

# **KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**

## **Charter Schools Oversight Committee Meeting**

**Monday, March 1, 2010**

**1:00 p.m. – Conference Room B**

In attendance:

Dave Jones, Assistant Superintendent  
Laurie Olson, Director of Finance  
Joe Arness, School Board Committee Member  
Sunni Hilts, School Board Committee Member  
Penny Vadla, School Board Committee Member  
Mick Wykis, Kaleidoscope Charter School  
Kiki Abrahamson, Fireweed Academy Charter School  
Carolyn Cannava, Soldotna Elementary School  
Lassie Nelson, Recording Secretary

Dave Jones opened the meeting and asked if there were changes needed to the notes of November 2, 2009 and February 15, 2010. There were no changes and the notes were approved as presented.

Dave handed out copies of Board minutes for October 23, 2006 and November 20, 2006, showing what was actually approved by the Board when Fireweed Academy renewed their contract. The minutes of November 20, 2006 state, "Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve the administrative recommendation regarding the Fireweed Academy Charter School, Item Number B, to use four classrooms at West Homer Elementary and increase Fireweed's enrollment at WHE to 90 students. Mrs. Crawford seconded." The motion was carried. The Item B referred to stated, "Provide four (4) classrooms at West Homer Elementary and increase Fireweed's enrollment at WHE to 90 students." Dave pointed out that the Board did not approve a configuration change or a change of location.

Kiki Abrahamson felt that since those changes were in the contract that was presented to and signed by the Board, that the Board had approved a reconfiguration and change of location. Dave pointed out that the Board had signed the contract but they had specifically stated what changes they would approve, and which ones would not be approved.

Kiki handed out information that had been emailed to members of the Committee, and noted changes that had been made. She also explained entries as listed on the hand-out. Kiki stated that improvement expenses could either be amortized over a three-year period or roll-over money could be used to pay for these improvements up front. This information is attached to these notes.

Joe Arness asked what the total remodel cost would be. Kiki stated she didn't have an exact figure, but she had been told it should be under \$110,000.

Dave asked when bids would actually be submitted, and Kiki said they have already been submitted but that she doesn't have the information yet and there is nothing to look at today.

Penny Vadla asked if the bids and proposals would be looked at by the Committee. She also wanted to know if there had been a meeting with everyone concerned; i.e., owners, contractors, inspectors, etc. Kiki stated that everyone had not been able to meet, but the plans had been sent to the State fire marshall and he didn't feel there would be any problems.

Mick Wykis stated that their charter school had contracted only with the owner, and that it was the owner's responsibility to do the sub-contracting. He also noted that an attorney should make sure

everything is done that needs to be done, and that there should be a penalty if the work is not finished by the agreed-upon date.

Sunni Hilts noted that the contract should be between the owner and the charter school. The Board is involved because they must approve the finished requirements, to keep students safe, etc.

Joe stated that the contract must be worded so that the owner is responsible for all changes, not the school. He also wanted to know what the benefits were for paying ahead of time, compared to paying over a three-year period. He said the next step should be for the owner to generate a lease contract and options. He also emphasized that Kiki should negotiate the cost of these changes, not just accept the amount the owner requests.

Penny asked if the maximum capacity was for a total of 50 people, or for 50 students plus teachers. Dave wanted to know what the fire marshall's maximum capacity rating would be.

Dave said he would like to see a budget for just the additional K-2 program, and the costs associated with it, so the difference between the current program could be easily seen. Kiki stated that those figures were already in the budget she had presented; they just need to be separated out.

There were some general questions on the projected utility expenses; it was felt those expenses were not realistic. Kiki stated that those figures were based on a 1-year usage by the present tenant.

Kiki asked for clarification of what was needed for the next meeting:

- 1) Authorization for Fireweed Academy to expand to include grades K-2
- 2) Authorization for Fireweed Academy to enter into a lease for an additional facility
- 3) A draft of the proposed lease
- 4) A proposed cost to remodel
- 5) Breakdown of budget for K-2 and 3-6 programs
- 6) Check to make sure utility figures are accurate
- 7) Letter from architect

Kiki asked if they would be able to start construction as soon as it was approved by the Board, and what else would need to be done.

Penny questioned if an exception was being made for Fireweed to do this, or if this should have been presented to the Board by October 1, 2009. Dave stated that any time there is a change in configuration, per Board Policy it is supposed to be presented by October 1.

Penny also wanted to know if public meetings in Homer were required, and Dave stated that there is nothing in Board Policy requiring this but the last time there were changes to contracts that meetings were held.

Mick stated that when Kaleidoscope was in this situation that he had a lot of public input, so the Board was comfortable with it.

Joe noted that there must be logical, fiscally sound information presented to the Board. He also noted that it is okay to ask the owner to draw up the lease agreement. Joe requested that Kiki email him to let him know of questions and/or concerns.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.