

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on December 15, 2005, 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. Bill Allen, Assembly District No. 2
Ms. Mary Kvalheim, Assembly District No. 4
Ms. Cindy Bettine, Assembly District No. 5
Mr. Jim Colver, Assembly District No. 6 (*Deputy Mayor*)
Ms. Betty Vehrs, Assembly District No. 7

Assembly members absent and excused were:

Mr. Talis J. Colberg, Assembly District No. 3

School Board members present and establishing a quorum were:

Mr. Rob Wells, Seat A
Ms. Sarah Welton, Seat B (*School Board President*)
Ms. Linda Menard, Seat C
Ms. Cheryl Turner, Seat E
Mr. Larry DeVilbiss, Seat F (*arrived at 6:20 p.m.*)

School Board members absent and excused were:

Ms. Pat Purcell, Seat D
Mr. Daniel Contini, Seat G

Borough staff in attendance were:

Ms. Michelle M. McGehee, CMC, Borough Clerk
Mr. John Duffy, Borough Manager
Ms. Teresa S. Williams, Borough Attorney
Ms. Janice A. Case, Deputy Borough Clerk
Ms. Marian Romano, Assistant Borough Manager
Mr. Keith Rountree, Public Works Director
Ms. Patty Sullivan, Public Affairs Manager
Ms. Cheyenne Heindel, Revenue and Budget Manager
Ms. Elizabeth Hartley, Comptroller

School Board staff in attendance were:

Mr. Bob Doyle, Chief School Administrator
Ms. Kim Floyd, Public Information Specialist
Mr. George Troxel, Assistant Superintendent of Education
Mr. Scott Schwald, Director of Maintenance

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Caleb Turner, a student from Academy Charter School.

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

The following persons spoke in opposition to delaying the Academy Charter School gymnasium project: Mr. David Dahms, Academy Charter Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA), and Mr. Joel Stephanski.

(School Board Member DeVilbiss arrived at this time.)

The following person discussed the timeline for repairing Su Valley High School: Ms. Carrie Sayre; Mr. Steve Hicks, Su Valley PTSA; Ms. Jenny Krempel, Su Valley PTSA; and Ms. Mary Ostervich.

The following person spoke regarding a \$10 million school bond proposition for renovations, using half of the funds for Su Valley, a portion for portables, and the remaining funding for repairs of Wasilla High School: Ms. Anne Killkenny, Wasilla High School PTSA.

Representative Carl Gatto:

- stated that the State Legislature considers what is best for the children when allocating funds for education;
- discussed the time spent by the Legislative Delegation to get the funds for the Academy Charter School gymnasium project; and
- voiced concerns regarding postponing the project.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Susitna Valley Junior/Senior High School Update and Status Report
(requested by Mayor Anderson)

Mr. Keith Rountree:

- reported that the Borough has received the 35 percent design documents;
- noted that the design changes the rooflines of the building;
- stated that he has requested a model to show how the facility would appear once the construction is completed;

- noted that he expects the 65 percent design documents to be completed on February 10, 2006, the 95 percent design documents by March 29, 2006, and the 100 percent design documents by June 6, 2006;
- stated that in order to begin construction in June on this project, funding would need to be in place by approximately March 6, 2006;
- reported that the proposal is to begin construction June 7, 2006, with completion on December 7, 2006;
- stated that he met with Scott Schwald, Mike Schwartz, and Kim Floyd last week regarding portables and logistics;
- provided a report on the mold assessment of the building;
- stated that the mold did not affect the air quality and is repairable; and
- stated that they are proposing to add the mold removal to the Burkhart Croft Architects contract.

Assemblymember Allen expressed disappointment that evaluating functional components such as the electric, plumbing, and heating, ventilation, and air conditions (HVAC) were not included in the contract.

Discussion continued regarding the design of Su Valley High School.

School Board Member Turner inquired how the Borough would be able to have funding in place by March.

Mayor Anderson discussed the State Legislature's appropriation process.

