

Yupiit School District

Box 51190 Akiachak, AK 99551 (907) 825-3600 Fax (877) 825-2404

Regional School Board

Akiachak

Willie Kasayulie, Chairman
Samuel George, Treasurer
Robert Charles, Board Member

Akiak

Ivan M. Ivan, Vice Chairman
Moses Owen, Board Member

Tuluksak

Peter Gregory SR, Secretary
Moses Peter, Board Member

Minutes of the Yupiit School District Regional Board of Education

Held: September 17, 2020

Village: Akiachak

Committee Meetings and Worksession

11:00 AM – Yupiaq Immersion Task Force/Committee

It was requested by Moses Owen to discuss the Yupiaq Immersion Task Force/Committee.

The committee has a preliminary meeting to identify who is going to be on the committee. Moses Owen supports starting our YSD K-3 Yupik Immersion Program planning. We want to mirror the Yupik program in Bethel. We wanted the Superintendent, Business Manager and the ANE Director be involved in the planning process and to include the retired teachers along with Janice George.

Willie Kasayulie stated that Moses Peter and Robert Charles had visted the Immersion school in Bethel, in that time had full K-3 taught in Yupik and had transitioned to ½ day classes taught in Yup'ik and ½ day taught in English.

Robert Charles stated when the board members visited the Immersion school in Bethel, it had several Yupik teachers teaching the class. If YSD is going to start in the future, would like to see several teachers teaching in that class. If the thee communities of Akiachak, Akiak and Tuluksak help and support each other, regardless of hardships we may encounter, we can eventually complete the planning process of the Immersion Program.

Moses Owen stated that during the meeting, the committee was to include certified Yupiaq retired teachers on this task force planning committee. We did not for see this Yupik Immersion to start this year or next year. It has to be fully planned out. What do we need in order to have a Yupik Program is the question to keep in mind. That is what the

**Continue –
Committee
Meetings and
Worksession**

Task Force Committee brain storms, the things that we talked about, the funding, staffing and facilities in the planning phase.

Willie Kasayulie stated that he doesn't want to go far ahead what the Board is trying to accomplish. The Immersion program we are trying to bring forth under the District has had a share of individuals that are not supportive of this concept. That was brought out when we started this discussing this committee. What we need to do is identify individuals that are willing to participate in this Immersion Taskforce/Committee and to give them guidance from the Board to what we want them to work on. What we are doing right now is talking about planning without our committee to sit down and do a comprehensive discussion on it. Once this committee start, Janice George would be tasked to report to the Board on what the accomplishments are and what type of meeting the committee is having. If we start talking about our observations of other school district's Immersion programs and what positive things they are doing, that's good to hear but it's got to be part of the plan. Somebody needs to take notes.

Sophie Kasayulie is really interested in this committee. It's been a wait to have an Immersion program in our schools. Our Yupik language is something what we should know, to know who they are. That is the biggest part of being a Yupiaq. If our language is lost, we won't able to know who we are.

Maggie Williams wanted to comment, she taught an Immersion program. Teaching Kindergarten was hard because once the class transitioned to 1st grade taught all in English, there was no help. I think it would help the students if the teacher following that class up to 3rd grade and than start the process all over again. The students would learn speaking the Yupik language.

Moses Owen wanted to clarify if he understood Maggie Williams concept to teach the same students from Kindergarten to 3rd grade.

Maggie Williams stated that is what they call spiral teaching.

Cassandra Bennett wanted to clarify if Maggie Williams is talking about looping and stated that she is taking notes.

Willie Kasayulie stated couple of meeting ago the remarks what John Stackhouse has stated that our Yupik teachers do not have to be certified as long as there is someone identified as teacher of record for those grades. This would eliminate the process of finding people to teach a Yupik Immersion course. This concept should be incorporated to the planning state as well.

Moses Owen stated we are in a planning phase and we need to talk about the strategy of how we are going to come up with a facility in all three sites. On this planning phase, who is going to be on this task force, who is going to be responsible for seeking funding for the teachers and the

**Continue –
Committee
Meetings and
Worksession**

planning committee when they meet and the facilities.

Cassandra Bennett stated one of the things they talked about was a school within schools. We would have a traditional school what we have here. It's a different concept.

Moses Peter stated the Board would like to see discussion on the Immersion planning phase and would like to see from John Stackhouse a budget set for the planning committee on travel and stipend. He would like to see the committee visit the immersion schools in Bethel once this COVID-19 is over.

