

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
School Board Room

MINUTES

Monday, November 22, 2010 6:30 P.M.

A. **PRELIMINARIES**

1. Call to Order

President Dan Walker called the regular meeting of Monday, November 22, 2010, to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance:

President Walker led the pledge of allegiance.

3. Roll Call

Board members in attendance:

Dan Walker, President
Steve Brockman, Vice President
Grace Huhndorf, Treasurer
Kathleen Todd, Board Clerk
David Lawrence, Board Member
Toni Balowski, Board Member
Anita Fannin, Board Member

Administration in attendance:

Jacob Jensen Ed.S., Superintendent
Roz Strang, Principal Hermon Hutchens Elementary
Rod Morrison, Principal Gilson Junior High School
Dennis Murphy, Acting VCSD Tech Director

Teanna Hutchison, Student Board Representative was present.

Other people in attendance: 3

B. **AGENDA**

1. Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION WAS MADE BY GRACE HUHDORF AND SECONDED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2010 AS PRESENTED. VOTE: 7 YEAS, STUDENT ADVISORY VOTE: YEA, MOTION PASSED.

C. **SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

1. 2009 – 2010 Valdez City School District Test Results – Tracy Pressley District Test Coordinator

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Tracy Pressley Valdez City Schools District Test Coordinator reported the 2009-2010 VCSD Test Results using a Power Point Presentation. All schools in the Valdez City School District passed AYP which she noted should be celebrated. Ms. Pressley reviewed the data for all three schools. Overall students made a huge jump in Language Arts (LA) and Math scores. The following summary was presented to the Board:

How Does VCSD Do When Compared To Other Districts In The State?

- 9th highest graduation rate in AK = 90.77% (decrease of 2% from 08-09)
- 6th highest LA score = 90% proficient (increase of 12% over 08-09)
- 3rd highest Math score = 85% proficient (increase of 7% over 08-09) – tied with Wrangell (Level 1 School)
- Largest district making AYP (413 students) (18 districts)
- Higher LA score (Bristol Bay = 93%, Unalaska = 92%)
- Highest Math score
- Higher graduation rates (Unalaska, Mt. Edgecumbe, Annette Island, and Cordova)

Board member Huhndorf congratulated Principal Roz Strang on the innovative steps she took to make sure student's needs were met to help them achieve. Last year a teacher was used to target the learning needs of HHES students and 17 tutors were hired using Stimulus funds to assist individual students. The test results showed great improvement.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There was no comment from the public.

E. REPORTS

1. Student Board Representative

Student Board Representative Teanna Hutchison reported to the Board:

- Valdez hosted a Wrestling Tournament which included 6 schools representing approximately 100 wrestlers. The Tournament went very well. Congratulations to Valdez Wrestlers who came in 2nd Place.
- Basketball tryouts begin this week.
- Cross Country Skiing began this week.
- There is a Book Fair today and tomorrow in the Valdez High School Library
- The Drug Dog came to Valdez High School and made some finds. Students were really pleased and wanted the Drug Dog to come more often.
- The High School Play was really good.
- Student Council had a meeting.

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2. Board – Members of the Board

There were no reports from the Board.

3. District – Superintendent Jacob Jensen Ed.S.

Superintendent Jensen reported the following to the Board:

- AASB Annual Conference: Superintendent Jensen said it went very well. He noted very positive conversations regarding drugs and alcohol with the Valdez High School Students who attended. There are more students who don't want drugs and alcohol in the school than students who use drugs and alcohol. School pride and the attitude of "Not In Our School" regarding drugs and alcohol were discussed.
- Executive Session: The Board was informed there would be a short executive session at the end of the meeting regarding potential litigation.

President Walker said there was discussion about a high school dance that will be soon and the concern of drugs and alcohol. It was suggested that the students organizing the dance take control and let students know up front there will be no drugs or alcohol allowed or students who are under the influence. Set the tone and rules up front.

F. ACTION ITEMS

1. Approve Cancellation of December 27, 2010 Regular Board Meeting

MOTION TO APPROVE THE CANCELLATION OF DECEMBER 27, 2010 REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD WAS MADE BY GRACE HUHDORF AND SECONDED. BOARD VOTE: 6 YEAS, 1 NAY (ANITA FANNIN), STUDENT ADVISORY VOTE: YEA, MOTION PASSED.

2. Approve VCSD New Middle School Recommendation of the Board

MOTION TO APPROVE THE VALDEZ CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD TO INCLUDE GRADES 6, 7, AND 8 WAS MADE BY GRACE HUHDORF AND SECONDED.

There was discussion among the Board. Superintendent Jensen suggested the Board consider amending the motion to allow Administration to choose what grades would be included in the VCSD new middle school. He asked the Board to approve a motion that would formally state their recommendation for a VCSD new middle school. The Board, as well as the first and second of the motion agreed to approve the VCSD new middle school concept with the grades to be determined at a later date by Administration. The following motion was voted on:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE VALDEZ CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL CONCEPT WITH THE GRADES TO BE DETERMINED AT

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A LATER DATE BY ADMINISTRATION WAS MADE BY GRACE HUHDORF AND SECONDED. BOARD VOTE: 7 YEAS, STUDENT ADVISORY VOTE: YEA, MOTION PASSED.

