
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes

October 4, 2004 – 7:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting

Homer High School
600 E. Fairview Ave., Homer, Alaska

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: Ms. Deborah Germano, President
Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Vice President
Dr. Nels Anderson, Clerk
Mrs. Margaret Gilman, Treasurer
Mrs. Debra Mullins
Ms. Sandra Wassilie
Mrs. Debbie Brown
Mr. Marty Anderson
Mrs. Sunni Hilts
Mr. DJ Tyson, Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Donna Peterson, Superintendent of Schools
Mrs. Melody Douglas, Chief Financial Officer
Mr. Sam Stewart, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Guy Fisher, Assistant Superintendent

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Ray Hillman	Mr. Tim Peterson
Dr. Ron Keffer	Mr. Jim White
Mr. Dan Beck	Mrs. Paula Christensen
Mr. Glen Szymoniak	Mrs. Norma Holmgaard
Ms. Laura Norton	Mr. Glenn Haupt
Mr. Pete Swanson	Mr. Bob Simcoe
Mr. Benny Abraham	Ms. Tonia Parlow

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Deb Germano called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Ms. Deb Germano asked Homer Middle School students to lead those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Mrs. Sammy Crawford	Present
Ms. Deborah Germano	Present
Mrs. Margaret Gilman	Present
Mrs. Debra Mullins	Present
Dr. Nels Anderson	Present
Ms. Sandra Wassilie	Present
Mrs. Debbie Brown	Present
Mr. Marty Anderson	Absent/Excused
Mrs. Sunni Hilts	Present
Mr. DJ Tyson	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved as written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of September 13, 2004, were approved as printed.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS: The Board presented Golden Apple awards to Ms. Tonia Parlow and Mr. Bob Simcoe, for their service to the District. Ms. Acela Carr was not present but also received a Golden Apple award.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:
(continued)

The Board presented the National Blue Ribbon award to Mr. Pete Swanson, principal, and other staff members who accepted on behalf of the McNeil Canyon Elementary School community.

SCHOOL REPORT:

Mr. Ray Hillman, Razdolna School principal, presented a computer-generated slide show highlighting school programs, long range student planning, the facility, technology assisted learning, the Title I Program, Project GRAD Program, the library, community involvement, Annual Yearly Progress information, assessment scores and student awards.

Mr. Glen Szymoniak, Homer Middle School principal, introduced students, Mr. Clinton Edminster, Mr. Dylan Hitchcock-Lopez, Miss Grace Harrison, Mr. David Buckley, Miss Holly Dickson, Miss Piper Daugharty, and Mr. Patrick Schneider, who presented a computer-generated slide show that highlighted the school activities, field trips, sports programs, Project Adventure, music program, Husky Olympics, special activities and special guests.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Ms. Milli Martin, Assembly member, expressed appreciation for the new budget review process and suggested that the same information that was shared with the Review Committee, be shared with the public.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

Dr. Peterson reported that various letters have been received regarding site specific issues and that the administration is aware of them. She thanked Assembly Member Martin for her comments and shared a complimentary letter sent by a member of the Budget Review Committee.

Ms. Germano reported that she received a letter from the State Department of Administration notifying districts they can no longer offer retirement incentives.

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. Teri Woodward, KPESA President, reported that she received positive feedback regarding the budget review process from an Association member who was assigned to the Review Committee. She invited the Board to see the newly remodeled KPEA/KPESA Office. She read a letter from the custodial support staff regarding staffing formulae and work-related injuries.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Peterson reported on the restructure of the budget development and review process. She reported that a parent training was recently held including over 30 people from 25 schools and noted that all District communities were represented. She announced that the group will reconvene in January to discuss legislative priorities. She reported that the Artic Winter Games International Committee will be in the District on October 13 through 16 to visit schools. She reported that Mr. Ken Meyer, US Department of Education representative, visited the District on September 23 to present the National Blue Ribbon Award and the American Star of Teaching Award.

