

**SPECIAL ASSEMBLY MEETING
THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA**

Meeting Minutes - November 3, 2018

MEETING NO. 2018-32: The Special Joint Meeting of the City and Borough of Juneau Assembly and the Board of Education (School Board) held in room 206 in the Juneau Douglas High School, was called to order at 12:10 p.m. by Mayor Beth Weldon.

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Assembly Members Present: Mayor Beth Weldon, Loren Jones, Michele Hale, Wade Bryson, Carole Triem

Assembly Absent: Maria Gladziszewski, Mary Becker, Rob Edwardson and Jesse Kiehl

School Board Members Present: President Brian Holst, Kevin Allen, Steve Whitney, Elizabeth Siddon, Dan DeBartolo, Paul Kelly

School Board Absent: Jeff Short

A quorum of each group was present.

Staff Present:

CBJ: City Manager Rorie Watt, Deputy Manager Mila Cosgrove, Finance Director Bob Bartholomew, Engineering/PW Architect Nathan Coffee

Juneau School District: Interim JSD Superintendent Bridget Weiss, Chief of Staff Kristin Bartlett, Director of Teaching and Learning Support Ted Wilson

II. AGENDA TOPICS

A. Introductions and Welcome

Each individual introduced themselves to the group.

B. School Facility Maintenance

Manager Watt reviewed the packet. He drew attention to the Charter provisions governing the school district and noted that the Charter requires the Assembly and Board of Education (School Board) meet twice a year.

Manager Watt covered the slides pertaining to school facilities. Mr. Watt stated that best practice was to spend 2 – 3% of the value of facilities on maintenance per year averaged over the life of the building. Some years you spend more, some years

less. Historically the school district has not invested at this level on an annual basis, but waited to address maintenance needs when the facility was ready to qualify for state funding because of the 70% match that used to be available. Currently there is a general moratorium on state match that is expected to lift in 2020. At that time, the general understanding is that state match will be limited to 50%. A general discussion about school facilities and funding ensued.

School Board President Holst confirmed that past strategy relied on state funding. He stated that the parties need to determine how this strategy will work in the future. Assemblymember Jones pointed out that the State Department of Education has tightened up what is and is not available for funding and commented that there will be a lot of pressure on available funds once the state re-initiates its program. There was a general discussion about how various funding mechanisms worked.

Finance Director Bartholomew was asked to review CBJ debt and its link to the mill rate. Bartholomew stated that traditionally there has been about 1.5 mills that has been spent on debt service for schools. He also stated that debt projects compete and that as revenues remain flat there will be more pressure on the mill rate to pay for general operations. As paying for Capital Improvement Projects and general operations come in conflict, the Assembly will have to prioritize.

There was a general discussion of the state of school facilities compared to other CBJ facilities. Mr. Watt commented that it depended on the building. Some were in better shape, some need attention. There was also a general discussion about the value of city Capital Improvement Projects (CIPs) on the economy as a whole. Mr. Bartholomew stated that in any given year the city funded \$60 - \$80 million in projects.

C. Timeline School Funding Decisions

Manager Watt discussed the memo in the packet. He stated that the time line had competing needs and interests as compared to the CBJ timeline for budget action. He encouraged all members to review the milestones and acknowledge that city, district, and state deadlines made for a challenging budget process. There was a general discussion related to budget time lines.

Perception of Schools in the Community

President Holst asked the Assemblymembers to comment on any general questions or concerns they had heard from the community related to schools as they campaigned. Mayor Weldon stated she thought that schools enjoyed a lot of support and that any concerns she heard were related to the viability of the trades-

based classes. She encouraged the district to partner with the unions in preparing youth for the workforce.

Assemblymember Bryson had questions about how the various home school programs functioned and whether there was opportunity to enhance the district's program to be more attractive to families who were choosing other options.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the bodies, Mayor Weldon adjourned the meeting at 1:25 p.m.

Signed: _____
Elizabeth J. McEwen, Municipal Clerk

Signed: _____
Beth A. Weldon, Mayor