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# Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes

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September 8, 2008 – 7:00 p.m.  
Regular Meeting

Homer High School  
600 E. Fairview, Homer, Alaska

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

**STAFF PRESENT:** Dr. Donna Peterson, Superintendent of Schools  
Mrs. Melody Douglas, Chief Financial Officer  
Mr. Dave Jones, Assistant Superintendent  
Mr. Steve Atwater, Assistant Superintendent

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Mrs. Rayna Duenas	Mr. Charlie Walsworth
Mr. Mick Wykis	Ms. Laura Sheldon
Mr. Dave Larson	Ms. De Patch
Mr. Bill Holt	Ms. Bonnie Powell
Ms. Margie Warner	Mrs. LaDawn Druce

Others present not identified.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mrs. Crawford called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mrs. Crawford invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**NATIONAL ANTHEM:** The Homer High School Swing Choir sang the National Anthem.

**DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT:** Mrs. Downing read the District's mission statement.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** The agenda was approved as written.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The School Board Minutes of August 4, 2008, were approved as printed.

**AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:**

The Board presented Golden Apple Awards to Laura Sheldon, McNeil Canyon Elementary Secretary and De Patch, McNeil Canyon Elementary Teacher for their service to the District.

**SCHOOL REPORT:**

Mrs. Cheryl Schweigert, Nanwalek School, gave a PowerPoint presentation narrated by students, which highlighted dreams and goals of the school, the first basketball team, participation in Native Youth Olympics, field trips paid for by Project GRAD and Gear Up, and their plans to improve attendance. Mr. Vladimir Moonin told of his Upward Bound experience at the University of Alaska Fairbanks during the past summer; Miss Kirsten Huntsman told of her Project GRAD experience in Homer during the past summer; Miss Mia Moonin-Wilson described the one-week Alaska Native Science Education Program (ANSEP) Pre-College Building Lab experience she attended in Anchorage. Miss Vanessa Stanley and Mr. Gus Ukatish told of their experiences at the Sitka Fine Arts Camp and Miss Elizabeth Evans told about her summer job with JTPA and her plans for the future. Mrs. Schweigert provided assessment information and noted that writing is an area of school improvement. The students concluded the report by singing a song in Sugt'stun, titled *Uggia*.

Mrs. Rayna Duenas, Homer High principal, and Miss Brittney Wyatt, student body president, gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting student learning, the variety of courses, student activities, assessment, community events, maintenance of school facility, student culture and diversity, and the student council goal of improving school spirit. The presentation was tied to the School Board's 2008-2009 goals.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:**

Mrs. Leah Handley distributed a packet of materials and spoke to the Board about a discipline issue regarding her son. Mrs. Crawford asked her to refrain from any further comments since the matter is a legal issue and may involve the Board as hearing officers at a later date. The information packets were collected and returned to Mrs. Handley.

**HEARING OF DELEGATIONS:**

Ms. Bonnie Powell, Project GRAD executive director, announced that federal funding is secure for the next five years. She reported that 46 students attended the summer institute held in Homer in conjunction with the Kachemak Bay Campus, and thanked Homer businesses for their support of the job shadow program. She reported on Project GRAD students who are in their first and second years of college and noted that it is difficult for students to secure funding for the second year. She reported that the program has been so successful that the latest challenge is to raise additional scholarship funds. She presented a picture to Dr. Peterson that was taken during the summer institute.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Brown moved the Board overrule the decision of the president and allow Mrs. Handley and others to speak about the discipline issue. Mr. Hatch seconded.

## VOTE TO OVERRULE THE PRESIDENT:

YES - Brown

NO - Hilts, Hohl, N. Anderson, M. Anderson, Downing, Hatch,  
Mullins, Crawford

Motion failed.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND  
PETITIONS:**

Dr. Peterson noted that the Board information packet contains a copy of the decision regarding Proposition 1 (Term Limits), a copy of the 2008-2009 District administration organization and responsibilities. She reported that she received a last-minute communication from the Commissioner of Education regarding the Education Summit on November 13 and 14 to draft the statewide education plan. She noted that the District Assessment Report, which was presented earlier during the Board worksession, will be available on the District website. She announced that for the second year in a row the District has made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) as part of the No Child Left Behind Act.

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

Ms. Margie Warner, KPESA president, noted that KPBSD representatives are conducting school visits and gathering information from the membership in preparation for the upcoming contract negotiation.

Mrs. Druce, KPEA president, noted that during the school visits teachers are expressing appreciation for the class size reduction this school year. She thanked those who contacted legislators advocating for additional funding. She thanked Mrs. Brown, Dr. Anderson and Mrs. Mullins for their service on the Board. She noted that there are excellent candidates for the upcoming elections to the school board, senate and house seats. She noted that there have been certification issues within the Department of Education and Early Development, and has drafted a joint letter from the large associations and the National Education Association (NEA)-Alaska to Commissioner LeDoux stating their concerns. She noted that September 9 is first building representative meeting. She announced that the local Association opposes Proposition 1 because, if passed, it will affect School District funding. She expressed concern for the Board goal relating to individual learning plans for students and asked the Board not to overburden teachers.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT:**

Dr. Peterson presented the Leadership Team Work Plans which help manage the Leadership Team workload. She noted that the District had a smooth start up with 9,156 students. She announced that auditors are conducting the annual review of District financial records. She reported that she recently attended the Department of Education and Early Development Instructional Audit Stakeholder meeting in Anchorage.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

Mrs. Douglas presented the financial report of the District for the period ending July 31, 2008.

