
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes

October 23, 2006 – 7:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting

Borough Administration Building
148 N. Binkley, Soldotna, Alaska

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: Mrs. Debra Mullins
Mrs. Sammy Crawford
Mrs. Lynn Hohl
Mr. Marty Anderson
Dr. Nels Anderson
Mrs. Debbie Brown
Mrs. Liz Downing
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. Mick Wykis	Mr. Phil Hermenak
Mr. Mark Larson	Mr. Tony Lewis
Mrs. Elaine Larson	Mrs. Sherry Nauta
Ms. Linda Watters	Mr. Larry Nauta
Mr. Dave Spence	Mr. Tim Peterson
Mrs. Laurie Olson	Mrs. Patty Rich
Mrs. Cathy Carrow	Mr. Sean Dusek
Mrs. Susan Larned	Ms. Mo Sanders
Mr. Joe Nicks	Mrs. Doris Cannon

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Mrs. Mullins called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.
(7:01:12 PM)

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

OATH OF OFFICE: The Oath of Office was administered to newly elected School Board members Mrs. Lynn Hohl, Mrs. Liz Downing, Mr. Bill Hatch and Mr. Marty Anderson by notary public, Mrs. Sally Tachick.
(7:01:36 PM)

ROLL CALL:

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:
(7:05:36 PM)

The agenda was approved as written. Mrs. Tachick clarified that the Finance Report and Quarterly Budget Transfer Report should be numbered as Items 9a and 9b. respectively.

REORGANIZATION OF BOARD:
(7:05:44 PM)

Mrs. Mullins announced that a reorganization of the Board was in order.

MOTION

Mrs. Crawford nominated Mrs. Mullins as president of the Board. Mrs. Hilts requested that nominations for president be closed. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION

Dr. Anderson nominated Mrs. Sammy Crawford as vice president of the Board. Mrs. Hilts requested that nominations for vice president be closed. Mr. Hatch seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION

Dr. Anderson nominated Mrs. Liz Downing as clerk of the Board. Mrs. Hilts requested that nominations for clerk be closed. Mrs. Lynn Hohl seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION

Dr. Anderson nominated Mr. Marty Anderson as treasurer of the Board. Mrs. Crawford requested that nominations for treasurer be closed. Mr. seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ESTABLISH MEETING TIME, DATE AND PLACE:
(7:08:07 PM)

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board set its meeting time, date and place for 7:00 p.m. on the first and third Monday of each month (unless otherwise noted) at the Borough Administration Building, Soldotna (unless otherwise noted) and that one meeting be scheduled in Homer and one meeting in Seward in the fall and spring.

MOTION

VOTE:

Advisory Vote: NO
YES – Downing, M. Anderson, Crawford, Hohl, Hatch, Hilts, N. Anderson, Mullins
NO – Brown

Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
(7:10:22 PM)

The School Board Minutes of October 2, 2006, were approved as printed.

SCHOOL REPORT:

(7:13:22 PM)

Mr. Mick Wykis, Kaleidoscope Charter School administrator, gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting thematic units, collaboration among teachers, staff training, parent involvement, assessment information, and the Willow facility. Mrs. Misty Hamilton, APC Chairperson, reported on Board training provided by AASB. Mrs. Elaine Larson directed several students in songs titled, *In Alaska* and *This Land is Your Land*. Miss Alex Bergholtz, Mr. Logan Boyle, Miss Harly Olson, and Mr. Isaac Lewis, students, spoke about the year-long theme, science lessons, the arts, and lifelong guidelines and the brain.

RECESS:

(7:30:44 PM)

At 7:30 p.m. Mrs. Mullins called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER**RECESS:**

(7:37:14 PM)

At 7:37 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

(7:37:21 PM)

Mrs. Jenny Hammond asked the Board for additional teachers to lower the pupil/teacher ratio and two portable classrooms for Nikiski North Star Elementary. She stated that during the next legislative session she will ask legislators for more funding for education.

COMMUNICATIONS AND**PETITIONS:**

(7:40:33 PM)

Dr. Peterson reported that she has received Kenai Conversation correspondence and noted that comments are due in her office on November 3. She noted that the Kenai Conversation public meeting is scheduled for November 7 at 7:00 pm, at Kenai Central High. She announced that in a press release copied to the Board Sammy Crawford was selected to receive the Alaska Association of School Administrators Don McKinnon Educational Excellence and Human Recognition Award. She noted that copies of the nomination application for the National School Board Association Magma Award were given to the Board.

