



Yukon Koyukuk School District  
4762 Old Airport Way  
Fairbanks, AK 99709

Kerry Boyd  
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Telephone: (907) 374-9400  
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362th Regular Board Meeting (Wednesday, 24 October 2019)

**1. PRELIMINARIES**

Procedural: 1.1 Call to Order 9:07

Maurice McGinty, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. on 23 January 2020 at the Fairbanks Office Boardroom in Fairbanks, Alaska.

Procedural: 1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

Procedural: 1.3 Roll Call Conducted by Board Secretary Shirley Kruger, Present  
Maurice McGinty, Chairperson, Present  
Fred Bifelt, Vice Chairperson, Present  
Gloria Patsy, Treasurer, Present  
Shirley Kruger, Secretary, Present  
Wilmer Beetus, Member, Present  
Ruth Folger, Member, Present  
Dian Gurtler, Member, Present

Procedural: 1.4 Introduction of Guests Conducted by Superintendent Kerry Boyd

Kerry Boyd, Superintendent  
Kristen Winters, Chief Financial Officer  
Susan Paskvan, Native Language Coordinator  
Patty Woody, CTE Coordinator  
Kristi Burns, Federal Programs Coordinator  
Luke Meinert, Assistant Superintendent  
Cristina Welker, Director of Special Education and Support Services  
Chane Beam, Director of Teaching and Learning  
Richard Wilkin, III, Board Secretary  
Gina Hrinko, Director of Federal Programs  
Patty White, Director of Operations  
Andrea Durny, Student Support and Assessment Coordinator  
Susan Paskvan, Coordinator of Native Language  
Jolene McKay, Parent, Eagle River  
Rebecca Powell Dawson, Parent, Eagle River  
Rhea Linus, Student Representative, Allakaket

Informational: Procedural: 1.5 Board Goals and Mission Statement ~Kerry Boyd



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**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (ACTION)**

- A. Shirley Kruger moved to approve
- B. Wilmer Beetus seconded
- C. 5.5 added to agenda Student Representative will make report
- D. 9.6 Allakaket and Huslia Artist Contract
- E. 9.7 CTE added
- F. Approved 7-0

**3. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA (ACTION)**

- A. Shirley Kruger moved to approve; Dian Gurtler seconded motion.
- B. Approved 7-0

ACTION (CONSENT): 3.1 How the Consent Agenda Works

ACTION (CONSENT): 3.2 Minutes from BM 361

- Minutes from Board Meeting 361 05 December 2019~Anchoarge

ACTION (CONSENT): 3.3 Personnel Action

- Update from Kerry Boyd on leaving of teachers; hiring of new staff, transfers, and current openings.

ACTION (CONSENT): 3.4 Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Revisions

- Kristen Winters updated budget revisions.

ACTION (CONSENT): 3.5 FY 2019 POs over \$40,000

- Kristen Winters updated POs over \$40,000.

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**4. COMMUNITY COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

PROCEDURAL: 4.1 Community Comment on Agenda Items

- None

**5.1 COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**REPORTS:**

**5.1.1 Policy Committee**

- Shirley Kruger gave reports and listed updates on first readings of all policies;
- Shirley Kruger gave report on second reading of all policies;
- Kerry Boyd: all policies will be sent out to CSCs.



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- Maurice McGinty: Attended CSC meeting in Nulato. The teaching staff in Nulato was quite concerned with the policy regarding interaction with students.

#### **5.1.2 Native Language Committee**

- Shirley Kruger reported: Board Members need to comment on why the book is important;
- Shirley Kruger: Important to study people from their own culture;
- Shirley Kruger: Also teaching values of hard work, dedication;
- Judy Ferguson: selected as author;
- Maurice McGinty: asked when book will be published;
- Susan Paskvan: gave updates

