

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on December 8, 2015, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Mayor Vern Halter for the purpose of conducting a joint Assembly/School Board meeting.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Assembly members present and establishing a quorum were:

Mr. Jim Sykes, Assembly District No. 1  
Mr. Matthew Beck, Assembly District No. 2 (*Deputy Mayor*)  
Mr. George McKee, Assembly District No. 3  
Mr. Steve Colligan, Assembly District No. 4 (*Arrived at 6:04 p.m.*)  
Mr. Dan Mayfield, Assembly District No. 5  
Mr. Randall Kowalke, Assembly District No. 7

Assembly member absent and excused was:

Ms. Barbara Doty, Assembly District No. 6

School Board members present and establishing a quorum were:

Ms. Deborah Retherford, Seat A  
Ms. Susan Pougher, Seat C  
Mr. Ole Larsen, Seat D  
Mr. Kelsey Trimmer, Seat E  
Ms. Donna Dearman, Seat F  
Mr. Ray Michaelson, Seat G

School Board member absent and excused was:

Ms. Sarah Welton, Seat B

Staff in attendance were:

Ms. Lonnie R. McKechnie, Borough Clerk  
Mr. John Moosey, Borough Manager  
Mr. George Hays, Assistant Borough Manager  
Mr. Nicholas Spiropoulos, Borough Attorney

**III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor Halter 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. Spiropoulos, Borough Attorney.

#### **V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

The following person spoke to concerns on the number of items on the agenda that lacked backup materials in the meeting packet and spoke to concerns on the public process: Mr. Eugene Carl Haberman

Dr. Deena Paramo introduced Ms. Kai West and Shaw Elementary School musicians to entertain the Assembly and School Board.

The following person spoke to the issue of school bullying: Ms. Michelle Anderson

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

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

Dr. Deena Paramo, School District Superintendent, spoke to current student enrollment, future enrollment projections, budget cycles, and current and future contributions per student.

School Board President Pougher spoke to the Legislative Priorities of the Matanuska Susitna Borough School District, as voted on and presented by the School Board, and included in part:

- base student allocations;
- school funding program regarding special needs;
- student transportation needs; and
- capital request regarding temporary facilities for un-housed students.

##### **B. School Board Seat Districting (Requested by School Board)**

School Board President Pougher spoke to school board seat districting and inquired on Assembly plans.

Mr. Spiropoulos spoke to implementation of school board seat districting and the draft ordinance enacting the seat districting to follow the Assembly districts.

**MOTION:** Assemblymember Sykes moved to refer the proposed ordinance to the School Board with a deadline date to return it to the Assembly no later than February 19, 2016.

**VOTE:** There was no objection to the motion.

C. Charter School Buildings *(Requested by School Board)*

Mr. Mike Brown, School District Executive Director of Operations, and School Board President Pougher reported on the safety and security upgrades to school district facilities and the status of the upgrades related to charter schools.

D. Mat-Su Career And Technical High School – Student Enrollment And Private Sector Jobs Interface *(Requested By Assemblymember Doty)*

Mr. Ray DePriest, Career and Technical Education Director, and Ms. Trish Zugg, Career and Technical Education Administrator, gave an overview on the educational opportunities available for students and spoke to the student enrollment for the curriculum programs.

E. Discussion Regarding Seldon Road and Seward-Meridian Intersection *(Requested by School Board)*

Mr. Mike Brown reported on the status of the project and spoke in support of encouraging the Alaska State of Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to continue to make the intersection improvements in advance of continuing the rest of the project.

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

School Board Member Retherford:

- thanked the Assembly for hosting the joint meeting; and
- spoke to the transportation issues of the school district.

School Board Member Dearman:

- thanked the Assembly for hosting the joint meeting;
- commended the students from Shaw Elementary for the entertainment;
- spoke to the outcome of the districting matter before the School Board; and
- thanked the Assembly for consideration of the safety concerns for the charter schools and students.

School Board Member Larsen:

- thanked the Assembly for hosting the joint meeting; and
- spoke to the upcoming challenges related to budgeting issues.

School Board Member Trimmer:

- thanked the Assembly for hosting the joint meeting; and
- spoke to the safety of all school district students including charter school students; and
- wished everyone happy holidays.

School Board Member Michaelson:

- commended the Assembly for placing a student on the Agriculture Advisory Board and including students in the civic process;

- spoke on the success of student representatives sitting on the School Board; and
- spoke to the safety and security efforts for all students and staff.

**School Board President Pougher:**

- commended the students from Shaw Elementary for the entertainment;
- spoke to the safety and security efforts for all students and staff; and
- wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

**Mr. Moosey:**

- voiced appreciation for the partnership with the school district and its administration;
- announced that the Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting would be held in Anchorage;
- announced that Governor Walker had released his budget for the State;
- commended the students for the entertainment provided for the meeting; and
- wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

**Assemblymember McKee:**

- spoke to Governor Walker's budget for the State; and
- commented on the State's contribution per student.

**Assemblymember Colligan:**

- thanked the students for the entertainment;
- commented on the upcoming challenge related to the budget cycle;
- spoke to the release of the Governor's budget;
- voiced concern on the increase in enrollment and the funding necessary; and
- congratulated the School District, the Mat-Su Borough, and the State of Alaska for being the first in the Nation to pass a resolution regarding air safety and the use of drone technology.

**Assemblymember Sykes:**

- thanked everyone for the information provided;
- commended the students for the entertainment;
- voiced appreciation for the partnership with the school district and its administration;
- spoke on the districting matter before the School Board;
- thanked Wasilla City Mayor Cottle for his attendance at the Borough meetings; and
- wished everyone happy holidays.

**Assemblymember Kowalke:**

- thanked the School Board for its presentations;
- commented on the upcoming challenges related to the budget cycle; and
- wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

**Assemblymember Mayfield:**

- voiced appreciation for the partnership with the school district and its administration;
- spoke to the consideration of the safety for all students;
- voiced concerns going into the next budget season;

- commended the students from Shaw Elementary for the entertainment; and
- wished everyone happy holidays.

Assemblymember Beck:

- spoke on the career and technical educational opportunities available;
- commended the school district and School Board for its efforts with the students;
- spoke to an article published by the Frontiersman regarding the agriculture program and commended the teacher of the program; and
- spoke to the lack of student participation with Assembly Members and advocated for the opportunity to work with students on civic issues.

Mayor Halter:

- thanked the School Board for its presentation;
- spoke to the meeting between the City Mayors, Borough Lobbyist, and the State Legislative Delegation on various projects; and
- encouraged a continued relationship between all entities involved; and
- welcomed the opportunity to have the School Board and district involved in the legislative process.

## VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The special meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.



VERN HALTER, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:



LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved: 01/12/16