

Seward Schools Site-Based Council
Meeting Minutes | November 8, 2012 | 6:30 pm
Seward High, Seward Middle, Seward Elementary

Present: Julie Lindquist, David Kingsland, Jason Bickling, Leigh Ray, Linda Ferkinhoff, Maya Moriarty, Amy Hankins, Mica Van Buskirk, Raylynn Zweifel, Stephanie Mullaly, Binjet Nilsson, Myla Liljemark, Spencer Brown, Lynn Hohl, Jenna Fabian, Terri McKnight, Bob Barnwell, Chuck Brown, Chad Hinders, Deb Burdick, Michelle H.

Call to Order: 6:40 PM

Welcome: New members welcomed - Amy Hankins (non-parent member), Alan Nickell (HS parent representative).

Minutes: Approved.

Additions to the Agenda: Nutrition policy will be discussed, and old business will be moved to after new business.

Public comment: none

Middle School Student Report: No representatives present

High School Student Report: No representatives present

New Business:

Moving the 6th Grade to the Middle School. Julie Lindquist gave an overview of the proposal and said that public discussion for this topic is scheduled for the January 2013 meeting. Jason Bickling spoke about the proposal and passed out a handout, which outlined the low enrollment problem at the middle school, the effects of low enrollment, and possible solutions. The discussion lasted for nearly an hour. Jason welcomed comments from those present and said he'll be creating a public survey to gather more comments.

High School Opened vs. Closed Campus. Deb Burdick spoke about the pros and cons of the high school having either an open or a closed campus. Julie Lindquist noted that Trevan Walker, who was absent, wished to comment on the topic because he is the high school principal. The purpose of Deb's comments tonight were informational only, and this topic will be revisited at the December site council meeting.

Elections of Site Council Officers. Site Council President, Vice President, and Secretary positions are on tonight's ballot. Julie Lindquist nominated Mica VanBuskirk for president, Leigh Ray seconded, and David Kingsland moved for a consensus. Through consensus, Mica is the new president. Other new or re-elected officers included Julie Lindquist for vice president and Leigh Ray for secretary.

Old Business:

Seward Site-Based Council By-Laws Amendments. Council decided to hold off on our council's amendments regarding principals becoming non-voting members until after KPBSD has finalized its amendments. Discussion turned to the number of members needed to constitute a quorum and how to modify the number of representatives from schools and the community in order to create a satisfactory quorum. The definition of a quorum is "a majority of filled positions," or more than 50 percent of filled positions. Decisions are made by consensus as opposed to votes, and so there must be a quorum present to have a consensus.

ASSB Nutrition Policy. During a work session, Council members created a list of suggested changes to the District's proposed nutrition policy. Council agreed to submit those changes to the District.

Reports from Administrators, School Board Representative, and PTSA Representative

David Kingsland, Seward Elementary School principal:

- Kindergarten teacher Jenn Haugh recently completed her Master's Degree.
- Donors Choose, an online organization that matches donors with teachers' wishlists, has funded several projects for teachers in our school, including items such as headphones, web cameras, digital recorders, and mp3 players.
- Basketball is underway.
- The school's annual Veterans Day performance is scheduled for noon tomorrow and is open to the public. Grades K-2 perform patriotic songs.
- The Student Leadership Team raised about \$500 from a Cake Walk during the local Halloween Carnival.

Jason Bickling, Seward Middle School principal:

- On November 15th, the Moose Pass School is hosting a craft Bazaar to raise funds for the school.
- The first home basketball game is Friday at 3 PM. There will be three home games this year.
- On November 11th at the middle school, there will be a PTSA Fundraiser from 1 to 4 PM.
- Two positions are open: instructional tutor and ELL tutor (part time).
- Student Leadership Team raised \$120 during a Halloween Candygram fundraiser.

Maya Moriarty, PTSA Representative:

- The land trust issue will be discussed at the next meeting.

Lynn Hohl, School Board Representative:

- Regarding the negotiations between the District and the Union, a report is expected in early December from the arbitrator.
- Hot issues include the District's reserve fund as it relates to teacher salaries and inflation proofing, and state legislators' apparent reluctance to increase funding for students.
- The cost of curriculum materials concerns teachers, and some wish to know the costs. There may be items that aren't needed or wanted, especially if they're pricey.
- Seward does not have any members in the Kenai Peninsula Native Youth Leaders, a council of 9-12th grade Native students from across the KPBSD that are eager to become leaders in their communities and our state.

Round Table: no comments

Meeting adjourned at 8:43 PM

Next meeting will be on December 13th, 2012: 6:30 PM, *Seward Elementary School Library*