

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
School Board Room

MINUTES

Monday, November 23, 2009, 6:30 P.M.

A. PRELIMINARIES

1. Call to Order

President Laurie Hull-Engles called the Valdez Board of Education regular meeting of Monday, November 23, 2009, to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance:

President Laurie Hull-Engles led the pledge of allegiance.

3. Roll Call

Board members in attendance:

Laurie Hull-Engles, President
Grace Huhndorf, Vice President
Dolores Gard, Treasurer
Kathleen Todd, Board Clerk
Dan Walker, Board Member
David Lawrence, Board Member

Administration in attendance:

Lance L. Bowie EdD, Superintendent
Ben Olds, Facilities Director

Duane Edelman, Board Member was absent and excused.

Quinn Verfaillie Student Board Representative was present.

Other people in attendance: 3

B. AGENDA

1. Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION WAS MADE BY DAN WALKER AND SECONDED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2009 WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES:

- **ADD # 4 DISCUSSION ITEM: BOARD DIRECTION;**
- **REMOVE # 2 PERSONNEL ACTION REPORT AND # 6 THE APPROVAL TO RESCIND VCSD BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUEST # 10-3: SALARY AND BENEFITS FOR ONE NEW SPECIAL EDUCATION PARAPROFESSIONAL FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA;**

School Board Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 23, 2009

- **REMOVE # 2 REQUEST FOR EARLY GRADUATION WAIVER FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

VOTE: 6 YEAS, MOTION PASSED.

C. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

1. AASB Youth Leadership Institute Student Report

Quinn Verfaillie, William Cullen, Raechyl Huisingh and Haley Morton attended the AASB Youth Leadership Institute in Anchorage, Alaska. It was the consensus among the students that the Youth Leadership Institute was a great opportunity for all students noting specifically information received regarding Brain Development from a keynote speaker and topics that led to personal development and confidence building. The Board requested Superintendent Bowie to pursue bringing the Brain Development Keynote speaker to the District. Superintendent Bowie stated he was working on this item.

2. FY 2011 State of Alaska Capital Improvement Projects – Facilities Director Ben Olds

Ben Olds Director of Valdez City School District Facilities distributed a list of capital project results per district, ranked by average points per project and noted that Valdez did very well in the ratings. There are possibilities to increase points/position next year when the Master Facilities Plan is completed and the Capital Improvement Project application is resubmitted to the State of Alaska.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public comment this evening.

E. REPORTS

1. Student Board Representative – Quinn Verfaillie

Quinn Verfaillie reported the following:

- The Evening at the Pops went very well and the food was great.
- Kudos to Hannah Norris who came in 4th overall (which includes all school sizes) in the 50 and 100 freestyle at the Alaska State Swimming Finals.
- Intramurals will begin with Mr. Gibbs as a volunteer advisor.
- Wrestling won three 1st ‘s last weekend in Cordova.
- Volleyball is finished.
- A roundtable discussion between the VHS Student Council and representatives from the Valdez Board of Education will be scheduled for December 2009.

2. District – Superintendent Lance S. Bowie EdD

Superintendent Bowie reported the following:

School Board Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 23, 2009

- Dr. Bowie will be in Juneau from December 2nd through 4th, 2009 participating in a committee invitation of the Commissioner of Education regarding Virtual School.
- Dr. Bowie distributed a copy of an Alert Now report generated after a test call. He noted that the report details the action or non-action of the receiver.
- The City of Valdez has made some changes to their health insurance coverage which has increased the cost of their premium. Valdez City Schools has not changed their health insurance policy nor were they given any offer to do so.
- The Strategic Plan Committee continues to meet once a week under the direction of Principal Cantrell.

3. Board – Members of the Board

- Board members Walker and Huhndorf attended the Evening at the Pops and said the food was excellent and the event showcased beautifully the talents of the students in the Music Department and the Culinary Arts.
- Vice President Huhndorf attended the AASB Annual Conference noting the board member continuing education reinforced what the job(s) of a board member is/are and is/are not.
- Board member Lawrence acting as Legislative Liaison said the Valdez Legislative Information Office will open next week. He will keep track of what is happening.

President Hull-Engles asked Administration to include the topic Legislative Information on December 14, 2009 regular meeting agenda of the Board under Discussion Items.

- Board member Gard said acting as a chaperone for the Valdez youth during the AASB Annual Conference was a good experience and the conference was a great opportunity for the youth.
- Board member Todd represented the Valdez Board of Education by attending the Resolution Section of the AASB Annual Conference.