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

(7:41:32 PM)

Mrs. Carrow, KPEA president, noted the executive board has made an effort to visit schools and classrooms and are hearing positive comments regarding the bargaining process, the new contract and the new language arts curriculum.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT:**

(7:43:34 PM)

Dr. Peterson reported that schools in Seward, Nikolaevsk, Tyonek, and Hope are participating in polycom classes in AP English, accounting, high school qualifying exam math, and AP calculus. She noted that Mrs. Douglas is well respected throughout state, country, and world and was evidenced during a recent trip to the ASBO International Conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

(7:44:55 PM)

Mrs. Douglas presented the financial report of the District for the period ending September 30, 2006.

**QUARTERLY BUDGET
TRANSFER REPORT:**

(7:45:29 PM)

Mrs. Douglas reported on budget transfers Numbers 1 through 47 for various schools and departments within the District.

BOARD REPORTS:
(7:46:10 PM)

Mr. Anderson reported that the Charter School Oversight Committee reviewed the three reapplications. He reported that the group discussed space requirements and the various aspects involving two schools housed in one building. He reported that the Committee recommends that:

1. The Fireweed Charter application be approved but action should be postponed on the request for additional space until after the Site Council and Committee meetings in Homer are completed. The Board should approve the Aurora Borealis Charter and Soldotna Montessori Charter applications as proposed.
2. Action on the growth and request for additional space by Fireweed be taken by November 20.

Mrs. Hilts reported that she attended the National Indian Education Convention in Anchorage and attended many excellent presentations. She noted that the top priority of American Indians is language revitalization and are working to keep their children from being invisible. She stated that she was impressed with a session on learning styles.

Mrs. Crawford reported that she accepted the Don McKinnon Award at the Alaska Council of School Administrators Fall Conference in Fairbanks.

Mrs. Downing reported that she visited West Homer Elementary and that she discussed facility use by the school and charter school with Kiki Abrahamson, Charlie Walsworth, and Benny Abraham.

Mrs. Mullins reported that the Policy Review Committee reviewed Section 7000 and other policies and added that the proposed revisions will be brought to the Board for review at a later date.

BOARD WORKSESSION REPORT:
(7:55:02 PM)

Mrs. Mullins reported that the Board discussed School Board meeting dates and times, the District Improvement Plan, the math curriculum, parallel block scheduling and heard a busing update.

CONSENT AGENDA:
(8:01:58 PM)

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Request for Leave of Absence-Certified, New Teacher Assignments, Budget Transfer, KPSAA High School Handbook Revisions, and Resignation.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE-CERTIFIED:

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve an unpaid leave of absence request for Tania Trejo, science teacher, Voznesenka School, for the 2007-2008 school year.

NEW TEACHER ASSIGNMENTS:

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve teaching assignments for Gabe Evins, generalist-teacher/advisor, Connections Program; Nine Dodge, (.50 FTE temporary/.50 FTE permanent) French teacher, Homer High; and Sheryl A. Hingley, Grades 4-8 generalist, Susan B. English Elementary/High.

BUDGET TRANSFER:

Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve budget transfer Number 50 for \$425,000 by the Transportation Department to allocate fuel costs for the Home-to-School bus routes.

**KPSAA HIGH SCHOOL
HANDBOOK REVISIONS:**

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve an ASAA proposal to raise the soccer season game limit from 12 to 16 games.

RESIGNATION:

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve the resignation of Cheryl Hobart-Verkuilen, physical education teacher, Nikiski Middle/High, effective January 16, 2007.

MOTION

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 5. Mr. Hatch seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**FIREWEED ACADEMY
CHARTER SCHOOL
REAPPLICATION:**

(8:02:58 PM)

Mr. Glen Szymoniak presented Fireweed Academy Charter School's request for reapplication.

Ms. Kiki Abrahamson, Fireweed Academy Charter School teacher, reported that a recent fundraiser earned \$12,000 to pay for field trips, and other expenses. She reported that requests from parents have prompted the request to expand to Kindergarten through Grade 2 and Grades 7 through 10. She recommended a book titled, *A Mind At a Time* and read an excerpt regarding honoring the diversity of minds.

Mr. Tony Lewis, Kaleidoscope parent, asked the Board to approve all three charter school reapplications. He expressed concern for serious problems with student demographics within charter schools and suggested that policies be developed that encourage the same demographics in all schools.

