

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

February 5, 2007 – 7:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting

Borough Administration Building
148 N. Binkley, Soldotna, Alaska

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: Mrs. Debra Mullins, President
Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Vice President
Mr. Marty Anderson, Treasurer
Mrs. Liz Downing, Clerk
Dr. Nels Anderson
Mrs. Debbie Brown
Ms. Lynn Hohl
Mr. Bill Hatch
Mrs. Sunni Hilts
Miss Lydia Ames, Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Donna Peterson, Superintendent of Schools
Mrs. Melody Douglas, Chief Financial Officer
Mr. Sam Stewart, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Glen Szymoniak, Assistant Superintendent

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Jim Legner	Mr. Alan Fields
Mr. Wayne Young	Mrs. LaDawn Druce
Mr. David Legg	Mrs. Jamie Harper
Mrs. Marnie Bartolini	Mr. Sean Dusek
Mr. Terry Martin	Mrs. Norma Holmgaard
Mr. Dave Spence	Ms. Dawn Daris
Mrs. Doris Cannon	Mrs. Patty Rich
Mr. Gary Knopp	Mr. Tony Lewis
Mr. Jerry Byrne	Mr. Mick Wykis
Ms. Cathy Carrow	Mr. Tim Peterson

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Mrs. Mullins called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.
(7:01:50 PM)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mrs. Mullins invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.
(7:02:03 PM)

ROLL CALL:

Mrs. Debra Mullins	Present
Mrs. Sammy Crawford	Present
Mr. Marty Anderson	Absent/Excused
Dr. Nels Anderson	Present
Mrs. Debbie Brown	Present
Mrs. Liz Downing	Present
Mr. Bill Hatch	Present
Ms. Lynn Hohl	Present
Mrs. Sunni Hilts	Present
Miss Lydia Ames	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved as written.
(7:02:59 PM)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
(7:03:18 PM)

The School Board Minutes of January 15, 2007 were approved as printed.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:
(7:3:38 PM)

The Board presented Mr. Jim Legner, Pupil Services technology coordinator, and Mr. Jerry Byrne, Ninilchik Elementary/High teacher, with Golden Apple Awards in recognition for their service to the District.

SCHOOL REPORT:
(7:08:42 PM)

Mr. Joe Mooney, Kenai Youth Facility teacher, and Mr. Steve Kiefer, Juvenile Justice Superintendent, gave a computer-generated presentation showing the facility, the classrooms, residential area, and exercise equipment. Mr. Mooney told the Board about the Work Experience Program, summer program, student expectations, curriculum, grade levels, length of stay, number of students served, assessments, placement and high school graduation, discipline. Mr. Mooney read a statement from a student expressing appreciation for the help received while at the facility. Mr. Kiefer invited those present to tour the facility.

(7:24:44 PM)

Mr. Wayne Young, Spring Creek High principal/teacher, gave a computer-generated presentation highlighting the facility, mission statement and goals, program objectives, the organization of the administration of the Youth Offender Program, discipline of students, teaching staff, course offerings, Youth Offender Program intervention team members, participant information, educational goals, reasons for the program success and success rates, and graduation rates.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:
(7:49:09 PM)

Ms. Kathy Crain, Moose Pass Elementary parent, expressed concern that Moose Pass Elementary is budgeted for only one teacher for the 2007-2008 school year and asked the Board not to cut teaching staff at the school.

Mr. Mark Kromrey, Moose Pass Elementary parent, expressed concern for the proposed loss of teaching staff for the 2007-2008 school year.

Mrs. Trudy Johns, Kenai area parent, reviewed the Kenai Conversation Report options and provided input. She stated that she supported Option 3 or Option 5.

Mrs. Julie Lindquist, Moose Pass Elementary parent, expressed concern for the proposed loss of teaching staff at Moose Pass and Seward area schools for the 2007-2008 school year and asked the Board for equity of programs.

Mrs. Erin Knotek, Moose Pass Title I teacher, expressed concern for the proposed loss of teaching staff at Moose Pass Elementary for the 2007-2008 school year and suggested possible solutions. She asked the Board to keep the teaching staff at the school.

Mrs. Terry Estes, Moose Pass Elementary parent, expressed concern for the proposed loss of teaching staff at the school for the 2007-2008 school year.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:
(continued)

Mrs. Kathy Mitchell, Moose Pass Elementary parent, expressed concern for the proposed loss of teaching staff at the school for the 2007-2008 school year.

Ms. Barbara Ralston, Sears Elementary teacher, reviewed the Sears Elementary School and Kaleidoscope Charter School enrollment, reviewed the original mission of Kaleidoscope Charter School and reviewed the five options presented in the Kenai Conversations Report and recommended the Board approve Option 2.

