
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes

February 6, 2006 – 7:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting

Borough Administration Building
148 N. Binkley, Soldotna, Alaska

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: Mrs. Debra Mullins, President
Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Vice President
Ms. Sandra Wassilie, Clerk
Mr. Marty Anderson, Treasurer
Dr. Nels Anderson
Mrs. Debbie Brown
Mrs. Liz Downing
Mr. Bill Hatch
Mrs. Sunni Hilts
Miss Kelly King, Student Representative

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Phil Hermenack	Mrs. Mary Kennedy
Mr. Alan Fields	Mrs. Norma Holmgaard
Mr. Rich Redmond	Mrs. Renee Henderson
Mr. Bob VanDerWege	Mrs. Paula Christensen
Mr. Loren Reese	Mr. Joe Nicks
Mrs. Patty Rich	Mrs. Sharon Mook
Mrs. Sara Moore	Mr. Jon Lillevik
Mr. Tim Peterson	

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Mrs. Mullins called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
(7:00:01 PM)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mr. Tony Bannock, Kenai Central High School student, sang the
(7:00:19 PM) *Star Spangled Banner*

ROLL CALL:

Mrs. Debra Mullins	Present
Mrs. Sammy Crawford	Present
Ms. Sandra Wassilie	Absent/Excused
Mr. Marty Anderson	Present
Dr. Nels Anderson	Present
Mrs. Debbie Brown	Present
Mrs. Liz Downing	Present
Mr. Bill Hatch	Present
Mrs. Sunni Hilts	Present
Miss Kelly King	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved as written.
(7:02:33 PM)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of January 16, 2006, were approved
(7:02:47 PM) with changes.

SCHOOL REPORT:

(7:05:10 PM)

Mr. Fields, Kenai Central High School principal, invited those present to the Borough Mass Choir Concert on February 7, at 6:30 p.m. at KCHS. A small group of students representing the KCHS Choir sang, *Weep O Mine Eyes*, directed by Ms. Renee' Henderson. Mr. Fields, with the assistance of Mr. Loren Reese, assistant principal, gave a computer generated presentation highlighting the school mission statement, assessment and cocurricular accomplishments to date, and the results from the My Voice Survey (survey of students). He concluded his comments by thanking the Board for their service in observance of Board Appreciation Month.

Mrs. Mullins welcomed Mr. DJ Tyson, KCHS choir student and former School Board student representative.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

(7:18:25 PM)

Ms. Pako Whannell, Kaleidoscope School parent and volunteer, thanked the Board for the charter school as an educational choice for parents; she listed the many reasons students are successful at Kaleidoscope and invited the Board to visit the school to see the program first-hand and the need for additional space.

Ms. Misty Hamilton, Kaleidoscope School parent and volunteer, stated that she is amazed at the learning taking place at the school and invited the Board to visit.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

(7:22:26 PM)

Dr. Peterson reported that she received communications from members of the Community of Tyonek, and parent communications regarding Kaleidoscope Charter School of Arts and Sciences, and other usual and customary communications from the Department of Education and Early Development.

Mrs. Mullins noted that she received similar communications regarding Tyonek and Kaleidoscope Charter School.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SITE COUNCIL AND/OR P.T.A., K.P.A.A., K.P.E.A., K.P.E.S.A, BOROUGH ASSEMBLY:

(7:22:58 PM)

Mrs. Patty Rich, KPESA representative, asked how much of budget transfer Number 231 for \$18,000 will be used for the window, carpet and gymnasium cleaning and added that current District custodians would be happy to do the work.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

(7:26:00 PM)

Dr. Peterson thanked the Board for the expressions of sympathy. She reported that the Seward boys' baseball team has met the requirement of selecting a head coach by the deadline. She reported that she received 352 survey responses from community members, parents, and students and noted that the surveys are used during the school administrator evaluation process. She reported that several hundred surveys were received for teachers. She noted that highly qualified letters were sent to parents regarding 126 teachers and noted that 4 parent responses were received. She reported that parents and community members representing 15 schools attended the January 24 Parent Training meeting. She announced that the District made national news

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT:**

(continued)

coverage for the grounded oil tanker, the eruption of the Mt. Augustine volcano, and for the first female wrestler in the nation to win a state wrestling championship (Miss Michaela Hutchison, a Skyview High School student). She reported that Miss Melinda Haring, former student School Board representative, is now the director for the Center for Religious Freedom.

Mrs. Brown asked Dr. Peterson who the highly qualified letters were being sent to. Dr. Peterson explained that federal law requires the District to send letters to all parents who have children being taught by a teacher who is not highly qualified (by the federal definition).

FINANCIAL REPORT:

(7:29:47 PM)

Mrs. Douglas presented the financial report of the District for the period ending November 30, 2005, which was inadvertently omitted from the January Board packet.

BOARD REPORTS:

(7:30:39 PM)

Mr. Hatch reported that on January 26 he attended the KPSAA meeting and noted that the group is interested in updating the outsource agreement to allow for more clarification; Mr. Barrett Fletcher made another request to allow his daughter to practice and travel with the Homer High swim team and to be coached by the swimming coach since she is a dually enrolled student; and Ms. Reneé Henderson reported on music activities in the District.

