

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes

July 12, 2004 - 7:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting

Borough Administration Building
148 N. Binkley, Soldotna, 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. Patrick Tilbury, 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. Kurt Olson
Mrs. LaDawn Druce
Ms. Marcia Beachamp
Miss Jenni Dillon
Mr. Jim White

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

(6:59:29 PM)

Ms. Germano called the meeting to order at 6:59 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

(6:59:29 PM)

Ms. Germano invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

(7:00:00 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	Present
Mrs. Sunni Hilts	Present
Mr. Patrick Tilbury	Absent/Excused

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

(7:00:24 PM)

The agenda was approved with a revision to Number 10a.(4), Approval of 2004-2005 Board Goals and the removal of Number 10a.(5), Approval of Revisions to AR 5141.4 (Child Abuse and Neglect).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

(7:00:51 PM)

The School Board Minutes of June 7, 2004, were approved as printed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

(continued)

Dr. Anderson asked that the tape be reviewed for remarks made during Board Comments. He stated that he was unsure whether he stated that he did not regret the passage of the contract and added that his position has been that the contract is fair to the teachers but a disaster for the students. He asked for a correction in the minutes to reflect his intent.

The minutes were unanimously approved.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

(7:02:49 PM)

Dr. Peterson noted that the District has received state approval on the Technology Plan and thanked Mr. Jim white and the Instructional Team for their work on the Plan. She explained that the Plan is an in-depth process required for federal E-rate funding and state acknowledgement of the District's plans in the area of technology.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

(7:03:41 PM)

Dr. Peterson reported on ongoing summer construction projects throughout the District. She noted that District Office staff is working on the completion of various state and federal year-end reports and grants writing projects.

Dr. Peterson presented site council evaluation reports from each school and noted that the administration provides site council training to site council members and school administrators. She announced that the planning process has begun for two upcoming trainings for the 2004-2005 school year.

Mrs. Brown asked whether organizations pay to use school grounds (for example, the recent dog show at Skyview High School). Dr. Peterson replied that organizations who are only using the school grounds are not required to pay a fee but are expected to clean up at the conclusion of each event. Dr. Peterson noted that portable restrooms were available for the dog show. Mrs. Brown confirmed with Mrs. Douglas that money collected for use of school facilities is deposited into the pupil activity fund.

Financial Report:

(7:06:33 PM)

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

Mrs. Douglas explained that in October or November she will provide a comprehensive financial report for June and that no further reports will be given for FY04.

Budget transfer Report:

(7:07:40 PM)

Mrs. Douglas reported on budget transfers Numbers 271 through 653 for various schools and departments within the District.

Mrs. Crawford confirmed with Mrs. Douglas that Budget Transfer Number 614 for \$75,000 for grievances and arbitration was in addition to the amount already budgeted. Mrs. Douglas stated that expenditures from the legal fund account is significantly higher than in the past and is due to arbitrations, grievances and a costly employee termination.

Budget transfer Report:
(continued)

Mrs. Brown asked for an explanation of the cost of \$20,750 for the maintenance agreement for ethernet switches. Mr. White explained that in 2000 the District purchased approximately \$400,000 worth of ethernet switches which are used to handle the District's network traffic. He reported that the money used to purchase the switches came from E-rate funds and Alaska Science and Technology Foundation funds. He stated that the \$20,750 budget transfer covers the cost of hardware, downloaded firmware, and software maintenance for ethernet switches. He noted that 20 of the switches are specialized and quite expensive to maintain. He stated that the maintenance agreement covers a sizeable amount of equipment.

BOARD REPORTS:
(7:07:40 PM)

Ms. Wassilie reported that she and Mrs. Gilman attended the June 25 Spring Creek graduation. She explained that the students were graduates of the youth offender program, general education diplomas and Alaska Vocational Technical Center. She reported that the student speeches reflected their appreciation of the opportunity for a second chance at an education and graduation.

CONSENT AGENDA:
(7:13:47 PM)

Approval of Budget Transfer Requests, 2004-2005 Annual Agenda Guideline, Substitute and Temporary Pay Schedule, 2004-2005 Board Goals, New Teacher Assignments, Nontenure Teacher Assignments, Nontenure Teachers for Tenure, Resignation, and Leave of Absence-Support.