Mrs. Margaret Gilman, Kenai area parent, reviewed the history of Kenai Middle School and provided input to the options presented in the Kenai Conversation Report. She recommended the Board approve Option 2.

RECESS

(8:23:32 PM)

At 8:23 p.m., Mrs. Mullins called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:

(8:32:11 PM)

At 8:32 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

(8:32:21 PM)

Dr. Peterson reported that along with the usual and customary communications she received a letter from the Department of Revenue regarding retirement. She reported that she received a letter from Fred Meyer Stores announcing the donation to the District of \$6,624 as part of the Support our Schools Campaign.

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

(8:33:16 PM)

Mrs. Marnie Bartolini, KPESA president, reported that during the recent four-day Delegate Assembly Convention, Michael Caffroy, Homer High head custodian, was chosen as the Educational Support Professional of the Year, and noted that his acceptance speech included an inspirational message about adequate funding for education.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

(8:35:30 PM)

Dr. Peterson reported that meetings will be held throughout the District with various parent groups regarding administrative changes for the next school year. She reported that the leadership teams for the District and the Kenai Peninsula College will meet to discuss the vision of Pre-K through Grade 16 education on the Peninsula. She reported on the Tri-Borough Anti-Gang Task Force and noted that she will give a presentation regarding the work of the Task Force during the upcoming Tri-Borough Mayor's Conference. She noted that the District is featured in the most recent issue of Board and Administrator in an article titled, *Prevent Student Technology Abuse from Making Your District Look Bad*.

BOARD REPORTS:

(8:38:42 PM)

Mr. Bill Hatch reported that he served on the Secondary Language Arts Curriculum Committee.

Mrs. Brown reported that she served on the Calendar Committee and recommended the Board approve the proposed 2008-2009 school calendar. She noted that Tustumena Elementary students made cards urging the Board to make safe drinking water at the school a high priority.

**BOARD WORKSESSION
REPORT:***(8:40:54 PM)*

Mrs. Crawford reported that the Board discussed the Kenai Peninsula Administrator Association grievance procedures and the FY08 Budget. She reported that the Board reviewed the Kenai Conversation Report and 7-12 Language Arts Curriculum and held a conference call with Kenai Peninsula legislators to discuss education legislation.

CONSENT AGENDA:*(8:43:59 PM)*

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Revisions to AR 6187, Charter Schools; KPSAA Outsource Agreements; Request for Leave of Absence-Support; Resignations; 2008-2009 School Calendar; New Teacher Assignment; Budget Transfer; and Substitute Teacher Contract.

REVISIONS TO AR 6187:

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve revisions to AR 6187, Charter Schools.

**KPSAA OUTSOURCE
AGREEMENTS:**

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve new outsource applications for the 2006-2007 Alaska State Activities Association (ASAA) spring activity season for Girls' fast-pitch softball at Nikiski High School and Boys' baseball at Soldotna High School. He further recommended that renewal outsource applications be approved for the 2006-2007 ASAA spring activity season for Girls' fast-pitch softball at Homer High School, Boys' baseball at Homer High School, Girls' fast-pitch softball at Seward High School, Boys' baseball at Seward High School, and Girls' fast-pitch softball at Soldotna High School.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF
ABSENCE-SUPPORT:**

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve an unpaid leave of absence request for Ibtihal M. Marey, special education aide, K-Beach Elementary (effective January 2 until February 16, 2007).

RESIGNATIONS:

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve resignations from Steve Pautz, Seward Middle/Moose Pass principal (effective at the end of the 2006-07 school year) and Darcia Dierick, elementary teacher currently on unpaid leave of absence (effective immediately).

**2008-2009 SCHOOL
CALENDAR:**

Mr. Stewart recommended the Board approve the proposed 2008-2009 calendar.

**NEW TEACHER
ASSIGNMENT:**

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve a teaching assignment for Scott Ruch, (temporary) Grades 5/6, Seward Elementary

BUDGET TRANSFER:

Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve Budget transfer Number 120 for \$11,765 to pay for computers to be used in the science, library, and Reconnecting Youth programs; Number 159 for \$15,916 and \$10,555 to pay for teacher salary monies to the pro-tech services account for consulting fees, and to the employee travel account for training of District employees in the start-up of the proposed Kenai Performance High School, respectively; and Number 174 for \$24,000 to pay for Kenai Peninsula Community College classes (fall/spring) for Connections students.

**SUBSTITUTE TEACHER
CONTRACT:**

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve a long-term substitute contract for Lenore Swanson, speech, McNeil Canyon.

