

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
ASSEMBLY**

**SPECIAL MEETING
JUNE 13, 2000**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on June 13, 2000, at the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly Chambers, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Mayor Darcie K. Salmon. The purpose of the special meeting was to meet jointly with the school board.

II. ROLL CALL

Assembly members present and establishing a quorum were:

- Mr. Larry DeVilbiss, Assembly District No. 1
- Ms. Sara Jansen, Assembly District No. 2
- Mr. James Colberg, Assembly District No. 3
- Mr. Dan Kelly, Assembly District No. 4
- Ms. Jody Simpson, Assembly District No. 5
- Mr. Jim Turner, Assembly District No. 6
- Mr. Doyle Holmes, Assembly District No. 7 (Deputy Mayor)

School Board members present and establishing a quorum were:

- Mr. Rob Wells, President, Seat A
- Mr. John Fairfield, Seat B
- Ms. Linda Menard, Seat C
- Mr. Mike Chmielewski, Seat E
- Mr. Daniel Contini, Seat G

School Board members absent and excused:

- Mr. Bob Johnson, Seat D
- Ms. Helene Antel Brooks, Seat F

Staff in attendance were:

- Ms. Sandra Dillon, Borough Clerk
- Mr. Michael J. Scott, Borough Manager
- Mr. Michael Gatti, Borough Attorney
- Ms. Elizabeth Manfred, Borough Deputy Clerk
- Mr. Jim Swing, Public Works Director

School District staff in attendance were:

- Ms. Patricia Chesboro, Superintendent
- Mr. George Troxel, Director of Secondary and Elementary Curriculum
- Mr. Karl Schleich, Snowshoe Elementary School Principal
- Mr. Scott Schwald, Transportation Supervisor

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

There was no objection to the agenda as presented.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by School Board President Wells.

V. ORDERS OF THE DAY

- A. Proclamation for BP Teachers of Excellence: Judith Anderegg, Shelley Heiserman, Dwight Homstad, Joe Nolting, and Cheryle Smith

Mayor Salmon read the proclamation for BP Teachers of Excellence and presented the awards to Dwight Homstad, Joe Nolting, and Cheryle Smith. Judith Anderegg and Shelley Heiserman were unable to attend and requested their awards be mailed to them.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Review School Capital Construction Plan (MSB 2.12.075(A))

Mr. Swing:

- reported that the Talkeetna School is approximately 92 percent complete with the district expected to take possession on August 15, 2000;
- proposed a dedication ceremony for the Talkeetna School in September 2000;
- shared that the Meadow Lakes Elementary School construction is 94 percent complete and the district may move into the building in mid-July 2000;
- stated that the Larson Elementary School is 16 percent complete and the construction is ahead of schedule;
- commented that the Teeland Middle School is scheduled to open September 2001;
- mentioned that the Burchell High School Addition design is near completion and a revised bid schedule has been presented to accommodate the city of Wasilla utilities extensions;
- stated that the Houston High School schematic design and estimate have been approved;
- remarked that a waste water treatment facility project is proposed for Colony Middle School;
- explained that the fire alarm upgrades are scheduled for Butte and Cottonwood Schools and additional sprinklers and a fire pump are being installed at Willow Elementary;
- remarked that univents are being replaced at Willow Elementary; and
- spoke to the ADA access improvements proposed for the restroom facilities at Sherrod Elementary.

Assemblymember Jansen thanked Mr. Swing for the written school projects status report which accompanied his verbal presentation.

Assemblymember Kelly questioned expenses of the Meadow Lakes Elementary School and the Larson Elementary School.

Mr. Swing responded that the architect will reimburse a portion of the change order expenses for the Larson Elementary School.

Superintendent Chesboro reported that the Palmer Alternative School site has been selected, a two-year lease signed for the property, and portables will be moved on site.

Mr. Scott stated that a request has been made to the Alaska State Department of Transportation to develop a safer method of student crossing for the Wasilla High/Wasilla Middle School sites.

Assemblymember Turner suggested the crosswalk be painted and signs installed immediately.

School Board Member Menard advised that the Greater Core Elementary School will now be the Ron Larson Elementary School.

Mr. Scott:

- stated that the Governor vetoed the bill with funding for Sherrod School because of the language;
- remarked that a school funding bill with corrected language is expected to be adopted;
- suggested that the school district obtain an appraisal of the old Sherrod school, purchase it from DOE, or tear it down; and
- requested the school district discuss the need for a school administration building and place it on the next priority list for school construction.

