

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on December 11, 2012, at the Mat-Su Borough School District Administration Building, 501 N. Gulkana Street, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Mayor DeVilbiss for the purpose of conducting a joint Assembly/School Board meeting.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Assembly members present and establishing a quorum were:

Mr. Warren Keogh, Assembly District No. 1 (*attended telephonically*)  
Mr. Noel Woods, Assembly District No. 2  
Mr. Ronald Arvin, Assembly District No. 3 (*Deputy Mayor*) (*entered telephonically at 7:09 p.m.*)  
Mr. Steve Colligan, Assembly District No. 4  
Mr. Darcie K. Salmon, Assembly District No. 5  
Mr. Jim Colver, Assembly District No. 6  
Mr. Vern Halter, Assembly District No. 7

School Board members present were:

Ms. Sarah Welton, Seat B  
Ms. Susan Pougher, Seat C  
Mr. Erick Cordero, Seat E  
Mr. Neal Lacy, Seat F

School Board Members absent and excused were:

Ms. Deborah Retherford, Seat A  
Mr. Ole Larson, Seat D  
Ms. Lynn Gattis, Seat G

Staff in attendance were:

Ms. Jamie Newman, Deputy Borough Clerk  
Ms. Brenda J. Henry, Assistant Clerk  
Mr. John Aschenbrenner, Deputy Borough Attorney  
Mr. John Moosey, Borough Manager  
Mr. George Hays, Assistant Borough Manager  
Ms. Cheyenne Heindel, Financial Analyst  
Mr. Robert Scott, Project Manager II

**IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

Assemblymember Colligan:

- requested to pull item B from the agenda; and
- related that he had requested this be added for discussion; and
- stated that he has since received answers to his questions.

Mayor DeVilbiss queried if there was any objection.

There was no objection noted.

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

### **III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The pledge of allegiance was led by Mr. Gary Wolf, of Wolf Architecture.

### **V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

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

### **VI. JOINT ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

#### **A. Annual Budget, Preliminary Discussion, State Legislative Action Needed (MSB 2.12.075)**

Dr. Deena Paramo, School District Superintendent, and Mr. Luke Fulp, Chief Business Officer, reported on the preliminary School District Budget.

Assemblymember Colver queried how the District intends to make up for the change in the base funding allocation and the transportation funding deficit.

Mr. Fulp:

- stated that School District is projecting a \$1.5 million deficit in the pupil transportation funding;
- related that the operating fund would have to transfer that amount to the transportation fund in order to eliminate the deficit;
- stated that last year there was a recalibration of transportation funding with Senate Bill 182;
- related that due to the recalibration, there is a new per pupil amount based on the Consumer Price Index For Urban Areas (CPI-U); and
- provided a history on the Anchorage CPI-U for comparison.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- the possibility of legislative funding to reduce the deficit;
- new school operational costs not being included in the school bonds;
- increases in local contribution;
- the desire to not increase the tax burden on homeowners;
- that new schools will eventually increase revenues as children are moved into them;
- that increasing industry will lessen the tax burden on homeowners;

- the reason the per pupil figures are much larger for Fairbanks;
- the number of students in Fairbanks versus the Borough;
- whether or not military funding impacts the Fairbanks figures;
- that refineries in the Nikiski area impact the per pupil figures in the Kenai Peninsula Borough;
- how growth in the Borough has impacted the per pupil figures;
- that early information provides for better budgeting;
- forward funding projections;
- the School District's legislative priorities;
- that student counts are done and reported to the State in October;
- that in April the School District has a better idea of what the State funding will be;
- that instructional programs were funded for the first time by the State Legislature last year;
- the recent School District Junior Reserve Officer Training Corp (JROTC) audit, that may provide funds for the School District's JROTC program;
- the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Initiative;
- E-learning tools available in Borough Schools;
- collocation of mental health and educational programs;
- whether or not there are any capital requests that are not included in the School District's priorities; and
- that the School District supports the Borough's Pioneer Peak Access funding request.

~~B. Borough Reimbursing Charter Schools for Property Taxes (above the full funding of 3 percent) (Requested by Assemblymember Colligan)~~

C. Presentation on the Design and Education Specifications for Valley Pathways School  
(Requested by Administration)

Mr. Michael Carlson, of McCool Carlson Green provided a presentation regarding the design and education specifications for Valley Pathways School.

School Board Member Lacy queried if the siding for the school is resistant to vandalism.

Mr. Carlson affirmed the query.

Assemblymember Colver:

- opined that the hallway should be straightened from the proposed curve; and
- queried the number of proposed classrooms.

Mr. Carlson stated that there are a total of 14 classrooms, which is a substantial increase of what they have now.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- the layout of the building; and
- the energy efficiency rating of the building.