**FY04 COMPREHENSIVE
ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT:**

Mrs. Douglas presented the FY04 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. She thanked the staff who completed the report 6 weeks ahead of schedule. She explained that a significant change in the report was the implementation of an internal service fund to account for employee compensated absences. She reported that there were no findings in the federal and state single audit aspects of this past school year. She stated that the Letter to Management from Mikunda Cottrell (District independent auditors) remind the administration that, effective in FY05, the District will need to record the unfunded liability amount for the retirement programs. She stated that the auditors also recommend that the District review IRS compliance issues and to specifically review fringe benefits, per diem payments, employee versus independent contractor transactions and federal tax form filings. She stated that the auditors would also like the District to consider implementing a budget component in the pupil activity fund for all activities. She suggested that Board members read the transmittal letter, management discussion and analysis, and the notes to gain a sound understanding of the District's condition.

Dr. Anderson confirmed with Mrs. Douglas that the District will need to report TRS and PERS costs as a liability.

Mrs. Gilman asked what would happen if the District did not follow the auditor's advice. Mrs. Douglas explained that the District would end up with a qualified opinion which would put bonding ability in jeopardy.

Ms. Germano reported that Mr. Bill Coghill, Mikunda, Cottrell and Company, stated that Mrs. Douglas and her staff are to be applauded for their work in completing the CAFR before the deadline.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Mrs. Douglas presented the financial report of the District for the period ending August 31, 2004.

BOARD REPORTS:

Mrs. Gilman reported that she attended the Kenai Peninsula Student Activities Association Board of Directors meeting. She stated that the Committee is highly interested in the Board stance on cocurricular activities. She stated that she is serving as a Board representative on the Budget Review Committee and extended her thanks to Dr. Peterson and Mrs. Douglas for changing the process and noted there was tremendous input from the public who represented many different groups. She agreed with Assembly Member Martin that the information provided during the Committee meeting regarding the operations of the District would be beneficial to share with all communities in the Borough.

Mrs. Crawford reported that she attended the parent training meeting and noted that it was outstanding. She reported that Dr. Peterson began by addressing federal, state, and local educational concerns, from highly qualified teachers to TRS and PERS costs. She reported that Dr. Peterson clarified the responsibilities and duties of Site Councils and parent groups. She reported that Project GRAD will meet in October. She reported that she attended the Budget Review Committee meeting as an ad hoc member.

BOARD REPORTS:
(continued)

Mrs. Brown reported that the Physical Education Curriculum Review Committee will have several additional meetings and noted that there is a representative from the Homer area serving on the Committee. She stated that there is substantial interest in emphasizing physical education curriculum and curriculum in the regular classroom setting in addition to cocurricular issue. She stated that the Committee hopes that the Board and communities will value physical education in the regular classroom environment as much as cocurricular programs. She stated that a report is forthcoming in November or December. She reported that she has received positive feedback from several people who participated in Budget Review Committee meetings.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Resolution 04-05-1, Primary Sponsor of Gaming Permits; High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number #2005-1; Appointment of Student Representative to the Board of Education; Tentative Nontenure Teaching Assignment; New Teacher Assignments; Request for Leave of Absence-Support; Resignation; Termination; Long Term Substitute Teacher Contract; Administrator Appointment; High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number #2005-2; Nontenure Teachers for Tenure; and KPSAA Handbook Revisions.

**RESOLUTION 04-05-1,
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 FY05.

HSGQE WAIVER REQUEST:

Mr. Sam Stewart recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number #2005-1.

**APPOINTMENT OF STUDENT
REPRESENTATIVE TO THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION:**

Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve the appointment of Mr. DJ Tyson, a Kenai Central High School student, as the student representative to the Board of Education.

**TENTATIVE NONTENURE
TEACHING ASSIGNMENT:**

Mr. Fisher recommended the Board approve a tentative nontenure teacher assignment for the 2004-2005 school year for Stephanie Zuniga, Pupil Services, teacher-facilitator gifted for the Homer Area.

