
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

May 7, 2007 – 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
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:

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Ms. Ginger Blackmon | Ms. Martha Fleming |
| Mr. Steve Pautz | Mr. Wayne Young |
| Mr. Sean Dusek | Mr. Jim White |
| Mr. Tim Peterson | Mrs. Jamie Harper |
| Mrs. Doris Cannon | Mrs. Laura Beck |
| Ms. Cathy Carrow | Mr. David Kingsland |
| Mr. Don Dormady | Mrs. Joyce Woodcock |

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mrs. Mullins called the meeting to order at 7:01 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 |
| 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The School Board Minutes of April 16, 2007 were approved with a correction.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:

The Board presented a Golden Apple Award to Martha Fleming, Seward High School counselor, for her service to the District.

SCHOOL REPORT:

Mr. Steve Pautz, Seward Middle School principal, gave a Powerpoint presentation highlighting the school configuration of 93 students and 4.85 FTE regular education teachers, exploratory programs, the remediation/tutoring program, assessment information, activities in mathematics, language arts, social studies, science, physical education, athletics, and future plans for the school including a new principal, staffing and enrollment.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mrs. Jackie Marshall, Seward resident, asked whether Seward Middle School staff will decrease at a time when the enrollment is predicted to remain the same.

Mrs. Martha Fleming thanked the Board for the Golden Apple Award and added that Seward is a great community to reside; the school has a lot going on, and that volunteers help make it successful.

Mr. Larry Jackson, Kenai resident, read a letter from Mrs. Joyce Woodcock and the Concerned Citizens Coalition regarding the principal selection for the new combined Kenai school.

Mrs. Satorene Jackson, Kenai resident, continued the letter from Mrs. Woodcock and the Concerned Citizens Coalition which urged the Board to return Mr. Dawson to the principal position at Mt. View Elementary.

Mrs. Joyce Woodcock, Kenai resident and member of the Concerned Citizens Coalition, provided a history of the Mt. View Elementary and Sears Elementary consolidation and asked the Board to review the principal selection process for the new combined Kenai school.

Mrs. Cathy Byars, Seward resident, congratulated Ms. Fleming on receiving the Golden Apple Award; thanked the Board for facilitating the installation of the new playground equipment; announced that PTSA has been fund raising for field trips to the Challenger Learning Center, for a scholarship for a Seward High School senior; and continue to be involved in legislative communications by sending Mr. Bob Barnwell, teacher, and Mrs. Julie Lindquist, PTSA member, to the state PTA Fly-in to advocate for funding.

Ms. Patty Linville, Seward resident, thanked the Board for hiring a music teacher and asked to have the position expanded to full-time so that more Seward students can benefit from music instruction.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

Dr. Peterson reported that the superintendent evaluation and Board self-evaluation forms were sent to the Board via email and hard copy and are due to Mrs. Mullins by May 15. She reported that the Board received a letter from the Concerned Citizens Coalition. She reported that the Board received summary information regarding Board Goals 1 and 3, and an update on the long range planning process.

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

Mrs. Erin Knotek, Moose Pass Elementary Site Based Management Council member, announced that she was speaking to the Board as a volunteer and a parent. She requested that the public be allowed to sit in on future interviews for the selection of the Moose Pass Elementary school principal. She noted that next school year the school will have had four principals since 2002. She referred the Board to AR 0420, School Based Management/Site Council and the section titled, Selection of School Administrator. She stated that while she is not opposed to the superintendent making the final decision on principal hires and Board support for the recommendation, she would like site based councils to be allowed to provide input in all decisions regarding the hiring of all administrators.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT:**

Dr. Peterson explained that administrative services are provided at Moose Pass Elementary, Cooper Landing Elementary and Hope Elementary for one day each week, instead of having a full-time principal. She reported that the Soldotna Middle School briefing regarding the assistant principal position was held with site council on April 30 and that the interviews will be held May 14. She reported that interviews for Kenai Alternative were held with the decision pending. She announced that the legislative session ends on May 16. She announced that the British Petroleum Teachers of Excellence recognition dinner will be held on May 17. She announced that closing ceremonies will be held for Sears Elementary on May 18. She announced that Ginger Blackmon, Seward High School principal, has received a doctorate in education. She presented a gold pan to Mr. Steve Pautz in recognition for his years of service to the District.

