was pleased with the recent inservice day. There was a very good presentation on tolerance, and working with at-risk students, and alternative programs. Some of his staff attended a conference on autism and others participated in a meeting on science curriculum.

Principal Cantrell reminded the Board and community that Career Day is on April 20, 2005 and the students will be attending the Job Fair and listening to speakers at the College.

He also mentioned the Five-Year Graduate Survey. The statistics were favorable regarding the numbers of students who went on to receive college degrees and/or technical training. It was suggested that the survey be posted on the District Website for the public access.

Principal Cantrell thanked the Shriners for their donation of new chairs to the Valdez High School Staff. He said the chairs arrived today and the staff was very thankful.

2. Student Information System Update

Terry Gregory, Technology Director, gave a power point presentation regarding the purchase of a new student information system (SIS). The goal of the SIS is to increase student achievement. Parents would be able to become more involved and assist students in making wise choices to guide them towards success. Parents, teachers, and administrators would have access to the SIS system. They would be able to check on grades, attendance, and receive email notification as to what type of help a student needs to move forward.

Updating the SIS system reflects the goals of the district; to improve technology.

The current SIS is outdated and is not able to provide the type of information that is critical when dealing with NCLB issues. NCLB requires more school accountability. In order to meet state requirements there is a need to centralize the data base. The district now has three systems, one in each school. The new system would streamline the information process in a time efficient way.

Training would be provided not only to staff, but to parents and students.

Rod Morrison, Principal of Gilson Junior High School, said requests for student information are filled on a call by call basis. The new system would allow access to the parent. The SIS will also show fees that are owed by students.

President Edelman asked for public comment. Ms. Marilyn Leahy told the Board she agreed with the purchase of a new SIS. She noted that it is time to replace the old systems. Providing information to parents in a timely manner would help them understand what is happening with the student.

Kipp Norris, Teacher at Gilson Junior High School, said the new system could send out an automatic email to a parent/guardian when a student did not complete or turn in an assignment. This would be a very helpful tool.

Tracy Pressley, District Test Coordinator/Counselor, told the Board the new SIS would house all of the information however, there would be different levels of access for parents, teachers and administrators. She also noted that the current systems do not talk to one another – therefore information has to be accumulated from different locations and systems. The new system would have all information on the central data file.

Roz Strang, Principal of Hermon Hutchens Elementary School, spoke positively regarding the updating of the SIS system.

There was discussion among the Board. The Board thanked Terry Gregory for his presentation and spoke positively about the purchase of a new system, if funding

allowed.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

President Edelman asked if there was any public comment. There was none.

F. BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT'S QUESTIONS / COMMENTS / COMMITTEE REPORTS

Superintendent Manzie reported:

Parents received a survey last week in the mail regarding the evaluation of the schools their students attend. The district is beginning to receive them back and will compile the information and keep the Board updated.

Regarding the testing process, there were some challenges. Tracy Pressley will be addressing and reporting to the Board some of the problems with the testing process, in the near future. There were issues with the quality of the materials and the length of time it took to complete the tests. Teachers and administrators are giving input to Ms. Pressley. She will be communicating with the Department of Education in Juneau and relaying the concerns.

The district met with Prochaska regarding the construction of the Middle School. The committee thought communications were improving. There will be a Middle School Task Force Meeting on April 21, 2005, 6:30 p.m. in the School Board Room at the Valdez City School District Office. The school board is invited to attend the meeting.

Administration is waiting for information from the district's attorney regarding the Board's question about school board Article 9000 discussing the rotation/timing of seats, regarding the election of school board members. Superintendent Manzie said he found in state statute the following: when a person is appointed to replace an outgoing board member, that person serves until the next regular election and then runs for the seat, if desired.

There was some discussion among the Board members about this issue. Superintendent Manzie will talk with the City to find out how they handle this situation. President Edelman asked the Board to think about this; and put together some suggestions for future conversations.

There are draft school 2006-2007 calendars are on the district website and at the schools and district office for public comment. The Board will take comment and bring the calendars to a vote at the May 9, 2005 regular board meeting. The inservice and parent teacher conference days are not on the calendars at this time.

Superintendent Manzie asked Dave McCahan, Facilities Director, to address the Board and inform them regarding an incident at the Valdez High School last Wednesday evening.

