

**HOONAH CITY SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**April 27, 2017**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Grace Villarreal, Jamie Erickson, telephonic, Dillion Styers, Heidi Jewell, Robert Hutton.

**SUPERINTENDENT:** PJ Ford Slack

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Amy Stevenson, Recording Secretary; Melody Douglas, present telephonically with PJ; Ralph Watkins, Principal; Sheryl Ross, Pearl Miller, Amber Malone, Aimee Smith, Jenny Miller, Melissa Thaalesen, Travis Lewis, Stan Savland

**CALL TO ORDER:** Robert Hutton, called the meeting to order at 5:28 PM.

**ROLL CALL:** Five (5) Board Members were present at roll call, a quorum was established.

**CORRESPONDENCE TO THE BOARD**

- Robert Hutton read a letter he wrote to the legislature on the effect of cuts to education funding from the State of Alaska.

**AGENDA REVISIONS**

- None

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

M/S Grace Villarreal, Heidi Jewell to adopt the agenda as presented. Roll Call Vote: Heidi Jewell-Yes, Dillon Styers-Yes, Grace Villarreal-Yes, Jamie Erickson-Yes, Robert Hutton-Yes,  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

M/S Grace Villarreal, Heidi Jewell to approve the minutes of:

- Regular Board Meeting, March 14, 2017
- Special Board Meeting, March 16, 2017
- Special Board Meeting, March 21, 2017
- Special Board Meeting, March 31, 2017

- Special Board Meeting, April 11, 2017
- Special Board Meeting, April 14, 2017
- Emergency Board Meeting, April 15, 2017

Roll Call Vote: Heidi Jewell-Yes, Dillon Styers-Yes, Grace Villarreal-Yes, Jamie Erickson-Yes, Robert Hutton-Yes, MOTION CARRIED

#### **BOARD CALENDAR**

- Next regular board meeting will have to be moved as it is scheduled for the same night of graduation. We will need to move it.
- PJ let the Board know the Prom was moved until the 13<sup>th</sup> of May.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS (THREE MINUTE TIME LIMIT EACH)**

- Travis Lewis – He told the Board that he has been talking to banks in Juneau about coming back into Hoonah. He would like to ask the school to support this if it happened.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

##### **A. Superintendent's Report – PJ Ford Slack, PhD**

- Written Report

##### **B. Principal's Report – Ralph Watkins**

- Written Report

##### **C. ANEP Grant Director's Report – Heather Powell**

- Treston Lafferty and Richard Didrickson did a presentation to the Board on the National Language conference they were privileged to attend in Hawaii.

##### **D. Maintenance Report – Jeremiah Byers**

- He read a letter he wrote to the Board about the proposed cuts to the custodians in FY 18 and expressed his concerns. He also explained the playground bids that were included in the board packet.

##### **E. SPED Director's Report – Sheryl Ross**

- She gave the Board an overview of the SPED Audit that had taken place the week before. She informed the Board that at the 2012 audit there were 68 findings. This

year's audit they only had 6. She praised Aimee Smith and thanked Heather Wheeler for all their hard work.

**F. Pre-School Report – Heather Wheeler**

- Written Report

**OLD BUSINESS**

**1.0 FY 2018 General Operations Budget, Final Reading**

M/S Grace Villarreal, Heidi Jewell that we approve the FY 2018 General Operations Budget for final reading. **DISCUSSION:** Melody went through the cover memo which explains the four options included to help the Board make some hard decisions about next year's budget. The budget is \$197,000 short. The Board asked questions of Melody such as the cut in classified hours and a possible cut of a teacher or a further cut to para's hours. PJ reminded the Board that we still do not know if there will be an additional cut to the base student allocation. That is still on the table with the Senate. Bob asked if this could be a budget revision later if this were to happen. Melody explained that there was the option for the use of fund balance to balance this year's budget. This is a real tight stick spot. Heidi questioned the benefits of the combined position of superintendent/principal. Melody explains the cost for the Board. Heidi thanks PJ for the food inventory and ask that the purchasing in food service looked at. Melody agrees and thinks the food purchasing will be way down next year because of the inventory. PJ told the Board that Kaz was the person who did the USDA order in February. Melody thanks the Board for their support of the change to the breakfast program without push back. Jamie does not support any further reduction to the classified staff hours. Bob informed the Board that we need to make sure it is balanced to go to the City on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Budget revisions can be done if needed. The Board discussed the options. Melody explains that they are up against a deadline, but changes can be made for the positive or negative to the budget. Jamie told the board that she did write a letter to Huna Totem Corporation for assistance for the Special Education department. Bob summarized the cuts included in the budget for the Board. Melody ask the Board to amend the motion. Roll Call Vote: Heidi Jewell-Yes, Dillon Styers-Yes, Grace Villarreal-Yes, Jamie Erickson-Yes, Robert Hutton-Yes, **MOTION CARRIED**

M/S Robert Hutton, Heidi Jewell to amend the motion to include the amount of \$2,958,102.00 to include allocating fund balance in the amount of \$196,786 to the general fund. Roll Call Vote: Heidi Jewell-Yes, Dillon Styers-Yes, Grace Villarreal-Yes, Jamie Erickson-Yes, Robert Hutton-Yes, **MOTION CARRIED**