BOARD REPORTS:

Mrs. Downing reported that she attended the April AASB Legislative Fly-in and, while in Juneau, visited with legislators and staff and attended various workshops. She reported that it was enlightening to review the funding formula in greater detail and to observe how it may be changed.

Mrs. Hilts reported that she attended the AASB Legislative Fly-in and noted that Board members met with legislators to lobby for adequate education funding and added that they were well received. She reported that most legislation is in a state of flux. She reported that District legislators have said that there is nothing the Board can do to move the funding situation forward. She predicted that the area cost differential inequities will not be corrected this year. She suggested that the public continue sending letters and making phone calls to state legislators.

Mrs. Brown thanked the public for the opportunity to attend the National School Boards Association Annual Conference. She reported that she attended sessions regarding laws protecting the public's right to know, sunshine laws, technical and vocational education, and entrance exam accountability, and added that she will submit a written report.

Dr. Anderson reported that he attended the NSBA Annual Conference and both he and his wife attended as many sessions on No Child Left Behind Act as possible and will provide a written report.

BOARD REPORTS:
(continued)

Mrs. Crawford reported that she attended the AASB Legislative Fly-in and participated on the Scholarship Committee in which ten \$1,000 scholarships were awarded, including one for a District student. She reported that she attended the ASAA meeting in Fairbanks in which the group adopted an online coaching course and postponed the drug and alcohol adoption requirement for one year. She reported that the District Policy Committee met to discuss the field trip policy revisions, BP and AR 1230 regarding student fundraising activities, and AR 3342 regarding IRS retirement plans.

Mrs. Mullins reported that she attended the District Policy Committee meetings and thanked the public who testified regarding community member participation in school sponsored field trips. She thanked the public for the opportunity to attend the NSBA Annual Conference and reported that she attended two law classes, two parliamentary procedure classes and 3 governance classes. She reported that during the law class she learned that the Board should not be making administrative decisions and would be held personally liable if they did. She reported that she came back from the conference with a lot of information that she hopes can be reviewed at future worksessions so that Board members can better understand their role. She reported that she attended the AASB Legislative Fly-in in Juneau and felt optimistic until the teleconference with Borough legislators prior to the Board meeting.

BOARD WORKSESSION REPORT:

Mrs. Mullins reported that the Board heard an update from the Charter School Oversight Committee, heard a request for Quality Schools/Quality Students services provided by AASB, reviewed the revised Math Curriculum; listened to proposed changes in the college scholarship process, and participated in a teleconference with Kenai Peninsula legislators and staff.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Budget Transfers; 2007-2008 Nontenure Teachers for Tenure; Tentative Nontenured Teacher Contracts, 2007-2008; Requests for Leave of Absence-Certified; New Teacher Contracts, 2007-2008; Resignations; High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Number 2007-05; Math Curriculum; High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Number 2007-06; and AR 3342, Payroll – Tax Sheltered Annuities.

BUDGET TRANSFERS:

Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve budget transfers Numbers 367, 396 and 397 by Kaleidoscope Charter School in the amount of \$11,760 for teacher salaries, \$25,160 for librarian salary increase due to full time employment, \$17,370 for additional part time secretary salary, \$17,800 for additional custodial salary, \$59,950 for administrator salary, \$11,270 and \$15,960 for unused administrator salary and retirement benefits; Number 390 in the amount of \$39,950 for summer school instructional aide salaries and \$18,840 and \$51,202 for aide benefit costs.

2007-2008 NONTENURE TEACHERS FOR TENURE:

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve Nancy Kleine, Robert Shively, Gordon Pitzman, Lucas Peless, Barbara Baldwin, Kathleen Holt, Michael Audette, nontenure teachers, for tenure.