Mrs. Hilts reported that she attended the January 30 budget meeting and added that Mrs. Douglas did an excellent job presenting the budget situation. She noted that the meeting was well attended and that those present asked thorough questions.

Mrs. Downing stated that it was good to see staff and others in attendance at the budget meeting. She reported that on February 2 she attended the Charter School Committee meeting and noted that it was interesting to listen to the different sides of the issue.

Mrs. Crawford reported that she and Mrs. Mullins recently attended the two-day Interest Based Bargaining training where they learned about a new approach to bargaining. She expressed appreciation for the positive approach to negotiations. She reported that she attended the Language Arts Curriculum Committee meeting, where the group heard presentations from publishers. She reported that she attended several Charter School Committee meetings and added that she is looking forward to adopting policies that will address many of the complex charter school issues. She reported that she and Mrs. Mullins attended the Policy Review Committee meeting to consider revisions of several policies.

Mrs. Mullins reported that she attended the Seward Budget Forum, the Interest Based Bargaining training, and the Policy Review Committee meeting. She explained that the Board held a worksession on competency based education and read the Board goal for the benefit of the public. She reported that the Board and public discussed about how to deliver education during the community meetings held previously. She reported that the

BOARD REPORTS:*(continued)*

administration provided a summary of the public feedback and ideas and added that the Board will have to decide what to do with the information. She announced that the District received a memorandum from Borough Mayor Williams stating that the District would be funded at current year figures. She stated that this will be the first time in the District's history not to be funded to cap and will be a reduction of \$1,776,953 which equals 104 teachers. She stated that it will be hard to absorb the loss and will mean more than 3.5 additional students per classroom. She reported that the Board held a teleconference with Kenai Peninsula Borough legislators in which the Board expressed concerns regarding the loss of Borough funding. She stated that the legislators reported that education issues are being saved for one of the last items of the session. She stated that hopefully the Board can draw attention to the ramifications of the loss in funding and inform the Borough voters, members of the community, and school community.

CONSENT AGENDA:*(7:39:33 PM)*

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Resignations; New Teacher Assignment; Seward Middle School Facility Recommendation; Long-term Substitute Teacher; and Budget Transfers.

RESIGNATIONS:

Mr. Glen Szymoniak recommended the Board approve the resignations of Susan Byrne, home economics/social studies/English, Ninilchik School; Jill Wright, English, Chapman School; Catherine Kibling, special education/resource, Kenai Youth Facility (currently on LOA); Lourdes Link, special education/resource, Ninilchik School (currently on LOA).

**NEW TEACHER
ASSIGNMENT:**

Mr. Glen Szymoniak recommended the Board approve a teacher assignment for Dana Morrell, (temporary) elementary teacher at Ninilchik School.

**SEWARD MIDDLE SCHOOL
FACILITY
RECOMMENDATION:**

Mr. Glen Szymoniak recommended the Board approve a recommendation that the Board of Education take action to vacate the former Seward Middle School and return the facility to the Borough.

**LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE
TEACHER:**

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve a long-term substitute teacher contract for Linda Farnham, special education/intensive needs, K-Beach Elementary.

BUDGET TRANSFERS:

Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve budget transfer Numbers 229, 230 and 231 requested by Aurora Borealis Charter School to pay for a teacher position (\$24,513), health care benefits for that position (\$11,000), and purchased services for sanding and sweeping the playground and cleaning in the building (\$18,000), respectively.

MOTION

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 5. Mr. Anderson seconded.

Mrs. Brown asked to remove Consent Agenda Item 5.

Motion carried unanimously for Items 1 through 4.

CONSENT AGENDA:
(continued)

Mrs. Brown asked for an explanation of budget transfer Number 231 for Aurora Borealis Charter School for \$18,000. Mrs. Douglas explained that charter schools are given a revenue allocation and can spend their budget as they deem appropriate. She stated that the \$18,000 expenditure is in relationship to shared activities between the Boys and Girls Club, the Alternative School and the Charter School and in accordance to the contractual arrangements within the building. She guessed that some of the custodial functions are handled by the Boys and Girls Club making it a non salary purchased service for Aurora Borealis Charter School. She stated that she will research the request to be certain.

Mrs. Brown asked whether charter school services default to other District maintenance staff persons. Mrs. Douglas responded that charter schools are allowed to choose how to fulfill required duties and if they choose to use District staff, they must comply with negotiated contracts. Mrs. Douglas stated that she believes that Aurora Borealis has custodial staff.

Dr. Anderson pointed out that charter schools have their own Parent Advisory Committees that make decisions about how the money is spent.

Motion carried unanimously for Consent Agenda Item 5.

RESOLUTION 05-06-3:
(7:45:59 PM)

Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve Resolution 05-06-3, Proclaiming National School Counseling Week.

MOTION

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve Resolution 05-06-3, Proclaiming National School Counseling Week. Mrs. Downing seconded.

