
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes

October 6, 2008 – 7:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting

Borough Administration Building
148 N. Binkley, Soldotna, Alaska

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 Theresa Ramponi, Student Representative

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Mr. Lee Young | Mrs. Doris Cannon |
| Mr. John O'Brien | Mr. Doug Cannon |
| Mr. Tim Peterson | Mr. Mark Peterson |
| Mrs. LaDawn Druce | Mr. Joe Gallagher |
| Mrs. Pam Lazenby | Ms. Meg Carter |
| Mr. Bill Holt | Mrs. Penny Vadla |
| Ms. Sasha Lindgren | Mrs. Margie Warner |
| Mrs. Norma Holmgaard | |

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Mrs. Crawford called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
(7:00:08 PM)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mrs. Crawford invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.
(7:00:23 PM)

DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT: Mrs. Mullins read the District's mission statement.
(7:00:49 PM)

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 |
| Miss Theresa Ramponi | Present |

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:*(7:01:56 PM)*

The agenda was approved with the deletion of Item 3a., Tebughna Elementary/School Report, the addition of 10a.(13), Approval of a Request for Unpaid Leave of Absence, the addition of Item 10d., Approval of AASB Outstanding School Board Member Award, and the renumbering of the previous Item 10d. to be Item 10e., Approval of 2009 Federal and State Legislative Priorities.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:*(7:03:16 PM)*

The School Board Minutes of September 8, 2008, were approved as printed.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:*(7:03:31 PM)*

Mrs. Crawford presented plaques of appreciation for Board service to Dr. Anderson, Mrs. Mullins, Mrs. Brown and Mr. Hatch. Dr. Anderson, Mrs. Brown and Mr. Hatch provided comments and thanked those present for the opportunity to serve.

SCHOOL REPORT:*(7:15:48 PM)*

Mr. Lee Young, Connections Home School Program principal, gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting student enrollment, program growth, AYP achievement, assessment scores and dispelled myths about homeschooled students. Miss Haiden Perkins read the testimony provided by Mrs. Sheri Perkins, Site Council Chairperson, regarding the reasons to choose homeschooling. Mr. Young announced that the Connections Program is striving to become the exclusive home school option for students who live on the Kenai Peninsula and will continue to collaborate with all schools to meet the needs of all KPBSD students. He thanked the School Board for their support.

RECESS:*(7:32:27 PM)*

At 7:32 p.m., Mrs. Crawford called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER**RECESS:***(7:34:48 PM)*

At 7:34 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:*(7:34:55 PM)*

Ms. Jacqueline Blom, Connections Program parent, related a success story with her daughter and home schooling through the Connections Program.

Mrs. Colleen Puch, First Student bus driver, noted that for the past 3 years the start up of school has been very bad and feels that the Edulog Software System is to blame because the routes were changed and are no longer safe.

Ms. Pam Lashley, First Student bus driver, listed several safety issues along her bus route including sitting on the bus for 10 minutes fully loaded with students.

Mrs. Donnie Gragert, First Student bus driver, stated that supervisors have spoken to each other but the problems have not been solved. She reported that morale at First Student is bad and that they do not like to have to deal with the District transportation staff.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:*(continued)*

Mrs. Janette Herrin, First Student bus driver, reported that school start ups have become progressively worse and asked to have the routing authority back with the First Student dispatcher instead of the District.

Mrs. Camille Taylor, First Student bus driver, reported that problems with a Nikiski route were not corrected for 3 weeks and the students were continuously late. She asked to meet with the District Administration as soon as possible.

Mrs. Karen Godfrey, First Student bus driver, reported that too much time is given to drive her route, the streets are in the wrong order, and is frustrated that it is taking so long to get it corrected.

Ms. Sherry Heath, First Student bus driver, reported that the biggest problem is the routing software because it does not account for extenuating circumstances, it doesn't reason, and it is not flexible. She asked the administration to listen to driver input.

