

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes

February 21, 2005 – 7:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting

Borough Administration Building
148 N. Binkley, Soldotna, Alaska

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

Mrs. Sammy Crawford, President
Ms. Sandra Wassilie, Vice President
Mrs. Debra Mullins, Clerk
Mrs. Margaret Gilman, Treasurer
Ms. Deborah Germano
Dr. Nels Anderson
Mrs. Debbie Brown
Mr. Marty Anderson
Mrs. Sunni Hilts
Mr. DJ Tyson, Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT:

Dr. Donna Peterson, Superintendent of Schools
Mrs. Melody Douglas, Chief Financial Officer
Mr. Sam Stewart, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Guy Fisher, Assistant Superintendent

OTHERS PRESENT:

| | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Mr. Todd Syverson | Mrs. Christa Arthur |
| Mrs. Sherry Biggs | Mrs. Zada Friedersdorf |
| Mr. Tim Peterson | Mr. Glenn Haupt |
| Mr. Sean Dusek | Mr. Layton Ehmke |
| Miss Maureen McCombs | Mrs. Tina Stamer |
| Mr. Kurt Romberg | Mr. Joe Gallagher |
| Mr. Jim White | Mr. Lee Young |
| Mr. Jim Dawson | Mrs. Norma Holmgaard |
| Dr. Roy Anderson | Mr. Dave Larson |
| Ms. Jane Gabler | Mrs. Cathy Carrow |
| Mrs. Paula Christensen | |

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

(7:01:27 PM)

Mrs. Sammy Crawford called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

(7:01:31 PM)

Mrs. Crawford asked Miss Kaitlyn Young, Redoubt Elementary student council president, to lead those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

(7:02:05 PM)

| | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Mrs. Sammy Crawford | Present |
| Ms. Deborah Germano | Present |
| Mrs. Margaret Gilman | Present |
| Mrs. Debra Mullins | Present |
| Dr. Nels Anderson | Present |
| Ms. Sandra Wassilie | Present |
| Mrs. Debbie Brown | Present |
| Mr. Marty Anderson | Absent/Excused |
| Mrs. Sunni Hilts | Present |
| Mr. DJ Tyson | Present |

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:
(7:02:58 PM)

The agenda was approved as written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
(7:03:02 PM)

The School Board Minutes of February 7, 2005 were approved with several changes.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:
(7:10:37 PM)

The Board presented Miss Maureen McCombs, Ninilchik Elementary/High School student, with the Spirit of Youth Award for her community and school volunteerism.

Mrs. Mullins presented the Excellence in Boardmanship Award to Ms. Germano on behalf of the Association of Alaska School Boards.

SCHOOL REPORT:
(7:14:56 PM)

Mr. Todd Syverson, Redoubt Elementary School, presented a computer-generated report narrated by Mrs. Friedersdorf. The report highlighted the school's 25th birthday celebration, the Artists in the Schools Program, physical education and intramurals programs, music and band programs, outstanding student recognition, parallel block scheduling, and assessment. Mr. Syverson and several teachers and students assisted Board members in a Leapfrog interactive demonstration. Mrs. Biggs, music teacher, directed third grade students as they told an Alaskan tale, sang, and played instruments.

RECESS:
(7:32:40 PM)

At 7:32 p.m. Mrs. Crawford called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:
(7:35:56 PM)

At 7:35 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:
(7:36:57 PM)

Dr. Peterson reported that she received a thank you note from Salamatof Tribal Association for a \$5,000 donation from First National Bank to be used for their work with Leapfrog materials at Tebughna School, Nikiski North Star Elementary School and Sears Elementary School. She stated that school boards in the Juneau School District and Fairbanks North Star Borough School District have passed resolutions requesting per student funding of \$4,995.

**Advisory Committee, Site Council
and/or P.T.A., K.P.A.A., K.P.E.A., K.
P.E.S.A, Borough Assembly:**
(7:38:15 PM)

Mrs. Cathy Carrow, KPEA President, reported that one of the main points of a conference she recently attended dealt with the deteriorating support for students at the federal level at the same time districts are struggling with the requirements of the NCLB Act. She thanked the members of the delegation who attended the AASB Legislative Fly-In. She announced that Wednesday, March 2 is Read Across America Day and encouraged Board members to participate by reading with a child.