Budget Transfer Requests:

Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve budget transfers Number 529 for \$13,186 to pay salaries for summer school Special Ed Aides; Number 563 for \$37,500 to pay for the Montessori Charter School administrator's salary; Number 580 for \$14,371 to pay for the Aurora Borealis Charter School employee health care benefits; Number 575 for \$31,000 to pay for software for the IP phone system and software for printing the payroll checks on a laser printer; Number 601 for \$12,300 for emoluments and \$16,651 for travel costs for the implementation of the student information system; Numbers 644 and 645 for \$11,700 and \$20,750, respectively, for purchase of site licenses for the network server and to pay for the yearly maintenance agreement on Ethernet switches installed districtwide; and Numbers 614 for \$75,000 and Number 646 for \$32,000 and \$11,000 as well as other transfers under the \$10,000 limit to pay for legal costs for labor relations activities such as grievances and arbitrations.

**2004-2005 Annual Agenda
Guideline:**

Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve the 2004-2005 Annual Agenda Guideline.

**Substitute and Temporary Pay
Schedule:**

Mr. Fisher recommended the Board approve the pay schedule for substitutes and temporary employees for the 2004-2005 school year.

2004-2005 Board Goals:

Dr. Peterson presented nine goals in the areas of instruction, communication, efficiency, and cocurricular for accomplishment during the 2004-2005 school year as a result of the Board's June 8 planning session.

New Teacher Assignments:

Mr. Fisher recommended the Board approve teacher assignments for the 2004-2005 school year for Jason Bickling, Grades 6-10 generalist at Port Graham School; Teresa N. Bickling, K-4 teacher at Port Graham School; Lucinda Holland, special education/ resource teacher at Sears Elementary; Michael T. Audette, music teacher at Sterling/Tustumena; Neil C. Denny, (temporary) teacher, special education/emotionally handicapped at West Homer Elementary.

Nontenure Teacher Assignments:

Mr. Fisher recommended the Board approve tentative nontenure teacher assignments for Deborah Harris, art specialist, Districtwide; Suzanne Haines, teacher-gifted, Homer Area; Janet Szajkowski, .50 FTE teacher, Homer area Connections Program; Agusta Lind, teacher-gifted, Seward area; Suzanne Bishop, teacher, Grades 7-8, Kachemak-Selo School; Christine Faber, (temporary) Title I teacher, Kachemak Selo School; Karl Kircher, Grade 2/3 teacher, Kaleidoscope Charter School; Dawn Brighton, .75 FTE language arts-yearbook, Kenai Central High; Andrea Cacek, teacher, High School art/photography, Kenai Central High; Vicki Hollingsworth, (temporary) Grade 6 teacher/language arts, Kenai Middle School; Geoffrey Glover, Grades 3-6 teacher, Nanwalek Elementary/High; Ned Clooten, science teacher, Nikiski Middle/High; Lisa Rolph, (.50 FTE temporary/.50 FTE permanent) Grade 4 Teacher, Redoubt Elementary; Christy Mulyca, business/technology education, Seward High School; Karlene D. Meyers, (.50 FTE temporary/.50 FTE permanent), Grade 6, Soldotna Elementary; and Tania Patiro, Grades 6-12 teacher science/generalist, Voznesenka.

Nontenure Teachers for Tenure:

Mr. Fisher recommended the Board approve Don Drury, Linda Hampson, Sandra Hudson, Ed Frink, Cindy Hurst, Daniel Krier, Erin Southwik, Christopher Lau, Krista Etwiler, tentative nontenured teachers, for tenure.

Resignation:

Mr. Fisher recommended the Board approve a resignation effective at the end of the 2003-2004 school year for Karen Davis, librarian, Seward Middle/High.

Leave of Absence-Support:

Mr. Fisher recommended the Board approve an unpaid leave of absence request for the 2004-2005 school year for Susan Evanson, Records Clerk, Federal Programs/Grants.

MOTION

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 4 (with Number 4 revised) and 6 through 10. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

FIRST READING OF POLICY REVISIONS:

(7:14:56 PM)

The Board heard a first reading of revisions to BP 4119.12, Harassment and BP 5137, Positive School Climate. Mr. Stewart noted that the revisions have been reviewed by legal counsel.

BOARD COMMENTS:

(7:15:46 PM)

Mrs. Hilts commented that she has not received much email which indicates that the business of the District is running smoothly. She noted that school will begin soon.

BOARD COMMENTS:

(continued)

Verbatim

Mrs. Brown: "May I use my time to ask a question and then maybe I'll have a comment? The question I was focusing on earlier for mainly for Dr. Peterson, in reading the minutes thoroughly so that I might be able to pick up where I left off before before Jack and I were married. Missed last meeting so I thought, so I went through this very carefully and I have a question on page in the minutes on page well let's see here how should I help you...um...I guess it would be volume 28 page 95 at the top Dr. Peterson asks a very important question, says here 'Dr. Peterson asked for clarification from the Board about whether the intent of the proposed increases to the unallocated fund is to fix problems with course offerings or to bring back recommendations on how to use the additional 8.0 FTE or full-time employees. Ms. Germano replied that the intent of the additional staff is to make things better at the schools.' Okay so then I read further on and I come to understand that the Germano motion passed so we have...um...an equivalent of 8.0 full-time employees or the sum of \$392,000 being moved...um... from the contingency fund to the unallocated account, so my question is, in the end, is there any direct...uh...let's say direction from the Board for you to bring back a plan as to how those eight or the that money will be spent or er what was your understanding of the outcome of that meeting on that issue?"

