

SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
School Board Room, Valdez City School District Office

MINUTES

Monday, August 15, 2005, 7:15 P.M.

A. CALL TO ORDER

President Duane Edelman called the special meeting of Monday, August 15, 2005 to order at 7:18 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

**Board members in attendance:**  
Duane Edelman, President  
Douglas Desorcie, Vice President  
Dolores Gard, Treasurer  
Melodie Mackey, Board Clerk  
Douglas Johnson, Leg. Liaison  
Kathleen Todd, Board Member

**Administration in attendance:**  
Lance S. Bowie EdD, Superintendent

Laurie Hull-Engles, Board Member via phone conference

Joe Tapangco, Student Representative

Others in attendance: Three

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED WAS MADE BY MELODIE MACKEY, SECOND BY KATHLEEN TODD. VOTE: 7 YEAS, MOTION PASSED.**

D. ACTION ITEMS: UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Approve School Board Policy BP 5131.6 Alcohol and Other Drugs – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE SECOND READING OF SCHOOL BOARD POLICY BP 5131.6 ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS WAS MADE BY KATHLEEN TODD, SECOND BY DOLORES GARD.**

Board member Gard thanked the Substance Use Committee for all of the long hours and hard work they put into creating the Drug and Alcohol Policy for the

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Valdez City School District. She noted that the committee was made up of community members who have worked on this policy for over a year to come to a good document that should help and guide people to make good decisions, while giving more ways for rehabilitation. The policy takes a step by step approach to a point that a student has a urinalysis. A urinalysis test does not happen at the first step of policy offense. All student rights need to be protected. The policy is fair and equitable. Additionally, Board member Gard said that the policy has been advertised and available for public comment and review for the last few months in the following ways: public hearing process; board meetings; the newspaper, meetings and interviews on radio stations, and through the district website.

Ms. Gard suggested the Board move forward and put this policy in place.

Board member Hull-Engles expressed the following concerns with the policy: urinalysis testing, she thought that administrators and parents/guardians together should decide whether urinalysis testing should be done on a student; she felt discipline of students for alcohol and/or drugs should be a parental responsibility not the responsibility of the schools.

Board member Mackey said she had spoken to many parents who told her that a urinalysis test would give a definite decision and would not be subjective. It would help administrators. Community members have said that many parents are in denial about the alcohol and drug problems of students. Ms. Mackey stated that she supports the policy as it is. The policy protects the students that make good choices. She said the school should pay the cost of tests ordered on a student.

President Duane Edelman said that early intervention supports administration and helps families and children. Parents are, in many cases, not aware of the problems. He cited a national study done on the use of drugs and alcohol in schools by students. Alaska was rated at a higher use level than any of the lower 48 states. He said this is a new age and times have changed, policy needs to be updated. In this country we all make choices that affect our freedoms and lifestyles. Alcohol and drugs are illegal on school grounds. Choose to do it elsewhere.

Board member Todd said the technology of alcohol and drug testing has improved. She noted that there are more tests available now for different drugs. The school should pay for the cost of tests ordered by administration, not the parent/guardian of the student. Dr. Todd said she supports this policy.

Board member Johnson told the Board that students have told him that there is a drug problem in the schools, and it is getting worse. He suggests that the drug dogs check the lockers frequently and make students aware that administration is serious about removing the drugs from the schools. Board member Johnson said

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the policy is positive and supports the students who do not want drugs in the schools. He said this policy is necessary and he supports it.

Board member Desorcie said there is a drug problem and each case is different. He trusts administration to make a decision with parents/guardians. He would like to have the urinalysis test an option not a mandate.

President Edelman asked if there was any public comment.

Ms. Janis Johnson addressed the Board. She said she does not support the policy. She believes drug testing is against civil rights. The language would be better if policy directed administration to have the appropriated type of testing done, since there are different types of tests, for different types of drug use. She suggested language be removed that presumes guilt, as in BP 5131.6 (d) sentence numbers 3. and 10. Ms. Johnson suggested the Board close the campus, as it was in the past, to prevent a student to engage in illegal activities. She did not agree with the approval process of the policy. She said that community members do not pay attention to policy and school matters in the summer – that is why very few people came to comment during the policy approval process.

Ms. Terry Wilson addressed the Board. She was a member of the Substance Use Committee which crafted the Alcohol and Drug Policy. She felt there were not many people from the community who came to the meetings to comment because they were pleased with the policy the committee had created. She stated that the committee included many members of the community, from the counseling center, the police department, judicial department, school administration, parents of students, and members of the community who were not parents. They worked hard to create a fair policy. The school is an educational institution and there is a whole family that is involved. The policy gives the students many steps to help and give assistance. The committee would like to have a Registered Nurse on school staff to do assessments. The parent and child have the option to refuse all along the way. This policy is about public safety. Illegal actions infringe on the rights of students making correct choices. Closing the campus is not the answer. There are activities at noon such as Mars, Intramurals, Student Activities and Groups. This policy is not a constitutional infringement. She urged the Board to approve the policy.