Dr. Anderson left the meeting at 7:41 p.m.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

(7:42:00 PM)

Dr. Peterson reported that the Administrator Meeting was held February 17 and that the coaches' project training was held February 19. She reported that Connections Grade 3 and 4 students placed first in the state Battle of the Books contest. She reported that interviews for the Sears Elementary principal will be held February 23 at 6:00 p.m., and that interviews for the Nikiski Middle/High School principal will be held February 26 at 8:45 a.m. and noted that the public is invited. She reported on the AASA Annual Conference which was held on February 17-20 in San Antonio, Texas.

Financial Report:

(7:44:44 PM)

Mrs. Douglas presented the District financial report for the period ending January 31, 2005.

At 7:45 p.m. Dr. Anderson returned to the meeting.

BOARD REPORTS:

(7:45:36 PM)

Mrs. Mullins reported that she, along with several other Board members, attended the AASB Legislative Fly-in and noted that the group shared a number of informational items with legislators. She reported that the group met with 29 legislators as well as Ms. Loraine Derr and Mrs. Becky Hultberg from the Governor's Office. She reported that the group attended an Education Committee hearing. She reported that the legislature indicated a willingness to increase educational funding from the Governor's recommendation of \$62 million. She commended Mr. Tyson for his excellent representation of the District and the Board. She stated that Mr. Dave Larson, Kenai Central High teacher, attended as the student chaperone and also had the opportunity to speak to legislators about TRS and PERS issues.

Mr. Tyson reported that he attended the AASB Legislative Fly-In. and that he spoke to legislators about lowering the pupil-teacher ratio. He noted that once he began to speak the legislators included him in the conversation. He thanked Mr. Larson for acting as the chaperone for the trip.

Mrs. Hilts stated that it was a privilege to attend the AASB Legislative Fly-In. She reported that the group heard from the Northwest Arctic Native Association (NANA) about their combined efforts along with three other organizations to meet the needs of students in their area, especially in the area of suicide prevention. She stated that NANA reported they are seeing incredible results such as improved test scores. She reported that the group was thanked by several legislators for asking for the amount of money that the District really needs. Mrs. Hilts recapped several conversations with legislators and added that the message of making children Alaska's top priority was not well received. She reported that it was suggested to the group to contact friends in Anchorage to help share the educational funding message to the legislature. She stated that she feels that the District will get more money than last year.

Ms. Wassilie reported that she attended the AASB Legislative Fly-In and noted that the group covered many appointments with legislators, sometimes simultaneously. She stated that the Board was organized and had accurate information that could be defended. She reported that education funding is on the fast track and noted that the debate regarding the TRS and PERS issue could slow progress. She reported that the Area Cost Differential Study is complete but not public. She reported that she spoke to legislators about accountability and the identification of school-aged children who are not in any educational system. She reported that the Board may go to the next Fly-In which is scheduled for April.

BOARD REPORTS:
(continued)

Mrs. Crawford stated that it was an honor to be a member of the group that attended the AASB Legislative Fly-In. She stated that many legislators were familiar with the issues facing the Kenai Peninsula and had a great respect for Dr. Peterson and Mrs. Douglas. She stated that the Board reviewed all seven priorities with the legislature and focused on the uniqueness of the District. She stated that the District will be better funded than last year.

CONSENT AGENDA:
(7:59:46 PM)

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Number 2005-4; Long Term Substitute Teacher Contracts; Resignations; 2005-2006 Administrator Contracts; and District Organizational Chart.

High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Number 2005-4:

Mr. Stewart recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver request Number 2005-04. He noted that the request was from a student who had arrived in Alaska during their senior year.

Long Term Substitute Teacher Contracts:

Mr. Guy Fisher recommended the Board approve substitute teacher contracts for Chris Granger, Title I reading (.40 FTE), Soldotna Elementary and Diane Bernard, Title I reading (.60 FTE), Soldotna Elementary.

Resignations:

Mr. Guy Fisher recommended the Board approve resignations from Barbara J. George, Grade 3, K-Beach Elementary and Guy Fisher, Assistant Superintendent, Central Office (effective June 30, 2005).

2005-2006 Administrator Contracts:

Mr. Guy Fisher recommended the Board approve a list of administrator appointments for the 2005-2006 school year.

District Organizational Chart:

Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve the 2005-2006 District organizational chart which identifies the lines of primary responsibility and relationships between administrative positions.

MOTION:

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 5. Ms. Germano seconded.

