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# Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes

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February 4, 2008 – 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 Doulas, Chief Financial Officer  
Mr. Glen Szymoniak, Assistant Superintendent  
Mr. Dave Jones, Assistant Superintendent

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Mrs. Linda Overturf	Mrs. Sharon Mook
Mrs. Carolyn Cannava	Mrs. Norma Holmgaard
Mr. John DeVolld	Mrs. Jamie Harper
Ms. Mo Sanders	Mr. Tim Peterson
Mrs. Lynne Carter	Mrs. Sheila-Margaret Pothast
Mrs. Katrina Cannava	Miss Adrianna Garcia
Mrs. Colette Thompson	Mr. Tony Garcia
Ms. Holly Montague	Mrs. Lisa Dehlbom
Ms. Terri Woodward	Mrs. Marnie Bartolini
Mrs. LaDawn Druce	Mr. Charlie Walsworth
Mr. Jim White	Mr. Joe Nicks
Mrs. Patty Rich	Mrs. Doris Cannon
Mrs. Norma Holmgaard	Mr. Doug Cannon
Ms. Ginger Blackmon	Mr. David Legg
Mrs. Katrina Cannava	Miss Adrianna Garcia
Ms. Mercedes Gibbs	

Others present not identified.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mrs. Downing called the meeting to order at 6:59 p.m.  
(6:59:18 PM)

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mrs. Downing invited The Soldotna Montessori Charter School kindergarten students to lead the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. The students also sang *America the Beautiful*.  
(6:59:28 PM)

**ROLL CALL:**

*(7:01:44 PM)*

Mrs. Debra Mullins	Present
Mrs. Sammy Crawford	Absent/Excused
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:**

*(7:02:21 PM)*

The agenda was approved as written.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

*(7:02:40 PM)*

The School Board Minutes of January 14, 2008, were approved as printed.

**AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:**

*(7:03:12 PM)*

On behalf of the Spirit of Youth Foundation, the Board presented a nomination certificate to Miss Adrianna Garcia for her work as a Board member for D.A.R.E. America and D.A.R.E. Alaska. The Board presented Golden Apple Awards to Mrs. Katrina Cannava, Soldotna Elementary Title I reading teacher and Ms. Mercedes Gibbs, Soldotna Montessori Charter School custodian, for their service to the District.

**SCHOOL REPORT:**

*(7:11:50 PM)*

Ms. Mo Sanders, Soldotna Montessori Charter School administrator, provided a brief school history, assessment information, information regarding literacy instruction, and the vision for each student. Five students (Miss Mickey Squires, Miss Megan English, Miss Celestina Castro, Mr. Jory Hubbard, and Mr. Blake Riley) gave an oral report on their trip to visit the United Nations during the last school year and the fund raising efforts to pay for another trip to the U.N. in April 2008.

**RECESS:**

*(7:23:12 PM)*

At 7:23 p.m., Mrs. Downing called a recess.

**RECONVENE AFTER**

**RECESS:**

*(7:26:52 PM)*

At 7:26 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:**

*(7:27:00 PM)*

Ms. Patty Rich, district custodian, expressed concern for budget reductions made to the Student Nutrition Program.

Mr. Charlie Walsworth, West Homer Elementary principal, asked the Board for help regarding the Fireweed Charter School's request for additional space. He suggested the Board conduct a question and answer session for the public to discuss the request prior to the Board's decision. He asked for an additional teacher.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:**

*(7:34:10 PM)*

Dr. Peterson stated that she has received the usual and customary communications from the Department of Education and Early Development. She invited those present to the Site Council Parent Training on Wednesday, February 6, beginning at 10:30 a.m. at the Central Peninsula Hospital, Denali Room.

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

(7:34:50 PM)

Mrs. LaDawn Druce, KPEA president, reported that she attended the National Education Association Delegate Assembly in Anchorage in which money for rural teacher housing, restoration of the defined benefit retirement system, and adequate and fully funded education were the top three priorities. She reported that Spenard Builder's Supply stores received the Champion of Children Award for supporting education. She stated that changes to the No Child Left Behind Act need to be made. She stated that she personally supports programmatic staffing as presented during the FY09 Budget worksession by the administration and will make school visits to educate the membership.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT:**

(7:39:28 PM)

Dr. Peterson reported that parent-teacher conferences and inservices will be held on February 7 and 8. She noted that the administration will meet on February 5 with the Homer High School Site Council and the Homer community members to discuss the replacement for Dr. Ron Keffer, principal. She reported on upcoming meetings of the Title VII Indian Education Parent Advisory Committee and the Federal Programs Advisory Committee. She reported that the Battle of the Books competition begins during the week of February 4. She announced that the Anchor Point Chamber of Commerce selected Mrs. Carolyn Window, Chapman Elementary music teacher, as the Employee of the Year.

**BOARD REPORTS:**

(7:40:35 PM)

Mr. Hatch reported that he attended the Kenai Peninsula Student Activities Association meeting in which the separation of the middle school and high school borough track meets was discussed as well as the possibility of raising middle school participation fees from \$45 to \$75 because of the increase in costs for fuel and officials.

Mr. Anderson reported that he attended the Charter School Oversight Committee in which the group discussed final revisions for the *Charter School Facts* publication and heard additional information regarding the Fireweed Charter School's request for space at West Homer Elementary. He noted that a request was made to move the space request decision to the March meeting since it will be held in Homer.

