

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

350 East Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska 99645 - 907-861-8683

BOROUGH ASSEMBLY

Jim Sykes, District 1
Matthew Beck, District 2
George McKee, District 3
Ted Leonard, District 4
Dan Mayfield, District 5
Barbara Doty, District 6
Randall Kowalke, District 7



SCHOOL BOARD

Deborah Retherford, District 1
Ray Michaelson, District 2
R. Ole Larson, District 3
Sarah Welton, District 4
Yvonne Ruth, District 5
Kelsey Trimmer, District 6
Donna Dearman, District 7

MEETING MINUTES

ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS

350 EAST DAHLIA AVENUE, PALMER

JOINT ASSEMBLY/SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

6:00 PM

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2018

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, [enter date], 2018, 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.

II. ASSEMBLY ROLL CALL

Present 5 - Assemblymember Jim Sykes, Assemblymember Matthew Beck, Assemblymember George McKee, Assemblymember Ted Leonard, and Assemblymember Dan Mayfield

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SCHOOL BOARD ROLL CALL

School Board Member Deborah Retherford, School Board Member Ray Michaelson, School Board Member Ole Larson, School Board Member Sarah Welton, School Board Member Kelsey Trimmer, and School Board President Donna Dearman.

School Board Member Yvonne Ruth was absent and excused.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented without objection.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Dr. Monica Goyette, School District Superintendent.

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

The following person spoke to concerns with School Board Resolution No. 18-003: Mr. Bill Kendig.

VI. JOINT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. Building Construction Progress And Review Of Captial Construction Plan (MSB2.12.075(A))

Mr. Mike Brown, School District Executive Director of Operations, reported on building construction progress.

B. Safe Routes To Schools (Requested By School Board)

There was no report provided.

C. Enrollment Update (Requested By School Board)

Dr. Monica Goyette, School District Superintendent, provided an update on student enrollment.

D. School Security Update (Requested By Assemblymember Leonard)

Dr. Monica Goyette, School District Superintendent, provided an update on school security.

E. Raising Our Children With Kindness - Update from ROCK Mat-Su (Requested By Assemblymember Doty)

Ms. Desiree Shepler, Director of R.O.C.K. Mat-Su, provided an update on the activities of the organization.

F. Understanding MSBSD Test Scores Compared to Alaska And Nation (Requested By Assemblymember Sykes)

Dr. Monica Goyette, School District Superintendent, reported on how to understand MSBSD test scores as compared to Alaska and the Nation.

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

School Board Member Retherford urged the Assembly to visit schools and attend special events that the School District conducts.

School Board Member Larson spoke to the School Board's annual planning retreat. Urged the Assembly to look at the work product produced from those meetings.

School Board Member Trimmer thanked staff for the reports provided. Noted that September 11 (9/11) was 17 years ago and that his 18 year old son has no memory of it. Opined that it is important to teach our children so that they never forget that important part of American history.

School Board Member Michaelson stated that the Assembly should read the School District's safety report, so that they could understand how hard the District is working to keep children safe. Noted that the School Board and the School District both value children's safety. Opined that perhaps they would gain a deeper understanding of the issue.

School Board Member Welton related that she recalls vividly where she was when 9/11 occurred. Noted that she was at Big Lake Elementary and the children arrived at school afraid that airplanes would hit the school, as they had just watched the news with their parents. Noted that it became imperative for parents to turn off the news because it was traumatizing children who could not understand what was happening. Stated that she is pleased that the School District values emotional learning. Thanked the body for the meeting.

School Board President Dearman thanked staff for the reports that were provided. Noted that the School District and the Borough are partners with a good working relationship. Spoke to concerns with the poverty rate of students. Noted that it takes that partnership to work on real solutions to the problem. Opined that the School District has great leadership and is headed in the right direction. Thanked the body for the meeting.

Assemblymember Doty echoed the comments of President Dearman. Spoke in support of the R.O.C.K. Mat-Su presentation. Spoke to the importance of community spirit and the need to raise it.

Assemblymember Leonard thanked staff for the presentations. Stated that he looks forward to the continued positive working relationship between the School Board and the Assembly. Spoke in support of safety within the School District. Thanked the body for the meeting.

Assemblymember McKee stated that he appreciates how responsive Dr. Goyette is to any request he has for information. Stated that she is doing a great job.

Assemblymember Mayfield spoke to concerns with the student poverty rate. Stated that there is no economic base to support families. Related that he enjoyed the R.O.C.K. Mat-Su presentation. Opined that no effort to save a child is a waste of time or money. Echoed the comments of School Board Member Trimmer regarding 9/11. Noted that he has an immense amount of respect for first responders. Stated that he will never forget what happened to America 17 years ago.

Assemblymember Sykes stated that he enjoys the working relationship of the School Board and the Assembly. Spoke to his enjoyment of the R.O.C.K. Mat-Su presentation. Noted that children can be traumatized by repeated news reports. Stated that he appreciated the presentation on how to understand test scores. Stated that he looks forward to the next joint meeting.

Assemblymember Beck thanked the School District and the School Board for all their hard work. Stated that he appreciates being a part of the joint meetings. Spoke in support of the education that his children have received from the School District.

Mayor Halter stated that he appreciates the School District and that he is glad the school year is off to a good start. Noted that he enjoyed all of the presentations that were made. Stated that he enjoys working with students. Spoke to concerns with the poverty level. Stated that he remembers where he was the day that President Kennedy was shot and also when the first plane hit one of the twin towers. Thanked the body for the meeting.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT


The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.



Mayoral Signature and Clerk Attestment

For

September 11, 2018, Joint Assembly/School Board Meeting Minutes (4 pages)


VERN HALTER, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:


LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved: 10/30/18