
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes

September 10, 2007 – 7:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting

Homer High School
600 E. Fairview, Homer, 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
Mr. Bill Hatch
Ms. Lynn Hohl
Mrs. Sunni Hilts

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Randy Creamer	Mr. Pete Swanson
Mr. Jim White	Mr. Tim Peterson
Ms. Jenny Neyman	Dr. Ron Keffer
Ms. McKibben Jackinsky	Ms. Shari Conley
Ms. Karen Wessel	Mrs. Millie Martin
Mr. Charlie Walsworth	

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Mrs. Mullins called the meeting to order at 7:02 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/Arrived at 7:15 p.m.
Dr. Nels Anderson	Present
Mrs. Debbie Brown	Absent/Excused
Mrs. Liz Downing	Present
Mr. Bill Hatch	Present
Ms. Lynn Hohl	Present
Mrs. Sunni Hilts	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved as written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of August 6, 2007, were approved as printed.

SCHOOL REPORT: Mr. Pete Swanson, McNeil Canyon Elementary principal, gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting classroom activities, student learning, assessment information, staffing information, and community involvement.

Mr. Anderson arrived at 7:15 p.m.

SCHOOL REPORT:
(continued)

Mr. Randy Creamer, Kachemak Selo Elementary principal, gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting a new student-made sign for the school, assessment information, performance incentive payments, parental support, staffing information, student activities, the installation of new playground equipment, and an eagle rehabilitation project.

Mr. Dan Beck, Homer Middle principal, gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting assessment information, school enrollment and configuration, staffing information, and information about Adequate Yearly Progress as mandated by the No Child Left Behind Act. Miss Katie McNary, student, narrated a slide show about the Coast Walk, CPR training, Forensics Meet results, ceramic art project, Homer Council on the Arts writing contest, talent show, spelling bee, geography bee, word power challenge, fund raising project, Future Farmer's of America beautification project and cross country trails, Woman of Distinction Award, staff awards and recognitions, Math Meet, the Washington D.C. field trip, hobby fair, islands and oceans unit, dance workshop, Husky Olympics, and a dinosaur study.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Miss Lindsay Olsen, Homer High School senior, spoke against the Kenai Peninsula Student Activities Association proximity rule regarding drugs and alcohol and proposed that an exception be allowed exempting students who are acting as designated drivers for other youth.

Ms. Gina Creedon, Homer High School parent, spoke in support of student use of the school greenhouse for the Natural Resources Program. She asked the Board to petition for a special certification for Mr. Al Poindexter so that he can teach students.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

Dr. Peterson noted that the Board received information regarding Borough Assembly action; a letter from Heritage Place providing evidence of District partnerships within the community; and a letter from Colette Thompson, Borough Attorney, answering questions that were asked at the August 6 Board meeting regarding committees. She announced that she has received confirmation that the District has achieved Adequate Yearly Progress status, which is a huge accomplishment.

**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. Martin, Borough Assembly member, welcomed the Board to Homer, and thanked the school administrators for the school reports.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Peterson reported that Leadership Team Workplans, which help manage the Leadership Team workload, were included in the Board packet and that changes to Board Policy Manual exhibit pages were included in the information packet. She reported that she participated in KSRM's radio show, Kenai Live. She noted that school start-up has gone smoothly.

Mrs. Mullins acknowledged Mr. Anderson's arrival during the school reports section of the meeting (at 7:15 p.m.).

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Mrs. Douglas presented the financial report of the District for the period ending July 31, 2007.

BOARD REPORTS:

Mrs. Mullins reported that she attended a meeting with the District auditor, in her role as Board President, and she was asked questions regarding the Board's role in the financing of the District.

BOARD WORKSESSION REPORT:

Mrs. Mullins reported that the Board conducted a review of School Board Bylaws and Protocols, heard a report on assessment, learned about District Improvement Planning, and heard a report from the Boys and Girls Club staff regarding after-school activities.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Budget Transfer; Nontenure Teaching Contracts; New Teacher Contracts; Resignation; Request for Leave of Absence-Support; and New Administrator Contract.

BUDGET TRANSFER:

Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve budget transfer Number 4 requested by the Student Nutrition Department, to facilitate moving the food ordering function to Tustumena Elementary (\$20,000), McNeil Canyon Elementary (\$10,000) and Chapman Elementary (\$15,000), where food is prepared.

NONTENURE TEACHING CONTRACTS:

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve tentative nontenure teacher assignments for the 2007-2008 school year for Karen Fine, Grades 3-6 teacher, Fireweed Academy; Myla Liljemark, .50 FTE social studies teacher, Seward Middle; and Lori Young, (temporary) Title I teacher, Tustumena Elementary.

NEW TEACHER CONTRACTS:

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve teaching contracts for Aaron Geiger, school psychologist, Districtwide, Central Peninsula; Annarose Noelle Phillips, speech/language pathologist, Districtwide, Central Peninsula; Mitchell Pioch, .50 FTE Quest/.50 FTE special education resource teacher, Districtwide, Central Peninsula; Peter Brazil, teacher-vocational/career and technology education, Workforce Development Program/ Secondary Curriculum; Joshua Brege, vocational education teacher, Homer High School; Joy Harper, Grades 4/5 teacher, Kaleidoscope; Rebecca Arness, (temporary) Grade 5 teacher, K-Beach Elementary; Kristin M. Davis, science/math teacher, Kenai Central High; Rosemary Owens, earth/physical science teacher, Kenai Central High; Tyler Schlung, special education/resource, Kenai Middle School; Erica Becker, special education/resource teacher, Mountain View Elementary;

CONSENT AGENDA:

(continued)