HEARING OF DELEGATIONS:*(8:02:42 PM)*

Mr. Joe Gallagher, 2008 United Way Campaign Chair, thanked Dr. Peterson and Mrs. Druce for their cooperation and announced that the group will visit each school to talk to all staff. He summarized the assistance provided to 29 non-profit agencies by the Kenai Peninsula United Way and noted that the 2009 Goal is \$750,000.

Ms. Sasha Lindgren, Kenaitze Indian Tribe program director, introduced the executive director, Jaylene Peterson-Nyren, and explained the services provided to District youth by the Kenaitze Indian Tribe and their focus on healthy life choices and educational success. She reported that Title VII funds provided a week-long summer art camp at Spirit Lake in which participants had the opportunity to earn .5 high school credit. She hopes to expand the program to include more activities and more students and invited the Board to visit and participate in the Tribe's camps. She reported that during the last school year the Tribe presented more than 100 hours of cultural programs and Native youth demonstrations at local schools. Ms. Peterson-Nyren thanked Dr. Peterson and Mrs. Holmaard for their work with the Kenaitze Indian Tribe over the past year.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:*(8:13:40 PM)*

Dr. Peterson reported that the bus driver complaints are new to the administration and assured those present that they will be taken seriously. She noted that First Student transports students over 7,000 miles of roads each day. She reported that the administration transferred almost \$1 million from the general fund to the transportation budget for costs which has caused more vigilance by the District. She acknowledged that the administration and drivers have the same goal of safe, efficient transportation for all students. She stated that the administration will work to resolve the issues and a follow up report will be made to the Board. She reported that the District's special education received the top designation that can be earned by a school district in the Alaska State Performance Plan Indicators and was the only

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:*(continued)*

one to meet the requirement for two years in a row. She noted that the process for selecting Mr. Hatch's replacement is in the information packet as well as the FY10 budget development calendar. She noted that the joint meeting with the Borough Assembly is scheduled for a date in February. She noted that the budget survey is available until October 31.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SITE COUNCIL AND/OR P.T.A., K.P.A.A., K.P.E.A., K.P.E.S.A, BOROUGH ASSEMBLY:*(8:17:53 PM)*

Mrs. LaDawn Druce, KPEA president, asked the Board to add the certification issue to the legislative priority list. She reported that a letter was sent to the Commissioner of Education from the NEA state president and the association presidents of the large districts stating their concerns about the certification process. She reported that the NEA state president sent another strongly-worded letter to the commissioner and will be contacting superintendents statewide asking them to collaborate their efforts. She thanked the departing board members for their service. She welcomed Miss Ramponi as the new student representative. She reported that the Associations are working with the District on the United Way campaign. She expressed appreciation for the invitation to the Commissioner's Summit on Education in November.

Mrs. Margie Warner, KPESA president, thanked the departing board members and welcomed Miss Ramponi. She thanked Dr. Peterson for the opportunity to cosponsor the United Way Campaign along with KPAA, KPEA, and KPBSD. She reported that she is continuing the building visits throughout the District.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:*(8:25:49 PM)*

Dr. Peterson provided an update regarding the certification issues with the Department of Education and Early Development and urged those who are seeking recertification to keep copies of everything submitted, use certified mail, and apply six months in advance. She reported that the Districtwide Student Government Conference was held on September 22 and that Miss Ramponi was selected to serve as the student representative to the Board. She reported that the September 24 Administrator Meeting included a webinar with Robert Marzano and was very successful. She reported that she and other District staff have conducted many school visits. She reported that she and Dr. Atwater recently attended the Alaska Superintendents' Conference in Sitka and that she will accompany the United States Department of Agriculture Under Secretary Nancy Montanez Johner, while she visits several locations throughout the District.

FINANCIAL REPORT:*(8:29:24 PM)*

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

BOARD REPORTS:*(8:29:56 PM)*

Mr. Anderson reported that there will be a Career Tech meeting at the Economic Development District on October 7 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Mrs. Downing reported that she represented the Board at the Student Government Council Conference that was held at Homer High on September 22. She reported that she attended the Homer Site Council and Parent Group Training provided by Dr. Peterson. She reported that she attended the Charter School Oversight Committee meeting.

