

# **SITKA SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**

March 6, 2017 - 7:00 p.m.

Sitka School District

*Superintendent: Mary Wegner*

## **CALL TO ORDER**

The Sitka School Board meeting was called to order by President, Cass Pook at 6:57 p.m. at the ANB Hall. The board was welcomed by Kerry MacClean to the ANB Hall. The Board was also welcomed by Jean Arnold from ANS.

## **ROLL CALL**

Members present were, President Cass Pook, Vice-President Jennifer McNichol, Clerk Eric VanCise, Tom Conley, and Dionne Brady-Howard. Student Representative Elias Erickson was absent and excused.

## **APPROVAL OF PROPOSED AGENDA**

Ms. McNichol requested to add presentation on the Tlingit Language class on the agenda. Ms. McNichol moved, Mr. Van Cise seconded to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

## **PERSONS TO BE HEARD**

Ed Gray, parent, spoke in opposition of standardized testing. He questioned where the policy was and requested that the district create an opt out form for parents to complete if they do not want their students to take standardized tests.

Pat Alexander, community member, welcomed everyone to the ANB Hall. She gave an overview of the rights of the people and the continual fight for rights. She also invited Superintendent Wegner to an ANB/ANS meeting to talk about issues. She also requested that there be a work session with ANB/ANS to discuss the budget. Lastly she stated that she appreciated the school board not cutting the language and cultural programs in Sitka and wants to work together to find ways to cut in a helpful way.

Spike Arnold, community member, requested that the board look at making spring break the same week as the Juneau Lions Club Goldmedal Basketball tournament.

Harriet Beleal Miyasato gave her story of moving between Sitka and Anchorage and how she worked with students throughout her life. She also spoke on the importance of cross cultural experiences and promoting more Alaska Native teachers and counselors. Ms. Beleal Miyasato stated she was proud of her heritage and recommended once a month social evenings to create open dialog regarding education and the Native culture.

Matthew Groen, social studies teacher at Pacific High School, informed the board that he and his students will be participating in

the ROSE Rural Urban Exchange with students from Pacific High School and students from Tooksook Bay. He explained the program and the positive experiences he has seen with this exchange in the past.

Christie Anderson, Blatchley Middle School parent, asked the board about the status of current grant programs. She asked if there were ways that parents could be involved in the selection of grants.

Marcia Strand, community member, stated that she her family is advocates for the Tlingit Language and culture in the schools. She stated that it is especially important to have a language teacher in the schools. She thanked the board for the early release on Elizabeth Peratrovich Day.

Robi Littlefield gave an overview of the classes that she has been teaching over the years. She stated that she has been teaching one or two language classes since 1995. She currently has 16 students in her Sitka High School class and 22 in her middle school class. She also thanked ANB/ANS for their financial help for students to earn college credit by taking Tlingit. Lastly, she thanked Nancy Douglas, Sitka Tribe of Alaska, Tribal Council and the entire SNEP Staff.

## **REPORTS**

- **UPDATE ON ATTENDANCE PROJECT-MANDY EVANS**

Mandy Evans, Learning Support Director, along with Nancy Douglas, Cultural Director, presented a powerpoint on the work that has been done with the cultural program in conjunction with Wooch.een preschool. They stated that the collaboration with all parties has made the cultural program very successful. In addition to the information on the cultural programs Ms. Evans explained the attendance data that has been worked on in encouraging students to attend school.

- **UPDATE ON CULTURAL PROGRAMS – NANCY DOUGLAS**

- **REPORT ON LEGISLATIVE FLY-IN – CASS POOK, JENNIFER MCNICHOL, AND ELIAS ERICKSON**

President Pook and Ms. McNichol both attended the AASB legislative fly in Juneau. Ms. Pook stated that they attended 27 appointments and that they advocated for flat funding. Ms. McNichol informed the board that the House is very sensitive to education and education funding but it is not the same on the Senate side. She said that the issue of cost shifting will be something to watch for and that the community should advocate for things that they care about.

- **CLERK’S REPORT**

Mr. Van Cise explained that he had nothing to report.

**BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

Ms. Brady-Howard stated that she was excited about the week of Discover Your Potential (DYP) at Blatchley Middle School. She said that the students were excited and it helps to reset kids by doing something fun.

Mr. Conley also commended Blatchley Middle School for the DYP week. He also informed the board that he had met with the parent advisory committee at Baranof Elementary School. He also stated that he was attending the technology committee meeting on March 8<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Van Cise informed the board that he had been meeting with parents and reaching out to hear concerns regarding the school district. He also met with Tim Pike and Mike Vieira to tour the vocational wing and meet with them to hear their concerns and issues. He also reminded the board that spring sports are happening.

