

Minutes of 207th Regular Session - Koyuk

The Regional School Board of Education Bering Strait School District

A 207th Regular Session - Koyuk of the Regional School Board of Education of Bering Strait School District was held Tuesday, February 2, 2016, beginning at 2:00 PM in the Koyuk, Alaska.

I. **Call To Order**

The 207th Regular Session meeting was called to order at 2:14pm by Aurora Johnson.

II. **Roll Call**

Present at the meeting were Aurora Johnson, Aaron Iworrigan, Irene Navarro, Jeanette Iya, Milton Cheemuk, Joe Murray, Annie Weyiouanna, and Tia Wilson. Jane Kava excused due to illness; Sherman Richard excused due to weather; Frank Oxereok excused due to illness.

III. **Introductions**

A. **District School Board Members**

District School Board members introduced themselves and stated the communities they represent.

B. **Superintendent & District Staff**

Dr. Bolen introduced the District Office staff present at the meeting. Present were: Carolyn Heflin, Kristen Mashiana, Mark Vink, Carl White, and Tera Cunningham.

C. **Principal of Koyuk Malimiut School**

Mary Huntington, Principal

Dr. Bolen Introduced the Principal of Koyuk Malimiut School, Mary Huntington. Mrs. Huntington welcomed the School Board and was grateful for the opportunity to host the Board Meeting and hope you enjoy your visit. This year, we particularly grateful to host the Volleyball Regionals. We have been building pride in self and community mostly through songs, cheers and team activities. As a staff, we have been putting our energy into CHAMPS and peer observation. Asks for support in insuring our primary grades (Pre-k thru 2nd) get the full support they need. She then introduced school staff present. Students presented morning ritual, the Pledge of Allegiance in English and Inupiaq, a song in Inupiaq, the Alaska's Flag song, and a cheer from Heather Swanson's class, told everyone they are awesome. 😊

D. **Advisory Education Committee**

Presenter: Carolyn Dewey

Carolyn Dewey presented.

I'd like to welcome the School Board on behalf of the AEC in Koyuk. In January, I was happy to attend the AEC workshop in Unalakleet and learned a few things, especially a few problems that are happening in the other sites. I feel our school is getting stronger, less teacher turnover and the students and parents are developing more school pride. Our goal is to get more student-parent involvement. Koyuk has acquired a grant to renovate their IRA building into the new ECE facility this fall. We are grateful to have the BSSD support of its certified staff.

E. **Student Representative**

Presenter: Amber Hoogendorn and Ashley Hoogendorn

Amber Hoogendorn and Ashley Hoogendorn introduced themselves. Welcome to Koyuk. On behalf of the students, we would like to thank you for the metal shop and letting us travel for sports. Update on activities in Koyuk.

IV. Recognitions

Mary Huntington recognized Lynne Green as BSEA Educator of the month for August. Travis Dewey was recognized as the BSSD paraprofessional of the month for October. We've been working on character, Trustworthy, Respectful, Responsible and Fair Caring Citizenship(TERRIFIC). "Terrific Malimiuts of the week" was started in September and named. Evelyn Oxereok has taken three college courses and currently in the 4th one. She's gone beyond BSSD requirements.

Dr. Bolen recognized Carl White for receiving the Advocate for Counseling Award from the Alaska Association of School Counselors. He received this award for advocating for the students, counselors and teachers of BSSD.

V. Public Comments

Fannie Nassuk welcomed the School Board. Ms. Nassuk shared concerns about school lunches, they're not warm or they're not hot. They're not using the food warmers in the kitchen. This has continued for years. It should be a priority, our kids should be fed. The long-term sub was replaced by one of the teacher's significant others. And be put on the regular sub. I know we have been having issues with the subs not be reliably but I would like to see those positions to villagers instead of the staff's spouses. Another thing is, how often are our local or even the certified staff being tested for drugs? Is it random? Another concern is the registered sex offenders that are in the villages. I brought it up with the Principal before and she had mentioned a person filling out the form first and that's what my concerns are.

Aurora Johnson addressed Ms. Nassuk's concerns. For local hire vs. staff's significant other's, we as a Board like to hire the most qualified. And often times, they come in with a degree and they are more qualified then the local who applied. Also for drug policy, we are working on that. We'll look into the hot meals dilemma as well. Thank you for your comments.

Kimberly Kavairlook thanked Mary Huntington. She's been such a blessing to our community. She works very well with our community and Thank you soo much. She interacts with the community and shows that she cares. We will be having a basketball tournament here at the end of April in memory of my brother John Kavairlook Jr. She is allowing us to use the gym. Thank you all for coming to Koyuk and it was good to see all of you. Thank you.

Aurora Johnson praised Mary Huntington for her integration of our native language and thanked her for a good job.

VI. Reading of the District Mission Statement

The District mission statement was read aloud.