BOARD REPORTS:*(continued)*

Mr. Hatch reported that he attended the Charter School Oversight Committee meeting and that the group discussed, in great detail, the charges to charter schools; heard a request from Fireweed Charter School for more space; and heard a request from Soldotna Montessori Charter to replace a derelict building with a portable.

Mrs. Mullins reported that she missed the District Policy Committee meeting because she was attending the ASAA Board of Directors meeting in Anchorage and will submit a written report to the Board.

Ms. Hohl reported that she represented the Board on the World Languages Curriculum Committee.

Mrs. Crawford reported that she is serving on the Social Studies Curriculum Committee and noted that the group is moving away from “seat time” and towards “what students know” and can demonstrate. She reported that she attended the Academy for the AASB and that the topics were on energy costs and enrollment.

BOARD WORKSESSION REPORT:*(8:37:56 PM)*

Mrs. Crawford reported that the Board held several worksessions prior to the formal business meeting, which included the FY09 Legislative Priorities, Career and Technical Education and a demonstration of the One Stop Portal. The Board also heard a presentation by representatives of United Way.

CONSENT AGENDA:*(8:41:11 PM)*

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Resolution 08-09-1, Primary Sponsor of Gaming Permits; Student Representative to the Board; New Teacher Contracts; Long-Term Substitute Teacher Contracts; Administrative Recommendation Regarding Resignations; Resignation; High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2009-01; High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2009-02; High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2009-03; High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2009-04; High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2009-05; School Board Member Resignation (Mr. Hatch); and Leave of Absence Request-Support.

RESOLUTION 08-09-1, PRIMARY SPONSOR OF GAMING PERMITS:

Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve a list of primary and alternative members in charge of gaming for those schools applying for gaming permits for FY09.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE BOARD:

Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve the appointment of Miss Theresa Ramponi, a Skyview High School student, as the student representative to the Board of Education.

NEW TEACHER CONTRACTS:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve teaching assignments for Ingrid K. McKinstry, temporary migrant teacher Grades K-12, Homer Middle; Ranada Hassemer, elementary interventionist teacher, Redoubt Elementary; Marya Tyler, temporary facilitator gifted teacher, Seward Area; Kimberly J. Anderson, permanent .50 FTE/temporary .50 FTE Grade 5 teacher, Seward Elementary; and Amanda J. Brendtro, .50 FTE elementary interventionist teacher, Sterling Elementary.

**LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE
TEACHER CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve long-term substitute teacher contracts for Cas Czarnezki, Grade 6, K-Beach Elementary; Alice Porter, Grade 1, McNeil Canyon Elementary; Lenore Swanson, special education resource, McNeil Canyon Elementary; Paul Zobeck, physical education, Nikiski North Star Elementary; Zada Friedersdorff, home economics, Soldotna Middle School; and Suzanne Goodwill, Grade 6, Sterling Elementary.

**ADMINISTRATIVE
RECOMMENDATION
REGARDING RESIGNATIONS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board deny the resignations of Sarah Ford, intermediate grade teacher, Tebughna School, and Wanda Griechen, migrant teacher, Homer Middle School.

RESIGNATION:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a resignation from Peter A. Papura, music, Nikiski Middle/High, effective September 9, 2008.

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION
QUALIFYING EXAM WAIVER
REQUEST NUMBER 2009-1:**

Dr. Atwater recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Examination Waiver Number 2009-01.

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION
QUALIFYING EXAM WAIVER
REQUEST NUMBER 2009-2:**

Dr. Atwater recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Examination Waiver Number 2009-02.

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION
QUALIFYING EXAM WAIVER
REQUEST NUMBER 2009-3:**

Dr. Atwater recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Examination Waiver Number 2009-03.

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION
QUALIFYING EXAM WAIVER
REQUEST NUMBER 2009-4:**

Dr. Atwater recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Examination Waiver Number 2009-04.

