

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
School Board Room

**MINUTES**

Monday, March 7, 2011 6:30 P.M.

A. **PRELIMINARIES**

1. Call to Order

President Walker called the regular meeting of Monday, March 7, 2011, 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  
Kathleen Todd, Board Clerk  
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  
Rod Morrison, Principal of GJH & VHS

Grace Huhndorf, Treasurer will be here soon.

Student Board Representative Teanna Hutchison was present.

Other people in attendance: 17

B. **AGENDA**

1. Adoption of the Agenda

**MOTION WAS MADE BY KATHLEEN TODD AND SECONDED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2011 AS PRESENTED. BOARD VOTE: 6 YEAS, STUDENT ADVISORY VOTE: 1 YEA, MOTION PASSED.**

Board member Huhndorf arrived at 6:33 p.m.

C. **SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

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1. Secondary Students of the Month

Principal Rod Morrison introduced 7<sup>th</sup> Grader Madison Fleming and 8<sup>th</sup> Grader Trevor Norris. They were chosen as the February 2011 Gilson Junior High Students of the Month. He noted many of their positive characteristics. Board President Walker presented Certificates of Recognition on behalf of the Board, and the students were congratulated.

Principal Rod Morrison introduced 12 Grader Kasey Walker who was chosen as the February 2011 Valdez High School Student of the Month. He noted many of his positive characteristics. Board President Walker presented Certificate of Recognition on behalf of the Board and he was congratulated.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Dolores Gard asked the Board to schedule a public VCSD Budget Hearing to accumulate additional input. Ms. Gard expressed her concern about the Valdez High School Bleachers and asked the Board to work on their replacement. Additionally, Ms. Gard asked if Valdez City School District had received the employee Health Insurance costs for the next year and if so, what was that amount?

E. REPORTS

1. Student Board Representative

Student Board Representative Teanna Hutchison reported to the Board.

Cross Country Ski: Cross Country Ski went to Fairbanks and competed in State. The team did very well

VHS Basketball: VHS Basketball competed in Regional's at Delta.

Junior High Varsity Volleyball: The Junior High Varsity Volleyball Team won all of their games this year.

Junior High Junior Varsity Volleyball: The Junior High Junior Varsity Volleyball won the tournament this year.

Junior High Wrestling: Junior High Wrestling came in 2<sup>nd</sup> in State. They did very well.

Native Youth Olympics: NYO continues to practice with 65 participants.

VHS Cheerleaders: Valdez High School Cheerleaders competed at State in Anchorage. They have done very well this year.

Apple/Donut Basketball Game: The Apple/Donut Game is coming up and is selling Crispy Crème Donuts as a fundraiser for Valdez Youth Court.

Pep Band: The Pep Band went to Delta and played in support of the VHS Basketball Team. The Pep Band did very well.

2. Board – Members of the Board

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Board Legislative Liaison David Lawrence informed the Board that he has been following the bills and suggested the Board watch Senate Bill 84 which will affect the Base Student Allocation (BSA). He suggested board members as well as VCSD write letters of support. Superintendent Jensen said he would send a letter from the District including his signature as well as President Walker's.

Board member Fannin thanked the members of the Board for helping with the AYP Luncheon for the teachers and staff. It went very well and was appreciated.

Vice President Brockman reported that he had attended the "Stay on Track Graduation Program" at Gilson Junior High School Gym. The program encourages students to make good choices. It went very well and he enjoyed participating.

Board members Brockman and Fannin attended a recent CTE Committee Meeting. They said it was well attended and included many members of the community.

3. District – Superintendent Jacob Jensen Ed.S.

Superintendent Jensen reported the following to the Board.

AASB Legislative Fly-In: Superintendent Jensen and Board members Todd and Lawrence will be attending the AASB Legislative Fly-In, in Juneau. They will be leaving on Wednesday, March 23, 2011 – returning Monday, March 28, 2011 and meeting with Legislators on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and the 24<sup>th</sup>.

"Stay on Track Program": Superintendent Jensen also attended the "Stay on Track Program" at Gilson Junior High. He said the event was well attended and noted he was pleased with the enthusiasm of the participants.

Employee Health Insurance: Superintendent Jensen informed the Board that Business Manager Cockerham received the employee health insurance costs and will be talking about them later in the meeting.

