

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
School Board Room

MINUTES

Monday, August 24, 2009 6:30 P.M.

A. PRELIMINARIES

1. Call to Order

President Hull-Engles called the regular meeting of Monday, August 24, 2009, to order at 6:33 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance:

President Hull-Engles led the pledge of allegiance.

3. Roll Call

**Board members in attendance:**

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

**Administration in attendance:**

Lance L. Bowie EdD, Superintendent  
Amber Cockerham, Business Manager  
Ben Olds, Facilities Director

Duane Edelman, Board Member will be arriving shortly.

Other people in attendance: 4.

B. AGENDA

1. Adoption of the Agenda

**MOTION WAS MADE BY KATHLEEN TODD AND SECONDED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 2009 WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES:**

- **CHANGE ITEM SEVEN UNDER DISCUSSION ITEMS TO READ AASB CALL FOR RESOLUTIONS AND ANNUAL NOMINATIONS AND;**
- **ADD BOARD MEMBER ATTENDANCE REVIEW BOARD BYLAWS BB9200(B) AND BB 9121(A) AS NUMBER EIGHT UNDER DISCUSSION ITEMS.**

**VOTE: 5 YEAS/0 NAYS. MOTION PASSED.**

School Board Regular Meeting Minutes  
Monday, August 24, 2009

C. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

1. Valdez High School Facility Survey – Ben Olds VCSD Facility Director

Facilities Director Ben Olds reviewed the Valdez High School Facility Survey and Needs Analysis Report completed by McCool Carlson Green Architects. The City of Valdez hired McCool Carlson Green Architects to do the facility survey and needs analysis on Valdez High School.

Board member Duane Edelman arrived at 6:42 p.m.

The City of Valdez is in the process of proceeding with a Master Plan – which would include facility surveys and needs analysis on all City and School properties.

The Board tasked Mr. Olds and Superintendent Bowie with monitoring the City of Valdez Master Plan process – and suggested after the Plan is completed a meeting should be scheduled between the Valdez City Council and the Valdez Board of Education.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

City Councilman Randy Ridderbush asked about the school enrollment numbers. The Board asked Superintendent Bowie to find out the present enrollment figures, understanding they are not final, and send an email to them and Mr. Ridderbush.

E. REPORTS

1. District – Superintendent Lance S. Bowie EdD

Superintendent Bowie reported on the School Board Town Hall Meeting. A total of 88 people attended, 24 were students, 20 were members of the community and 44 were school Administration and employees.

Superintendent Bowie contacted Donna a representative of the Blue Bird Bus Company and made a verbal complaint regarding the performance of the one bus that has experienced multiple mechanical problems, as was requested by the Board. The warranties were reviewed and Donna noted that the chassis's are made by Ford and Ford is responsible for any mechanical challenges.

Superintendent Bowie reported on the progress of the Report to the Community.

Superintendent Bowie received a letter from the State of Alaska regarding Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Information received up to now has been preliminary. September 11, 2009 the final information will be disseminated to all of the Alaska School Districts.

2. Board – Members of the Board

School Board Regular Meeting Minutes  
Monday, August 24, 2009

Board member Gard reported the Social Studies Curriculum Committee will be meeting on August 28, 2009 at 2:15 p.m. at Valdez High School.

President Hull-Engles reported she had delivered a large Thank You poster to Terri Raidmae's Culinary Arts Class. The Culinary Arts Class was showcased at the Town Hall Meeting with students serving elegant appetizers and desserts they had prepared. Additionally, a "Letter to the Community" will be put in the newspaper regarding the Town Hall Meeting by President Hull-Engles.

President Hull-Engles introduced the Student Board Representative Quinn Verfaillie. He reported that school has just started and student elections are in process. President Hull-Engles and Superintendent Bowie will meet with Mr. Verfaillie to review the school board process.

President Hull-Engles informed the Board there would be a House Education Committee Meeting tomorrow which may be attended at the Valdez Legislative Information Office (LIO) from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Board member Huhndorf said she may be able to attend parts of the meeting.

F. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business this meeting.

G. NEW BUSINESS

1. School Board Vacancy Appointment

President Hull-Engles informed the Board there was one member of the community, David Lawrence, who turned in a letter of consideration for the school board vacancy appointment.

a. Candidate(s) Opportunity to Address the Board

Mr. David Lawrence addressed the Board.

b. Motion to Appoint New Board Member

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF MR. DAVID LAWRENCE TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE VALDEZ BOARD OF EDUCATION UNTIL THE NEXT MUNICIPAL ELECTION ON OCTOBER 6, 2009 WAS MADE BY DUANE EDELMAN AND SECONDED.**

**VOTE: 6 YEAS/0 NAYS, MOTION PASSED.**

c. Administer Oath of Office

School Board Regular Meeting Minutes  
Monday, August 24, 2009

President Hull-Engles administered the Oath of Office to Mr. David Lawrence.

d. Election of Vice President

President Hull-Engles asked for nominations for Vice President from the members of the Board. Board member Edelman nominated Dolores Gard. Board member Walker nominated Grace Huhndorf. Board member Todd nominated Dan Walker who declined the nomination. There were no further nominations. President Hull-Engles closed the nominations and the members of the Board voted by paper ballot. The ballots were counted. President Hull-Engles announced the new Vice President Grace Huhndorf and the Board offered their congratulations.

