

CORDOVA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING: December 15, 2011

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CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Hoepfner called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Cordova Jr/Sr High School Library. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Members Present: Mr. Hoepfner, Mr. Sherman, Ms. Alexander, Mr. Gilman, Mr. Nichols

Members Absent: None

Quorum: Established

Staff Present: Superintendent Jim Nygaard, Principals Leif Jacobsen and Frank Wicks, Tech Director Keith Zamudio, Business Manager Verna Reedy, Board Secretary Jeannie Blake

Staff Absent: None

City Council Rep: Not Present

Student Council Rep: Not Present

CEA Rep: Present

Visitors: Cara Heitz, Nevada Musgrave, Becky Chapek, Bill Myers, Doug Carroll, Student

Presentation of Certificates/Awards:

- National Commended Student – National Merit Scholarship: Board recognized Sophia Myers and her achievement of scoring among the top 50,00 high school students out of more than 1.5 million.

Correspondence:

- Letter – NWQG: Appreciate Jim Nygaard, the School Facilities Use Committee, and the School Board for working with the Guild regarding fees.
- Letter – To Governor Parnell: Support increase funding for public education in Alaska

HEARINGS OF INDIVIDUALS/GROUPS:

- Officer Johns - DARE Update (moved from Information Item to accommodate Officer Johns' schedule): Nine week program beginning in March for 5th grade students working to teach the dangers of alcohol and drugs. Students in grades K-6 will receive classroom visits regarding safety and bullying.

APPROVAL OR AMEND REGULAR AGENDA:

Ms. Alexander moved to approve the December 15, 2011 agenda as presented. /Mr. Nichols seconded.
Motion PASSED 5-0

AUDIENCE COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Nichols moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 9, 2011. / Mr. Sherman seconded.
Motion PASSED 5-0

CONSENT AGENDA: None

REPORTS:

Student Council: None

City Council: (Keith van den Broek): None

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Cordova Education Assoc (Doug Carroll):

- Pleased to see the letter submitted to Governor Parnell.
- Received the preliminary budget, looking forward to more information.
- Understand with the decreased enrollment the upcoming year will be difficult.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT - Elementary School (Mr. Wicks):

- 2011 Enrollment K-6: 161; 2010 Enrollment K-6: 163; 2009 Enrollment K-6: 185
- Conferences: Parent/teacher conferences were held November 2 and November 3. Parent participation was 96%.
- Book Fair: Mt. Eccles Scholastic Book Fair was held the week of November 14. Ms. Moffitt and Ms. Groff facilitated the annual activity. Many teachers and staff volunteered time to assist. Sales totaled \$4,461.43, which provides the school with Scholastic dollars in the amount of \$2,453.79. The library purchased just over \$500 worth of new hardbound books and almost \$1,000 was spent on books to be given away at the Book Carnival in May.
- Alaska Native Dancers: Native drummers from Kodiak and dancers from Cordova performed for students November 11.
- Hunter Safety: Dave Crowley, Jon Syder, with Dick Groff, and Jerry Bendzak assisting, taught the Hunter Safety program at Mt. Eccles October 24 through November 26 with sixth grade, and older students along with a parent participating.
- Migrant Education Grant: The 2011-12 Migrant Education Grant provides \$913.00 to purchase books for K-12 students enrolled in the Migrant Education program.
- Holiday Concert: Mt. Eccles Elementary holiday concert was December 13 in the Simpler Gym, great concert.
- Site-Based Council Meeting: December 20 at 4:00 p.m. in the cafeteria.
- Holiday Break: December 22 with students returning January 9, 2012.
- Battle of the Books: Students in grades 3-4 and 5-6 will be participating in this year's Battle of the Books program. Students have been reading 15 designated books since the beginning of the school year. Mrs. Jones is supervising the 3-4 level and Mr. Bednarz 5-6. The statewide contest is in February. First and second graders are also reading the Battle of the books, however, they are not participating in the competition.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT - Jr/Sr High School (Mr. Jacobsen):

- Enrollment: 160
- Site Council: January 25 at 5:00 p.m. in the library.
- Building:
 - Fire Drills: November 22 and December 5.
 - Art: Continuing to work with the art department to provide artwork in the hallways and conference room.
 - Early Release: December 21 will be a half-day with release at 1:00 p.m.
- Extra-Curricular:
 - Eligibility: Second place trophy will be sent to Eielson.
 - Wrestling: State Wrestling December 9-10, three students qualified.
 - Basketball: December 16-17 in Valdez.
 - Schedules: Both JH Volleyball and JH Wrestling schedules are near completion.
 - Concessions and Problem Solver Contracts: Little to no interest has been expressed for these extra duty contracts.
- Other Items: There were questions at the last meeting regarding the student performances in Disney World. Mr. Thomas provided information
 - Question: Are students not going on the trip? Three students. One due to other commitments, one moving and the third has parents who do not want the student to participate. This is not due to lack of funds for these students. There will be three students that do not have funds for the air travel. There will be a request for assistance from the district for these three.

