

**Seward Site Based Council
Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2022
Virtual Meeting over Zoom**

Members:

Traci Baumgartner, Henry Burns, Stephanie Davis, Jennifer DesErnia, Jennifer Elhard, Tara Ganser, Amy Hankins, Alan Haskins, David Kingsland, Tyler Mallory, Valerie McHone, Geri Nipp, Matt Potter, Heather Shank, Jennifer Swander, Tara Swanson, Deanna Trobaugh, Mica Van Buskirk, Megan Wiley

Also Attending:

Christy Jordan, Joel Williams, Heather Lindquist, Sarah Spanos, Rowan Bean, Myla Liljemark, Dan Marshall, Christy Terry

Call to order: 6:31pm

Approval of Minutes: Minutes approved as written

Public Comments: None

Approval of the Agenda: Approved

Reports from Student Representatives: Rowan B, high school SC President reported: sophomore class sponsored canned food drive & seniors won; clothing drive now—looking for donations of clothes, coats, hats, gloves, etc., to start a “closet” for any students that need it. Juniors in charge of planning prom. Graduation planning is coming along.

Old Business:

- **School Goals** – no update
- **Substitutes/Bus Drivers** – *(added by group email after meeting adjourned)* still short on bus drivers; bus routes have been consolidated; Seward losing another bus driver next week which will result in NO back-up drivers, so routes will have to be cancelled if any driver is sick/absent. Apple Bus offering \$1000 hiring bonus right now.
- **Advocacy** – discussed in New Business
- **HS Track** – track season about to start; track in desperate need of repair/replacement; putting a \$4.5m school bond for Seward & Nikiski tracks on fall ballot was suggested at recent boro work session. We need to help support school bond if it happens. There is \$7m in KPBSD savings account for facilities, etc. that might be available if school bond doesn't happen. Nikiski got new track when their school was built; our track was built in 1979. ALL tracks on the road system statewide were re-done in 1992-93 except ours. Seward was listed in every grant request as far back as 2008 and still not re-done; Central Pen & Homer will not come to our track because it is too hard for spikes. If we get a new track, be aware that we cannot drive on it with cars or machinery, or it will be ruined.
- **School Highlights** – no update
- **District Formula/Alternative Ed** – the state funds our district more per student for smaller remote schools like Seward, but our district uses same staffing formula for Seward schools as the much larger schools in bigger towns. As for alternative education, 10 years ago, the Board created policy for alternative schools in other communities that provides for their own principal, counselor(s), teachers even with small enrollment. Kenai Alternative has 5 FTE serving 32 students while Seward High School has 6.5 FTE for 147.

- **Internet Safety** – no update

New Business

- **FY23 Budget** – Mica said thanks to all who attended budget mtg; she was able to spend 2 hrs w/superintendent who said he'd get back w/us after spring break.
- **Advocacy – District/Borough/State** – district is requesting \$50m from assembly. Those assembly members in doubt want to know WHAT we're funding, want it discussed. Tell stories about how funding affects kids specifically. BSA hasn't been increased since 2017, yet expenses are skyrocketing—don't want to lose teachers. Need to read about house bills and send emails. Some reps support one-time funding instead of BSA+ but we can explain how one-time grants do not provide stability and consistency for staffing. Since the gov. forward-funded the AK Marine Hwy, there is a chance he might forward-fund education. There is also a reading bill worth advocating. It is possible that the city may write and vote on a resolution supporting these causes that could be sent out.
- **Site Council Resolutions** – reviewed the 3 resolutions (2022-01: "ESSER 3 Funding", 2022-02: "Small Middle & High School Formula", and 2022-03: "Seward Schools' Emergency Staffing") item-by-item; attendees unanimously accepted/approved all 3.
- **Career Day/Business Partnerships** – have been discussing ideas for more CTE with Matt W at AVTEC but will table this until next meeting.
- **School Start Times** – no update

Reports from Administrators, School Board Rep & PTSA Rep

- **Alan Haskins** **Seward Elementary**
Had 1st all-school assembly in 2 yrs—Lydia J came to speak. Kinder Round-Up in April. Swim lessons now; painters & carpet coming; STAR testing; lost Title 1 status (losing Pre-K & 0.5 FTE interventionist); 12 teachers down to 11; 212 students w/8-10 moving away.
- **Matt Potter** **Seward Middle School**
Student-led conferences went well; placed 3rd in boro volleyball; hosted boro xc ski meet at Mile 12; wrestlers to Tanana state champ 2nd place. Kids2Slopes 3 times and went great. 1 resignation. 0.5 FTE over. Sharing staff.
- **Henry Burns** **Seward High School**
Won't be funded for intervention, science, PE, 2 sped.; 1 secretary leaving, 1 custodian retired and 1 resigning. 2 aide positions open. HR Nate C will get back to him Monday. 4 or 5 job fairs coming up around US. 2 community movies this week, egg hunt coming soon. Graduation May 16; awards May 12; 9th&10th gr. exams May 12,13,16. Football team will run RV/campsites on school grounds during July 4th as fundraiser. Cruise line renting kitchen this summer. New TV w/daily agenda installed in front entrance.
- **Virginia Morgan** (*unable to attend*) **School Board Member**
- **Jennifer DesErnia** **PTA Representative**
Thanks to all working in the schools and to Mica for fierce advocacy. PTA worked hard in Jan.&Feb. for Kids2Slopes; awarded grant to do it again next year. Missoula Children's Theatre may be returning; PTA will continue to advocate to our representatives on ed topics; next PTA mtg April 12.

Council Remarks – Round Table – Each Council Member – Closing Thoughts

Add to Next Meeting's Agenda (April 14 at 6:30pm)

Adjourn - 8:40pm