#### **5.2 Superintendent's Report: Kerry Boyd**

- Welcome from Superintendent;
- Highlights of Programs in the District and Our Successes;
- Basketball Activities discussed;
- Procedure for school visits from OCS mentioned;
- Montessori School Conference attended;
- Fall Assessment of MAPS;
- Toured CTE Dorm Facility;
  - Possibility of using UAF empty dorms;
- Grant meeting with Rasmussen for \$350,000
- Doyon grant application for CTE program submitted for CTE facility;
  - District needs to present how YKSD mission and vision for CTE aligns with Doyon's goals for similar programs;
  - Request was made for \$150,000
  - Village Corporations will receive requests for funding;
  - Plan to contact village corporations with whom we partner even those outside of our district (Galena; Nenana; Tanana);
  - Fred Bifelt: Should we reach out to Nenana Regional Corporation?
  - Ruth Folger: Be good to put a bug into everyone's ear at this point;
  - Appreciation shown for EXCEL presenting at yesterday's meeting.
- Wednesday Collaborations now includes para-professionals as well;
- Bullying coming up as a topic and training given to staff
  - Maurice McGinty: gave anecdotal incident about bullying on district's bus as a problem; believes all staff need more training and that this is a problem
  - Dian Gurtler: incident occurred in Manley where kids were "play fighting" but it was actually roughhousing that gets out of control and turns into bullying;
  - Ruth Folger: Bus drivers need training as well;



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- Maurice McGinty: community development needed and partnership between school and community;
- Gloria Patsy: All staff from principal down to the aides need training on bullying and clear definitions on what is and is not acceptable;
- Shirley Kruger: In the past, there was a parent or a para-professional riding the bus documenting incidents; punishments for bullying on the bus included being banned from activities.
- Raven Lego Tournament
- Battle of the Books Coming Up at the End of this month;
- AASB selected Nulato for a site visit for State Strategic Planning for Early Education;
  - Would like community meetings to commence in February;
  - Want to strengthen links
- Preparing facility and wish list items for end of the year;
- Preparing budget for 20/21 school year;
- Working with Borough Code Enforcement regarding zoning concerns;
- Insurance out for bid;
  - Maurice McGinty: Can we change classified staff to provide insurance. We are curtailing number of hours employees can work to save money on insurance. We talk about improving our systems but limit our employees' hours.
  - Fred Bifelt: This is a can of worms. How do we fix it? We can't keep people on staff because we aren't paying them and providing benefits.
  - Dian Gurtler: When I first started working at Manley School in 1975, I was the janitor and I worked 3.5 hours a day and had insurance.
  - Kerry Boyd: When I began, this was the case. If we wanted to examine this, it would require a readjustment of priorities.
  - Fred Bifelt: Our Native People have Native services in our village. I don't think health insurance would encourage staff retention; but giving higher wages would help our people;
  - Shirley Kruger: We could not fill three positions in Nulato last year;
  - Fred Bifelt: We need to look at wages and retirement;
  - Kerry Boyd: We gave every staff member \$2 an hour this year. Would lean towards providing an increase in staff salaries; let's bring this to the April board meeting;
  - Fred Bifelt: There is a high turnover in our classified staff and once we started focusing on salary of maintenance;
  - Wilmer Beetus: If positions are combined does an employee receive health insurance;
  - Kerry Boyd: the magic number is 30+ hours per week.
- Garden and Fruit Tree Planting Program ~ to take place in June;
- Approval of lettering on school building;



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- Gale Bourne: We can install ventilation systems in specific rooms to make classrooms more comfortable;
- Update on contracts: issued on 06 January 2020. A \$150 incentive was provided to staff who signed a contract before 10 January 2020. Internal positions will be advertised; external positions that are known are shown. Jobs are posted on ATP and Indeed. Jobs are being posted as well advertising in Arizona; Texas; and Oklahoma
- Staff Vacancies discussed;
- Legislative Initiatives:
  - Reading bill introduced this session;
  - Tribal Compacting Legislation introduced;
  - New legislation requires mental health curriculum in schools;
  - Microwave radiation exposure in schools;
  - 2020 Permanent Fund dividend estimated to be \$3170 with a \$1400 supplemental payment per person;
  - Mandates on consolidating 54 school districts to 18 school districts;
  - NB 196 – Alaska Performance Scholarship by Rep. Fields: Changes the amount of the highest level of the Alaska Performance Scholarship from \$4755 to “an amount equal to the average cost of resident tuition at the University of Alaska”
  - SB 136 Tribal Compacting by Sen. Stevens: Allows the Dept. of Education & Early Development to approve;
  - March 5<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting Legislative Priorities Discussed
- ACHILL update
- Updates on Capital Projects
  - Rampart School~ Working with DEED regarding CIP application
  - Allakaket School~ Project expected to be complete December 2020
  - Minto School~ Rewriting CIP application to be submitted in November 2020
  - Jimmy Huntington School finalizing
  - AKD finalizing a small list of improvements
- GEOForce visiting schools
- Regional basketball tournament
  - Nulato Hosting
  - 5-7 March 2020 will be at UAF;
- 2020 Book Slams
  - Dates discussed
  - Slam concept explained

