CALL TO ORDER

The Sitka School Board meeting was called to order by President Amy Morrison at 6:01 p.m. at Harrigan Centennial Hall, 330 Harbor Dr., Sitka, AK 99835.

ROLL CALL

Members present were Paul Rioux, Eric Van Cise, Andrew Hames, Blossom Teal-Olsen and Amy Morrison. The meeting was quorate.

APPROVAL OF PROPOSED AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Van Cise moved, Mr. Hames seconded to approve the board agenda and consent agenda as presented. The motion PASSED by a unanimous roll call vote of all members present.

SPECIAL REPORTS

• GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT

Lakrisha Johnson, STA Cultural Liaison, shared with the board how Hillary Nutting and Al Duncan have been creating a youth program to assist students in reaching employment post high school.

Ms. Johnson expressed concern that the SSD COVID mitigation plan does not align with STA mitigation plan. She would like to see more effort in aligning the district’s mitigation plan with CDC recommendations, and masking at all alert levels.

Rebecca Himshoot, City & Borough of Sitka Assembly person, stated that the Assembly is tracking school COVID policy closely, and want the district to manage things the best we can for kids and community.

PERSONS TO BE HEARD

President Morrison informed the audience that Mr. Hauser has detailed COVID mitigation plan to present and persons to be heard should relate only to non-agenda items.

Emma Thompson, Youth Program Manager at SAFV, shared how SAFV is utilizing social- and emotional-based programs to present to 3-5th graders focusing teamwork, relationships, communication, positive self-talk. The programs Girls on the Run, and its counterpart, Boys Run, will continue this school year. Keet Kids Run was adapted during COVID quarantine to help students
connect with guardians and other students. She encouraged the public to go to the SAFV Facebook page for more information on the fluctuation between in-person and virtual services provided by SAFV.

**Rita Christiansen**, with SYLC (Sitka Youth Leadership Committee), shared with the board how their use of social media connects with youth leaders to aid in promoting healthier relationship norms. State of AK has picked up the campaign, which includes a component focused on healthy masculinity; it has received national recognition, as well. Ms. Christiansen reported that the results of an end-of-year survey showed that the kids involved in the campaign felt empowered to make positive changes, find it easier to facilitate discussion with others and reach others in a meaningful way. They will continue recruiting Sitka-based teens to join.

**Brett Wilcox**, author of JABBED, came to speak on the behalf of the students in Sitka. He has done extensive research that supports his belief that masks don’t work and end up being harmful to children by trapping bacteria on their faces. He expressed his opposition to mask mandating in the district.

**SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS**

**Jill Lecrone, BES.** Baranof will be moving from half day to full day, this year. Americorps volunteers are helping get the school ready for students. The school will sponsor a COVID-friendly meet your teacher. Baranof Kids Camp was held over the summer for incoming kindergarten kids and was very well received. K-1 will be starting on normal schedule. Taking the student population in thirds, they will teach proper mitigation to the incoming students. Masks will be required at levels moderate and above.

**Casey Demmert, KGH.** Appreciated the Culturally Responsive Teaching presentation during Inservice with Helen Mongan-Rallis. Very practical and immediately able to be implemented by the staff. Mitigation – mask, social dist., hand hygiene. Lunch inside, shifts on playground.

Meet your teacher by appointment with 2nd grade. 3-5 meet your teacher will be virtual. One AmeriCorps volunteer.

**Ben White – BMS** Planning on practice with kids on COVID mitigation. Jump Start – science and math activities for 40 students three days a week over the summer at science center. Enrichment program – ½ hr. a day for all students. Scott Calhoun donated BMS t-shirts for students. 22 new students added to roll. No open house. Q&A sessions over a few days.

Q&A link emailed to all parents. Blossom commented some parents don’t have email. Mr. White has other avenues to put info out.

