

**Seward Schools' Site Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**February 7, 2024**

**Attendance:**

Joel Williams, Meegan Miller, Heather Shank, Dan Marshall, Doug Dye, Sharon Kim, Christiana Smith, Casie Warner, Traci Baumgardner, Elizabeth de Castro, Janice Haas, Jenn DesErmia, Tara Craytor, Deanna Trobaugh, Mica VanBuskirk, Matt Cook, Dr. Henry Burns Jr., Heather Lindquist, Virginia Morgan (via Zoom)

**Call to Order:** 6:30 pm

**Public Comments:** None

**Approval of the Agenda:** Approved

**Reports from Student Representatives:** None

**Reports from Administrators, School Board Rep. & PTSA Rep.**

- *Matt Cook - Seward Elementary:* Enrollment of 222. Still need food service worker and night-time custodian. Spelling Bee last week; wrap-up/field trip for xc skiing today—Sue Pfeiff and Tara Swanson helped w/xc. Upcoming events: school assembly on Fri.am w/spotlight on a classroom/Muffins in the Morning on Valentine's Day/community recycled materials art project for each grade/ Marissa Beck coming in to the school. The district applied for Early Ed Grant for PreK—this is in the works. Will lose 0.5FTE next yr.
- *Henry Burns - Seward Middle School:*
  - Enrollment of 105
  - Dedicated subs are a big help!
  - Projected enrollment for 2024-25 is 105. Staffing formula for next year shows a cut of 1.8FTE. The school will be down to 5.75FTE.
  - The new MS principal will be 0.5 MS principal, 0.3 teacher, and 0.2 Moose Pass School principal.
- *Henry Burns - Seward High School:*
  - Enrollment of 155 with 168 projected next yr.
  - Bids went out for new HS track. (Dr. Burns passed around copies of a schematic drawing of the new field.) 3-4 volunteers will clear the field after spring break. Set-up begins in late April; will have to move buses. Football sheds will be central to the work site. Work should be done in August.
  - Career exploration opportunities: Experience Maritime is free to students and is during spring break. Fire Explorers is a partnership between Bear Lake Fire and the HS and will offer Fire 1 and Fire 2, EM1 and EM2.
  - Internship opportunities: the Student Success Liaison is working on finding internships for students.Seaview—no for interns. Providence Mountain Haven—yes for internships. Student will intern w/chef at Miller's Landing.
  - Contracts went out for some this week. Staffing for the HS will show a 0.25FTE cut. Going from 7.75 to 7.5FTE. The decision for where that cut will fall is a building admin decision. There are 10 non-tenured teachers at MS/HS combined.

- Zoom mtg in 2 wks on preliminary budget. District is being transparent and wants everyone's input on FY2025 Prelim Budget. Add comments. Look on KPBSD website (Dr. Burns gave everyone present a tutorial on how to navigate and use the district's budget balancing tool to explore ways and share ideas with leadership on how to balance the budget.) It was then asked if someone would bring this to City Council and show the Seward public this issue. Dr. Burns agreed to do this. He said our homework is to share it! Share it!
- *Virginia Morgan - School Board*– The district has a \$13million shortfall. 79% of our budget is staff, so unfortunately, the ONLY way to get close to balancing the budget is to raise PTR...It was asked of her if I-Choice is happening, since Seward High's start time was changed to accommodate this in order to align with Kenai High and all other high schools. It's not happening yet, according to Mr. Dye. As of now, it is believed there is no common schedule that is shared among the schools, but this would be a question for Tony Graham to answer definitively.
- *Jennifer DesErmia - PTA*: (This Feb. meeting was a combination of PTA & Site Council. All PTA matters were discussed before the Site Council meeting came to order.) Important to note from earlier in the PTA segment of the meeting is that PTA will not be writing a grant for next year's downhill ski program, so if anyone wants to take this on, a major grant cycle is open now. Also, Kenai Fjords Tours will have Locals' Day on May 12th with free boat tours, just asking for donation to Seward PTA!

