

SITKA SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

December 5, 2018 – 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, Jennifer McNichol at 6:01 p.m. at the Sitka High School Library.

ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF PROPOSED AGENDA

Mr. Van Cise moved and Ms. Morrison seconded to approve the board agenda as presented. Motion carried.

RECOGNITIONS

- **RECOGNIZE BOARD MEMBERS FOR AASB BOARDSMANSHIP AWARDS**

Mr. Erickson, Ms. Brady-Howard, and Mr. Van Cise were recognized for their Association of Alaska School Boards Carl Rose Boardmanship Awards.

PERSONS TO BE HEARD

Kathy Matthews expressed her concerns regarding bullying in schools.

Stephen Courtright, a member of Families for School Libraries, advocated for reopening the Blatchley Middle School Library with a full time librarian.

Beth Short-Rhodes, a member of Families for School Libraries, advocated for a library in every school. She also urged community members to reach out to administrators, the School Board, and lawmakers in Juneau to express their concerns.

REPORTS

- **REPORT ON STEPS AND CRESEL UPDATE**

Mandy Evans, Grant Director, gave a report on Supporting Transitions and Educational Promise Southeast (STEPS) and Culturally Responsive and Embedded Social and Emotional Learning (CRESEL) update. Jill Lecrone, Colleen Carol and Hillary Seeland spoke about how the resources and partnerships from these programs have made positive impacts in our schools.

REPORT ON AASB CONFERENCE

Each of the board members spoke on the highlights of the annual Association of Alaska School Board (AASB) conference. Mr.

Erickson reported that he had an enriching time at the AASB conference as a participant on the Resolution Committee.

Mr. Van Cise stated that he enjoyed the student breakout sessions. He also reminded everyone about the grants, courses, and scholarships available through the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE).

Ms. Morrison also found the student breakout sessions enjoyable and informative. She also attended the Board Room Boot Camp for new board members.

President McNichol attended the Experienced Board Member Academy. She reminded the board that the 4 essential roles of the being a board member are: budget oversight, maintaining and developing the superintendent relationship, curriculum and instructional materials oversight and policy development. President McNichol appreciated the keynote address by Nick Hanson, the Eskimo Ninja. He spoke on the topic of suicide awareness and ways to address and identify risks for suicide. She also noted that AASB is working on a cultural safety scan of district policies.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Ms. Morrison stated that she had participated in several meetings with a diverse group of students who are planning a Teen Center.

President McNichol took part in a recent meeting with Dr. Wegner, City Administrator Keith Brady and Mayor Gary Paxton regarding the upcoming budget deliberations. She also attended the Drama, Debate and Forensics final meet at Mt. Edgecumbe High School. She noted that Joe Pate and partner Ella Lubin won the finals and Joe Pate was first place in speaker points.

Mr. Van Cise met with Ben White, Blatchley Middle School Principal. He was impressed by the networking being done with the staff; and the way that the students are being directed to channel their energy in a positive way.

Mr. Erickson stated that he and Dr. Wegner were guests on Problem Corner recently. He noted that it was a nice opportunity to open communication between the School Board and the public. Mr. Erickson commented that there are a lot of great things happening at Baranof Elementary School and he is proud of the hard work principal Jill Lecrone is doing.

Mr. Pate thanked Mt. Edgecumbe High School for hosting the recent Drama, Debate and Forensics meet. He also thanked the community members who volunteered to judge the many performances. Mr. Pate also recommended looking at a highlight video of activities and events happening inside Sitka High School that is posted on the SHS Facebook page.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

- **BUDGET UPDATE – CASSEE OLIN** Ms. Olin was at the 2018 ALASBO Conference. The budget report was included in the packet. Any questions about the budget will be passed on to her.

- **ENROLLMENT UPDATE – MARY WEGNER** Superintendent Wegner informed the board that student enrollment is 1207.38. It was noted that enrollment decreased after the PFD’s were issued.

- **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT –MARY WEGNER** Superintendent Wegner congratulated the School Board members who received a Boardmanship award. She thanked Business Manager Cassee Olin and her team for a clean FY18 audit.

Superintendent Wegner informed the board that Dr. Michael Johnson has been retained as the Commissioner for the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. She also reminded everyone that the STEPS Grant Sitka Early Childhood Survey is happening now through December 14th.

Lastly, she noted that the remainder of her report is on the web site for everyone to read in full.

CONSENT AGENDA

- **APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 5, 2018 MINUTES** Mr. Van Cise moved, Mr. Erickson seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- **ACCEPTANCE OF AUDIT** Mr. Erickson moved, Mr. Van Cise seconded to accept the audit as presented. Motion carried.

- **REVIEW OF AR 6142.1 FAMILY LIVE/SEX EDUCATION** Review of AR 6142.1 Family life/Sex Education.

- **REVIEW OF 4119.2(E) CODE OF ETHICS** Review of 4119.2(E) Code of Ethics. There was a brief explanation of the update by Dr. Wegner.

- **CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION** Correspondence from members of the public was received this evening.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- AASB EQUITY IN EDUCATION/WINTER ACADEMY - DECEMBER 7-8, 2018 ANCHORAGE, AK
- BUDGET MEETING WITH ASSEMBLY – JANUARY 16, 2019 – DO BOARD ROOM
- LEGISLATIVE FLY-IN – FEBRUARY 9-12, 2019 – JUNEAU, AK
- EXECUTIVE SESSION
- REGULAR SESSION
- EXECUTIVE SESSION
- REGULAR SESSION
- EXECUTIVE SESSION
- REGULAR SESSION

Mr. Van Cise moved, Mr. Erickson seconded for the board to go into Executive Session so as not to prejudice the reputation of the student. Dr. Wegner and the family are invited to the discussion. Motion carried.

Ms. Morrison moved, Mr. Van Cise seconded to return to regular session. Motion carried.

Mr. Erickson moved, Mr. Van Cise seconded to reject the discipline grievance. Motion carried.

Mr. Erickson moved, Mr. Van Cise seconded to extend the meeting 30 minutes. Motion carried.

Mr. Van Cise moved, Ms. Morrison seconded to go into Executive Session in accordance with the Family Education and Rights Act (FERPA) that protects the privacy of students. Dr. Wegner, Principal Casey Demmert and Teacher in Charge Tyler McCarty are invited to the discussion. Motion carried.

Mr. Erickson moved, Ms. Morrison seconded to return to regular session. Motion carried.

Mr. Erickson moved, Mr. Van Cise seconded to extend the meeting 30 minutes. Motion carried.

Ms. Morrison moved, Mr. Van Cise seconded to go into Executive Session. Motion carried.

Mr. Van Cise moved, Ms. Morrison seconded to return to regular session. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:22 p.m.

Jennifer McNichol, President

Eric Van Cise, Clerk