Mrs. Hilts reported that she attended the Homer FY09 Budget meeting and noted that attendance was low. She stated that Razdolna villagers have reported that playground equipment has been ordered for the school.

Mrs. Downing reported that she attended the FY09 Budget meeting in Homer. She reported that she attended the West Homer Elementary Site Council meeting which included participation by representatives from the Fireweed Charter School.

**BOARD WORKSESSION  
REPORT:**  
*(7:46:33 PM)*

Mrs. Downing reported that the Board held worksessions prior to the Board meeting that included policy revisions, FY09 budget, the request for additional space from Fireweed Charter School, administrative services for Cooper Landing School and Hope School, and a review of Board bylaw and protocols. She reported that the Board conducted a conference call with Kenai Peninsula legislators.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**  
*(7:51:33 PM)*

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Resignations; Long-Term Substitute Contract; New Teacher Contracts; and Board Meeting Date Change (April 7).

**RESIGNATIONS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve resignations effective at the end of the 2007-2008 school year from Ron Keffer, Homer High School principal; Erin Southwick, Soldotna Elementary/Soldotna Montessori Charter music teacher; Aaron Geiger, Soldotna Middle School psychologist; and Ray Hillman, Voznesenka School principal. Mr. Jones also recommended the Board approve a resignation effective on January 29, 2008, from Christopher Lau, Spring Creek School teacher.

**LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE  
CONTRACT:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a long-term substitute teacher contract for Mary Perry, intensive needs, Paul Banks Elementary.

**NEW TEACHER CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve teacher contracts for Mitch W. Posey, (temporary) vocational education/science, Homer High; Cheryl Romatz, (temporary) Title I interventionist, K-Beach Elementary; Kristine Berrios, (temporary) special education/intensive needs, Paul Banks Elementary; Margaret Testarmata, (temporary) Title I interventionist, Seward Elementary; and Ruth E. Sensenig, (temporary .50FTE) language arts, Soldotna High School.

**BOARD MEETING DATE  
CHANGE:**

Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve a change to the School Board meeting calendar from April 7 to April 14.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 4. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Ms. Hohl removed Number 1.

Motion to approve Numbers 2, 3, and 4 carried unanimously.

Motion to approve Number 1 approved unanimously.

**RESOLUTION 07-08-04:**  
*(7:55:24 PM)*

By memorandum, Mrs. Crawford recommended the Board approve Resolution 07-08-04, Supporting Changes to No Child Left Behind/HR 648.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Hilts moved the Board approve Resolution 07-08-04, Supporting Changes to No Child Left Behind/HR 648. Mr. Anderson seconded.

**RESOLUTION 07-08-04:***(continued)*

## VOTE:

Advisory Vote – YES

YES – Hatch, Hohl, Downing, Brown, M. Anderson, Hilts, Mullins

NO – N. Anderson

Motion carried.

**FIRST READING OF POLICY REVISIONS:***(8:04:35 PM)*

The Board heard a first reading of BP and AR 0510, School District Report Card; BP and AR 4119.11, Sexual Harassment; BP 5112.2, Exclusions from Attendance; BP 5141, Health Care Emergencies; AR 5141, Health Care Emergencies (New); BP and AR 5144.1, Suspension and Expulsion; BP 6164.2, Guidance and Counseling Services; BP 6164.3, Student Mental Health – Medication and Services (New); and BP 7511, Naming a Facility.

**BOARD COMMENTS:***(8:05:42 PM)*

Mrs. Brown stated that the intent of the NCLB Act is to bring more accountability directly to parents regarding accomplishments of schools and teachers and to attempt to try something new. She encouraged those present to carefully study the ramifications of programmatic staffing. On behalf of her and her husband Jack Brown, she thanked the public for the cards, phone calls, and other expressions of sympathy for the personal tragedy in the loss of their grandson Alex Brown. She commended the District and Soldotna Middle School staff for the help provided to the students and friends of Alex.

Ms. Lynn Hohl commended the Montessori Charter School staff and students. She reported that she participated in the Quality Schools/Quality Students Task Force community meetings. She volunteered to be a member of the committee that will continue to work with the Association of Alaska School Boards. She gave a report to the Seward City Council and attended the FY09 Budget Forum held in Seward.

Mr. Hatch reported that the Battle of the Books competitions begin February 4 and encouraged those present to watch.

Mr. Anderson thanked the Montessori Charter School for the report and congratulated those who received awards.

Miss Meyer praised the Montessori Charter School and extended best wishes to the students for their upcoming trip to New York.

Mrs. Mullins thanked Dr. Keffer and Mr. Hillman for their service to the students of the District. She expressed hope that the Board will make a decision regarding the Fireweed Charter School space request and added that she would like the Board to consider that decision during the March 3 meeting in Homer. She expressed appreciation for the student-led Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Hilts expressed hope that cocurricular activities not be eliminated and cautioned that some students will drop out of school if sports activities or vocational education is not available.

# UNAPPROVED

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

*(continued)*

Mrs. Downing thanked Board members and the public members for their work on the Board Bylaws and Protocol Review subcommittees and noted that the groups are making progress and are offering good ideas.

**ADJOURN:**

*(8:16:25 PM)*

At 8:16 p.m., Mrs. Mullins moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Hilts seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mrs. Liz Downing, Vice President

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Mr. Marty Anderson, Clerk

The Minutes of February 4, 2008,  
have not been approved as of  
February 7, 2008.