
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes

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

Seward High School
2100 Swetmann, Seward, Alaska

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

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mrs. Norma Holmgard	Mr. David Kingsland
Mr. Tim Peterson	Mr. Sean Dusek
Ms. Ginger Blackmon	Mr. Jerry Dixon
Representative Mike Chenault	Mrs. LaDawn Druce
Mrs. Cathy Carrow	Mr. Steve Pautz
Mrs. Jamie Harper	Mrs. Doris Cannon

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Mrs. Mullins called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mrs. Mullins invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Mrs. Debra Mullins	Present
Mrs. Sammy Crawford	Present
Mr. Marty Anderson	Present
Dr. Nels Anderson	Present
Mrs. Debbie Brown	Present
Mr. Bill Hatch	Present
Ms. Lynn Hohl	Present
Mrs. Sunni Hilts	Present
Ms. Liz Downing	Present
Miss Lydia Ames	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved as written. Mrs. Mullins noted that Item 10b includes substitute information.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of October 23, 2006 were approved as printed.

SCHOOL REPORT:

Ms. Ginger Blackmon, Seward High School principal, gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the school 2006-2007 goals and vision, the Upward Bound program, student performances, college fair participation, SAT/ACT information, community support, and sports program accomplishments.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. Jerry Dixon, former teacher, announced that he provided testimony for the Moore versus State of Alaska trial. He asked the Board for assistance regarding the denial of his son's picture in the Seward High School yearbook.

Mr. Keith Bailey, parent, asked the Board for assistance regarding the denial of his daughter's picture in the Seward High School yearbook.

Dr. Shannon Atkinson, parent, asked the Board for help in reinstating the daily bulletin which had been emailed to interested persons.

Mrs. Cathy Byars, PTSA, thanked the administration and Board for the support for the new playground and noted that it has reduced the amount of truancy. She thanked Mr. David Henson, Information Services Department, for PTSA list.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

Dr. Peterson reported that the Board General Information Packet contains replacement pages for the KPSAA handbook. She reported that communications have been received from State Retirement and Benefits regarding participation of elected officials in future retirement benefits. She reported that she has received several communications regarding the Kenai Conversation which have been copied to the Board.

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

Dr. Shannon Atkinson, Title VII Parent Advisory Committee representative, reported on the business of the recent Indian Education Committee meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Peterson reported that she spoke at the Seldovia Chamber of Commerce. She announced that the District received recognition from the Alaska Department of Education regarding enrollment information and the highly qualified teacher data base. She reported that she will act as the Borough Mayor's representative for the Anti-Gang and Youth Violence Summit in Anchorage.

BOARD REPORTS:

Marty Anderson reported that he visited Sterling Elementary and will submit a written report to the Board president.

Mrs. Downing reported that she attended the Charter School Oversight Committee meeting in Homer to discuss the issue of Fireweed Charter School's request to move into the Homer Middle School. She reported that she visited Sears Elementary and Kaleidoscope Charter School and added that both schools are doing wonderful things with students.

BOARD REPORTS:
(continued)

Mrs. Crawford reported that she completed her assigned school visits and noted the diversity between each school. She reported that members of the Kenai education community gave her some feedback on the Kenai Conversation.

Mr. Hatch reported that he attended the Charter School Oversight Committee meeting and noted that Fireweed Charter School is requesting to use rooms at Homer Middle School and to expand downward to include Grades 1 and 2. He reported that he visited Sears Elementary and Mt. View Elementary and is proud to be associated with KPBSD.

Mrs. Mullins reported that she visited Sears Elementary and Kaleidoscope Charter School and during the visit, attended a combined school performance. She encouraged parents to visit District schools and to volunteer in classrooms.

Mrs. Brown reported that she will conduct her school visits around the month of December and will try to coordinate with site council meetings.

BOARD WORKSESSION REPORT:

Mrs. Mullins reported that the Board heard from the Charter School Oversight Committee, discussed the 2007-2008 budget process, listened to the Class Size Report, discussed the Public Employee Retirement System withdrawal, and the Kenai Conversation. She announced that a budget survey will be available online. She announced that the Kenai Conversation will be held November 7 at KCHS at 7:00 p.m. and will be a time for public testimony. She reported that Representative Chenault and Representative Olson provided a legislative update to the Board prior to the meeting.

CLASS SIZE REPORT:

Mr. Stewart presented the Class Size Enrollment Report that included a comparison of pupil-teacher ratios throughout District schools. He noted that the report is available on the District website.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Agenda for consent by the Board were Approval of Long-term Substitute Teacher Contracts and Resignations.

LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE TEACHER CONTRACTS:

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve substitute teacher contracts from Laurie Kempf, Special Education, resource, Sears Elementary; Zada Friedersdorff, language arts, Soldotna Middle; and Linda Vroman, Special Education, resource, Sterling Elementary.

