

CORDOVA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING: February 15, 2018

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CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Glasen called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the Cordova Jr./Sr. High School Media Center. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Members Present: Mr. Hoepfner, Mr. Bradford, and Ms. Glasen

Members Excused Absence: Ms. Jewell, Ms. Altermott

Quorum: Established

Staff Present: Superintendent Alex Russin, Principal Kate Williams, Principal Gayle Groff, Business Manager Kristy Andrew and Secretary Nora Dudley

Staff Absent: Maintenance Director Jared Niles, Food Service Director Ms. Sandie Ponte and Technology Director Keith Zamudio

City Council Rep: None

Student Council Rep: Zya Taylor

CEA Rep: Lance Westing

Visitors: Maya Russin, Makita De Cook, Mrs. Debbie Collins and Mr. Richard Collins

PRESENTATIONS OR AWARDS/CERTIFICATES:

An award was given to Debbie Collins, special education teacher at Mt. Eccles, for excellent performance in working with students. She was also recognized for working alongside our service providers, including the visiting school psychologist, speech language pathologist, physical therapist and occupational therapist. Mr. Russin shared that not only is she a quality educator, but also a quality person, as well. He stated that he has enjoyed working with Mrs. Collins and would like to recognize her hard work.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

HEARINGS OF INVITED INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS

(Limited to 15 minutes per Individual/Group):

CHS Tsunami Bowl (National Ocean Sciences Bowl) participants Maya Russin and Makita De Cook discussed their participation in this year's course and completion recently held in Seward. Each was part of a different group that represented Cordova. They shared that they competed against approximately 22 teams from all over Alaska and that this year's theme was "How weather affects the ocean." One team focused on "heavy rainfall" and the other on "heavy snowfall." The students explained that the competition consisted of three parts: a written research paper, an oral presentation, and a trivia quiz game against the other teams. One of the Cordova teams made it to the final round and won the overall state competition. The students shared that it was a fun trip and a great experience and that it was interesting take something educational and make it fun, yet competitive. Mr. Russin commented that it was exciting to see young ladies showing passion for science in a field traditionally dominated by men.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA:

Mr. Bradford moved to approve the February 15, 2018 regular meeting agenda as presented in the Board Packet. Mr. Hoepfner seconded.

Discussion: Mr. Hoepfner made an amendment motion to move the student council report to be given by Zya Taylor directly after Audience Comments Regarding Agenda Items as she was expected in another meeting. Mr. Bradford seconded. The motion to amend the agenda passed 3-0.

The Main Motion, as amended, PASSED 3-0

Comments: None

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AUDIENCE COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS: None

Student Council Report: (Zya Taylor)

- Zya Taylor reported that she was the newly appointed student council representative to the Board. She shared that the main topic of discussion recently with the student council was Homecoming, including the tradition of male/female class representatives walking during the event and how some students want to discuss other options for class representation. She concluded that the student council will continue to look at this topic in future meetings.

Consent Agenda:

Mr. Hoepfner moved to approve the Consent Agenda with the exception of #3, Out-of-State Travel, which was moved to New/Unfinished Business (# m4).

Mr. Bradford seconded.

Discussion: None

Motion PASSED 3-0

Comments: None

REPORTS:

City Council: None

Cordova Education Association: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

AASB Liaison: (Mr. Hoepfner)

- Mr. Hoepfner gave a brief overview of the AASB and NSBA meetings he attended in-person and by teleconference. Mr. Hoepfner included that he attended the Policy and Resolutions Committee in Washington, DC and the AASB Legislative Fly-In this February 10-13, 2018 in Juneau.

Jr./Sr. High Site Council: (Ms. Altermott)

- Mr. Russin shared that the minutes from the January meeting were included in the Board Packet and that the site council met on February 13. Ms. William updated the group on the AdvancED review and processes and referenced that some areas for improvements will follow in the review team's final report.

Elementary Site Council: (Ms. Groff)

- Ms. Glasen reported that minutes were included in the Board Packet. She summarized that the Web-based MAP testing was underway; other discussion included the idea of asking organizations in town to complete the strategic planning survey from an organization perspective. Mr. Russin concurred that the idea was a good one he would follow through on.

