

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes

February 7, 2005 – 7:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting

Borough Administration Building
148 N. Binkley, Soldotna, Alaska

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:
Mrs. Sammy Crawford, President
Ms. Sandra Wassilie, Vice President
Mrs. Debra Mullins, Clerk
Mrs. Margaret Gilman, Treasurer
Ms. Deborah Germano
Dr. Nels Anderson
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

OTHERS PRESENT:
Mr. Dave Larson
Ms. Carol Morris
Ms. Karlene Myers
Ms. Carolyn Cannava
Mr. Tim Peterson
Ms. Sharon Mook
Ms. Patty Rich
Ms. Jean Gdula
Mr. Bob VanDerWege
Ms. LaDawn Druce
Ms. Colleen Ward
Mr. Bobbie Clucas
Ms. Debbie Tressler
Mr. Joe Nicks
Mr. Layton Ehmke
Others present not identified.

Mr. Skip Dove
Mr. Jim Dawson
Mr. Darrell Johnston
Ms. Paula Christensen
Mr. Jim White
Mr. Roy Anderson
Ms. Sara Moore
Ms. Sylvia Reynolds
Ms. Rochelle Hanson
Ms. Lauri Lingenfeld
Ms. Jackie Ansotegui
Mr. Rocky Ward
Mr. Pete Sprague
Ms. Jenny Hammond
Mr. Jon Lilevik

CALL TO ORDER:
(7:01:19 PM)
Mrs. Crawford called the meeting to order at 7:01:19 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:
(7:01:20 PM)
Mrs. Crawford invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:
(7:01:24 PM)

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 MINUTES:

(7:02:40 PM)

The School Board Minutes of January 10, 2005, were approved as printed.

AWARDS & PRESENTATIONS

The Board presented Golden Apple Awards to Jean Gdula, K-Beach Elementary School Secretary, and Connie Miller, Bilingual Program Coordinator, for their service and dedication to the District. Dr. Peterson announced that Laureen Wentz, Homer Flex Special Education Aide, had been recognized by Alaska Department of Education and Early Education with the 2004-05 Paraprofessional Outstanding Performance Award and Lauri Lingafelt, Soldotna Elementary parent volunteer, has received the 2004-05 DEED Community Volunteer Outstanding Performance Award.

SCHOOL REPORT:

(7:11:05 PM)

Mr. Jim Dawson, Mt. View Elementary principal, and Mt. View student council members introduced a power point presentation, " *A Kid's Guide to Mt. View*. Students also shared the school's mission statement.

Mr. Darrell Johnston, Nanwalek Elementary/High principal, provided a report on the school's new staff and discussed relationships between the community and school, which are positive. He also reported that Language Institute was held at the beginning of the school year and the students have accepted the challenge of language learning. Mr. Johnston shared a message from the village chief which is the village feels they have joint ownership with the school district in local education. He stated the school improvement plan was developed and Nanwalek is a level 2 school. Recognized Project GRAD partnership with Nanwalek School. Mr. Johnston encouraged the district to continue distance/online education for outlying schools and reported that 80% of qualified students attend an after-school program. He praised the District for continued support in federal programs. Mr. Johnston gave notice on continual growth and student population.

RECESS:

(7:34:23 PM)

Ms. Crawford called for a recess at 7:34:23 p.m.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:

7:36:47(PM)

Ms. Crawford called the meeting to order at 7:36:47 PM

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

(7:36:56 PM)

Ms. Sara Moore, Soldotna High counselor announced that the National School Counseling Week begins February 7. She read a proclamation to the Board and discussed counseling staffing and changes to be made in 05-06. Ms. Moore invited members to visit schools.

Cassie Wilcox, KCHS senior, thanked students, community and faculty who lead effort to change graduation location.