Mr. McCahan reported to the Board: Wednesday night between 9:30 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. a fire alarm went off at the Valdez Fire Department from Valdez High School. A sprinkler head had broken on the second floor of the school in one of the classrooms. Water poured into the classroom at 75 to 80 lbs of pressure from a ½ inch pipe. There was a considerable amount of water in the classroom and down the hall. The water seeped down through the floor into the library. Mr. McCahan thanked George Keeney's fire department crew for all of their help with clean up. He said the district's custodial crew also did a good job. There was water damage in the classroom, many items were lost. Books, magazines a computer keyboard and many ceiling tiles destroyed by the water. This is the second time this has happened in fifteen years.

Amber Cockerham, Business Manager, reported to the Board. She said there was approximately \$5,000.00 of lost items in the classroom and \$3,000.00 in the library. The district has a \$100,000.00 deductible insurance policy. She told the Board there is ongoing maintenance on the sprinkler system.

Board member Johnson talked about the upcoming trip to the AASB Legislative Fly In. He encouraged the board members to attend and lobby.

Student Representative Joseph Tapangco gave a report to the Board.

Student Council elections for the officers next year will be held on April 28 and 29, 2005.

The Student Council is in the process of updating the bylaws and constructing a constitution.

Valdez High School is starting up baseball and track.

The Drama Department is presenting a play this weekend. It should be very good.

G. ACTION ITEMS: UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business this evening.

H. ACTION ITEMS: NEW BUSINESS

1. Approve Article 6000 – Instruction – First Reading

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE FIRST READING OF ARTICLE 6000 –
INSTRUCTION WITH THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF JULY 1, 2005 WAS MADE
BY MELODIE MACKEY, SECOND BY KATHLEEN TODD.**

There was discussion among the Board.

Board member Todd told Superintendent Manzie she would bring her suggestions to him and points could be changed.

President Edelman asked if there was any public comment.

Ruth Knight, Gifted and Talented Teacher for Valdez City School District, suggested some language be drafted regarding junior high school credits earned in high school. The superintendent and Ms. Knight will draft language for this issue.

Marilyn Leahy, community member, asked about early graduation requirements. She wanted to know what would be further criteria to policy requirements. She suggested policy clearly address the requirements.

President Edelman called for further comment, there was none.

President Edelman called for the vote.

**VOTE: 6 YEAS, 1 ABSENT AND EXCUSED (DOUGLAS DESORCIE),
MOTION PASSED.**

2. Approve Article 1000 – Community Relations – First Reading

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE FIRST READING OF SCHOOL BOARD
ARTICLE 1000 – COMMUNITY RELATIONS WITH THE EFFECTIVE DATE
OF JULY 1, 2005 WAS MADE BY DOLORES GARD, SECOND BY LAURIE
HULL-ENGLES.**

President Edelman asked if there was any public comment, there was none.

**VOTE: 6 YEAS, 1 ABSENT AND EXCUSED (DOUGLAS DESORCIE),
MOTION PASSED.**

3. Approve Article 7000 – New Construction – First Reading

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE FIRST READING OF ARTICLE 7000 – NEW
CONSTRUCTION WITH THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF JULY 1, 2005 WAS
MADE BY KATHLEEN TODD, SECOND BY DOUGLAS JOHNSON.**

President Edelman asked if there was any public comment, there was none.

**VOTE: 6 YEAS, 1 ABSENT AND EXCUSED (DOUGLAS DESORCIE),
MOTION PASSED.**

4. Approval of New Vendor

MOTION TO APPROVE THE VENDOR, PANORAMA NORTH, AS A VALDEZ CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT VENDOR WITH THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENT: THREE VERBAL QUOTES SHALL BE OBTAINED BY THE BUSINESS OFFICE PRIOR TO USING ANY VENDOR THAT HAS REQUIRED PRICE BOARD APPROVAL, REGARDLESS OF THE AMOUNT WAS MADE BY DOLORES GARD, SECOND BY MELODIE MACKEY.

There was discussion among the Board. Administration told the Board that the person who would collect the bids would be an objective person.

President Edelman asked if there was any public comment, there was none.

**VOTE: 6 YEAS, 1 ABSENT AND EXCUSED (DOUGLAS DESORCIE),
MOTION PASSED.**

**MOTION TO EXTEND TO 11:00 P.M. WAS MADE BY MELODIE MACKEY,
SECOND BY DOLORES GARD. VOTE: 6 YEAS, 1 ABSENT AND EXCUSED
(DOUGLAS DESORCIE), MOTION PASSED.**

I. INFORMATION AND REPORTS

1. Health Care Program Update

Mr. Matt Larkin, Account Executive Employee Benefits, of Willis gave an update on the Valdez City School District health care program. The district is a self-funded program. The City of Valdez and the Valdez City School District have the same insurance benefits and share the same insurance pool. They purchase stop-loss insurance to cover very large claims. The plan is renewed April 1st of each year. The school district plan experienced a significant increase of about 35%. The stop-loss insurance has increased in price. The additional cost per employee per month would be \$14.00. Health care is going up in double digits and claims were unusually high last year. The two groups are combined in payment of services. Each group's insurance bears their cost. Groups stand alone in their funding rate. Last year the school district went over \$300,000.00 plus, from what they funded in the pool. The certified employees insurance cost will be raised to \$67.89 per check beginning July 1, 2005.

