
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

February 18, 2008 – 7:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting

Borough Administration Building
148 N. Binkley, Soldotna, Alaska

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. Doug Cannon Mrs. Julie Lindquist
Mrs. Doris Cannon Mrs. Christine Ermold
Mrs. LaDawn Druce Mr. Jim White
Mr. Alan Fields Mr. Tim Peterson
Mrs. Jenni Hammond Mr. Sean Dusek
Mrs. Jamie Harper Mrs. Lori Manion

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Mrs. Sammy Crawford called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.
(7:01: 25PM)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mrs. Crawford invited Sterling Elementary students to lead those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.
(7:01:40 PM)

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Debra Mullins Present
(7:02:11 PM) 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 as written.
(7:02:41 PM)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of February 4, 2008, were approved as printed.
(7:02:54 PM)

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:

(7:03:11 PM)

The Board presented a Golden Apple Award to Mrs. Chris Thorne, Sterling Elementary parent, for her volunteer service to Sterling Elementary.

SCHOOL REPORT:

(7:06:39 PM)

Mrs. Christine Ermold, Sterling Elementary principal, introduced Miss Courtney Barker and Miss Kendra Currier, student council representatives. Miss Currier reported that prior to the beginning of the school year Sterling Elementary teachers completed training regarding multi-grade classroom instruction. Mrs. Boehmler led several students in a percussion rap song written by the school's teachers. Miss Barker and Miss Currier gave a computer generated presentation highlighting staff, PTA activities, the Head Start Program, community activities, guest speakers, special classes and clubs, assessment information, the Title I Program, the Special Education Program and Quest Program, field trips, the purchase of new playground equipment, the purchase of equipment and special speakers offered through the NASA Explorer Schools Program, and the school's music program.

RECESS:

(7:19:25 PM)

At 7:19 p.m. Mrs. Crawford called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER

RECESS:

(7:19:51 PM)

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

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

(7:20:58 PM)

Mrs. Patty Rich, parent, shared an example of a peanut butter wafer/sandwich which is provided to students by the Student Nutrition Services and asked the Board not to expect the SNS Program to be financially self-sufficient.

Mrs. Regina Paul, Seward High School parent, asked the Board to explain the process necessary to remove the proximity rule from District cocurricular activities.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

(7:26:18 PM)

Dr. Peterson reported that the Board received a copy of correspondence from the Borough attorney in the General Information Packet. She reported that the Charter School Frequently Asked Questions informational sheet will be posted to the District website unless there are suggested changes or comments by the Board. She noted that other correspondence received is usual and customary, especially the career development reports from administrators.

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

(7:27:55 PM)

Mrs. Druce, KPEA President, noted that KPEA is supportive of the proposed legislative funding increase of \$200 to the current base student allocation. She shared a concern from a few association members that collaboration between teachers and administrators is not happening at some schools and added that the two groups should respect one another and their roles.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT:**

(7:33:15 PM)

Dr. Peterson reported that there are three separate job-alike meetings for administrators during the upcoming week. She noted that administrator selection meetings will be held for Voznesenka on February 19 at 3:30 p.m.; for Cooper Landing Elementary on February 20 at 3:15 p.m.; and for Nanwalek Elementary/High on February 28 at 6:30 p.m. She noted that the Kenai Chamber of Commerce meeting on February 20 will feature the District's partnership with the Caring for the Kenai competition. She reported that the West Homer Elementary/Fireweed Charter School community informational meeting will be held at West Homer Elementary on February 26. She announced that the new software conversion went live on February 6 and expressed appreciation to District employees for the extra work and effort in making the transition a success.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

(7:34:04 PM)

Mrs. Douglas presented the financial report of the District for the period ending January 31, 2008. She noted that the January report is the last report generated from the old finance software.

BOARD REPORTS:

(7:39:19 PM)

Miss Brittany Meyer reported that she attended the AASB Legislative Fly-In in Juneau and as part of the trip, accompanied Board members to various appointments with legislators.

