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 Eric Van Cise, Andrew Hames, Blossom Teal-Olsen and Amy Morrison. Paul Rioux was absent and excused. 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

Dionne Brady, STA Board Liaison stated that three options were given to the board to choose from to adopt for the Tlingit Land Acknowledgement. Ms. Brady updated the board on the recommendation for the renaming of Baranof Elementary School. The committee is working through a process so that the tribal community can have ample opportunity to present ideas and contribute to the selection. The committee appreciates the board’s patience as well as the respect and consideration the board is offering the tribe by allowing them to take leadership on the issue. The cultural committee took second vote on a name and will bring it to the council at their next meeting in two weeks.

RECOGNITIONS

The board recognized Darby Osborne for her selection as a Youth Hero through the Alaska Communications / Boys and Girls Clubs of Alaska 2021 Summer of Heroes program. She received a $1,500 award for her work in increasing climate change awareness in the community.
**PERSONS TO BE HEARD**

Mike Vieira informed the board that SEA held elections in May and Mr. Vieira was elected president for one more year. Mr. Vieira expressed thanks to Mr. Hauser for attention to the issues revolving around returning to school and for his priority of mentoring young/new teachers in the district.

**SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS**

Mandy Summers – PHS is finishing up orientation. MAP testing was completed to assess student skills. 39 students are currently registered at PHS, with their largest freshman class ever. Academic classes have started, and PHS will be resuming Friday Life Skills, bringing community members into school and students out into the community. Classes are offered with SNEP and SAIL; they will also be taking some students to Hames PE center for earned PE credit. Eric Butler and Hannah Bronsnick, of Talking Peace, will be at PHS 9/2-9/4 to facilitate training in restorative justice. Their training at PHS is co-hosted by YAS.

Sondra Lundvick - SHS students are readjusting to mitigations; the start of school has gone very well. COVID testing is happening every Monday for those participating in school activities and is being offered as optional to other students and staff. AmeriCorps filling a lot of important roles in the school.

Ben White – BMS Highlighted multiple new staff.

Casey Demmert – KGH Staff created great welcoming environment for returning students. Students learning their routines. Staff stepping up helping each other. Lots of cooperative work in first 2 weeks. Mr. Demmert offered kudos to Trudy with the bus company, saying she has been great to work with. AmeriCorps – Jonathan Pijar has been great help. He will be working directly with kids, soon. One more AmeriCorps to join KGH. COVID testing (optional) going smoothly.

Jill Lecrone - BES– Introduced new staff and commented on a strong start to the school year. BES employed a staggered start strategy, starting on three different days to teach the kids the routine of Kindergarten and mitigation. Drums Alive program – 15-20 minutes in addition to regular PE time and teaches social emotional skills. Ed Littlefield coming as artist in residence for one week, thanks to the Arts, Technology and Culture program. Working with Joe and Jeff – integrating Tlingit into music and PE. Telling stories through music and play.
**BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

**Blossom Teal-Olsen** – Excited to hear from Dionne Brady-Howard and progress in renaming Baranof Elementary. Thanked administration and teachers for start of school. As a tribal citizen, Ms. Teal-Olsen is thankful to STA for providing backpacks to tribal families.

**Eric Van Cise** – Expressed how grateful he is for what is happening in Sitka in regard to returning to school. He made a comparison between how Sitka and SSD are moving forward to how disruptive the beginning of the school year has been in other parts of the country.

**Andrew Hames** – His own children are happy to start school.

**Amy Morrison** – Clarified that the renaming of BES remains on hold while STA brings its recommendation to the board. Asked public to remain patient.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

- **BUDGET REPORT**
  - SSD has submitted our latest update for the ARP on the 24th.
  - The district is getting ready for annual audit.

- **SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE**
  - Superintendent Hauser highlighted what he observed during the first week at each of the schools. Mr. Hauser remarked that sports have resumed and COVID testing is happening weekly for all athletes.
  - Enrollment is currently 1150, which is higher than predicted during the budget process. The Fall 2021 student count will take place from 9/27-10/22/2021.
  - Superintendent Hauser then recognized SSD staff and gave special recognition to the District Office staff who have been invaluable in making sure staff and families have what they needed to start the school year. Special recognition went also to Chris Voron for his efforts above and beyond in strategizing, developing, and implementing the COVID policies and procedures for SSD.
  - Superintendent Hauser gave special acknowledgment to Roby Littlefield for her dedication to teaching Tlingit culture to the students of SSD for over 25 years.
  - Strategic planning – looking for volunteers for action plan teams: teachers and staff, parents, and community members are wanted.
  - COVID update: Current alert level is high. Reporting model has been approved to match the state. Current risk levels are High, Substantial, Moderate, and Low. Note that masks are
optional only at Low COVID level. CDC mask guidance will be checked continually for the most current information.
• Superintendent Hauser stated that we have current district staff administering the COVID testing, and not a hired outside entity.

NEW BUSINESS

• APPROVAL OF TLINGIT LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Ms. Teal-Olsen moved, and Mr. Hames seconded the motion to approve Tlingit Land Acknowledgement #1 as presented.

Board comments:
Ms. Teal-Olsen expressed her appreciation for Dionne Brady-Howard’s report on the Land Acknowledgement and pointed out that these are just suggestions.
Mr. Hames expressed his appreciation to the Cultural Resource Committee and the time taken to make these recommendations. He would like to adopt one of them instead of drafting one directly from the board.
Mr. Van Cise stated that the board trusts the work of our tribal members. Looking at it from a school standpoint, he likes #2, which acknowledges elders.
President Morrison likes the emphasis in #1 towards the school district and all schools.
The motion to approve Tlingit Land Acknowledgement #1 PASSED with a unanimous vote of those present.
Superintendent Hauser suggested that the Land Acknowledgement be read at any large gathering we have, e.g., open house, assembly, graduation, etc.

• DISCUSSION OF FLAG SALUTE IN TLINGIT LANGUAGE

The board engaged in a discussion about how to use the Tlingit Language Pledge of Allegiance.
After discussion, President Morrison stated the board’s consensus to pass the discussion of the topic on to the Cultural Resource Committee for guidance in how to use the Tlingit Language Pledge of Allegiance.
• APPROVAL OF 2021 AASB RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Hames moved, Ms. Teal-Olsen seconded to approve the AASB 2021 Resolutions as presented, with the amendment of AASB Education Programs Resolution 5.14 to recommend for renewal.

UPCOMING EVENTS

• NEXT REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING 6:00p.m. OCTOBER 6, 2021 – HARRIGAN CENTENNIAL HALL

• SPECIAL MEETING 5:00PM OCTOBER 15, 2021 – DISTRICT BOARD ROOM

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

• AASB CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 4-7, 2021 IN ANCHORAGE

President Morrison informed the Board that proof of vaccination and masks are required for attendance at the AASB Conference.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:28pm.

Amy J. Morrison, President

Paul G. Rioux, Clerk