**TENTATIVE NONTENURED
TEACHER CONTRACTS,
2007-2008:**

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve tentative nontenure teacher contracts for 2007-2008 for Suzanne Phillips, Grade 8, Aurora Borealis; Kim Johnson, Grade 2/3, Chapman; Mary Margaret Hicks, Seward Area, Connections; Paul Story, Districtwide counselor, Grants Instruction; Sean Campbell, language arts, Homer High; Mark Casseri, algebra, Homer High; Jason Nissly, band, Homer High; Matthew Stineff, chemistry, Homer High; Alison Larson, math, art, computer science, Kenai Alternative; Michelle Bayes, Alaska studies, government, social studies, Kenai Central; Justin Carr, language arts, Kenai Central; Scott Peek, algebra, computers, Kenai Central; Jennifer Dowd, 7/8 science, Nikiski Middle/High; Kathryn Baum-Fjelstad, language arts, Ninilchik; Krista Holman, science, Ninilchik; Tina Wise, music, Paul Banks; Marylynn Barnwell, Grade 5/6, Seward Elementary; Robert Barnwell, Grade 6, Seward Elementary; Theresa Zabala, Grade 3/4, Seward Elementary; Theronn King, math, business, Seward High; Carlyn Nichols, science, Seward High; Rene Hobbs, art, Skyview High; Richard Metcalf, science, woodworking, Skyview High; Jeff Moore, music (.50 FTE), Soldotna Middle; and Karen Weston, special education/Quest, West Homer.

**REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF
ABSENCE-CERTIFIED:**

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve leave of absence requests for the 2007-2008 school year from Mariah Thomas-Wolf, language arts, Homer High and Leanne Mahalak, Grade 3/4, Seward Elementary.

**NEW TEACHER CONTRACTS,
2007-2008:**

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve teacher contracts for the 2007-2008 school year for D. Shane Hill, behavior transitions teacher, Districtwide, Central Peninsula; and Wendy Moseley, special education/resource teacher, Districtwide.

RESIGNATIONS:

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve resignations from Matt Widaman, workforce development, Curriculum & Assessment; Deidre Jenson, behavior transitions, District wide-Pupil Services; Joel Jenson, behavior teacher, District wide-Pupil Services; Jill DuFloth, Grade 6, Kenai Middle; Stephanie Jez, music, Seward Elementary; Ben Eveland, assistant principal, Soldotna Middle; and Shannon Riley, special education/resource, Susan B. English.

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION
QUALIFYING EXAM WAIVER
NUMBER 2007-05:**

Mr. Stewart recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Number 2007-05.

MATH CURRICULUM:

Mr. Stewart recommended the Board approve revisions to the math curriculum.

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION
QUALIFYING EXAM WAIVER
NUMBER 2007-06:**

Mr. Stewart recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Number 2007-06.

AR 3342, PAYROLL – TAX SHELTERED ANNUITIES:

Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve revisions to AR 3342, Payroll – Tax Sheltered Annuities, that will allow employees to have access to 457 plans in planning for their retirement needs.

MOTION

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 10. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Mrs. Brown removed Item 10a.(6).

Motion to approve Numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10 carried unanimously.

Motion to approve Number 6 approved unanimously.

RESOLUTION 06-07-2:

Mr. Stewart recommended the Board approve Resolution 06-07-2, Support for Partnership to Improve Student Achievement (QS2). Mr. Stewart explained that Quality Schools/Quality Students is a comprehensive school improvement service offered by the Association of Alaska School Boards that assists school districts and their local communities in raising student achievement to meet or exceed state standards.

Ms. Cathy Carrow, KPEA President, stated that Quality Schools/Quality Students grants will provide much needed support to several District schools. She asked if the allocation of District human and financial resources will be influenced by Negotiated Agreement. Mr. Stewart confirmed that the Negotiated Agreement will determine how District resources will be used.

Mrs. Hilts moved the Board approve Resolution 06-07-2, Support for Partnership to Improve Student Achievement (QS2). Mr. Anderson seconded.

VOTE:

Advisory Vote: YES

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

NO – Brown

Motion carried.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/ COMMENTS:

Mr. Pautz thanked the Board and administration for being able to work in the District for the past eleven years. He stated that he has learned a lot from his colleagues and loves the community of Seward.

Mrs. Jackie Marshall, KPC Resurrection Bay Extension Site Coordinator, thanked Mr. Pautz for being a great advocate of the Jumpstart KPC Program. She thanked the District for a good partnership with the Kenai Peninsula College. She stated that from a parent’s perspective, Mr. Pautz has always been willing to listen and thanked him professionally and personally.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/
COMMENTS:**
(continued)

Mrs. Deanna Thomas, Moose Pass resident and parent, recommended that Mary Hicks, Connections Program teacher, be given a full-time position because she monitors over 70 students. She asked the Board not to eliminate any more teachers from Seward High.

