

KPBSD School Board

Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes 4/1/14

Dr. Steve Atwater's Office

**THOSE IN ATTENDANCE:**

Dr. Steve Atwater, Superintendent  
Mr. Dave Jones, Assistant Superintendent  
Mrs. Liz Downing, Committee Chair  
Mr. Tim Navarre, Committee Member  
Mr. Bill Holt, School Board Member  
Ms. Pegge Erkeneff, Communications Specialist  
Mrs. Nancy Hamburg, Administrative Secretary, Planning & Operations

**CALL TO ORDER:** 9:02 a.m.

**AGENDA APPROVAL:** April 1, 2014 Legislative Committee Meeting Agenda was approved

**MINUTES APPROVAL for 3/3/14 and 3/18/14:** Minutes were approved for both dates.

**UPDATE FROM JUNEAU:**

- Bill Holt: Opinions varied widely, lots of partisanship, and he came away not knowing anything specific. Had meeting with the Governor (KPBSD was the only district). The Governor seemed pleased with our district already making cuts prior to knowing what the BSA will be. ANC did not seem pleased with our request for asking for a lower number. There was conversation about Career and Tech Ed, Alternative and Charter Schools.

The conversation took a side turn by discussing Elementary report cards and the complexity of them. KPBSD is addressing standards. Parents are pleased with them and it should be noted that we are streamlining them.

- Steve's one day in Juneau was an intensive series of meetings. He was accompanied by Anchorage and Fairbanks Superintendents. They met with the majority House and Finance members (approximately 8 or 9 of them). They worked through HB278. They talked about no need for further layers necessary for Charter School provisions including the provision to appeal. Superintendents stated that the transportation was either unnecessary in areas where it is already provided or a more complex issue.
- School District Retirement contribution was discussed and the possibility of school districts being mandated an increase contribution of 24% for both PERS and TERS. The districts would need to get more money to cover this increase expense. Would need to make public aware that these monies are part of the educational budget.
- There was expressed legislative concern that additional funds will go to salaries rather than innovation. Our district needs to make clear that we worked hard to maintain modest raises and that 3 – 4% increases from years ago is no longer sustainable.

- Senate Finance Committee amendment to the Governor's Omnibus Bill increasing funding from \$25m to \$100m would eliminate our budget shortfall and give us the opportunity to re-tool and put more money into professional development and innovation (the goal of the Legislature).
- There seems to be frustration with some of the legislators that school districts are content with being status quo and that we are not trying to improve. We need to convince them that we are always trying to improve and that we will put the money to good use; part of which would include professional development.
- Tim: We are reading to work with legislature in coming up with a long range plan to use the one time funding. This funding would give us the opportunity to get to the next level.
- Pegge: Need to emphasize that our district will continue to streamline but at the same time don't discount that we've already been doing this.

**ADJOURN:** The meeting adjourned at 9:56 a.m.

**The Next meeting will be Wednesday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 p.m.**