2. Approve Addition of Domestic Partner Benefit to Insurance Coverage

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE ADDITION OF DOMESTIC PARTNER BENEFIT TO VALDEZ CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT INSURANCE COVERAGE WAS MADE BY KATHLEEN TODD AND SECONDED.**

Business Manager Amber Cockerham reviewed the Affidavit of Domestic Partnership; the Attachment to Affidavit; and the Valdez Health Care Plan information included in the board packet. She noted that an employee who chooses to take this insurance benefit will receive a Form 1099 at the end of each calendar year. This addition was made to the insurance by State Statute. The Board asked Ms. Cockerham to research the VCSD Board Policies to find out if there are any changes that need to be made due to this change in insurance benefit and report back to President Hull-Engles. Ms. Cockerham agreed.

**VOTE: 7 YEAS/0 NAYS, MOTION PASSED.**

3. Approve /Ratify KVAK Radio Contract

**MOTION TO APPROVE / RATIFY THE KVAK CONTRACT WITH VALDEZ CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT FROM JULY 1, 2009 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2010 WAS MADE BY GRACE HUHDORF AND SECONDED.**

Board members Gard and Edelman said they believed the Board was receiving less service from KVAK and paying more, noting the meeting air time and the present contract without meeting air time. Some of the other board members noted that this new contract is a good deal because it is based on prime time advertising. Superintendent said the Board may need to approve a budget adjustment regarding Communications as the Board is spending more than they have in the past with newspaper and radio advertising. The Board agreed by consensus.

**VOTE: 5 YEAS/2 NAYS (DOLORES GARD AND DUANE EDELMAN), MOTION PASSED.**

School Board Regular Meeting Minutes  
Monday, August 24, 2009

H. CONSENT AGENDA: INFORMATION AND REPORTS

Items 1 and 2: minutes of August 10, 2009; and the Personnel Action Report dated August 24, 2009 were approved by consent agenda.

I. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Town Hall Meeting

President Hull-Engles asked the Board for ideas on “Next Steps” regarding the Town Hall Meeting information. Per the positive community input the Board will continue with the Town Hall Meetings. The topic “Town Hall Next Steps” will be put on the September 14, 2009 agenda under discussion items. The information from the Town Hall Meeting will be put into a list format by the people who facilitated the individual topics and emailed to Flynn Stuparich by September 8, 2009 to be included in that board packet. Additionally, the list of information will be posted on the VCSD Website.

Councilman Randy Ridderbush made the following suggestions: more time needed at tables for public input; explanation of the public process regarding funding and operations to move ideas forward – education of the process. He said he was in favor of the Town Hall Meetings without a Keynote Speaker.

President Hull-Engles thanked Councilman Ridderbush and said his ideas would be considered for the next Town Hall Meeting.

2. Status of Report to the Community

Superintendent Bowie addressed the Board on this topic during his report to the Board at the beginning of the meeting

3. AASB Policy Online Status

President Hull-Engles thanked Administration for the memorandum regarding the status of the AASB Policy Online.

There was a brief discussion about the status of the first reading of the rest of the AASB updated policies. President Hull-Engles asked Board member Gard to coordinate with Flynn Stuparich Board Administrative Assistant, to bring forward those policies for first reading on September 14<sup>th</sup> or 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009 - whatever would be the most convenient. Board member Gard agreed.

4. Results of Climate and Connectedness Survey

Superintendent Bowie informed the Board that the results of the Climate and Connectedness Survey have not come back from AASB. He said he would contact

School Board Regular Meeting Minutes  
Monday, August 24, 2009

Andre' Layral of AASB and ask if a high level summary could be obtained before the Strategic Planning Meeting this weekend.

5. Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Status

President Hull-Engles referred to a hand out she had distributed to the Board and noted, according to this information Hermon Hutchens Elementary School is at a Level I. Superintendent Bowie cautioned the Board and reminded them that this information is preliminary information and the final determination will be distributed to the Alaska School Districts on September 11, 2009. The State is reviewing the groupings presently. The steps VCSD will take will be based on the information received on September 11, 2009.

Board member Todd stated that the federal laws need to be reviewed and changed because they are inequitable at the national level.

