



**Kenai Peninsula Borough School District
Legislative Committee Meeting Notes
August 5, 2013
12:30 – 1:30 p.m.
Borough Administration Building
Conference Room C**

ATTENDANCE:

Dr. Steve Atwater, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Sean Dusek, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Dave Jones, Assistant Superintendent
Mrs. Liz Downing, Committee Chair
Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Committee Member
Mr. Tim Navarre, Committee Member
Ms. Pegge Erkeneff, Communications Specialist
Mrs. Debbie Tressler, Admin. Secretary/Sup't./School Board

The meeting convened at 12:37 p.m.

**UNFINISHED
BUSINESS:**

Committee goals - This topic was postponed.

**AASB
RESOLUTIONS:**

Dr. Atwater stated that the District's 2013 resolution recommendations, questions, and comments will be discussed at the afternoon's worksession. The final resolutions will be voted on at the Sept. 9, Board meeting.

Mrs. Downing recommended dividing the resolution categories between the three committee members in order to facilitate review and recommendations.

Governance and Funding – Mr. Navarre
Child advocacy and personnel – Mrs. Downing
Educational programs – Mrs. Crawford

The committee held an open discussions that included:

AASB Resolution 4.14 Teacher Tenure

- TERS vestment is 5 years – 5 years tenure would match; Challenges from grant funded teaching positions that earn tenure and then require placement by district without appropriated funding.
- Two extra years allows for professional development for struggling teachers.
- Should Board recommend a possible 4 year tenure compromise?
- New state evaluation system would benefit from 5 year requirement
- The District only has 5-6 non-retained teachers each year.
- Using “lack of” tenure as an easy staff reduction process is not a KPBSD policy or procedure.

AASB Resolution 4.15 Teacher Evaluations:

- KPBSD evaluation process is good.
- Consider expanding the resolution to include “a greater level of support to DEED... for assessment, standards and other programs” as DEED does not have the capacity to implement the new programs.

AASB Resolution 2.17 Insurance Costs:

Benefits to state health insurance:

- District could add additional benefits and different tiers offered and an employee can opt to take extra costs back if choosing small plan vs. large plan when large plan is paid.
- Increases ownership to employees – e.g. emergency room visits when not needed.
- Would save district time and money.
- State offers ability to reduce medical costs by negotiating for a pool of 49,000 (state) vs. 1,200 (district); Alaska medical costs are 35% higher than the rest of the nation.
- State has a vested interest in employee health as they cover retirees.

Concerns that have been voiced by other parties:

- Impacts NEA trust.
- Concerned that the fund will go broke, similar to the PERS/TERS programs.
- Other points:
- Commissioner Becky Hultberg will meet with the Health Care Committee in Sept.

Mrs. Downing would like to see a joint effort and have teacher support.

AASB Resolution 2.11 Instructional Technology

- District needs to be part of the process and have control of its choices not have AASB do it for us but support us.
- There are concerns over the need for the funding to be permanent.
- APQC will evaluate the District’s technology, people/infrastructure vs. classroom instruction.
- We need a plan for handheld devices and to coordinate professional development, Information Services, and instruction.
- Rewrite this resolution to include the District’s vision.

School choice:

Mrs. Downing discussed legislative upcoming events regarding school choice.

Concerns about radical ideas/decisions.

Should charter school be state schools or district schools?

Mrs. Downing, Mr. Navarre, and Mrs. Crawford will work on the recommendations for their assigned components and have them ready for the September 9, Board meeting.

**OTHER
DISCUSSIONS AS
NEEDED:**

Dr. Atwater thanked Mrs. Tressler for acting as notetaker for the meeting and stated that he will talk to the department directors regarding assigning one of their staff to act as notetaker for future meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:32 p.m.

NOTETAKER:

Debbie Tressler