

Haines Borough
Special Borough Assembly Meeting
JOINT SESSION WITH THE HAINES BOROUGH SCHOOL BOARD
March 1, 2011 – 6:30pm

Approved

MINUTES

- A. Call to Order/Pledge to the Flag:** Deputy Mayor **LAPP** called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Haines Borough High School Commons and led the pledge to the flag.
- B. Assembly Roll Call: Present** – Deputy Mayor Jerry **LAPP**, and Assembly Members Daymond **HOFFMAN**, Joanne **WATERMAN**, Scott **ROSSMAN**, Steve **VICK**, and Greg **GOODMAN**. **Absent** - Mayor Jan **Hill**.

Motion: **VICK** moved to “excuse Mayor Hill from the meeting,” and the motion carried unanimously in a vote of the assembly.

Borough Staff Present: Mark **EARNEST**/Borough Clerk, Julie **COZZI**/Borough Clerk, and Brad **MAYNARD**/Director of Public Facilities.

- C. School Board Roll Call: Present** - President Carol **KELLY** and members, Brian **CLAY**, Nelle **JURGELEIT-GREENE**, Ann Marie **PALMIERI**, Sean **CONE**, Stacie **TURNER**, and student member Royal **HENDERSON**. **Absent** – Sarah **SWINTON**.

School District Staff Present: Michael **BYER**/School Superintendent and Ashley **SAGE**/Administrative Assistant.

Visitors Present: Tom **MORPHET**/CVN, Heather **LENDE**, Joe **PARNELL**, Barbara **SHEINBERG**, Bill and Libby **KURZ**, Janet **KURZ**, Gary **STIGEN**, and others.

- D. Approval of Agenda**

Motion: **WATERMAN** moved to “approve the meeting agenda,” and the motion carried unanimously.

- E. Business**

1) **Instructional Programs**

- a. Strategic Planning Update

BYER informed the assembly that the School Board approved the School District’s strategic plan on 5/4/10, and he distributed copies. He reviewed the components and priorities. Additionally, he provided the 2009-2010 Adequate Yearly Progress statistics. He said the District has been able to prepare certain students very well, but not everyone. That’s why there is an effort to get the Voc Ed program going again and expand it. He said the administration and staff work together and very hard to maintain and create excellent opportunities for the students.

- b. Voc-Education Expansion

BYER said Ed Hayes has been very instrumental in helping with the construction class, and many other teachers wear multiple hats to help the Voc Ed program. The garage is going up, and welding booths are being added. They are exploring the idea of students actually doing some welding, such as boats. The goal is to help the students acquire vocational skills they can take into adulthood to make a good living. This year, there is a power systems engineering class that the students are enthusiastic about. The class is exploring energy use, including windmill designs. The District wants to integrate math, science and engineering. Additionally, there is gourmet cooking and digital photography. The students are doing the class portraits. Additional vocational avenues are being explored such as video editing and publishing in an effort to make learning relevant and tied to careers.

2) **Haines Borough Comprehensive Plan Update**

EARNEST said this is one of the top priorities the assembly has identified for this year. Education is obviously a very important function for the community and should be a part of the Comprehensive Plan. The Plan should include all of the community’s priorities. He introduced **SHEINBERG**, and said she has a tremendous amount of background with this type of planning. She meet with staff this week and other community members, and will also meet with the

planning commission. There will be a public process, and the project will be a two-part effort. Phase I is scheduled for the remainder of this current fiscal year. The second phase will depend on the FY12 budget. One thing missing from the current Plan is a plan for implementation. **SHEINBERG** gave a brief overview of the process. A comprehensive plan is a blueprint for how the community wants to grow over the next 20 years and the path to get there. Specific action points are included, as well, and even identifying whose job it is. It's meant to be used. It takes about one year to do an update like this very well. She stressed it's Haines' plan, not hers. She will provide professional expertise and lay out choices and pros and cons. It has to be a good process where everyone works together, and she will work closely with borough staff. Per the Charter, the planning commission is in charge of the comprehensive plan. They are to steer the process and recommend its adoption to the assembly by non-code ordinance. It is essential that one or two assembly members and the mayor attend the work sessions the planning commission will be conducting. The worst possible outcome would be to go through a year with the planning commission and public meetings and end up at the assembly level and not be on the same page. The public has to be really involved. She likes to start off with a random community opinion survey, and she's hoping they will be able to accomplish that to update the socio-economics. That would be followed by a kick off town hall meeting sometime in April to present the results, The youth in the community should be involved. She distributed a sample student survey used in Skagway.