6. August 28, 2009 Strategic Planning Session

Superintendent Bowie informed the Board that he had just spoken to Joseph Reeves, AASB Facilitator for the VCSD Strategic Plan Update meetings. The meeting will begin Friday, September 28, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. in the School Board Room and end at 8:30 p.m. On Saturday, September 29, 2009 the meeting will begin at 8:00 a.m. and finish at 4:00 p.m. Meals will be provided by the District. President Hull-Engles encouraged everyone to be available to attend these meetings.

7. AASB Call for Resolutions and Annual Nominations

Duane Edelman who is a member of the AASB Board informed the Board that the Call for Resolutions is available early this year so that all of the Alaska School Districts would have time to review the proposed resolutions and submit ideas. The Board agreed to have a Work Session on September 14, 2009 from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. to review the proposed resolutions for approval that evening. The Board asked Administration to include the approval of the AASB 2010 Resolutions and Nominations under new business on the September 14, 2009 agenda.

8. Board Member Attendance Review BB 9200(b) and BB 9121(a)

President Hull-Engles distributed a sheet with board member attendance information from October 13, 2008 through the last meeting August 10, 2009. Bylaws of the Board 9200(b) and 9121(a), board policies pertaining to board attendance, were reviewed. There was concern about the language. President Hull-Engles asked Administration to put Bylaws of the Board BB 9200(b) and BB 9121(a) on the September 14, 2009 agenda under discussion items. Further, Administration was asked to provide a copy of the former Board Policy speaking to board attendance as well as a copy of the AASB original BB 9220(b) and BB 9121(a) before VCSD review.

School Board Regular Meeting Minutes  
Monday, August 24, 2009

President Hull-Engles asked the Board to think of other policies that may need to be reviewed for change and let her know.

J. BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT QUESTIONS/CONCERNS

President Hull-Engles informed the Board that she would be out of Country from October 19<sup>th</sup> through November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

Board member Gard said she spoke with Business Manager Cockerham today about continuing to receive the monthly Board Budget Report. Ms. Cockerham said yes, the monthly reports will continue.

Superintendent Bowie will provide a copy of class schedules for the three schools once finalized. He noted that the list of classes may not be final; as the needs of students may dictate changes. The Board understood and wanted the list provided when finalized. Additionally, Administrative Reports will begin on September 14, 2009.

Per Board request, a Special Presentation regarding the Elementary Choir and Band Status by Principal Roz Strang will be scheduled on the September 14, 2009 meeting. Some of the Board members expressed concern about the number of students participating and how the program is working.

Board member Todd said Sheri Pierce Valdez City Clerk will put a resolution before the City Council to clarify voting procedures. After decisions have been made, the Board agreed to align the VCSD policies with the Municipal voting procedures.

President Hull-Engles shared parental concerns she has received about the location of the Weight Room in Gilson Junior High School and the interaction between Junior High and High School students. She asked Administration to consider re-locating the Weight Room to Valdez High School or making sure there is a supervisor present while students are using it. Student Representative Quinn Verfaillie said Junior High and High School students eat lunch in the Valdez High School Cafeteria together and sometimes have classes in opposite buildings. There is no way to completely separate students and campuses. Superintendent Bowie said he would speak with Administration about the concerns she shared.

Superintendent Bowie said he had no further comment.

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Student Matter

**MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 9:10 P.M. FOR THE PURPOSE OF A STUDENT MATTER; A SUBJECT THAT TENDS TO PREJUDICE THE REPUTATION AND CHARACTER OF ANY PERSON,**

School Board Regular Meeting Minutes  
Monday, August 24, 2009

**PROVIDED THAT THE PERSON MAY REQUEST A PUBLIC DISCUSSION WAS MADE BY KATHLEEN TODD AND SECONDED.**

**VOTE: 7 YEAS, MOTION PASSED.**

**MOTION TO END EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 9:15 P.M. WAS MADE BY GRACE HUHDORF AND SECONDED.**

**VOTE: 7 YEAS, MOTION PASSED.**

The following action was taken by the Board.

**MOTION TO APPROVE AN EARLY GRADUATION WAIVER FOR STUDENT NUMBER 82409-1 WAS MADE BY KATHLEEN TODD AND SECONDED.**

**VOTE: 7 YEAS.**

L. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION TO ADJOURN THE REGULAR MEETING AT 9:19 P.M. WAS MADE BY DAN WALKER AND SECONDED. VOTE: 7 YEAS. MOTION PASSED.**

Submitted by,

Board Approval Date: September 14, 2009

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Flynn Stuparich  
Administrative Assistant to the Board  
and Superintendent

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Laurie Hull-Engles, President

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Kathleen Todd, Board Clerk