

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Charter Schools Oversight Committee Meeting

Tuesday, October 16, 2012

12:30 p.m. – Borough Assembly Chambers

In attendance:

Steve Atwater, Superintendent
Dave Jones, Assistant Superintendent
Sean Dusek, Assistant Superintendent
Pegge Erkeneff, Communications Specialist
Joe Arness, School Board Committee Member
Sunni Hiltz, School Board Committee Member
Penny Vadla, School Board Committee Member
Liz Downing, School Board Member
Lynn Hohl, School Board Member
Sammy Crawford, School Board Member
Bill Holt, School Board Member
Tim Navarre, School Board Member
Robin Dahlman, Kaleidoscope Charter School
Larry Nauta, Aurora Borealis Charter School
Kiki Abrahamson, Fireweed Academy Charter School – by phone
Mo Sanders, Soldotna Montessori Charter School
Teresa Moyer, Greatland Adventure Academy
Debbie Michael, Greatland Adventure Academy
Lassie Nelson, Recording Secretary

Dave Jones opened the meeting at 12:30 p.m. and introduced Teresa Moyer and Debbie Michael from Greatland Adventure Academy. He stated that the next step in this process would be to schedule a worksession at the November 12, 2012 board meeting. At the worksession it would be decided whether to place it on the agenda for the December 3, 2012 meeting, and if approved then send the application on to the state.

Teresa Moyer then spoke and explained her history, and noted that this is not a reaction because something is wrong but rather the desire to emphasize activity through outdoor schooling, physical education, and art/music. She also showed a presentation on *Lost Child in the Woods* and *The Nature Principles*. Their proposed school would be modeled after these books. She gave statistics showing that exercise increases brain function and learning.

Teresa Moyer and Debbie Michael both spoke on the items covered in the video that was presented, showing that combining outdoor activities with regular physical education/science/art/other studies helps increase brain function and learning. They also spoke to statistics showing music/art students score better than other students and it builds self-esteem.

The mission of Greatland Adventure Academy is to engage each student's mind, body and soul in experiential learning using the classroom, the community, and the environment. Their goal is to create a learning community that will produce leaders and thinkers who excel not only in academics, athletics and fine arts, but also interpersonal skills and productivity. Greatland Adventure Academy envisions

providing experience-based education which promotes healthy lifestyle choices, and integrates learning into a lifelong pursuit of connecting with the outdoors.

Currently, Greatland Adventure Academy would target 40-45 students in the 7th & 8th grades. A location for the school would be a big factor in meeting their goals. Currently, they are looking at Soldotna and/or southern Soldotna locations.

There were questions of what the curriculum would actually look like, and how long it would take to put together their curriculum. Dave Jones explained state requirements for curriculum. This curriculum information could be brought to the November board worksession. There was also discussion on finances and a person to administer the program.

Tim Navarre suggested this information could be used to help all schools, instead of starting a new school. The response was that not everyone is interested; these are not their priorities. The thought was that it could start with this, then it could possibly be integrated later.

Dave Jones said that the board could look at the information and then could email their questions to him. These questions could be answered at the November worksession. Joe Arness asked that they put together information that would compare a day in the life of students at Greatland Adventure Academy to students in other current schools.

Dave Jones adjourned the meeting at 1:38 p.m.