Maggie Williams, Sophie Kasayulie, Moses Owen, Robert Charles and Moses Peter plus 1 from Tuluksak to be in the committee facilitated by Janice George. Willie Kasayulie stated to ask also the Headstart programs in three sites to be involved. He does not mind including the current Yupik teachers but does not want to interrupt their classroom teaching. The Task Force above has been identified. As Moses Owen has stated, research how and what are we going to teach our students. We have discussed to find a facility for the Immersion program. Two or three years ago, under the Native American grants, they have set aside a Native Language Preservation funding. Because our district did not have a Grant writer, we could not receive the funding. These are some of the things the committee needs to look into. Willie wants Janice George to report back to the Board during the monthly board meetings and give an update.

Willie Kasayulie stated the Board needs to ask the Business Manager if there is funding to compensate the committee.

Sam George stated the Yupik language is still alive. We need to think about preserving it from the prospective of the people. As part of the Immersion program to promote the yupik language at the home, at the communities, wherever all possible. Right now, the people are using the language and speaking English only to their children. If you look up the Immersion program in the internet, it is not the new thing. Instead of recreating, we need to look at what works, like Ayaprun School. The main focus we need to look at is the use of language at home and communities. We need to make sure the language remains with the parents support, grandparents support, the school can't do it alone. How can we engage the communities to use the language at home, especially the young parents. If we do not have support from everybody this program will not work.

Moses Owen stated our mission to develop a Yupik Immersion program for YSD, what is implied there? What are we going to look at if we are going to start this program? People, money and facilities. We are just now in the planning phase. We cannot forget our special needs children. That is where most of our funding probably would come from. When we set out to do something, we can't go into it blindly. If it's going to be a Yupik Immersion program, it's got to be the Yupik Immersion program

Continue – Committee Meetings and Worksession	<p>with nothing added but with our Yupiaq Culture and our way of life. We come to our community, our elders to do that. This is a good start. It’s got to be an ongoing thing. Within Akiak School, they are teaching Yupiaq language with no meaning, not understanding what they read. It has to be taught as a whole.</p> <p>Moses Peter gave examples of yupik words that have many meanings and other yupik translations.</p> <p>Willie Kasayulie identified the Yupiaq Immersion Task Force/Committee that consists the following: Sophie Kasayulie, Maggie Williams, Tuluksak vacant, RSB representatives: Robert Charles, Moses Owen and Moses Peter, Janice George, Yupiaq Ed Director and recommended Matthew Turner, ANE Director and Clare Robyt, Curriculum Coordinator. From his view from discussions, the three things Moses Owen identified for consideration for discussions: People, Funding and Facilities.</p>
Recess	<p>Chairman called for recess at 12:30 for lunch break, Reconvened at 1:30 PM.</p>
Call to Order	<p>I. Call to Order: Chairman Willie Kasayulie called the regular meeting of the Regional School Board to order at 1:28 PM.</p>
Roll Call	<p>II. Roll Call: Present:</p> <p>Willie Kasayulie, Chairman Ivan Ivan, Vice Chairman Samuel George, Treasurer Moses Owen, Board Member Robert Charles, Board Member Moses Peter, Board Member</p>
Absent	<p>Peter Gregory, Secretary</p>
Invocation	<p>III. Invocation: Moses Owen rendered the invocation</p>
Recognition of Guests	<p>IV. Recognition of Guests: Cassandra Bennett, Kary Delsignore, Anthony Graham, John Stackhouse, Jennifer Stackhouse, Kaylin Charles, Maggie Williams, Matthew Turner and Bonnie James.</p>
Approval of Agenda	<p>V. Approval of Agenda: Administration presented the YUPIIT School District Regional School Board Agenda for approval.</p> <p>Motion by Sam George, Seconded by Moses Owen to approve the agenda as amended to add Action Item K. Ratify Yupiaq Immersion Task Force/Committee. Motion passed.</p>
Approval of Minutes	<p>Approval of Minutes: The Administration recommended the approval of the regular meeting minutes for August 18, 2020. Tabled.</p>

<p>Correspondence</p>	<p>VI. Correspondence: Freedom of Religion The letter from Freedom of Religion is presented for your information and review.</p> <p>After discussion, the Board asked Superintendent Cassandra Bennett to get legal advice in regards to the letter.</p>
<p>Action Items</p>	<p>VII. Action Items</p> <p>A. 3rd Reading of AR 4144 Complaints The Administration recommended the approval of the 3rd Reading of AR 4144 Complaints.</p> <p>Motion by Sam George, Seconded by Moses Owen to approve the 3rd Reading of AR 4144 Complaints. Motion passed.</p> <p>B. 1st Reading of BP 4112.20 Employment of Retired Teachers The Administration recommended the approval of the 1st Reading of BP 4112.20 Employment of Retired Teachers.</p> <p>Motion by Sam George, Seconded by Robert Charles to approve the 1st Reading of BP 4112.20 Employment of Retired Teachers. Motion passed.</p> <p>C. Professional Service Agreement – Baldwin & Associates The Administration recommends the approval of the Professional Service Agreement with Baldwin & Associates at the approximate amount of \$14,000.00 from September 21, 2020 through June 30, 2021.</p> <p>Tabled.</p> <p>D. Professional Service Agreement – Fairbanks Soil & Water Conservation The Administration recommends the approval of the Professional Service Agreement with Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation at the approximate amount of \$20,000.00 from September 21, 2020 through June 30, 2021.</p> <p>Tabled.</p> <p>E. ANE Grant Assistant Job Description The Administration recommends the approval of the ANE Grant Assistant Job Description.</p> <p>Motion by Sam George, Seconded by Moses Owen to approve the ANE Grant Assistant Job Description. Motion passed.</p> <p>F. Community Liaison Job Description The Administration recommends the approval of the ANE Community</p>