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION
QUALIFYING EXAM WAIVER
REQUEST NUMBER 2009-5:**

Dr. Atwater recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Examination Waiver Number 2009-05.

**SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER
RESIGNATION:**

Mrs. Crawford recommended the Board accept Mr. Bill Hatch's resignation and declare the District 2 seat as vacant.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE-
SUPPORT:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve an unpaid leave of absence request from Olia Basargin, Bilingual/ELL tutor, Razdolna Elementary (effective October 7 through October 31, 2008).

MOTION

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 13. Mr. Anderson seconded.

Mrs. Brown removed Number 5.

Motion carried unanimously on Numbers 1 through 4 and 6 through 12.

CONSENT AGENDA:

(continued)

VOTE ON NUMBER 5:

Advisory Vote – YES

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

NO – Brown

Motion carried on Number 5.

**AASB BOARD OF DIRECTORS
NOMINATION:**

(8:47:34 PM)

Mrs. Hilts submitted a request for approval from the Board for nomination to the Association of Alaska School Boards, Board of Directors.

MOTION

Ms. Hohl moved the Board approve the nomination of Mrs. Hilts to the Association of Alaska School Boards, Board of Directors. Mrs. Downing seconded.

Motion carried unanimously

**AASB BOARD OF DIRECTORS
NOMINATION:**

(8:49:31 PM)

Mrs. Downing submitted a request for approval from the Board for nomination to the Association of Alaska School Boards, Board of Directors.

MOTION

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve the nomination of Mrs. Downing to the Association of Alaska School Boards, Board of Directors. Ms. Hohl seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**AASB OUTSTANDING BOARD
MEMBER NOMINATION:**

(8:51:25 PM)

Mrs. Mullins recommended the Board approve the nomination of Mrs. Crawford for AASB's Outstanding Board Member award.

MOTION

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve the nomination of Mrs. Crawford to the Association of Alaska School Boards Outstanding Board Member. Mrs. Hilts seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**FEDERAL AND STATE
LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES:**

(8:56:14 PM)

Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve a list of proposed FY09 federal and state legislative priorities and noted that the background rationale and wording for the final priorities would be developed by administration in time to be included in the Borough's legislative priority publication.

MOTION

Mrs. Downing moved the Board approve the 2009 federal and state legislative priorities as recommended, with the following modifications: the administration will update the rationale language, particularly on early learning and health care, and the addition to state priorities of intensive needs and the area cost differential as the number one priority. Mrs. Hilts seconded.

MOTION

Mrs. Downing moved the Board close debate on the motion. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

**FEDERAL AND STATE
LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES:**
(continued)

Motion to close debate carried unanimously.

VOTE ON FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES:

Advisory Vote – Yes

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

NO – Brown, M. Anderson

Motion carried.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/
COMMENTS:**
(9:12:58 PM)

Mrs. Shelly Neblack, First Student bus driver, commended the bus company safety personnel and added that when she complained about the safety issues was removed from her route and was told that she was not an aggressive driver. She stated that student safety is the utmost concern and needs to be investigated.

Mrs. Cheryl Hanson, First Student bus attendant, asked whether District transportation personnel has had any experience handling special needs students or driving special needs busses. She expressed frustration over bus scheduling, students riding the wrong bus, and students being delivered to the wrong day care.

BOARD COMMENTS:
(9:19:06 PM)

Ms. Hohl reported that she attended the Seward Parent Group Training provided by Dr. Peterson. She commended the Kenaitze Indian Tribe for the environmental book and calendar that was developed by the youth and elders. She asked the administration for a status of the parent representative selection for the Education Summit.

Mrs. Brown thanked the public for the flowers that were delivered to her prior to the meeting. She also thanked those who sent appreciative letters and emails and noted that they will go in her scrapbook and are one of the joys of public service. She stated that change can happen if people will come forward with their issues. She related a story in which her husband had reported unsafe driving conditions while following school busses. She stated that she hoped that bus drivers who complain about safety issues do not lose their job or have their work hours reduced.