3. Approve Amendment to the VCSD Health Plan to Include Adding Uninsured Children Under 26 Years of Age Prior to the April 1, 2011 Requirement.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENT # 7 TO THE VALDEZ CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT HEALTH PLAN TO INCLUDE ADDING UNINSURED CHILDREN UNDER 26 YEARS OF AGE TO THE APRIL 1, 2011 REQUIREMENT WAS MADE BY GRACE HUHDORF AND SECONDED.

There was a brief discussion among the Board. This amendment is a Federal mandate under the “National Affordable Insurance Act” and VCSD Administration recommends the early passage of this legislation as a courtesy to the families of the VCSD staff.

BOARD VOTE: 7 YEAS, STUDENT ADVISORY VOTE: YEA, MOTION PASSED.

G. CONSENT AGENDA

Items 1 and 2 were approved by consent agenda.

H. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Board Meeting Agenda

Board member Todd led the discussion regarding how the board meetings are conducted and desired protocol. The following consensus was shared by the Board.

- During public comment on non-agenda items the Board will not respond – they will listen to the input.
- The Pledge of Allegiance will be recited one time even if there are multiple meetings in one day.
- Allow public comment before the vote of the Board on the approval of each individual Action Item.
- Schedule two short meetings such as a work session with a regular meeting on the same night rather than meeting additional nights for separate meetings.

There was a suggestion made to change the order of reports to come before the “Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items.” This would allow the public to hear information and possibly receive answers to questions they might have asked. Recommendation to change the order of the agenda was not given.

There was some discussion about minutes being taken at all meetings instead of the regular meetings only. Superintendent Jensen said he would contact the District’s attorney to find out the answer.

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2. Review of Committees

Board member Huhndorf led this discussion. There was discussion about the committees and the responsibility of members of the Board. Superintendent Jensen explained the committee process to the Board. He has formed committees such as the Fees/Activities and the Graduation Requirement Committee. He invites people to serve on the committees. Board members may volunteer to serve, but are not required to serve on committees. Information is accumulated and if needed, a recommendation is made to the Board for action. Board members were pleased that they could volunteer to serve at will without requirement. Board member Huhndorf volunteered and the Board agreed she would continue to serve on the New Middle School Steering Committee -- if there were additional meetings. Board members Lawrence and Fannin volunteered to serve on the Fees/Activities Committee and Board member Todd volunteered to continue serving on the Graduation Requirement Committee.

3. Technology

Board member Brockman gave an overview of the iPad he has been using and experimenting with for the last few weeks. He spoke favorably and suggested the Board consider the use of an iPad in an effort to move toward paperless board meetings.

Superintendent Jensen said he had met with the Superintendent of Kodiak during the AASB Annual Conference. The Kodiak Board of Education has operated paperless for more than a year. They use Board E Docs Light, a web based program to facilitate distribution of the packet materials and smooth running of the meeting. Superintendent Jensen recommended representatives from Valdez attend a board meeting and gather information in Kodiak. A suggestion was made for the Valdez Board to Skype a Kodiak board meeting.

President Walker suggested the Board move towards finishing up the discussion and make a decision whether the Valdez Board of Education wants to go towards paperless meetings or not.

Superintendent Jensen will bring additional information to the Board regarding paperless board meetings. He agreed to do research to find out what is done in the lower 48 and what are the needs and functionalities.

I. BOARD BUSINESS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Board members Huhndorf and Todd said they may be in Anchorage during the AASB Winter 2010 Boardsmanship Academy in December. They might be able to attend parts of the conference and asked the Board if they would be in agreement with that. The Board agreed and asked them to share information they received. Superintendent Jensen asked the Board if they wanted him to attend all conferences where members of the VCSD Board may attend so that he would be aware and receive the same information.

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The Board agreed that he did not need to attend all conferences. Members of the Board who attend would report information they received at a regular meeting of the Board.

There was discussion and some question expressed regarding the topic of the District Report Card. The Superintendent agreed to check the status and requirements of the District Report Card to the Public and report back to the Board.

Dennis Murphy Acting VCSD Technology Director, informed the Board that last week laptop computers were delivered to the 5th and 6th Grade classes at Hermon Hutchens Elementary School. He has received many thanks and positive remarks – no negative remarks, or problems.

J. EXECUTIVE SESSION (added to the agenda per the Superintendent's request)

1. Potential Litigation

MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:21 P.M. TO HEAR AND DISCUSS A POTENTIAL CLAIM AGAINST THE DISTRICT ARISING FROM COMPLAINTS FROM A PARENT. THE GROUNDS CONVENING IN EXECUTIVE SESSION ARE THAT THE ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED INVOLVE MATTERS, THE IMMEDIATE KNOWLEDGE OF WHICH WOULD CLEARLY HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT UPON THE FINANCES OF THE DISTRICT WAS MADE BY GRACE HUHDORF AND SECONDED. VOTE: 7 YEAS, MOTION PASSED.

MOTION TO END EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:41 P.M. WAS MADE BY DAVE LAWRENCE AND SECONDED. VOTE: 7 YEAS, MOTION PASSED.

There was no action taken by the Board.

K. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN THE REGULAR MEETING AT 8:43 P.M. WAS MADE BY ANITA FANNIN AND SECONDED. VOTE: 7 YEAS, MOTION PASSED.

Submitted by,

Board Approval Date: December 13, 2010

Flynn Stuparich
Administrative Assistant to the Board
and Superintendent

Dan Walker, President

Kathleen Todd, Board Clerk