

SITKA SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

April 3, 2019 – 6:30 p.m.
Sitka School District

Superintendent: Dr. Mary Wegner

CALL TO ORDER

The Sitka School Board meeting was called to order by President, Jennifer McNichol at 6:33 p.m. at the ANB Hall.

ROLL CALL

Members present were, President Jennifer McNichol, Clerk Eric Van Cise, Dionne Brady-Howard and Amy Morrison. Vice-President Elias Erickson and Student Representative Joseph Pate were absent and excused. The meeting was quorate.

APPROVAL OF PROPOSED AGENDA

Ms. Brady-Howard moved, Mr. Van Cise seconded to approve the board agenda as presented. Motion carried.

RECOGNITIONS

- **RECOGNIZE BMS STUDENT EMILY HILL**

President McNichol presented a certificate to Blatchley Middle School student Emily Hill for winning a National Excellence in Writing Certificate and a Gold Key from Scholastic Art & Writing Awards 2019.

PERSONS TO BE HEARD

Beth Short-Rhoads, community member, thanked the board for the opportunity to give input on the FY20 Budget process.

Pat Alexander, community member, expressed her strong support for Sitka Native Education Program (SNEP), particularly teaching the language that may be lost. She also stated that she supported closing the PAC as it does not seem necessary to education. She thanked the School Board Members for their work.

Harvey Brandt conveyed his appreciation and respect to the School board for the work they are doing now. He also commented on the current state budget process.

REPORTS

- **REPORT ON CO-CREATING CULTURAL CONNECTIONS IN SSD**

Nancy Douglas, Cultural Director, and her team gave a report on Co-creating Cultural Connections in the Sitka School District. They presented information about the classes and successes that have been occurring with SNEP.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Ms. Morrison commended Laura Rogers and SHS for engaging the students to complete the PEAKS testing this week.

Ms. Brady-Howard thanked the ANB and ANS for being gracious hosts. Ms. Brady-Howard noted that PHS is entering their last academic session focusing on birds, poetry, gardening, food and a U.S. History perspective. There are currently 36 students enrolled in PHS which is a high for this time of year. Ms. Brady-Howard thanked the community for their words of support and advocacy as we continue this budget journey.

Mr. Van Cise thanked the ANB and ANS for hosting the School Board and stated that he looks forward to it every year. Mr. Van Cise reported that he met with Ben White, Principal at BMS. They talked about the budget and the affects it has on K-12 education. He commended BMS staff for the way they adjust and adapt to challenges that arise. Mr. Van Cise also spent a class period with Karl Jordan the BMS shop teacher and stated that it was great to see the students enjoying the work. Lastly, he noted that there is a dance Friday at BMS.

President McNichol noted that there have been two Policy Committee meetings recently and various policies were reviewed. President McNichol thanked Mr. Van Cise and Mr. Erickson for participating in the KCAW hosted call-in on March 18th. She also thanked KCAW for giving the opportunity for public input. President McNichol stated that Sitka recently hosted the Region V Basketball tournament; SHS boys won Region V and went on to the state championship; and the SHS Cheer team took the 3A Cheer championship. Lastly, she announced that the Activity Committee will be holding a meeting April 15th at 7:30 a.m.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

• **BUDGET UPDATE – CASSEE OLIN**

Cassee Olin, Business Manager gave an overview of the budget update.

• **ENROLLMENT UPDATE – MARY WEGNER**

Superintendent Wegner informed the board that student enrollment is stable at this time.

• **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT –MARY WEGNER**

Superintendent Wegner thanked the ANB and ANS for welcoming the board into their home for conversations and collaboration.

Superintendent Wegner congratulated 2nd grade teacher Cindy Duncan for being selected to be part of the inaugural cohort of the *HP Teaching Fellows*, which is associated with HP and Microsoft's *Re-invent the Classroom* initiative.

Superintendent Wegner extended kudos to Baranof Principal Jill Lecrone and STEPS Grant Family and Community

Connectedness Project Coordinator Kari Sagel for getting out into the community to help families register for kindergarten. She also thanked the MTSS Student Behavior Cohort team members for their hard work in setting up the system.

Lastly, Superintendent Wegner noted that her full report is available on the web site to read in its entirety.

CONSENT AGENDA

- **APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 6, 2019 MINUTES** Elias Erickson moved, Erick Van Cise seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- **VII-PL 81-874 IMPACT AID PUBLIC HEARING** Ms. Brady-Howard moved, Ms. Morrison seconded that the Board go into Public Hearing in accordance with BP 6174.1 concerning the Native American Policies and Procedures. Motion carried.

There were comments from the board and the community. Spike Arnold spoke about the importance of the Tlingit Language classes. He noted the positive community partnerships between elders, parents and the district in supporting those classes. Pat Alexander stated she would like to see a change in BP 6174.1 language regarding the word “parent”. She suggested as an alternative the words guardian, family, or caregiver.

President McNichol returned to the regular meeting.

- **APPROVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS CENTER CONTRACT WITH THE CITY OF SITKA AND ALASKA ARTS SOUTHEAST** Ms. Morrison moved, Mr. Van Cise seconded to approve the Performing Arts Center Contract as presented. There was a brief discussion.
Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION

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There was no correspondence.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **BUDGET WORK SESSION** Budget Work session with the City & Borough of Sitka Assembly. 6:00 p.m. April 4, 2019 at the Harrigan Centennial Hall

- **AASB LEGISLATIVE FLY-IN – APRIL 6-9, 2019, JUNEAU, AK** AASB Legislative Fly-in, April 6-9, 2019 in Juneau, Alaska.
- **FINAL BUDGET HEARING & BUDGET APPROVAL** Final Budget Hearing and Final Budget approval 6:00 p.m. April 17, 2019 at the Sitka High School Library.
- **NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING** Regular Board May 1, 2019 at the Sitka High School Library.
- **IMPORTANT DATES**
 - Sitka High School Awards Ceremony – May 6, 2019 – SHS Commons
 - Pacific High School Graduation - May 16, 2019 - 6:30 pm - Sheet’ Ká Kwáan Naa Kahídi
 - Sitka High School Graduation - May 20, 2019 – 7:00 pm – Sitka High School Gym
 - Blatchley Middle School Rites of Passage - May 23, 2019 – 11:00 am - BMS Gym

The public portion of the meeting concluded at the ANB Hall at 8:05 p.m. The School Board reconvened at the District Office Board Room to go into Executive Session at 8:28 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Brady-Howard moved, Ms. Morrison seconded to go into Executive Session in accordance with and under the provisions of AS 44.62.310(c)(1) & (4), the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the district. The matters to be discussed are Sitka Education Association and Sitka Educational Support Professional Association negotiations. Superintendent Wegner, Co-assistant Superintendent Phil Burdick and Business Manager Cassee Olin are invited.

REGULAR SESSION

Ms. Brady-Howard moved, Mr. Van Cise seconded that the board return to regular session.

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:41 p.m.

Jennifer McNichol, President

Eric Van Cise, Clerk