

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
School Board Room

**MINUTES**

Monday, May 23, 2011, 6:30 P.M.

A. **PRELIMINARIES**

1. Call to Order

President Walker called the regular meeting of Monday, May 23, 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  
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  
Ben Olds, VCSD Facilities Director

One Board Member seat is vacant

Kathleen Todd, Board Clerk is absent and excused.

Student Board Representative Teanna Hutchison was present.

Other people in attendance: 12

4. Appointment of School Board Member

The Board reviewed the letters of interest presented by the following applicants for the open seat on the school board: Stan Porritt; Jack McCay; Dolores Gard; and Dawn Farmer. Each applicant had an opportunity to address the Board regarding their desire for appointment of the vacant school board seat.

The vote of the Board was taken by paper ballot. Dawn Farmer was voted the new member of the school board. She will serve until the October 2011 City of Valdez election for school board members.

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5. Oath of Office for New School Board Member

Superintendent Jensen administered the Oath of Office of school board member to Dawn Farmer. Ms. Farmer signed the Oath of Office and was seated with the other members of the Board.

6. Election of School Board Treasurer

President Walker asked for nominations for School Board Treasurer. Vice President Steve Brockman nominated David Lawrence. Hearing no other nominations; the nominations were closed. The Board unanimously elected David Lawrence to the office of School Board Treasurer.

B. AGENDA

1. Adoption of the Agenda

**MOTION WAS MADE BY DAVID LAWRENCE AND SECONDED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED FOR MONDAY, MAY 23, 2011. BOARD VOTE: 6 YEAS, STUDENT ADVISORY VOTE: YEA, MOTION PASSED.**

C. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

1. Secondary Students of the Month

Principal Rod Morrison introduced 7th Grader Joy Shumate and 8<sup>th</sup> Grader Tristian Smith who were chosen as the May 2011 Gilson Junior High School Students of the Month. He noted many of their positive characteristics. Board President Walker presented Certificates of Recognition to the students on behalf of the Board, and they were congratulated.

2. Presentation to Student Board Representative Teanna Hutchison

President Dan Walker presented an inscribed Gold Pan in recognition of the time and service Teanna Hutchison volunteered by serving as the Student Board Representative for the 2010-2011 school year. There was a round of applause.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public comment.

E. REPORTS

1. Student Board Representative

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Teanna Hutchison Student Board Representative reported the following to the Board:

VHS Track & Field Team: Senior Kasey Walker won the State Championship for 123A in the High Jump and took a 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in Long Jump. Senior George Keeney placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the High Jump; 3<sup>rd</sup> in Triple Jump; and 7<sup>th</sup> in the 300m Hurdles. Senior Chris Lowe placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the 200m Dash. Congratulations to the Team.

VHS Baseball: The VHS Baseball Team finished their season with a trip to Delta and Fairbanks.

VHS Seniors: Seniors finished finals last week and checked out. Graduation is Friday night (6/27/11) at 7:00 p.m. in the VHS Gym.

300 Mile Wellness Challenge: Fifteen students finished the 300 Mile Wellness Challenge and were awarded a trip to Anchorage where they went ice skating; bowling; toured the Anchorage Museum; enjoyed the Anchorage Zoo; H2O Oasis Water Park; and went hiking on Flat-Top.

GJH Community Service: Next Tuesday is GJH Community Service Day. All GJH students will perform community service in the Valdez area.

7<sup>th</sup> Grade Awards: Seventh Grade Awards will be given next Wednesday afternoon.

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion: Next Friday is 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion at 10:00 a.m. in the GJH Gym.

This was Ms. Hutchison's last report of the school year. The Board wished her well and she left the meeting for a pre-scheduled event.

## 2. Board – Members of the Board

Board member Fannin expressed concern about the air circulation system and the flooring at HHES.

Ben Olds Facilities Director addressed her concerns. He said the HVAC System at HHES will be repaired this summer. The East Wing flooring at HHES will be addressed this evening by the decision of the Board and an independent contractor will be contracted to install the replacements.

President Dan Walker reported that he had traveled with the Track and Field Team. It was a great event and the team did extremely well. The VHS Team came in 8<sup>th</sup> overall out of 20 teams. The new Suburban was driven and it did well on gas. There was great parental support. He thanked the Board for insourcing Track and Field and Baseball.

