

Minutes of 205th Regular Session - B

The Board of Education Bering Strait School District

The 205th Regular Session - B meeting of the Board of Education of Bering Strait School District was held Tuesday, September 22, 2015, beginning at 6:00 PM in Golovin, AK.

I. **Call to Order**

The 205th Regular Session meeting on Tuesday, September 22 in Golovin, AK was called to order at 6:01pm by Aurora Johnson.

II. **Roll Call**

Present at the meeting were Aurora Johnson, Aaron Iworrigan, Jane Kava, Irene Navarro, Jeanette Iya, Reggie Barr, Milton Cheemuk, Joe Murray, and Annie Weyiouanna. Frank Oxereok and Tia Wilson were excused from the meeting. A quorum was established.

III. **Introductions**

A. **District School Board Members**

All Board members introduced themselves and stated the communities they represent.

B. **Superintendent & District Staff**

Dr. Bolen introduced the District Office staff present at the meeting. Present were: Carolyn Heflin, Gerald Pickner, Mark Vink, Gary Eckenweiler, Tammy Dodd, Jeff Erickson, Patrick Cutler, and Tera Cunningham.

C. **Principal - Golovin School**

Gay Jacobson introduced all certified and classified staff. Mrs. Jacobson shared that they are happy to host the meeting. She reported on their AIMS assessments, Progress Monitoring, and their reading program. Martin L. Olson School has two AEC seats up for election. Mrs. Jacobson shared that two additional housing units would meet their needs.

D. **Advisory Education Committee**

Presenter: Ruth Peterson

The AEC members were introduced: Donna Katchatag, Sherri Lewis, Carol Oliver, Kristi lone, and Ruth Peterson. Ruth Peterson welcomed and thanked the Board for conducting Session B in Golovin. Mrs. Peterson asked if BSSD has a drug policy in place. Dr. Bolen shared that the concern has been expressed to the Board. A policy has not been passed, but it is a topic that the Board can discuss in the future. Mrs. Peterson advocated for the Bilingual/Bicultural Program and requested that the aide's hours increase to 6.0 hours per day. Mrs. Peterson also asked if House Bill 216 is being addressed by the District. Carolyn Heflin responded that the District is working with regional entities to integrate languages into the curriculum. The State of Alaska contacted BSSD about the District's plan for language integration.

E. **Student Representatives**

Presenter: Molly Moses & Wilma Amaktoolik

Molly Moses and Wilma Amaktoolik addressed the Board. They shared two goals: 1) continue the positive climate in the school, and 2) get the community more involved.

IV. **Public Comments**

AEC member Carol Oliver asked if there are plans to build new teacher housing. Gary

Eckenweiler commented that Golovin is a #1 priority for housing projects, although State funding is not as generous this year.

V. **Reading of the District Mission Statement**

The District Mission Statement was read aloud.

VI. **Approval of Agenda**

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Aaron Iworriagan. Joe Murray seconded. Motion carried.

VII. **ACTION ITEMS**

A. **Maintenance Service Plan**

Presenter: Gary Eckenweiler

See attachment A

Joe Murray moved to approve the Maintenance Service Plan. Annie Weyiouanna seconded. Motion carried.

B. **Impact Aid Authorization**

Presenter: Mark Vink

Jeanette Iya moved to authorize Superintendent Bolen of the Bering Strait School District, as the authorized signatory on the FY2016 Application for School Assistance in Federally Impacted Areas. Irene Navarro seconded. Motion carried.

C. **Impact Aid Policy & Procedures**

Presenter: Mark Vink

Jeanette Iya moved to approve the Indian Education Policies and Procedures as presented. Aaron Iworriagan seconded. Motion carried.

D. **Board Policy on Boat Safety Procedures - 1st Reading**

Presenter: Mark Vink

Boat Safety Procedures

While on a field trip or school-sponsored trip all school-based rules and all rules set forth in the *Student Handbook* apply.

No student should be permitted to participate in a field trip or school-sponsored trip unless the following documents have been received:

- A Parent/Guardian Permission Slip;
- A Parent/Guardian Medical Information Form; and
- An Informed Consent and Release to Participate in Water Activities, if applicable.

All of these forms must be maintained for either seven (7) years after the due date on which the field trip is completed or seven (7) years after the student transfers, graduates, or withdraws from the school district, whichever is later. Forms must be stored with head supervisor.

