

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
School Board Room

MINUTES

Monday, May 9, 2011, 6:30 P.M.

A. PRELIMINARIES

1. Call to Order

President Walker called the regular meeting of Monday, May 9, 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  
Ben Olds, VCSD Facilities Director  
Rod Morrison, Principal of GJH & VHS

One Board Member seat is vacant

Student Board Representative Teanna Hutchison was present.

Other people in attendance: 13

B. AGENDA

1. Adoption of the Agenda

**MOTION WAS MADE BY STEVE BROCKMAN AND SECONDED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR MONDAY, MAY 9, 2011 WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGE:**

- **CHANGE ACTION ITEM NUMBER 6 TO NUMBER 1 AND ALL OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WILL REMAIN IN THE SAME ORDER**  
**BOARD VOTE: 6 YEAS, STUDENT ADVISORY VOTE: YEA, MOTION PASSED.**

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C. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

1. Secondary Students of the Month

Principal Rod Morrison introduced 7th Grader Madeline Hogarth and 8<sup>th</sup> Grader Veronica Hursh who were chosen as the April 2011 Gilson Junior High School Students of the Month and Martin Parsons who was chosen as the May 2011 Valdez High School Student 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.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There was public comment regarding the selection process and Board approval of recent recommendations for administrative positions. Personal opinions were expressed. Additional comments were made encouraging members of the Valdez Community to show a warm welcome to the new Valdez City School District employees.

Mr. John Hozey City Manager for the City of Valdez spoke to the Board about the relationship between the Valdez City School District and the City of Valdez expressing his desire to fortify a good working relationship. During the next meeting of the Valdez City Council, the Council will vote on a recommendation from the City to fund the replacement of the Bleachers in the Valdez High School Gym; repair the Valdez High School roof; and renovate the Valdez High School Gym floor. Mr. Hozey invited the Board to attend the upcoming meeting. The City budget will be in review soon and he offered to come to a VCSD Board Meeting in the future to answer any questions they might have.

There was public comment asking for other maintenance issues to be addressed which were in the last Bond noting that those items have been on the list for ten years.

A request to the Board was made to replace the present flooring in the HHES Music Room with Resilient Flooring for the health and safety of students and staff.

E. REPORTS

1. Student Board Representative

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

Wax Museum: The student Wax Museum was last Friday in the GJH Gym. It went very well.

Music Festival: Ms. Hutchison talked about the positive excitement regarding the Music Festival in California.

Football: Football starts next Friday.

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Track and Field: The Track and Field Team went to Regionals and did very well. School records were broken.

Native Youth Olympics: Principal Rod Morrison helped with the NYO information. There were 32 athletes who participated at NYO in Anchorage. Several VCSD students broke records. Student Marion Wamsley kicked 1 inch below the world record. The VCSD NYO Team won the Sportsmanship Award which is highly regarded by all NYO Teams.

Prom: Prom went well. The decorations were very good. Students had a good time.

Spring Concert: GJH and VHS Spring Concert will be this week.

2. Board – Members of the Board

Board member Fannin attended the Hermon Hutchens Spring Concert. She said the concert was really good and everyone enjoyed it.

Board member Balowski also attended the Spring Concert at Hermon Hutchens. He recognized HHES Music Teacher Leslie Bauman for her long time dedication to the students; the music program; and the wonderful presentation.

3. District – Superintendent Jacob Jensen Ed.S.

Ben Olds – Maintenance and Operations

HHES Flooring

HHES Gym Flooring

VHS Lighting

VHS Gym Floor; Bleachers; Roof

Superintendent Jensen reported the following to the Board.

Prom: Prom went well with no incidents. Police were there as a presence.

HHES Spring Concert: Superintendent Jensen thanked Ms. Bauman and said that he received a great many comments praising the HHES Spring Concert as one of the best concerts they had ever attended.

New Arrival: Superintendent Jensen announced the arrival of a baby girl “Hannah” 6 lbs 3oz who was born on April 29, 2011. He commented that the hospital facilities in Valdez were superior and the staff was wonderful.

City of Valdez/VHS Replacements: Superintendent Jensen said he had discussions with the City regarding the disrepair of the VHS Bleachers; VHS Gym Floor; and VHS Roof. The City has recommended an approval by the Valdez City Council on their next agenda to fund the replacement of the VHS Bleachers; the renovation of the VHS Gym Floor; and repair of the VHS Roof. He thanked John Hozey, Valdez City Manager for this recommendation.

Superintendent Jensen introduced Ben Olds VCSD Facilities Director to address issues regarding the Maintenance and Operations Department.

Ben Olds informed the Board about the following proposed summer projects:

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HHES Flooring Project summer plan encompasses the East Wing which would include carpeting using “carpet squares” throughout with the exception of the Music Room which would be replaced with resilient flooring. The contract will include the removal of the old covering and the installation. Resilient flooring is more expensive than the carpeting.

