

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on June 13, 2006, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Mayor Timothy L. Anderson for the purpose of holding a joint Assembly/School Board meeting.

II. ROLL CALL

Assembly members present and establishing a quorum were:

Ms. Lynne Woods, Assembly District No. 1
Mr. Talis J. Colberg, Assembly District No. 3
Ms. Mary Kvalheim, Assembly District No. 4
Ms. Cindy Bettine, Assembly District No. 5

Assembly members absent and excused were:

Mr. Bill Allen, Assembly District No. 2
Mr. Jim Colver, Assembly District No. 6 (*Deputy Mayor*)
Ms. Betty Vehrs, Assembly District No. 7

School Board members present and establishing a quorum were:

Ms. Sarah Welton, Seat B (*School Board President*)
Ms. Linda Menard, Seat C
Ms. Patricia Purcell, Seat D
Mr. Daniel Contini, Seat G

School Board members absent and excused were:

Mr. Rob Wells, Seat A
Ms. Cheryl Turner, Seat E
Mr. Larry DeVilbiss, Seat F

Borough staff in attendance were:

Ms. Michelle M. McGehee, CMC, Borough Clerk
Mr. John Duffy, Borough Manager
Ms. John Aschenbrenner, Acting Borough Attorney
Ms. Lonnie R. McKechnie, Executive Assistant to the Borough Clerk
Mr. Keith Rountree, Public Works Director
Mr. Ron Swanson, Community Development Director

School Board staff in attendance were:

Mr. Bob Doyle, Chief School Administrator
Mr. George Troxel, Assistant Superintendent of Education

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Anderson inquired if there were any changes to the agenda.

School Board Member Menard requested the addition of an item G, under new business, to discuss the joint Assembly/School Board's meeting schedule.

There was no objection noted.

GENERAL CONSENT: The agenda was approved as amended without objection.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ms. Lucy Hope of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District.

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

(There was no one present who wished to testify.)

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Review of School Capital Construction Plan *(pursuant to MSB 2.12.075)*

Mr. Rountree provided an update regarding the following school construction projects: Wasilla Elementary School, Academy Charter School Gymnasium, Career Center, Nutrition Services Facility, sealing and striping of school parking lots throughout the Borough, Susitna Valley High School, and the new Knik Goose Bay Elementary School.

School Board Menard queried when the designs for the new Knik Goose Bay Elementary School would be available for School Board approval.

Mr. Rountree advised that the designs for the new Knik Goose Bay Elementary School would be available for the School Board in August 2006.

Discussion ensued regarding the new Knik Goose Bay Elementary School.

Assemblymember Bettine queried the issues with the grades that will be attending the Shaw Elementary School.

Mr. Doyle:

- spoke regarding the historical school situation with Swanson and Sherrod Elementary Schools;
- spoke regarding the capacity of the classrooms at Shaw Elementary School;
- advised that the prototype for Shaw Elementary School is kindergarten through 5th grade; and
- spoke regarding issues that the Fire Marshall has with Swanson Elementary School.

Assemblymember Bettine queried the capacity for Shaw Elementary School.

Mr. Doyle spoke regarding the capacity and classroom size at Shaw Elementary School.

Mayor Anderson queried if the School District would have more utility with a building that housed kindergarten through fifth grade or third through fifth grade.

Mr. Doyle advised that the School District would have more flexibility with a school that is kindergarten through fifth grade.

Mr. Rountree requested clarification of when the School Board would be meeting regarding the designs for the new Knik Goose Bay Elementary School.

School Board President Welton advised that the School Board's regular meetings are scheduled for August 2, and August 16, 2006.

Mayor Anderson queried the Borough's drop dead date for the School Board's approval on the Knik Goose Bay Elementary School design.

Mr. Rountree advised that the best date for the Borough to have the School Board's approval on the Knik Goose Bay Elementary School design is August 2, 2007.

Assemblymember Bettine queried if the School Board would be having a discussion regarding the new Knik Goose Bay Elementary School at their meeting tomorrow.

School Board President Welton advised that the School Board would be discussing the site location for the new Knik Goose Bay Elementary School.

Discussion ensued regarding the new Knik Goosebay Elementary School.

Mayor Anderson queried if the Seward Meridian extension is affecting the location of the Career Center.

Mr. Rountree:

- spoke regarding private property access issues; and
- advised that the architect and engineers would be looking into whether the Seward Meridian extension will affect the location of the Career Center.

Mayor Anderson queried if the schedule for Susitna Valley High School is in place.

Mr. Doyle affirmed that the schedule for the Susitna Valley High School is in place.

Mr. Rountree spoke regarding the impacts of the School District not having a Facility Coordinator.

Assemblymember Kvalheim queried whether there was any help that the School District could provide Mr. Rountree.

Mr. Doyle:

- stated that the School District does not have the ability, at this time, to rehire directors;
- stated that there have been times when the School District has built schools without an architect; and
- spoke regarding staff retiring from the School District.

Discussion ensued regarding the need for someone to take over the duties of the Facility Coordinator and retired staff at the School District.

B. 2007 Budget Update from the School District (*requested by Mayor Anderson*)

Mr. Doyle:

- reviewed the handout regarding the School District's fiscal year 2007 budget;
- spoke regarding restructuring some of the School District's departments; and
- advised that a report will be brought back to the School Board on August 2, 2006, so that the School Board could start restoring some of the items that have been cut.