Mrs. Patty Rich, Soldotna Elementary custodian and parent, asked about funding of charter schools and disagreed with the amount of money set aside to pay for the services in support charter schools. She suggested that charter schools be required to pay actual costs of services.

Mr. Szymoniak noted that Fireweed Charter School and West Homer Elementary School is a model for shared facilities. He stated that site councils need to be involved in the formulation of a shared facility situation and noted that the Homer Middle School Site Council has not had a chance to consider Fireweed's request to share the facility. He suggested that the Board postpone action until discussions with the Homer Middle Site Council and approve the Fireweed Charter School reapplication with the stipulation that acceptance does not obligate the Board on numbers and space.

MOTION

Mr. Anderson moved the Board approve the Fireweed Charter School reapplication and to postpone action on the decision of additional space and grade levels until November 20. Dr. Anderson seconded.

**FIREWEED ACADEMY
CHARTER SCHOOL
REAPPLICATION:**

(continued)

Mrs. Downing explained that the charter reapplication process does not commit the Board to specific facilities or the expansion of the program but allows the Fireweed Charter School to exist for another five years. She explained that facility space is negotiated each year and if Fireweed Charter chooses to expand beyond third through eighth grade, the Board will have to take action. She reported that the Charter School Oversight Committee will meet with Homer Middle School community members prior to November and will bring a recommendation back to the Board.

Mr. Szymoniak explained that a one-year addendum to the charter school contract contains expansion language that is negotiated each year and added that the contract is only a management tool. Mr. Szymoniak explained that a second addendum to the Fireweed Charter School will address shared space at Homer Middle School.

Motion carried unanimously.

**AURORA BOREALIS
CHARTER SCHOOL
REAPPLICATION:**

(8:26:09 PM)

Mr. Glen Szymoniak presented Aurora Borealis Charter School's request for reapplication.

Mr. Larry Semmens, Aurora Borealis Charter School Academic Policy Committee chairperson, stated that he is proud of the charter school and pleased with the education his children have received. He stated that he is thankful for the District's vision of charter schools and recognized the hard work that has been put in to developing policies.

Mr. Tony Lewis, Kaleidoscope Charter School Academic Policy Committee chairperson, expressed concern for the Aurora Borealis Charter School discipline policy and the process for student expulsion and stated that it should be the responsibility of the Board.

Mr. Everett Atkins asked whether charter schools are receiving the money that they are entitled to.

MOTION

Mr. Anderson moved the Board approve the Aurora Borealis Charter School reapplication. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**SOLDOTNA MONTESSORI
CHARTER SCHOOL
REAPPLICATION:**

(8:30:04 PM)

MOTION

Mr. Glen Szymoniak presented Soldotna Montessori Charter School's request for reapplication.

Mrs. Downing moved the Board approve the Soldotna Montessori Charter School reapplication. Mr. Hatch seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**2007 LEGISLATIVE
PRIORITIES:**

(8:32:29 PM)

Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve the list of 2007 state and federal legislative priorities.

**2007 LEGISLATIVE
PRIORITIES:**

(continued)

MOTION

Mrs. Hilts recommended the Board approve the 2007 state and federal legislative priorities. Mr. Anderson seconded.

MOTION

Mrs. Brown moved the Board approve a division of the question. Mrs. Hohl seconded.

VOTE:

Advisory Vote – ABSTAIN

YES – Brown, Hohl

NO – Downing, N. Anderson, Hatch, M. Anderson, Hilts, Crawford, Mullins

Motion failed.

MOTION

Mrs. Brown moved the Board delete the paragraph titled, Providing Accountability for all School Age Children of the State, on the 2007 state legislative priorities list. Motion died for lack of a second.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION:

Advisory Vote – YES

YES – Hilts, M. Anderson, Crawford, Downing, Hatch, N. Anderson, Hohl, Mullins

NO – Brown

Motion carried.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/
COMMENTS:**

(8:42:12 PM)

Mrs. Mullins recognized former Board member, Susan Larned.

Mrs. Jenny Hammond expressed support for the legislative priority of requiring educational accountability for all school-aged children and the state and federal priority of health care for all children.

Mr. Larry Semmens expressed support for the legislative priorities especially the priority addressing the Alaska unfunded PERS and TRS liability. He introduced himself as a member of the Alaska Retirement Management Board (ARM) and reviewed escalating retirement costs and the work of the ARM Board.

Mr. Everett Atkins, Ridgeway resident, suggested that state and federal employees on the Social Security system pay part of the retirement costs. He asked the Board to remove the teaching of the Darwin Theory from the District curriculum.