There was discussion among the Board with public input regarding floor covering options of the HHES East Wing. “Approve Hermon Hutchens Elementary School Flooring Option and Purchase” will be on the next regular meeting agenda of the Board, May 23, 2011. Mr. Olds will provide multiple options with costs; maintenance; and noise level information regarding floor coverings for the Board to consider; choose; and approve.

HHES Gym Flooring Project summer plan encompasses floor repair of water damaged area; refinishing; and relining. Mr. Olds proposed combining the two gym floor projects (HHES and VHS) as one job which the City of Valdez would bid-out and oversee. Valdez City School District would transfer the money budgeted for the HHES Gym Floor project to the City of Valdez. Having the contractor complete the two jobs at the same time will save money.

VHS Lighting Project summer plan encompasses changing out the existing (T-5) VHS classroom lights and replacing them with energy efficient (LED) lights which would pay for themselves very quickly. Funds for the project are available however; the LED lights are a new product and will not be available for commercial quotes or delivery until July 1, 2011. Director Olds recommended VCSD obtain a quote in July for replacement.

VHS Gym Floor; Bleachers and Roof Project summer plan will be completed by the City of Valdez if the funding is approved by the Valdez City Council during their next meeting. Director Olds and Jack McCay, Valdez City Supervisor of Capital Facilities Department, have coordinated efforts to complete the following three projects: 1. Renovate the VHS Gym floor; replace the two dividers; provide additional sockets; and a three net hanging system in the roof – approximately \$250,000. 2. Replace the present VHS Bleachers with four powered large wheeled bleachers per side – adding two more rows per side which expands the seating capacity from 850 to 1000 – approximately \$70,000. There will be a significant reduction of price because VCSD Maintenance Department will remove the existing VHS Bleachers. 3. Repair the entire VHS roof section over the Gym; Vocational Education; and Classroom Areas with a ten year repair without an increase of R Value in the roof. This repair will eliminate the leaks in the Gym and other areas of Valdez High School. Jack McCay is finalizing the figures for the ten year roof repair.

F. ACTION ITEMS

1. Approve Sabbatical for Jonathan Miller From January 3, 2012 to March 9, 2012

**MOTION TO APPROVE A SABBATICAL FOR JONATHAN MILLER FROM JANUARY 3, 2012 TO MARCH 9, 2012. DURING THE SABBATICAL THE VALDEZ CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT AGREES TO PAY HEALTH CARE**

**BENEFITS AND TEACHER RETIREMENT SYSTEM (TRS) COSTS WAS MADE BY STEVE BROCKMAN AND SECONDED.**

Josh Miller Valdez High School Vocational Teacher reviewed the information included in the board packet regarding his request for a sabbatical. Mr. Miller noted that this would be an opportunity to look into proven Outdoor Education Programs. PWSCC has begun is an Outdoor Leadership Program. He suggested the Board might consider Outdoor Program Classes in the future for students at VHS who might choose to progress into the PWSCC Outdoor Leadership Program. Mr. Miller said the Board/District would not expend additional funds by approving the sabbatical. He explained that he had spoken with Mr. Robert Treiber a Prince William Sound Community College Millwright Evening Class Instructor who seemed interested about the possibility of acting as an interim teacher for Mr. Miller's vocational classes.

There was a brief discussion among the Board and the following vote was taken.

**VOTE: 6 YEAS, STUDENT ADVISORY VOTE: YEA, MOTION PASSED.**

2. Approve Second Reading VCSD Board Policy BP 6146.1 High School Graduation Requirements – Credit for Participation in Sports

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE SECOND READING OF VALDEZ CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD POLICY BP 6146.1 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS – CREDIT FOR PARTICIPATION IN SPORTS WAS MADE BY KATHLEEN TODD AND SECONDED.**

The Board reviewed the policy and asked Administration to add a parent signature line on the 6146.1 Exhibit. Public expressed concern whether student GPA's would be affected by the change in policy. School staff members were pleased with the proposed policy because it would free up some of the teachers time to teach other subjects and give an opportunity for students to take additional classes.

Superintendent Jensen assured the public GPA's would not be affected by the change in the policy and said Administration and the Board will review this policy at the end of the year.

**VOTE: 6 YEAS, STUDENT ADVISORY VOTE: YEA, MOTION PASSED.**

Additionally, public concern was expressed about the health of students and the possibility of an increase of required physical education requirements. President Walker asked Administration to place "Physical Education Requirements for Students" on a future Board agenda for discussion.

3. Approve VCSD Resolution # 11-1 Regarding a New Valdez City School Middle School

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Valdez City School District Resolution # 11-1 was reviewed by the Board and changes were made which are reflected in the following motion.

