

**HOOONAH CITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

April 19, 2018

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Heidi Jewel, Dillon Styers, Harold Houston, Grace Villarreal (telephonically), and Robert Hutton.

SUPERINTENDENT/PRINCIPAL: Ralph Watkins

OTHERS PRESENT: Amy Stevenson, Business Manager, Sheryl Ross, Special Education Director, Rita Crouch, Anasia Neal, Shawn McConnell, Mimi Antal, Todd Antal, Veronica Dalton, John Vlaun, and Eli Derenoff.

CALL TO ORDER: Robert Hutton called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

ROLL CALL: Five (5) Board Members were present at roll call, a quorum was established.

CORRESPONDENCE TO THE BOARD: Robert Hutton informed the Board that Mimi Antal had written a letter that she will read during Public Comments.

AGENDA REVISIONS: Robert Hutton added Additions to Certified Staff to Discussion Items by request of Ralph Watkins.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA: Robert Hutton asked if there were any objections to adopting the agenda as revised. There were no objections. The agenda was adopted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: M/S Harold Houston, Heidi Jewell moved to adopt the minutes of March 13, 2018. Robert Hutton asked if there were any objections to approving the minutes. There were no objects. The minutes were approved.

BOARD CALENDAR: Robert Hutton asked the Board and Ralph Watkins what date the last board meeting in June should be. They decided on keeping it on the third Thursday on June on the 21st.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (THREE MINUTE TIME LIMIT EACH):

Shawn McConnell – Shawn would like the school to provide another bike rack for the students that ride their bike. There aren't enough racks for the bikes by Collette's Cupboard and students are leaving them on the sidewalk. Ralph Watkins addressed this by saying there are two new bike racks in between the HIA building and the woodshop and we will start telling students to use them.

Anasia Neal – Anasia would like to see a policy in responding to school bullying. Her son has had some recent experiences with bullying. She would like to know how the principal and teachers respond to parents informing them about children bullying. Robert Hutton asked if Anasia had talked to Principal Watkins about this. She responded yes but have not heard back about it. Robert Hutton assured Ansia on behalf of the Board, they do take bullying seriously.

Mimi Antal – Mimi highlighted a few points she wrote in her letter to the School Board. She addressed them as a concerned parent as well as a professional educator. The situation we have at Hoonah City Schools with the combination of Superintendent and Principal does not work. The school is spiraling into chaos. Ralph Watkins is the hardest worker she has ever seen at a school but he is spread too thin. She listed three things that she is concerned with.

1. As a non-tenured teacher, she hasn't been evaluated this entire year.
2. Teachers that give state testing need training and she never received any.
3. Mimi still has not received report cards for her children from the first semester.

Mimi would like to see the administration get more support for help. She suggests that the Board reach out to the teachers to see how to solve this.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:

Administrator Report – Ralph Watkins reported verbally that he just returned from traveling to the Legislative Fly-In in Juneau. Ralph Watkins spent the day with Lorie Grassgreen and the writers of the Neighborhood Grant. The meetings went very well. Ralph Watkins would like to finish his report by saying that he is proud of his staff. This year they have made many positive changes.

Harold Houston asked how the seniors are preparing for college. Do they have a counselor to help them fill out applications? Ralph deferred Harold to Rita Crouch. She has been helping the seniors write essays for scholarships and preparing them for future job interviews. Three students have applied for FAFSA. One student has received their social security number in the mail. Some seniors are wanting to be certified nursing assistant and welders. Harold Houston thanked Ralph Watkins and Rita Crouch for preparing students for the real world.

Business Office Report – Amy Stevenson gave a written attached report. Robert Hutton asked Amy asked about the grants in her report. At the bottom he asked how we are affording the grant if hasn't been paid out. Amy explained that it was done before the third quarter drawn down. Every three months she does expenditures.

ANEP Grant Director's Report – Heather Powel gave an attached written report. Not present for questions.

Maintenance Report – Jeremiah Byers gave an attached written report. Not present for questions.

SPED Report – Sheryl Ross gave an attached written report. No questions asked.

Board Reports-

Harold Houston: Harold Houston enjoys the City Council meetings because they are positive and proactive. At the last meeting, the borough formation was discussed. The City Manager went to Gustavus for meetings with Shawn Parnell and John Molar. Gustavus was receptive to the borough formation with Hoonah.