F. ACTION ITEMS

1. Approve Purchase of 20 Teacher Computer Replacements for Hermon Hutchens Elementary School

There was a brief discussion among the members of the Board about making one motion to include the first seven action items. The following motion was made:

**MOTION TO APPROVE ACTION ITEMS NUMBER 1 THROUGH 7 AS PRESENTED WAS MADE BY STEVE BROCKMAN AND SECONDED.**

Some of the members of the Board and the public wanted each item voted on separately so that any input could be provided and considered.

**BOARD VOTE: 3 YEAS, 4 NAYS (KATHLEEN TODD; DAVID LAWRENCE; TONI BALOWSKI; AND ANITA FANNIN). MOTION FAILED.**

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**MOTION TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF 20 COMPUTER REPLACEMENTS FOR TEACHERS AT HERMON HUTCHENS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$21,240 WAS MADE BY GRACE HUHDORF AND SECONDED. BOARD VOTE: 7 YEAS.**

2. Approve Second Reading of new VCSD Board Policy BP 5141.2 Concussions and the Use of ImPact Software

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE SECOND READING OF THE NEW VALDEZ CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD POLICY BP 5141.2 CONCUSSIONS AND THE USE OF IMPACT SOFTWARE WAS MADE BY KATHLEEN TODD AND SECONDED.**

Members of the Board thanked Board member Todd for her reviewing of the policy language.

During public comment the question was asked if the new policy had been run through the district's legal counsel.

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

3. Approve First Reading of VCSD Board Policy BP 5137 Positive School Climate

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE FIRST READING OF THE VALDEZ CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD POLICY BP 5137 POSITIVE SCHOOL CLIMATE WAS MADE BY GRACE HUHDORF AND SECONDED.**

Superintendent Jensen noted the one additional phrase that had been added to bring this policy in line with other policies in the District.

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

4. Approve VCSD Budget Amendment # 11-17 – Reduce Functions for Projects Completed

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE VALDEZ CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET AMENDMENT # 11-17 – REDUCE FUNCTIONS FOR PROJECTS COMPLETED IN THE FY'10 SCHOOL YEAR WAS MADE BY GRACE HUHDORF AND SECONDED.**

Business Manager Cockerham said this amendment is a clean-up of the budget lines for items that were budgeted for FY'11, but were done in the FY'10 year.

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

Board member Todd told Ms. Cockerham she would appreciate a memorandum which would include an explanation regarding the budget amendments when they are presented to the Board for approval. Additionally, Dr. Todd asked Ms. Cockerham what the amount of money would be prudent to keep in the reserves as a margin.

5. Approve VCSD Budget Amendment # 11-18 – Adjust Technology CIP Fund 500

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE VALDEZ CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET AMENDMENT # 11-18 – ADJUST TECHNOLOGY CIP FUND 500 WAS MADE BY GRACE HUHDORF AND SECONDED.**

Business Manager Cockerham said this amendment is an adjustment to the budget for Technology Capital Projects. The projects were the virtualization project and also the server and network upgrades

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

6. Approve Valdez City School District Administrative 2011-2012 Salary Schedule

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE VALDEZ CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT 2011-2012 ADMINISTRATIVE SALARY SCHEDULE WAS MADE BY GRACE HUHDORF AND SECONDED.**

Superintendent Jensen explained to the Board that the 2011-2012 Administrative Salary Schedule had been brought in line with the raises that were included in the Negotiated Agreement.

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

7. Approve Valdez City School District Classified 2011-2012 Salary Schedule

**MOTION: I MOVE TO APPROVE THE VALDEZ CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT 2011-2012 CLASSIFIED SALARY SCHEDULE WAS MADE BY GRACE HUHDORF AND SECONDED.**

Superintendent Jensen explained to the Board that the 2011-2012 Classified Salary Schedule had been brought in line with the raises that were included in the Negotiated Agreement.

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

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

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**MOTION TO APPROVE THE VALDEZ CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT 2011-2012 BUDGET WITH THE FOLLOWING OPTION D (A COMBINATION TO BE DECIDED) WAS MADE BY GRACE HUHDORF AND SECONDED.**

Business Manager Cockerham informed the Board that Administration estimated a shortfall of \$693,000 in the 2011-2012 VCSD Budget. Last Friday VCSD received the cost of the health insurance premium which came in at way more than estimated. An increase of \$120,000 was budgeted however the increase was \$370,000 -- \$250,000 more. The total of \$693,000 and \$250,000 is approximately \$1,000,000.