Mr. Rocky Ward, KCHS student body president, thanked Mr. Dunn for listening to class concerns and for allowing the advisory vote of the senior class. Commended Mr. Dunn for remaining professional throughout the entire process of graduation location and wished him well in the future.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

(continued)

Jenny Hammond, Nikiski resident, reported that the majority of parents like all day kindergarten but expressed concern with PTR. Ms. Hammond requested a commitment to low PTR. She was also concerned about the process of the announcement of kindergarten change in format.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

Dr. Peterson presented a report of the progress to date on the 2004-2005 Board goals and provided information of interest regarding superintendent activities. She announced that this is National Counseling Week. Dr. Peterson reported that training for PTA, Site Councils and concerned parents was held on January 20. Six meetings have been held regarding new principal selection; 25-40 people have attended each meeting. Parent Teacher Conferences will be held this Thursday and Friday. Dr. Peterson also reported that Whatever It Takes The Project GRAD Story has been published by Teacher's College Press. The book's forward was written by Dr. Peterson.

**Advisory Committee, Site Council
and/or P.T.A., K.P.A.A., K.P.E.A., K.
P.E.S.A, Borough Assembly:**

(7:45:59 PM)

Mr. Pete Sprague, Borough Assembly Member, reported that the KPB made a legislative trip to Juneau and overall they received a positive reception from Governor's office. No firm commitments but positive feedback.

Dr. Anderson asked about the status on funding from KPB. Mr. Sprague reported that nothing changed from the 2/1/05 work session.

Ms. Germano expressed appreciation for Mr. Sprague's support for adequate funding.

Mrs. Hilts thanks to KPB for the work session on KPB finances.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

(7:51:11 PM)

Dr. Peterson thanked Mrs. Stewart for filling in on short notice. Dr. Peterson provided a report on the Site Council Training, which was held on January 20. Dr. Peterson stated there have been several meetings on principal replacements and the process will continue. She announced that Parent/Teacher conferences will be held Thursday and Friday of this week. Although the school buses will not be running the flashing lights will operated in school zones, Dr. Peterson encouraged everyone to slow down. Dr. Peterson discussed the end of year report and noted that in the middle of the year the Board President and Superintendent are to discuss it. The mid-year report includes the status of the nine board goals, an outline of first semester activities, and other school issues for the second semester.

Financial Report:

(7:53:48 PM)

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

BUDGET TRANSFER Report:

(7:54:21 PM)

Mrs. Douglas reported on quarterly budget transfers Numbers 47 through 146 for various schools and departments within the District. Mrs. Brown asked where to find information on the revenue generated from housing in the rural schools, noting that the school district owns and rents houses in these areas. Mrs. Douglas directed Mrs. Brown to the first grouping of the revenue page in the financial report, the category is 0046, Rental of School Facilities.

BOARD REPORTS:

(7:56:24 PM)

Mrs. Gilman reported that she attended the KPSAA meeting and the group has requested that the \$50,000 be reinstated to the school's activity budget for teams to participate in various statewide competitions. Ms. Germano requested information on how monies were prorated to teams in the past. Mrs. Douglas would prepare a report for the Board's review prior to passing the budget.

Ms. Wassilie asked if students without a band or choir in their schools are able to audition for the State competitions. It was confirmed that students are allowed to audition.

Mrs. Hilts attended the budget meeting in Homer and complimented Ms. Douglas on her presentation.

Mrs. Mullins attended the budget meeting in Seward and the community has requested a portable for their art program. She also relayed that there were concerns about the middle school building.

Mrs. Gilman attended the budget meeting in Kenai and reported there was only one individual in attendance that did not have some relation with the District.

Ms. Wassilie attended the KPB joint meeting regarding borough finances and reported it was very informative. She also attended the budget meeting in Seward and complimented Mrs. Douglas on her presentation. Ms. Wassilie also attended the Career and Tech Ed curriculum meeting and reported the next meeting will be held on March 3, 2005.

Mrs. Brown attended the budget meeting in Homer and she feels the meetings should be put on the radio in an attempt to get people in the communities engaged and informed on what is going on within the District.

Ms. Crawford attended AASB teleconference and reported there were five large districts who participated in the discussions regarding school funding.

