

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
School Board Room

MINUTES

Monday, March 28, 2011 6:30 P.M.

A. PRELIMINARIES

1. Call to Order

President Walker called the regular meeting of Monday, March 28, 2011, to order at 6:32 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  
Dave Lawrence, Board Member  
Toni Balowski, Board Member  
Anita Fannin, Board Member

**Administration in attendance:**

Jacob Jensen Ed.S., Superintendent  
Amber Cockerham, VCSD Business Manager  
Doug Johnson, Director of Technology  
Rod Morrison, Principal of GJH & VHS  
Roz Strang, Principal of HHES

Kathleen Todd, Board Clerk attended the meeting by phone.

Grace Huhndorf, Treasurer was absent and excused.

Student Board Representative Teanna Hutchison was present.

Other people in attendance: 12

B. AGENDA

1. Adoption of the Agenda

**MOTION WAS MADE BY ANITA FANNIN AND SECONDED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR MONDAY, MARCH 28, 2011 AS PRESENTED. BOARD VOTE: 6 YEAS, STUDENT ADVISORY VOTE: 1 YEA, MOTION PASSED.**

C. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

1. Secondary Students of the Month

School Board Regular Meeting Minutes  
Monday, March 28, 2011

Principal Rod Morrison introduced 12th Grader Cera Tetz. She was chosen as the March 2011 Valdez High School Student of the Month. He noted many of her positive characteristics. Board President Walker presented Ms. Tetz with a Certificate of Recognition on behalf of the Board, and she was congratulated.

2. I Generation by Beverly Colapietro

Beverly Colapietro an Elementary Teacher at Hermon Hutchens Elementary School reported to the Board about a conference she attended in San Francisco, California regarding the i Generation -- population born from 1998 through now. She noted research that has been done on the brain regarding how technology is affecting the learning process. The i Generation uses all available technology. Ms. Colapietro sited many of the presenters and thanked the District for allowing her to attend the conference and share the information with her colleagues.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public comment.

E. REPORTS

1. Student Board Representative

Student Board Representative Teanna Hutchison reported to the Board.

AASG: The Alaska Association of Student Government Conference will be in Cordova from April 14 – 18, 2011. Some students from VHS are in the planning stages to attend.

VHS Track and Field Team: Track and Field has started and students are in practice.

VHS Baseball: Baseball has started and students are in practice.

Basketball Tournament: There is a basketball tournament (grades 5-8) scheduled for April 8 – 10, 2011 in the VHS and HHES Gyms.

Apple/Donut Basketball Game: The Apple/Donut Game was last Friday and the Donut Team won. The sale of Crispy Crème Donuts as a Fundraiser was successful.

Native Youth Olympics: There will be an NYO Mini Meet in the GJH Gym on Saturday, April 9, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

VHS Business Professionals of America: VHS BPA is going to Anchorage to compete in the State BPA competition.

National Shooting Competition: VHS Senior Forrest Masters is competing at National's.

2. Board – Members of the Board

Board Legislative Liaison David Lawrence informed the Board that he had just returned from the AASB Legislative Fly-In Conference in Juneau. He said he received some good information and had some good conversations. He said he would create a report to the Board with details for next meeting.

School Board Regular Meeting Minutes  
Monday, March 28, 2011

Board member Todd informed the Board she also had just returned from the AASB Legislative Fly-In Conference in Juneau. She noted that the legislators were not in agreement with an amount for the Base Student Allocation (BSA) and not very much was going on. There are only 20 days to go and only one bill has been passed. Dr. Todd said she would add to the report board member Lawrence will create. Further, the iTouch was demonstrated at the conference and it was impressive how the tools of learning are changing – Board member Lawrence agreed.

3. District – Superintendent Jacob Jensen Ed.S.

Superintendent Jensen reported the following to the Board.

AASB Legislative Fly-In: Superintendent Jensen reported on the conference he had attended in Juneau. The Legislature has introduced 318 Bills – which is a very small number by comparison from past years. There is a lot of apathy and ambivalence towards education. The Legislature is hearing of the high percentage of seniors who are not graduating in Alaska – they were not acknowledging schools where seniors are graduating. The following are some items of interest from the conference/legislative conversations:

- School Vouchers: The Legislators are looking at the possibility of a “School Choice Concept” where a voucher would be issued for a student’s education and the decision of where the student would be educated could be made by the parents, and the voucher would be used as payment.
- PreK/PreElementary Money: The House took out all of the 2 million dollars in PreSchool money.
- Pipeline Tax: It is not certain what will happen in the House or Senate regarding the Pipeline Tax.

Superintendent Jensen said it was worthwhile attending the conference, however there is not much movement in the Legislature.

Middle School Location Public Hearing: Tomorrow evening, March 29, 2011, there will be a Joint City Council and School Board Middle School Location Public Hearing in the Civic Center at 6:30 p.m. Members of the community have been encouraged to come and give input.

Middle School Location Work Session and Vote: On April 4, 2011 there will be a Joint City Council and School Board Middle School Location Work Session at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers. Later that evening at the City Council Meeting there will be a vote as to the choice of locations for the proposed Middle School.

Women of Distinction: Sheri Beck an Elementary Teacher at HHES has been nominated for the honor of Women of Distinction this year.

National School Boards Association Conference (NSBA): Superintendent Jensen; Board President Walker and Vice President Brockman will be attending the NSBA Conference in San Francisco, California from April 8 – 11, 2011.