**NEW TEACHER
ASSIGNMENTS:**

Mr. Fisher recommended the Board approve teacher assignments for Nancy Kleine, (temporary) Connections Teacher .50FTE/ATOSS Facilitator .50FTE for the Homer Area; Zada Friedersdorff, Grade 6, Redoubt Elementary; Jennifer Tyler, special education/intensive needs teacher at Soldotna Middle School; and Tamara Johnson, (.50FTE permanent/.50 FTE temporary) Grades kindergarten through Grade 6/Title I teacher at Susan B English School.

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

Mr. Fisher recommended the Board approve a request for unpaid leave of absence for the remainder of the 2004-2005 school year for Jan L. Stephens, custodian, Kenai Central High (effective immediately).

RESIGNATION:

Mr. Fisher recommended the Board approve a resignation effective at the end of the 2004-2005 school year from Rick McCrum, Program Coordinator, Pupil Services.

TERMINATION: Mr. Fisher recommended the Board approve the termination of an employee for expiration of Alaska Teaching Certificate.

LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE TEACHER CONTRACT: Mr. Fisher recommended the Board approve a substitute teacher contract for Roger Steinbrecher, social studies and physical education, Seward High School.

ADMINISTRATOR APPOINTMENT: Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve the appointment of C. Craig Johnson as principal/teacher at Susan B. English Elementary/High.

HSGQE WAIVER REQUEST: Mr. Sam Stewart recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number #2005-2.

NONTENURE TEACHERS FOR TENURE: Mr. Fisher recommended the Board approve John DeVolld, Gary Blount, and Mary Alice Blount, nontenured teachers, for tenure.

KPSAA HANDBOOK REVISIONS: Mr. Fisher recommended the Board approve revisions to the elementary, middle and high school KPSAA handbooks.

MOTION Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 13. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION 04-05-2: Mr. Fisher recommended the Board approve Resolution 04-05-2, Support of Cocurricular Activities.

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve Resolution 04-05-2, Support of Cocurricular Activities. Mrs. Gilman seconded.

Mrs. Crawford stated that the resolution summarizes the conversation by the Board during an earlier worksession. She expressed concern for the level of funding for activities and gender equity.

Mrs. Brown stated that she cannot remember a time when the District did not support cocurricular activities. She asked the administration how the resolution will change current practice within the District and whether it will affect policy. She asked how the resolution will be used and interpreted and forwarded to the public, as it might relate to the budget and funding. Mr. Fisher clarified that the resolution is not policy but is a statement of support for the concept of cocurricular activities. He added that the reason that it exists is to eliminate unrest, concern and anxiety about whether the District would offer cocurricular activities in the future.

Mrs. Gilman stated that she will vote for the resolution in support of cocurricular activities. She stated that it is imperative that the School Board put to rest, once and for all, whether the District will offer cocurricular activities and noted that the resolution states the importance of the activities. She stated that it is uncertain what level they will be funded. She observed that the activities tell the interests of the students at each school.

RESOLUTION 04-05-2:
(continued)

Mrs. Hilts stated that she will vote in support of the resolution because of the painful exercise that the Board went through last year. She announced that, although she does not know how the District will pay for activities, they will be offered.

Ms. Wassilie stated that the resolution is an affirmation to communities who heavily support and contribute funding for student activities.

Mrs. Brown asked what will happen when the budget can not accommodate the cost of activities. She confirmed that the resolution does not bind the Board to commit to a certain funding level. Mr. Fisher responded that cocurricular activities will be subject to the ups and downs of any budget year. Mrs. Brown stated that it is absolutely important to encourage the District educational community with a resolution in support of activities. She stated that it is also important not to send a message to the public that the resolution is a declaration of the level of funding, regardless of the financial circumstances. She stated that she hoped that there will be no misunderstandings of the intent of the resolution. She stated that she supports the resolution and clarified that it is non-binding. She reminded members that the Board must have the freedom to act responsibly when considering funding for academic programs that are required by law and for student graduation.