**BOARD REPORTS:**

Mrs. Downing reported that she attended the Charter School Oversight Committee and that the group discussed the Kaleidoscope Charter School reapplication.

Mrs. Hilts reported that she attended the first of several parent advisory committee and site council meetings in Seldovia. She reported that the site council is developing a mission statement, and is working on the application of "Failure is Not an Option" to Susan B. English Elementary/High.

Mrs. Crawford reported that she attended a meeting of community members and two assembly members in which the group discussed school consolidation in order to save money. She noted that Skyview High parents were concerned that their school was the target of consolidation. She reported that the meeting was successful and added that the group discussed the importance of Skyview High School because it serves a unique group of students. She provided statistics confirming that the school districts save money when they keep kids in school rather than at a detention facility.

Mrs. Mullins reported that she met with two auditors along with Mrs. Douglas to talk about the district's financial reporting systems and added that she anticipates a clean account.

**BOARD WORKSESSION REPORT:**

Mrs. Crawford reported that the Board heard the Assessment Report, discussed the Kaleidoscope Charter School reapplication, held a worksession on principal/teacher positions and hockey as a cocurricular activity in village schools. She noted that in attendance at all worksessions were Mrs. Crawford, Mrs. Mullins, Dr. Anderson, Ms. Hohl, Mr. Hatch, Mrs. Downing and Mrs. Hilts. Mrs. Brown arrived to participate in the hockey in the village schools worksession.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of New Teacher Contracts, New Administrator Contract, Nontenure Teacher Contracts, Requests for Leave of Absence-Support, and Resignations.

**NEW TEACHER CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve teaching contracts for Holly Abel, school psychologist, Districtwide, Central Peninsula; Camille Hill, school psychologist, Districtwide; Reubin Payne, (temporary) generalist, Connections; Stacy Naden, (temporary) art teacher .50 FTE, Homer High School; Matthew Tucker, special education resource teacher, Homer High School; Wanda L. Griechen, (temporary) Migrant teacher, Grades 3-12, Homer Middle and West Homer Elementary; Daniel Olson, .50 FTE language arts/social studies teacher, Homer Middle School; Jordan Fink, science/math teacher, Kenai Alternative; Steve Fischer, vocational education teacher, Kenai Middle School; Margaret Gilman, language arts teacher, Kenai Middle School; Maureen Wilkinson, elementary interventionist teacher .50 FTE, McNeil Canyon; Caitlin Caffall, (temporary) Grade 2 teacher, Mountain View Elementary; Robin Castleman, special education intensive needs teacher,

**NEW TEACHER CONTRACTS:**  
(continued)

Mountain View Elementary; Sarah Kantrud, Grade 2/3 teacher, Mountain View Elementary; Marcy True, special education teacher, structured primary, Mountain View Elementary; Timothy McFarland, music teacher, Mountain View Elementary; Shana Butler, .50 FTE art teacher, Nikiski Middle/High; Robert Ernst, special education resource teacher, Nikiski Middle/High; Tricia Young, (temporary) Title I teacher, Nikiski North Star Elementary; Joanna M. Greene, (temporary) .50 FTE Title I teacher and (permanent) .50 FTE Middle School generalist, Ninilchik School; Joseph Taylor, Grade 4 teacher, Redoubt Elementary; Kyle Schneider, music teacher, Seward Elementary and Seward High School; Erin Sterley, Grade 3-4 teacher, Seward Elementary; Barry Hartman, vocational education teacher, Skyview High School; Elizabeth Reiter, credit recovery teacher, Skyview High School; Nicholas Christensen, science teacher, Soldotna Middle School; Richard Forcum, vocational education teacher, Soldotna Middle School; Audrey Gray, primary grade teacher, Tebughna School; Sarah P. Ford, (permanent) .50 FTE and (temporary) .50 FTE intermediate grade teacher, Tebughna School; and Terry Day, .50 FTE (permanent) interventionist and .50 FTE (temporary) Title I teacher, Tustumena Elementary.

**NEW ADMINISTRATOR CONTRACT:**

Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve an administrator contract for Curtis E. Schmidt as the Skyview High School assistant principal.

**NONTENURE TEACHER CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve tentative nontenured teacher contracts for Diane Warner, social studies, Homer High and David Patat, science teacher, Ninilchik Elementary/High School.

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

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve unpaid leave of absence requests from Effimia Litvin, ELL tutor, Kachemak Selo (2008-2009 school year), Debbie Baxter, special education aide, Kenai Alternative High (2008-2009 school year), and Rebecca Jackson, school nurse, Mountain View Elementary (beginning September 8, 2008).