Mrs. Downing reported that she and Mr. Glen Szymoniak attended the Quality Schools/Quality Students (QS2) meeting which was held in Juneau. She reported that QS2 is grant funded for one more year. She reported that she attended the AASB Legislative Fly-In and while in Juneau, visited with various legislators. She reported that legislators are considering an increase to the base student allocation and added that the entire package, which includes funding for the retirement system and special education, looks positive. She added that municipal funding is also being considered and the forecast is better this year than in the past. She stated that changes to the area cost differential will be included in Alaska State Statute.

Mr. Anderson reported that he attended the AASB Legislative Fly-in and commended AASB for their efforts and leadership. He was encouraged that legislators from other districts spoke highly about the District's leadership including the chief financial officer and superintendent. He expressed appreciation to Representative Mike Chenault for his work on behalf of the District. He shared a quote from the AASB executive director during the Boardsmanship Academy, "Our thoughts become our words. Our words become our actions. Our actions become our habits. Our habits become our legacy." He noted that during his trip to Juneau he was pleased to have met more statesmen than politicians.

BOARD REPORTS:

(continued)

Mrs. Crawford thanked Miss Meyer for her testimony during the legislative visits. She noted that the District was praised by legislators, and was acknowledged for making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) as a district. She reported that as president-elect of the AASB Board of Directors she recently traveled to Washington, D.C. along with other AASB representatives. She reported that the atmosphere was positive and that the group met with Senator Ted Stevens, Senator Lisa Murkowski and Representative Don Young, who were all proud of Alaska. She reported that Representative Young has cosponsored HB 648 which is legislation that will make necessary changes to NCLB. She noted that a written report of her trip will be included in the next General Information Packet.

Mr. Anderson read a report from the Career and Technical Education Committee which met on February 12 at the Conoco-Phillips Plant in Nikiski. The notes stated that Conoco-Phillips is willing to put \$10 million towards training Alaska residents in the area of construction and trades if the company participates in the proposed gas line construction. Mr. Anderson noted that the full report will be forwarded to the Board president for distribution and that the next committee meeting will be held April 15 at the Kenaitze Tribal Conference Room in the Salamatof Building in Kenai.

**BOARD WORKSESSION
REPORT:**

(7:48:22 PM)

Mrs. Crawford reported that she met with Mrs. Mullins, Dr. Anderson and various members of the public to discuss the District's field trip policy. She noted that the Board held worksessions prior to the Board meeting that included policy revisions, health and science curricula and a review of Board bylaw and protocols.

At 7:49 p.m. Dr. Anderson left the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA:

(7:49:58 PM)

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of 2008-2009 District Organizational Chart; Long-Term Substitute Contracts; Resignations; 2008-2009 Administrator Contracts; Tentative Tenure Teacher Contracts, 2008-09; Leave of Absence Request-Certified; and Budget Transfer.

**2008-2009 DISTRICT
ORGANIZATIONAL CHART:**

Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve the 2008-2009 District organizational chart that identifies the lines of primary responsibility and relationships between administrative positions.

**LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE
CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve long-term substitute contracts for Cheryl Schweigert, principal/teacher at Nanwalek Elementary/High; Sally Sonnichsen, secondary generalist at Nanwalek Elementary/High; DeEtta Scarborough, Grade 4 at Seward Elementary; and Candy Rohrer, special education/resource at Voznesenka/Kachemak Selo.

RESIGNATIONS:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve resignations effective at the end of the 2007-2008 school year from Raniece Sutton-Gamache, school psychologist, Paul Banks Elementary and Ken Halverson, principal, Tustumena/Hope.

2008-2009 ADMINISTRATOR CONTRACTS:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a list of administrator contracts for the 2008-2009 school year.

TENTATIVE TENURE TEACHER CONTRACTS, 2008-09:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a list of tentative tenure teacher contracts for the 2008-2009 school year.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST-CERTIFIED:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a one-year unpaid certified leave of absence request for Glen Szymoniak, assistant superintendent, District Office.

BUDGET TRANSFER:

Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve budget transfer Number 281 for \$18,000 to pay for Kenai Peninsula College class fees for Connections students and for revisions to the database that is used for Individual Learning Plans for Connections students.

Mrs. Julie Lindquist, Moose Pass resident, asked the Board to add the word "Public" to the top of the District organizational chart. Board members agreed that the addition would be acceptable.

