

# Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes

April 16, 2007 – 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. Tim Peterson	Mrs. LaDawn Druce
Mrs. Doris Cannon	Mrs. Patti Rich
Ms. Angie Hamm-Binkerhoff	Mrs. Michelle Gabriel
Mrs. Norma Holmgaard	Mr. Jim White
Mr. Dave Spence	Mr. Mike Navarre
Mrs. Jamie Harper	Mrs. Joyce Woodcock
Mr. Jim Montgomery	Ms. Carolyn Cannava

Others present not identified.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

*(7:00:01 PM)*

Mrs. Crawford called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

*(7:00:16 PM)*

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

Mrs. Crawford explained that Mrs. Mullins, Dr. Anderson and Mrs. Brown were absent because they are attending training at the National School Board Association Annual Conference.

Mrs. Crawford asked those present for a moment of silence in memory of those who were killed or injured during the recent shootings at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg, Virginia.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

*(7:01:35 PM)*

Mrs. Crawford invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

*(7:02:00 PM)*

The agenda was approved as written.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

*(7:02:10 PM)*

The School Board Minutes of April 2, 2007 were approved with a correction.

**SCHOOL REPORT:**

*(7:03:28 PM)*

Ms. Carolyn Cannava, Soldotna Elementary Principal, highlighted Literacy Centers which included a short video of teaching sessions as well as various graphs noting student CBM data. Ms. Cannava introduced parent, Mrs. Debbie Carroll and her daughter Miss Gracie Carroll. Miss Carroll read from the Dr. Seuss book, "The Places You'll Go", to demonstrate her increased CBM level.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:**

*(7:21:19 PM)*

Mr. Mike Navarre, Kenai resident, read a letter to Dr. Peterson and the Board of Education from the Concerned Citizens Coalition regarding the principal selection process.

Mr. Jim Montgomery, Kenai resident, stated that the school administrative hiring process needs to be reviewed and added that in the past, administrators were hired with input from site based councils.

Mrs. Joyce Woodcock, Kenai resident and member of the Concerned Citizens Coalition, stated that it is the Coalition's position that the community has not been represented in the matter of the principal selection of the new combined school and that the Board should vote on the selection of all employees.

Mr. Mike Navarre, Kenai resident, stated that the Coalition was formed because the members did not like the decision that was made for the administrator position of the new combined school and the way it was made. He stated the group would like elected representatives to have authority and to take action in situations regarding public input.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:**

*(7:37:32 PM)*

Dr. Peterson reported that the Board has received copies of administrator Career Development reports, letters related to the principal selection process and the steering committee of the new combined school in Kenai, a letter from Kachemak Bay Campus regarding the positive working relationship in the District's rural villages and a note from Mr. Stewart regarding the field trip policy proposed revisions.

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

*(7:38:25 PM)*

Mrs. Roseann Keating, Mt. View Elementary Advisory Council representative, read a letter from the Council regarding the hiring process for all District administrative positions and asked for a reconsideration of the administrative assignment made for the new combined school in Kenai.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT:***(7:40:32 PM)*

Dr. Peterson noted that the recent shootings at Virginia Tech University reinforce the need for the upcoming Emergency Action Plan trainings which will begin April 17. She noted that being safe at school is critical to everyone throughout the District. She urged the Board to be involved in the emergency training sessions and added that each principal will in turn provide training for their school staff next fall. She reported that she met with the Kenai Alternative Site Council and members of the public and staff regarding the administrator selection. She reported that the administration will conduct interviews for the Port Graham Elementary/High School principal position on April 17. She reported that on April 18 she will participate in the University of Alaska-Anchorage administrative intern class. She announced that the Caring for the Kenai contest will be held at Kenai Central High on April 19.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:***(7:42:13 PM)*

Mrs. Douglas presented the financial report of the District for the period ending March 31, 2007. She noted that there will be a FY07 budget revision and possibly a FY08 budget revision for consideration in June.

**QUARTERLY BUDGET  
TRANSFER REPORT:***(7:42:48 PM)*

Mrs. Douglas reported on third quarter budget transfers Numbers 99 through 314 for various schools and departments within the District.

**BOARD REPORTS:***(7:44:17 PM)*

Miss Ames reported that she attended the BP Teacher of the Year and BP Teachers of Excellence Selection Committee meeting. She noted that the awards will be presented at a recognition dinner in May and that some good selections had been made.

Mr. Hatch reported that he attended the KPSAA meeting in which the group considered proposals from the Alaska Student Activities Association, considered tournament dates and host school rotations. He noted that the group recommended that the middle school Forensics meet be moved to occur during the first semester because of low participation. He stated that the group decided to raise entry fees to events and competitions.

Mrs. Downing reported that on behalf of the Charter School Oversight Committee she and Mr. Szymoniak visited with the West Homer Elementary Site Council to discuss Charter Schools. She reported that the Charter School Oversight Committee met prior to the Board meeting in which Mrs. Douglas reported on the comprehensive accounting process of charter schools and compared the individual school budgets. She reported that the group reviewed cost information regarding Borough maintenance at each location, warehouse services, liability and special education costs. She reported that the group heard from Ms. Ann Henry, a representative of the Jesse Lee Home, who explained that the Home was beginning a one-year residential Charter School in Seward for high school juniors who come from small rural areas. She reported that the group discussed Fireweed Academy's curriculum, grade plans, and potential locations for the school.

