
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes

November 20, 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
Mr. Marty Anderson, Treasurer
Mrs. Liz Downing, Clerk
Dr. Nels Anderson
Mrs. Debbie Brown
Ms. Lynn Hohl
Mr. Bill Hatch
Mrs. Sunni Hilts
Miss Lydia Ames, Student Representative

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Dave Spence	Mr. John O'Brien
Mrs. Norma Holmgaard	Ms. McKibben Jackinsky
Mr. Mike Sellers	Mr. Ted Riddall
Mr. Dan Beck	Mr. Charlie Walsworth
Mr. Sam Evanoff	Mr. Joe Nicks
Mrs. Marnie Bartolini	Mrs. Jamie Harper
Mr. Tim Peterson	Mrs. Doris Cannon
Mr. Jose Gomez	Mrs. Cathy Carrow

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Mrs. Mullins called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.
(7:01:10 PM)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mrs. Mullins invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.
(7:01:20 PM)

ROLL CALL:

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved as written.
(7:02:15 PM)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of November 6, 2006, were approved with revisions.
(7:02:29 PM)

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:
(7:04:42 PM)

The National School Boards Association Distinguished Service Award was presented to Mrs. Sunni Hilts.

Association of Alaska School Boards Basic Boardmanship Award certificates were presented to Mrs. Liz Downing, Mr. Bill Hatch, Mrs. Sunni Hilts, and Mrs. Debbie Brown. Mr. Marty Anderson was not present but also received the Boardmanship Award.

SCHOOL REPORT:
(7:08:08 PM)

Mr. John O'Brien, Nikiski Middle/High School principal, provided information regarding focus groups designed to reinvigorate school pride, increase positive communication with the community and media and increase student achievement. He reported on new elective offerings, student achievement, and increased student engagement. Ms. Teresa Elmore reported on the Read 180 program. Mrs. Shana Kolipano reported on the new art program and displayed a table of student artwork during the meeting. Mr. Ted Riddall reported on the leadership class. Students, Mr. Tyler Payment and Mr. Joel Ribbens, reported that the leadership class has been well received by the students and that it has improved morale. Mr. O'Brien provided copies to the Board of the Peninsula Clarion featuring Mr. Riddall and the Nikiski Middle/High School Leadership class and copies of the school's five-year vision.

RECESS:
(7:24:12 PM)

At 7:24 p.m., Mrs. Mullins called a recess.

RECONVENE IN REGULAR SESSION:
(7:27:44 PM)

At 7:27 p.m. the Board reconvened in regular session.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:
(7:28:46 PM)

Dr. Peterson reported that correspondence was received regarding Fireweed Charter School. She reported that she received a copy of a letter from Borough Mayor Williams to the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities regarding the safety corridor issue for Skyview High 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:
(7:29:16 PM)

Ms. Cathy Carrow, KPEA President, reported that the KPEA Policy Assembly recently met and discussed the federal NCLB reauthorization, the lack of federal funding for Title I, funding from the state, cultural awareness, substitute teacher issues, and work load or duties outside of the instructional day.

Dr. Anderson left the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:
(7:35:19 PM)

Dr. Peterson reported that on November 10 she attended the Challenger Learning Center Gala in Anchorage that raised approximately \$300,000. She reported that she attended the AASB Annual Conference November 9-12. She reported that she attended the Anti-Gang Summit in Anchorage and will serve on the Task Force. She reported that School Board meeting audio is now available on the website for meetings that are held in the Borough Administration Building and thanked Mr. Jim White, Mr. David Henson and Mr. Bob Jones for their assistance.

Dr. Anderson returned at 7:37 p.m.

FINANCIAL REPORT:
(7:37:33 PM)

Mrs. Douglas presented the financial report of the District for the period ending October 31, 2006. She announced that she will provide the FY07 budget revision for Board consideration at the December 4 meeting.

COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT:
(7:38:15 PM)

Mrs. Douglas presented the FY06 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. She thanked the Finance Department staff and specifically, Mrs. Laurie Olson for their work on the report. She reported that auditors Mikunda, Cottrell have rendered an unqualified opinion on the financial statement indicating solid internal control of the District's financial matters. She reported that the District has an undesignated fund balance in the General Fund of approximately \$3 million. She announced that the FY05 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report has met the qualifications with the Association of School Business Officials International and the Government Finance Officers Association for excellence in financial reporting.

SIX-YEAR ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS:
(7:40:14 PM)

Mrs. Douglas presented the Six-Year Enrollment Projections (2007-08 through 2012-13) that reflects 9,167 students for FY08 and explained the process used to develop the projection.