Ms. Germano stated that she views the resolution as a note to the Board. She stated that it is an agreement that the Board supports cocurricular activities. She stated that the resolution doesn't do anything for the District other than let others know that the Board supports student activities. She stated that she would like to see the Board move farther along with a plan for how to fund student activities.

Motion carried unanimously.

**FIRST READING OF POLICY
REVISIONS:**

Mr. Stewart presented a first reading of revisions to BB 9270, Conflict of Interest, BP 5000, Concepts and Roles; BP 5021, Access to Students by Noncustodial Parent; BP 5030, School Discipline and Safety; BP 5040, Parent/Student Handbook; AR 5040, Student Handbook; BP 5111, Admission; AR 5111, Admission; BP 5111.2, Foreign Exchange Programs; BP 5112.1, Exemptions from Attendance; AR 5112.1, Exemptions From Attendance; BP 5112.2, Exclusions from Attendance; AR 5112.2, Exclusions from Attendance; BP 5112.6, Education for Homeless Children and Youths.; AR 5112.6, Education for Homeless Children and Youths; BP 5113, Absences and Excuses; AR 5113, Absences and Excuses; BP 5116, School Attendance Boundaries; AR 5118, Transfers; BP 5119, Access to District Schools by Private School, Correspondence and other Programs; AR 5119, Access to District Schools by Private School, Correspondence and other Programs; BP 5121, Assessment (Evaluation of Student Achievement); BP 5123, Promotion/Acceleration/Retention; AR 5123, Promotion/Acceleration/Retention; BP 5124, Communication with Parents/Guardians; BP

**FIRST READING OF POLICY
REVISIONS:**

(continued)

5125, Student Records; AR 5125, Student Records; BP 5125.1, Release of Directory Information; BP 5125.2, Challenging Student Records; BP 5125.3, Withholding Grades, Diplomas, Transcripts; BP 5126, Awards and Achievements; BP 5127, Graduation Ceremonies and Activities; BP 5131, Conduct; AR 5131, Conduct; BP 5131.1, Bus Conduct; AR 5131.1, Bus Conduct; BP 5131.5, Vandalism, Theft, and Graffiti; BP 5131.6, Alcohol and Other Drugs; BP 5131.62, Tobacco; BP 5131.7, Weapons and Dangerous Instruments; AR 5131.7, Weapons and Dangerous Instruments; BP 5134, Student Production of Services and Materials; BP 5137, Positive School Climate; BP 5141, Health Care and Emergencies; BP 5141.21, Administering Medication; AR 5141.21, Administering Medication; BP 5141.22, Infectious Diseases; AR 5141.22, Infectious Diseases; BP 5141.23, Infectious Disease Prevention; AR 5141.23, Infectious Disease Prevention; BP 5141.3, Health Examinations; BP 5141.31, Immunizations; BP 5141.4, Child Abuse and Neglect; AR 5141.4, Child Abuse and Neglect; BP 5142, Safety; AR 5142, Safety; BP 5144, Discipline; AR 5144, Discipline; BP 5144.1, Suspension and Expulsion; AR 5144.1, Suspension and Expulsion; BP 5144.11, Due Process; AR 5144.11, Due Process; AR 5144.2, Suspension and Expulsion of (Individuals with Exceptional Needs); BP 5145.11, Questioning and Apprehension; BP 5145.12, Search and Seizure; AR 5145.12, Search and Seizure; BP 5145.2, Freedom of Speech/Expression; AR 5145.2, Freedom of Speech/Expression; BP 5145.31, Student in Transition (Homelessness); BP 5145.7, Sexual Harassment; AR 5145.7, Sexual Harassment; and BP 5146, Married/Pregnant/Parenting Students.

Ms. Germano explained that a worksession was held prior to the Board meeting to review proposed changes to the policy and administrative regulation revisions and added that they will return for action at next meeting.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mr. Tyson thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve and added that he will be much better prepared for the next meeting.