A full description of the proposed activity must be filed with the principal prior to the field trip and must include:

- Sponsoring staff member(s)
- Educational purpose/benefit of the activity
- The date and time of the trip

- Where the trip will be to/from
- Number of students to attend field trip
- Any other special student needs

School field trips involving water activities are considered high risk and, therefore, the following are recommended procedures for field trips near water or involving swimming and boating:

1. Specially Trained Supervision

- a. For field trips involving swimming activities, the activity should be under the direct supervision of a certified lifeguard.
- b. For boating activities involving canoeing, kayaking, and power craft, the activity should be under the direct supervision of a captain with a minimum of two years of experience in driving the craft type being used. The captain should be familiar with existing water conditions and the route being traveled.
- c. A minimum of one supervisor must have current first aid certification.
- d. A minimum of one supervisor must have current CPR training.
- e. There must be a local expert accompanying the activity.
- f. There must be a minimum of one chaperone per five students.

2. Special Equipment

- a. For water-related activities, provide lifesaving equipment *such as* extension poles, ring buoys with line, blankets, and whistles (only bring necessary equipment).
- b. All passengers must wear a well-fitted flotation device that has been approved by the Coast Guard (must fit well and be worn with all buckles fastened at all times).
- c. Each boat should contain emergency and safety equipment *such as* a whistle or bell, anchor, navigational system, lights, and a visual distress system.
- d. The supervisor(s) must carry a contact device *such as* a satellite phone, VHF radio, or cell phone.
- e. A reserve boat must accompany all trips.

3. Weather Limitations

a. Ocean

- i. Before leaving, the visibility must be up to two miles.
- ii. Seas must be less than three feet.
- iii. Winds must be less than 15 mph.
- iv. While on the trip, the craft should be a minimum of five miles within shore at all times.
- v. The official NOAA forecast must show the conditions being the same or diminishing for the entirety of the trip.

b. River

- i. Before leaving, visibility must be over a half mile.
- ii. Winds must be less than 25 mph.

4. Insurance Coverage

- a. Be aware that when students are on a boat, **no** liability insurance coverage is provided for the school district on vessels 26 feet in length and over. The

district would need proof of coverage on a vessel over this length as well as the captain to have a current six-pact license along with having all required safety equipment.

- b. The boat owner must carry liability insurance on their boat on any district-sponsored trip that meets current district requirements, in addition to current boat registration, number and decals.

MOTION:

Aaron Iworrigan moved to approve the first reading the Board Policy on Boat Safety Procedures. Irene Navarro seconded. Motion carried.

E. Federal Grants

Presenter: Tammy Dodd

Title I, Part A

Summary of Current Program (\$1,185,957)

Title I, Part A program specifically focuses on the development and improvement of reading and math skills for students. The components of this proposal directly support the Mission of BSSD. All of the BSSD schools receive Title I support and have developed school improvement plans through the site STEPP Process. This school improvement plan allows each school to use Title I resources to best meet the specific needs of their site.

Title I, Part C

Summary of Current Program (\$204,391)

The Migrant Education program continues to provide the following: 1) 13 Highly Qualified Paraprofessionals/Recruiters responsible for recruiting and certifying migrant students, 2) 1 Records Manager, 3) Supplemental supplies for migrant students, 4) 2 Book Distributions to migrant students.

Title II, Part A

Summary of Current Program (\$252,575)

The Small, Rural School Achievement Program allows our district to move monies from the smaller title grants (Title IV) into Title IIA so that the money will better meet the goals of the district. The FY16 Title II, Part A, supports the following: 1) Training, materials and implementation of the new iObservation teacher evaluation system, 2) Stipends for CHAMPS coach, 3) Site based staff development, 4) 3 Reduced class size certified teachers. Through these projects the FY '16 Title IIA program specifically focuses on increased student achievement.

Title III-A

Summary of Current Program (\$50,307)

Title III-A provides funds for the following: 1) Professional Development in the areas of Limited English Proficiency, (LEP), 2) Assessment materials and assessment training, 3) Supplemental materials for ELL lessons in Cengage, Eureka Math and Big Ideas Math curricula. Teachers gain knowledge concerning mastery of benchmarks and standardized test growth for all students, both LEP and non-LEP and how to address the LEP population in the classroom.

