

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Valdez City Council Chambers
MINUTES

Monday, March 28, 2005, 6:30 P.M.

A. PRELIMINARIES

1. Call to Order:

President Duane Edelman called the regular meeting of Monday, March 28, 2005 to order at 6:34 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, Board Member
Laurie Hull-Engles, Board Member

Administration in attendance:

Ernie Manzie, Superintendent
Dave McCahan, Facilities Director
Clarence Haugan, Special Education Coordinator
Roz Strang, Principal HHES
Amber Cockerham, Business Manager

Douglas Desorcie, Vice President attended via telephone conference call.

Jessica Koscielski, Student Board Representative was absent and excused.

There were approximately twenty eight people for presentations, during the rest of the meeting there were two people in attendance.

B. AGENDA

1. Adoption of the Agenda:

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES:
REMOVE NUMBER 4. DISTRICT COORDINATOR'S REPORT AND
NUMBER 6. FINANCIAL REPORT, UNDER INFORMATION AND REPORTS,
FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA WAS MADE BY MELODIE MACKEY,
SECOND BY KATHLEEN TODD. VOTE: 7 YEAS, MOTION PASSED.**

2. Presentation of Agenda Items

President Edelman read the agenda to the Board and public.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Regular Meeting, February 28, 2005

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 28, 2005 AS PRESENTED WAS MADE BY KATHLEEN TODD,
SECOND BY DOLORES GARD. VOTE: 7 YEAS, MOTION PASSED.**

D. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

1. 2005 Alaska State Science and Engineering Fair Winners

Ruth Knight, Science Advisor and Gifted and Talented Teacher at Hermon Hutchens Elementary School, introduced the students who participated in the local Science and Engineering Fair. She presented them with certificates, prizes and awards and acknowledged their accomplishments and hard work.

Ms. Knight introduced the participants of the 50th Alaska State Science and Engineering Fair who won awards. There were three hundred projects statewide. Students spoke about their projects. Elise Sorum, student of Valdez City School District won 1st place in the State. She will go to Arizona to compete in the International Science and Engineering Fair. Ms. Sorum's project was a design for a new harbor in Valdez. She will be presenting her design to the Port Commission on April 5, 2005.

President Edelman presented the 2005 Alaska State Science and Engineering Fair winners with certificates and congratulated them for their achievements.

2. Special Education: Autism / Miller Method

Chris Manzie, Special Education Preschool Teacher at Hermon Hutchens Elementary School, gave a report to the Board on an Autism Teleconference that was attended by many of the Valdez City School District staff. The teleconference was given by Dr. Miller who spoke about autism, referring to it as a spectrum disorder. One in one hundred sixty-six people are affected by some degree of autism. It manifests differently in each child/person. Ms. Manzie offered the Board materials in more depth if they were interested. Ms. Manzie said that the conference assisted staff to help identify and help students who may be experiencing some form of autism.

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:

Administration recommends two public budget hearings, the same as last year, one on a week night and one on a Saturday. The budget must be approved by the Board at the April 25, 2005 regular board meeting, and the budget must be presented to the City of Valdez by Monday, May 5, 2005.

There was discussion among the Board. The Board decided to hold one public budget hearing for two hours, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on April 11, 2005 at the Valdez City Council Chambers and move the start time of the regular board meeting from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. following the hearing. The Board requested KVAK Radio be contacted to have the first public budget hearing aired on the radio. The second public budget hearing was scheduled on the following Saturday morning, April 16, 2005, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the School Board Room in the Valdez City School District Office. A work session was scheduled from 11:00 a.m. to noon following the hearing.

Superintendent Manzie spoke about the legislature in terms of the budget. There is a need for the Board to lobby at the AASB Legislative Fly In, in April because the funding for education has not been finalized. There was discussion among the Board. Board members Edelman, Johnson, Gard, and Engles expressed interest in attending the Fly In. Also Superintendent Manzie, Business Manager Cockerham and possibly the new superintendent may attend.

There was discussion about the status of the new school policies. Superintendent Manzie gave the Board an update on all of the Articles. Article 5000 is hoped to be scheduled for a public hearing the beginning of May. Article 4000 is in the process of typing and review by administration. The policies will be completed by the end of June 2005 and they will become effective July 1, 2005.

In reference to the year end report and the calendar publications, in the interest of saving money and due to requirements of the state and NCLB requirements, administration decided to publish the calendar using Business Professionals of America (BPA) at Valdez High School and stop publishing the year end report. The district will save money by not publishing the year end report. The calendars will be published the first week of August 2005 and sent out to parents before school starts.

Report cards, possibly a tri-fold brochure type, will need to be produced by each of the schools and the district office to meet requirements of both school and district report cards. This is a requirement of the State of Alaska. After the fall test scores come out, the report cards will be made. A parent meeting will be scheduled to go over the information in the report cards in the Fall.