VII. Approval of Agenda

Aurora Johnson made a request that Carl White's presentation be moved from Report C to Report A. Jeanette Iya made a motion to approve the agenda with the changes of Item 9c to 9A. . Seconded by Annie Weyiouanna. Motion carried.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

A. **FY15 Audit Report & Approval**

Presenter: Mark Vink

Mark Vink presented. Nothing changed from November, but all the final numbers are included in the report. We had been waiting on the final GASB 68 numbers for the auditors to complete the report. The audit is sent out for two reviews (Government Finance Officers Association and ASBO (Association of Business Officials)). It met all of the reporting guidelines and received certificates of excellence. These are two independent agencies that do review our financial statement. Jeanette Iya asked what Mr. Vink to explain what the deferred outflow of resources is. Mr. Vink answered that it's an accounting terminology, it's only in the pension category.

Jeanette Iya asked if we take into consideration the portables in Savoonga. They have been sitting there for like three years. Are those being depreciated at all? Mr. Vink explained the accounting methodology. Methodology to determine the value of the buildings. A depreciation is an annual number explained by Mr. Vink. It doesn't reflect how the building changes from year to year. A little over 70% of our general fund dollars goes to salaries and benefits.

Milton Cheemuk asked about students transferring from school to school, what happens to the money. Mr. Vink shared that it depends when they transfer. There is a 20 day count period between September and October. We receive funding for each student present during that count period. Jeanette Iya commented that when someone looks at our budget from the outside, the numbers look big. But it really is not, because we have 15 sites and they all receive money for each child enrolled. Mr. Vink added there are many zeroes there but when you boil it down, it's not that big.

Mr. Vink has a page to look at which is the "Cliff Weyiouanna page" (157), because it was a question he always asked. What we can't do at the state level is have a 10% fund balance. And our unreserved fund balance is just over 2%, well under the 10% requirement. Jeanette Iya said she's always listening to the news and the price of oil has dropped. I'm wondering, does that have any reflection on the cost of the school district buying fuel for the upcoming year? Mr. Vink answered, yes it has this year, this year we were able to save 1 dollar a gallon then last year. Which is great in the right hand, now put it over in the left hand. By prices dropping where they have, even the state budget for this year was budgeted at 66 dollars a barrel. Right now, I'm going to say the price per barrel is at 30 dollars. So, the revenues the state are generating are significantly less. So this is where right now and I don't know where the state is going this year. It's still up in the air.

Jeanette Iya said that the Board as a whole needs to start communicating that message. Aurora Johnson commented that the Auditor has concerns about the future. Milton Cheemuk asked how are we sitting, right now, I think, at cut away the budget. Mr. Vink answered, if we look at what the governor proposed right now, we are sitting ok. But, it's too early to tell, I don't know. Milton Cheemuk asked how much reserve we have right now. Mr. Vink answered, we have a fairly good reserve right now. We have 17,18 million dollars in our investment account, so we're sitting in a decent spot right now. We're sitting better than a lot of districts. Jeanette Iya wants to ensure that Aaron has all the data and information to take to John Walsh at the Fly-In in Juneau. Dr. Bolen addressed Ms. Iya's concerns.

A motion to approve the FY15 audit report as presented made by Annie Weyiouanna. Seconded by Irene Navarro. Motion carried.

B. 2016-2017 District Calendar

Presenter: Carolyn Heflin

Carolyn Heflin presented the calendar with no major changes. Ms. Heflin shared that we will not bring in returning staff in August for training. We will save \$100K - \$150K by utilizing VTC.

A motion to approve the 2016-2017 District Calendar made by Annie Weyiouanna. Seconded by Aaron Iworriagan. Motion carried.

IX. REPORTS

A. Youth Leadership Report

Presenter: Carl White

Carl White thanked the Board for what they do and presented. Jeanette Iya commented and noted that the program identifies natural leaders. Do you know how many are at each site or is it all sites or certain sites? Mr. White answered the idea was to have all sites. All students at all sites are welcome to participate. Mrs. Iya asked does the outside entities bring in their own curriculum for trainings? It was a collaborative effort with all entities to come up with training plans answered Mr. White. Mrs. Iya noted that this is a much-needed program; our students are affected by many issues and this is a positive program. She then asked will there be more Youth Leadership trainings? Mr. White answered, yes, in October.

B. 2015 Norton Sound Education Summit

Presenter: Tyler Rhodes, Luisa Machuca, & Jesse Blanford

Tyler, COO of NSEDC

Luisa, Kawerak

Jesse, EET Director

Tyler Rhodes thanked the Board for giving them to present at the meeting and introduced himself, Luisa Machuca and Jesse Blanford. Collaborative effort with many entities. We are working on some common initiatives so let's make something happen. Mr. Rhodes then turned to floor to Ms. Machuca to explain what happened at the Summit. Ms. Machuca explained that it was a two and half day event. On Friday night we had a keynote speaker. The guest speaker was Mary Huntington and locally homegrown teacher. Next day, had 4 tracks, which were the four initiatives. Last day was the closing.