Mr. Ken Carr, Seward resident, asked Mrs. Hilts whether legislators give a reason for why they do not want to financially help the District. Mrs. Hilts reported that the response from statewide legislators is that although they know KPBSD has not been funded correctly, correcting the inequity in the foundation formula would not benefit the larger districts. Mr. Carr thanked the Board for their service. He thanked Mr. Pautz for his service to the Seward area schools on behalf of the PAC Council.

Mrs. Cathy Carrow, KPEA president, encouraged those present to contact legislators in support of equitable funding for the District. She reported that U.S. Senator Murkowski has included an amendment to the No Child Left Behind Act in an attempt to correct some of the problems that Alaska has with NCLB. She reported that Senator Murkowski needs encouragement to continue her efforts to fix the problems with NCLB and to fund the mandates. She reported that the decision to reauthorize NCLB will occur within the next few weeks. She reminded those present that May 8 is National Teacher Appreciation Day.

Ms. Koreena Ortiz, Kenai resident, suggested the Board review the decision to consolidate Sears Elementary and Mt. View Elementary. She compared test scores between the two schools and added that Mt. View Elementary parents do not want to let go of the current leadership and that the administration's principal selection does not have validity.

Mrs. Joyce Woodcock, Concerned Citizens Coalition, asked why redistricting was not an option instead of consolidating Sears Elementary and Mt. View Elementary. She stated that it is time to revisit the principal selection decision. She stated that the components are not there to allow a successful consolidation.

Ms. Ginger Kaona, Kenai resident, suggested that if charter schools have the money they should pay their own expenses, especially since they receive federal grants and are supported by the Borough. She stated that she was not in favor of the consolidation or the new configuration. She asked the Board to reconsider the administrator assignment for Mt. View Elementary.

Mr. Don Dormady, Kenai resident, presented copies of a petition signed prior to April 2 by those in support of Jim Dawson as the principal of the new combined school in Kenai. He read a letter stating that the petitioners are not satisfied with the principal hiring process.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/
COMMENTS:**
(continued)

Mrs. Erin Knotek thanked Mr. Pautz for his administrative services to Moose Pass Elementary. She requested that site councils be involved in the administrator selection process for Moose Pass and asked why the school doesn't qualify for a principal. She asked the Board to investigate the hiring process for principals.

Mrs. Patty Linville, Seward resident, stated that the Seward community does not receive the Peninsula Clarion and suggested that the School Board advertise the *News In Brief* in The Phoenix Log.

Mrs. Woodcock thanked those who have been an encouragement to the Concerned Citizens Coalition and have provided direction.

Mr. Don Dormady, Kenai resident, reported that Mr. Ted Navarre and Mr. Mike Navarre were not available to attend the Board meeting but support the work of the Concerned Citizens Coalition. He stated that the public wants the Board to have the power to take care of the business of the people that it represents. He implied that Board members don't give their personal opinions because they are afraid.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mr. Anderson thanked Mr. Ken Carr for his question regarding legislator responses to funding questions and to Mrs. Hilts for her straight forward answer. He stated that he ran for the School Board because he wanted to give back to the community and school district where he graduated. He stated that he is recently saddened by his participation on the Board and noted that he has taken time away from his family to travel to Juneau to lobby the legislature for a better community. He stated that the behavior displayed during the meeting was ugly and that there will be repercussions of which will have an effect at the state level. He stated that the lack of funding needed to retain 50 to 100 teachers is a much more serious concern and suggested that energy would be better spent becoming united and provide graduations, teachers, music and programs for school administrators.

Mrs. Hilts assured those present that statewide legislators know our inadequate funding situation in the KPBSD. She urged the public to contact all legislators to do what is right for students and to do what is ethical in regards to adequate funding. She stated that the Board is doing what is right for students and suggested that Board policies and procedures be clarified in an organized, ethical, deliberate manner. She described the lengthy travel necessary each time she attends a Board meeting and assured those present that she does not serve on the Board for the salary or the acknowledgement. She told those present that when she travels to Juneau on behalf of the Board her family pays a price. She stated that she serves on the Board because she wants to advocate for children in every way possible. She stated that the Board is not unethical or thoughtless and that they speak as a Board and not as individuals.