**Sondra Lundvick - SHS** BMS and SHS started collaboration between staff. Safe return being planned. Parent guide will be going
out to parents this week. Academic credit earned by students this summer through REACH. Freshman orientation Monday, all other students back on Tuesday. Activities have started, CC, VB, swimming. All students attending every day.

**Mandy Sumner - PHS** 36 students enrolled for fall. Ramon Quevedo - School Social Worker - new position this year. Staff brought back two days early to do specific training to get ready for orientation with students. Received grant written by Sarah Ferrency for farm-to-school garden program. Will collaborate with BES staff and students.

### BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

- **Ms. Teal-Olsen** had nothing to report.
- **Mr. Hames** had nothing to report.
- **Mr. VanCise** reported that he has been digging into research on opening schools. In particular, the Southwest and Southeast US, how they are handling COVID. Looking at their mitigation strategies. He has concluded that our district is setting the bar high.
- **Mr. Rioux** had nothing to report.
- **President Morrison** reported that she went to Inservice Monday. Congratulated district on progress in opening school and taking great effort in keeping students and staff safe during the school year.

### ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

#### BUDGET REPORT -

a. Budget Update
   - First foundation monthly payment received.
   - Applied for HHS screening/testing grant – which will fund a COVID testing coordinator and rapid testing.
   - Purchased medical grade HEPA filters for the band room and gyms.

#### SUPERINTENDENT

b. Superintendent Update
   - BMS Jump Start Program
   - BES Kindergarten camp
   - Breakfast and lunch free for all students
   - Return to hot meals
   - Fruit and Vegetable grant for all schools
   - 14 New staff
   - Mentoring opportunity for staff at all experience levels – focuses on induction support to new staff (whether veteran or new teacher) teacher/staff led collaboration
   - Strategic plan – developed last spring, creating a
NEW MISSION STATEMENT for the district. The committee also outlined strategies for COVID mitigation. Action plan teams will be created to focus on actions or changes that will occur in the district.

COVID UPDATE:
- Please refer to the detailed COVID policy on the SSD website in the Announcements section.
- School sports begin with no spectators. Most sporting events broadcast online.
- Vaccination rate – 88% (staff)
- Students 68%
- Federal Dept. of Health and Human Services warehouse in the state is stockpiled with PPE. Voluntary RAPID testing will be coordinated by each school.

NEW BUSINESS

- **APPROVAL OF THE DISTRICT’S SIX-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN APPLICATION**
  
  Mr. Hames moved, and Mr. Rioux seconded for the approval of the FY22 Capital Improvement Plan application, as presented.
  
  Mr. Mike Bartolaba came to present info on the plan. He pointed out that it should be the FY23 Capital Improvement Plan.
  
  President Morrison called for an amendment to the motion. Mr. Hames moved to amend the motion to approval of the FY 23 Capital Improvement Plan application as presented, and Ms. Teal-Olsen seconded.
  
  No public comment
  
  Mr. Hames commented that some items on the FY25 plan would be cost saving and asked about moving those to an earlier time. Mike informed the board that the electrical boilers have already been installed by the city.
  
  The motion to approve the FY23 Capital Improvement Plan application PASSED by a unanimous roll call vote of all members present.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **NEXT REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING 6:00p.m. SEPTEMBER 1, 2021 – HARRIGAN**
CENTENNIAL HALL

- FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL AUGUST 23, 2021

- SPECIAL MEETING RESCHEDULED TO OCTOBER 12, 2021

- ANNUAL RETREAT IN SITKA WITH TIMI TULLIS OF AASB October 29-30, 2021

- AASB CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 4-7, 2021 IN ANCHORAGE

AASB resolutions recommendations for change are due Oct. 5th. Review of proposed changes will be Sept. 1st meeting. The five sections were divided up among board:

- Ms. Teal-Olsen – Child Advocacy
- Mr. Hames – Government
- Mr. VanCise – Education
- Mr. Rioux – Funding
- President Morrison - Personnel

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:02pm.

Amy J. Morrison, President

Paul G. Rioux, Clerk