Mr. Rhodes commented that a component of this summit was bringing in youth, which BSSD was a great partner in bringing in youth. Several of the sites were able to send students to the summit. Mr. Rhodes then turned the floor to Mr. Blanford. Mr. Blanford said that BSSD was well represented there with close to 50 students there. Special track just for students on Saturday. They had a chance to have some fun, play some games but also sit down and discuss what exactly they want to see in the educational system. What they like, what they want to see happen and have their voice be heard. A report in the process of being printed out this week.

Mr. Rhodes thanked the Board Members who attended the Summit. He said they will

send copies to Board members and all the entities in the region. The common thread that flowed through the entire summit was the importance of cultural relevancy in all areas. And it's so inspiring to hear the children here cite the Pledge of Allegiance in Inupiat. I would applaud BSSD for their efforts in that. NSEDC dedicated some funding to the Growing Our Own Teachers specifically. The NSEDC Board specifically set aside a million dollars just for that. We're excited to work with BSSD, Nome Public Schools and the college campus to put the pieces together to Grow Our Own Teachers.

The final piece was to recognize BSSD for their support. You brought us a significant amount of staff, students, planning of the summit, and participation of the Workgroup is very much appreciated. Mr. Rhodes presented a certificate from the Education Workgroup to BSSD Board of Education and BSSD staff working hard.

Jeanette Iya asked what the next step is. Tyler indicated that there are several next steps. Each focus area, the Growing Our Own Teachers, the Early Childhood Education, the Cultural Relevancy, and Preparing for Post High School. Each group is working on action plans. Cooperation is that we are all working together so we're not duplicating efforts, and we're maximizing efficiencies and making funds go farther. Stay tuned for what those exact groups are doing. Ms. Machuca added that we are meeting very regularly so we have a full group meeting. It's been happening about once a month and each sub-committee gets together as much as often as they can.

Aurora commented we as BSSD try to support that. We had two paraprofessionals become teachers. Thank you for all the support you do.

Tia commented that it's nice to see our own not only in teachers but in the District Office. We are pleased to see that they are role models for our kids.

C. AMP Data Analysis & Testing Update

Presenter: Kristen Mashiana

Kristen Mashiana presented.

Jeanette Iya asked is this the number of students for each site or what does these numbers represent? Dr. Bolen interjected that those numbers are coming from his report. Ms. Iya commented that the testing was higher than the state when the scores are lower. Then, their scores were high, then the state scores were lower. Ms. Mashiana proceeded to answer that there is a large number of errors in the report. Ms. Iya commented that it seems like we are bombarding our students with something new every year, or every three years. It's very difficult when a freshman comes in and learn one way of testing. Ms. Mashiana answered I totally feel the same way. A lot of that has to do with what the State wants from us. Ms. Iya commented that she knows the requirement is there but there should be something the School Boards. Aurora Johnson interjected it was at the State Level that the tests are required. Dr. Bolen said BSSD gives out only the required tests. We try to stay away from over-testing. Aurora Johnson commented that our district did very well last year in the AMP test. Ms. Iya commented you can put a screw in a wall and if you don't have the right tool, you can't get it out. That's how I look at educating our children. Our kids need the right tools to succeed.

D. Superintendent Report

Presenter: Dr. Bolen

Summarized his report

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. ANSEP

Presenter: Dr. Bolen

Bobby talked with ANSEP in Anchorage. The concern is we don't have our own week. Is it possible to get our own week for ANSEP? The District will investigate. Perhaps combine with Nome Public Schools if we can't get 30 students. Discussed working with NACTEC to use them to provide Algebra I for ANSEP students. Aurora Johnson commented that this is a good program for our students to utilize. Jeanette Iya asked if other sites can participate. Dr. Bolen answered that all students are eligible for the program.

B. Future School Board Meeting Sites

Presenter: Aurora Johnson

It feels so rushed at sites. We need to comply with airlines' requirements. This will be an action item at the next meeting. Will we continue with two sites? Or will be at just one site?

XI. AEC Minutes

The Board read through AEC minutes.

XII. Public Comments

Jeanette Iya asked about strategic planning and are we going to have a retreat on strategic planning or work session? Aurora Johnson said we will address this in the March during committee meetings. Dr. Bolen said we can require an extension.

Mary Huntington presented fish hooks to all the Board members. They were made by the Koyuk students. They're engraved.

XIII. Date, Time, & Place of Next Meeting

Next meeting will be April 26th in Brevig Mission and Teller.

XIV. Adjournment

A motion was made by Annie Weyiouanna to adjourn. Seconded by Irene Navarro. Motion carried. The School Board Adjourned at 4:02pm.