MOTION

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 8. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/
COMMENTS:**

(8:45:47 PM)

Mr. Tony Lewis, Kenai resident, clarified that the Kaleidoscope Charter School's mission was to teach students from a different curriculum. He urged the Board to approve a decision regarding housing of Kenai students that is best for the students and the District.

BOARD COMMENTS:

(8:48:03 PM)

Mrs. Hilts acknowledged that there will be change in the District next year and that it will not be comfortable. She reported that she attended a budget hearing and noted that Russian village school parents support student graduation.

Mrs. Brown expressed appreciation for the comments from Moose Pass parents and added that small schools are no different than other rural area schools. She challenged the Board to look for ways to adjust the budget so that Moose Pass School will not lose a teacher next year. She added that if all students are not provided with the basics, then there is a serious inequity issue that parallels the problems the District has with the State of Alaska.

Mrs. Downing reported that she attended the budget hearing and appreciated hearing from Razdolna School parents. She reported on visits to McNeil Canyon Elementary, Razdolna School and Paul Banks Elementary. She added that Razdolna School and McNeil Canyon Elementary use bottled water for drinking and also for washing hands at Razdolna School. She reported that teachers are telling her that, in spite of the desperate funding situation, the money always becomes available. She encouraged teachers to contact legislators and tell them about the impact of the lack of adequate education funding.

Mr. Hatch stated that he was pleased to hear that the Kenai Youth Facility and Spring Creek High are doing a good job with imprisoned youth. In regards to past field trip policy discussions, he related a story from a parent whose daughter participated in an international field trip to Normandy which was organized by Kenai Central High School. He noted that the parent felt that the trip was extremely valuable to his daughter and the other students. He recommended that Board members take the time to observe a Battle of the Books competition.

Ms. Hohl thanked the Moose Pass Elementary parents for their comments. She reported that Moose Pass Elementary also uses bottled water for drinking. She reported that she attended the budget hearing and the Site Council/Parent Group Training. She asked the Board if she could give a short worksession on the Public School Land Trust in Alaska. She asked the Board about receiving a copy of the Policy Manual on compact disk.

BOARD COMMENTS:
(continued)

After conferring with the Board, Mrs. Mullins announced that Ms. Hohl may conduct a half-hour worksession on the Alaska Public School Land Trust. Mrs. Mullins pointed out that the District Policy Manual is available online. Mr. Szymoniak reported that the search feature has been fixed and offered to assist Ms. Hohl in using the online Policy Manual.

Miss Ames expressed appreciation for how much Alaskans care about education. She reported that students from all over the state have emailed her about wanting change within their communities regarding education. She stated that she appreciated the comments regarding the lack of music education in Seward schools. She thanked those who provided comments regarding staffing and the Kenai Conversation. She congratulated the Golden Apple Award recipients.

Dr. Anderson expressed disappointment regarding the proposed budget reductions. He stated that, although he felt that the negotiated agreements were reasonable, they may be difficult to afford and the Board may be forced to increase the number of students in classrooms. He reported that Mr. Syverson stated that Soldotna High School will lose a vocational education program, a language arts teacher, a math teacher, half of a science teacher, half of a social studies teacher and will likely share the music and art teacher with the Soldotna Middle School. He expressed concern that the Soldotna Middle School may lose the Read 180 Program and related a story about a student who has been successful in the program. He stated that he cannot tolerate the cuts the Board is forced to make and even though the Board will try to be fair, every school in the District will suffer.

Mrs. Crawford stated that budget cuts get worse every year and suggested that the public help lobby the legislature for more education funding. She reminded those present that Alaska is the richest state in the union with a \$39 billion dollar savings account which should be used to adequately fund education. She reported that she attended the budget hearing. She stated that, although field trips are expensive and are a liability, they are valuable teaching tools and reported that during an upcoming field trip students will go to the United Nations in New York and participate in a model United Nations experience. She suggested that the Board carefully review the field trip policy and make good decisions. She stated that she has visited five schools and the Kenai Job Center to fulfill one of the Board's 2006-2007 goals. She stated that she has submitted a report of the school and agency visits to Dr. Peterson and reminded the other Board members to do the same.

Mrs. Mullins reminded the Board to turn in their school visit reports to Dr. Peterson. She announced that Mr. Hatch, Mr. Anderson, Ms. Hohl, and Miss Ames will attend the AASB Legislative Fly-In in Juneau. She reported on a visit to Tebughna Elementary/High School and a visit with the Tyonek Native Village Tribal Council.

ADJOURN:
(9:12:36 PM)

At 9:12 p.m., Mrs. Crawford moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Debra Mullins, President

Ms. Liz Downing, Clerk

The Minutes of February 5, 2007,
have not been approved as of
February 8, 2007.