RESIGNATIONS:

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve resignations from Dan Roach, Grade 1, Aurora Borealis Charter; Marsha Gustkey, Grade 3, Mt. View Elementary; and Sandra J. Miller, Algebra/Geography, Soldotna High, effective at the end of the 2006-2007 school year.

CONSENT AGENDA:

(continued)

MOTION

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 and 2. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**ELECTED OFFICIALS
WITHDRAWAL FROM PERS:**

Mrs. Mullins explained that Resolution 06-07-2 was postponed from the October 2, 2006 meeting. The motion for approval was made by Mrs. Crawford and seconded by Mr. Hatch.

MOTION

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board accept substitute language and information for Resolution 06-07-2, A Resolution Authorizing The exclusion of Elected Officials of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District in the Public Employees' Retirement System of Alaska Pursuant to AS.39.35. Dr. Anderson seconded.

VOTE:

Advisory Vote – YES

YES – Hilts, N. Anderson, Crawford, Hohl, Mullins

NO – Downing, M. Anderson, Hatch, Brown

Motion carried.

Mrs. Douglas explained that the substitute language includes corrected information from the State Department of Retirement and Benefits as well as a legal opinion regarding the authority of the Board to act on a resolution concerning conflict of interest concerns.

MOTION

Mr. Hatch moved the Board table action on Resolution 06-07-2. Mrs. Brown seconded.

VOTE:

Advisory Vote – NO

YES – Downing, Hatch, M. Anderson, Brown

NO – Crawford, N. Anderson, Hilts, Hohl, Mullins

Motion failed.

MOTION

Mrs. Downing moved the Board postpone action on Resolution 06-07-2. Mr. Anderson seconded.

VOTE:

Advisory Vote – ABSTAIN

YES – Hatch, N. Anderson, M. Anderson, Downing, Hohl,

NO – Hilts, Crawford, Brown, Mullins

Motion carried.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mr. Hatch stated that he enjoyed his visit to Sears Elementary and Kaleidoscope Charter School.

Miss Ames encouraged parents and non parents to get involved in schools. She stated that she hopes that the PERS situation can be resolved to the Board's satisfaction.

Mr. Anderson reminded those present to vote on November 7. He stated that he is impressed with the Board members and their differing opinions. He stated that he is impressed with the District administration. He acknowledged that the initial information received from the State Department of Retirement and Benefits regarding PERS was incorrect and thanked Mrs. Douglas for bringing forth correct information.

Mrs. Brown thanked those who attended and added that she appreciated the testimony and noted that parents and students feel strongly about student yearbook pictures. She asked the Board to provide legal council at Board meetings. She commented that the school daily bulletins are important. She suggested that District surveys be available in other methods than via computer. She reported that parents have expressed concern for their children's safety at bus stops because of bears and asked the Board to request the Borough and School District put a plan in place for improved bus stops.

Ms. Hohl expressed her concern for the omission of student pictures in school yearbooks. She stated that she missed the school daily bulletin. She thanked Dr. Atkinson for the Title VII meeting report. Ms. Hohl stated that even if she would have been affected by the PERS withdrawal she would have voted to opt out.

Mrs. Hilts announced that her 18 year old grandson will vote in the November 7 election. She congratulated Mr. Pete Swanson for being selected as Alaska's National Distinguished Principal and traveled to Washington D.C. to accept the award. She stated that the District is fortunate to have excellent staff.

Dr. Anderson stated that the administration should deal with the yearbook matter and that the Board should not be involved. He stated that the school daily bulletin may have been discontinued because of cost. He reminded those present to vote at the November 7 election.

Mrs. Downing acknowledged that the PERS misinformation was not the fault of Mrs. Douglas. She recognized Dr. Keffer, Homer High School principal, for being selected as the Region III Principal of the Year.

Mrs. Crawford explained that as one of the 2006-2007 goals the Board members agreed to visit all 44 District schools. She reminded those present to vote during the November 7 election.

BOARD COMMENTS:
(continued)

Mrs. Mullins thanked those present for attending the meeting and for the testimony. She thanked Mrs. Blackmon for the Seward High School report. She explained that the Board cannot have a dialog with the public during the meeting. She thanked the public for informing the Board about the school yearbook and daily bulletin issues but cautioned against voting on Board policies that really should be local decisions. She reported that there have been many discussions on the retirement issue since June 2006 and acknowledged that the incorrect information was not the fault of Mrs. Douglas.

Mrs. Mullins appointed Mrs. Brown to the Calendar Committee and reappointed Mrs. Crawford to the Recognition Committee.

ADJOURN:

At 8:47 p.m., Dr. Anderson moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Debra Mullins, President

Ms. Liz Downing, Clerk

The Minutes of November 6, 2006,
were approved on November 20, 2006
with corrections.