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# Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes

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November 5, 2007 – 7:00 p.m.  
Regular Meeting

Borough Administration Building  
148 N. Binkley, Soldotna, Alaska

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

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Mr. Tim Peterson	Mr. Sean Dusek
Mr. Jim White	Mr. Phil Hermenak
Mrs. Jenni Hammond	Mrs. Doris Cannon
Mr. Ken Halverson	Dr. Ron Keffer
Ms. Shonia Werner	Ms. Cathleen Rolph
Ms. Gail Knobf	Mr. Dave Spence
Mr. Tony Garcia	Ms. Carolyn Cannava
Mr. Todd Syverson	Mrs. Marnie Bartolini
Mr. John Cook	Mr. Rudy Peterson
Mrs. Colette Thompson	

Others present not identified.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mrs. Sammy Crawford called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.  
(7:00:36 PM)

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mrs. Crawford invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.  
(7:00:50 PM)

**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 Brittany Meyer	Present

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** The agenda was approved with an amendment moving item Number 10b., Approval of Homer High Site Council High School

(7:01:40 PM)

Graduation Waiver Request, directly above item Number 4., Public Presentations.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

(7:02:21 PM)

The School Board Minutes of October 15, 2007 were approved as printed.

**AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:**

(7:02:38 PM)

The Board presented a Golden Apple Award to Officer Tony Garcia, Soldotna Police Department, for his service to the students of the District through the D.A.R.E Program and his dealings with students, parents and staff members.

**SCHOOL REPORT:**

(7:05:54 PM)

Mr. Ken Halverson, Tustumena Elementary principal, introduced three teachers: Ms. Shonia Werner, Grade 5/6 teacher, Ms. Cathleen Rolph, Quest teacher, and Ms. Gail Knobf, Grade 5/6 teacher. Miss Demery Garrant and Miss Makayla Wong introduced students: Mr. Austin Kruse, Mr. Walter Baxter, Mr. Jeremy Hinz, Miss Abby Cook, and Miss Rachel Blossom, who helped with the Powerpoint presentation. The presentation highlighted outdoor classroom activities, student awards, poetry contest participants, forensics, a pumpkin carving activity, cross country skiing, the Tustumena Mars Mission, music, math activities, a fire station field trip, the Buddy Reading Program, the Grade 5/6 Space Project, Future Problem Solving competition, and the Mind A-Mazes competition.

**RECESS:**

(7:18:41 PM)

At 7:18 p.m., Mrs. Crawford called a recess.

**RECONVENE AFTER**

**RECESS:**

(7:20:00 PM)

At 7:20 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

**HOMER HIGH SITE COUNCIL WAIVER REQUEST:**

(7:20:05 PM)

Mr. Szymoniak presented a waiver request from the Homer High School Site Council to the Board requesting a waiver from BP 6146.1 and AR 6146.1, High School Graduation Requirements that would require all seniors to complete a 30-hour Senior Service Project, in addition to requirements listed in BP 6146.1 and AR 6146.1, prior to graduation.

**MOTION**

Dr. Anderson moved that the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District School Board grant the site council waiver to approve the addition of 30 service hours to obtain a Homer High School diploma. Furthermore, those who choose not to participate in service hours, but otherwise meet District requirements for graduation, will be awarded a generic Kenai Peninsula Borough School District diploma. Mrs. Liz Downing seconded.

Dr. Ron Keffer, Homer High School principal, reported that past practice has been that students who did not fulfill the 30-hour community service project were not permitted to participate in the graduation ceremony. He assured those present that all Homer High students and parents are made aware of the community service requirement and that the staff works very closely with students to ensure their success. Dr. Keffer explained that procedures are in place to deal with extenuating circumstances

when a student is not able to complete the service hours prior to graduation.

Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:**

*(7:44:53 PM)*

Mrs. Jenni Hammond, Nikiski parent, thanked the Board for the low pupil-teacher ratio at Nikiski North Star Elementary.

Mrs. Chrissy Morrison, Nikiski North Star Elementary parent, expressed appreciation for small class sizes at the kindergarten level.

Mrs. Kersten Osborn, Nikiski North Star kindergarten teacher, thanked the Board and administration for the low class sizes and noted that it makes a huge difference to have only 21 students versus 25.

Mrs. Karen Evans, Soldotna parent, expressed several objections to the Youth Survey which is to be given to students in Grades 6, 8, 10, and 12 on November 14, upon parent consent.

