

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes

August 2, 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. Jim White
Miss Jenni Dillon
Mr. Rod Hilts

Mr. Tim Peterson
Mrs. LaDawn Druce

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

(7:02:40 PM)

Ms. Germano called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

(7:02:49 PM)

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

ROLL CALL:

(7:03:10 PM)

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

(7:03:42 PM)

The agenda was approved as written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

(7:04:00 PM)

Dr. Anderson requested that the comments he made during Board Comments at the June 7, 2004 meeting be entered in the minutes verbatim. Ms. Germano advised that the June 7, 2004 minutes were already approved and that Dr. Anderson could clarify his statements under Board Comments at this meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

(continued)

MOTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board amend the minutes of June 7, 2004 to include his verbatim comments in the Board Comments portion of the meeting. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Ms. Germano expressed concern that many hours would be spent preparing verbatim minutes and stated that consolidating the minutes is more appropriate, noting that the minutes are currently being prepared in that manner. Dr. Anderson explained that the reason for requesting verbatim minutes is that the way these minutes were contracted the intent comes out opposite of what he intended.

Mrs. Brown stated that Dr. Anderson's request was reasonable as it is important that the record be accurate.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Brown requested that the sentence in the Board Comments section of the July 12, 2004 minutes that reads, "Mrs. Brown confirmed with Dr. Peterson that a report will be made to the Board rather than a plan for approval." be removed. Mrs. Brown explained that she was initially asking Dr. Peterson for clarification on something she read in the previous minutes. Mrs. Brown also questioned the following sentence, which starts with, "She stated..." and noted it is unclear who is making the statement. Ms. Germano noted that Dr. Peterson made that comment in answer to Mrs. Brown's question. Mrs. Brown stated this would be a perfect case for having verbatim minutes because she feels the Minutes are unclear and confusing.

Ms. Germano suggested that Mrs. Brown review the audio and prior to the next meeting as she is unwilling to make a change.

Dr. Anderson stated that he could not find a way to paraphrase his Board Comments of the June 7 meeting and suggested that Mrs. Brown review her Board Comments and try to find an accurate contraction that would be suitable.

MOTION

Mrs. Gilman moved to postpone the approval of the July 12, 2004 Minutes. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

(7:16:27 PM)

Dr. Peterson noted that a petition was received from Seldovia regarding hiring and copies have been distributed to the Board. She noted that the Staffing Unallocated Usage Report was included in the General Information packet.

Ms. Germano asked how much unallocated money remains. Mr. Tim Peterson responded that approximately \$125,000 remains.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS: Mrs. Gilman asked what will happen if the student enrollment does not match the administration's prediction. Dr. Peterson replied that the administration would first consider using the remaining 2.0 FTE in the unallocated account and then, if necessary, teachers would be transferred. She explained that the recently hired teachers are all under contract and that the District is obligated to their services and salaries next school year.
(continued)

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Peterson presented the 2003-2004 Superintendent's Annual Report. She reported that the District is responding to questions regarding HB338 which changes the enrollment age for kindergarten students. She thanked the local Emergency Services personnel and District employees who assisted with extinguishing the Warehouse Annex fire and subsequent clean up. She announced that school will start on Tuesday, August 24. She reported that she, along with Mr. Stewart and Mr. Fisher, will attend a briefing from the State Department of Education and Early Development in Juneau on August 8 through 10. She reported that the Administrator Meeting will be August 12-13, 2004. She reminded those present that the filing period for the upcoming school board election opened on August 1.
(7:18:47 PM)

BOARD REPORTS: Mrs. Crawford reported that Project GRAD held a two-week Summer Institute that included 23 freshmen and was highly successful.
(7:22:39 PM)

CONSENT AGENDA: Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Administrator Appointment, New Teacher Assignments, Nontenure Teachers for Tenure, Nontenure Teacher Assignments, Resignation, and BP 4119.12 (Harassment) and BP 5137 (Positive School Climate).
(7:23:30 PM)

ADMINISTRATOR APPOINTment: Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve the appointment of John Cook as principal/teacher of Chapman Elementary.

