I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on September 14, 2004, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6:20 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:
- Mr. J. Bruce Bush, Assembly District No. 1
- Mr. Talis J. Colberg, Assembly District No. 3
- Ms. Mary Kvalheim, Assembly District No. 4
- Ms. Jody Simpson, Assembly District No. 5
- Mr. Jim Colver, Assembly District No. 6 (Deputy Mayor)
- Ms. Betty Vehrs, Assembly District No. 7

Assembly members absent were:
- Mr. Bill Allen, Assembly District No. 2

School Board members present and establishing a quorum were:
- Ms. Sarah Welton, Seat B *(arrived at 6:35 p.m.)*
- Ms. Linda Menard, Seat C *(arrived at 6:20 pm)*
- Mr. Mike Chmielewski, Seat E (School Board President)
- Mr. Larry DeVilbiss, Seat F
- Mr. Daniel Contini, Seat G

School Board members absent and excused were:
- Mr. Rob Wells, Seat A
- Mr. Bob Johnson, Seat D

Borough staff in attendance were:
- Ms. Michelle M. McGehee, CMC, Borough Clerk
- Mr. John Duffy, Borough Manager
- Ms. Teresa S. Williams, Borough Attorney
- Ms. Lonnie R. McKechnie, Borough Clerk's Secretary
- Ms. Tammy Clayton, Finance Director
- Mr. Don Shiesl, Public Works Director
- Mr. Murph O'Brien, Planning and Land Use Director

School Board staff in attendance were:
- Mr. Bob Doyle, Chief School Administrator
- Mr. Jack Sherman, Assistant Superintendent of Business
- Ms. Kim Floyd, Public Information Specialist
- Mr. Mike Schwartz, Facility Coordinator

Mr. Scott Schwald, Director of Operations and Maintenance
Mr. George Troxel, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Lebron McPhail, Director of Elementary and Secondary Education
Ms. Connie Lutz, Executive Director of Curriculum and Assessment

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

GENERAL CONSENT: The agenda was approved as presented.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Assemblymember Vehrs.

V. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. Building Construction Progress *(MSB 2.12.075(A))*

Mr. Shiesl:
- reported regarding the progress of building construction around the Borough;
- provided a summary of school district activities in regard to construction;
- reviewed the three school bond projects;
- stated that construction on the Wasilla Elementary School will be completed approximately July 2006;
- spoke to the rising costs of construction projects;
- noted the status of the nutrition services facility;
- spoke to school flooring replacement projects;
- advised that the Palmer Junior/Middle School sprinkler system installation will begin in summer 2005;
- reported that the Palmer High School pool upgrades will be completed the summer of 2005;
- spoke to assisting the School District in maintenance projects; and
- spoke to the failure of the well at Teeland Middle School.

Ms. Lutz provided a status report regarding the “1 percent for art program” and the need to close out some outstanding art projects.

B. Future School Sites *(School District Administration)*

Mr. O’Brien:
- advised that the Planning Department has made progress toward reserving property for future school sites;
- spoke regarding the career center;
- provided an update on Valley Pathways 160-acre site;
- remarked that a need has been identified for placement of schools in the Springer Loop system and the Trunk Road area;

- noted that the Borough Area Schools Site Selection Committee is due to expire;
- encouraged the extension of the committee to address other schools; and
- stated that he would like to propose a public facilities plan.

C. Enrollment *(School District Administration)*

School Board President Chmielewski:
- spoke to the projections of enrolled students;
- feel projections are accurate;
- noted that very few teachers have been moved to different schools;
- spoke to student growth projections;
- reiterated the need for new elementary schools in the Borough; and
- encouraged long-term planning in regard to student growth.

D. Use of Portable Classrooms on School Grounds *(School District Administration)*

Mr. Schwald:
- advised regarding the current use of portables at area schools;
- spoke to the need to secure more portables due to student enrollment and availability of space;
- noted that the use of portables would alleviate some of the problems with busing students to other areas; and
- advised regarding the approximate costs for ten new portables;

Mr. Doyle spoke regarding student workers building portables and receiving credit for their work during the summer months.

Discussion ensued regarding:
- the possible use of ACCO buildings as portables;
- code requirements for the construction of portables;
- sharing the costs of new portables between the Borough and the School District;
- setting aside funds for future schools;
- the School District's policy on boundary exemptions;
- the appropriate sizes of schools based upon the projected student growth in respective areas around the Borough.

E. Management Audit *(School District Administration)*

Mr. Sherman:
- spoke to the responsive bids on the request for proposals (RFP);
- advised that the contract went to a company from Fairbanks named "Information Insights";
- noted other projects that Information Insights have completed; and
- spoke the completion date of the audit prior to the School District beginning their budget process.

VI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Three minutes per person.)

There was no one present who wished to address the Assembly and School Board.

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

Ms. Williams queried regarding the School District's intent for her providing legal services.

Discussion ensued regarding legal services.

Assemblymember Colver requested the amount of funding utilized for School District legal services.

School Board Member Menard:

- spoke regarding the priorities of the Alaska Municipal League Conference of Mayors; and
- remarked regarding the need to inflation proof the funding formula.

School Board Member DeVilbiss:

- thanked the members for the meeting;
- noted that this may be his last joint meeting, pending his re-election to the School Board; and
- spoke regarding the coal bed methane conditional use permit coming before the Assembly.

School Board President Chmielewski:

- thanked the members for the candid discussion; and
- encouraged members of the Assembly to attend the demographics meeting that will be held by the School District.

Assemblymember Kvalheim stated that she would like to discuss areas where the Assembly and the School District can consolidate efficiencies during the next joint meeting.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The special meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

/S/

JIM COLVER, Deputy Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

/S/

MICHELLE M. MCGEHEE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes approved: October 19, 2004