The Calendar Committee will meet next week and may bring copies of the proposed 2010-2011 calendar for Board review during the next regular meeting of the Board.

F. ACTION ITEMS: UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. School First Reading of AASB Board Policy Updates
 - a. Education of Native/Indian Children BP 6174.1 (a-e)
 - b. Education of Native/Indian Children Administration Regulation AR 6174.1 (a-c)
 - c. Indian Policies and Procedures E 6174.1 (a-e)

Ms. Morrison said she had reviewed policies BP 6174.1 (a-e); AR 6174.1 (a-c) and E 6174.1 (a-e) with the Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) and said many of the

School Board Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 23, 2009

components of the policies do not apply to Valdez and the PAC members who were present were reluctant to advise changes to the language. The Board accepted the PAC recommendations. President Hull-Engles recommended she and Ms. Morrison meet to review the policies and make appropriate changes for Board review and approval. The policies will come back to the Board after they have met.

MOTION TO TABLE THE FIRST READING OF AASB BOARD POLICY UPDATES LETTERS A THROUGH C UNTIL PRESIDENT HULL-ENGLES AND TRISTY MORRISON ARE ABLE TO REVIEW AND MAKE CHANGES FOR BOARD REVIEW/APPROVAL WAS MADE BY DOLORES GARD AND SECONDED.

VOTE: 6 YEAS, MOTION PASSED.

G. ACTION ITEMS: NEW BUSINESS

1. Approve Funds for Impact Software Test Program \$500.00 - Budget Amendment number 10-7

MOTION TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF THE IMPACT SOFTWARE TEST PROGRAM. - BUDGET AMENDMENT NUMBER 10-7 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$500.00 WAS MADE BY KATHLEEN TODD AND SECONDED.

President Hull-Engles noted that there was \$46,000 in the budget for software therefore Budget Amendment Number 10-7 was not necessary. Board members agreed and the motion was amended to read:

MOTION AMENDED: MOVE TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF THE IMPACT SOFTWARE TEST PROGRAM WAS MADE BY KATHLEEN TODD AND SECONDED.

Per the request of the Board, Superintendent Bowie met with representatives of the medical community and hospital regarding the Impact Software Test Program. He noted there are many aspects of the implementation and possibly board policy concerns and advised the District to move cautiously. Conversations with the AASA may be necessary in the future. Pam Verfaillie, a parent and substitute for VCSD suggested the District purchase the software and make testing available for students as soon as possible on a voluntary basis. Superintendent Bowie said he would look into the liability of providing the testing on a voluntary basis.

VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION: 6 YEAS, MOTION PASSED

H. CONSENT AGENDA

School Board Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 23, 2009

All items were approved by Consent Agenda except item 2 Personnel Action Report and item 6 Rescind VCSD Budget Amendment Request # 10-3: Salary and Benefits for One New Special Education Paraprofessional which were removed by Board member Gard.

Personnel Action Report

The Board split the approval of the Personnel Action Report as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE EXTRA CURRICULAR CONTRACT FOR VHS BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL COACH TO CASSIE CAREY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,340.00 WAS MADE BY DOLORES GARD AND SECONDED. VOTE: 6 YEAS, MOTION PASSED.

Some of the members of the Board expressed concern about the need to approve a cap of \$10,000 on the ARRA Funds (Stimulus Funds) used for Tutors/Early Intervention. The following motion was made:

MOTION TO APPROVE UP TO \$10,000 OF THE STIMULUS FUNDS TO BE ALLOCATED TOWARDS TUTORS FOR EARLY INTERVENTION WAS MADE BY DOLORES GARD AND SECONDED.

VOTE: 3 YEAS / 3 NAYS (DOLORES GARD, KATHLEEN TODD, LAURIE HULL-ENGLES), MOTION FAILED.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE REVISED PERSONNEL ACTION REPORT DATED NOVEMBER 23, 2009 AS PRESENTED WAS MADE BY DAN WALKER AND SECONDED.

VOTE: 5 YEAS, 1 NAY (DOLORES GARD). MOTION PASSED.

Rescind VCSD Budget Amendment Request # 10-3: Salary and Benefits for One New Special Education Paraprofessional

It was discerned that Board member Gard had received an answer to her question from Business Manager Cockerham previous to the meeting. President Hull-Engles asked the members of the Board to please obtain answers to questions regarding Consent Agenda items before the meeting so that the meeting can move forward in a timely manner in the future. The following motion was made:

MOTION TO RESCIND VALDEZ CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUEST # 10-3: SALARY AND BENEFITS FOR ONE NEW SPECIAL EDUCATION PARAPROFESSIONAL WAS MADE BY DOLORES GARD AND SECONDED.