CONSENT AGENDA:

(8:11:03 PM)

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of New Teacher Assignments, Long-Term Substitute Teacher, and Termination.

NEW TEACHER ASSIGNMENTS:

(8:11:39 PM)

Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve teacher assignments for the 2004-2005 school year for Sandra M. Lyons, (temporary) Title I teacher at Sterling Elementary and Holly Alston, (temporary) Middle School language arts/social studies teacher at Seward Middle School.

LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE TEACHER: Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve a long-term substitute teacher contract for Roger Steinbrecher, social studies teacher at Seward Middle High.

TERMINATION:

Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve a teacher termination for expiration of Alaska Teaching Certificate.

CONSENT AGENDA:

(continued)

MOTION:

Ms. Germano moved to approve the consent agenda and requested unanimous consent. Mrs. Mullins seconded the motion.

There were no objections, Items 1, 2 and 3 of the consent agenda were approved unanimously.

2005 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES:

Mrs. Douglas reported this was the first year a fiscal note was instituted in the District's legislative priorities and after further review it was realized a revision is required.

MOTION:

(8:12:46 pm)

Mrs. Gilman moved to approve the revised fiscal note. Ms. Wassilie seconded the motion.

Mrs. Mullins requested unanimous consent. There were no objections; the revised fiscal note was approved unanimously.

SECTION 4000:

Mr. Stewart reported that administration recommends approval of the revisions to Section 4000 of the Board Policy Manual and noted this was part of the scheduled routine review.

MOTION:

(8:16:00 PM)

Mrs. Mullins moved to approve the revisions to Section 4000. Dr. Anderson seconded the motion and requested unanimous consent.

There were no objections; the revisions to Section 4000 were unanimously approved.

bp 3311:

(8:16:40 PM)

Mrs. Douglas stated the revision to BP 3311, Bids would bring the District in line with FCC regulations regarding E-rate purchases.

motion:
(8:17:24 PM)

Ms. Wassilie moved to approve the revision to BP 3311. Ms. Germano seconded the motion.

Dr. Anderson requested unanimous consent. There were no objections; the revision to BP 3311 was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION 04-05-3:
(8:18:20 PM)

Dr. Peterson reported this was the compilation of teleconference notes and the long range funding request at the meeting with the five large districts. Administration recommends approval of the resolution.

motion:
(8:18:51 PM)

Ms. Germano moved to approve Resolution 04-05-3. Mrs. Mullins seconded the motion.

MOTION:
(8:18:51 pm)

Ms. Germano moved to amend Resolution 04-05-3 to read that KPBSD requests the Governor and Legislature increase the base student allocation to \$5,096 for FY06 and make an additional appropriation of \$114.00 per KPBSD student to assist with the additional fixed costs of operating many rural schools on the Kenai Peninsula. KPBSD is a model for the State. With your support we can work together to make our children a true priority. Refer to KPBSD Legislative Priorities for details about our District. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

RESOLUTION 04-05-3:
(continued)

Ms. Germano stated this was referenced as the number shown was \$5,200 in the Legislative Priorities but is broken down and the \$114 is a cost differential issue. Ms. Germano added, KPBSD is joined with other districts around the State to advocate for children. Ms. Germano stated the KPBSD has never received what was needed to operate with fixed costs and noted that the surrounding Districts have a much higher cost differential. Ms. Germano continued that she sees this as a piece that our own legislative body could pick up and make a separate appropriation in a grant situation which wouldn't cause the Borough to have to provide more for it.

Mrs. Douglas clarified that the revised BSA number was 5,086.

Mrs. Gilman asked what the reaction would be from other Districts if the resolution was passed. Ms. Wassilie stated that the other Districts are aware that the cost differential that KPBSD operates under is unfair and there should be some understanding. Mrs. Crawford added that Mat-Su was the only District that has passed it at this point and they made it clear they do not want any more money to the student allocation as they don't have any more room for more teachers to make their class sizes smaller. Mrs. Crawford added that Anchorage is debating the same thing, Juneau pulled the resolution and Fairbanks had postponed it so this may be a good time for KPBSD to make a stand.

