

Unofficial Minutes
Kuspuk School District REAA #5
October 13, 2020 Board of Education Meeting on Zoom

9:07am President Hoffman called the meeting to order. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Roll Call: Teresa Simeon-Hunter, present Dwayne Hoffman, present Phyllis Evan, absent
Susan Hoeldt, present Harvey Hoffman, present Adrian Boelens, present
Alyssa Gregory, present arrived 9:15am

A quorum was present. Also present: James Anderson, Superintendent; Martha Morgan, Business Manager; Severin Gardner, Kalskag Principal; Gretchen Kelly, Aniak Principal; Steven Reese, UpRiver Principal; Emily Vanderpool, Director of Curriculum & Instruction; Madeline Aguiard, Director of Special Education; Todd Boynton, Student Services; Emerie Fairbanks, MKEA Teacher Rep; Wayne Morgan, Community Member; and Edith Morgan, Recording Secretary.

Approval Of The Agenda: Sue Hoeldt made a **Motion** to approve the October 13, 2020 agenda. Seconded by Adrian Boelens. **6 Ayes 0 Nay 1 Absent, the motion carried.**

Approval of September 8, 2020, Regular Meeting Minutes: Sue Hoeldt made a **Motion** to approve the minutes of September 8, 2020, Regular Meeting, seconded by Adrian Boelens. **6 Ayes 0 Nay 1 Absent, the motion carried.**

President's Report: During his opening remarks Harvey Hoffman mentioned Indigenous Day, he recognized all efforts made to keep schools open. He said this is a good time to provide input on the Smart Start plan, last month the board heard a request that teachers be considered essential and now there are plans in place to address that should there be another lockdown. He expressed condolences to the families of Mary Dooley of Sleetmute; Nicoli Zaukar of Sleetmute, Nattie Donhauser of Stony River; Mary Turner of Aniak; Artie Demandel of Aniak; and Janet Evan of Lower Kalskag.

Public Comments Regarding Agenda/Non-Agenda Items: President Hoffman read the rules for public comments. **Wayne Morgan** congratulated board members on their re-election; he was glad to hear about protocol in place to keep learning moving forward in the event of another lock down; he talked about learning and sports during this pandemic and also commented that things on social media should be investigated and facts checked before acting on them.

Executive Session. Not Necessary

Approval of Contract Offers: Matthew Bodenschatz, K-3 Gusty Michael, Stony River
Teresa Simeon Hunter made a **Motion** to approve the contract offer to Matthew Bodenschatz. Seconded by Sue Hoeldt. Roll Call Vote Teresa Hunter Yes; Dwayne Hoffman Yes; Phyllis Evan Absent; Sue Hoeldt Yes; Adrian Boelens Yes; Alyssa Gregory Yes; Harvey Hoffman Yes. **6 Yes Votes, 1 Absent the motion carried.**

Superintendent: Mr. Anderson's report was in the packet, he gave an update on the boat repair, 2 busses and a fuel truck in Bethel will be inspected, Kalskag needs a fuel truck and bussing is becoming more of a problem due to Covid, further updates will be given as things develop. Discussion followed on the fuel truck

and partnering with the Kalskag tribe in the purchase of the fuel truck. Discussion was also held on the beginning of the cold/flu season, the importance of working closely with YK, following the smart start protocols and increasing testing to prevent the spread.

Finance – Martha Morgan reviewed the revenue and expenses as of 10/2/2020. Discussion followed on the fuel use due to increased bus runs due to covid and the need to schedule a budget committee meeting that works with the Tyler tech training schedule that the business office is dealing with.

Maintenance & Operations: Jeromy Hoeldt is traveling to Sleetmute and his written report is in the packet. Discussion followed on the long list of tasks that was reported at an earlier board meeting. Mr. Anderson reported the State computer program tracks each task as it is completed, he worked with Maintenance and within a few weeks they were placed on probation and since then it has been lifted as they have completed many tasks and are in the 90th percentile of completion. The State is very happy with the progress KSD has made to date.

Principal Reports:

Severin Gardner's Kalskag Schools Report was in the board packet, he said they've had very difficult times in Kalskag with the deaths. Students staff and friends are showing a lot of resiliency and caring for each other. Teachers say considering covid 19 students are working very hard. He recognized students, staff and community for their efforts to make it all work during covid times. **ASAA Region 1:** – Mr. Gardner reported the ASAA Board meeting in progress and he will have more specific information after the meetings. Basketball will be later, wrestling and cross country are delayed not cancelled, Mix Six starts in April. Schools are working on mitigation plans to allow limited sports travel. He will give updates as he receives them. A request was made that information be shared as soon as possible and not to wait for the next board meeting.

Steve Reese had his board report in packet, he added last month he lost 3 key employees to Brice, he has since coordinated with Brice and they've allowed his employees to work at the school. Mr. Reese stated he is impressed by the students and his overall perspective on upriver maintenance issues is that there is a lot getting done up here.

Gretchen Kelly gave an update on their recent School Advisory Committee elections; she said bus runs are full and has concerns that they will be needing more seats; she expressed appreciation for the volunteers who painted the AMNES hall walls; for staff appreciation they had a custodian appreciation day, the Staff Rose Awards went to Okalena Morgan and Claudia Goodwin. Staff has moved to once a month PCL. Discussion followed on bus issues, cohorts riding together, etc.

