
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

November 3, 2008 – 7:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting

Borough Administration Building
148 N. Binkley, Soldotna, Alaska

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: Mrs. Sammy Crawford, President
Mrs. Sunni Hilts, Vice President
Mr. Marty Anderson, Clerk
Ms. Lynn Hohl, Treasurer
Mr. Joe Arness
Mrs. Liz Downing
Mr. Bill Holt
Mrs. Penny Vadla
Seat 2 – Kenai (Vacant)
Miss Theresa Ramponi, Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Donna Peterson, Superintendent of Schools
Mrs. Melody Douglas, Chief Financial Officer
Mr. Dave Jones, Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Steve Atwater, Assistant Superintendent

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Gregg Wilbanks Mrs. Margie Warner
Mrs. Norma Holmgaard Mr. Mark Peterson
Mrs. Rochelle Hanson Mrs. LaDawn Druce
Mr. Pete Sprague Mrs. Doris Cannon
Ms. Anne Gentry Mr. Doug Cannon

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Mrs. Crawford called the meeting to order at 4:12 p.m. A quorum of School Board members, Mrs. Crawford, Mrs. Hilts, Mr. Anderson, Ms. Hohl, Mr. Arness, Mrs. Downing, Mr. Holt and Mrs. Vadla were in attendance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 4:13 p.m. Mrs. Hilts moved the Board go into executive session to discuss matters, the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the Borough. Specifically, the executive session was to discuss negotiations strategies and tactics. Mr. Holt seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 5:05 p.m., Mrs. Vadla moved the executive session be adjourned. Ms. Hohl seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

CALL TO ORDER: Mrs. Crawford called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
(7:00:27 PM)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mrs. Crawford invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.
(7:00:41 PM)

SCHOOL BOARD VACANCY REPLACEMENT FOR DISTRICT SEAT 2:

(7:01:05 PM)

Mrs. Crawford explained that the two applicants for the Kenai Seat 2 vacancy did not meet the residency qualification and declared seat reopened. She stated that applications would be accepted until November 21 and that interviews would be held on Dec 1 during a worksession. She stated that afterwards the Board would discuss the applicants' qualifications and then make a decision during the business meeting.

DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT:

(7:02:14 PM)

Mrs. Hilts read the District's mission statement.

ROLL CALL:

(7:02:44 PM)

Mrs. Sammy Crawford	Present
Mrs. Liz Downing	Present
Mr. Marty Anderson	Present
Mrs. Sunni Hilts	Present
Mr. Joe Arness	Present
Ms. Lynn Hohl	Present
Mr. Bill Holt	Present
Mrs. Penny Vadla	Present
Seat 2 – Kenai (Vacant)	N/A
Miss Theresa Ramponi	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

(7:03:18 PM)

The agenda was approved as written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

(7:03:28 PM)

The School Board Minutes of October 20, were approved as printed.

SCHOOL REPORT:

(7:03:48 PM)

Mr. Gregg Wilbanks, Peninsula Optional High School principal, presented a video that introduced the Peninsula Optional High School, provided information on enrollment, grade levels, graduation information, classroom activities, school staff, how the 2008-2009 Board goals are being met, student projects in the community, and student progress towards graduation. He also shared a PowerPoint that answered the four questions posed by Robert Marzano that are essential for schools. He demonstrated the Educate Program which is web-based software that keeps track of student academic progress.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

(7:22:13 PM)

Ms. Mary Broderick, Peninsula Optional High School parent, informed the Board that the school and parents are interested in changing the school name to River City Academy and noted that the group will go through the appropriate process. She read a letter from Peggy Hills, parent, in support of the name change.