Mark R. Lee, elementary music teacher, Mountain View Elementary; Peter Papura, (.50 FTE permanent, .50 FTE temporary) music teacher, Nikiski Middle/High; Jan Darch, (temporary) Grade 1 teacher, Nikiski North Star Elementary; Courtney Lambaiso, (temporary) elementary teacher, Port Graham School; Katharine Glaser, (temporary) Grade 1/2 teacher, Seward Elementary; Patricia Hamre, .50 FTE K-6 music teacher/.50 FTE K-6 reading interventionist, Seward Elementary; April MacDonald, (temporary) teacher, Grades ³/₄, Seward Elementary; Michele Walker, (permanent .50 FTE) librarian/(temporary .50 FTE) Credit Recovery Language Arts, Seward High School; Frederick Talbott, science teacher, Skyview High School; Matthew Johnson, special education/resource teacher, Soldotna High School; James Knoebel, special education/life skills teacher, Soldotna High; Steve Cunningham, social studies/physical education teacher, Soldotna Middle School; and Frederick Foster, (temporary .50 FTE) teacher, Voznesenka School.

RESIGNATION:

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve a resignation from Barbara Croxford, school psychologist, Districtwide, Central Peninsula.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE-SUPPORT:

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve an unpaid leave of absence request for support employee, Marcia Boone, secretary III, Homer Middle (effective October 8, 2007).

NEW ADMINISTRATOR CONTRACT:

Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve an administrator contract for Peggy Arnold-Hoobler, principal/teacher, Port Graham Elementary/High.

MOTION

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 6. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AASB CORE RESOLUTIONS:

Mrs. Mullins explained that the 2007 AASB Belief Statements and Core Resolutions are presented to the Board for consideration.

MOTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve the 2007 AASB Belief Statements and Core Resolutions. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Dr. Anderson removed 1.3, Opposition to Mandated Borough Formation. Ms. Hohl removed 2.3, Supporting the Findings of the Legislative Education Funding Task Force.

Motion carried unanimously.

VOTE ON AASB RESOLUTION 1.3

YES – Downing, Hilts, M. Anderson,

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

Motion to approve AASB Resolution 1.3 failed.

Motion to approve AASB Resolution 2.3 carried unanimously.

**AASB RESOLUTION 2.28,
ALASKA PUBLIC LANDS
TRUST:**

MOTION

Ms. Hohl moved the Board approve AASB Core Resolution 2.28, Reconstitution and Active Management of the Public School Land Trust and Permanent Fund. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**AASB RESOLUTION 5.8,
NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR
PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT:**

MOTION

Ms. Hohl moved the Board approve AASB Core Resolution 5.8, Encourage Districts to Adopt the National Standards for Parent/Family Involvement Programs. Mr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mr. Hatch expressed appreciation for the school reports from McNeil Canyon Elementary, Kachemak Selo Elementary, and Homer Middle.

Mr. Anderson expressed appreciation that the school year has started and reported that he attended a first grade and kindergarten class field trip and that he has a new found respect for teachers at that grade level. He thanked District teachers and administration for their hard work leading and guiding students on a daily basis.

Mrs. Crawford thanked Mr. Swanson, Mr. Creamer and Mr. Beck for the school reports. She thanked the administration for including the Workplans in the Board packet. She stated that she is excited that the entire District made AYP. She stated that she hopes this is not her last Board meeting and requested an excused absence from the October 1 Board meeting.

Mrs. Hilts requested an excused absence from the October 1 Board meeting. She expressed appreciation for school reports and for the news that the District made AYP. She stated that she was happy to see the new playground equipment at Kachemak-Selo School. She stated that even though the assessment scores are good, the District will have to work exceptionally hard to reach every student.

Dr. Anderson stated that the public does not fully appreciate the news that the District has passed AYP and outlined the many categories that must be passed in order to qualify. He stated that although he disagrees with the No Child Left Behind Act as it is currently implemented, he is impressed with the District's accomplishment. He commended the administration and teachers for the hard work achieving AYP. He stated that he is not sure the District can continue with the ramped up requirements each year. He stated that he is not happy about the District's overall graduation rate of 68% for males and 75% for females.

BOARD COMMENTS:
(continued)

Mrs. Downing congratulated District staff and students in making AYP. She stated that the KPBSD is probably the only District on the road system in Alaska to make AYP, which represents a lot of parent involvement. She thanked Mr. Swanson, Mr. Creamer and Mr. Beck for the school reports. She expressed appreciation for those who spoke during public comments. She stated that over the years, Board members have developed relationships with state legislators and are well respected throughout the state. She stated that because of the term limit proposition, the Board may be facing the loss of two of the best, most educated, and hard working Board members even if they win their seats during the upcoming election.

Ms. Hohl commended Dr. Peterson for her presentation at the administrators meeting regarding parent involvement. She stated that she was pleased about the rehire of a Seward High School teacher who was selected as the school's Teacher of the Year last year. She asked whether some of the individual Highly Qualified information can be made available on the District website. She reported that she will attend the upcoming wellness conference.

Mrs. Mullins requested that, pending the results of the upcoming election, the Board consider the nomination of Mrs. Crawford for membership on the AASB Board of Directors during the October 1 Board meeting. She announced that she will attend the upcoming wellness seminar. She reported that the administration was taking notes during public presentations and assured those who spoke that someone from the District would respond. She stated that she is delighted about the news that the District made AYP and thanked the administration as well as all District staff, parents, and students for the accomplishment.

ADJOURN:

At 8:30 p.m., Mrs. Crawford moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mr. Hatch seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Debra Mullins, President

Mrs. Liz Downing, Clerk

The Minutes of September 10, 2007
were approved on October 1, 2007
as written.