Break Commenced 10:37  
Meeting Reconvened: 10:53am

### 5.3 CFO Report



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- Expenditures presented;
- Encumbrances outlined;
- Budget Revisions outlined;
- Provided to board on spreadsheet;
- Updated personnel costs
- Payment of bonuses
- School Board Budget increased for additional travel and professional services;
- Two POs over \$40,000;
- Student Activity Fund is \$216,000+

#### **5.4 Student Representative Report**

Update on each school and the activities at each site

#### **5.5 Principal Reports**

Motion to Accept: Shirley Kruger; Seconded by Ruth Folger  
Accepted by Board 7-0

#### **6.1 Community Communications**

None

#### **6.2 Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA): Student Achievement**

- Update provided

#### **7.3 Rampart School Building Renovation/Construction**

- Attempting to get Rampart into the district through regulation;
- School is not officially part of the district;
- We cannot write CIP for Rampart because they aren't a part of the district;
- Maurice McGinty: This is not fair to the district; this is in the hands of Yukon Flats;
- Fred Bifelt: We may need to play hardball and get into litigation over this;
- Shirley Kruger: We are taking money out of other school sites to keep Rampart afloat;
- The Board is not happy with this timeline as we want Rampart in the district;
- The building can be rehabbed but if we submit a major maintenance grant it will not be considered;
- Kerry Boyd: Meeting scheduled for 13 February 2020 with Commissioner regarding funding for repairs. At question is the regulation about 25 students or more. Is this legitimate;
- Charter into Rampart and back same day for BM 363



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#### **7.4 Andrew K. Demoski Head Start**

- Updates on partnerships;
- Funding from outside;
- Gina Hrinko: It's earmarked money. DEED will not want to give us funding since this Head Start is already operational. In Kaltag, Head Start shut down so we were able to open up a Pre-K program.
- Wilmer Beetus: Queried program in Hughes.
- Dian Gurtler, Ruth Folger, Shirley Kruger added comments

#### **7.5 Procedures for Office of Children's Services**

#### **7.6 Montessori Programs**

- Fred Bifelt: We need to plan our way to prosperity; Where do we go from here?
- Kerry Boyd: This is a paradigm shift and in their formative years, this is when we can impress upon them the most. We aren't going to be able to do Montessori everywhere all at once. Maybe we can focus on Pre-K to Grade 3 for Montessori. We should be learning how to read from Grade 3 on.
- Ruth Folger: Can we pilot this in one area or partially do this?
- Patty White:
- Maurice McGinty: This needs to be on a timeline and have sites volunteer to teach Montessori style education. Put this on a timeline so we can begin working with it. We can't take away from CTE and need to put this on a timeline as well.

#### **8.1 Old Business None**

#### **9. New Business**

**Motion to discuss: Shirley Kruger;**

**Seconded: Gloria Patsy**

#### **9.1 AK – Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant to Award**

- Grant focuses on literacy;
- Gina Hrinko discussed how programs are selected to meet the needs of our students;
- Fred Bifelt: Comment ~ Are there magazines that we can subscribe to that will help our kids develop good reading habits;
- Shirley Kruger: kids in Nulato have subscriptions to Highlights; helps kids read;



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- Gina Hrinko
- Questions called for
- Approved 7-0

**Motion to discuss: Gloria Patsy**

**Seconded: Ruth Folger**

**9.2 Board Recognition for Staff and Students**

- Kerry Boyd outlined all student nominees;
- Discussion from Board Members
- Rhea Linus and Kainulu Kaio selected as student honorees
- Cathy Walker and Christina Bellamy selected as staff honorees
- **Moved by Shirley Kruger; Seconded by Wilmer Beetus**
- **Approved 7-0**

