

## **SITKA SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**

October 6, 2014, 6:00 p.m.

Sitka School District

*Superintendent: Dr. Mary Wegner*

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The Sitka School Board meeting was called to order by President Lon Garrison at 6:07 p.m.

### **ROLL CALL**

Members present were, Lon Garrison, president; Tim Fulton, Clerk Cass Pook and Kaya Duguay, student representative. Jennifer Robinson and Tonia Rioux were absent and excused.

### **APPROVAL OF PROPOSED AGENDA**

Mr. Fulton moved, Ms. Pook seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

### **RECOGNITION**

- **RECOGNIZE CROSS COUNTRY TEAM**

Unfortunately, the cross country team and Whitney McArthur were unable to make it to the meeting so they will be recognized at the November meeting.

### **PERSONS TO BE HEARD**

Lisa Busch, Executive Director of Sitka Sound Science Center (SSSC) informed the board that First Bank made a contribution to allow and pay for field trips for Sitka School District students to take to the SSSC. The funds will help students learn about the environment and connect students with the natural world. She also thanked the board for their continual support of Sitka Whale Fest which will be held November 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

Elena Gustafson, with Sitkans Against Family Violence (SAFV) updated the board on SAFV and the elementary school counselors working together to create a curriculum that is age appropriate regarding domestic violence and abuse. Also SAFV is working with counselors regarding the newly introduced Erin's Law. Erin's Law requires that the school board provide an age appropriate comprehensive health education program on sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention in grades pre-kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade along with training staff on the prevention of sexual abuse.

Ed Gray, parent informed the board regarding a letter that was sent by Attorney Kevin Clarkston regarding abortion information. He also stated that there is confusion regarding Alaska State Standards and Common Core Standards. He wanted to know if the Sitka School District had signed the Federal Government Pledge and expressed his objection to the signing of that document.

Chan Richards, parent expressed his frustration with the Sitka School District choosing Common Core and that there is a group of parents who are fighting against the change. He also complained that there are more paraprofessionals and more homework coming home. He also stated that he is considering homeschooling his children.

## **BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

Ms. Pook stated that she attended the fall boardmanship academy and was impressed with the conference. She requested that links for the conference be linked to our website. She also thanked the community members that spoke on the common core standards.

Mr. Fulton said that during the campaign there was only one discussion about core math and believes that there needs to be more open discussions. He also explained that he had been to a couple of meetings with concerned parents regarding Sitka High School athletics. He informed the board that he will be out of town for the assembly meeting and is requesting that another board member be in attendance on his behalf. He stated that he had not heard any more about preparing for the Traditional Wear Day at the AASB Fall Conference and what the status is for the school board. Lastly, Mr. Fulton informed the board that the policy committee met regarding two policies BP0520 and BP5131.61.

President Garrison informed the board that he has gone to Washington D.C. for the National Forest Counties and School Coalition lobbying. They were able to meet with over 30 Senators. The days were productive and brought the issue of need for secure rural school funding back to the forefront. He also thanked the community members for speaking to the board. He believes that the district needs to be more proactive about the differences between common core, the Alaska State Standards and core math.

## **REPORTS**

- **REPORT ON 6<sup>TH</sup>  
GRADE LANGUAGE  
ARTS PROJECT –  
JANELLE FARVOUR  
AND KARI SAGEL**

Janelle Farvour, Blatchley Middle School English Teacher and Kari Sagel, Blatchley Librarian gave a presentation on student use of the program called Pixton. Students presented their Pixton projects to the board that they created during the presentation. Ms. Farvour and Ms. Sagel explained that all students created a Pixton story based on the Alaska Day Writing Contest. Each student was able to create a story and then have their project edited by the teacher and submit their final project to the contest.

- **ASPI REPORT –  
SUPERINTENDENT  
MARY WEGNER AND  
ROBYN TAYLOR**

Superintendent Wegner and Assistant Superintendent Robyn Taylor gave an overview of the ASPI Reports. They presented graphs showing trends in the Sitka School District. The Board expressed concern regarding some of the trends that appeared to be happening with the science learning. There was an extensive

question and answer session.

- **CLERK'S REPORT**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- **APPROVAL OF AUGUST 27, 2014 MINUTES** Mr. Fulton moved, Ms. Pook seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented.
- **APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2014 MINUTES** A roll call vote was required.  