VOTE: 6 YEAS, MOTION PASSED.

School Board Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 23, 2009

I. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Board Members as Champions/Focus Group Committees

President Hull-Engles asked members of the Board to volunteer to follow up on one topic covered in the Town Hall Meeting to see if there is any true interest in making changes in VCSD. It would be the responsibility of the volunteer to report back to the Board when answers were established. The following volunteered: Dan Walker-Foreign Language in Elementary School; Laurie Hull-Engles-4 Day School Week; Kathleen Todd & Dolores Gard-Graduation Requirements; Grace Huhndorf-Home School; and President Hull-Engles said she would follow up with Board member Edelman regarding Pre-K.

2. Meeting with Valdez City Council

President Hull-Engles confirmed there will be a Joint Work Session between Valdez City Council and Valdez Board of Education next Monday, November 30, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers. The following topics were discussed for possible discussion points: Timber Receipts; Master Plan; and Capital Improvement Projects.

3. Negotiations

Superintendent Bowie reported that he and Scott McKay worked hard to communicate with Mr. Andy Hall, a trainer in Negotiation Collaboration. Mr. Hall was unavailable. Scott McKay; Adam Sharrai; Amber Cockerham and Superintendent Bowie met last week and laid ground work for Negotiations to begin. VAFT and the District enjoy a good relationship and are looking forward to working together. Superintendent Bowie asked that the Board to endorse this collaborative approach with VAFT. The Board agreed with this preliminary approach. Tomorrow representatives from the District and VAFT will meet to begin Negotiations. Administration will report back when there is agreement. Superintendent Bowie stated if the collaborative approach does not work we can go to the traditional negotiation approach.

4. Board Direction

President Hull-Engles began the discussion expressing concern regarding NCLB 100% proficiency requirement in 2014. She initiated a discussion about the level of academics Valdez City School District offers to students. She said the Board needs to give direction to the schools regarding raising the level of academics in schools – student achievement needs to function at a higher level. Board member Lawrence asked to go on the record saying; “We have a lot of good teachers who do a lot of good things.”

The following public comments were made: Pam Verfaillie parent and substitute, said her family came to Valdez because the school district was good. Summer Cawley VHS student said the problem is student requirements – they need to be more stringent. Quinn Verfaillie VHS student and Student Board Representative said graduation requirements are too low and there needs to be more required subjects and fewer electives. David

School Board Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 23, 2009

Cawley parent, expressed concern with schools holding back students who want to excel by taking higher level academic classes.

President Hull-Engles expressed frustration about raising the focus on academics and said students can now choose to not learn. Superintendent Bowie said Valdez City School District is a good District. We need to take it from good to great and prepare students for life after high school.

Board members Lawrence and Todd suggested the Board meet with District Professionals to identify barriers to success. A Work Session was scheduled for December 14, 2009 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the School Board Room to discuss Valdez City School District Academics. The Board asked Administration and teachers to be present and to bring students to share their opinions.

J. BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT QUESTIONS/CONCERNS

President Hull-Engles and Board Clerk Todd will be attending parts of the AASB Fall Boardmanship Conference in Anchorage. President Hull-Engles will contact DeeAnn Porritt to make arrangements for registration, travel etc.

President Hull-Engles asked Administration to revise the Board Contact List to exclude the cell phone number she used previously through Alyeska before retiring.

There were no further comments from the Board or Superintendent.

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Request for Early Graduation Waiver

MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 9:55 P.M. FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING A REQUEST FOR AN EARLY GRADUATION WAIVER, 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 KATHLEEN TODD AND SECONDED. VOTE: 6 YEAS, MOTION PASSED.

MOTION TO END EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 10:20 P.M. WAS MADE BY DOLORES GARD AND SECONDED. VOTE: 6 YEAS MOTION PASSED.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE EARLY GRADUATION REQUEST FOR STUDENT NUMBER 112309-1 WAS MADE BY GRACE HUHDORF. VOTE: 5 YEAS, 1 NAY (KATHLEEN TODD). MOTION PASSED.

L. ADJOURNMENT

School Board Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 23, 2009

**MOTION TO ADJOURN THE REGULAR MEETING AT 10:30 P.M. WAS
MADE BY GRACE HUHNDORF AND SECONDED. VOTE: 6 YEAS. MOTION
PASSED.**

Submitted by,

Board Approval Date: December 14, 2009

Flynn Stuparich
Administrative Assistant to the Board
and Superintendent

President, Laurie Hull-Engles

Kathleen Todd, Board Clerk