Ms. McNichol thanks ANB/ANS for allowing the board to meet in their home. She stated that the work session with the assembly was good and that the district received verbal support for education funding. Ms. McNichol reported on the activities meeting that was held and she said they discussed the challenges with housing and funding. She also announced that music festival was going to be held in Sitka April 6-9, 2016 and would be bringing in 600 students and they will all need to be housed. She also informed the board that as the Sitka High School Liaisons there have been discussions in changes to the math program at Sitka High School including the possibility of a dual track from math. Lastly she stated that Sitka High School did a team conference approach for part of the parent teacher conferences which worked well.

Ms. Pook thanked the ANB for hosting the Sitka School Board and stated that she looked forward to it every year.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

- **BUDGET UPDATE – CASSEE OLIN**

Business Manager, Cassee Olin updated the board on the budget. She stated that things are where they should be for this time of year.

- **ENROLLMENT UPDATE- MARY WEGNER**

Superintendent Wegner informed the board that the enrollment is holding steady and is not making any remarkable changes.

- **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – MARY WEGNER**

Superintendent Wegner thanked ANB/ANS for their hospitality and continual support of the school board coming to the hall for meetings. She also thanked Nancy Douglas and Mandy Evans for

their presentation stating it was fun to see the team working together and enjoying each other.

Superintendent Wegner let the board know that she taught a class for Blatchley Middle School Discover Your Potential (DYP) with doing a class on *I Am Pillow*. She stated that the students enjoyed the class and wanted to also thank all of the community members who participated in this fantastic week of activities.

Superintendent Wegner explained to the board the process of the selection of the 2017-18 school calendar. She stated that there were comments sought from both staff and community members regarding the calendar. She also clarified that once we get a sense of what the majority of the staff and community would like we will be bringing back calendars for the 2018-19 and 2019-20 calendars.

She also encouraged the board to read her written report in the board packet.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- **APPROVAL OF  
FEBRUARY 7, 2017  
MINUTES**
- **APPROVAL OF BP  
4111CERTIFICATED  
PERSONNEL  
RECRUITMENT AND  
SELECTION – SECOND  
READING**
- **APPROVAL OF BP 4112.4  
HEALTH  
EXAMINATIONS –  
SECOND READING**
- **APPROVAL OF BP 431  
CERTIFICATED STAFF  
DEVELOPMENT AND  
PROFESSIONAL  
LEARNING – SECOND  
READING**
- **APPROVAL OF BP 5128  
ALASKA  
PERFORMANCE  
SCHOLARSHIP  
PROGRAMS – SECOND  
READING**
- **APPROVAL OF BP 5141.4  
CHILD ABUSE**

Ms. McNichol moved, Mr. Conley seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried.

**REPORTING – SECOND  
READING**

**NEW BUSINESS**

- **TITLE VIII-PL 81-874  
IMPACT AID PUBLIC  
HEARING**

Ms. McNichol moved, Mr. Conley seconded that the Board go into Public Hearing concerning the Native American Policies and Procedures.

There were comments from the board and the community. Spike Arnold thanked the board for the good progress that has taken place in the school district. Board Member Ms. Brady-Howard stated that she also was pleased with the progress being made and the opportunity for the CRESEL Grant and the prospects that it brings to the district.

President Pook returned back to the regular meeting.

- **APPROVAL OF 2017-  
18 CALENDAR**

Ms. McNichol moved, Mr. Conley seconded to approve the 2017-18 school calendar as presented. There were comments from the audience regarding the idea of having spring break at possibly a different week. Motion carried.

- **APPROVAL OF  
RESOLUTION 2017-01  
TOBACCO 21**

Ms. McNichol moved, Mr. Conley seconded to approve Resolution 2017-01 Tobacco 21. There was a brief discussion by the board and the motion carried.

- **DISCUSSION ON  
APRIL BOARD  
MEETING DATE  
CHANGE**

Due to there being scheduling conflicts with the AASB Fly –In the board will need to change the date of their April board meeting. After a lengthy discussion it was decided that the administration would figure out the date of the next meeting by comparing schedules and inform the board and the media of the decision.

**CORRESPONDENCE AND  
INFORMATION**

Superintendent Wegner presented an email regarding Rebecca Himschoot’s work in the Einstein Fellowship. There was also a reminder from the city for the board to get their financial information into Sara Peterson at the City of Sitka.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **BUDGET  
HEARING/WORK  
SESSIONS**

There will be a budget hearing on the following days:

March 28, 2017 – 6 p.m. – School Board work session DO Board room

April 18, 2017 – 6 p.m. – Final budget hearing/budget approval DO Board room

- **AASB FLY-IN – APRIL  
1-4, 2017**

- **PERFORMING ART  
CENTER TOUR -TBA**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Van Cise moved, Ms. McNichol seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:48 p.m. Motion carried.

---

Cathleen Pook, President

---

Eric Van Cise, Clerk