

Unofficial Minutes
Kuspuk School District REAA #5
February 9, 2021 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 Tracy Simeon, present
Susan Hoeldt, present Harvey Hoffman, present Adrian Boelens, present
Alyssa Gregory, absent

A quorum was present. Also present: James Anderson, Superintendent; Martha Morgan, Business Manager; Severin Gardner, Kalskag Schools Principal; Gretchen Kelly, Aniak Schools Principal; Madeline Aguiard, Dir of Special Education; Todd Boynton, Student Services Director; Emerie Fairbanks, MKEA Teacher Rep; Carol Wilson & Billijo Mills of Alaska EXCEL; Community Members: Leslie Boelens; and Wayne Morgan, Aniak Traditional Council Chief; and Edith Morgan, Recording Secretary.

Approval of Agenda: Sue Hoeldt made a **Motion** to approve the February 9, 2021 agenda. Seconded by Adrian Boelens. 6 Ayes, 1 Absent, the motion carried.

Approval of January 12, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes: Teresa Simeon-Hunter made a **Motion** to approve the minutes of January 12, 2021, Regular Meeting, seconded by Adrian Boelens. 6 Ayes, 1 Absent, the motion carried.

Presidents Report: President Hoffman recognized everyone for their efforts in doing what's best for the students and getting them back in the classroom for in-person learning. He expressed condolences to the families of Mishka Andreanoff of Crooked Creek and Nicholas Nicoli of Aniak.

Public Comment: President Hoffman read the rules for speakers. **Carol Wilson and Billijo Mills** reported on the Virtual Career Building Class; the Teacher Training Support; the Native Youth Community Projects (NYCP) classroom support events that happened this year; Graduate Support: two scholarships were provided to former KSD students Kayla Morgan and William Peterson. Carol Wilson asked to be put on the March agenda to be able to do a full report since they had just a few minutes this month. Billijo Mills said everyone needs good news, they want to share their pride in this partnership and future partnership with Kuspuk that is providing so much for students, teachers and community members. **Wayne Morgan**, Aniak Traditional Council Chief, urged the board to add the EXCEL presentation to the March agenda, he serves on the EXCEL executive board and reported on their work to become a 501(c)3 organization and their work on personnel policies and bylaws for EXCEL. He was glad the schools are back in session and kids are in the classrooms. He'd like to hear a plan on how to get the older kids back on track towards graduation. **Leslie Boelens**, parent voiced concerns regarding student academics saying we have really smart kids capable of doing grade level school work, she asked the district to look carefully at why students are allowed to remain below proficient year after year and are passed along even though they are unable to read or do math at grade level. When they do get to high school they are not getting a good education in any subject if they can't read or do math at grade level. She said we have good teachers in the district, an excellent student to teacher ratio; a talented team of administrators and support staff; and parents shouldn't have to send kids to boarding schools, other districts or homeschool for a good education when they can get it here. She appreciated everyone's efforts in getting kids back into the classrooms and said the 1-1 student was a good learning opportunity for some, she asked Kuspuk to look at what needs to be done to bring each student up to proficient. Her other concern was the learning environment at the high school and the lack of sports she said we need to be innovative and smart in finding ways to have sports and group activities as incentives to make school fun.

9:36 am Executive Session: Teresa Simeon-Hunter made a **Motion** to go into the Executive Session for administrative matters. Seconded by Dwayne Hoffman. 6 Ayes, 1 Absent, the motion carried. 10:08 am: Dwayne Hoffman **Moved** to return to regular session. Seconded by Sue Hoeldt. All were in favor and the motion passed.

10:08am Recess due to technical issues with Zoom.

10:44am Sue Hoeldt left meeting.

Roll Call: Teresa Simeon-Hunter, present; Dwayne Hoffman, present; Tracy Simeon, present; Susan Hoeldt, absent; Harvey Hoffman, present; Adrian Boelens, present; Alyssa Gregory, absent

Approval of FY21 Resignations: Dwayne Hoffman expressed appreciation for Marcus Dammeyer's years of service, the huge impact he's had in the community and for his part in student successes and wished all the best to him. Adrian Boelens made a **Motion** to approve the FY21 Resignations as listed, seconded by Tracy Simeon. Roll Call Vote: Teresa Simeon Hunter - Yes, Dwayne Hoffman Yes, Tracy Simeon Yes, Sue Hoeldt Absent, Adrian Boelens Yes, Alyssa Gregory Absent. Harvey Hoffman Yes. 5 Yes Votes, 2 Absent. The motion carried.

Approval of FY22 Contract Renewal Offers: as listed
Adrian Boelens made a **Motion** to approve the FY22 Contract Offers as listed, seconded by Teresa Simeon-Hunter. Roll Call Vote: Teresa Simeon Hunter - Yes, Dwayne Hoffman Yes, Tracy Simeon Yes, Sue Hoeldt Absent; Adrian Boelens Yes, Alyssa Gregory Absent. Harvey Hoffman Yes. 5 Yes Votes, 2 Absent. The motion carried.

James Anderson: added an update to his written report on the 5-yr strategic plan that will be ready for approval by the end of the year and the Culture Camp he's been working on with The Kuskokwim Corporation so that all sites have access to a culture camp. Teresa Simeon thanked him for his work on the culture camp.

Finance: Martha Morgan, Business Manager, reviewed the revenue and expenses as of February 5, 2021. She answered questions regarding e-rate and overages on the technology line item,

Maintenance & Operations: Jeromy Hoeldt is traveling to another site, his written report was online. Mr. Anderson answered questions about a leak between the old and new AMNES construction that would be resolved when construction is complete.