Mrs. Jeanine Espy, Peninsula Optional High School parent, commended the school staff for their work with her son. She asked the Board for their support of the name change request.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

(7:27:54 PM)

Dr. Peterson noted that the General Information packet includes the most recent Board committee membership list and her latest book review. She reported that the District has submitted the official enrollment to the Department of Education and Early Development and added that the enrollment is above projection for the 2008-2009 year. She announced that the District received notification that the Borough will cooperate with the District on expediting information on Nanwalek staff housing. She explained that the housing bids came in higher than expected which could stall the process.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SITE COUNCIL AND/OR P.T.A., K.P.A.A., K.P.E.A., K.P.E.S.A, BOROUGH ASSEMBLY:

(7:29:22 PM)

Mrs. LaDawn Druce, KPEA president, reported that she attended three days of interest based bargaining training. She reported that the bargaining calendar has been set as well as the ground rules. She recognized two long-term teachers who have submitted resignations to the Board. She noted that the building visits continue and reported on her recent visit to Kenai Alternative High and Aurora Borealis Charter School. She reported that KPEA participated in the Tribal Career and Cultural Fair at Kenai Central High. She reported that she served on the Calendar Committee and summarized the proposed calendars. She reminded those present to vote in the national election on November 4.

Mrs. Warner, KPESA president, reported that she attended the interest-based bargaining training, continues to make building visits, and will serve on the Budget Review Committee. She noted that the Association continues to deal with the nursing shortage issue.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

(7:35:57 PM)

Dr. Peterson commended Peninsula Optional High School for their work on standards-based performance and noted that the Educate Program is the best software available to keep track of student progress. She announced that the Senior Management will continue monthly meetings with the new Borough Mayor to discuss issues of mutual interest. She noted that the Education Summit will be November 13 and 14 in Anchorage. She reported on the Women in Leadership Conference she attended on October 30, 31 and November 1.

SIX-YEAR PUPIL ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS:

(7:39:35 PM)

Mrs. Douglas presented the Six-Year Enrollment Projections (2009-10 through 2014-15) that reflects 9,047 students for FY10. The administration will continue monitoring the student count and make staffing adjustments as verified information is presented.

BOARD REPORTS:

(7:41:05 PM)

Ms. Hohl reported that she attended the World Languages Curriculum Committee prior to the Board worksessions.

Mr. Holt reported that he attended the Skyview Site Council meeting in which the group reviewed the Board goals. He reported that Mr. Neill will attend the upcoming Education Summit. He announced that Skyview received \$11,000 as part of the energy rebate program.

BOARD REPORTS:

(continued)

Mrs. Hilts reported that she met with Port Graham Elementary/High School site council members and discussed the Board goals. She explained that it is difficult to attend site council meetings at all of the schools in her district because she has to fly to each school except one.

Mrs. Crawford explained that the Board has agreed to attend at least three site council, PTSA or other type of schoolwide meetings. She reported that she attended the Calendar Committee meeting and attended the first day of interest-based bargaining training.

BOARD WORKSESSION REPORT:

(7:43:39 PM)

Mrs. Crawford reported that the Board directed the administration to reopen the application process for the Board vacancy (Seat 2 – Kenai) since there were no valid candidates during the first advertisement. She reported that the Board held an executive session regarding negotiations tactics and strategies and held a worksession on enrollment projections. All members were present.

CONSENT AGENDA:

(7:44:26 PM)

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of 2010-2011 School Year Calendar; New Teacher Contracts; Long-Term Substitute Teacher Contract; Resignations; and Recommendation to Open Negotiations with KPEA and KPESA.

2010-2011 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR:

Dr. Atwater recommended the Board approve the proposed calendar for the 2010-2011 and 2011-12 school years.

NEW TEACHER CONTRACTS:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve teaching assignments for Peter Papura, music teacher, vocal and instrumental, Nikiski Middle/High; Cindy M. Schlung, (temporary) elementary interventionist teacher .50 FTE, Soldotna Elementary; and Carmelo Martin, Spanish teacher, Seward High School.

LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE TEACHER CONTRACT:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a long-term substitute teacher contract for Susan Whipp, Tebughna School.

RESIGNATIONS:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve resignations effective at the end of the 2008-2009 school year from Tim Delaney, athletic director/health teacher, Kenai Central High and Kathy Thompson, Grades 1/2, Soldotna Elementary.

RECOMMENDATION TO OPEN NEGOTIATIONS WITH KPEA AND KPESA:

Mr. Jones recommended that a formal opportunity for public input be provided on contractual issues under the public presentation. He further recommended that the District prepare to open negotiations with Kenai Peninsula Education Association and Kenai Peninsula Education Support Association no later than February 15, 2009.