Dr. Peterson: "We did not bring back a plan, we proceeded with the information from the afternoon worksession as well as the conversation on unallocated. We've done a couple of things with that that extra and we will have a full report of this in August of how that unallocated has been broken down, but specifically, we addressed problems at the middle schools and high schools - high schools for advanced placement offerings and so we took a look at what their course schedules were and we said where can a .2, a .5, where can we make a difference for each of the schools. So we'll bring that full report of what we've done with that unallocated back in August."

Mrs. Brown: "Okay. So the motion read the motion read that \$392,000 was shifted to the unallocated account for staffing

needs at the high school, middle school, and small schools and that's the motion that passed and then even though the...it seemed like there was...um...it seemed like there was an intent that a report was going to be brought back as to how this would be done. You're really...what's gonna happen is a report not a plan will...it won't be a plan that comes to the Board it'll be a report on how it was used rather than a plan on how it will be used?"

Dr. Peterson: "And one of the items that was not in your last packet that was shared with the Board was exactly how the elementary was going to be used and so we laid that down during worksession...um...in the elementary and basically the Board said move forward with that and expand it to middle school, high school, and small schools."

Mrs. Brown: "Thank you for answering my question. Um, other than that...let me see here...Oh I just wanted to say that I was very pleased with much of the outcome of the last meeting particularly the weighted grades issue and...um...want to thank to thank the Board for doing that. I believe that it's in the best interest of of all students overall in that you know the opportunity is there for anyone to to make a go at an advanced placement class and, you know I I just think that it's in the best interest of encouraging...um...a high standard and quality of education in our District so I was pleased and and...uh...thank you very much. And for all your congratulations and your cards. Thank you."

BOARD COMMENTS:

(continued)

Mrs. Gilman reported that she attended the Spring Creek graduation ceremony and added that the student comments were some of the most meaningful words about the value of education that she has ever heard. She stated that although she is frustrated over the amount of resources spent on Spring Creek School, it makes an enormous difference in the lives of the inmates and the communities that will be impacted when they are released. She stated that the District should be commended for being the only one in the United States to provide such an education for youth offenders. She thanked Dr. Peterson for the Site Council Evaluation Report and observed that many elementary schools are starting after-school or lunchtime clubs revolving around running, race walking or some other type of exercise. Mrs. Gilman added that she is not yet ready for school to begin.

Mrs. Crawford stated that the worksessions regarding the Superintendent's Evaluation and 2004-2005 Board Goals were extremely valuable. She welcomed Mr. Fisher, and thanked the administration for the Site Council Evaluation Report and the Technology Plan. She commented that it is nice to see the school ground camper hosts at the schools and noted that the District is taking quite a proactive role in preventing vandalism.

Mrs. Mullins welcomed Mr. Fisher to the Kenai Peninsula and

added that the Board is looking forward to working with him.

Mr. Anderson stated that he enjoyed working on the long-term goals. He thanked Dr. Peterson and Dr. Whiteley for facilitating the planning session and compiling the results. He commented that it is nice to see the school ground camper hosts at the Sterling Elementary School and added that the hosts were kind and introduced themselves.

Ms. Wassilie stated that she was very impressed by the Site Council Evaluation Report, and noted that the reports are informative and reflect the diversity of each of the schools. She stated that she was struck by the number of fund raising efforts mentioned in the reports, and the number of site council members who are volunteering in the schools and extending the District's depleted resources. She stated that it is heartwarming to see the number of community members who are trying to understand the assessment information and assist with the No Child Left Behind Act's Adequate Yearly Progress requirement. She observed that some councils are struggling with their role and yet other councils have a strong sense of direction. She reported that a suggestion was made to web cast Board meetings and to organize a meeting with other site councils and the School Board as a way to improve communication. She suggested that site councils be involved in the budget process. She asked for an excused absence for the August 2 meeting.

ADJOURN:
(7:28:09 PM)

At 7:28 p.m., Mrs. Crawford moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Deborah Germano, President

Dr. Nels Anderson, Clerk

The Minutes of July 12, 2004, were approved on September 13, 2004 with a correction.