After much discussion the Board decided to make the following amendment:

**MOTION AMEND BP 5131.6 (D) BY MAKING THE FOLLOWING CHANGES:**

- **CHANGE THE WORDING IN SENTENCE NUMBER 10. TO READ “IF THE STUDENT OR PARENT/GUARDIAN REFUSES TO SUBMIT TO A URINALYSIS THE ADMINISTRATOR WILL PROCEED TO THE DISCIPLINARY PHASE.”**

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- **CHANGE SENTENCE NUMBER 3. TO READ “IF THE STUDENT OR PARENT/GUARDIAN REFUSES TO UNDERGO THE ASSESSMENT THE ADMINISTRATOR WILL PROCEED TO THE DISCIPLINARY PHASE.”**
- **CHANGE NUMBER 4. INSIDE THE PARENTHESIS TO READ “(SEE DEFINITION ON BP 5131.6 (S) )”.**
- **AFTER THE CHANGES ARE MADE TO THE SENTENCES, MOVE SENTENCE NUMBER 10. UNDER NUMBER 4. SO IT BECOMES NUMBER 5. AND CHANGE THE REST OF THE SENTENCE NUMBERING ACCORDINGLY, NUMBER 6. THROUGH 11.**

**WAS MADE BY KATHLEEN TODD, SECOND BY MELODIE MACKEY.**

There was additional discussion among the Board.

**MOTION TO CALL FOR THE QUESTION AND END THE DISCUSSION WAS MADE BY MELODIE, SECOND BY DOUGLAS DESORCIE. VOTE: 4 YEAS, 3 NAYS (KATHLEEN TODD, DOUGLAS JOHNSON AND LAURIE HULL-ENGLES), MOTION PASSED.**

President Edelman called for the vote on the amendment.

**VOTE: 6 YEAS, 1 NAY (LAURIE HULL-ENGLES), MOTION PASSED.**

Dr. Bowie asked the Board to clarify the intent of the change in policy regarding the last amendment where the language in BP 5131.6 (d) sentences number 3. and number 10: Refusal by the student or parent/guardian to undergo assessment or submit to a urinalysis “will be treated as a positive determination,” (the underlined was deleted) will proceed to the disciplinary phase.

The Board stated that the wording in sentences number 3 and 10 “will proceed to the disciplinary phase” meant that refusal to undergo assessment or urinalysis was to be treated as a positive determination and the student will be sanctioned as a drug/alcohol infraction.

There was discussion among the Board about amending the definition of urinalysis to include other appropriate tests for alcohol and drugs. There was concern about invasive tests like blood tests.

The Board decided upon the language and made the following amendment:

**MOTION TO AMEND BP 5131.6 (S) DEFINITION OF URINALYSIS TO READ: “THE TERM “URINALYSIS” REFERS TO A URINE DRUG SCREEN OR QUALITATIVE URINALYSIS OR OTHER APPROPRIATE NON INVASIVE TESTS, EXCLUDING BLOOD TESTS, FOR ALCOHOL**

**AND DRUGS. PROTOCOLS FOR TESTS ARE PROVIDED IN THE EXHIBITS.” WAS MADE BY KATHLEEN TODD, SECOND BY MELODIE MACKEY.**

President Edelman asked if there was further comment from the Board or the public. There was none.

**VOTE: 6 YEAS, 1 NAY (LAURIE HULL-ENGLES), MOTION PASSED.**

President Edelman called for the vote on the original motion.

**VOTE: 6 YEAS, 1 NAY (LAURIE HULL-ENGLES), MOTION PASSED.**

Janis Johnson thanked the Board for the amendments.

President Edelman asked administration to purchase a large ad in the newspaper, Wednesday, August 17, 2005, and compose wording to inform community members of the change in policies, the restriction on knives in school, and how and where to find the policies that may effect their student.

Dr. Bowie told the Board and public there would be student class meetings where the change in the board policies would be discussed in detail. He also said he would look into the possibility of posters at school highlighting points of policy. Policy reminders in the daily student bulletin may also be put in place.

E. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION TO ADJOURN (9:22P.M.) WAS MADE BY MELODIE MACKEY, SECOND BY DOUGLAS DESORCIE. VOTE: 7 YEAS, MOTION PASSED.**

Submitted by,

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D. Flynn Stuparich  
Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent

Board Approval Date August 22, 2005

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Duane Edelman, President

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Melodie Mackey, Board Clerk