Ms. Germano asked why two people were filling one position. Mr. Peterson explained that Diane Bernard is a part-time employee and that her hours have been increased to cover for another employee who is on maternity leave. He further explained that Christine Granger is substituting in Diane Bernard's position.

Mrs. Gilman asked whether directors are paid an administrative salary. Dr. Peterson stated that directors sign individual employment contracts which are tied to a two-tiered salary schedule.

Motion carried unanimously.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION
CURRICULUM REVISIONS:**
(8:02:58 PM)

Mr. Stewart recommended the Board approve revisions to the Physical Education Curriculum.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION
CURRICULUM REVISIONS:**
(continued)

MOTION:

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve revisions to the Physical Education Curriculum. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Mrs. Gilman thanked those who served on the Physical Education Curriculum Committee and added that she is especially pleased that the curriculum emphasizes life-long skills for life-long fitness. She stated that she is disappointed that the District will not be able to provide 30 minutes of physical education for students each day. She stated that the need for physical activity has a direct relation to obesity in the country. She suggested that during the Board's goal setting session members consider ways to provide 30 minutes of physical education each day and to offer nutritious food to students.

Ms. Wassilie stated that a creative principal could build in 30 minutes of physical activity each day for elementary students.

Mrs. Gilman explained that her sixth grade child does not have a physical education class for an entire quarter of school.

Ms. Germano cautioned the Board not to generalize and added that most elementary classes participate in the morning recess. She stated that the discussion should be, "What are our standards and how are the standards being implemented?" She noted that the administration hears the Board's concern. She stated that there are many creative principals, as well as committed staff, and noted that there are many ways to get students to be physically active.

Mrs. Brown stated that the Board may want to have a discussion about how the Physical Education Curriculum should be applied. She stated that she is thankful that her children had a physical education class every day which included valuable life skills. She stated that she would like gymnasiums to be used for physical education so that life-long skills can be taught to students daily.

Dr. Anderson stated that previous comments regarding the physical education curriculum are not germane to the adoption and should be expressed during a worksession or Board Comments.

Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/
COMMENTS:**

(8:10:27 PM)

Mr. Dave Larson, Kenai Central High teacher, thanked the Board for the opportunity to attend the AASB Legislative Fly-In as a student chaperone for Mr. Tyson. He stated that the Board and District administration's professionalism, respect, and dedication was consistently applauded by people throughout the capital building. He stated that comments by some legislators was eye-opening.

BOARD COMMENTS:

(8:13:33 PM)

Mr. Tyson thanked Mr. Syverson for the Redoubt Elementary presentation and for the Arctic Winter Games presentation that was conducted during the worksession. He stated that he was planning to volunteer for the AWG and will encourage other students to volunteer as well. He stated that during the Fly-In he was assigned to talk to legislators about lowering the pupil-teacher ratio and added that it was a good experience.

Mrs. Brown reported that she is the co-chair of the volunteer division of the Arctic Winter Games and suggested that Board members keep the AWG information folder available because it contains valuable information. She noted that the folder includes an invitation to attend the kick-off event and auction. She stated that the vests and other clothing are nice and well worth earning as a volunteer.

Ms. Germano thanked Mr. Syverson and the Redoubt Elementary staff for the presentation and thanked the administration for the Arctic Winter Games presentation. She thanked the Board members who attended the AASB Legislative Fly-In. She thanked Mr. Larson for chaperoning Mr. Tyson during the Fly-In and for testifying to legislators from a teacher's perspective.

Mrs. Mullins thanked Redoubt Elementary staff for the presentation and added that she especially enjoyed the Leapfrog presentation. She thanked the Arctic Winter Games staff for the presentation. She commented that she had a physical education class each year until she was 21 years old. She cautioned the Board about how much the school district can mandate and suggested that parents take on some of the responsibility of ensuring that children get daily exercise. She reported that some of the responses that were received during

the Fly-In were surprising. She stated that making children Alaska's top priority is not just a nice idea; instead it is practical and something that could be achieved. She recommended to those present to log on to <http://www.aasb.org> and read the survey titled, Grading Grown Ups Alaska Style.

