

**Unofficial Minutes  
Kuspuk School District REAA #5  
December 8, 2020 Board of Education Meeting on Zoom**

**9:03am** President Hoffman called the meeting to order. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

**Roll Call:** Teresa Simeon-Hunter, present                      Dwayne Hoffman, present                      Susan Hoeldt, present  
Harvey Hoffman, present                      Adrian Boelens, present                      Alyssa Gregory, joined 10am  
Seat C: Vacant

A quorum was present. Also present: James Anderson, Superintendent; Martha Morgan, Business Manager; Severin Gardner, Kalskag Principal; Gretchen Kelly, Aniak Principal; Steven Reese, Up River Principal; Emerie Fairbanks, MKEA Wayne Morgan, Chief, Aniak Traditional Council; and Edith Morgan, Recording Secretary.

**Approval of Agenda:** Dwayne Hoffman added an Executive Session for covid19 concerns. Sue Hoeldt made a Motion to approve the December 8, 2020 agenda as amended. Seconded by Dwayne Hoffman. 5 Ayes, 0 Nay, 1 Absent, 1 Vacant Seat, the motion carried.

**Approval of November 10, 2020, Regular Meeting Minutes:** Teresa Simeon Hunter made a Motion to approve the minutes of November 10, 2020, Regular Meeting, seconded by Sue Hoeldt. 5 Ayes, 0 Nay, 1 Absent, 1 Vacant Seat, the motion carried.

**Presidents Report:** President Hoffman reflected on the past year, he thanked everyone for staying committed to their jobs through this challenging year. Recognizing the toll of this year he urged everyone to use available resources and be advocates for mental health awareness and to do our part in stopping the spread. He expressed condolences to the families of Norman Macar of Crooked Creek, Raymond Peterson of Aniak, and Marlene Evan of Lower Kalskag. Harry Peterson of Aniak was added to the list.

**Public Comment:** President Hoffman read the rules for speakers. Wayne Morgan, Chief of the Aniak Traditional Council, addressed the board he expressed condolences for the ones we lost, Ray Peterson who was always at the Aniak schools spending time visiting with students during their lunch, that he was a number 1 fan of the Aniak Halfbreeds. He also recognized and spoke of Harry Peterson long time Aniak resident. He said Covid has been a part of our lives for about 10 months, he's been very supportive of way KSD dealt with keeping schools open but was saddened to hear of the panic decision to close down schools until February, he wished the school administration and board would look at it on a week-by-week basis instead. He asked are our kids getting the services, are we providing them the essential services needed to get a good education, is KSD providing internet to students? Are employees working from home being covered for internet use? He said there was no consultation with the tribes on school decisions.

**9:21am Executive Session:** Dwayne Hoffman made a Motion to go into the Executive Session for administrative matters and covid concerns. Seconded by Teresa Simeon Hunter. 5 Ayes, 0 Nay, 1 Absent, 1 Vacant Seat, the motion carried. 9:52 am: Sue Hoeldt Moved to return to regular session. Seconded by Adrian Boelens. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**James Anderson:** Mr. Anderson's report was on line he explained the reasoning behind the committee decision to close school buildings until Feb. 6 and to place students on remote learning. There has been a good response from parents regarding these decisions, teachers are in a routine working from their classrooms and he is confident there will be a higher degree of maintaining standards this year. He gave an update on the AMNES construction and Maintenance and Operations, he thanked all teachers for doing a great job staying diligent in helping their students. He said we didn't receive the housing grant this year but are eligible to apply for it next year. President Hoffman said he forwarded an AMNES status report to the board that he received earlier in the day from Kent Crandall.

**10:00am** Alyssa Gregory joined the meeting.

**Finance:** Martha Morgan, Business Manager, reviewed the revenue and expenses as of December 4, 2020 saying impact aid funds were received within the last month as well as e-rate funding. Discussion followed on scheduling a budget meeting before the holidays.

**Maintenance & Operations:** Jeromy Hoeldt said things have been extremely challenging with staff missing work, he said having Mr. Anderson's support makes his job a lot easier. Several projects have been slowed down due to weather.