New Teacher Assignments: Mr. Fisher recommended the Board approve teacher assignments for the 2004-2005 school year for Kate Biegert, special education/resource, Nikiski Middle/High; J. Luanne Bressler, Grades 4/5, Soldotna Elementary; Charity R. Winters, special education/resource, Seldovia/Nanwalek/Port Graham; Timothy D. Winters, secondary generalist at Susan B. English School.

Nontenure Teachers for Tenure: Mr. Fisher recommended the Board approve Katrina Cannava and Jill DuFloth, nontenured teachers, for tenure.

Nontenure Teacher Assignments:

Mr. Fisher recommended the Board approve tentative nontenure teacher assignments beginning the 2004-2005 school year for Naomi Fischer, (.50 FTE Temporary/.50FTE Permanent) science/math teacher, Seward Middle/High; Jennifer Haddix, (temporary) elementary teacher-Grades 5/6, Ninilchik School; Michael Houghton, math/social studies teacher, Voznesenka Elementary; Lori Krier, 7-12 language arts, Seward Middle/High; Jennifer R. McDonald, middle school language arts/social studies, Seward Middle/High.

Resignation:

Mr. Fisher recommended the Board approve a resignation effective at the end of the 2003-2004 school year for Charmaine J. Lundy, Grade 1/2, North Star Elementary.

BP 4119.12 and BP 5137:

Mr. Stewart recommended the Board approve revisions to BP 4119.12 (Harassment) and BP 5137 (Positive School Climate). The recommended language clarifies that harassment will not be tolerated for any reason.

MOTION

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items 1 through 6. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Nontenure Teaching Assignment:

(7:24:21 PM)

Mr. Fisher recommended the Board approve a tentative nontenure teacher assignment beginning the 2004-2005 school year for Leah Dubber, secondary generalist, Susan B. English School.

Mrs. Brown declared that she will abstain from voting on Number 10b., Nontenure Teacher Assignment, due to a conflict.

MOTION

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve 10b, Nontenure Teaching Assignments. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

VOTE:

ABSTAIN: Brown

YES: N. Anderson, Gilman, Hilts, Crawford, Mullins, Germano

Motion carried.

KPBSD Superintendent Contract:

(7:25:55 PM)

A three-year superintendent contract for the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District was submitted for approval.

MOTION

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve the KPSBD Superintendent Contract. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Mrs. Brown asked for clarification on the number of years on the contract. Ms. Germano read Number 4 of the contract, "If the District intends not to renew the contract...an automatic one-year extension will result, thereby making it a perpetual or 'rolling' three year contract." Ms. Germano added that without notification another year is added.

Mrs. Gilman asked who drew up the terms of the contract. Ms. Germano replied the contract was drawn up in 1999 when Dr. Peterson was originally hired. Mrs. Douglas clarified that there have been some very minor changes to the original contract.

MOTION

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board amend the contract by changing the amount listed in Number 6, Additional Compensation, from \$5,000 to \$10,000 in recognition of the superintendent's advanced degree. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

KPBSD Superintendent Contract: *(continued)*

Mrs. Crawford explained that the Board has received information from the other five large Districts throughout the State and only two of them have superintendent's who have doctorate degrees and their salaries are considerably higher than Dr. Peterson's.

Ms. Germano shared the salary information from other Districts with those present and noted that the District superintendent's salary is not in line with other districts in the state that have superintendents with doctorate degrees. Ms. Germano added this is a minimal amount for the recognition and respect that Dr. Peterson has in the state and this District.

Dr. Anderson stated that he feels torn about modifying the contract. He stated that although Dr. Peterson is absolutely the best superintendent, the Board is dealing with a \$7 million dollar deficit. He also noted that the Board negotiated a 20% salary increase over the next five years for District employees.

Mrs. Hilts stated she will support the Crawford amendment because of the time, energy and dedication Dr. Peterson provides the District.

Mrs. Brown stated that after the last meeting she is confident Dr. Peterson is quite comfortable with the knowledge that she has a great deal of support from the Board, however, her constituents would not approve of her support for an increase. Mrs. Brown explained that her negative vote is not from a lack of confidence in Dr. Peterson; instead, it is in response to the expectations of those who elected her to the Board.

Ms. Germano reiterated that Dr. Peterson is the lowest paid Superintendent with a doctorate in the state (with exception of Juneau) and stated that the increase is justified. Ms. Germano noted that the superintendent's salary of \$102,500 does not change. Ms. Germano stated that Dr. Peterson deserves the compensation.