Ms. Germano clarified for Mrs. Brown how she came to the \$5,086. Mrs. Brown stated that she would like to give the issue more thought and would like to hear more discussion before she suggests postponing.

Mrs. Gilman stated she liked the idea of asking for what is needed but is concerned about voting on the amendment that puts the District entirely separate from the others and feels there should be more discussion.

Ms. Wassilie reminded the Board of when Carl Rose from AASB stated during orientation that the KPBSD is the most financially strapped District in the State. She added that she feels this is a good case and doesn't feel there is a lot of time as the Legislature wants to move on the Education budget.

Mrs. Hilts supports the amendment and feels there has been good discussion by members. She added that she didn't think there is the luxury of time and feels the Board should move forward now. Mrs. Hilts stated that she is normally very conservative but it hasn't helped.

Dr. Anderson stated that if there isn't a vote on the issue now it would be basically killed. Dr. Anderson feels it's a very creative effort by Ms. Germano and thinks it does two things; one is that it's unlikely KPBSD would get a \$5,200 number from the State under any circumstance and secondly it puts heavy emphasis on the concerns of the area cost differential before it comes out.

RESOLUTION 04-05-3:
(continued)

Mrs. Gilman expressed concern of asking for a grant because they are questioned every year therefore they cannot be planned for in the budget. Mrs. Gilman added that the Peninsula legislative delegation was supportive when asked for \$5,200, they did not say they would support a grant specifically.

Ms. Germano stated the reason she went this direction is because she believes it's unrealistic to get \$5,200 statewide in the BSA this year so it comes back to we represent the Kenai Peninsula Borough and we have been treated poorly in this area of fixed costs and the cost differential so this is an opportunity for KPBSD.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

(8:42:19)

Mr. Tyson – Yes
Dr. Anderson – Yes
Mrs. Brown – Yes
Ms. Germano – Yes
Mrs. Gilman – Yes
Mrs. Hilts – Yes
Mrs. Mullins – Yes
Ms. Wassilie – Yes
Mrs. Crawford – Yes

Motion carried unanimously

Mrs. Brown stated that the summary notes and visuals prepared by AASB it states it is the intent of AASB to take the resolutions from the large districts and combine them to bring forward to the legislature. Mrs. Brown asked for explanation as to how this would be combined. Ms. Germano replied there didn't seem to be a consensus with the large districts and the mission of the meeting was to get everyone moving in the same direction but since that didn't happen there would be nothing done with it. Mrs. Brown added she would be opposing the main motion because of the fact that we as a school district have approved the legislative priorities together as a body.

Now it seems the idea has been defeated because the idea was to get a coalition of large school districts and go forward with a number and accomplish something. Mrs. Brown believes she needs to oppose this.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION:

(8:46:24)

Mr. Tyson – Yes
Mrs. Brown – No
Mrs. Gilman – Yes
Ms. Wassilie – Yes
Dr. Anderson – Yes
Mrs. Mullins – Yes
Mrs. Hilts – Yes
Mrs. Crawford – Yes
Ms. Germano – Yes

Motion carried

public presentations / comments:

Mr. Dave Larson, KCHS teacher and graduation advisor, commended Mr. Dunn for working toward an equitable resolution to the KCHS graduation issue and noted that it is clear his best interest for all students was very obvious.

public presentations / comments:
(continued)

Connie Ferguson, Sterling parent, expressed concern regarding the change to all day kindergarten with PTR in question and hoped that parents would have the opportunity to discuss the transition.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Dr. Anderson thought the attendance of budget meetings had always been the same and isn't sure how to change it. Dr. Anderson added he has a great deal of faith in the Borough Assembly that they'll solve their financial problem but is less confident about the federal and state governments as neither seems to want to have a fiscal plan to solve theirs. Dr. Anderson feels that kids aren't coming here because of the jobs issue in the area. The child-bearing population has decreased by a third in the past 10 years and that will intensify when Agrium closes. Dr. Anderson thanked Mr. Larsen for his support of Mr. Dunn who he feels has done a wonderful job. Dr. Anderson told Connie Ferguson that no one would be forced to attend all day kindergarten and can provide the research information for review if desired.