**Principal Reports:**

Severin Gardner, Kalskag Principal, had his report and ASAA update online, he received several comments from other districts and people who reached out saying they were appreciative and supportive of how Kuspuk is dealing with Covid. Dwayne Hoffman asked Severin about his return. Mr. Anderson said Severin would be meeting the new Filipino teachers and helping them with their paperwork in Anchorage for the next couple weeks.

Steve Reese, Upriver Principal, had a report online, he added staff are keeping busy in spite of kids not in the building. He said upriver is getting great support from the district office and the maintenance office. Mr. Anderson visited Crooked Creek and they are reevaluating the bus barn use. He is unable to continue visiting schools at this time due to both weather and school closures his goal is to visit all sites and has visited most sites as much as possible. Mr. Anderson agreed saying Mr. Reese's plans to visit sites at this time have been hindered by weather or lack of a plane.

Gretchen Kelly, Aniak Principal, reported they've been re-evaluating and setting new directions, they are scheduling students for face-to-face instruction. She sent out letters giving the option of phone, internet based or face-to-face instruction. They've been learning how to record lessons for devices using different technology platforms, she thanked Julia Boynton and Larissa Heckathorn for their work in making this happen.

**Curriculum & Instruction** Emily Vanderpool, Curriculum Director had a Zoom meeting with the State regarding testing, her report is online.

**Special Education:** Madeline Aguillard, SpEd Director, was unable to attend the meeting, her report on the Federal Programs, the Consolidated Grants, how Special Education needs are being met at this time and the Strategic plan are online.

**Student Services Director:** Todd Boynton had his report online and added he has been busy gathering documents and updating things for the new programs they are using and will be virtually attending the Power School University the end of this week and next week.

**MKEA Teacher Rep:** Emerie Fairbanks reported Aniak and Upriver have started individual face-to-face instruction with students for 30-45 minutes, it is going smoothly and the students are excited to be back in the classroom for the last two weeks before Christmas break.

**Student Rep:** Mr. Anderson said when students return in February work can begin on a student rep election.

**Board Member Reports:** Adrian Boelens reported on the scholarship meeting she attended, she thanked teachers for being adaptable, as a parent and school board member she feels remote learning is more beneficial to students rather than jumping back and forth from in-person to remote. Sue Hoeldt, thanked teachers, admin, support staff, and maintenance for all their hard work, she appreciated their flexibility, the quality of packets are improving, she likes the new texting system coming out with information for parents and community, she hoped everyone had nice quiet thanksgiving and has an amazing holiday. Teresa Simeon-Hunter thanked teachers, staff, board members and students for understanding what we are doing for the whole school district she wished everyone a Merry Christmas. Dwayne Hoffman sent condolences to families that lost loved ones, he thanked teachers for preparing devices for the students saying his child loves the device and all the interaction. Devices are working and it doesn't use any internet, the lessons are already on there. Alyssa Gregory wished everyone happy holidays.

**3rd Reading: BP/AP/E 6174.1** Education of Native/Indian Children, Indian Policies & Procedures. Sue Hoeldt made a Motion to approve BP 6174.1 Education of Native/Indian Children, Indian Policies and Procedures, seconded by Dwayne Hoffman. Roll Call Vote: Teresa Simeon Hunter - Yes, Dwayne Hoffman Yes, Seat C: Vacant, Sue Hoeldt Yes, Adrian Boelens Yes, Alyssa Gregory Yes, Harvey Hoffman Yes. 6 Yes Votes, 1 Vacant Seat. The motion carried.

**2nd Reading: BP 0100** Philosophy; **BP 1260** Visits to Schools; **BP 4020** Drug, Tobacco, and Alcohol-Free Workplace; **BP 4112.10** Employment of Retired Teachers; **BP 4119.41** Employees with Infectious Diseases.