M/S Heidi Jewell, Grace Villarreal that we approve the food service fund and pupil transportation fund budgets. Roll Call Vote: Heidi Jewell-Yes, Dillon Styers-Yes, Grace Villarreal-Yes, Jamie Erickson-Yes, Robert Hutton-Yes, MOTION CARRIED

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **2.0 2017/2018 Non-Tenured Teacher Contracts**

M/S Heidi Jewell, Grace Villarreal that we offer a 2017/2018 teaching contract to Melissa Thaalesen. DISCUSSION: Jamie asked the process for choosing who received a contract. PJ explained that Melissa was the only non-tenured teacher up for a contract. Call for question. Roll Call Vote: Heidi Jewell-Yes, Dillon Styers-Yes, Grace Villarreal-Yes, Jamie Erickson-Yes, Robert Hutton-Yes, MOTION CARRIED

### **2.1 Superintendent/Principal Contract**

M/S Robert Hutton, Grace Villarreal that we offer Ralph Watkins a contract for FY 2017/2018 as the Principal/Superintendent for FY 18. Roll Call Vote: Heidi Jewell-Yes, Dillon Styers-Yes, Grace Villarreal-Yes, Jamie Erickson-Yes, Robert Hutton-Yes, MOTION CARRIED

### **2.2 Approval of Exempt Contracts**

M/S Heidi Jewell, Dillon Styers that we approve a FY 2017 and FY 2018 contract for Maria K. Wolter-Deitering and a FY 2018 contract for Amy Stevenson. Roll Call Vote: Heidi Jewell-Yes, Dillon Styers-Yes, Grace Villarreal-Yes, Jamie Erickson-Yes, Robert Hutton-Yes, MOTION CARRIED

### **2.3 FY 17 City of Hoonah Local Effort Contribution**

M/S Dillon Styers, Heidi Jewell that we the Board of Education authorize the administration to close the CD held on behalf of the City with the proceeds to be used to satisfy the City's FY 17 minimum local effort obligation in the amount of \$202,542. Roll Call Vote: Heidi Jewell-Yes, Dillon Styers-Yes, Grace Villarreal-Yes, Jamie Erickson-Yes, Robert Hutton-Yes, MOTION CARRIED

### **2.4 Transfer Funds from the Transportation Fund to the Operating Fund**

M/S Heidi Jewell, Grace Villarreal that the Board of Education approve a transfer of fund from the transportation fund to the operating fund in the amount of \$248,533. Roll Call Vote: Heidi Jewell-Yes, Dillon Styers-Yes, Grace Villarreal-Yes, Jamie Erickson-Yes, Robert Hutton-Yes, MOTION CARRIED

## 2.5 Memoranda of Agreements for the 2017/2018 School Year

M/S Heidi Jewell, Robert Hutton that we, the Board of Education approve the Memoranda of Agreements for: Four Ravens Occupation Therapy; Alaska Midnight Sun Therapy, LLC; and Gilson Physical Therapy. **DISCUSSION:** Bob asked about the MOA for the school counselor. PJ told the Board that it came late and will be on the agenda for the next meeting. **Roll Call Vote:** Heidi Jewell-Yes, Dillon Styers-Yes, Grace Villarreal-Yes, Jamie Erickson-Yes, Robert Hutton-Yes, **MOTION CARRIED**

### DISCUSSION ITEMS

- None

### PUBLIC COMMENT (THREE-MINUTES PER SPEAKER)

- **Travis Lewis** – He thanked the Board for all of their hard decisions. He would like to take some time and explain Borough formation and what it could do for the City of Hoonah. He also would like to talk about how it could affect the school district.
- **Aimee Smith** – She told the Board the Student Government has worked hard on their constitution. Mr. Watkins has reviewed it. She asked the Board if they may have some time for a joint meeting with the Student Government.

### COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

- **Jamie Erickson** - She read the letter that she wrote to Huna Totem. She encouraged the audience to go to the shareholder meeting and talk to the Board about it. She wrote this as a Board member and a shareholder. She also agrees that we need to get with the City to form a Borough. She thought it was amazing that 2 of our student got to go to the language event in Hawaii.
- **Grace Villarreal** – She thanked the audience for being at the meeting. It is wonderful to see people at the meeting.
- **Robert Hutton** – He is not completely happy with the idea (kicking the can down the road) of not having any reserve left at the end of the year. He does not have any clear recommendations. He is hoping we can find some ways to balance the budget without dipping into reserves in the future. He wishes it was different but does not feel we have a whole lot of alternatives right not.

### FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- The Board decided on May 25<sup>th</sup> for the next regular board meeting. They will also set some time to meet with the student government.

- Heidi suggest we set a time to meet with Travis Lewis on borough formation, maybe a work session. Jamie suggested when the Board does this, they should include the City. Heidi thinks this should be a second step, so she understand the idea of the borough formation before a meeting with the City.
- The Board discussed setting a time for a work session with the Student Government.

**ADJORNMENT**

M/S Dillion Styers, Heidi Jewell to adjourn. MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Meeting Adjourned at 7:41 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Dillon Styers  
Board Secretary

Amy Stevenson  
Recording Secretary