Dillon Styers & Heidi Jewel: No budget stuff to report. They would like to wrap this into the Board retreat in August with Lon Garrison.

Robert Hutton: Robert took over the Playground Committee. Sally Dybdahl, Jeremiah Byers, and Robert Hutton met. They are making progress for the first phase (the swing sets). There was an audio conference with Chris. They discussed getting away from rubber in the playground to prevent fire. Robert Hutton met with Dennis Gray at the City asking him for some 1% money for the playground. Dennis Gray and Billie Jack committed adding \$20,000.

OLD BUSINESS:

1.0 FY 2018/2019 School Calendar for 2nd and Final Reading

M/S Heidi Jewell, Harold Houston move that we approve the proposed 2018-2019 School Calendar for final reading. No discussion. **VOICE VOTE: HJ-Yes, DS-Yes, HH-Yes, GV-Yes, RH-Yes. MOTION CARRIES.**

1.1 FY19 School Operation Fund Budget for Second and Final Reading

M/S Heidi Jewell, Grace Villarreal move that we approve the FY19 School Operating Fund Budget in the amount of \$2,929,643.00 for final reading. **VOICE VOTE: HJ-Yes, DS-Yes, HH-Yes, GV-Yes, RH-Yes. MOTION CARRIES.**

NEW BUSINESS:

2.0 2018/2019 Non-Tenured Teacher Contract

M/S Heidi Jewell, Harold Houston move that we offer 2018/2019 teaching contracts to the following teachers: Christina Carrick, Rita Crouch, Eli Derenoff, and John Vlaun. Discussion: Harold Houston asked Robert Hutton for clarification that all these teachers have been recommended by Superintendent Ralph Watkins. **VOICE VOTE: HJ-Yes, DS-Yes, HH-Yes, GV-Yes, RH-Yes. MOTION CARRIES.**

2.1 Approval of Exempt Contracts

M/S Harold Houston, Heidi Jewell move to adopt two point one FY18/19 exempt contracts. No discussion. **VOICE VOTE: HJ-Yes, DS-Yes, HH-Yes, GV-Yes, RH-Yes. MOTION CARRIES.**

2.2 Northrim Bank – Account Signature Sheets

M/S Heidi Jewell, Dillon Styers move that we approve the change in signers on the school's bank accounts to: Ralph M. Watkins, Dillon Styers, and Amy Stevenson. No discussion. **VOICE VOTE: HJ-Yes, DS-Yes, HH-Yes, GV-Yes, RH-Yes. MOTION CARRIES.**

2.3 Reading Curriculum Purchase for FY19

M/S Heidi Jewell, Dillon Styers move that we approve the purchase of new reading curriculum for FY19. Discussion: Heidi Jewell heard about this curriculum at the Job Fair in Anchorage and is excited to see this. Harold Houston asked if this curriculum is an upgrade from the current curriculum and if Ralph Watkins would recommend this curriculum for our kids. Ralph Watkins stated that this reading curriculum is consistent across grade levels K-12. Ralph Watkins looked at three different reading curriculums and thought that this reading program had the most stability and continuity. **VOICE VOTE: HJ-Yes, DS-Yes, HH-Yes, GV-Yes, RH-Yes. MOTION CARRIES.**

2.4 2018 Board Policy Updated, First Reading

Robert Hutton read through all changes to each policy. M/S Dillon Styers, Heidi Jewell move that we approve: Article 3, Series 3000, Business and Noninstructional Operations, BP 3300 Expenditures/Expending Authority, First Reading. Article 3, Series 3000, Business and Noninstructional Operations, BP 3310 Purchasing Procedures, First Reading. Article 3, Series 3000, Business and Noninstructional operations, BP 3311 Bids, First Reading. Article 4, Series 4000, All Personnel, BP 4112.4, 4212.4, 4312.4, Health Examinations, First Reading. Article 4, Series 4000, Certified Personnel, BP 4118, Suspension/Disciplinary Action, First Reading. Article 4, Series 4000, Personnel, BP 4218, Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action, First Reading. Article 6, Series 6000, Instruction, BP 6179, Child Care and Development Programs, First Reading. No Discussion. **VOICE VOTE: HJ-Yes, DS-Yes, HH-Yes, GV-Yes, RH-Yes. MOTION CARRIES.**

2.5 FY19 New Teacher Contracts

M/S Heidi Jewell, Dillon Styers move that the Board of Education offer the following teachers 2018/2019 contracts: Renee Gray, Patricia Gardner, Vallorie Buffa, and Clark Brown. No Discussion. **VOICE VOTE: HJ-Yes, DS-Yes, HH-Yes, GV-Yes, RH-Yes. MOTION CARRIES.**

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Board Assignments: Robert Hutton asked Grace Villarreal if Board Assignments could be deferred until the School Board Retreat in August. Grace agreed with this.