BOARD COMMENTS:
(continued)

Mrs. Brown announced that Mr. Norm Wooten, Kodiak School Board member, was elected to serve as president of the NSBA and noted that he wrote an excellent article in the April 2007 edition of the AASB newsletter regarding engaging community members. She stated that she feels frustrated because she assumed that the administrative assignments which were approved by the Board on February 19 would be filled as presented. She asked that the Board have an attorney available at Board meetings and added that the Board can afford it if it is necessary.

Mr. Hatch agreed that the Board needs to do a better job making parents and community members part of the decision making process. He stated that he was pleased that Seward Middle School has managed to offer a well-rounded curriculum and commended the staff for maintaining a "middle school feel" during a time of limited budgets.

Miss Ames congratulated Mrs. Fleming and Mr. Pautz and thanked Seward Middle School staff for the school report. She reassured those present that all Board members want what is best for all students although it may seem to contradict personal opinions by members of the public. She told those present that the Board works as a team advocating for District children. She encouraged those present to continue contacting legislators in support of adequate education funding.

Mrs. Downing reminded those present that she lives in Homer and that although Central Peninsula issues are strongly felt, the Board serves the entire Peninsula. She explained that approvals of administrative contracts are approvals of positions not individuals and that the Board's role is to approve positions and receive the list of names as information only. She stated that the administration's role is to fill the positions with qualified employees. She requested the Board president schedule a worksession to review and clarify the Board's role in filling administrative vacancies with an attorney, human resources staff, or another expert. She suggested that the Board review the administrative hiring process during a worksession with the Human Relations staff and legal council so that roles can be clarified and communicated to the public, employees and all Board members.

Ms. Hohl stated that she will miss Mr. Pautz. She thanked Mr. Carr and Mrs. Fleming. She reported that she will attend the British-Petroleum Teachers of Excellence Recognition dinner. She announced that during a worksession held prior to the Board meeting Board members were told that the principals support the Quality Schools/Quality Students (QS2) service. She asked whether a member of the administration could explain the QS2 services during the next Seward Site Council meeting since parental involvement is very important.

BOARD COMMENTS:
(continued)

Dr. Anderson stated that No Child Left Behind Act sponsored an initiative by Representative Don Young in an attempt to make the requirements workable for Alaska. Dr. Anderson requested that Mrs. Carrow be allowed to present her concerns to the administration and then possibly to the School Board during a worksession regarding the hiring process. He stated that although he may have made a different choice for the administrator of the new combined school, it has been clarified by attorneys that the Board's job is to make policy and the administration's job is to operate schools. He stated that he heartily concurs with parental involvement and added that he felt that the public was involved with the Kenai Conversation decision. He stated that he supports the administration's decision because it is their job to make the selection of the principal for the new combined school in Kenai. He announced that the only way the Kenai consolidation will fail is if the public keeps the objection alive.

Mrs. Crawford thanked the community of Seward and Kenai for their attendance. She thanked Mr. Pautz for his service to the District and for his school report. She congratulated Ms. Fleming for the Golden Apple Award. She reported that she attended the Caring for the Kenai awards ceremony and noted that thousands of dollars were awarded to schools and students. She stated that she is pleased to see that the QS2 Resolution was approved and noted that Seward schools will be included in the grant services. She stated that Board members take their work seriously and work hard. She stated that the Board listens to public comments but also support the superintendent.

Mrs. Mullins stated that a response regarding improper motions was provided to Mrs. Brown. She explained that once the Board has adopted an agenda, it cannot be changed after that. She announced that she has been a Board member for approximately 16 years and explained that she did not seek to be the Board president but that the members elected her for the position. She further explained that being Board president requires her to make rulings as necessary and that if Board members do not like her decisions they can vote to over rule the president. She stated that she must run the meeting in a way that allows everyone the opportunity to speak and be heard and that one member cannot control the meeting. She stated that she treats all members equally and that all are given the same consideration. She explained that being president does not give her any special privileges. She complimented the new curtains in the Seward High School theater. She announced that this school year is the first opportunity the District has been allowed to apply for QS2 money and hopes the District will be successful in receiving the grant money because it will be beneficial to the community.

ADJOURN:

At 9:59 p.m., Mrs. Crawford moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Debra Mullins, President

Mrs. Liz Downing, Clerk

The Minutes of May 7, 2007,
have not been approved as of
May 11, 2007.