Curriculum Committee: (Ms. Jewell & Ms. Glasen)

- Mr. Russin commented that in the last meeting, identifying a curriculum review framework was discussed and would be planned to start in January. He shared that review does not necessarily mean adoption of new curriculum but instead reviewing components of the curriculum to determine if it still meets the needs of our students. Mr. Russin stated that the curriculum to be review this year included Science, Music, Career Exploration, and Social Studies. The next scheduled meeting will be on February 27, 2018 at 5:15 pm in the District Office Conference Room.

Policy Committee: (Ms. Altermott & Mr. Hoepfner):

- Next meeting is scheduled for 2/26/18.

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Safety and Facility Committee: (Mr. Bradford & Mr. Hoepfner):

- The committee met on February 1. Topics discussed included storage, facility needs, quarterly insurance claims, and required staff training. Mr. Russin shared that 100% of the employees completed 100% of the training requirements this year. Additional discussion focused on worker's compensation summary claims (injury type, frequency, and claim size), and auto and liability claim summaries.

Strategic Planning Committee: (Ms. Jewell & Ms. Altermott):

- Next tentative meeting is scheduled for 2/22/18.

Negotiations: (Ms. Jewell & Mr. Hoepfner):

- No negotiations at this time.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Mt. Eccles Elementary School-Ms. Groff, Principal

- Ms. Groff's written report was included in the Board Packet. She included that Ms. Williams's presentation to the AdvancED group was very positive and that it made her proud to be a Wolverine.
- Ms. Groff shared that she attended the RTI conference in January and that it was a great resource. Two teachers and one instructional aide were also able to attend; it was a great experience and it gave a boost to the current conversations happening in Mt. Eccles.
- The student council participated in this year's Iceworm Parade and was a great exercise for those students who are great in ideas but are light in carrying them through. Their work and effort (float) paid off with a 3rd place finish in the parade. The student council's next goal is to bring back the old Mt. Eccles Olympics.

Jr./Sr. High School-Ms. Williams, Principal

- Ms. Williams submitted a report that was included in the Board Packet. She shared that the external accreditation team from AdvancED was at the high school from Monday-Wednesday and they talked with staff and observed areas of school operations. Ms. Williams included that the visit went well and that there were no surprises. She shared that she was glad Mr. Russin and Ms. Groff were present to provide historical procedures the school had in place. She also included that the team was impressed with student behavior, school atmosphere, teachers, dual-college programs and the district's outstanding community partners. The school will have a final report in 45 days.
- Ms. Williams reported that the Robotics team went to State to compete and were excited to attend.
- Ms. Williams concluded by sharing that there is a college acceptance bulletin board placed outside the office and that there are currently 18 different college banners indicating the number of students who have been accepted to those colleges.

Technology Report-Mr. Zamudio

- Mr. Zamudio was not present but a written report was included in the Board Packet. Mr. Russin briefly added that Mr. Zamudio has been busy with the E-rate process from previous and current years and that he has been working on extending partnerships with the city library and community medical center for E-rate resources.

Maintenance Report-Mr. Niles

- Mr. Niles was not present but a written report was included in the Board Packet. Mr. Russin added that the high school boiler had been repaired after having failed. The incident occurred the Sunday following the Tip-Off tournament and there were several challenges getting a new part to Cordova. The new part was installed directly and the boiler was up and running by mid-week. Mr. Russin further expressed the importance of investing in additional resources in departments such as technology and maintenance to have parts on-hand in order to respond quickly when equipment fails. A brief discussion about looking into having the secondary boiler online in the event the main boiler has issues also occurred.

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Food Service Report-Ms. Ponte

- Ms. Ponte was not present but a written report was submitted in the Board Packet. Mr. Russin shared that Ms. Ponte is at the Alaska School Nutrition Annual Conference in Anchorage. Mr. Russin added that Ms. Ponte and Ms. Andrew have been working on a hydroponic grow-wall for vegetables and herbs that is currently in the kitchen. The idea may be to have different classrooms grow and share produce for the lunch salad bar.

Business Office Report-Ms. Andrew

- Ms. Andrew submitted a written report in the Board Packet. She added that she was beginning the budget process and asking program managers and teachers their needs in the classroom. With that in mind, she would like to have a work session to work on the Board's budget and to discuss travel details, activities, and other events that will factor into the Board's overall budget.