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ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT - Jr/Sr High School (Mr. Jacobsen): CON'T

- Question: Why are those students not going, will you have a full band? There will be a full band however there will be two flute players not attending they are two of the three students who are not going due to other commitments and parental request.
- Question: How many performances or events will the group be performing? The festival is Thursday, Friday and Saturday. The band and choir will each have one performance where professional musicians will adjudicate them. Following the performance, those professional musicians will work with the group to give them ways to improve. The final portion of the festival will be Saturday evening where awards and ratings will be received.
- Additional Information: The days not performing will be used to take in the many music performances and shows offered at the Disneyland Theme Parks. Students were asked to fund the airfare at \$700 dollars. The total per student cost was around \$800 dollars; there will be continued efforts to raise money for the trip. The cost is approximately \$1,500 dollars per student, this will include round trip air fare, hotel, meals and the five day unlimited theme park pass plus participation in the festival, it is not a bad price. There will be 54 people participating. This is why students and adults are asked to pay for their travel. There is lots of work ahead but it is doable. The first trip had ten fewer people and cost less but the funds were raised.
- Teacher Input: Teachers were polled regarding their thoughts about students traveling for both Close-Up and the Band/Choir trip the results were 13 indicating no and one stated student and parent choice.
- Calendar: The committee has sent two DRAFT calendars to both schools. Both calendars are included with this report. Hopefully next month a designated DRAFT calendar will be presented for board action
- No new updates regarding Give Back to the Community Hours. Students have picked up paperwork but there have been no new submissions.
- Concussion Status: Student athletes have been taking the baseline testing and commented it is not easy.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT - Technology (Mr. Zamudio):

- Cordova School District Website: The new CSD website went public mid November. The goal is to provide access to information that is no more than two clicks away.
- ASTE Conference: The Alaska Society for Technology in Education's annual conference is scheduled for February 25-28, 2012 in Anchorage. The theme is, Create, Collaborate, Innovate. This will be a four day conference event including, a leadership institute, keynote speakers, featured speakers, general sessions, full and half-day workshop, threads for special interests groups and birds of a feather meetings.
- Travel: Northwest Council for Computer Education (NCCE) conference is scheduled for March 13-16 (Spring Break). Board support to participate in this approved professional development event would be appreciated.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT – Superintendent (Mr. Nygaard):

- Asbestos: December 13 there will be a district-wide asbestos check. This review will allow continuing monitoring of asbestos in a responsible manner.
- Absence: Recently returned to Cordova after time away with family in Minnesota and Montana. Everyone's tolerance of the absence and the staff's ability to maintain necessary business is greatly appreciated.
- ILP: Approaching final day of construction. There will be a punch list developed with much of the remaining items district responsibility. Priority issues will be finalizing the budget and preparing for a budget revision to the state that will allow transfer of funds from line items such as contingency/administrative overhead to pay for items not budgeted (tech/added gravel base/removal of original district office material after the building was removed). Larson Consulting is scheduled for a final site visit December 7. Substantial completion will be determined and district possession is anticipated to occur.

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ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT – Superintendent (Mr. Nygaard): Con't

- January Inservice/Community Invite(s): The evening of January 4 (7:00 p.m./Mt. Eccles Commons) Dr. Linda Chamberlain will speak of her recent research on the development of the adolescent brain and will be available to answer questions regarding her research. Alaska Commissioner of Education and Early Development Mike Hanley will be arriving and may possibly be available during this presentation as well. The community is encouraged to attend/participate. January 5 (8:30 a.m./Mt. Eccles Commons) will be dedicated to honoring Cara Heitz as Alaska's Teacher of the Year. Patricia Truman (Professional Teacher Practices Commission) will be awarding/recognizing Ms. Heitz in front of her peers and the community. Commissioner Hanley will also recognize Ms. Heitz for her energy and efforts involved in this award. Ms. Truman, Commissioner Hanley and Dr. Linda Chamberlain will be involved with the afternoon staff training. Friday, January 6 will be dedicated to MAP training/follow-up for staff.
- Mt. Eccles: Items remaining on the punch list (leaks) there are also warranty issues that are being addressed (boiler/gym floor/HVAC controls). The efficiency and performance to date has been good. Remaining budget dollars target possible artwork and library book purchases.
- Bid Deadlines: The current ILP modular bid was awarded to Mr. Jerry Eklund. He will be responsible for the removal of the building later this spring. The district holds earnest money on this removal until completed. The bid for extending the roofline of the Energy Center was not awarded due to budget limitations. It is hopeful this project may be reconsidered for the spring.
- Security: With the increased activity during the after hours in the Mt. Eccles building there is now the question of the need for security cameras in the district office area. The office was a recent victim of vandalism. This could be corrected and monitored with some type of security system in place. There is also the consideration for a similar monitoring system for the Mt. Eccles playground area.
- Catherine Pegau: The district offers a big thank you to Catherine for her commitment to work with the Cordova Times to better inform the public of school happenings. Catherine is also busy with PTA and is a regular substitute for Mt. Eccles. Thank you Catherine and good luck.
- The end of the second quarter and first semester is December 21. The school year is half over!

