



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Office of Superintendent

Dr. Donna Peterson, Superintendent of Schools
148 North Binkley Street Soldotna, Alaska 99669-7553
Phone (907) 714-8888 Fax (907) 262-9132

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: February 27, 2008 **Item 10b.**
TO: Members, Board of Education
FROM: Donna Peterson, Ed.D. *Donna Peterson*
Superintendent of Schools
RE: Fireweed Charter School Request for Space

The following excerpt from Board Policy 6187, Charter Schools, states:

Sharing a District Facility

Charter schools that are housed in a non-school District facility will be recognized under Alaska Statutes 14.03.250-14.30.290. Charter schools proposing to use District facilities which are already in use as public schools, may do so only on the approval by the School Board.

When the charter school is proposing to utilize space in an existing District school:

- 1. The Superintendent will annually determine if the amount of space requested by the charter school will be available, based on enrollment projections and school capacity and make appropriate recommendations to the Board.*
- 2. The Superintendent will negotiate the terms of sharing a facility and make recommendations to the Board at a work session.*

The Board was briefed regarding Fireweed Charter School's request for additional space during the worksession on February 4. Subsequently the decision was made that formal action by the Board of Education would take place at the March 3 meeting in Homer allowing additional input to the Board from those most directly impacted by the decision.

Additionally a community informational meeting was held on February 26 reviewing the process and findings as presented to the Board in their earlier worksession. Questions were answered and input received.

After carefully reviewing all aspects and potential implications of this request, and in accordance with Board Policy stated above, the administration has determined that West Homer Elementary can accommodate one more classroom for use by Fireweed Charter School during the 2008-2009 school year.

If the Board accepts the administration's findings stipulations can be added in the event that West Homer Elementary experiences unexpected student growth in fall of 2008. If, by formula, the growth causes the addition of a twelfth teacher, then Fireweed Charter would forfeit the additional classroom.

Additionally, the administration suggests that the Charter School Oversight Committee and Policy Review Committee consider additional Policy Manual language that would require charter schools who are sharing neighborhood schools to use similar pupil-teacher ratios regarding room usage.