**MOTION TO APPROVE VALDEZ CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT RESOLUTION # 11-1 REGARDING A NEW VALDEZ CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT MIDDLE SCHOOL WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES:**

- **REMOVE THE LAST EIGHT WORDS OF THE INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH (“TO BE OCCUPIED IN THE FALL OF 2014,) AND;**
- **LEAVE IN THE FOLLOWING 4 “WHEREAS” PARAGRAPHS AS PRESENTED AND;**
- **REMOVE THE FOLLOWING EIGHT “WHEREAS” PARAGRAPHS AND;**
- **END WITH THE “NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED...” PARAGRAPH AS PRESENTED,**

**WAS MADE BY DAVID LAWRENCE AND SECONDED.**

There was discussion among the members of the Board noting Valdez City School District Resolution number 11-1 is in response to the request of Valdez City Mayor Cobb. He asked for a decision in the form of a resolution regarding the choices of the Valdez Board of Education regarding the proposed Middle School. Superintendent Jensen was tasked with presenting the Resolution to the City.

**VOTE: 6 YEAS, STUDENT ADVISORY VOTE: YEA, MOTION PASSED.**

There was additional discussion among the Board and VCSD Administration about needed Educational Specifications (Ed Specs) which could be completed in two days with two substitutes rotating among the Gilson Junior High Staff. An Ed Spec template could be supplied by Architect John Weir as a model and Mr. Weir could advise during the process. If the Board wants to move forward with the process the Educational Specifications would need to be completed in May of 2011 so that the process could go forward toward a Middle School completion date of 2014. If this process is delayed over the summer the completion of the project is delayed another year (2015). There were mixed feelings expressed among public and members of the Board.

4. Approve First Reading of New VCSD Board Policy BP 3470 Fund Balance

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

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

**VOTE: 6 YEAS, STUDENT ADVISORY VOTE: YEA, MOTION PASSED.**

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5. Approve the Creation of Fund 502 – Maintenance CIP Fund

**MOTION: I MOVE TO APPROVE THE CREATION OF FUND 502 – MAINTENANCE CIP FUND WAS MADE BY DAVID LAWRENCE AND SECONDED.**

Business Manager Amber Cockerham explained the District Auditors advised Valdez City School District to create Fund 502 – Maintenance Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Fund to separate money used for this purpose. Fund 502 approval must be through formal VCSD Board action.

**VOTE: 6 YEAS, STUDENT ADVISORY VOTE: YEA, MOTION PASSED.**

6. Approve VCSD Amendment # 19 - Transfers to 502 Fund

**MOTION TO APPROVE VALDEZ CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT AMENDMENT # 19 –TRANSFERS TO 502 FUND WAS MADE BY STEVE BROCKMAN AND SECONDED.**

Business Manager Amber Cockerham explained that VCSD Amendment # 19 transfers the Maintenance CIP funds into the newly created and Board approved 502 Fund (see action item # 5). Ms. Cockerham noted that the ARRA funds must be used by September 1, 2011.

**VOTE: 6 YEAS, STUDENT ADVISORY VOTE: YEA, 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 Special Meeting of April 27, 2011; Personnel Action Report dated May 9, 2011 which included the hiring of Christopher Bennett as Principal of Hermon Hutchens Elementary School; Elizabeth Balcerak as Principal of Valdez High School; John Wellcome as Library Media Specialist (District Librarian); Holly Miner as a Classroom Teacher for Hermon Hutchens Elementary School; Melissa Bowden as Food Service I; and Kathleen Connell as Federal Programs Secretary; also the Financial Report.

H. DISCUSSION ITEM

1. AKEELA – Harmful Legal Products (HLP) Prevention Project

Superintendent Jensen had a meeting with a representative of AKEELA. AKEELA has received a grant to fund the Harmful Legal Products (HLP) Prevention Project which involves three years of risk survey testing within schools. Valdez City School District was invited to participate. Superintendent Jensen recommended VCSD not participate in HLP because we presently participate in Youth Risk Survey testing with the State of

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Alaska. The Board agreed by unanimous consent not to participate in the AKEELA Harmful Legal Products (HLP) Prevention Project.

By Board consensus and in the interest of time discussion items 2; 3; and 4 will be moved to the May 23, 2011 regular school board meeting agenda.

2. Board Policy Review Schedule
3. Set Date for Board Self Evaluation Work Session
4. Policy Regarding Reserve Account Spending Limit for VCSD

I. BOARD BUSINESS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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

J. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 8:30 P.M. WAS MADE BY DAVE LAWRENCE AND SECONDED. BOARD VOTE: 6 YEAS, STUDENT ADVISORY VOTE: YEA, 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