**9.3 Alaska Housing Finance Corporation Teacher Housing Grant Application**

Shirley Kruger moved to approve application; Fred Bifelt seconded

**Motion to Approve: Shirley Kruger; Seconded by Wilmer Beetus**

**Motion carried 7-0**

**9.4 Shirley Kruger motioned to discuss; Ruth Folger seconded**

Presentation by Luke Meinert, Assistant Superintendent

Site-by-site awarding of bids rather than awarding one provider to manage all schools.

District will have four providers going forward

**Motion to Approve: Shirley Kruger; Seconded by Gloria Patsy**

**Motion carried 7-0**

**9.5 Out of state field trip**

Ella B. Verneti School Field Trip to Hawaii

**Shirley Kruger moved to approve**

**Wilmer Beetus seconded**

**Motion to approve carried 7-0**

**9.6. Allakaket and Huslia Artist Contract Tabled with request for more designs**

**9.7 Added to agenda**

**\$400,000 capital fund to be set aside and shifted to YKSD Excel program for training**

**Professional services need to be training**

- Teachers need training





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- Kerry Boyd: Excel recommended that we train up staff and open in 2021;
- Fred Bifelt: Thanks to KB and staff for the work that is done with our students; we need to focus on taking care of the 85% of the kids that won't go to college; if we are going to be successful we need a long-range plan.

Motion to Adopt: Shirley Kruger

Seconded: Gloria Patsy

Approved 7-0

#### 10.1 Future Agenda Items

Please let Kerry Boyd or Richard Wilkin know.

#### 10.2 Community Comment on Non-Agenda Items

- None

#### 10.3 Board Closing Comments

**Gloria Patsy:** Discussing changing date of board meeting date; suggested we can shift from Chromebooks back to iPads; as school board member, I sit on CSC, and I am also on the Tribal Council. We need to sell and market ourselves. We are doing good things and we are moving forward. We need to market what we do with CTE. There are nice vests/soft-shelled jackets. Can we get something that we can wear something uniform to promote our district.

**Wilmer Beetus:** This was a good meeting. We are talking about good things. I'm looking forward to the meeting in Rampart to check out the site.

**Shirley Kruger:** Proud of our leader and administrative team. When we go to AASB, people look at us. Legislative meeting should include all of us. We can go into different meetings and gather information for our district. We are giving our kids great opportunities. Question: Was commons area at Andrew K. Demoski repaired? We need to really pursue Montessori. Kids are going home and playing too many games. We need to teach these kids hard work and skills. We need early intervention with these kids. We have younger parents who need help with parenting. This was a good meeting. Thank you to everyone who is here.

**Ruth Folger:** I like the ideas and discussion and career learning opportunities for our kids. So many of our kids are in the villages doing nothing. We are building strategic partnerships which is great. Finding out that in Minto we can procure help for the planning of our school. I'm looking forward to the March meeting in Rampart.



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**Dian Gurtler:** The Montessori method of teaching lays a great basis. Even if we go up to Grade 3 only, it will be helpful. From Grade 8 and onwards is great to have a partnership with Excel. I'm looking forward to the meeting in Rampart.

**Fred Bifelt:** I like this progressive nature of the board. We need to try to get more of our kids to become teachers. We need to figure out how to get this CTE and Excel program going. We are trying to have a new approach for our kids.

**Maurice McGinty:** Thank you to all board members for your time and dedication. Discussion about getting good teachers in place long-term and keeping them there. We make complex decisions that are not easy. We have to be committed and dedicated to make us all successful. We will always see the light at the end of tunnel but we will never get there. We will always have to keep pushing.

11.1 Date and Place of Next Meeting

March 5, 2020  
Rampart, AK

March 4, 2020 in District Office will be Committee Meetings: Building, Budget, Legislative

11.2 Motion to Adjourn

- Motion to adjourn: Shirley Kruger
- Motion seconded: Ruth Folger
- Motion carried 7-0
- Meeting adjourned 14:28