Assemblymember Colberg cautioned the district to research the expenses involved in refurbishing an old school versus new construction.

School Board President Wells:

- spoke to the need for a new administration building; and
- invited the assembly to visit the present school administration building.

Assemblymember Kelly asked about environmental concerns of the Burchell High School Addition.

Mr. Swing:

- noted that test drilling of the water line extension revealed contamination in the Parks Highway right-of-way;
- reported that the tests are being analyzed; and
- stated that a proposal to reroute the water line is being considered.

Assemblymember DeVilbiss questioned the decibel level of the fire alarms in schools.

Mr. Swing responded that the decibel level was tested and is set at the level required by DOE.

Assemblymember Holmes questioned the alternative site selection process when not connected to a current school.

Mr. Gatti:

- stated that the code does not prohibit or permit portables;
- commented that an ordinance may be drafted to address the issue of portables; and
- remarked that an ordinance needs to come to the assembly or a site selection committee assigned concerning alternative school sites.

B. Reengineering School Finance Conference (Requested by the School Board)

Mayor Salmon suggested Assemblymember Jansen attend the reengineering conference in New York City, October 4-6, 2000, as a representative for the assembly.

MOTION: Assemblymember Kelly moved to send Assemblymember Jansen as a representative for the assembly to the reengineering conference.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: Assemblymember Jansen declared a conflict of interest as she would receive borough funds for travel to attend the conference.

RULING: Mayor Salmon ruled that Assemblymember Jansen had a conflict of interest and would be recused from voting on the issue. (Assemblymember Jansen left the room.)

GENERAL CONSENT: The motion passed without objection. (Assemblymember Jansen returned.)

VII. SCHOOL BOARD, MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

School Board Member Menard:

- shared the district plans to add 900 students to on-line school enrollment;
- expressed her admiration for BP Teacher of Excellence recipient Shelly Heiserman;
- stated her pride in having a local school named for Ron Larson; and
- noted that she is looking forward to the Teeland School being open next year.

School Board Member Contini:

- reported that the school district contracted to have the school alarms tested for decible levels; and
- commented that the sprinkler system has saved the borough building numerous times.

Assemblymember DeVilbiss thanked the school board for the budget process followed this year.

Assemblymember Jansen supported the school administration building replacement.

School Board President Wells:

- assured the assembly that the district will develop a capital needs priority list and present it to the assembly;
- appreciated the teachers who received excellence awards; and

- stated that there are many success stories within the school district which will be shared with the assembly.

Mr. Scott:

- welcomed Superintendent Pat Chesboro to her position; and
- thanked Interim Superintendent Troxell for his tenure.

Ms. Dillon:

- stated her goal is to acquire pictures of local history to display in the borough building; and
- thanked Mr. Troxell, Mr. Wells, and Assemblymember Colberg for acquiring the Knik bridge photo.

Assemblymember Turner:

- stated he had attended a press conference for See You On Line (internet school program) and thanked the school district for providing this educational tool.

Superintendent Chesboro:

- appreciated the assembly support in sending Assemblymember Jansen to the reengineering conference;
- thanked assembly members for attendance to the See You On Line press conference;
- expressed pride in the school district staff for development of the on line educational program;
- spoke to the advanced quality schools conference in Wasilla for staff development; and
- announced that Pat Truman received the district teacher of the year award.

Assemblymember Kelly:

- appreciated the conversation at this meeting; and
- cautioned that school budgets and site selection committees require extra attention.

Assemblymember Colberg:

- appreciated the school district budget presentation;
- recognized that cyber school is a great asset to the district; and
- commented on the strengths of all district teachers.

Assemblymember Simpson expressed her appreciation for these joint meetings.

School Board Member Chmielewski:

- commented that he has recently attended several graduations; and
- praised the quality of students in the district with active roles in the community.

Mayor Salmon:

- asked if the district had marketing methods to advertise the See You on Line program;
- reported that he had addressed the Camp Challenge Boy Scout group and praised their level of interest in local issues;
- commented on the expense of extra curricular school activities;

- spoke to the ADA requirements of the borough building;
- stated that the school district is the first in the country to be a joint e-college site; and
- reported that a new art store has opened on the Palmer-Wasilla Highway.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The special assembly meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

ATTEST:


SANDRA A. DILLON, Borough Clerk


DARCIE K. SALMON, Borough Mayor

Minutes approved July 18, 2000.