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT - FINANCIAL REPORTS (Mrs. Reedy)

- Financials for the month of November 2011 were presented
- Next meeting good to have Alex Beckman present information.
- Preliminary budget work indicates next year will be a difficult year.
- Suggest work/change regarding the emergency funds issued to coaches. Working with Mr. Jacobsen regarding possible better plan of action.
- Beginning next school year classified employees may volunteer for extra-curricular positions. They may receive a nominal fee for the extra-curricular position.

NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Information Items:

- First Reading BP 6161.4 Internet – Public Comment Period December 16, 2011-December 29, 2011. Public Comments may be emailed to jblake@cordovasd.org or mailed to Cordova School District Attn: Jeannie Blake PO Box 1330, Cordova, AK 99574
- Laptop Computer Insurance: Two major companies provided informational quotes. Costs are reasonable. Mr. Nygaard and Mr. Zamudio will meet to discuss possibility of a pilot program.
- DARE Update: Moved to Hearings of Individuals to accommodate Officer Johns' schedule.
- Driving Information: No new updates at this time.
- Student Support Account \$25,000 transferred from the general fund into this account (program #903). No funds have been dispersed to date.

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NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Information Items: CON'T

- Mayor/City Council Information: Information provided by Mrs. Reedy at the last budget meeting was appreciated. City supported the school district the same amount of dollars as last year.
- DRAFT 2012-12 School Calendar: Two options provided from the calendar committee.

NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Out of State Travel – Cara Heitz

Ms. Alexander moved to approve the out of state travel for Cara Heitz as Alaska Teacher of the Year, January 2012 to Texas and Washington D.C. in April/May 2012/ Mr. Nichols seconded.

Motion PASSED 5-0

Out of State Travel – Keith Zamudio

Ms. Alexander moved to approve the out of state travel for Keith Zamudio to attend the Northwest Council for Computer Education 2012 Conference in Seattle, March 13-16, 2012. / Mr. Nichols seconded.

Motion PASSED 5-0

CONTRACTS-MEMORANDUMS OF AGREEMENTS: None

PERSONNEL: Assistant Basketball Coach is Aaron Muma.

MISCELLANEOUS:

- ILP Update: Almost complete, linoleum replaced due to a stain, punch list to go through. Working with Byler Contracting has been an excellent experience. Grand Opening date has not yet been set.
- Regular Policy Review: BP 4119.21 Code of Ethics; BP 4143 Negotiations/Consultation; BP 4222 Teacher Aides/Paraprofessionals; BP 5125.3 Withholding Grades, Diploma, and Transcripts; BP 5141.51 At-Risk Youths. Discussion: BP 4222 dates should be removed, first reading at next meeting.
- January Regular Board Meeting Date: January 11, 2012 in the high school library at 7:00 p.m.

PENDING AGENDA:

- Monthly Policy Review
- Computer Laptop Insurance Update
- Driving Update
- BP 4222 Teacher Aides/Paraprofessionals

AUDIENCE COMMENTS:

- Doug Carroll: Suggest the \$200 emergency coach money go away, require coaches to pay and then submit receipts for reimbursement. Good to keep students in the classroom suggest possibility of big trips be preplanned to coincide with spring break. Possibly help with financial support to aide other teams so they may travel to Cordova keeping our students in school, supporting the local community and allowing athletic participation.

BOARD COMMENTS:

- Mr. Sherman: Regarding travel issue, agree with a lot of the comments shared this evening. Do not want to repeat this painful process. It would be good to plan ahead far enough to allow travel/calendar to coincide so students may participate and not miss school, provide options.
- Mr. Nichols: Attended high school music concert Monday night, it was great.

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BOARD COMMENTS: CON'T

- Ms. Alexander: Great to begin the meeting with celebration, congratulations Sophia. Appreciate the student travel discussion, and the presentation of new ideas, good things to think about. It's good to not compromise what happens in the classroom by keeping kids out but not limiting education to just within that classroom. It is important to support both, look forward to working to support both.
- Mr. Gilman: Congratulations to Sophia, she is quite a young lady. Looking forward to hearing of her exploits as she takes on the world. Disappointed with staff and the administration regarding the travel absence for a student that demonstrates this could be handled. It seems contradictory.
- Mr. Hoepfner: Thanks everybody, Verna with budget, Leif with scheduling and Doug Carroll's comments regarding absence days.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Superintendent's Quarterly Evaluation

Mr. Nichols moved the Board go into Executive Session to discuss a person, a subject that may tend to prejudice the reputation or character of a person, provided the person may request a public discussion. / Mr. Gilman seconded. Motion PASSED 5-0

- Board Adjourned for Executive Session: 8:50 p.m.
- Board Reconvened from Executive Session: 9:34 p.m.
- No further business was discussed.

ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Alexander moved to adjourn the meeting. / Mr. Nichols seconded.

Motion PASSED

Meeting adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

ATTEST:

President

Clerk