C. School Board's Plan for Performance-Based Budgeting (*requested by Assemblymember Woods*)

Assemblymember Woods thanked Mr. Doyle for the performance-based budgeting information.

Mr. Doyle:

- spoke regarding delaying implementation;
- spoke regarding software capability; and
- advised that the School District will look at starting implementation of the performance-based budgeting in the fall of 2006.

D. School District Reports on the following:

- a. Special Education Funding Issue;
- b. 2006 Appeal; and
- c. 2007 School Year (*requested by Mayor Anderson*)

Mayor Anderson queried if there was any further action taking place on the School District's first appeal regarding Special Education Funding.

Mr. Doyle:

- advised that the School Board authorized the Attorney to file an appeal;
- spoke regarding the time frame for the appeal;
- stated that the School District believes that they have a strong case; and
- commented that they are hoping that the hearing officer that is selected is an Assistant Attorney General.

Mayor Anderson queried if the money was paid back or if the funds were held in reserve for 2006.

Mr. Doyle:

- advised that the money is being held in reserve in 2007; and
- stated that until this is resolved, the feeling was that it would be fiscally prudent to set the reserve aside.

Mayor Anderson queried whether there is a Special Education Program this year.

Mr. Doyle:

- spoke regarding intensive children within the School District;
- spoke regarding the School District being audited two times in the last two years;
- advised that the number of intensive students allowed in the Borough will drop from 300 to 150 students;
- advised that Fairbanks will have twice the percentage of intensive students than the Borough; and
- opined that the audit results were incorrect.

Discussion ensued regarding Special Education Funding.

E. Community Use at School Sites (*requested by Assemblymember Bettine*)

Assemblymember Bettine:

- stated that when she was campaigning, one of the issues was that the School District's facilities will not be available for everyone's use;
- opined that it would be good public relations to improve the availability for the public to use the facilities;
- spoke regarding the need for the School District to encourage public use of the facilities; and
- queried who would schedule the public's use of the schools.

Mr. Doyle:

- stated that the intention of the change is to allow NANA to collect the custodial fees and then assign a custodian;
- noted at one-time volunteers met with the principals and received a key to the facility;
- spoke regarding current policy; and
- stated that there is a need for someone to be willing to volunteer their time for the community groups.

Assemblymember Bettine queried if school facilities are available for community council use.

Mr. Doyle:

- spoke regarding groups that used to use the school facilities for no fee; and
- noted that the only time a fee is charged is when there are no workers scheduled to be at the school.

Assemblymember Bettine queried how the gates get unlocked for the outdoor facilities.

Mr. Doyle:

- advised that keys need to be checked out; and
- noted that some of the outdoor facilities are not locked.

Discussion ensued regarding the public's use of School District facilities.

F. Land Donation Requirements for Future School Sites *(requested by Assemblymember Bettine)*

Assemblymember Bettine:

- advised that she has had conversations with some developers regarding the problems with land donations; and
- spoke to the need to have policies and criteria for land donations.

Mr. Swanson:

- stated that the land donation process has been a learning experience; and
- stated that it is hurting the Borough not to have good criteria, a good scoring system, and cost benefit analysis.

Mayor Anderson:

- spoke to the need to look at new developments; and
- spoke regarding identifying school sites with the developer prior to the development being built.

Mr. Swanson:

- advised that in other places, it is required to set aside a certain amount of land for parks and schools; and
- stated without this being a requirement as part of the platting process, the Borough's hands are tied.

Assemblymember Kvalheim:

- referenced that the school site selection process used to grade the school sites; and
- queried what happened to that process.

Mr. Swanson:

- advised that they still use the school site selection process; however, it needs to be taken further to have more criteria and a better cost benefit analysis; and
- spoke regarding the need to change the way the real estate is required for school sites.

Discussion continued regarding:

- criteria for acquiring school sites;
- the need to look for future school sites; and
- putting an equal number of School Board members, Assembly members, and Planning Commission members on the Borough School Site Selection Committee.

G. Schedule for Joint Assembly/School Board Meetings *(requested by School Board Member Menard)*

Mr. Aschenbrenner spoke regarding the requirements of MSB 2.12.075.

School Board Member Menard:

- proposed that the bodies consider meeting three times a year rather than four;
- spoke to the problems with getting all the members to the meetings; and
- queried how items get on the joint Assembly/School Board agenda.

Ms. Case advised that the Clerk's Office sends out a memo requesting agenda items a month prior to the meeting schedule.

Mr. Aschenbrenner noted that there are items listed in code for discussion each month.

Mayor Anderson noted that the School Board can send a recommendation to the Assembly if they are interested in changing the code provision regarding meetings.

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

Assemblymember Woods spoke regarding e-mails she has been receiving regularly regarding concerns on transportation and school bus drivers.

Mayor Anderson:

- noted that that the joint meetings give the bodies the opportunity to talk with one another; and
- spoke regarding the need for the bodies to meet frequently to have a better understanding of each other.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The special meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

/ S /

JIM COLVER, Deputy Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

/ S /

MICHELLE M. MCGEHEE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes approved: 07/18/06