BOARD REPORTS:
(7:42:50 PM)

Mr. Hatch reported that he attended the Language Arts Committee meeting and reported on the group's activities.

Mrs. Hilts reported that she attended the Kenai Conversation meeting and made some school visits to discuss the configuration of Kenai area schools. She reported that she attended the AASB Annual Conference in Anchorage and noted that the school board was well represented. She announced that Mrs. Crawford was chosen as the AASB Board of Directors Secretary/Treasurer. She reported that Miss Ames represented the District well.

Miss Ames reported on Youth Leadership Institute activities which were held in conjunction with the AASB Annual Conference.

Mrs. Downing reported on activities and networking that took place at the AASB Annual Conference.

Ms. Hohl reported that she attended the AASB New School Board Member training.

Mrs. Crawford reported that the workshops offered at the AASB Annual Conference were outstanding. She reported that she attended the Kenai Alternative High School Thanksgiving dinner.

Miss Ames added that she attended a session titled, Consortium for Digital Learning which works to provide lap top computers for each student and added that she would like to see the program offered in the KPBSD.

BOARD REPORTS:
(continued)

Mrs. Brown reported that she attended the AASB Annual Conference and enjoyed the special speakers. She reported that she attended sessions on school law and technology. She reported that she approved of approximately 50% of resolutions that were passed as part of the annual conference business meeting. She stated that some of the resolutions related to topics that are not appropriate for AASB to be involved.

Mrs. Mullins reported that she attended the AASB Annual Conference and thanked the public for the opportunity to attend. She reported that she attended sessions on school law and Fierce Conversation. She expressed concern for information shared at a round-table discussion regarding child predators and pedophiles.

**BOARD WORKSESSION
REPORT:**
(7:59:55 PM)

Mrs. Mullins reported that the Board reviewed various policy revisions in Section 7000 as well as policies relating to field trips. She stated that the Board discussed the Fireweed Charter School request for additional space and the Port Graham Elementary/High School grade configuration recommendation. She stated that the Board heard an update on Tech Prep.

CONSENT AGENDA:
(8:07:22 PM)

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of New Teacher Assignments and Six-Year Plan and School Construction Needs.

**NEW TEACHER
ASSIGNMENTS:**

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve teaching assignments for Theronn King, (temporary) math/business teacher, Seward High School; Anthony Walfort, middle school language arts/social studies, Seward Middle School; and Rene Hobbs, art teacher, Skyview High School.

**SIX-YEAR PLAN AND
SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION
NEEDS:**

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve the proposed Six-Year Plan and list of major maintenance and capital improvement projects through FY14.

MOTION

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**ADMINISTRATIVE
RECOMMENDATIONS OF
FIREWEED ACADEMY
CHARTER SCHOOL
PROPOSAL:**
(8:011:43 PM)

Mr. Szymoniak presented administrative recommendations for the Fireweed Academy Charter School proposals to expand grade levels and share the Homer Middle School facility.

Ms. Kiki Abrahamson, Fireweed Charter School Administrator, suggested that the Board approve all four proposals presented. She stated that a comprehensive plan was provided to the Board earlier. She asked the Board to consider their proposal positively.

Mrs. Bonnie Powell, Fireweed Charter School parent, stated that Fireweed Charter School has created a strong, positive learning environment for both neighborhood and charter school students and spoke in support of the Charter School expansion requests.

**ADMINISTRATIVE
RECOMMENDATIONS OF
FIREWEED ACADEMY
CHARTER SCHOOL
PROPOSAL:**

(continued)

Mr. Garry Betley, Fireweed Charter School founder, stated that the only viable facilities to house the charter school are borough-owned facilities and added that Homer area schools are below capacity and should allow Fireweed Charter School to share the facilities.

Ms. Janet McNary spoke as an advocate for neighborhood school parents who have made a choice to put their students in a neighborhood school and do not feel that it is a benefit to have mixed grade levels and two separate schools share one facility.

MOTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve the administrative recommendation regarding the Fireweed Academy Charter School, Item Number B, to use four classrooms at West Homer Elementary and increase Fireweed's enrollment at WHE to 90 students. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

VOTE:

Advisory Vote: YES

YES – Downing, N. Anderson, Hilts, Hatch, Crawford, Mullins

NO – Brown, Hohl

Motion carried.

RECESS:

(8:56:43 PM)

At 8:56 p.m., Mrs. Mullins called a recess.

Dr. Anderson asked to be excused and left the meeting at 8:57 p.m.