Superintendent Jensen asked the Board if they wanted to cancel or change the Board meeting on April 11, 2011 due to the NSBA Conference. The Board moved the April 11<sup>th</sup> meeting to the following Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup> and kept in place the school board

School Board Regular Meeting Minutes  
Monday, March 28, 2011

meeting on Monday, April 25, 2011. There will be school board meetings two weeks in a row.

F. ACTION ITEMS

1. Discuss and Approve 2011-2012 Valdez City School District Budget

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE VALDEZ CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT 2011-2012 BUDGET WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: SPEND UNDESIGNATED RESERVES DOWN TO 5% FOR A SAVING OF \$300,000; REDUCE TWO FULL TIME EMPLOYEE CERTIFIED POSITIONS (ONE ELEMENTARY POSITION AND ONE COUNSELOR/DISTRICT TEST COORDINATOR) FOR A SAVINGS OF \$170,000; REDUCE ONE PARAPROFESSIONAL POSITION FOR A SAVINGS OF \$45,000; REPLACE REMAINDER OF RETIREMENTS/RESIGNATIONS FOR A SAVINGS OF \$227,000; AND REQUEST UNBUDGETED INCREASE FROM CITY OF VALDEZ FOR HEALTH INSURANCE FOR \$250,000 WAS MADE BY STEVE BROCKMAN AND SECONDED.**

Amber Cockerham, VCSD Business Manager distributed an "Options to Reduce Deficit" sheet to the Board and reviewed the suggestions made in the motion, Option E the recommendation from Administration, as well as the other options. She also reviewed the reduction suggestions that were noted on the back of the sheet. Those suggestions were received from the 2011-2012 VCSD Public Budget Hearings she had conducted.

There was discussion and agreement among the members of the Board regarding the following recommendations: to ask the City of Valdez for the unexpected cost increase of Health Insurance in the amount of \$250,000; to retain a level of 5% in the VCSD Reserves Fund; and to transfer the District Test Coordinator responsibility to the District Curriculum Coordinator.

Principal Morrison reminded the Board about the following previous suggestions: reduce the Curriculum Coordinator position; and to increase the half-time Culinary Arts teaching position to a full time teaching position. The cost to increase the present half-time Culinary Arts teaching position to a full time teaching position would be \$3,000. The existing Culinary Arts teacher is a half-time paraprofessional - that paraprofessional position will not need to be replaced next school year. This change would enable a Life Skills class as well as a full program of Culinary Arts at Valdez High School. The Board took a poll. By unanimous consensus the Board was in favor of putting the suggestion on the April 18, 2011 agenda for approval. Additionally, Principal Morrison told the Board that money needs to be spent on the VHS building to improve school climate and student performance.

Public comments made were in support to spend money on the maintenance and care of the buildings noting the needs for painting; carpeting; and an upgrade in daily cleaning

School Board Regular Meeting Minutes  
Monday, March 28, 2011

and maintenance at VHS; as well as the replacement of glass in the HHES Trophy Case – which has been left undone for over a year.

Principal Strang spoke to the Board about concerns regarding “painless reduction” through attrition. Classroom numbers will rise as well as students in Multiage Classroom settings. Be aware the students, staff, and community will pay the cost over time by forfeiting the quality of education we enjoy today.

The Board thanked the public for their input at this meeting as well as the Public Budget Hearings.

**BOARD VOTE 6 YEAS, MOTION PASSED.**

G. CONSENT AGENDA

Items 1 through 3 (Regular School Board minutes of March 7, 2011; Personnel Action Report dated March 28, 2011; and the Approval of the Second Reading of VCSD BP 5137 Positive School Climate) were approved by consent agenda.

H. DISCUSSION ITEM

There were no discussion items this evening.

I. BOARD BUSINESS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The Board had a discussion about setting a VCSD policy that would speak to keeping a prudent percentage of reserves unspent. The amount of 5% reserves was suggested. The Board decided to put “Policy Regarding Reserve Account Spending Limit for VCSD” as a discussion item on the April 18, 2011 agenda.

The following topics were suggested by members of the board for discussion items in the future: Where is Technology Going/ Technology Plan/ 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning and Preparation of Students; Review of the VCSD Drug and Alcohol Policy; Bullying; Curriculum Cycle/Training.

J. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Superintendent Evaluation – Discussion of Evaluation Instrument and Timeline for Completion

**MOTION: I MOVE TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:47 P.M. FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING THE SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION, 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 DAVID LAWRENCE AND SECONDED. BOARD VOTE: 6 YEAS, MOTION PASSED.**

School Board Regular Meeting Minutes  
Monday, March 28, 2011

**MOTION TO END EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:15 P.M. WAS MADE BY DAVID LAWRENCE AND SECONDED. BOARD VOTE: 6 YEAS, MOTION PASSED.**

There was no action taken by the Board.

K. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION TO ADJOURN THE REGULAR MEETING AT 8:16 P.M. WAS MADE BY DAVE LAWRENCE AND SECONDED. BOARD VOTE: 6 YEAS, MOTION PASSED.**

Submitted by,

Board Approval Date: April 18, 2011

---

Flynn Stuparich  
Administrative Assistant to the Board  
and Superintendent

---

Dan Walker, President

---

Kathleen Todd, Board Clerk