BPA is putting together a tri-fold brochure for the Board to take to Juneau during the Legislative Fly In to assist in the lobbying process. The brochure will provide pertinent facts about the Valdez City School District, i.e. test scores, accomplishments of students and a snapshot of the budget.

Superintendent Manzie suggested the Board might want to communicate with legislators in the form of resolutions or letters, regarding the Senate finance action, before the Board goes to Juneau in April. President Edelman asked Superintendent Manzie if he could look at what other districts are doing and draft up appropriate communication. There was no further comment from the Superintendent or the Board.

G. ACTION ITEMS: UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business this meeting.

H. ACTION ITEMS: NEW BUSINESS

1. Approval of Submission of Volunteer Involvement Program Grant

This item was on the consent agenda.

I. INFORMATION AND REPORTS

1. Board Citizens Budget Review Committee Recommendations

Board member Laurie Hull-Engles, acting as chairperson for the Citizens Budget Committee presented the recommendations. The committee agreed with the budget the administration proposed. They made suggestions for additions if additional money is received, different from what administration proposed. The following six suggestions were made:

1. \$ 2,500. Grant writer responsibilities to an existing administrations position.
2. 38,520. Increase Hermon Hutchens Counselor from ½ time to full time.
3. 60,000. Upgrade existing computer technology to a Citrix system in lieu of replacing 30 individual units in 2005 and best scenario replacement of the Mac lab.
46,000.

4. 70,000. Budget for new student information system.
5. 18,000. Replace the phone system at the elementary and district office buildings.
6. 20,000. Replace outsource travel.

The committee does not agree or disagree with the remainder of the best case scenario items. The committee suggested that administration look into the possibility of dry-leasing a small bus from Laidlaw Transit for activity transportation.

Board member Johnson said he agreed with the idea of a Citrix system and he told the Board it would support distance learning. He said the cost should be under \$60,000. Board member Mackey expressed concern about a Citrix system.

Superintendent Manzie told the Board that Terry Gregory, Technology Director, would be reporting to the Board at the April 11, 2005 meeting. He would talk about the Citrix system and the student information system.

Regarding the vehicles, Laidlaw Transit spoke with administration about various options for replacement of vans.

The Board thanked the committee members for their participation and work.

2. Middle School Construction Update

Superintendent Manzie updated the Board. The weekly meetings are continuing. There has been discussion about a covered walkway from the new middle school connecting to the existing high school walkway. Money from the ADA reserve account might be used for that purpose.

Bob Thompson is the lead person for the City of Valdez.

Administration met with Debbie Failing, Food Service Coordinator of Valdez City School District, to discuss plans for the kitchen at the proposed middle school. The kitchen would be initially set up for a warming kitchen; however it would be wired and plumbed with the ability to be upgraded to a full kitchen if needed in the future. All storage would be consolidated at the middle school.

The drawings are to be 35% completed by June 2005 and then Prochaska will meet with the City Council at that time. Communications are improving. The District asked for the soft costs of IT to be included in the hard costs. The architects have squared the building and the classrooms are 900 square feet, down from 1,000 square feet. The State of Alaska requires 1% be used for Art in the middle school. That cost would be approximately

\$100,000.

Prochaska and Associates are planning to be in Valdez on April 7, 2005 to meet with the working group. There is not a task force meeting scheduled for this meeting.

3. Superintendent Search Update

President Edelman updated the Board on the Superintendent Search. Today was the last day for accepting applications. There were eighteen applications received for the position. AASB will FedEx the applications tomorrow. The Board will review the applications when they arrive. Joseph Reeves, representative of AASB, will arrive in Valdez on Friday, April 1, 2005 to assist the Board in making choices of five to seven applicants for telephone interviews the evening of April 5, 2005, beginning at 5:00 p.m. After the telephone interviews are completed the Board will choose three candidates that will be invited to come to Valdez April 17th, 18th, and 19th for face to face interviews, staff and public forums, and tours of the schools and town. On April 5, 2005, after the three candidates are chosen, the names will be made public. On April 19, 2005 the Board will announce the new superintendent.

The Board will have a special meeting beginning Tuesday, March 29, 2005, at noon to go over the superintendent's contract.

4. District Test Coordinator's Report

Board member Gard asked administration if there was any way the dates of testing the students could be changed from being scheduled right after the change to daylight savings time. Superintendent Manzie said he would talk with Tracy Pressley, the District Test Coordinator and see if she could talk with state representatives.

5. Facility Director's Report (Consent Agenda)

6. Financial Report

Amber Cockerham, Business Manager, was available for Board questions.

The Board asked about the status of the health insurance cost for the district. The new rate of insurance goes in effect as of April 1, of each year. Ms. Cockerham said the rates have increased substantially and will affect this year's budget. 2005-2006 Budget will need to be revised in the area of insurance. She said the district is self-insured and this is the most cost effective way for the district to purchase insurance. Matt Larkin, insurance representative, will come to the April 11, 2005 board meeting to provide input and answer questions. It was suggested that the City should be invited to attend the meeting.