Superintendent Report-Mr. Russin

- Mr. Russin submitted a written report in the Board Packet. He shared that under community relations he has been meeting with community organizations regarding the strategic planning survey with hopes that they will take part in it. Mr. Russin noted that his conversations have been valuable and positive ways for him to interact with organization leaders and for them to be able to engage with him in-person.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

- The financial reports for December were included in the Board Packet. Ms. Andrew included two months of credit card statements and a letter from the State regarding our quality school grant confirming the \$13,000 dollars we received in grants. She also commented that page 155 of the Board Packet shows the historic operating budget for schools, for further reference.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- Work Session Notes on January 10, 2018 were included. No discussion took place.

NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. MOTION: Mr. Hoepfner moved to approve the Senate Bill 131: Education Funding Budget Resolution as presented in the Board Packet. Mr. Bradford seconded.

Discussion: Mr. Russin explained that this resolution is to support identifying the timeline of April 1st for the education portion of the state budget being approved by the legislature.

Motion: PASSED 3-0

2. Alaska's Education Challenge

Discussion: Mr. Russin mentioned that the Commissioner of Education and the governor are working together on this idea (Alaska's Education Challenge), including involving stakeholders to discuss various elements of Alaska's education and the future. There are a number of districts developing resolutions supporting the Challenge and that this item is being brought forward for discussion, as there are many unknowns regarding how any related support of this challenge may impact the District. Mr. Russin added that the Challenge, which includes three commitments drafted in this challenge: increasing student success, cultivating safety and well-being and cultivating responsible learners, are easy to support but that he was still unsure as to unforeseen consequences of any related bills in the legislature, including unfunded mandates and agendas that may have political motivations. Mr. Bradford expressed that those commitments are very similar of those in Cordova, but he agreed on learning more about this challenge in order to make a better educated decision.

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3. March Board meeting date

Discussion: Mr. Russin explained that this item is on the agenda because the next meeting falls during Spring Break. The Board discussed leaving the date as is, as most members would be present.

4. Out-of-State Travel for Hans Werner to attend the Teachers Teaching with Technology Conference on March 2-4, 2018 in San Antonio, TX.

MOTION: Mr. Bradford moved to approve Out-of-State travel for Hans Werner to attend the Teachers Teaching with Technology Conference as presented in the Board Packet. Mr. Hoepfner seconded.

Discussion: Mr. Hoepfner was glad to see teachers attending professional development conferences and asked if the reason for this trip was due to next year's rotation of courses. Mr. Russin responded that Mr. Werner has taught both math and science and that this conference will be helpful for future year's curriculum rotation.

Motion: PASSED 3-0

CONTRACTS/MEMORANDUMS OF AGREEMENTS: None

PERSONNEL: None

MISCELLANEOUS:

Wednesday, March 14, 2018 the board will have a School District Board Budget work session at 6:00 pm and a regular Board Meeting following at 7:00 pm.

Pending Agenda:

- Candidates for School Board Election
- Budget Development Process
- Superintendent Evaluation
- Curriculum Review Report
- Facility Needs
- School Board Officers
- Employee Contracts Approval
- Investments Options
- Board Engagement
- Alaska Education Challenge
- Budget Work Session at 6:00 pm

AUDIENCE COMMENTS: None

BOARD COMMENTS:

- Mr. Bradford: Wished everyone Happy Valentines'
- Mr. Hoepfner: Expressed his thanks to Debbie Collins for the wonderful work she provides for the kids and the extra help to the service providers. Mr. Hoepfner also wanted to congratulate the Tsunami Bowl team again for winning the State competition and heading to Nationals. He shared that it shows how much talent we have in representing Cordova. He thanked Mr. Russin for reaching out to the community regarding the Strategic Planning Survey and also congratulated Ms. Kate Williams for the hard work and dedication during the AdvancED visitation.

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- Ms. Glasen: Wanted to thank those students that attended the AASB Youth Leadership Conference in Juneau and for representing Cordova and showing interest in leadership. She welcomed Zya Taylor for her new position as representative of the Student Council to the Board and also recognized William Deaton for the years given as representative. Ms. Glasen gave well-wishes to the Robotics team as they head to State competitions. She concluded by sharing that the ASTE Conference was coming up and that she was glad the district is sending a great group of people to attend.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Bradford moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Hoepfner seconded.

Discussion: None

Motion PASSED 3-0

Meeting Adjourned at 8:11 pm

ATTEST

President

Clerk

Date

Date