MOTION:

Jeanette Iya moved to approve the FY16 NCLB Consolidated Plan for the Bering Strait School District in the amount of \$1,693,230. Irene Navarro seconded. Motion carried.

F. Grading Policy

Presenter: Carolyn Heflin

Bering Strait School District currently does not have a grading policy. After working as Director of Curriculum and Instruction for a year, I have had many conversations with school administrators and teachers about how to address inconsistencies in our grading system. Douglas Reeves states, "If a school system aspires to have a grading system that is accurate, fair, specific and timely, then it must create grading mechanisms that focus more on the performance of students and less on subjective factors unrelated to student achievement." The goal of the grading policy attached is to do just that.

Jeanette Iya moved to approve the Grading Policy 5121. Annie Weyiouanna seconded. Motion carried.

VIII. REPORTS

A. Personnel Report

Presenter: Gerald Pickner

Certified Staff

We have filled several positions in the district thus far. Currently, the following certified positions are vacant:

Diomede	MS/HS Generalist
Golovin	ECE
Shishmaref	ECE
Unalakleet	Counselor/Interventionist (Long-term Substitute currently in place)
Wales	Elementary 1-3 (Long Term Substitute currently in place)
District Office	District Psychologist

Classified Staff

Current Classified Vacancies:

Brevig Mission	Special Ed Aide
Diomede	Educational Aide
Elim	Educational Aide Indian Ed Custodian 1 Special Ed Aide
Gambell	LRE (Bilingual Instructor)
Savoonga	Educational Aide Special Ed Aide
Shishmaref	2 Special Ed Aides
St. Michael	2 Special Ed Aides

	2 Educational Aides
	Educational Aide Indian Ed
	Community Ed Coordinator
Stebbins	Community Ed Coordinator
	Custodian 1
	Educational Aide
Teller	Special Ed Aide
	Educational Aide Indian Ed
White Mountain	Cook 1

We spent a great deal of time going through the classified positions and recoding staff members to assure that we have covered all of the one-on-one Special Ed positions appropriately. We also made sure that we had enough staff identified as Special Ed Aides to cover the service hours of our Special Education students.

We are exploring the avenue of offering a local test to qualify classified candidates as highly qualified. We are hoping to make this part of the application process as it will qualify more folks for possible employment opportunities. This has been a problem in regards to the local hire option as federal guidelines and the state educational waiver require us to hire the highly qualified staff before we look at those that do not have the college degrees or college credits to achieve the HQ status. It also will give us an idea about who would best qualify for our substitute teaching positions.

District Evaluation Plan

We have made slight changes to the District's teacher evaluation program. We have forgone the three-year rollout plan and have implemented the full use of the Marzano/iObservation program in its entirety this year. We are putting added emphasis on the growth plan development of teachers and will use it in conjunction with identified weaknesses of each staff member if needed.

Through the implementation and adoption of the Negotiated Agreement for Certified Staff we have committed to and are in the process of developing assessment systems that we will use to determine the data component of the evaluation program, which is mandated by the State Department of Education to be in place by August of 2016. We will have certified teachers, administrators, and district office staff involved in the development process.

We have developed and implemented evaluation systems for our principals, itinerant staff, coordinators, technology personnel, and our counselors.

We are working on an evaluation system that will be implemented for the classified staff also but will present it to the Board for approval, along with the updated classified handbook at a future board meeting.

District Policy Manual

Up to this point we have been looking at our personnel section of the current BSSD Policy Manual and find that there are a large number of either policies that need to be developed and added to the document or that we need to develop Administrative Regulations that will

assist in the functioning of not only the Personnel Office but practicing principals and administrators currently in the district. As we identify and create these documents we will present them to the Policy Committee and to the full Board for approval in the appropriate manner.

B. ECE Report

Presenter: Tammy Dodd

All 15 schools have Early Childhood Education (ECE) programs in place for FY16. Funding sources have been secured for all 15 sites and the District works in conjunction with Kawerak or RurAL CAP in many of our communities. Next year, we will need to look for funding sources for those currently under the Moore Grant.