Mrs. Mullins reported that in previous years Dr. Peterson had requested that there be no increase in her compensation. She added she supports the change after reviewing the statewide superintendent salaries.

Mrs. Gilman stated that although it is hard for her to think of spending an additional \$5,000, the saying is true, "you get what you pay for" and the District has a superintendent who does a fantastic job and is an educational leader. Mrs. Gilman added that she will support the increase since it is not tied to the base salary. She observed that even with the increase, Dr. Peterson is still the lowest paid superintendent with a doctorate in the State.

VOTE ON CRAWFORD AMENDMENT:

NO - Brown, N. Anderson

YES - Hilts, Crawford, Gilman, Mullins, Germano

Amendment carried.

KPBSD Superintendent Contract: VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION:

(continued)

NO - Brown

YES - Mullins, Gilman, N. Anderson, Crawford, Hilts, Germano

Amended motion carried.

BOARD COMMENTS:

(7:39:45 PM)

Mrs. Mullins congratulated Dr. Peterson on her contract extension. She thanked those involved in responding to the warehouse fire. She reported that she attended the National School Board Association Pacific Region meeting in Anchorage. She announced that the Association of Alaska School Boards presented the bulk of the program which consisted of Board Standards and the QS2 Program (Quality Schools and Quality Students). She explained that QS2 provides services to Districts who contract with AASB to audit the school system and community in order to involve the community in what is happening in the schools and to raise student achievement. Mrs. Mullins stated AASB also worked on a federally funded program called ASSETS. She reported that ASSETS attempts to involve the community and adults with the youth. Mrs. Mullins reported that eight other states participated in the meeting and she was pleased to note that Alaska is a leader in helping children achieve academic success.

Mrs. Crawford expressed appreciation for the assessment data information and the Superintendent's Annual Report and added that the report is concise and gives a great snapshot of the District. She

expressed appreciation for the work involved with the change to the budget development process and added that she is hoping the changes will allow for more public input. She expressed appreciation for Dr. Peterson's book reviews.

Mrs. Gilman expressed appreciation for the presentation of the assessment report and noted that she was glad to see that test scores had increased. She wished the administration, teachers, and students good luck on the start of a new school year.

Mrs. Brown stated the Superintendent's Annual Report is a fine report and added that she will be proud to share it with anyone interested. She thanked and congratulated Dr. Peterson on her upcoming contract and noted that she along with a great number of other community members have absolute confidence that she will continue to work very hard. Mrs. Brown added she is confident that the teachers, support staff, and Board members will give 110% effort this coming year.

Dr. Anderson stated that it is a privilege and an honor to serve with such a fine group of people on the Board and administration.

BOARD COMMENTS:

(continued)

Mrs. Hilts expressed her appreciation to Dr. Peterson and District staff. She stated she was particularly impressed with the administration's responsiveness to the many requests the Board has made in the last couple of months. Mrs. Hilts stated the Superintendent's Annual Report is excellent. Mrs. Hilts extended belated congratulations to Mrs. Brown on her marriage. Mrs. Hilts summarized a conversation with three former District students who are currently teachers and added that as products of the District it speaks well for the education provided in the Kenai Peninsula Borough and is pleased that it continues.

Ms. Germano announced that Mrs. Mullins is the AASB President during the upcoming school year. She reported that the AASB Board of Directors held a business meeting and conducted an evaluation of the Executive Director. Ms. Germano reported that it was interesting to spend time with the individuals from other states during the NSBA Pacific Region meetings. She added the visitors were very impressed with what Alaska is doing with regard to education and added that she is proud that AASB is a leader in the country. Ms. Germano stated that it is possible that Norm Wooten, Kodiak Island Borough School District Board Member, will become the secretary/treasurer for the NSBA, which will put him in line to become president in 2007. Ms. Germano expressed appreciation for the hard work of administration and welcomed back all returning staff.

ADJOURN:

(7:49:00 PM)

At 7:49 p.m., Mrs. Mullins moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Deborah Germano, President

Dr. Nels Anderson, Clerk

The Minutes of August 2, 2004,
were approved on September 13, 2004, as
written.