The Board stressed realistic budgeting for 2005-2006. Business Manager Cockerham told

the Board that the school district was at 65% of the budget to date, 3/4^{ths} of the way through the year, which is on target.

The Board asked about the substitutes used for teachers when they are gone to activities and conferences. They wanted to know if the cost of substitute was reflected in the cost of the activity or conference. They asked for a breakdown of what substitutes were being used for. They also asked if one building substitute should float between the high school and the junior high.

7. Personnel Action Report (Consent Agenda)

J. BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT QUESTIONS / COMMENTS

Superintendent had no further comments.

Board member Desorcie asked that the Valdez City School District remember to acknowledge volunteers and financial contributors.

There were no further comments from the Board or Superintendent.

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Student Discipline

MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION (8:50 P.M.) FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING STUDENT DISCIPLINE, A SUBJECT THAT TENDS TO PREJUDICE THE REPUTATION AND CHARACTER OF ANY PERSON WAS MADE BY KATHLEEN TODD, SECOND BY DOLORES GARD. VOTE: 7 YEAS, MOTION PASSED.

MOTION TO END EXECUTIVE SESSION (9:45 P.M.) WAS MADE BY MELODIE MACKEY, SECOND BY DOUGLAS JOHNSON. VOTE: 7 YEAS, MOTION PASSED.

MOTION FOR STUDENTS 3-28-05-1 AND 3-28-05-2 TO BE EXPELLED FOR THE SPRING SEMESTER 2005 AS PER CURRENT POLICY ST. 1106.10 WAS MADE BY MELODIE MACKEY, SECOND BY KATHLEEN TODD. VOTE: 7 YEAS, MOTION PASSED

MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION (9:55 P.M.) FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING STUDENT DISCIPLINE, A SUBJECT THAT TENDS TO PREJUDICE THE REPUTATION AND CHARACTER OF ANY PERSON WAS MADE BY DOLORES GARD, SECOND BY MELODIE MACKEY. VOTE: 6 YEAS, 1 RECUSED (LAURIE HULL-ENGLES) MOTION PASSED.

MOTION TO END EXECUTIVE SESSION (10:15 P.M.) WAS MADE BY MELODIE MACKEY, SECOND BY KATHLEEN TODD. VOTE: 6 YEAS, 1 RECUSED (LAURIE HULL-ENGLES) MOTION PASSED.

MOTION TO EXTEND TO 11:00 P.M. WAS MADE BY MELODIE MACKEY, SECOND BY KATHLEEN TODD. VOTE: 6 YEAS, 1 RECUSED (LAURIE HULL-ENGLES) MOTION PASSED.

MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION (10:17 P.M.) FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING STUDENT DISCIPLINE, A SUBJECT THAT TENDS TO PREJUDICE THE REPUTATION AND CHARACTER OF ANY PERSON WAS MADE BY DOLORES GARD, SECOND BY DOUGLAS JOHNSON. VOTE: 6 YEAS, 1 RECUSED (LAURIE HULL-ENGLES) MOTION PASSED.

MOTION TO END EXECUTIVE SESSION (11:00 P.M.) WAS MADE BY MELODIE MACKEY, SECOND BY DOUGLAS JOHNSON. VOTE: 6 YEAS, 1 RECUSED (LAURIE HULL-ENGLES) MOTION PASSED.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE SUPERINTENDENT RECOMMENDATION FOR EXPULSION OF STUDENT 3-28-05-03 FOR TWO SEMESTERS, THE REMAINDER OF SPRING 2005 AND THE FALL SEMESTER 2005. THE STUDENT WILL BE ALLOWED TO COME ON SCHOOL GROUNDS ON SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 2005, FOR ACT/SAT TESTING BUT MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A PARENT AT ALL TIMES. STUDENT MAY REQUEST EARLY READMISSION FOR THE FALL 2005 SEMESTER IF STUDENT DEMONSTRATES THAT STUDENT HAS CONTINUED STUDENT'S ACADEMIC WORK AND COMPLETED AT LEAST THREE COURSES WHILE ON EXPULSION. THE REQUEST FOR EARLY ADMISSION SHOULD BE MADE NO LATER THAN THE FIRST BOARD MEETING IN AUGUST 2005 WAS MADE BY MELODIE MACKEY, SECOND BY DOLORES GARD. VOTE: 6 YEAS, 1 RECUSED (LAURIE HULL-ENGLES) MOTION PASSED.

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

MOTION TO ADJOURN (11:05 P.M.) WAS MADE BY MELODIE MACKEY, SECOND BY DOUGLAS JOHNSON. VOTE: 6 YEAS, 1 RECUSED (LAURIE HULL-ENGLES) MOTION PASSED.

Submitted by,

D. Flynn Stuparich
Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent

Board Approval Date: April 11, 2005

Duane Edelman, President

Melodie Mackey, Board Clerk