Ms. Wassilie welcomed Mr. Tyson. She stated that she appreciated the worksession presentation from Mr. Scott Linner regarding Intervention for Grades kindergarten through 3. She stated that it is tremendously important that the District offer assistance to students who are struggling with language skills. She stated that she enjoyed the presentations from Razdolna School and Homer Middle School staff and students. She extended congratulations to McNeil Canyon Elementary School for receiving the National Blue Ribbon Award.

BOARD COMMENTS:*(continued)*

Mrs. Mullins thanked the administrators and students for the school reports. She congratulated the McNeil Canyon Elementary School community for receiving the National Blue Ribbon Award. She welcomed Mr. Tyson to the Board. She reported that she attended a school-sponsored tribute to two employees who are national guard reservists that were called up to active duty. She extended best wishes to the families and thanked them for their service. She reported that she attended the Administrator Meeting and listened to Mr. Bill Bond, former principal in Paducah, Kentucky. She reported that Mr. Bond was principal of a high school where a student shot, killed and injured several fellow students. She reported that Mr. Bond described the shootings and told the group that many people are quiet bystanders and instead, should speak out when bullying occurs. She reported that bullying crosses all boundaries and affects all children, and added that the District needs to be aware of the students who are victims and the students who are bullies and provide help for them. She urged those present to vote during the October 5 election.

Mrs. Crawford thanked Mr. Hillman and Mr. Szymoniak for the school presentations. She congratulated the Golden Apple award recipients and the McNeil Canyon Elementary staff for being selected for the National Blue Ribbon Award. She announced that a subcommittee of the Board extensively reviewed Section 5000 of the Policy Manual on August 23. She welcomed Mr. Tyson to the Board. She stated that she is pleased with the new budget review process. She thanked the administration for investigating the Advanced Placement problem at Skyview High School.

Mrs. Gilman welcomed Mr. Tyson to the Board. She thanked Mr. Hillman and Mr. Szymoniak for the school presentations. She reported that she attended the Kenai Middle School farewell celebration for Mr. Ken Felchle. She reported that the 25-minute ceremony was wonderful and featured singing by the staff and music provided by the band. She encouraged those present to vote in the October 5 election and suggested that parents bring their children along so they can see what it means to have that privilege.

Mrs. Brown thanked the Homer community for hosting the Board meeting. She stated that she lived in the Homer area for 10 years. She thanked Assembly Member Martin for speaking to the Board. She stated that she enjoyed both school presentations. She reported that Peninsula residents still believe in small schools and added that she is especially fond of village schools. She stated that she spent a year in Port Graham and understands village life and the needs of small schools and added that the Board is listening carefully to the needs of small schools. She stated that she will be bragging about the Homer schools and the NCLB Blue Ribbon Award. She told Mr. Tyson that he will learn a lot, and that his input will be very valuable.

Mrs. Hilts stated that it is a pleasure to be in Homer. She welcomed Mr. Tyson to the Board and added that the student representatives are invaluable. She stated that she enjoyed the school reports and reminded those present that the students at Razdolna would like to have used skis donated to the school so the students can begin a ski program. She stated that she attended the McNeil Canyon Elementary Blue Ribbon Award ceremony. She remarked that the award was the result of a combined effort of the entire school community. She reported that she visited Paul Banks Elementary. She stated that she has enjoyed School Board service and added that sometimes it is intense, tiring, and time-consuming but is worth it. She urged those present to exercise the right to vote and to be thankful for the privilege.

Ms. Germano welcomed Mr. Tyson to the Board and suggested that he contact Mr. Patrick Tilbury (former student representative) as a resource for information. She thanked Mr. Hillman, Mr. Szymoniak and the Homer Middle School students for the school presentations. She expressed appreciation for the work involved in restructuring the budget review process and added that she would like to have had more Board members in attendance. She asked Board members who will be attending the AASB Annual Conference and asked members who decide to attend, to stay for the entire conference.

ADJOURN:

At 8:32 p.m., Mrs. Crawford moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Gilman seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Deborah Germano, President

Dr. Nels Anderson, Clerk

The Minutes of October 4, 2004,
were approved on October 18, 2004
as written.