Mrs. Hilts stated she was looking forward to talking to the legislators this weekend. Mrs. Hilts introduced the "Voznesenka Chic" doll and reported that the doll was being used as a fund raiser for Close-Up. Mrs. Hilts commended groups on the originality in fundraising throughout the District.

Ms. Wassilie thanked Mr. Dawson and his students for their presentation and Mr. Johnson for the report from Nanwalek. Ms. Wassilie added that information will be going out to the schools and parents regarding all day kindergarten this week. Mrs. Wassilie reported she is one of four members going to Juneau this weekend to meet with the legislature and expressed appreciation for the action taken at this meeting.

Mr. Tyson reported that the KCHS penny drive raised over \$500 for Tsunami victims. Mr. Tyson invited the Board and staff to the Mass Choir concert at KCHS on February 8 at 6:00 p.m.

Ms. Germano thanked the schools for their reports and wished the Board members well in Juneau.

Mrs. Gilman reported that she attended the Communities that Care meeting and thought it was an amazing opportunity to be involved. Mrs. Gilman expressed concern that there isn't at least 30 minutes of physical activity for students each day. Mrs. Gilman commended Mr. Peterson for the staffing and budget report. Mrs. Gilman shared the concern regarding all day kindergarten.

Mrs. Mullins complimented Mt. View and Nanwalek for their reports. She reported she attended the Nikiski Middle/High School on the principal selection and it was very well attended. She encouraged board members to separate Administrative Regulations and Board Policies to make a smaller policy manual.

BOARD COMMENTS:

(continued)

Mrs. Brown referencing a letter in the information packet, asked Mrs. Douglas if it had already been sent or if it would be amended to include the action taken at this meeting. Mrs. Douglas replied the letter was written prior to this meeting and it had been sent. Mrs. Douglas suggested going forward with updated information based on the action taken at this meeting. Mrs. Brown reported that the weekend basketball games are getting very exciting. She wished good luck to the Board members going to Juneau. Mrs. Brown reported that Arctic Winter Game presentations will be forthcoming. Mrs. Brown stated that there is a lot of research being conducted to verify existing research. She stated that presentations are made to the Board that explains what research shows and added that she appreciates various pieces of research. She referred to Mrs. Gilman's comment regarding physical education research and added that the District does not have money to do everything for everyone that research shows. She expressed concern that because the Board has heard various presentations regarding full-day kindergarten that the District will consider funding the program which might not be the right decision. She commented that her view regarding full-day kindergarten might be different and that the Board should not feel that it is their responsibility to do everything that research shows. She added that she hopes that the Board will gather the public input that's needed. Mrs. Brown stated that when she was elected to serve as representative in her District she didn't have to pass a test first and reported that she was told that Board members are not invited to go to Juneau unless they've passed some sort of criteria that the AASB has for training. Mrs. Brown strongly disagrees with it and noted that Assembly members go to Juneau and speak with their delegation and that they are all equally invited; she reports no one is excluded and if they can't go they are not penalized or criticized for not going. Mrs. Brown thinks if there policies that exist that restrict her from representing her constituents in Juneau because she hasn't fulfilled some sort of educational process with the AASB that it should be reviewed and deleted.

Mrs. Crawford thanked Mt. View and Nanwalek for their presentations. Mrs. Crawford thanked Dr. Peterson for the mid-year progress report.

ADJOURN:

(9:20:07 PM)

Mrs. Mullins moved to adjourn. Ms. Germano seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Sammy Crawford, President

Mrs. Debra Mullins, Clerk

The Minutes of February 7, 2005,
were approved on February 21, 2005
with corrections.