*(The meeting recessed at 7:44 p.m. and reconvened at 7:52 p.m.)*

D. Mat-Su Day School Presentation *(Requested by Administration)*

Ms. Lucy Hope, School District Director of Student Support Services, provided an overview of the intent for the Mat-Su Day School.

Mr. Gary Wolf, of Wolf Architecture, provided a presentation regarding the schematic design of Mat-Su Day School.

Assemblymember Arvin spoke to concerns with the restroom design.

Mr. Wolf related that the restroom design has been modified from a single restroom to two separate restrooms.

School Board President Pougher queried if the two time-out rooms was sufficient for this type of school.

Ms. Hope:

- advised that they are now called seclusion rooms;
- stated that they are not utilized very often, which is fortunate; and
- further stated that there are a sufficient number of rooms.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- concerns of the school being located on Bogard Road when the Seward-Meridian Road has not been constructed through to the Seldon Extension;
- that the number of students will be lower than a regular school;
- the education specifications for the school;
- that there are more needs for the school than there is funding;
- whether or not Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority funding can be accessed for the school; and
- that the School District is working with mental health partners in the community for staffing.

E. Return on Investment Update for School Programs *(Requested by School District)*

Dr. Deena Paramo, School District Superintendent, reported on return on investment for school programs.

Mayor DeVilbiss queried if there was any objection to taking comments next in order to allow the School Board to leave the meeting prior to the Assembly items of business.

There was no objection noted.

## VIII. SCHOOL BOARD, MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

School Board Member Welton:

- thanked the body for the meeting; and
- wished everyone Happy Holidays.

School Board Vice-President Cordero wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

School Board President Pougher:

- thanked the Palmer High School Jazz Band for their performance;
- encouraged everyone to visit schools to see their musical performances; and
- wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Assemblymember Salmon:

- stated that Wasilla High School won the recent wrestling tournament;
- noted that Colony High School took second and Palmer High School took third; and
- opined that not only are Borough kids smart, they are tough too.

Assemblymember Colver:

- spoke to concerns with lights being turned off early at the Brett Memorial Ice Arena; and
- requested that the lights be kept on in the first bank next to the rink if possible;

Assemblymember Colligan:

- thanked the body for the meeting;
- stated that he is looking forward to working with the State Legislature on the priorities; and
- wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Assemblymember Woods:

- stated that he is especially pleased with the high standards of the School District; and
- wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Assemblymember Halter:

- noted how much he enjoyed the Jazz Band performance;
- complimented the School District staff on their hard work; and
- spoke to his appreciation of the School District priorities.

Assemblymember Arvin:

- complimented the School District on the strong team that they have;
- stated that it is always a joy to listen to the presentations at the joint meetings; and
- wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Assemblymember Keogh:

- thanked the Jazz Band for their performance; and
- wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

Mayor DeVilbiss wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

**VII. ASSEMBLY ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

- A. AM No. 12-144: VACATION OF A 400-FOOT LONG PORTION OF THE 30-FOOT WIDE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF SOUTH HAY STREET, WITHIN LOT 11 HI-PHI SUBDIVISION, LOCATED IN SECTION 17, TOWNSHIP 17 NORTH, RANGE 1 EAST, SEWARD MERIDIAN, ALASKA.

Ms. Newman read the above legislation into the record.

MOTION: Assemblymember Salmon moved to approve AM No. 12-144 as read into the record by the Clerk.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

- B. INTRODUCTIONS (For public hearing = 01/15/13, Borough School District Administration Building)

1. Ordinance Serial No. 12-172: AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING MSB 4.75.007, TERM OF MEMBERS, FOR THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH FISH AND WILD LIFE COMMISSION. *(Sponsored by Mayor DeVilbiss and Assemblymember Colver)*

a. IM No. 12-269

2. Ordinance Serial No. 12-173: AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING MSB 4.50.055, TERM OF MEMBERS, FOR THE LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE. *(Sponsored by Mayor DeVilbiss)*

a. IM No. 12-271

3. Ordinance Serial No. 13-001: AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$12,900,000 TO FUND 430, TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM CAPITAL PROJECTS, FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, ADDITIONS, IMPROVEMENTS, BETTERMENTS, REPAIR, RECONSTRUCTION, OR ACQUISITION OF PUBLIC ROADS AND FACILITIES RELATED THERETO IN THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH, TOGETHER WITH ALL NECESSARY EQUIPMENT AND TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES, AND THE ACQUISITION OF LANDS OR RIGHTS IN LANDS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH WHICH WOULD ADDRESS URGENT SAFETY ISSUES AND TRANSPORTATION NEEDS AND THE APPROPRIATION OF \$212,380 FOR RELATED ISSUANCE COSTS.


a. IM No. 13-005

MOTION: Assemblymember Salmon moved to introduce the legislation as read into the record by the Clerk and set the public hearings for January 15, 2013.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

  
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LARRY DEVILBISS, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved: 01/15/13