Assemblymember Allen opined that the best approach would be to ask the Governor to include the funds in his supplemental appropriation.

Discussion ensued regarding funding for Su Valley.

B. Activities Bus for Susitna Valley Junior/Senior High School *(requested by Assemblymember Vehrs)*

Assemblymember Vehrs:

- stated that she was approached by several students and teachers regarding an activities bus during her last visit to Su Valley High School;
- stated that the students were worried and concerned because they did not know how they were going to get to the core area for their hockey game; and
- noted that in the past they were able to use a church van, but it has been deemed unsafe.

Assemblymember Colver inquired if there is a policy in place stating that activity busses would be provided to students.

Mr. Schwald:

- stated that there are activity busses available to Su Valley High School;
- stated that they are not available on a daily basis; and
- noted that they would probably contract through Bunker and Bunker for daily needs.

Assemblymember Colver asked how the activity busses are funded.

Mr. Schwald:

- replied that each school is allocated funds for activity transportation; and
- noted that the principal and athletic director determine how the funds are dispersed.

Assemblymember Vehrs:

- noted that she has spoken to the principal of Su Valley High School, Mr. Matt Clark, and that there are not enough funds;
- stated that she is looking for additional funding to help on a regular basis; and
- discussed the possibility of fund raising activities.

Discussion ensued regarding activity busses for Su Valley High School.

Mr. Schwald stated that the school is able to raise funds to be used for activity busses.

C. State Legislative Action Needed (*pursuant to MSB 2.12.075(A)*)

a. Legislative Priorities (*requested by Bob Doyle*)

School Board President Welton reviewed the School Board's list of priorities.

Mayor Anderson:

- noted that the main difference between the School Board's priorities and the Assembly's priorities is Su Valley High School;
- stated that the Assembly listed a new school and that the School Board listed a new roof; and
- opined that he is concerned with making sure that the students are safe.

School Board President Welton:

- spoke in support of a new roof for Su Valley High School;
- stated that the roof is the fiscally responsible decision; and
- agreed that she wants to make sure that the students will be safe.

Assemblymember Allen:

- agreed that the main concern is for the safety of the children;
- opined that the State Legislature will have a difficult time approving \$5 million for a new roof on a 30-year old building without considering the other functional components of the building, such as electrical and HVAC; and
- spoke to the need for an analysis of the functional components in order to determine their economical life.

Discussion ensued regarding the Su Valley High School project.

Assemblymember Colver suggested amending the language on the priority lists to read, "Full funding for roof replacement and major renovation of Su-Valley High School."

Assemblymember Vehrs spoke in support of the language change.

Assemblymember Bettine spoke to the need to conduct the inspection of the functional components as soon as possible.

Mr. Duffy replied that he will begin the process for inspecting the facility tomorrow.

School Board President Welton spoke in support of the language change.

b. Joint Assembly/School Board Resolution Regarding Legislative Priorities *(requested by Joint Assembly/School Board Committee on School Issues)*

MOTION: Assemblymember Colver moved to adopted Resolution Serial No. 05-154, a joint resolution of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly and School Board approving the State Legislative priorities for the Matanuska-Susitna Borough for the year 2006, to read,

"NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly and School Board met on December 15, 2005, and jointly agreed on the following state legislative priorities:

1. Full funding for roof replacement and major renovation of Su-Valley High School in the amount of \$8 million.
2. Grant \$2.6 million for portable classrooms for overcrowding.
3. Support the Governor's proposed funding allocation of \$5,347.

MOTION: Assemblymember Vehrs moved a primary amendment to amend item 1, to strike, "in the amount of \$8 million."

VOTE: The primary amendment passed without objection.

MOTION: Assemblymember Vehrs moved a primary amendment to strike items 2 and 3.

School Board Member Wells spoke in opposition to the primary amendment.

Assemblymember Allen spoke in support of the amendment.

Assemblymember Vehrs:

- spoke in support of the amendment; and
- opined that it will show the Assembly and School Board are in agreement on Su Valley High School.