Special Meeting w/HIA regarding Teacher Housing: Ralph Watkins has met with HIA discussing the HIA Grant Housing Development Agency. They are in the process of planning emergency housing with six units dedicated to teachers at Hoonah City Schools. They need to decide whether the teachers will lease these units directly from HIA or if the school will lease the units from HIA and then rent to the teachers. There needs to be a meeting to decide this after the Clan Workshop which is April 23-25. The Board would like to have the meeting May 2nd.

Future Use of the Erickson Building: Ralph Watkins stated that HIA will be moving out of the Erickson Building this year. He would like the Erickson Building to be used as an Online Learning Center and for a GED program. Currently, we are offering online classes in our library. He would like to move these classes to the Erickson Building. Ralph Watkins is in contact with University of Alaska Southeast, Frank Conrad, with the possibility of moving a campus to Hoonah. One of the grants Ralph Watkins is working with has the funding for a GED program. The downstairs portion would be used for a Health Occupation Pathway which is also funded through a couple of the grants Ralph Watkins is working with. There needs to be an assessment of the cost of running the Erickson Building (electricity and fuel). Ralph Watkins will work with Jeremiah Byers to figure this out. Heidi Jewell thought that this idea sounded good. Harold Houston asked if the cost of these classes would come out of the general fund. Ralph Watkins replied that there are already grants in place to fund the classes.

Additions to Certified Staff: Ralph Watkins proposed that we do two things: hire another elementary teacher and to add a counselor position. There is an increasing amount of students in Elementary. With another elementary teacher, the needs of our students will be more readily met. The counselor position would be a combination social/emotional and guidance/academic. Ralph Watkins said that he has a grant that will cover \$80,000 of a counselor position. They are about \$40,000 short if you add benefits for the counselor. He would like Rita Crouch to be moved into this position and then there will need to be a search for a new ELA teacher. Ralph Watkins asked how the process of the Board approving this request would go. Robert Hutton said he would talk to Lon Garrison about this. Heidi Jewell commented that she feels like there is a step missing with our grants. Amy Stevenson stated that there is a Board Policy covering the process of applying for grants. This policy could be enforced a little more closely. In the past, the Board approved being a recipient of each grant. As a Board, they should be approving each grant.

Harold Houston is in favor of hiring a counselor. Heidi Jewell commented that once the board gets a connection with grants, however Ralph Watkins wants to build his staff – build it. Grace Villarreal agrees with Heidi Jewell. She would like to see something in black and white with grants.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (THREE MINUTE TIME LIMIT EACH):

Jamie Erickson – Jamie would like the PAT program moved to the Erickson Building. It would be nice for her if her office and classroom were in the same spot. Currently, her office and classroom are on complete opposite ends of campus.

Rita Crouch – Rita spoke about the counseling position. In her experience with working in other school districts in Alaska, there was no difference in the contracts of counselors or teachers. Rita Crouch would like to see the Erickson Building also be used for previous drop outs due to lack of credits. So they can come back to get their diploma. Not just their GED.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD:

Grace Villarreal – Grace stated that teleconferences “suck”. She will be so glad to get home. She hopes to get home soon.

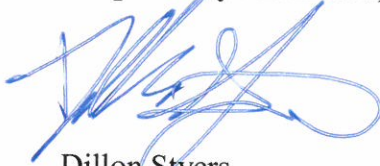
FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Second and Final Reading of Policy Updates
- First Reading of Board Policy Chapters 0-3 The Business Section. (Harold Houston and Amy Stevenson volunteered to read through these chapters with Robert Hutton.)
- MOA Contracts

ADJOURNMENT:

Robert Hutton asked if there were any objections to adjournment. No objections. Meeting adjourned at 8:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Dillon Styers
Board Secretary



Kelli Deitering
School Board Secretary