

Voznesenka School

Parent Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

December 11, 2014

- ❖ **Community and Staff Present-** Tim Vlasak, Maria Kulikov, Linda Etzwiler, Zena Reutov, Lisa Reutov, Feodora Basargin, Tanya Reutov, Melanya Skorohodoff, Lisa Nordstrom, Domankia Sanarov, Rachel Allemndinger, Fenya Basargin, Tim Whip, Maria Martushev, Kresya Martishev, Varvara Martishev, Ksenia Serebrekoff, Nadejda Reutov, Luba Kalugin, Haritina Reutov, Evdokia Reutov, Frosia Polushkin, Zoya Kalugin, Efimia Basargin, Raissa Basargin, Antanina Kalugin, Akcinia Kulikov, Drosida Kalugin, Apolinarya Basargin, Hionia Kalugin, Elena Matveev, Glikeria Polushkin, Domnika Martishev, Elaine Chalup-Blanchard, Evdokaya Basargin, Julie Cisco, Andy Rothenberger, Sunni Hiltz, Sofia Martushev, Daniel Basargin, Iosiph Martishev, Zack Reutov, Dimitry Basargin, Essaia White, Sergey Serebrekoff, Marfa Kusnetsov, Valentina Kusnetsov, Anisia Reutov, Maria Fefelov, Dimitry Kuzmin, Irina Kalugin, Mavra Afonin, Karnely & Natalia Ivanov, Evdokia Kalugin, Rosie Serebrekoff, Irmil Reutov, Michael A. Basargin, Mirion I. Basargin, Avtanom V. Reutov, Lubava Martushoff, Evdokea Reutov, Ksenia Basargin, Anna White, Elizaveta F. Reutov, Vera Basargin, Vera Afonin, Ksenia Kuzmin and Michael Wojciak
- ❖ **Welcome sign-in**
- ❖ **2015-16 Proposed Calendar** - A draft copy of the 2015-16 calendar was made available to parents for their review. There were no objections.
- ❖ **District Office personnel addressed the community on bussing and school concerns** - Dave Jones shared informational handouts with parents highlighting district and state guidelines for bussing students. Highlights included: Federal law does not require school districts in the state of Alaska to offer bus services to regular education students. The purpose of bussing students is to provide students transportation to and from school on approved bus routes, this does not include students in out-of-area attendance. Out-of-area attendance students are required to provide their own transportation, but students have been allowed to ride busses on existing bus routes, if space is available. A parent brought up a question, about when was the last time bus routes were revised. Joe Arness's response was in the 1900's. Safety factors need to be considered before a new bus route can be established. Roads with a grade of 10% will not be considered for bus services. The beaver slide has a grade of 14%. There is a bus route in the district with an 11% grade, this is as steep as the district is willing to go. Other factors the district uses to establish bus routes include; road width, sharp curves, sight distance, steep embankments. Roads must be properly maintained with the use of public funds and supervision: all-weather maintenance must be under the supervision of the Department of Transportation. A bus route may be established if 15 or more students reside more than 1.5 miles from the school. The question was brought up, "Why did a bus bring students from Razdolna to Voznesenka about 5-6 years ago? What changed?" Dave Jones and Julie Cisco said they would look into the issue. Dave Jones stated that if it was done in the past, it should not have been done. The beaver slide is not safe for bus transportation. He also shared that conditions of the beaver slide need to change before a bus route would be considered. The community shared that they are working on getting Voznesenka Loop up to grade and borough maintained.

Informational handouts were shared with parents on the lease agreement between the borough and Voznesenka Community Council. The previous lease expired in June, 2014. A meeting was held at Voznesenka to discuss the lease on September, 29. On October 29, the District was contacted by an attorney representing Voznesenka Community Council, Inc. The

attorney notified the district to pay the increase or vacate the premises by Dec. 1st. October 30th. Voznesenka Community Council attorney was to provide a market research to justify the \$1.25/ square footage increase. On November 7 no lease analysis was provided. On November 19th there was still no lease analysis provided. There are several reasons no market research study was provided. First, there isn't another comparable retail establishment in the area, most rental retail spaces usually include water, electric, and snow removal. The district needs to justify the lease increase. At this time the district has agreed to sign the lease agreement with the cost increase through the end of this year. In April, they will be working with the community in developing a long term 5 year lease agreement. Closing the school is not something the district is considering. The question was asked, "What is the district's long term plan/solution?" The response is to get a 5 year lease agreement signed for Voz and focus on building a new school for K-Selo and go from there. About six years ago there was a feasibility study done for constructing a road to K-Selo and engineers could not find a safe route. It was decided the site would need a school as there is no safe road to the remote community. The school board and state have yet to approve funding the 18 million facility for K-Selo. It is, however, second on the State's priority list. Not everyone on the school board is supportive of this decision. The bond for the K-Selo facility is attached to the bond for reroofing Kenai Middle School. Funding for K-Selo falls under a different category than funding for Raz and Kselo would fall. K-Selo's remoteness falls under the "unhoused students" category. There are no unhoused students at Voz and Raz as they are on a borough maintained road system. A different funding source would need to be found. At about the same time, the district did a feasibility study asking if parents would be interested in a Head of the Bay school. District representatives met with the three Head of the Bay schools and Voznesenka parents were supportive. A parent from Razdolna commented that Razdolna parents are not agreeable to bussing their children to any school other than having them attend Raz. There were no comments denying or supporting the statement. A question was asked, "Is there a plan to keep the conversation of a building a new facility going?" School district representatives are always available to attend site council meetings where questions and concerns can be addressed. It was discussed that if a 5 year lease agreement between Voz and the district is not signed, parents will have the option of enrolling their child in a correspondence program and the district will bring a bus as close to the community as possible. Students will have the option of attending Homer High, Homer Middle, or McNeil Canyon. Parents will be responsible for bringing their child up to the bus stop.

A question was asked, "If students qualify for free and reduced lunches, can they participate in the fruit and vegetable program?" No, because the district is given a set amount of money to distribute to schools. It does not last for the full year. As part of the federal guidelines to participate, designated schools need to have a DEC approved kitchen. School board representatives left and the meeting continued with the remainder of the agenda.

- ❖ **School Board Presentation** – Mr. Wojciak showed the powerpoint to parents that was shown at the school board meeting in November.
- ❖ **Water Bottle Refilling Station** – High school students were working on a Caring for the Kenai environmental project. One of the students came up with the idea of having water bottle refill stations installed at the school instead of using the portable water. This would eliminate the cost of purchasing bottled water and hauling bottles back and forth. The school's student council approved the decision. It is being brought to the parent site council for approval. Parents who stayed at the meeting agreed with the idea. It was asked that the cost of the fountain, the type, and the location of fountain to be installed are brought to the community council meeting.

- ❖ **Wrestling** - Three students are at the wrestling State Tournament this weekend. Gavril Kalugin, Michael Kusnetsov and Nikit Anufriev as an alternate. Nikit will wrestle only if another wrestler does not make weight or is absent. Middle School wrestling practice will start right after break, January 5th. The first tournament is scheduled for Jan. 17th.
- ❖ **Next Meeting** - The next council meeting has yet to be set.