Ms. Cockerham noted possible revenues of \$5,400 from the school lunches; \$100 increase on the BSA for a total of \$130,000; and a cost difference of the replacement of the retiring staff which could amount to \$227,000. There is approximately 1 million in VCSD reserves.

Additionally, Ms. Cockerham stated she contacted Jim Greeley the State Petroleum Property Assessor regarding the decrease in Valdez TAPS valuation. He said the decrease is a natural swing. Additionally, due to new TAPS litigation the way TAPS is valued is changing.

Ms. Cockerham concluded her statements by reviewing the reduction options included in the board packet noting that it is VCSD's responsibility to make cuts this year and change the way we do business.

There was discussion among the members of the Board. Concern was expressed about spending down all of the VCSD reserves. Parent Teacher Ratios and combinations of positions were discussed.

Principal Rod Morrison was asked to provide the Board an update. He said it is most important that students and staff have a good feeling about the school they are in – that is school climate. Performance is based on school climate. He expressed concerns about the High School regarding the first impression. Money needs to be spent to bring the building up to par listing many items that need to be repaired and replaced, carpet being one of them.

Principal Morrison said he took a student survey and 79 students asked for Culinary Arts to be offered as a full class program. He said 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 would not have 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.

Regarding the topic of principals Mr. Morrison said if there is a 6/7/8/ Middle School he recommended a separate principal for that school. He suggested that VCSD hire a principal for the High School and stated the fit needs to be right for the students – if the

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right fit is not available -- perhaps a Dean of Students or Assistant Principal could be hired to assist Mr. Morrison who would then be the 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade Principal and mentor to that new supporting position.

Public comment was taken and the Board asked the exact amount of money Administration would recommend to keep as a responsible cushion in the VCSD reserves. The Board decided to bring back the approval of the 2011-2012 VCSD Budget at the March 28, 2011 meeting.

**BOARD VOTE: 7 NAYS, MOTION FAILED.**

Superintendent Jensen asked the Board to approve authorization to advertise for replacement of the three positions: Library Media Specialist (noting VHS needs a certified Librarian to keep their accreditation); High School Principal; and a Special Education Director/School Psychologist. Mr. Jensen explained that now is the hiring season. The Board agreed and made the following motion:

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE REPLACEMENT OF THE FOLLOWING VALDEZ CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT POSITIONS FOR 2011-2012: LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALIST (LIBRARIAN); HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL; AND A SPECIAL EDUCATION DIRECTOR/SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST WAS MADE BY KATHLEEN TODD AND SECONDED.**

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

After a brief discussion the Board directed Superintendent Jensen to distribute the Non-Tenure Contracts; Administrative Contracts and Activities Director Memorandum of Agreement this week.

G. CONSENT AGENDA

Items 1 through 4 were approved by consent agenda.

H. DISCUSSION ITEM

1. Physical Education Credit for Sports

Superintendent Jensen suggested graduation requirements include the opportunity for students to receive .25 credit for participating in a sport – participation in two sports would add up to .50 credit.

There was discussion among the members of the Board. The Board tasked Superintendent Jensen to find out the interest level of this proposal and bring it back to the Board for a first reading of VCSD policy changing the language regarding Graduation Credit to include credit for participation in sports.

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I. BOARD BUSINESS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There was a brief discussion about VCSD calendars in the coming years. A suggestion was made to consider a two week Spring Break every third or fourth year. Superintendent Jensen said he would pass on the suggestion to Administration.

The Board scheduled a VCSD 2011-2012 Public Budget Hearing on Tuesday, March 22, 2011 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the School Board Room. Superintendent Jensen said this would be the last 2011-2012 Public Budget meeting to take input. The approval of the VCSD 2011-2012 Budget will be on the March 28, 2011 agenda.

The Board decided an Executive Session should be put on the March 28, 2011 agenda regarding the Superintendent Evaluation timeline and evaluation instrument.

Graduation requirements and the review and updating of the Drug and Alcohol Policy were suggested as future Board agenda items.

J. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Personnel Issues

There was no Executive Session this meeting.

K. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION TO ADJOURN THE REGULAR MEETING AT 8:27 P.M. WAS MADE BY GRACE HUHNDORF AND SECONDED. VOTE: 7 YEAS, MOTION PASSED.**

Submitted by,

Board Approval Date: March 28, 2011

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Flynn Stuparich  
Administrative Assistant to the Board  
and Superintendent

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Dan Walker, President

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Kathleen Todd, Board Clerk