Site	Certified Teacher in Place	Type of Program/ Partnership	Funding Source	Funding Source Ends
Stebbins	Yes	3/4 year olds - RurAL CAP	Moore Grant	FY16
Shaktoolik	Yes	3/4 year olds - Kawarek	Moore Grant	FY16
Brevig Mission	Yes	3/4 year olds - Kawarek	Moore Grant	FY16
Gambell	Yes	3/4 year olds - Kawarek	Moore Grant	FY16
Savoonga	Yes	3/4 year olds - RurAL CAP	Moore Grant	FY16
Wales	Yes	4/5 year olds	Moore Grant	FY17
Diomedea	Yes	4/5 year olds	Moore Grant	FY17
St. Michael	Yes	3/4 year olds - Kawarek	Title IA	annual
Koyuk	Yes	3/4 year olds - Kawarek	Title IA	annual
Elim	Yes	3/4 year olds - Kawarek	Title IA	annual
White Mountain	Yes	3/4 year olds - Kawarek	Title IA	annual
Teller	Yes	3/4 year olds - Kawarek	Title IA	annual
Golovin	No (sub)	3/4 year olds - Kawarek	Title IA	annual
Shishmaref	No	3/4 year olds - Kawarek	Title IA	annual
Unalakleet	Yes	3/4 year olds	site budget	annual

C. Alaska Measure of Progress (AMP) Update

Presenter: Carolyn Heflin

Students in grades 3-10 took the AMP test in English Language Arts and Math during the testing window of March 30-April 10, 2015. As you are aware, this was the first time that students took a test that not only included the increased rigor of the state of Alaska’s newly adopted standards, but also required students to take the test solely on the computer.

I am pleased to report that while employees of our district understandably felt the anxiety of a new electronic testing platform, everyone came together to ensure that our students had a successful testing experience. I would like to acknowledge all the hard work done by district office testing coordinator Kristen Mashiana, the district office technology department’s Gary Jacobson and Theresa Hamilton, site principals, assistant principals, testing coordinators and technology liaisons to ensure that our students were successful in taking the AMP tests. It is to their credit that our students were able to take the AMP tests successfully in remote

western Alaska while various news outlets reported some urban school districts across the country as having huge difficulties administering their state tests electronically.

The Alaska Department of Education has notified school districts that the results of the AMP tests will be given to districts on October 19, 2015. I will be sharing these results with the board during the November 4, 2015 board meeting in Anchorage. It is worth noting that officials from the Alaska Department of Education have already told school districts during state conferences attended this school year that approximately one-third of Alaska's students passed the AMP tests of 2015 based on the proficient scores set. While this may appear discouraging to our students, parents and communities, we are confident that we will work together to ensure that we continue to improve the scores of our students in future AMP tests. Student growth is not by chance, but by everyone working together to ensure that our students receive the best education possible. In the years to come, I look forward to reporting and celebrating the improved AMP test results to the board.

D. Airplane Update

Presenter: Mark Vink

Tim Daniels and I traveled to Wichita, Kansas in May to look at our new plane and discuss the timing of the modifications and the list of work to be done. Tim also attended a Flight Safety class to start the training for King Air maintenance.

The plane is currently being worked on with an anticipated completion date in December or early January. Attached is a picture of the installed Garmin 1000 avionics package. The SAT phone and VHF radio have also been installed and the other modifications have been

Our current plan is to leave the plane in Kansas until May when our pilot, Mike does his training for the King Air and the Garmin avionics. After that is finished, he will spend some time getting familiar with our plane and bring it back up. Tim and I will also go back down to go over required paperwork.

E. Superintendent's Report

Presenter: Dr. Bolen

Good Evening School Board Members and Listening Audience

New Year

It is with great excitement that we begin this school year. I would like to thank the staffs and communities of White Mountain and Golovin for hosting our Board Meeting. This year is off to a great start. The district office staff was back to work around July 27 and the Principals and New Teachers started the week of August 3rd. Many of our returning teachers decided to return early so they could take advantage of some professional development activities we offered the week of August 3-7. Returning teachers returned to site August 10th.

This year's district-wide August inservice saw 59 new staff join our returning staff to provide quality programs and education to our students. We have stressed the importance to all of developing meaningful relationships with your students and communities. Inservice included an in-depth training for our new math curriculums, as well as some modifications and refreshment of our second year of the English/language Arts curriculum. In addition, we re-

vamped our Character Based Literacy (CBL) program for our high school language arts curriculum. I would like to thank Carolyn Heflin, Jim Martin, and Theresa Davis for their hard work all summer creating a viable curriculum for our students.