Mr. Anderson welcomed Miss Ramponi to the Board and thanked Mr. Young for the Connections Homeschool Report. He commended Mr. Young for bringing students to the Connections Program from other home school programs. He stated that it has been great to work with Mrs. Mullins and noted that she has been a great partner and disciplinarian. He observed that Mrs. Mullins was serving on the Board when he graduated from Soldotna High School. He thanked Dr. Anderson for being a mentor and sounding board of reason, and that he has the greatest respect for him. He extended best wishes to Mrs. Brown on her future endeavors. He commended Mr. Hatch for his wisdom and balanced approach to many different and difficult issues. He named Mr. Hatch the “fun leader” for bringing fun back into public service. He notified the

BOARD COMMENTS:*(continued)*

Board that if he is successful in his campaign to be chosen as the Borough Assembly representative for the Sterling and Funny River areas, he will resign from the Board immediately after the election and if not, he will be back for one more year.

Mr. Hatch stated that it has been a distinct pleasure to serve on the Board and added that he is humbled with the quality of people that he has had the pleasure to serve with.

Mrs. Hilts thanked the Kenaitze Indian Tribe for their report and to hear of the progress they are making and of their concerns. She stated that she hopes to hear from more tribal representatives. She expressed appreciation for the Connections Homeschool Program presentation and the One Stop Student Portal presentation. She welcomed Miss Ramponi as the new student representative to the Board. She expressed appreciation for the commitment of the First Student bus drivers. She expressed appreciation for the Board members who are leaving and noted that she has been surrounded by people who care for students and that the Board is losing friends and mentors, as well as history.

Dr. Anderson stated that the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District has the best school board in the state and added that there have been some incredible people who have served over the years and that, for the most part, everyone has been aiming for the same goal. He acknowledged the school board candidates in the audience and shared some advice given to him by a long-time Board member, "Get on the board and don't open your mouth for the first two years, just listen and learn." He told them to bring their best characters and strengths to the Board but be prepared to learn from the outstanding people currently on the Board. He commended the board members and pointed out that recently there have been two AASB presidents in the district. He reminisced about past Board members and the great opportunity to have served with them.

Mrs. Mullins thanked the bus drivers for their hard work and noted that one of the first people she spoke to when she was first elected to the Board was an unhappy bus driver. She assured the drivers that Mr. Jones will work with them to solve the problems. She stated that although she went to college, she did not get the education received by serving on the Board for eighteen years such as developing policies, strategic planning, managing budgets, lobbying, negotiating, curriculum development, things not to say, debate, compromise, statewide issues, and parliamentary procedure. She told about her experiences on the Board and expressed appreciation for the staff, students, superintendent, chief financial officer, assistant superintendents and the leadership team members. She stated that the Kenai Peninsula Borough is a great place to live and has a great school district, and added that she is proud to have served.

BOARD COMMENTS:

(continued)

Mrs. Downing thanked the bus drivers for caring for students and for sharing their comments and concerns and added that she trusts the administration to resolve the issue. She thanked Mr. Young for the Connections Homeschool Program report. She thanked Mr. Gallagher for the United Way presentation. She reminded those present to vote in the upcoming Borough election.

Mrs. Crawford thanked Mr. Young for the Connections Homeschool Program report, and Mr. Gallagher for the United Way report. She thanked the bus drivers for their testimony. She welcomed Miss Ramponi to the Board. She appointed herself and Mrs. Downing to the Interest Based Bargaining Team and added that the first meeting will be October 28. She welcomed the board candidates in the audience and wished them the best of luck and reminded those present to vote. She stated that the wisdom, friendship, thoughtfulness and emotion that the departing Board members have brought to the Board have made all of the members better.

ADJOURN:

(9:46:29 PM)

At 9:46 p.m. Mrs. Brown moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mr. Hatch seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Sammy Crawford, President

Mr. Marty Anderson, Clerk

The Minutes of October 6, 2008,
have not been approved as of
October 8, 2008.