Mr. Mark Evans, Soldotna parent, expressed objections to the Youth Survey given to District students by the Community Action Coalition because of its inappropriate questions.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:**

*(7:54:06 PM)*

Dr. Peterson reported that the Board received a copy of the information that was provided to school site councils regarding Long Range Planning and noted that the administration has requested feedback from site councils by mid November. She noted that service clubs, chambers of commerce and other organizations have been solicited for feedback regarding the Long Range Plan and it is due by mid December. She reported that she will accept the invitation to attend the Governors' summit on early learning December 5-6.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

*(7:55:25 PM)*

Dr. Peterson reported that the Community Action Coalition administers the Youth Survey and explained that students must have active parent permission in order to participate in the survey. She noted that many District grants require the survey information as part of the application process. She reported that on October 31, she spoke to the Anchor Point Chamber and will speak to the Kenai Chamber on November 28. She reported that on November 3, the School District, Kenaitze Tribal Council and the Salamatof Tribal Council signed a formal Memorandum of Agreement cementing an ongoing partnership. She reported that the District online calendar includes many committee meetings which are all linked agendas for the meeting. She reported that an "intent to award" has been received for the construction of teacher housing in Nanwalek.

**CLASS SIZE REPORT:**

*(8:03:33 PM)*

Mr. Glen Szymoniak presented the Class Size Enrollment Report that included a comparison of pupil-teacher ratios throughout District schools. He reviewed individual school information for Seward Middle School as an example of how to understand the information.

**QUARTERLY BUDGET  
TRANSFER REPORT:**  
(8:08:29 PM)

Mrs. Douglas reported on budget transfers Numbers 2 through 61 for various schools and departments within the District.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**  
(8:08:55 PM)

Mrs. Douglas presented the financial report of the District for the period ending September 30, 2007. She noted that the next major revision for the FY08 Budget will occur after preliminary student count information has been received from the Department of Education and Early Development.

**BOARD REPORTS:**  
(8:09:36 PM)

Mrs. Mullins reported that she attended the Health Curriculum Committee meeting and that the group worked on the elementary portion of the curriculum and that the November 6 meeting will focus on the middle school and high school curriculum.

Mrs. Crawford reported that she attended the 2009-2010 School Year Calendar Committee meeting and that the group submitted a calendar to the Board for approval. She noted that there are eleven students now in college who have participated in all four years of the Project GRAD Program and are benefiting from the scholarship money.

**BOARD WORKSESSION  
REPORT:**  
(8:11:13 PM)

Mrs. Crawford reported that the Board discussed the Board Bylaws and Protocols Review process. She announced that members of the Structure Review Subcommittee are Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Liz Downing, and Dr. Nels Anderson; members of the Accountability Review Subcommittee are Mr. Bill Hatch, Ms. Lynn Hohl, and Mrs. Sammy Crawford; and members of the Conduct and Ethics Review Subcommittee are Mr. Marty Anderson, Mrs. Deb Mullins, and Mrs. Sunni Hilts. She reported that the subcommittees will meet on December 3 for a one-hour worksession to decide on areas of review and then invite public involvement for the January 14 meeting beginning at 5:30 p.m. She reported that the Board held a discussion regarding the Homer High Site Council High School Graduation Waiver Request. She reported that the Board heard an update regarding the FY 07 Equipment Fund, the implementation of new software for the Human Resources and Finance Departments, and a report regarding seatbelts on buses.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**  
(8:12:55 PM)

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Resignations; 2009-2010 School Year Calendar; KPSAA Proposals for Club Basketball at Port Graham School and Nanwalek School; Nontenure Teaching Contracts; and Long Term Substitute Contract.

**RESIGNATIONS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve resignations from Tanya Boedeker, Grades 7-9, Connections (effective June 30, 2008); Linda Satre, Grade 1, Paul Banks (effective at the end of the 2007-08 school year); and D. Kim Verney, Preschool, Soldotna Elementary (effective June 30, 2008).

**SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR:**

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the board approve the proposed calendar for the 2009-2010 school year.

**KPSAA PROPOSALS FOR CLUB BASKETBALL AT PORT GRAHAM SCHOOL AND NANWALEK SCHOOL:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve basketball as a club activity, at no cost to the District, for Port Graham Elementary/High and Nanwalek Elementary/High for the 2007-08 school year. Port Graham requested the addition of only a boys' team, while Nanwalek requested both boys' and girls' teams.