BOARD COMMENTS:
(8:51:10 PM)

Mrs. Brown thanked Mr. Atkins for his comments and suggested the Board consider the Darwin Theory issue when the science curriculum is reviewed in the 2007-2008 school year. She stated that she is pleased that the District is continuing to support charter schools. She expressed concern for the brevity of the Board minutes and asked how the public can access an audio record of previously held meetings. She asked for the cost charged to the public for a copy of the meeting audio. She stated that the 2007 State and Federal Legislative Priorities have serious flaws and deal with topics that the Board has no business addressing. She stated that she also disagrees with AASB Resolutions.

Dr. Anderson stated that he encourages educational accountability because all students deserve the right to an education. He expressed caution for teaching religion and science. He stated that medicine is not and never will be a free enterprise system and that society will not solve the problem of escalating medical costs through free enterprise.

Mrs. Downing suggested that Mrs. Brown discuss the issue of the minutes with other Board members and administration to understand how the decision was made since she was unable to attend the meeting in which the topic was discussed. She recommended the book titled, *A Mind at a Time*, and added that it is a wonderful book that provides an understanding how minds are all different at different times. She thanked Mrs. Doris Cannon and Mr. Sam Stewart for accelerating the math curriculum review.

Mrs. Hohl provided a report of the PTA Legislative Issues Conference and noted that she attended sessions regarding obesity, land trusts, parent involvement, and the group chose legislative priorities. She noted that the delegate from Hope mentioned teleconferencing or webcasting.

Miss Ames noted that \$865,857 was saved by cutting thirteen buses since the 2003-2004 school year. She stated that the parallel block scheduling system seems to be good for elementary students because of the small class sizes and the integration of the different groups of schools. She expressed support for the educational accountability is a good legislative priority. She stated that she was pleased to see the public interest and community support in District schools as evidenced by the testimony provided at the meeting.

Mr. Anderson thanked Kaleidoscope Charter School staff for the presentation. He welcomed Mrs. Hohl to the Board. He expressed support for the health care and educational accountability legislative priorities approved by the Board. He thanked the Sterling and Funny River area voters for reelecting him to the Board for another term.

BOARD COMMENTS:
(continued)

Mrs. Hilts thanked Mr. Semmens for his comments regarding the Alaska retirement system and added that without financial assistance from somewhere, the Board will not be able to lower pupil/teacher ratio. She stated that Indian students nationwide are underperforming, but much work is being done to provide a solution and added that the nation is dealing with NCLB mandates and are trying to raise test scores. She encouraged those present to do more to help Indian students.

Mr. Hatch stated that there is a compelling need for all Alaskan children to get a good education and that there must be accountability on all fronts. He reported on visits to Mt. View Elementary, Soldotna Elementary, Nikiski Elementary and Nikiski North Star Elementary schools, and added that he is proud to be associated with the KPBSD because all students are on task and happily learning. He thanked District teachers for doing an excellent job.

Mrs. Crawford congratulated all returning Board members and new Board member, Mrs. Hohl. She congratulated Mrs. Douglas for the national recognition and thanked Dr. Peterson for being a presenter at the ASBO International Conference. She thanked Dr. Peterson for nominating the District for the NSBA Magna Award. She thanked Mr. Wykis for the Kaleidoscope Charter School presentation. She thanked the charter school staff members and parents for their testimony. She stated that school visitations are exciting and added that she is proud to be a Board member. She encouraged Board members to begin their scheduled school visits. She explained that AASB resolutions are developed by member districts throughout Alaska and do not come from office staff. She noted that she has received several calls and letters regarding substitute pay and added that she would like to discuss the matter during the budget process.

Mrs. Mullins appointed herself to the Secondary Language Arts Curriculum Committee and Dr. Anderson to the Math K-12 Curriculum Committee.

Mrs. Mullins thanked those present for testifying at the Board meeting. She expressed appreciation for the presentations and questions. She reported that she attended the Association of School Business Officials International Conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She reported that many of the conference sessions were germane to school board work. She reported that Mrs. Douglas is highly respected. She attended a session provided by Dr. Peterson. She commended Dr. Peterson and Mrs. Douglas for a job well done.

ADJOURN:
(9:13:24 PM)

At 9:13 p.m., Dr. Anderson moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mr. Hatch seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Debra Mullins, President

Mrs. Liz Downing, Clerk

The Minutes of October 23, 2006,
were approved on November 6, 2006
as written.