Curriculum: Emily Vanderpool had her report on line, she had a few highlights: the adoption committees have a good representation of staff; assessments are being done, they have a new test window opening soon to show growth since the beginning of the year. She will report on first semester growth at the December meeting; Apprenticeship program: education careers, waiting for approval by the DOL, will have more on it at the next meeting; There is a Battle of the Books link in her report, just about every school is participating. **Lesi Anderson, literacy coach** had an update, family literacy night packets with activities to be done at home will be sent out each month. Professional Development was changed to one day a month due to staggered Covid 19 schedules. The English Language Arts adoption committee will meet next week, the board member rep was urged to join if available. A district wide inservice will be held Nov 4-6. 1-1 devices

are to go out very soon with a ton of stuff on them and be able to download books on them to be prepared in the event of remote learning events. Teachers are working hard to be innovative and make education work and make it engaging for students. Teachers are sharing what works across the district and doing their best to make learning happen. Emily and her team were thanked for working on literacy to improve student scores.

Special Education - Madeline Aguiard gave updates on grants, she attended many virtual meetings this month, DEED started a new group to support rural educators, so they can collaborate with others across the state. The annual SpEd directors training is to deal with changes due to covid, etc. The big thing to announce is KSD has partnered with a company called SwiftK-12 that features an automated website, email, texting, facebook, seamless communication process for multiple communication or quick alerts that is integrated into powerschool. Training will take place on it soon. She made it to upriver multiple times to visit multiple schools and plans to visit Kalskag very soon weather permitting as well as the Aniak Schools.

Student Services Director: Todd Boynton's report in board packet. He gave an update on the enrollment and the October count which ends 10/23. Stop It Solutions has been relaunched to report any concerns with bullying, concerns with students thoughts, etc. Alaska Excel has created a Virtual Career Building Class, 30 students districtwide enrolled in it. 21st Century Grant: Cheryl Aloysius has been hired as coordinator. In response to inquiries on the number for district wide drop out Mr. Boynton said he'd look into and get back with the numbers.

MKEA Teacher Rep – AMNES thanked the Hoeldts and Wilsons for painting the hall walls to make them more cheerful. Some teachers had complaints about food service saying they are not getting enough food, some teachers are not fans of prepackaged meals. There are concerns that the iPads have not been distributed yet and with covid cases rising they are concerned they won't be ready to move to remote learning. They have 2 week emergency plans ready to go but want a back up plan ready. There is no custodian at high school and it is taking a lot out of staff who have to go in early and stay late. Is there a way to help out with that.

Student Rep: this is vacant now and hopefully will be filled soon.

Board Reports:

Alyssa Gregory no report; Teresa Simeon Hunter thanked staff for good reports, she offered congratulations to Dwayne for winning the election; Adrian Boelens hoped everyone had a successful moose hunting season, and thanked staff for doing awesome job with school; Sue Hoeldt - articulated to all teachers and staff that we continue to have an exciting year in spite of Covid, she is hearing good things about education she knows it's incredibly difficult but hears about the innovative ways teachers are staying safe while doing an exciting education. Dwayne Hoffman offered condolences to family and friends that lost loved ones and thanked those who voted.

Board Recognition Awards: President Hoffman read the board recognition awards into the record for James Gregory and Stony River Traditional Council. **Nominations: Donlin Gold** for donating custom masks to KSD schools. **Pat McDonald**, long term sub, who completely got the school off the ground and really turned things around at Gusty Michael School in Stony River, for her positive outlook on their challenging living conditions. **Bush Tell Inc.** for the Halloween candy donated to KSD schools; The crew that painted the elementary school: **Randy, Sue and Amanda Hoeldt; Wanda and Tia Wilson.**

Policy Committee 1st Reading: BP/AP/E 6174.1 Education of Native/Indian Children, Indian Policies & Procedures - Discussion was held on presenting the policy to tribal councils and getting signatures on the Indian Policy and Procedures. President Hoffman reminded everyone to mark their calendars for a Policy Committee meeting on Oct. 20 2-4pm.

General Communications: The following were reviewed and discussed.

a. **AASB 67th Annual Conference November 6-8, 2020 (Friday to Sunday) Virtual**

Discussion was held on whether to participate in it. Bandwidth is a consideration as well as the issue of whether that can be done at the schools at each village. President Hoffman asked board members to let admin know if they need to go to the school for the conference.

b. **Alaska Public Entity INSurance (APEA) - Annual letter of introduction to APEI**

Time & Place of Next Meeting: Tues. November 10, 2020, 9:00am, ZOOM. Sue Hoeldt made a Motion to have the next board meeting on Tues. November 10, 2020 9 am on Zoom. Seconded by Teresa Simeon Hunter. 6 Ayes 1 Absent, the motion carried.

Adjournment 11:00am: Teresa Simeon-Hunter made a Motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Adrian Boelens. 6 Ayes 1 Absent, the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted:

Sue Hoeldt , Clerk Treasurer

Edith Morgan, Recording Secretary