

# Seward Schools Site-Based Council Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2014

Seward Elementary, Seward Middle, Seward High

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**Call to Order:** 6:32 PM

**Present:** Mica Van Buskirk, Leigh Ray, David Kingsland, Alan Nickell, Linda Ferkinhoff, Myla Liljemark, Kelli Moore, Laura Hensley, Raylynn Zweifel, Malia Acovak, Von Terry, Stephanie Cronin, Billy Wolfe, Lori Wolfe

**Excused:** Jason Bickling, Stephanie Mullaly, Amy Hankins, Celeste Lemme, Reuben Miranda, Maya and Mike Moriarty, Nadene Brown (resigned), Trevan Walker

**Approval of Minutes:** Approved (with one change)

**Additions to Agenda:**

- Add to new business: A discussion about the elementary parent spot that is now open.
- Lynn Hohl said we should look at something that the school board wants to approve, which is a 6-year capital improvement plan.

**Public Comments:** None

**Seward Middle School Report**

*by Billy Wolfe*

- Volleyball team is 2-0
- School is hosting wrestling on Saturday and need helpers
- 6th graders coming tomorrow for a poetry slam

**Seward High School Report**

*by Malia Acovak*

- Winter Formal is March 1st, 8-11 p.m. with a candy land theme.
- Basketball players did awesome at Seahawk Classic, Boosters raised a lot of money too.
- Skiing (state) next weekend
- Student Council started elections
- \$1,700 raised for Philippines
- National Honor Society - Feb. 26th Monster, Inc. being shown for the public, and the proceeds go to the local animal shelter
- Debate Team is happening in Anchorage

**Old Business**

**Bylaw approval:** Discussion about leaving principals as voting members until next year. Von says they should not be voters if they create the agenda, but that's not changed at this point either. Dr. Atwater recently said to Mica that the council should be able to discuss things that maybe the principals didn't want on the agenda. He

also recently commented to David Kingsland that our council is the most active site council in the district. Maya Moriarty (even though absent) asked that the Council be made aware of her suggestion that since we have three schools, there should be a community representative for each school (bringing our current number of two up to three). Mica Van Buskirk pointed out that if we approve this, we'll start looking at elections in April and hold them in May. Others pointed out that to fill a parent slot, a representative must have a child in that school.

In the end, the council decided that parent representatives with students transitioning between schools will be evaluated each year by the election committee.

Leigh Ray motioned to approve the amended bylaws, and it was seconded. All in favor (all). Opposed (none).

### **Site Council Goals:**

This information came out of a previous meeting in which everyone present broke into groups to choose goals for Seward schools. Here is the list, showing today's modifications:

- ~~Technology~~
- Business Partners
- Exposure to variety of opportunities
- Opportunities in courses, STEM
  - technology
  - professional development for teachers

Business Partners ideas:

- Ocean/Science Learning Center - excited to collaborate with the schools
- Seward Chamber of Commerce
- SeaLife Center
- Maybe AVTEC?
- KPC (Note: Typically the sports schedule interferes with evening courses, according to Raylynn Zwiefel); a hybrid high school might allow these courses to be offered in the day instead, except for some complications (i.e., Dan Marshall teaches for both SHS and KPC). David Kingsland mentions that KPC doesn't send faculty here (so we must rely on locals to teach the courses). These are local (not online) courses. KPBSD subsidizes KPC courses for seniors.

Technology:

- Stephanie Cronin is on the District's Technology Committee. She points out the process in which any technology for classrooms has to be evaluated first. It must meet these criteria: It must be beneficial to student growth, there must be sufficient professional development for teachers to ensure that the technology can be effectively used in the classroom, and finally there must be enough funds to maintain and replace the equipment as needed.
- Mica Van Buskirk points out that there is a \$900,000 line item for software in the district budget. And this could pay how many teacher salaries?
- Alan Nickell suggests using technology to connect kids to KPC courses. Distance delivery already happens at our schools via Amanda Adam, so she could probably make suggestions.

Opportunities in courses, STEM

- not a lot of flexibility

Exposure to a variety of opportunities

- Planetarium

----> Collectively said that this is too broad, and we need to narrow our focus to two things.

Try this:

1. Business Partnerships
2. Opportunities
  - a. Technology
  - b. Professional Development in Seward
  - c. Classes at HS (SAT Prep, Computer); opportunities within the school day
  - d. STEM or Honors Diploma at HS

Alan Nickell pointed out that there are opportunities such as these (above), but that they are underused. Ex. - mentorship with police department (never been used); AVTEC welding mentorship (never been used). Malia Acovak (HS rep) says, "We don't know about this. We need someone to come in with applications and tell us about it."

