

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Kenai Elementary Consolidation Steering Committee
March 27, 2007, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Mt. View Elementary School Library

Committee Members from Sears Elementary

Principal: John Cook

Secretary: Kimb Remsen

Parent: Tina Patterson

Teacher: Cindy Thomas

Committee Members from Mt. View Elementary

Principal: Jim Dawson

Support Staff: Koreena Ortiz

Parent: Trudy Jones

Teacher: Berni Wensley

Joe Arness

Doris Cannon

Laurie Wood

Others: Jim White Director, Information Services

The meeting was called to order by Joe Arness at 4:05 pm.

An agenda for the meeting was handed out to committee members.

Doris Cannon would like to correct a section in the meeting minutes from March 13th, 2007 meeting. Bob Vanderwege is not schedule to attend the March 27th, 2007 meeting.

Joe Arness announced that he wanted to make note of the fact that he understands the public has questions regarding the administrator choice for the new school. The committee does not make any decisions regarding the administrator. He wanted to make it really clear that this is not the venue for these questions. The committee has no responsibility, no authority, and no reason to bring that discussion into this room. These meetings are for a new school for next year and we need to be positive towards that goal. Any discussion regarding the new administrator will be ruled out of order.

Doris clarified her responses to last weeks questions of carpet replacement and name change funding.

Doris introduces Jim White, Director of Information Services for the District.

Joe Arness asked John Cook regarding move update.

John Cook stated he has received emails with regards to classroom preference and grade level teaching. John stated he needs a staffing list from Human Resource Department regarding teachers, support staff, etc. Teachers at Sears started packing up rooms over Spring Break. A staging place is needed to store these boxes that have been packed already. Sears teachers are also looking for packing materials.

Trudy Jones asked when the new school would have a list of teachers for registration for parents to review. Doris Cannon said that is a Human Resource Department issue. John Cook spoke with Tim Peterson, Director of Human Resource after the committee meeting. Mr. Peterson gave Mr. Cook a certified staffing list for the new school.

Doris Cannon asked the committee if they would like answers to questions emailed as soon as she receives the answers or if they would like her to wait until the following meeting? The committee agreed that the answers would be better emailed as soon as possible.

Cindy Thomas asked for the specific instructions on how to pack. (ie. Labeling, packing up complete desk, file cabinets, etc.)

Doris Cannon stated she will find out specifics of packing instructions from maintenance and provide instructions to committee to pass out.

Joe Arness asked Doris about school start time.

Doris Cannon suggested that she invite a staff member from the Transportation Department to attend the next consolidation meeting to assist in answering questions.

Jim White stated there will be 203 new/used computers given to the new school to replace 203 old computers from both schools. Replacing most used computers first. Information Services has requested a site map for each classroom showing where computer will be placed and a list of software needed for that computer. Information Services will disconnect and pack up all computers (please leave computers connected).

John Cook asked if the wiring infrastructure will support two computer labs.

Jim White said the new school was wired for the Arctic Winter Games so it will support two labs.

Joe Arness asked if the computers that are being replaced go into the GS Lab at new school. Jim stated that the monitors are not being replaced just the CPU. If the school would like to use the old computers in the GS Lab they would need to replace monitors and software for those computers. The school will receive 150.00 per new computer for software purchases. It will cost at least 250.00 per computer for a monitor and software to prepare the old computers for GS Lab.

Name Change:

Bernie Wensley stated that the possible perceived notion in community is that we are spending money on a name change when that money can be going into a classroom. In addition she requested that if it does go to a ballot or vote can Mt. View be put on the ballot.

Kimb Remsen requested that Sears needs to be put on the ballot as well.

John Cook suggested name change as a new beginning and opportunity for school and community.

Tina Patterson talked to parents at Nikiski Northstar and they said the name change of their school was a positive experience and helped with the bonding of the two schools.

Doris Cannon asked if name change was a problem with information services and Jim White stated it was not a big deal. She also stated that she has only received 4 emails regarding name change and asked committee to describe the feed back they received from the public

Korina Ortiz produced a notebook of collected responses regarding the name change from Mt. View students, community and staff.

Public response

1. Mt. View will always be known as Mt. View no matter if name is changed.
2. All kids come from Sears and go to Mt. View anyways so why change the name.
3. Staff at Mt. View feel the school can be called anything, they want to make new teachers to feel happy.
4. Do not have both names placed on ballot, because that makes it too competitive We are supposed to be blending the schools not keeping them divided.

Joe Arness took a vote of whether or not there should be a name change.

4 voted for a survey for a name, mascot, and color change.

4 voted for leaving the name at Mt. View.

Joe voted to move on with a name change with Sears and Mt. View both being on the ballot.

Topics for next weeks meeting:

Create a ballot for name, mascot and color change

Joe will contact Lori Manion to see if she will come in to discuss process of name change for Nikiski Northstar.

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 pm