## 3. District – Superintendent Jacob Jensen Ed.S.

John Hozey – City of Valdez Fiscal Update

Ruth E. Knight – 2006 Post Graduate Survey Follow-Up

Mr. John Hozey Valdez City Manager gave background regarding how the City of Valdez operates and how the tax rate is set. He discussed how past budgets have been made and shared his concern for years ahead with rise in costs and decline of funds. Over the last five years the budget has increased an average of 5% per year.

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He informed the Board about the Valdez City Budget Work Session in June and the City of Valdez Strategic Planning Work Session coming up in July / August suggesting they may want to attend. Mr. Hozey spoke about the continuing concern related to the TAPS Valuation litigation which will continue for years.

Superintendent Jensen introduced VCSD Activities Director / VHS Yearbook Advisor Rhonda Wegner to the Board. He asked Ms. Wegner to address the Board about some student out of state travel that had been planned for this summer. Ms. Wegner distributed a flyer to the members of the Board and said a trip has been planned to attend the Walsworth Northwest Yearbook Workshop in Tacoma, Washington July 17-20, 2011. There have been parent meetings and students will be well chaperoned. Ms. Wegner will also be attending the Workshop with the students. Students will learn online publishing, cover design, and more. There will be a competition among the students during the Workshop. Ms. Wegner proposed this Workshop is a good incentive for students to become involved with the Yearbook suggesting a trip be planned in the future every two or three years.

There was discussion among the Board. In the future student travel, even in the summer, will come to the Board as an action item for approval. By consensus, the Board approved the student travel to attend the Walsworth Northwest Yearbook Workshop in Tacoma, Washington in July 2011.

Superintendent Jensen introduced Dr. Elizabeth Balcerek Valdez High School Principal to the members of the Board and welcomed her as a new employee of the District. Dr. Balcerek thanked the Board and said she was excited to work with the students and be a member of the Valdez community.

Ruth Knight VCSD Curriculum Coordinator reviewed the 2006 Post-Graduate Survey information included in the board packet. She noted the tracking has been done for over ten years by Ms. Corbin, an employee at VHS. Ms. Knight complemented her work and noted that VHS has maintained strong marks of consistency. The majority of students go to four-year colleges – completing the programs in an average of six years. Many of the other students obtain Vocational Education through Career Technology Education (CTE) Programs/Schools. This has proven to be valuable information.

Superintendent Jensen reported the following to the Board.

School Highlights: Superintendent Jensen listed the highlights of the last week of school: HHES Play Day is tomorrow for K-4; HHES Play Day is 5/25/11 for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>; 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion is on 6/26/11 at 1:30 p.m. in the HHES Gym; 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion is on 8/27/11 at 10:00 a.m. in the GJH Gym; and Graduation is on 8/27/11 at 7:00 p.m. in the VHS Gym. He invited the Board to attend the Promotions and Graduation.

VCSD Surplus Sale: There will be a Surplus Sale from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Saturday (5/28/11) in the Bus Barn by GJH.

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District End of the Year Potluck and BBQ: Superintendent Jensen invited the Board to attend the District End of the Year Potluck and BBQ on Tuesday, 5/31/11 at 11:30 a.m. in the VHS Cafeteria.

F. ACTION ITEMS

1. Approve Second Reading of New VCSD Board Policy BP 3470 Fund Balance

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE SECOND READING OF THE NEW VALDEZ CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD POLICY BP 3470 FUND BALANCE WAS MADE BY DAVID LAWRENCE AND SECONDED.**

Business Manager Amber Cockerham reviewed the proposed policy for the Board and explained that this policy is required by GASB regulations and has been reviewed for compliance.

A member of the public expressed concern about the policy not having any minimum or maximum.

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

2. Approve Hermon Hutchens Elementary School Flooring Option and Purchase

**MOTION TO APPROVE HERMON HUTCHENS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FLOORING OPTION 3 AND PURCHASE WAS MADE BY DAVID LAWRENCE AND SECONDED.**

Board member Lawrence explained to the Board he had chosen option 3 (Resilient Flooring in classrooms, and carpet in the halls and library) because that is what the HHES teachers wanted. Board member Fannin said she seconded the motion because Resilient Flooring in classrooms would enable a cleaner more sanitary environment for students and staff.

Superintendent Jensen reviewed all 4 of the options for the Board and noted that approval of option 3 or 4 would require the District to pull funding from the reserve account.