----> Focus is shifting during Council discussion to just getting the word out better about opportunities that already exist in Seward but are underutilized. Changes to goals look like this now:

1. Business Partnerships
  - a. AVTEC
  - b. construction
  - c. ASLC
  - d. Park Center
  - e. Police Dept.
2. Increase ~~Knowledge~~ Awareness and Participation
  - a. technology
  - b. professional development in Seward
  - c. classes/opportunities within school day (SAT prep, computer classes)
  - d. Honors diploma
  - e. course handbook

Von Terry adds that we could simply begin with a list like this one, and build on it as we become more aware of needs and desires over time.

Myla moves to approve these goals. Alan seconds. Goals approved.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

*Key Performance Indicators* (Letter to KPBSD Principals from the district). Council has been asked to give input on this. Reply to Debbie Tressler.

- Does this mean more testing?
- How are they measuring social/emotional well-being? What indicators? Whose judgment?
- Who is on the committee? Who came up with this? Where is the social studies/science in elementary? Where is writing?
- SAT prep not available here
- Last indicator (seniors graduating with college credit or industry certification) - economies of scale, we need teachers to teach this, so in effect are penalized by where we live!!

*Elementary School Parent Spot* that's open - do we advertise or solicit it ourselves? Bylaws say we'll come up with a list and appoint. Discussion opens about Amy Hankins situation with the suggestion that we appoint her to the position. Then we'll have to fill her spot as a community representative. However, we do have a district waiver for her to stay in her current position.

*School Board's vote on a 6-year plan for capital improvements.* The vote was postponed, so Lynn Hohl asked Mica Van Buskirk to bring it up. Input from Council members:

- #12 - \$500,000 high school office relocation. Agreed that this was needed.
- #21 - 2019, \$2,000,000 for field turf. Fix the TRACK too, not just the field. What type of a field will it be? (Domed/crowned or flat? This affects soccer players.) We have a football team that barely exists - why are we spending this money on this? How about safety for elementary school? Alan Nickell suggests that this may be specifically sports-improvement money.

## Reports from Administrators

### Elementary School Report

*by David Kingsland*

- At our most recent Muffins for Mom, Donuts for Dads, we had about 80 people attend
- Student Leadership led a movie night last week for K-2, and will do so for grades 3-6 on Feb. 21st (same night as the Cub Scouts Blue and Gold Banquet that is being held in the building).
- Leigh Ray is organizing another annual Jump Rope for Heart event at our school on Feb. 14th.
- Intramural skiing and volleyball underway.
- Battle of the Books - won some battles.
- Forensics is underway with 3 teachers coaching it.
- Planetarium visited our school, thanks to Marvin Tapsfield
- District budget meeting on Feb 18th at 5:30 p.m. at the HS library
- Key Communicator program Feb 24th in Elem library 5:30 p.m.
- Early Release coming up so that teachers may have collaboration time.

**No report from the Middle School principal.**

### High School Report

*by Stephanie Cronin* (in Trevan's absence):

- Boys/Girls soccer coaching
- Accreditation due on March 10th - work is progressing
- Early release day - working on accreditation report
- debate at state in Anchorage
- skiing regions in Soldotna tomorrow
- BB currently in Valdez

- NOSB Feb 28 \_march 2
- NYO - Feb 21-23 at MS
- FAFSA workshop - help students/parents Wed Feb 18th 4-7 AVTEC
- 19th - senior parent meeting 5:30, library coordinate graduation reception

**Roundtable:**

Von Terry on early release days: "I feel that the more time my kids are in classroom, the more time they're learning. When they're not in the classroom, they're not doing that." Key communicators: an email will get sent out about the things about key communicators from the school district, and I'd like us to be a part of that, because isn't that what the site council is for? Our community has already identified the communicators (i.e., the site council reps), so clearly, we'd like to be part of "key communicators." Valdez Elks games is being streamed online - [www.asln.net](http://www.asln.net) at 8:30 a.m. Friday.

Lori Wolfe asks a question. When teachers are issuing homework, is that a collaboration between teachers? Myla Liljemark responds: We've tried to for tests & papers (not homework). We have a wiki - it's a page on our wiki. Basically, homework is at the discretion of the teachers.

Stephanie Cronin mentions that Native Youth Olympics (Jrs) is at state. Also, she has started teaching Robotics this week (Robot C) in her engineering class.

Mica Van Buskirk – Does anyone wish to be part of the curriculum review (health curriculum is next)? Interesting point: Dr. Atwater pointed out PTR wasn't mentioned as a concern by parents, but a pool closing in one of the schools raised eyebrows.

**Next Meeting:** March 20, 2014, 6:30 - 8 PM in the professional development room of the Seward Middle School

**Adjourned:** 8:43 PM