**RESIGNATIONS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve resignations from Vicki Abraham, migrant teacher, Homer Middle (effective August 6, 2008) and Wayne B. Clark, Spanish teacher, Seward High (effective the end of the 2007-2008 school year).

**MOTION**

Mrs. Downing moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 5. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**KALEIDOSCOPE CHARTER SCHOOL REAPPLICATION:**

By memorandum, Mr. Jones presented the Kaleidoscope School of Arts and Sciences charter reapplication recommendation.

**MOTION**

Mr. Hatch moved the Board approve the reapplication of the Kaleidoscope School of Arts and Sciences and that it be forwarded to the State of Alaska Board of Education. Mr. Anderson seconded.

**KALEIDOSCOPE CHARTER SCHOOL REAPPLICATION:**  
(continued)

Mrs. Crawford announced that this section of the meeting would be considered the public hearing of the Kaleidoscope Charter School reapplication and asked if anyone in the audience would like to speak to the reapplication.

Mrs. Misty Hamilton, APC Chairperson, reported that the school has grown to 233 students, has great staff members, parents and students and thanked the Board for their support.

Motion carried unanimously.

**AASB CORE RESOLUTIONS:**

Mrs. Crawford explained that the 2009 AASB Belief Statements and Core Resolutions are presented to the Board for consideration.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve the proposed revised 2009 AASB Belief Statements and Core Resolutions including the changes proposed by Mrs. Hilts to Resolution 2.3 (Urging Consideration of Issues Identified by the Joint Legislative Education Funding Task Force) and Belief Statement 19 (Civic Responsibility) as outlined on the cover memorandum. Mrs. Hilts seconded.

**MOTION**

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve an amendment to the Child Advocacy section labeled 3-21., Addressing Alaska's Childhood Overweight and Obesity Problem. Mr. Anderson seconded.

Amendment carried unanimously.

**MOTION**

Ms. Hohl moved the Board approve an amendment to the Education Programs section, 5.8., Encourage Districts to Adopt the National Standards for Parent/Family Involvement Programs. Mrs. Brown seconded.

Amendment carried unanimously.

**VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION:**

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

NO – Brown

Motion carried.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

Mr. Anderson thanked the Homer High School swing choir for singing the National Anthem. He stated that he is in his sixth year on the Board and hasn't always been happy about all of the Board's decisions but is happy to be part of a democracy and a government that works.

**BOARD COMMENTS:***(continued)*

Mrs. Brown thanked the school staff and students for the presentations and added that she is impressed with the Nanwalek students for their individual reports. She noted that the District has a great group of teachers who are excited about the new school year and thanked the administrators and teachers for their hard work. She congratulated the Kaleidoscope Charter School for the approval of their reapplication.

Ms. Hohl thanked the students and staff for the school presentations. She reported that she attended the AASB audio conference on resolutions and the Failure is Not an Option in July. She asked Dr. Peterson how the community member will be chosen to serve on the Education Summit. She stated that she felt uncomfortable hearing the student discipline testimony but felt that the Board should err on the side of caution on the chance that the issue will be brought before them in a hearing. She suggested that a scripted statement be developed if the same incident comes up again. She thanked the Board for supporting parent involvement resolution.

Mr. Hatch thanked Nanwalek Elementary/High students and staff for the presentation. He stated that he was uncomfortable about halting Mrs. Handley's testimony and suggested that the Board find a mechanism for letting the public know what is appropriate for the Board to hear and what is not.

Mrs. Hilts expressed appreciation for the Nanwalek Elementary/High School and Homer High School reports and commended the students for their participation. She stated that she will visit Nanwalek School in the future.

Dr. Anderson thanked the public for the opportunity to serve on the Board and noted that this will be his last time to come to Homer as a School Board member.

Mrs. Mullins thanked the Nanwalek School students for their school report and added that she is very proud of them and especially appreciated their singing. She thanked the Homer Swing Choir for singing the National Anthem. She stated that she has been coming to Homer for 12 years as a Board member and this will be her last trip. She congratulated District staff for achieving AYP.

Mrs. Downing reported that the Board moved one step closer to identifying some potential solutions to providing hockey for students who attend schools in the outlying Russian Villages. She celebrated the great news regarding reliable funding for Project GRAD. She expressed appreciation for the Nanwalek School and Homer High presentations. She asked administrators and teachers to invite her to special events and site council meetings.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

*(continued)*

Mrs. Crawford assigned Ms. Hohl to the World Language Curriculum Committee and she appointed herself to the Social Studies Curriculum Committee. She thanked the Nanwalek School and Homer High students and staff for the reports. She stated that it is exciting to be part of a large district that achieves AYP. She noted that the Leadership Team Work Plans are phenomenal. She thanked Ms. Powell for the Project GRAD update.

**ADJOURN:**

At 8:55 p.m., Mr. Hatch moved the School Board meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mrs. Sammy Crawford, President

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Mr. Marty Anderson, Clerk

The Minutes of September 8, 2008,  
have not been approved as of  
September 16, 2008.