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Garrison	
Fulton	
Pook	
Duguay	
- **APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 22, 2014 MINUTES** Motion carried.
- **APPROVAL OF NEW TEACHER CONTRACTS**
- **APPROVAL OF BP5123 PROMOTION/ACCELERATION/RETENTION – SECOND READING**
- **APPROVAL OF BP 4117.6 NON-RETENTION – SECOND READING**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- **APPROVAL OF SPRING BREAK TRAVEL FOR SHS SPANISH** Mr. Fulton moved, Ms. Duguay seconded to approve the Spanish students to travel to Costa Rica over spring break from March 11-March 21, 2014. There were questions from the board. Motion carried.
- **APPROVAL OF NOMINATION OF CARL ROSE GOVERNANCE AWARD – LON GARRISON** Mr. Fulton moved, Ms. Pook seconded to approve nominating Lon Garrison for the Carl Rose Governance Award. Motion carried.
- **APPROVAL OF BP 6174.1 EDUCATION OF NATIVE/INDIAN CHILDREN – FIRST READING** Mr. Fulton moved, Ms. Pook seconded to approve BP 6174.1 Education of Native/Indian Children in first reading along with deleting AR 6174.1 Education of Native/Indian Children. Cassee Olin, business manager stated that the changes to the policy are required because of changes that the government is requesting so our policy includes everything in the board policy and the administrative regulation. Motion carried.

- **APPROVAL OF BP 5131.41 THREATENING, VIOLENT AND AGGRESSIVE CONDUCT – FIRST READING** Mr. Fulton requested to move BP5131.41 Threatening, Violent and Aggressive Conduct on behalf of the policy committee. Mr. Fulton explained that the committee wanted to include cyber bullying be added to the policy. Motion carried.
- **REVIEW OF AR 5131.43 BULLYING** The policy committee also recommended some minor wording changes to the AR on bullying.
- **APPROVAL OF BP5131.63 ANABOLIC STEROIDS – FIRST READING** The board recommended that the policy committee review this policy again due to some concerns expressed by members of the board.
- **REVIEW OF E 4119.21 CODE OF ETHICS AND TEACHING STANDARDS** Due to changes in Alaska State Law there was a change in the Code of Ethics and Teaching Standards. There was a brief discussion about possible wording changes, however due to it being a law there is no way to change the wording.
- **DISCUSSION OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION POSSIBLE MATH CREDIT INCREASE** The board had a discussion on the possible effects that raising the math credit requirement to 3 credits from the Sitka School Districts current 2 credit requirement, which could possibly be a requirement by the state board of education. The board had questions for administration.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

- **ENROLLMENT UPDATE** Superintendent Wegner informed the board that enrollment was taking a small downturn but still believes that the district enrollment will be above the projected 1300.
- **BUDGET UPDATE** Business Manager, Cassee Olin explained to the board that the budget is exactly where it needs to be at this time of year.
- **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – DR. MARY WEGNER** Superintendent Wegner congratulated the Sitka High School boys cross country team on their Region V win. She also announced that there were two articles in one paper the other day, so we are telling our stories. She also informed the board that the Sitka High School Design and Fabrication Lab video had 3560 views and that she had shared the video with Commissioner Hanley.

Superintendent Wegner also informed the board that the administrative team had met with the Sitka Police Department and the Sitka Fire Department regarding crisis planning. She explained that the district, police and fire departments will be sending staff for free FEMA and ALICE training.

Superintendent Wegner spoke with Commissioner Hanley about having more professional development days. She was able to get verbal approval to use the parent teacher conference days in February as professional development days.

Superintendent Wegner expressed her excitement regarding partnerships that the District has with various groups like Sitka Sound Science Center and the Sitkan's Against Family Violence. She also thanked Ariel Starbuck for including Pacific High School in the Spanish trip to Costa Rica and the possibility of adding Mt. Edgecumbe High School in the future.

She announced that Governor Parnell has declared October School Principal Month.

She also announced that the Strategic Planning will be held on November 22<sup>nd</sup> in the Sitka High School Library.

Superintendent Wegner updated the board on the OCR Complaint. She explained that the district and the complainant are currently in the early complaint resolution status and there will be a signed resolution in the near future.

Superintendent Wegner expressed her support of the 6<sup>th</sup> grade presentation and the use of Pixton. She stated that this presentation shows what is happening throughout the district.

Superintendent Wegner informed the board that there is a possibility that there might not be able to be a walk through the new vocational education building due to safety in the building on the October 21<sup>st</sup> work session.

She stated that there will be a follow-up math audit in February to finalize that process. Superintendent Wegner also informed the board that there will be continual training on the Marzano teacher evaluation.

Superintendent Wegner expressed her excitement to travel with the board for the AASB Fall Conference.

## **CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION**

There was no additional correspondence

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND MEETING DATES**

- **OCTOBER WORK SESSION – VOCATIONAL**

**EDUCATION  
PROGRAM @ SHS**

- **AASB FALL  
CONFERENCE,  
NOVEMBER 6-9, 2014**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Fulton moved, Ms. Pook seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m. Motion carried.

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Lon Garrison, President

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Tim Fulton, Clerk