Mrs. Crawford thanked the counselors for their work on behalf of students.

Dr. Anderson stated that he is appreciative of school counselors. He asked why the Board is considering a commending resolution for District counselors and whether the Board will be considering similar resolutions in the future. Mrs. Mullins responded that she hopes to continue to recognize District employee groups because it is not always evident to the public the contributions by the staff beyond their work day. She stated that there is a perception that District employees are a separate class of people. She expressed appreciation for the work of the District counselors and noted that their workload has increased along with other employees.

Motion carried unanimously.

BOARD COMMENTS:
(7:49:12 PM)

Dr. Anderson noted that the Skyview High School wrestler (Miss Michaela Hutchison) was mentioned on CNN News.

Miss King thanked the Board for the flowers that were sent during her stay in the hospital. She thanked the KCHS choir for singing and Mr. Fields for the presentation.

BOARD COMMENTS:
(continued)

Mrs. Crawford thanked Mr. Fields and Ms. Henderson for the KCHS report. She reported that the Board may have to cut up to 104 teachers which will increase class sizes. She reported that she was invited to judge the spelling bee at K-Beach Elementary. She reported that she attended Future Trends in Education presented by Gary Marx.

Mrs. Brown referred to the Borough Comprehensive Plan and noted that she was interested to read that the Board will work with Borough schools to provide information about community input and government decisions; expand and enhance vocational training and education programs in the Borough such as those offered in secondary schools; incorporate annual school enrollment projections and school construction needs and work toward completion of identified projects; provide safe and convenient school bus transportation (roads) to school-age residents of the Borough; support opportunities for improved vocational and continuing education, including programs in secondary schools; support placement of high pressure hydrants at schools; encourage inclusion of water quality education programs; and identify noise sensitive areas. She noted that it was noteworthy that vocational education and continuing education and community input in government decisions were mentioned in the plan. She expressed appreciation for the language in summary of the response to the Borough Mayor's transition prepared by the District administration and read an excerpt from it that related to the funding picture. She stated that there are ways to cut back on unanticipated needs and contain costs by reducing energy costs. She referred to the Reducing Energy Costs for Our Nation's School Districts Report that was provided to the Board in July 2005 and suggested that the school principals take an active role in reducing energy consumption at schools.

Mrs. Hilts reported that she attended Future Trends in Education where the presenter discussed big trends of the future. She stated that the District is dealing with disturbing short-term trends and yet exciting things are happening in schools. She reported that AP courses, a justice and law class, and marketing class are being provided via polycom at Susan B. English Elementary/High School. She stated that students are making an effort to get an above average education provided by the District. She stated that she does not know what will happen if the Board cuts 100 teachers. She reported that she has received many comments from the public who are pleased that the Hope Elementary/High School will not be closed at this time. She reported that she will attend the AASB Legislative Fly-In in Juneau which will include training on how to convince the public to support making children the top priority of Alaska. She stated that losing 100 teachers is a huge percentage of teachers and will increase class sizes. She noted that the Board has not begun to discuss the ripple effect throughout the Borough. She reported that the Seldovia Chamber of Commerce Fourth of July theme is "Children, Seldovia's Top Priority".

BOARD COMMENTS:
(continued)

Mrs. Downing thanked the KCHS staff and students for the music and the report. She reported that she attended Future Trends in Education and noted that education is going to change. She thanked Mr. Stewart for leading the community discussions regarding competency based education. She applauded administration, teachers, staff, parents, and students, for recognizing the trends and embracing them in a way that is best for children.

Mr. Hatch echoed Mrs. Hilt's comments and added that he does not support increased class sizes and hopes the Board can do something about it.

Mr. Anderson thanked the KCHS staff for the report and added that he was impressed with the quality of singing. He clarified that the potential loss of teachers would increase the pupil-teacher ratio to 5 to 6 instead of 3.5. He stated that it will be tough to add additional students to classrooms. He stated that it has been nice to discuss curriculum issues rather than finances and added that the Board needs to look at finding a renewable continuous revenue because it is tough to operate an effective organization when the revenue amount is undetermined from year to year. He stated that he and Mrs. Hilt will meet with legislators in Juneau next week and will encourage them to stop using education as a political bargaining chip. He stated that he has the deepest respect for the administration for accomplishing the work of the District despite the lack of funding. He encouraged the public to get involved and lobby the legislature on behalf of education funding. He stated that if the trend does not change the Kenai Peninsula will be viewed as a dying community and businesses who have been considering moving may do so.

Mrs. Mullins noted that February is School Board Recognition Month and thanked the other Board members for their work and for their commitment to children.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:
(8:09:15 PM)

At 8:09 p.m. Mrs. Hilt moved the Board go into executive session to discuss matters, the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the Borough. Specifically, the executive session was to discuss negotiations and litigation. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 9:05 p.m., Dr. Anderson moved the executive session be adjourned. Mr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN:

At 9:06 p.m., Mrs. Crawford moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Hilts seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Debra Mullins, President

Ms. Sandra Wassilie, Clerk

The Minutes of February 6, 2006,
were approved on February 20, 2006
as written.