Mrs. Gilman thanked the Redoubt Elementary staff for the presentation. She congratulated Miss Maureen McCombs for receiving the Spirit of Youth Award. She reported that she and Mrs. Crawford were invited to the Academic Decathlon to judge the speech contest and noted that some of the topics included weighted grades and wearing of hats in school. Mrs. Gilman agreed with Mrs. Mullins' comments that the District cannot provide everything for everybody including daily exercise but that there are many days where there is no recess. She noted that parents need to encourage their children to go outside for exercise. She stated that it was refreshing to hear that the District has asked the legislature for the exact amount of money needed to educate students and not for what the District thinks it could get. She thanked those who attended the Fly-In for taking personal time to go.

BOARD COMMENTS:
(continued)

Dr. Anderson commented that Mr. Kurt Romberg, who was previously in the audience, is an Eagle Scout and an outstanding student. He thanked the Board members and Mr. Larson for attending the Fly-In and added that he would love to go but cannot afford to leave his office. He clarified that his earlier comment regarding the discussion surrounding the Physical Education Curriculum was made because he felt the Board was becoming too talkative and straying away from the action item. He asked those present who have comments and ideas regarding the certified diploma to share them with the Board.

Mrs. Hilts expressed appreciation for the school presentation by Redoubt Elementary. Mrs. Hilts noted that a number of District schools with old phone systems cannot use the new IP phones or cell phones and that currently there is no plan for those schools. She urged the administration to develop a plan for those schools because, to quote Mr. Jim White, "If we don't manage the problem - it will manage us." She suggested that the District may need to set up radio phones or satellite phones. She noted that cell phones are not available in at least six schools. She stated that she would like to see physical education classes held regularly as well as a nutrition break. She expressed appreciation for the periodic Safety Newsletters and related a story about "walking like a duck" on the ice in Juneau as recommended by Mr. Tidwell, Borough Safety Manager.

Ms. Wassilie thanked the Board and the District for the opportunity to attend the AASB Legislative Fly-in. She stated

that community collaboration is valuable and asked how collaboration can be accomplished in the KPBSD. She agreed with Mrs. Hilts that the issue of phones is a statewide problem and suggested that the Board start pushing along with others districtwide as well as statewide for better communications. She referred to previous comments by Mrs. Gilman regarding Communities that Care and suggested that the Board discuss, during the June planning session, ways to maximize community resources. She thanked Mrs. Stewart for working with the Board during Mrs. Tachick's absence. She stated that she enjoyed the Redoubt Elementary School presentation. She noted that Mr. Syverson embedded career and technical education into the presentation by his referral to the students as future teachers and musicians. She reported that she was an official at the National Ocean Sciences Bowl and noted that all four teams from the District finished. She explained how the competition is conducted and noted that college tuition waivers are available for some of the winners. She reported that Skyview High School placed first in the area of research and placed second overall and received \$1000 in science materials. She reported that the two Soldotna High School teams placed fourth and fifth. She reported that the Seward High School Team received the inspirational award. She stated that she would like to see more academic competitions held in the District.

BOARD COMMENTS:
(continued)

Ms. Germano asked for Board consensus to have the Policy Committee to review the Board Bylaw regarding meetings and meeting attendance. She stated that the bylaw is lax and she would like to see if changes need to be made. Mrs. Brown asked who would be involved in the review. Mrs. Crawford replied that the Policy Committee members are herself, Mrs. Mullins, and Ms. Wassilie. Mrs. Brown clarified that other Board members can attend the meeting and participate. Mrs. Crawford explained that any changes to the bylaws would require the full Board's consideration. Mrs. Brown requested that the Committee also review the policy regarding attendance of meetings in Juneau and other meetings involving Board members.

Mrs. Crawford thanked Mr. Syverson for the Redoubt Elementary presentation. She stated that she is looking forward to the Arctic Winter Games. She thanked Mr. Fisher for his service to the District and added that he will be missed. She stated that during the ACCA DECA competition, she heard an amazing speech by a student that compared gun collecting to stamp collecting. Dr. Anderson referred Mrs. Crawford to an article written by Jean Hill, *Sports Afield* magazine, regarding guns. Mrs. Crawford reported that she attended the mass choir concert and was impressed by the student talent. She reported that the community production of *Brigadoon* will be held on February 25-27. She stated that although public schools can offer a lot to students during the six hours they are at school, parents have them the remaining 18 hours.

ADJOURN:
(8:41:38 PM)

At 8:41 p.m., Mrs. Mullins moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Ms. Germano seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Sammy Crawford, President

Mrs. Debra Mullins, Clerk

The Minutes of February 21, 2005,
were approved on March 7, 2005 with
corrections.