Sue Hoeldt made a **Motion** to adopt BP 0100; BP1260; BP4020; BP4112.10 and BP4119.41, seconded by Adrian Boelens. Roll Call Vote: Teresa Simeon Hunter - Yes, Dwayne Hoffman Yes, Seat C: Vacant, Sue Hoeldt Yes, Adrian Boelens Yes, Alyssa Gregory Yes, Harvey Hoffman Yes. 6 Yes Votes, 1 Vacant Seat. The motion carried.

**REAA Seat C Interim Board Member Selection:** Mr. Anderson stated notices have been up since November 25th and asked if any board members have heard of any interest in the position. Discussion followed on the outreach done and that interested persons should submit a letter of interest.

**Classified Covid19 Pay.** Mr. Anderson informed the board that he wrote procedures for the covid pay for the school year for the classified handbook as requested.

**Board Recognition Awards:** President Hoffman read the board recognition awards into the record for Judy Hager, Kuik Run, Alaska Commercial Co., Bush Tell Inc, Phyllis Evan and Norm Wooten. **Nominations:** Dwayne Hoffman for sharing concerns and to thank him for doing a good job in everything you do for Kuspuk.

**Scholarship Committee:** President Hoffman read the scholarship committee recommendation to award \$1,200.00 to Kayla Morgan. Adrian Boelens made a **Motion** to approve the scholarship of \$1,200.00 to Kayla Morgan, seconded by Sue Hoeldt. Discussion followed on decision of the scholarship committee, they looked at the budget and discussed the possibility of coming up with guidelines for amounts to award, and the need for better outreach. Roll Call Vote: Teresa Simeon Hunter - Yes, Dwayne Hoffman Yes, Seat C: Vacant, Sue Hoeldt Yes, Adrian Boelens Yes, Alyssa Gregory Yes, Harvey Hoffman Yes. 6 Yes Votes, 1 Vacant Seat. The motion carried.

**Ice Road Contribution Letter:** Mr. Anderson asked the school board if they wanted to donate to the ice road. Discussion followed on having the budget committee review it first and the pros and cons of having an ice road, there were concerns about opening an ice road between communities with rising numbers of Covid cases in the region and the need to think carefully if we want to open up our villages with an ice road.

#### **General Communications:**

1. Public Notice re: AK DEED intention to transfer the AMNES Site properties & improvements to KSD. Mr. Anderson spoke about the 30 day comment period regarding the transfer of the AMNES building from DEED to KSD saying this is a vital part of being able to complete the building process of our new school.

**11:07am** Emily Vanderpool joined the meeting and President Hoffman said they had time to listen to her report. She reported the Nates testing for 2 schools has been cancelled for this year, Sleetmute will try again next year. Other tests may be cancelled due to Covid, in December students have the opportunity to practice with online tools to prepare for testing. In January Teachers have an opportunity to prepare for testing. The ELA committee will meet Friday Dec. 11. She mentioned a lot of innovation is happening with teachers. They are using their own time in professional development to improve their skills in using technology for remote learning. The Response to Intervention Conference January 22-24 and teachers will have an opportunity to get more training in areas of literacy and math, also the tech conference is happening virtually in February. The Apprenticeship program progress slowed due to Covid, however the program has been finalized now and the Dept of Labor has it for funding approval so they will approve 4 of our paraprofessionals to start the program hopefully by next semester. The goal is to get more and more parapros highly qualified and get more of them working towards a teacher certification so we can start filling positions with our own local work force. Emily is in Anchorage continuing to work remotely as she waits for the baby and the earliest she may be back in the office is by February.

**Time & Place of Next Meeting:** Tues. January 12, 2021, 9:00am, ZOOM. Teresa Simeon Hunter made a **Motion** to have the next board meeting on Tues. January 12, 2021 9 am on Zoom. Seconded by Sue Hoeldt. Discussion was held on scheduling a budget committee meeting for the 21st or 22nd. 6 Ayes, 0 Nay, 1 Vacant Seat, the motion carried.

**Adjournment 11:18am:** Teresa Simeon-Hunter made a **Motion** to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Adrian Boelens. 6 Ayes, 0 Nay, 1 Vacant Seat, the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Sue Hoeldt , Clerk Treasurer

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Edith Morgan, Recording Secretary