MOTION

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 (as revised) through 7. Mr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

POLICY REVISIONS AND ADOPTIONS:

(7:51:46 PM)

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve revisions to 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; BP and AR 5144.1 – Suspension and Expulsion; BP 6164.2 – Guidance and Counseling Services; BP 7511 – Naming a Facility and the adoption of AR 5141 – Health Care Emergencies and BP 6164.3 – Student Mental Health-Medication and Services.

MOTION

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve revisions to 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; BP and AR 5144.1 – Suspension and Expulsion; BP 6164.2 – Guidance and Counseling Services; BP 7511 – Naming a Facility and the adoption of AR 5141 – Health Care Emergencies and BP 6164.3 – Student Mental Health-Medication and Services. Mr. Hatch seconded.

MOTION

Ms. Hohl moved the Board approve an amendment to BP 7511 – Naming of a Facility, that would change the number of years required before naming a District facility or section of a facility for a deceased person from five years to two years. Mr. Anderson seconded.

POLICY REVISIONS AND ADOPTIONS:

(continued)

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

Advisory Vote – YES

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

NO – Crawford

Amendment carried.

VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION:

Advisory Vote – YES

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

NO – Brown

Amended motion carried.

BOARD COMMENTS:

(8:05:42 PM)

Ms. Hohl asked the Board to listen to Mrs. Regina Paul's request to review the proximity rule in the KPSAA handbook and added that she would be interested in similar rules in other high schools and in feedback from school site councils. She reported that she attended the February 6 Parent Training and learned how to track legislative bills via email. She stated that she is looking forward to the seeing the financial reports generated by the new software. She stated that she was pleased that Ms. DeEtta Scarborough, retired teacher, is acting as a long-term substitute for the District.

Mrs. Brown stated that she is looking forward to reading the CTE Committee Report. She stated that she was surprised at the peanut butter wafer/sandwich as it was presented by Mrs. Rich. She suggested that the Board give the FY09 budget document a serious review and share ideas in order to get what is really needed.

Mr. Anderson thanked Mrs. Thorne for her volunteerism. He stated that he is proud of Sterling Elementary students and staff and enjoyed the presentation. Mr. Anderson apologized for comments made earlier regarding the peanut butter wafer/sandwich.

Mr. Hatch stated that he enjoyed the Sterling Elementary presentation.

Miss Meyer reported that she enjoyed the Sterling Elementary School report and thanked the Board for the opportunity to travel to Juneau to participate in the AASB Legislative Fly-In.

BOARD COMMENTS:
(continued)

Mrs. Hilts stated that she hopes the Board can conceive different ways to feed kids. She stated that the Seldovia community has discussed ways to provide student meals using volunteers and acknowledged that the challenge is enormous. She reminded those present that the District is still funded at 50% of the correction that should be made to the area cost differential. She stated that there is not enough money to replace what has been lost in the last 10 to 15 years. She stated that money received this year will not pay for the reinstatement of a librarian or librarian aide at Susan B. English School and no full-time nurses will be added to staff at any of the schools in her district. She stated that the Board must continue to be creative and efficient and continue to be diligent in advocating for the amount of money necessary to educate children on the Kenai Peninsula. She expressed appreciation for those who are willing to talk to the Board and to challenge them.

Mrs. Mullins asked the Board to find out whether the student activities proximity rule is an ASAA rule or a KPSAA rule. She stated that it has been pleasant to work with the community on the review of Board bylaws and protocols. She reported that she enjoyed serving on the Health Curriculum Committee and recognized Mrs. Holmgaard and Mrs. Cannon for their committee leadership. She noted that Mr. Szymoniak was granted a one-year leave of absence and thanked him for his service to the District and the public.

Mrs. Crawford thanked the Sterling Elementary staff and students for the presentation. She thanked the Board members and Miss Meyer for traveling to Juneau to participate in the AASB Legislative Fly-In. She thanked those who served with her on the protocol subcommittee. She commented on the heightened security while visiting legislators in Washington, D.C. and expressed gratitude that it is not so strict in Juneau.

ADJOURN:
(8:19:01 PM)

At 8:19 p.m. Mrs. Mullins moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mr. Hatch seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Sammy Crawford, President

Mr. Marty Anderson, Clerk

The Minutes of February 18, 2008
were approved as of March 3, 2008
as written.