Principals:

Severin Gardner, Kalskag Schools Principal Mr. Gardner added to his report that they started school yesterday, attendance was ok but they are looking to get more kids to attend the rest of the week.

Steven Reese, Upriver Schools Principal Mr. Reese could not join due to technical difficulties, his report was online.

Gretchen Kelly, Aniak Schools Principal had a report online. She reported on global read out day events at both of her schools. She informed the board that she has submitted her resignation, she thanked the board for the opportunity to grow professionally as well as for the relationships she built with the community, staff and students.

Director of Curriculum & Instruction: Emily Vanderpool was not in attendance as she was busy with testing.

Director of Special Education: Dr. Madeline Aguillard reported on Federal programs and Title grants: Title I – Tutoring; Title II - Retention Incentives; Title III - Supplies; Indian Ed Grant provides \$1,800 per site. Title IV - Staff travel and Lego Initiatives. They'll begin writing a new grant application, have more informational meetings and will report further on the planning process. The State will unlock a second round of CRRSA funds in the amount of \$941,000 to address student learning loss, prepare schools for reopening; facility repairs & improvements to reduce risk of virus transmission; and improvements in indoor air, she urged board members to provide input in the planning stages of building a budget for these funds. The District report card is now available online. She reported the Student Health Intervention Program (SHIP) provides mental health services that are now more accessible to students and staff. The Promise Neighborhood a new competitive federal grant is in the application stages, they are looking for potential local partners to improve the educational and developmental outcomes of children and youth. KSD Special Olympic will organize and host in-district covid19 safe individual activities for athletes. The Gifted/Talented screening is scheduled from Feb 22 to March 5. The Strategic planning survey results are attached to her report and will help understand stakeholder perspectives on current district practices and help in creating a realistic and actionable plan to move forward. Dwayne Hoffman mentioned using the cares act funds and grants for sites such as Gusty Michael School, Crow Village Sam School and Jack Egnaty Sr. School that need the most attention. He said The Kuskokwim Corporation and AVCP might be good partners for the Promise Neighborhood grant and that he'd like to see a lot more with SHIP especially during pandemic with kids dealing with emotional, depression, and suicide issues.

MKEA Teacher Rep: Emery Fairbanks reported they were all excited in Aniak to be back in school face to face, getting back into routines and structure, it is hard to keep in communication with all teachers in the district with their different schedules. The enrollment at AMNES has jumped in almost every class and they had to combine two

classrooms for the 5th grade class and the first and second graders growing in numbers also. Students are doing more outside activities such as skiing since gym not avail due to covid.

Student Rep: the position is still vacant.

Board Members: **Adrian Boelens** said she's excited to see kids happy to have school back in session and for staff who helped make it possible by following safety protocols and hoped to finish rest of school year face to face.

Teresa Simeon Hunter welcomed kids and staff back to school and hopes it all works out so they can continue in person for rest of year. **Dwayne Hoffman** expressed condolences to families and friends who lost loved ones, he welcome kids back to school saying his daughter is enthusiastic and excited looking forward to each day and is happy for homework. With vaccinations and everyone doing their part he looks forward to school opening up completely and getting back to normal. **Tracy Simeon** said she's glad to see kids back in school learning face to face.

Board Policy Committee: BP 4161/4261/4361 Leaves – Second Reading. Dwayne Hoffman made a Motion to approve BP 4161/4261/4361 Leaves, seconded by Adrian Boelens. Roll Call Vote: Teresa Simeon Hunter Yes, Dwayne Hoffman Yes, Tracy Simeon Yes, Sue Hoeldt Absent; Adrian Boelens Yes, Alyssa Gregory Absent. Harvey Hoffman Yes. 5 Yes Votes, 2 Absent. The motion carried.

Board Orientation or Training: Mr. James asked the board for a good date and time for the orientation. President Hoffman asked board members to let Edith or James know what days will work for them.

11:22am Sue Hoeldt returned to the meeting.

Superintendent and Board Evaluations: President Hoffman said evaluation forms were sent out to staff to be completed and he is still waiting to receive them. He anticipates setting aside an evening for the evaluation once all of the evaluations are returned to him.

Board Recognition Awards: President Hoffman read the board recognition awards into the record for Mark Ausdahl and Allison Simeon. **Nominations:** none

2021-22 School Calendar: Discussion was held on the draft 2021-2022 Calendar and the board requested other options be presented at the March board meeting with more student days and an earlier start date.

Waiver of BP8120 to allow KSD Staff member Cheryl Aloysius to serve on the Aniak SAC

Sue Hoeldt made a Motion to approve the waiver of BP 8120 to allow KSD Staff member Cheryl Aloysius to serve on the Aniak SAC, seconded by Teresa Simeon-Hunter. Roll Call Vote: Teresa Simeon Hunter - Yes, Dwayne Hoffman Yes, Tracy Simeon Yes, Sue Hoeldt Yes; Adrian Boelens Yes, Alyssa Gregory Absent. Harvey Hoffman Yes. 6 Yes Votes, 1 Absent. The motion carried.

Time & Place of Next Meeting: Tues. March 9, 2021, 9:00am, ZOOM. Teresa Simeon-Hunter made a Motion to have the next board meeting on Tues. March 9, 2021 at 9 am on Zoom. Seconded by Sue Hoeldt. 6 Ayes, 1 Absent, the motion carried.

Adjournment 11:47am: Adrian Boelens made a Motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Sue Hoeldt. 6 Ayes, 1 Absent, the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted:

Sue Hoeldt, Clerk Treasurer

Edith Morgan, Recording Secretary