**BOARD WORKSESSION  
REPORT:***(7:48:37 PM)*

Mrs. Crawford reported that prior to the meeting the Board heard a report regarding plans to modify the Kenai Central High School swimming pool to allow for Shell Offshore Inc. and the University of Alaska to provide helicopter underwater egress training. She reported that the Board heard a report on plans to relocate the Connections Program and District Media Center. She reported that the Board discussed the upcoming Emergency Action Plan Trainings and staffing alternatives for the 2007-2008 school year.

**CONSENT AGENDA:***(7:51:54 PM)*

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Resignations; Contract and Tenure for Nontenured Teacher/2007-08 and a New Administrator Contract.

**RESIGNATIONS:**

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve resignations from Sharyn Lee Harris-Super, special education/resource, Homer High; Ned Clooten, science, Nikiski Middle/High; Kaye Lawson, occupational therapist, Sterling Elementary; and Chris Cowans, Grade 5, Tustumena Elementary.

**CONTRACT AND TENURE  
FOR NONTENURED  
TEACHER/2007-08:**

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve a contract and tenure for nontenure teacher, Catherine Kibling, for the 2007-2008 school year.

**NEW ADMINISTRATOR  
CONTRACT:**

Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve an administrator contract for the 2007-2008 school year for Megan Rainseth, principal/teacher, Nanwalek Elementary/High.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Hilts moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 3. Mrs. Downing seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**BOARD COMMENTS:***(7:53:35 PM)*

Mr. Hatch noted that he was encouraged by the number of people present at the meeting. He acknowledged that there is a lot of tension and stated that he hoped the Board can reach an accommodation.

Miss Ames expressed appreciation for the Soldotna Elementary School presentation and thanked Miss Gracie Carrol for the Dr. Seuss reading. She thanked those present for their comments and echoed Mr. Hatch's comments.

Mr. Anderson expressed appreciation for the Soldotna Elementary School report. He thanked Mrs. Downing for the Charter School Oversight Committee report. He stated that he felt proud to hear members of the Concerned Citizens Coalition speak without intimidation and retribution and that he was privileged to live in a country that allows its citizens to form special interest groups and has elected officials. He stated that he feels privileged to have lived in the community for 26 years and to be a graduate from one of the District's high schools. He stated that since becoming a Board member he has learned that there are many difficult decisions to make. He reported that he personally read 82 emails regarding the administrator candidates for the new combined school in Kenai and noted that 42 were in favor of one candidate and 40 were in favor of the other. He thanked everyone for bringing their comments and ideas to the Board.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**  
(continued)

Mrs. Hilts expressed her appreciation for the people who testified and for the school report. She reminded the public that important decisions are being made by the legislature and encouraged everyone that quality education cannot be provided without additional funding. She stated that convincing legislators that children are Alaska's top priority and asking them to support District schools is one of the largest tasks of the Board and asked those present for assistance with that task.

Mrs. Downing commended Miss Gracie Carroll on her portion of the Soldotna Elementary School report. She shared a list of activities that she has recently been involved with on behalf of the Board which included attendance at two school performances, judging the West Homer Writers' Fair at West Homer Elementary, a tour of Homer High School, provided testimony at three different legislative conferences, attended the AASB legislative issues webcast, and judged and helped with the districtwide middle school Math Meet. She congratulated students, Miss Kaity McNary and Mr. Fritz Monroe, for their participation in the meet. She stated that she will meet with the University of Alaska Board of Regents and President Hamilton to share collaborations between the District and the Kenai Peninsula College and then will travel to Juneau to participate in the AASB Legislative Fly-In.

Ms. Hohl reported that she will attend the Alaska PTA 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration and convention and noted that the event will include a reception for Reflections art competition. She reported that Miss Paige Brame, a student from Nikiski North Star and Miss Yarrow Farris, a student from Seward Middle School are state finalists in the Reflections competition. She reported to the Seward City Council on School Board issues and added that the Seward City Mayor and Vice-Mayor traveled to Juneau recently and lobbied for additional school funding and added that a resolution was passed by the City Council in support of school funding. She reported that the Seward Chamber of Commerce wrote a letter in support of school funding. She suggested that school site councils be more involved in the selection of the principal even in transfer situations.

Mrs. Crawford thanked the public for their comments, input, and ideas and asked them to continue to work with the Board to make school consolidation successful. She assured those present that the Board wants to do what is right for all students. She thanked Ms. Cannava for the Soldotna Elementary School presentation. She reported that she received several letters from Homer students regarding the vocational education program. She announced that she, along with Mrs. Downing, Mrs. Hilts and Mrs. Mullins, will travel to Juneau to participate in the AASB Legislative Fly-In which includes visits with legislators. She stated that she will meet with the superintendent to discuss the school principal selection process in order to clarify what needs to be done.

**ADJOURN:**  
*(8:06:05 PM)*

At 8:06 p.m., Mr. Hatch moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Downing seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Vice President

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Mrs. Liz Downing, Clerk

The Minutes of April 16, 2007,  
have not been approved.