**NONTENURE TEACHING CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve nontenure teaching contracts for the 2007-2008 school year for Holly Boyle, temporary generalist, Kenai Middle School and Julie Shaw, Grade 1 teacher, Paul Banks Elementary.

**LONG TERM SUBSTITUTE CONTRACT:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a long-term substitute teaching contract for Patsy Hansen, Grade 2, Mountain View Elementary.

Mr. Dalen Carlson, student representative on the 2009-2010 School Year Calendar Committee, reported that one of the major considerations for the committee was when to schedule the semester break. He reported that the general feeling among parents and students that he spoke to was that the semester should end before the December Holiday Break.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 5. Mr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/ COMMENTS:**

*(8:16:29 PM)*

Ms. Gail Balzer, Soldotna resident, expressed her objections to the questions and the manner in which the Youth Survey is promoted to the parents and the pressure put upon the students because of the rewards and gifts being offered.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

*(8:20:08 PM)*

Ms. Hohl reported that she attended the Seward Chamber of Commerce meeting and provided an update of the District budget meeting. She reported that she attended the October 17 Site Council and Parent Group Training. She announced that she will attend the Budget Review Committee meeting on Monday, November 12. She stated that she will attend the Kenai Alternative High School Thanksgiving dinner.

Mrs. Crawford urged Board members to attend the Budget Review Committee meeting on Monday, November 12.

Mrs. Brown expressed appreciation for the community participation in the Homer High School Graduation Waiver Request and added that it is important that the Board try to meet the desires of District communities. She expressed concern for students who are, for various reasons, not allowed to participate in graduation ceremonies. She expressed appreciation for the Tustumena Elementary presentation and asked about the status of the drinking water issue at the school.

Mr. Hatch expressed appreciation for the Tustumena Elementary School report.

Miss Meyer stated that the community service requirement provides an excellent opportunity for Homer High students and will help them set goals. She expressed appreciation for the Tustumena Elementary School report.

Mrs. Hilts expressed appreciation for the Tustumena Elementary report. She stated she was encouraged to hear about the partnership between the District, the Kenaitze Indian tribe, and the Salamatof Indian tribe and suggested they be invited to speak to the Board. She commended Homer High for their senior project requirement and noted that Wrangell School District students are required to complete senior projects. She stated that senior projects give an added incentive to students to be challenged, to find out what they can do, and to raise expectations.

Mrs. Downing stated that she was thrilled to support the Homer High School Site Council waiver request to require a senior project. She stated that it is a rare opportunity for students to make a contribution and have hands-on experience. She reported that she attended the Celebration of Life ceremony for Pat Shields, Homer High School teacher, and noted that Homer High students attended in force. She congratulated Homer High School students who attended the National Future Farmer's of America Annual Conference and placed second nationally in their competition.

Mrs. Mullins thanked the administration for the Class Size Report. She expressed appreciation for the update regarding seatbelts on busses and noted that not much of the information has changed since 1987. She assured those present that bus service is safe transportation for students. She reported that she will make 14 pounds of fudge to be auctioned off during the June Nelson Scholarship fund raising event at the upcoming AASB Annual Conference. She noted that donations are made by participants who attend the conference and are also purchased by the participants. She reported that for the twelfth time she will teach new school board training at the AASB Annual Conference

Mrs. Crawford expressed appreciation that most Board members will be attending the AASB Annual Conference and noted that Mrs. Mullins will conduct new school board training, Mrs. Hilts will serve on the Nominations Committee, Ms. Hohl will serve on the Resolutions Committee, and asked Board members who are available, to attend the Resolutions Committee meeting and provide assistance. She reported that she will be serving on the Budget Committee. She encouraged those present to attend the District Budget Review Committee meeting on Monday, November 12. She thanked Mr. Halverson for the Tustumena Elementary report.

Mrs. Crawford requested an excused absence for the December 3 Board meeting since she will be attending the Pacific Region meeting for the National Association of School Boards.

# UNAPPROVED

**ADJOURN:**  
(8:33:20 PM)

At 8:33 p.m., Mrs. Mullins moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mr. Hatch seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mrs. Crawford, President

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Mr. Marty Anderson, Clerk

The Minutes of November 5,  
have not been approved as of  
November 15, 2007.