#### **Old Business:**

- 2024 Site Council Goals:
  - *SRO/Student Safety*–Butch Tiner, retired police officer, was requested to come to the parking area in the morning and walk around the school, helping w/traffic issues. Parents had been driving past buses that had lights on. Officer Ballard is now coming to campus 2-3x/week.
  - *Advocacy*–Virginia encourages us to share the district budget tool with everyone. We ARE funded to the cap because we receive \$10million of in-kind services from the Boro rather than actual \$\$\$. SB140 was kicked back to Rules Committee; House hasn't voted on it yet. SB88 deals w/Defined Benefit Plan.
  - *School Highlights*–Remember to share good news about our schools!
  - *District Formula/Alternative Ed*–One of the problems with the district formula is there is a category for small schools and for large schools but no category for medium-sized schools like Seward. Our numbers create a problem with the PTR. Mr. Dye pointed out that raising the PTR reduces options for classes at the HS.
  - *Digital Safety*–There will be an evening event for MS parents Feb. 22 at 5:15pm about this topic at the MS library with Scrivo; food to be provided. There will also be an event for elem. parents at the elem with childcare provided by Parks & Rec on Feb. 20, 21, or 22 (depending on age of student) at 5:15.
  - *Business Partnerships/CTE/Career Day*–Mr. Dye reported that there will be a nursing exploration in April, and the AK SeaLife Center is moving forward with the art/graphic art/research internships. The HS is currently looking for great opportunities for non-college training opportunities through AVTEC and local

electrical, plumbing, and HVAC. (See Dr. Burns' HS report for more info on these opportunities for students.) Career Day has been changed to April 24th 12-2:20.

**Committee Meetings:**

- *Career Day*—committee will meet Feb. 20th at 9:45am (at high school?)
- *Digital Use & Safety*—anyone interested meet Mon. March 11th 10am at Res Art.

**New Business:**

- FY25 Budget/Advocacy:
  - *KPBSD FY25 Balancing Act Tool* (this topic discussed during HS admin. report; summarized here) Zoom mtg in 2 wks on preliminary budget. District is being transparent and wants everyone's input on FY2025 Prelim Budget. Please look at it on KPBSD website and add comments. It was then asked if someone would bring this to City Council and show the Seward public this issue. Dr. Burns agreed to do this. He said our homework is to share it! Share it! (Also discussed this topic during School Board Member Report; summarized here) The district has a \$13million shortfall. 79% of our budget is staff, so unfortunately, the ONLY way to get close to balancing the budget is to raise PTR.
  - *KPBSD Budget Presentation*—Will be held here in Seward at the high school in the library on Feb. 28th at 6pm.

**Council Remarks...Round Table...Closing Thoughts:**

- Dan Marshall is teaching 3-credit college class on American Literature for KPC on Monday nights, open to HS students. Another option will be College Writing.
- Kenai Pool just received a \$1million energy-efficient new boiler while Seward High has been requesting this for many, many years. Virginia pointed out that the boiler in Kenai had failed and needed immediate replacement.
- It was asked why report cards are not sent to high school student's parents anymore. It was mentioned that this saves on printing costs and mailing. Then why are they not emailed? It was suggested that this way encourages parents to utilize PowerSchool to check their child's grades. It was pointed out that PowerSchool can be difficult to navigate and final grades are not easy to decipher. Mica stated that we are making a formal request that HS report cards be emailed to parents each semester.
- It was asked that there be a Capital Improvement Project Request for heated sidewalks at Seward High as the other Seward schools have heated sidewalks. As well as a safety issue, clearing the HS sidewalks takes SO much time away from other custodial duties.
- There will be a dinner & talk, open to the public, w/input from AK Early Childhood about the Early Childhood Systems fed. development grant, 5:30pm Feb. 20 at the Breeze Inn.

**Next Site Council Quarterly Meeting:** Thur., April 18th at 6pm at Seward High School library

**Adjourn:** 8:20 pm