Grant Awards for 2015-2016

The RUS grant is awarded by the USDA for long distance delivery. While we have not received the official acceptance letter, we have scored the highest in points that our grant writer has ever seen and we are expected to receive \$500,00.00 with a BSSD match of \$150,000.00. A special note of thanks to Reggie Barr for signing a letter of support as a KTS tribal government representative and to Aaron Iworrigan and Annie Weyiouanna for helping Carolyn to locate the appropriate tribal representatives of their villages to sign a letter of support as well. Upon receipt of the acceptance letter, it will allow the district to purchase all new videoconference equipment. In addition, we will be able to install a videoconference bridge at the district office that will save us an estimated \$120,000 per year that we pay annually to GCI to use their equipment. Our district match will pay for new SMART boards in Koyuk, Golovin and Shaktoolik. These are sites that have the most need of new SMART boards. The district match will also pay for 5 ipad carts and ipads that will be placed in the libraries of Gambell, Savoonga, Diomed, Shishmaref and Wales. This is our beginning initiative to modernize libraries by loading electronic fiction books as well as art applications that students will enjoy in their libraries.

We are in our second year for the SANSS grant in partnership with Kawerak Incorporated, the Alaska Staff Development Network and the Bering Strait School District. The grant will continue to allow us to provide Alaska Native language materials and increase elder involvement in education; provide professional development for our new math program; and continue to increase attendance and graduation rates through positive behavioral supports and professional development opportunities.

CHAMPS Coaches

We have moved forward with improving our classroom management relationship building with our CHAMPS Coaching initiative. At the end of last school year, we brought Paraprofessionals from all sites into Unalakleet to receive training in Positive Behavior Supports. This was well received by the classified staff and created positive energy for this year. Prior to this school year, we brought the site coaches in for a 2-day intensive training. Coaches began assessing Time on Task for student in the classroom. Research shows that student achievement will increase by teachers increasing the amount of time students are engaged in the learning process. Our district goal is 91% time on task. Attached, you will find the first data representation from the first half of Quarter 1.

Education Summit

There will be a Norton Sound Education Summit October 9-11, 2015 in Nome. This summit has been in the works for quite some time, however it is finally coming to a realization. With the theme, "Our Education, Our Cultures, Our Time," the Norton Sound Education Summit will involve educators, parents, students and interested community members from throughout the region to explore our educational needs and opportunities for improvement. The summit is free, open to the public, and will focus on four main areas: 1) Cultural

relevancy in education; 2) Early childhood/elementary education; 3) Growing our own teachers; 4) Post-secondary preparation and success. Bering Strait will be represented as both presenters, panel members, and with students that will represent our district and their needs and desires. We are excited to participate in this summit to help spread our message across the region.

State Testing & ASPI

Usually at this time, we provide state testing data for last year's AMP (old SBA) tests. With the new AMP test last year, the state is still working with the testing company to develop cut scores and scales for reporting. The state projects new scores will be ready possibly in October. Carolyn will report more on state testing in her reports.

Board

With the upcoming elections, we have three seats open. According to the Alaskan Election Website, Irene Navarro, and Jane Kava have signed up to run again and are unopposed. Aurora Johnson and Reggie Barr also have signed up to run again, both with opposing candidates. Good luck to everyone.

As we go into the school year, in addition to building relationships, I have asked all of our administrators and teachers to pay special attention to our students that show need for additional support. We want to ensure that we are meeting the needs of all of our students. The hard work of education happens in the classroom where the teacher and the support staff touch the heart of the child.

Thank you for all of the Board's support in the districts initiatives to create a meaningful educational experience for all our students. We are excited about all of our new teachers and members of our leadership team. We are certain that this will be a great year in the Bering Strait School District.

IX. Public Comments

Kathy Fagerstrom asked if there is a district policy on drug testing and Dr. Bolen responded. Toby Anungazuk Jr. commented that he'd like to see more afterschool activities available for kids in the community.

X. Date, Time, & Place of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for November 4, 2015 in Anchorage.

XI. AEC Minutes

The Board reviewed the AEC minutes.

XII. Adjournment

Aurora Johnson thanked the community of Golovin. Annie Weyiouanna moved for the adjournment of the 205th Regular Session at 7:28pm. Irene Navarro seconded. Motion carried.