

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

Meeting Minutes - March 14, 2019

MEETING NO. 2019-13: The Special Meeting of the City and Borough of Juneau Assembly, held in the Assembly Chambers of the Municipal Building, was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Beth Weldon. Mayor Weldon thanked everyone for attending the joint meeting of the two bodies.

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Assembly Members Present: Mayor Beth Weldon, Deputy Mayor Maria Gladziszewski, Loren Jones, Wade Bryson, Carole Triem, Mary Becker, Rob Edwardson, Alicia Hughes-Skandjis

Assembly Absent: Michelle Hale

Board of Education (School Board) Members Present: President Brian Holst, Vice-President Dan DeBartolo, Jeff Short, Steve Whitney, Elizabeth Siddon, Paul Kelly, Kevin Allen (joined the meeting at approximately 6:00pm)

A quorum of each group was present.

Staff Present: City Manager Rorie Watt, Deputy Manager Mila Cosgrove, Municipal Clerk Beth McEwen, JSD Superintendent Bridget Weiss, JSD Administrative Services Director Sarah Jahn

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

III. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

A. Joint Meeting with the Board of Education

Juneau School District (JSD) Superintendent Bridget Weiss and President Brian Holst led a slide show presentation celebrating the diverse ways the school district meets the needs of its students. Dr. Weiss presented a big picture overview of topics such as the graduation rates, legislative priorities and their strategic plan, as well as the anticipated impacts from the state budget reductions.

Dr. Weiss and President Holst presented metrics regarding the graduation rate of JSD students from 2005-2018. In 2005, Juneau's graduation rate was approximately 63% (while AK state rate was at 61%). Since that time, Juneau's graduation rate has risen to approximately 83% (while AK state rate was at 79%).

They highlighted the Career Technical Education (CTE) program in which 27 students earned their CPR/First Aid certification in health sciences courses; 12 students enrolled

in the UAS Intro to Mining class; 11 students earned ETT certification; 5 students earned Certified Nurses Asst. certification at UAS in the fall and 2 have enrolled in the spring program; and 20 dual credit courses aligned with UA to make them available to high school students.

While there were a lot of successes to celebrate, Mr. Holst also highlighted some of the challenges they face as a school district. Alaska rates four times higher than the nation for children who have suffered some sort of abuse or neglect compared to the national average. The complexities of the issues that kids come to school with are becoming more and more pronounced. As a state, Alaska has the lowest college attendance rate vs. other states in the nation. Assemblymembers and School Board members discussed the statistics in more depth and the recent strides that JSD has had in increasing college readiness of its students.

[Mr. Allen joined the meeting at approximately 6:00p.m.]

The discussion then turned to the Legislative Priorities led by Mr. DeBartolo. He explained that their legislative priority list only had the first priority selected as their top priority while Priorities #2 through #8 were listed in no particular order. In most part, these are also priorities set by the Alaska Association of School Boards (indicated by AASB priority numbers below in parenthesis) as follows:

Priority #1. Early, adequate, equitable, and predictable funding of public education. (AASB 2.2)

Priority #2. Grade-level proficiency for Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 3 students (AASB 2.34)

Priority #3. Supporting Science, Technology Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education for Alaska's Children (AASB 2.25)

Priority #4. Preservation and restoration of Alaska Native Indigenous Languages (AASB 5.28)

Priority #5. Invest in School Infrastructure

Priority #6. Career and Technical (Vocational) Education (AASB 2.31)

Priority #7. School and Student Safety (AASB 3.9)

Priority #8. Increase Staff Recruitment and Retention (AASB 2.17)

Following discussion of the legislative priorities, School Board member Steve Whitney gave an overview of the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) list and the needs they are

trying to meet, especially in light of the State not paying for the school bond debt reimbursement program as it has in past years.

Mr. Holst and Mr. Whitney shared that some of their highlights include the work of the Language Task Force as well as the 50th anniversary of Sea Week coming up this year.

When the newest School Board members were asked by what surprised them the most about serving on the board, Mr. Allen, Dr. Siddon, and Mr. Kelly all agreed that they were surprised by how warmly they have been accepted whenever they do site visits at the school and that they are being recognized in the community. They were very impressed with the work of the Language Task Force. Mr. Kelly said he watched Dr. Weiss and Ms. Hughes-Skandijs testify to the state legislature earlier that day and he was happy to be able to see it on the Legislature's online videophone.

Mr. Holst asked if the Assembly had any words of wisdom to share with the School Board. Mr. Bryson said that in his family's experience, he would encourage more accountability from the students. He encouraged them to hold the bar high for students and make them earn their grade and not just pass them on if they are failing. Mr. Holst shared their experiences with the student councils and how he feels they are rising to the high bar that has been set. Mr. Edwardson shared his perspective on learning patterns and how they are a reflection of the values of the adults in their lives as well. He said he doesn't see that the kids have changed but maybe we (the adults) have from decade to decade on the values that we model for them.

Ms. Gladziszewski and other Assemblymembers expressed their appreciation for all that the School Board does on behalf of our community. Mr. Holst expressed the board's appreciation of the full support that the CBJ Assembly has given to the schools through funding up to as well as outside the cap. He shared that not all communities in Alaska experience that kind of support and the school board very much appreciates it.

IV. Documents and Handouts at the Meeting

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Assembly, Mayor Weldon adjourned the special meeting at 6:52 p.m.

Signed: _____

Elizabeth J. McEwen
Municipal Clerk

Signed: _____

Beth A. Weldon
Mayor