Ben Olds VCSD Facilities Director spoke in favor of option 2 (Carpet in classrooms and library and Resilient Flooring in the halls) noting it would be much better to have Resilient Flooring installed in the halls. There would be 10 foot walk offs that would remove the water/snow and the flooring is rubber based and is not slippery like linoleum. The District would receive more value for their money regarding the life and care of that product. Additionally, Resilient Flooring would be installed by professional installers. The carpeting in the classrooms and library would be “carpet squares” that could be replaced easily, if needed.

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There was public comment from HHES staff and members of the community who noted the following: in the East Wing classrooms they experience student bathroom accidents, project/craft accidents and sometimes head lice. When the carpets have been shampooed the rooms smell badly and there is concern about health and sanitary issues. Resilient Flooring would be cleaner overall; concern about the holes and the duct tape in the present floor covering; concern about allergy issues and bad bacteria/mold issues; it has been 30 plus years since those classrooms have received new floor covering – the hall carpet has been replaced 4 times in the last 30 plus years; concern for puddles with the Resilient flooring and the time it will take to clean; a Chugach school has Resilient Flooring in the hallways with walk offs and it works well.

Superintendent Jensen noted that the next action item recommended by Administration would cost \$180,700 and there is a half-time School Counselor – approximately \$65,000 including salary and benefits who has not been hired. Additionally, he encouraged the Board to consider how much they want to take from the reserve account.

Business Manager Cockerham encouraged the Board to seriously consider funding new energy lighting in the HHES and VHS Gyms (action item # 3). The new lighting would save approximately 30% per year on electricity annually. There is positive return on those dollars spent.

After all of the input the Board took the following vote on the motion.

**VOTE: 3 YEAS, 3 NAYS (DAN WALKER; DAWN FARMER; AND TONI BALOWSKI), MOTION FAILED.**

**MOTION TO EXTEND THE MEETING 30 MINUTES (UNTIL 9:00 P.M.) WAS MADE BY ANITA FANNIN AND SECONDED. BOARD VOTE: 6 YEAS, MOTION PASSED.**

There was discussion among the members of the Board concerning cost and the reserve fund. The same motion was made again and put to a vote.

**MOTION TO APPROVE HERMON HUTCHENS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FLOORING OPTION 3 AND PURCHASE WAS MADE BY STEVE BROCKMAN AND SECONDED.**

**VOTE: 3 YEAS, 3 NAYS (DAN WALKER; DAWN FARMER; AND TONI BALOWSKI), MOTION FAILED.**

Discussion continued among the members of the Board. Some members of the Board suggested they consider option 4 (Resilient Flooring in all classrooms; music room; halls; and carpet in the library) because this option would eliminate a large replacement issue in the future and the City of Valdez has continually advised the Valdez Board of Education to spend down the reserves. The following motion was made and put to a vote.

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**MOTION TO APPROVE HERMON HUTCHENS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FLOORING OPTION 4 AND PURCHASE WAS MADE BY STEVE BROCKMAN AND SECONDED. VOTE: 5 YEAS, 1 NAY (DAN WALKER), MOTION PASSED.**

3. Discuss and Approve Allocation of Additional Funds

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE ALLOCATION OF ANY ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO BE PLACED IN THE UNDESIGNATED RESERVE FUND WAS MADE BY DAVID LAWRENCE AND SECONDED.**

A member of the public expressed concern that the Board was voting on money they may not have.

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

G. CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda was approved with the approval of the agenda. The following items were included in the Consent Agenda: Minutes of Regular Meeting April 18, 2011; Minutes of Regular Meeting April 25, 2011; Personnel Action Report dated May 23, 2011 which included the approval of the 2011-2012 Extra-Curricular Contract recommendations for Valdez High School and Gilson Junior High School.

H. DISCUSSION ITEMS

By Board consensus and in the interest of time discussion items 1 and 3 will be moved to the June 27, 2011 regular school board meeting agenda.

1. Board Policy Review Schedule

This item was postponed to the June 27, 2011 meeting.

2. Set Date for Board Self Evaluation Work Session

The Board will discuss the specific details and timeline of their Self Evaluation the meeting of August 8, 2011. Administration will include materials regarding the Board Self Evaluation process in the June 27, 2011 reading file.

3. Policy Regarding Reserve Account Spending Limit for VCSD

This item was postponed to the June 27, 2011 meeting.

I. BOARD BUSINESS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There was no comment this evening from the members of the Board.

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J. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 9:00 P.M. WAS MADE BY STEVE BROCKMAN  
AND SECONDED. BOARD VOTE: 6 YEAS, MOTION PASSED.**

Submitted by,

Board Approval Date: June 27, 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