Matt Larkin will return in August of 2005 to talk with the district.

MOTION TO EXTEND TO 11:30 P.M. WAS MADE BY DOLORES GARD, SECOND BY MELODIE MACKEY. VOTE: 5 YEAS, 1 NAY, (DOUGLAS JOHNSON) AND 1 ABSENT AND EXCUSED (DOUGLAS DESORCIE), MOTION PASSED.

2. Administrative Recommendations for Vehicle Replacement

Superintendent Manzie gave the Board an update on the vehicle replacement. He said administration is in the process of putting information together for a recommendation. Laidlaw Transit Company will be forwarding a cost breakdown regarding the dry lease of a fifteen passenger bus to the district.

3. Superintendent Search Update

President Edelman reported that the Board had selected three superintendent candidates, Lance Bowie, Ed.D., PJ Ford-Slack, Ph.D. and Connie Newman, Ph.D. who would be coming to Valdez April 17, 18 and 19, 2005. He encouraged the public to attend the Community Forum on April 18th, 6:30 p.m. at the Valdez City School District School Board Room to meet the candidates and give input to the Board. The Board will make the superintendent announcement to the public on Tuesday, April 19, 2005.

4. Building Administrators' Report (Consent Agenda)

5. Special Education Coordinator's Report (Consent Agenda)

6. Technology Director's Report (Consent Agenda)

7. Dean of Students Report (Consent Agenda)

8. Personnel Action Report (Consent Agenda)

J. BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT QUESTIONS / COMMENTS

Superintendent Manzie – no further comment.

President Edelman asked the Board to forward any names of Representatives or Senators who should be contacted for possible appointments during the AASB Legislative Fly In later this month.

There were no further comments from the Board.

President Edelman called for a five minute recess.

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Student Discipline

MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING STUDENT DISCIPLINE STUDENT NUMBER 4-11-05-01, A SUBJECT THAT TENDS TO PREDJUICE THE REPUTATION AND CHARACTER OF ANY PERSON, WAS MADE BY MELODIE MACKEY, SECOND BY DOLORES GARD. VOTE: 6 YEAS, ONE ABSENT AND EXCUSED (DOUGLAS DESORCIE), MOTION PASSED.

MOTION TO END THE EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS MADE BY MELODIE MACKEY, SECOND BY KATHLEEN TODD. VOTE: 6 YEAS, ONE ABSENT AND EXCUSED (DOUGLAS DESORCIE), MOTION PASSED.

There was no action taken by the Board on student number 4-11-05-01.

MOTION TO EXTEND TO 12:30 P.M. WAS MADE BY DOLORES GARD, SECOND BY MELODIE MACKEY. VOTE: 6 YEAS, 1 ABSENT AND EXCUSED (DOUGLAS DESORCIE), MOTION PASSED.

MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING STUDENT DISCIPLINE STUDENT NUMBER 4-11-05-02, A SUBJECT THAT TENDS TO PREDJUICE THE REPUTATION AND CHARACTER OF ANY PERSON, WAS MADE BY DOLORES GARD, SECOND BY DOUGLAS JOHNSON. VOTE: 6 YEAS, ONE ABSENT AND EXCUSED (DOUGLAS DESORCIE), MOTION PASSED.

MOTION TO END THE EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS MADE BY MELODIE MACKEY, SECOND BY KATHLEEN TODD. VOTE: 6 YEAS, ONE ABSENT AND EXCUSED (DOUGLAS DESORCIE), MOTION PASSED.

There was no action taken by the Board on student number 4-11-05-02.

L. ADJOURNMENT BY 10:30 P.M. UNLESS RULES SUSPENDED

MOTION TO ADJOURN (12:37 P.M.) WAS MADE BY DOLORES GARD, SECOND BY LAURIE HULL-ENGLES. VOTE: 6 YEAS, 1 ABSENT AND EXCUSED (DOUGLAS DESORCIE). MOTION PASSED.

Submitted by,

D. Flynn Stuparich
Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent

Board Approval Date: April 25, 2005

Duane Edelman, President

Melodie Mackey, Board Clerk