3) **School Facilities Issues**
a. Major Maintenance/CIPs

BYER said one current issue is the leaky roof. It was believed the issue could be resolved by sealing around the overhead area, and last summer that work was done. However, the problem has not stopped. At this stage, the only way to correct it would be to redo the entire roof and he would like it to be done this summer. **MAYNARD** concurred. He said a total membrane roof replacement is advisable. Another ongoing issue is the drainage problem behind the High School gym. He said there should be some good ideas and associated costs by spring for how to fix it. One likely solution is to cut the bank back 10-12 feet toward the Elks parking lot and put in some gradient. **BYER** announced a very small leak has developed over the new gym. It was reported to Dawson who said there is a long term warranty on the membrane. It will be looked at and repaired as soon as possible. Regarding the Mosquito Lake heating system, **MAYNARD** said the control module was replaced 3 or 4 months ago. Power outages and surges at Mosquito Lake caused the system to shut. The problem is pretty much resolved. **BYER** said the boilers have been working very well and keeping everyone warm. He went on to say that all of the renewal/replacement schedules for the schools have been updated, and regular preventive maintenance has been added to the program. Regarding the play court cover and garage, snow breaks similar to the ferry terminal building are being installed. As for future capital projects, he has been talking with **MAYNARD** about the area where the locker rooms are. Plumbing, electrical, and air handling systems need to be renovated. **MAYNARD** said the preliminary engineering will be done for both the school and pool locker rooms, and the engineers will provide 65% documents that can be used to apply for funds. **WATERMAN** asked how much is left in the school construction monies. **BYER** said he is not sure; the borough has the number. **CLAY** said there was an Oversight and Planning (O&P) Committee that decided what the money would be spent on, and he wondered if that committee should meet again to talk about this. They had developed a top ten list of projects to spend remaining funds on. It's his understanding that time is running out for spending them. **MAYNARD** responded the chief fiscal officer inquired about the remaining funding, and the State's response was that it is a small enough amount that they will not cut it off. He went on to say that the last time the O&P Committee met, the roof, drainage, and Voc Ed building were identified, and we are nip and tuck on the funds that are left. He explained the borough is unable to deal with the drainage issue in-house because it doesn't have the heavy equipment the repair will require. It will have to be bid out. **CONE** asked if an independent backup temperature alarm could be installed at the Mosquito Lake School. **MAYNARD** said as long as the Internet connection is maintained, an alarm could definitely be used.

b. Borough/District Facilities Responsibilities

EARNEST said he and **BYER** have been researching other communities for sample MOUs between the government and school districts regarding facility maintenance issues. So far, they have been unsuccessful. In the mean time, good coordination has been taking place. **BYER** said the District has put in a \$250K request through Representative Thomas' office to replace the padding in the gym similar to one in Metlakatla. Theirs is a modern floor with shock absorbent characteristics that help prevent concussive injuries, etc. Rep. Thomas is very interested.

4) **Budget**

a. State Contribution

BYER said currently the Governor's budget includes no increases to K-12 funding. Inflation and other pressures keep eating away at operational costs. The school has managed to maintain its bottom line because the base student allocation (BSA) has gone up and special needs student funding has increased. This community is lucky, because there has been a lot of support from the assembly. He hopes the programs can be sustained. **KELLY** explained that the State has increased the funds for the past three years and expects it to already show results in High School statistics. They don't seem to realize the impact starts at the primary level, and it can take many years for results to show up.

b. Borough Contribution

BYER said currently there is one teacher for every grade in the elementary. They don't know where would they cut or what programs they would eliminate. They hope to keep the Voc Ed programs going. The State determines the maximum number a local government can contribute to its schools. At one time, this borough was funding up to 95% of that maximum. When he first came on the job as superintendent, the percentage was down to about 70% and is currently around 85%. **EARNEST** explained the federal Forest Receipts (Secure Schools) and PILT programs have contributed a significant portion of the borough's general fund. There is only one more cycle in the current authorization, and it will take an act of Congress to extend it. He went on to say that the Secure Schools payment was trending a 10% reduction this current year, but when the check came, it was actually 19% less. The manager's budget is due to the assembly on April 1. There will be challenges for sure. "It will be like putting a size 9 foot into an 8-1/2 size shoe." It will take a combination of belt tightening, looking at fees for services, etc. The big dark clouds over the horizon are the elimination or reduction of State revenue sharing, PILT, and Secure Schools. He wants people to be concerned and aware, but not overly alarmed. He believes we will get through what we need to this year. **CLAY** believes the federal government needs to do a better job of funding education.

F. Closing Comments

J.KURZ presented the School Board with a picture of a Haines High School graduate who went on to graduate from West Point and recently retired as a Lieutenant Colonel from the U.S. Army.

EARNEST spoke as a parent and community member. He expressed his appreciation to the school board and staff and thanked them for the work they do.

LAPP thanked everyone for their attendance at this meeting.

G. Adjournment – 8:14pm

Motion: WATERMAN moved to "adjourn the meeting," and the motion carried unanimously.

Jerry Lapp, Deputy Mayor

ATTEST:

Julie Cozzi, Borough Clerk