**RECONVENE IN REGULAR
SESSION:**

(9:01:48 PM)

At 9:01 p.m. the Board reconvened in regular session.

**PORT GRAHAM
ELEMENTARY/HIGH
SCHOOL GRADE
CONFIGURATION:**

(9:01:50 PM)

Mr. Stewart recommended the Board approve a reconfiguration of grade levels at Port Graham School from a K-10 school to a K-12 school beginning in the 2007-2008 school year.

Miss Felicia Yeaton, Port Graham Elementary/High School student, stated that she does not support the request to expand the school to K-12 because there is much to be learned by attending a larger school in a different community.

Mr. Josh Anahonak, former Port Graham Elementary/High School student, stated that the high school education program is inadequate because it is taught online and added that the CASTLE program helps student self-confidence and provides a better education.

Mrs. Cathy Carrow, former teacher at Nanwalek Elementary/High School, stated that the opportunity for students to attend a larger school gave them guided practice as they learned to operate in a different culture before being placed on their own after high school.

**PORT GRAHAM
ELEMENTARY/HIGH
SCHOOL GRADE
CONFIGURATION:**
(9:01:50 PM)

MOTION

Mrs. Hilts moved the Board approve the administration recommendation to expand Port Graham Elementary/High School from a K-10 school to K-12 school beginning in the 2007-2008 school year. Mrs. Brown seconded.

VOTE:

Advisory Vote – NO
YES – Hohl, Crawford, Downing, Brown, Hatch, Hilts, Mullins

Dr. Anderson did not cast a vote since he was excused earlier in the meeting.

Motion carried.

**FIRST READING OF POLICY
REVISIONS:**
(9:20:09 PM)

The Board heard a first reading of various policy revisions in Section 7000, New Construction. The Board also heard a first reading of revisions to BP 0430, Community Schools, AR 0430, Community Schools; BP 5131.6, Alcohol and Other Drugs; BP 5141.21, Administering Medication; AR 5141.21, Administering Medication; and AR 6146.82, High School Graduation Qualifying Exam.

BOARD COMMENTS:
(9:20:33 PM)

Mrs. Brown reported that two families requested that their children be allowed to graduate from a specific high school and were declined because they were enrolled in the Connections Program. She stated that the parents have a reasonable request and suggested that the Board approve a motion to assist families with graduation issues and recounted an example of a former Connections Program student who wished to graduate from Skyview High School where he participated in wrestling for four years.

Miss Ames congratulated the AASB and NSBA Certificate awardees. She expressed appreciation for the Board's decision regarding Port Graham Elementary/High School and added that although she did not agree with the outcome she trusts the Board's decision.

Mrs. Crawford thanked Mr. O'Brien and the Nikiski Middle/High School administration and students for the school report. She thanked the administration and Mrs. Mullins for planning the Board's worksessions and for the complete information presented. She thanked Mr. Spence for his work on the Six-Year Plan List. She requested an excused absence for the December 4 Board meeting.

BOARD COMMENTS:
(continued)

Ms. Hohl encouraged the District to join the Alaska Arts Education Consortium. She reported that she provided a presentation on public school lands trust at the Citizens for the Educational Advancement of Alaska's Children (CEAAC) membership meeting and noted that the group voted to work with the Alaska PTA to form a statewide stakeholders group to bring legislation forward. She offered to give a presentation to the Board on the public school land trust. She referred the Board to Policy 6145.3, Publications, as a response to the Seward yearbook photograph issue.

Mrs. Downing thanked those who provided testimony and wished those present a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mrs. Hilts expressed appreciation for the NSBA Distinguished Service Award. She reported that last month she visited eight schools and noted that in each school the students were happy, active and involved in learning. She reported that she especially enjoyed her visit to Port Graham Elementary/High School and Hope Elementary/High School. She stated that she is pleased that the Board voted to keep the Hope Elementary/High School open and reported that the community and school is thriving. She wished those present a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mrs. Mullins assured those present that communications that are received by Board members are read and added that she is reluctant to interfere in yearbook matters at Seward High since it should be handled locally. She announced that she will remove herself from the Language Arts Committee and appoint Mr. Hatch to fill the vacancy. She thanked the Nikiski Middle/High School students and staff for the school report and added that she especially enjoyed hearing about the Leadership Class. She thanked District employees and wished those present a Happy Thanksgiving.

ADJOURN:
(9:31:08 PM)

At 9:31 p.m., Mrs. Crawford moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Hilts seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Debra Mullins, President

Ms. Liz Downing, Clerk

The Minutes of November 20, 2006,
were approved on December 4, 2006
with a correction.