MOTION

Mrs. Downing moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 5. Ms. Hohl seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

POLICY REVISIONS:
(7:45:20 PM)

Mr. Jones presented revisions to BP 1325, Advertising and Promotions; BP 2300 and BP 3316, Conflict of Interest; BP 4141/4142, Negotiated Agreement; BP 4156.2/4256.2/4356.2, Awards and Recognition; BP and E 5125.1, Release of Directory Information; and BP 6146.3, High School Graduation Qualifying Exam.

MOTION

Mr. Anderson moved the Board approve proposed revisions to BP 1325, Advertising and Promotions; BP 2300 and BP 3316, Conflict of Interest; BP 4141/4142, Negotiated Agreement; BP 4156.2/4256.2/4356.2, Awards and Recognition; BP and E 5125.1, Release of Directory Information; and BP 6146.3, High School Graduation Qualifying Exam. Mrs. Downing seconded.

MOTION

Ms. Hohl moved the Board approve an amendment to AR 5141.21(a), Number 1a. to add the words "school year" after the word "current". Mr. Anderson seconded.

Mr. Jones clarified that the Administrative Regulation 5141.21(a) was not before the Board for consideration. Ms. Hohl, with permission of Mr. Anderson, withdrew the amendment.

MOTION

Ms. Hohl moved the Board approve an amendment to BP 1325, Advertising and Promotion, to substitute the word "particular" for the word "direct" in the second sentence of the first paragraph. Mrs. Downing seconded.

VOTE:

Advisory Vote – YES

YES – Holt, Downing, Hilts, Anderson, Hohl, Vadla

NO – Arness, Crawford

Amendment carried

Amended motion carried.

BOARD COMMENTS:
(7:51:05 PM)

Mr. Holt thanked Mr. Wilbanks and the staff for the Peninsula Optional High School report. He reported that November 3 is the first day of the Nordic ski season and that the Tsalteshi Trails Association has donated a snow machine and some trail grooming implements to Soldotna High School so they can create a practice ski area near Soldotna Middle and Redoubt Elementary.

Mrs. Vadla thanked Mr. Wilbanks for the Peninsula Optional High School report and stated that she hopes to visit the school soon.

Mr. Arness thanked Mr. Wilbanks for the Peninsula Optional School report and stated that he will visit the school.

BOARD COMMENTS:

(continued)

Mrs. Downing thanked Mr. Wilbanks for the Peninsula Optional High School report. She stated that she would like all high schools to be able to integrate performance-based education along with traditional education because all students learn differently. She stated that she is looking forward to the AASB Annual Conference and the Education Summit.

Ms. Hohl expressed appreciation for the Peninsula Optional High School report and stated that she plans to visit the school. She reported that the Seward welding program started on Saturday, November 1. She expressed concern that Hope School is at-risk for closure due to low student enrollment and noted that she will try to visit the school and their site council.

Miss Ramponi expressed appreciation for the Peninsula Optional High School report and supported the name change.

Mr. Anderson thanked Mr. Wilbanks for the Peninsula Optional High School report and is excited to increase options for students. He reported that he was impressed with Soldotna Montessori School during a recent visit. He stated that he is amazed and proud that the District has made Adequate Yearly Progress for the second year. He stated that he is looking forward to interest based bargaining.

Mrs. Hits reported that she attended the site council meetings at Susan B. English Elementary/High School and particularly appreciated their efforts in creating a mission statement. She expressed appreciation for the Peninsula Optional High School report and was impressed with the connection to the Board goals. She stated that she supported the name change suggestion of River City Academy.

Mrs. Crawford expressed appreciation for the Peninsula Optional High School Report and thanked Mr. Wilbanks for his work. She reported that she will attend the AASB Annual Conference and that she has asked Ms. Hohl to be the District's official representative on the Resolutions Committee. She noted that Mrs. Downing, Mrs. Hilts, Mr. Anderson, Mrs. Vadla and Mr. Holt would also be attending and reminded them that a written report of the conference must be submitted within 30 days.

ADJOURN:
(7:59:56 PM)

At 7:59 p.m., Mr. Anderson moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Hilts seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Sammy Crawford, President

Mr. Marty Anderson, Clerk

The Minutes of November 3, 2008,
were approved on December 1, 2008
with a correction.