<p>Continue – Action Items</p>	<p>Liaison Job Description.</p> <p>Motion by Sam George, Seconded by Moses Peter to approve the Community Liaison Job Description. Motion passed.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">G. Community Educator Job Description</p> <p>The Administration recommends the approval of the ANE Educator Job Description.</p> <p>Motion by Sam George, Seconded by Moses Peter to approve the Community Educator Job Description. Motion passed.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">H. Student Tudor Job Description</p> <p>The Administration recommends the approval of the ANE Student Tudor Job Description.</p> <p>Motion by Sam George, Seconded by Moses Peter to approve the Student Tudor Job Description. Motion passed.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">I. Yupiit School District Vehicle Policy</p> <p>The Administration recommends the approval of the Yupiit School District Vehicle Policy.</p> <p>Motion by Sam George, Seconded by Moses Owen to approve the Yupiit School District Vehicle Policy. Motion passed.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">J. iREAD and AMIRA</p> <p>The Administration recommends the approval of the iREAD and AMIRA at the approximate amount of \$6,297.65.</p> <p>Motion by Moses Owen, Seconded by Moses Peter to approve the iREAD and AMIRA at the approximate amount of \$6,297.00. Motion passed unanimously.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">K. Ratify Yupiaq Immersion Task Force/Committee</p> <p>Motion by Sam George, Seconded by Robert Charles to ratify the Yupiaq Immersion Task Force/Committee that consists the following: Sophie Kasayulie, Maggie Williams, Tuluksak vacant, RSB representatives: Robert Charles, Moses Owen and Moses Peter, Janice George, Yupiaq Ed Director and recommended Matthew Turner, ANE Director and Clare Robyt, Curriculum Coordinator. Motion passed.</p>
<p>Recess</p>	<p>Chairman Willie Kasayulie called for a 10-minute break at 4:15 PM. Reconvened at 4:28 PM</p>
<p>Reports</p>	<p>XII. Reports: The Administration reports were presented for review and information.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">A. Attendance Report: no attendance report</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">B. School Reports</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">1. Akiachak: James Boldosser highlighted his board</p>

	<p>report.</p> <p>2. Akiak:</p> <p>3. Tuluksak: Doug Bushey highlighted his board report.</p> <p>C. Special Education/Curriculum/Instruction Director's Report: Kary Delsignore highlighted her report.</p> <p>D. Curriculum Coordinator's Report: Clare Robyt highlighted her report.</p> <p>E. Yupiaq Education Coordinator's Report: Janice George highlighted her report.</p> <p>F. ANE Director's Report: Matthew Turner's report was reviewed.</p> <p>G. Business & Finance Report: John Stackhouse highlighted his report.</p> <p>H. State/Federal Programs Report: Kaylin Charles highlighted her report.</p> <p>I. Maintenance & Operations Report: Judy Anderson report was reviewed.</p> <p>J. Technology/Human Resource Director's Report: Anthony Graham highlighted his report.</p> <p>K. Superintendent's Report: Cassandra Bennet highlighted her report.</p>
Executive Session	XIII. Executive Session: none
Board Travel/Info	<p>XIV. Board Travel/Info: AASB Fall Boardmanship Academy – September 19-20, 2020</p> <p>The AASB Fall Virtual Boardmanship Academy was scheduled on September 19-20, 2020. This is for information and possible action.</p> <p>Moses Owen would like to revisit the Strategic Plan and the attendance data.</p>
Public Comments	XV. Public Comments
Board Comments	XVI. Board Comments: Set up Special meeting with the Superintendent to discuss Goals & Objectives.
Next Meeting Regular Meeting	XVII. Next Regular Meeting: September 17, 2020
Adjournment	XVIII. Adjournment: Motion by Moses Peter, Seconded by Sam George to adjourn the meeting at 5:06 PM.
	<p>_____</p> <p>Secretary _____</p> <p>Date</p>