(The special meeting recessed at 8:03 p.m. and reconvened at 8:29 p.m.)

Assemblymember Allen expressed his intent to bring forward another joint resolution containing items 2 and 3.

VOTE: The primary amendment passed without objection.

MOTION: Assemblymember Vehrs moved a primary amendment to insert “Emergency” to the beginning of item 1.

School Board Member Turner inquired regarding major renovation and what it encompassed.

Assemblymember Allen:

- discussed the need for inspecting other functional components, such as electrical, plumbing, and HVAC of the building to determine their economic life; and
- stated that based on the report the Borough will be able to provide the School District with a complete scope of work.

Assemblymember Vehrs queried when the final cost would be included.

Mr. Duffy replied that his goal will be to have the report completed by the January 3, 2006, regular Assembly meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding major renovations.

VOTE: The primary amendment passed without objection.

MOTION: Assemblymember Colver moved to direct the Manager to add descriptive whereas clauses to Resolution Serial No. 05-154 regarding the roof problems, snow removal, emergency meetings, and the need for school to be open in the fall, with the approval of Mayor Anderson and School Board President Welton.

School Board Member Wells clarified that the Mayor and School Board President would approve the whereas clauses before signing the legislation.

Mayor Anderson affirmed that they would review the changes before signing.

VOTE: The primary amendment passed without objection.

VOTE: The main motion as amended passed without objection.

MOTION: Assemblymember Allen moved to adopted Resolution Serial No. 05-155, a joint resolution of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly and School Board approving the State Legislative priorities for the Matanuska-Susitna Borough for the year 2006, to read,

“NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly and School Board met on December 15, 2005, and jointly agreed on the following state legislative priorities:

1. Grant \$2.6 million for portables for overcrowding.
2. Support the Governor's proposed funding allocation of \$5,347.

MOTION: Assemblymember Woods moved a primary amendment to insert item 3, "Maintain funding for pupil transportation"

VOTE: The primary amendment passed without objection.

MOTION: School Board Member Wells moved a primary amendment to insert item 4, "Full funding of the Teachers and Public Employee Retirement System shortfall"

VOTE: The primary amendment passed without objection.

MOTION: School Board Member Wells moved to direct the Manager to insert whereas clauses, specifically regarding the overcrowding and the need for portables and projected growth with the approval of Mayor Anderson and School Board President Welton.

VOTE: The primary amendment passed without objection.

MOTION: Assemblymember Bettine moved a primary amendment to amend item 1 to read, "Grant funds of \$2.6 million for educational portable buildings."

VOTE: The primary amendment passed without objection.

MOTION: School Board Member Wells moved a primary amendment to item 2 to read, "Support the Governor's proposed base student allocation of a minimum of \$5,347."

MOTION: School Board President Welton moved a secondary amendment to item 2 to read, "Support the Governor's proposed minimum base student allocation at a minimum of \$5,347."

VOTE: The secondary amendment failed with School Board Member DeVilbiss in support.

VOTE: The primary amendment failed unanimously.

MOTION: School Board Member Wells moved a primary amendment to item 2 to read, "Support a minimum base student allocation of at least \$5,347."

Assemblymember Woods spoke in support of the primary amendment.

School Board Member DeVilbiss spoke in support of the original language for item 2.

School Board Member Turner spoke in support of the original language for item 2.

Discussion ensued regarding the primary amendment.

(The meeting recessed at 9:15 p.m. and reconvened at 9:30 p.m.)

VOTE: The primary amendment passed with School Board Members Turner and DeVilbiss in opposition.

MOTION: Assemblymember Allen moved the previous question (stop debate).

VOTE: The motion to stop debate passed without objection.

VOTE: The main motion as amended passed without objection.

(School Board Member Wells exited the meeting at this time.)

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Assemblymember Colver moved to adjourn.

VOTE: The motion to adjourn passed without objection and the meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

/s/

TIMOTHY L. ANDERSON, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/

MICHELLE M. MCGEHEE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes approved: 01/03/06