
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes

March 3, 2008 – 7:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting

Homer High School
600 E. Fairview, Homer, 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. Jim White	Mr. Benny Abraham
Mrs. Sharon Conley	Dr. Ron Keffer
Ms. McKibben Jackinsky	Mr. Charlie Walsworth
Ms. Millie Martin	Mr. Doug Waclawski
Mr. Mike Mason	Mr. Dave Spence
Mr. Dave Daly	Mrs. Linda Harris
Ms. Kiki Abrahamson	

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Mrs. Crawford called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mrs. Crawford invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Mrs. Debra Mullins	Present
Mrs. Sammy Crawford	Present/Left at 9:22 p.m.
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

Mrs. Crawford notified those present that she will leave the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved including a revision to Item 10a.(6), Resignations.

- APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The School Board Minutes of February 18, 2008, were approved as printed.
- AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:** The Board presented a Golden Apple Award to Mrs. Linda Harris, Chapman Elementary School Special Education Aide, for her service to Chapman Elementary.
- SCHOOL REPORT:** Mr. Douglas Waclawski, Razdolna School principal, gave a computer generated presentation highlighting the village location, physical activities, assessment scores, parent support, projections of future growth and the need for a larger building. Mrs. Laura Jacobsen, teacher, commended the principal, school and itinerant staff.
- PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:** Mr. Dave Daly, First Student (formerly Laidlaw) bus driver, provided a letter urging the Board to be aware of several safety issues associated with the First Student bus contractor. He asked the Board to require First Student to supply studded tires on all buses.
- Ms. Cindy Barker, Chapman Elementary food service manager and area KPESA vice president, expressed concern for reductions to the food services program. She stated that the District needs to keep a knowledgeable student nutrition staff.
- Ms. Kiki Abrahamson, Fireweed Charter School administrator, reviewed the proposed District Long Range Plan Goals 1 through 4, and assured those present that the Fireweed Charter School community supports the goals. She noted that the education funding package was approved by legislature and asked for a show of Fireweed Charter School parents who were in attendance that wrote to legislators or testified at a Legislative Information Office in support of education.
- COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:** Dr. Peterson reported that Board members received correspondence regarding Fireweed Charter School's request for additional space at West Homer Elementary, administrator career development reports, and a letter and copy of a check for \$6,738 from the Fred Meyer Support our Schools Program.
- 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. Druce, KPEA president, asked those present to support SB 183 which would return Alaska to a defined benefit retirement system and would positively affect the District's ability to recruit quality educators. She expressed appreciation for the proposed increase in the travel account of the FY09 Budget to equal the IRS rate reimbursement.
- SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Dr. Peterson reported that the Homer High School principal selection will be held Wednesday, March 5 at 3:45 p.m. at Homer High and the Voznesenka School principal selection will be held on Thursday, March 13 at 3:15 p.m. She noted that March 7 is an inservice day and the end of the third quarter, March 17 though 21 is Spring Break and April 1 through 8 is districtwide testing.

FISCAL YEAR 2009 BUDGET: Mrs. Douglas presented the 2008-2009 Preliminary Draft School District budget of \$120,209,256 for the General Fund and a total of \$137,098,231 for all funds.

BOARD REPORTS: Mrs. Hilts reported that on Tuesday, February 26 she attended the Fireweed Charter School and West Homer Elementary community meeting to discuss Fireweed Charter School's request for additional space.

Mrs. Mullins reported that she attended the ASAA Board of Directors two-day meeting and noted that the group considered a new policy for all school districts that deals with alcohol, tobacco, and controlled substances and includes an educational component.

Mrs. Crawford reported that she attended the Caring for the Kenai presentation at the Kenai Chamber of Commerce luncheon meeting. She reported that she participated in Love of Reading Week at two schools. She called the Board's attention to the Critical Issues publication developed by the Association of Alaska School Boards regarding 21st Century Learning.

BOARD WORKSESSION REPORT: Mrs. Crawford reported that prior to the business meeting the Board participated in worksessions that included the FY09 Budget; revisions to BP 6153 and AR 6153, School Sponsored Trips, and a report from the Board Bylaws and Protocols Review subcommittees. She reported that the Board participated in a conference call with Kenai Peninsula legislators to discuss education legislation.

CONSENT AGENDA: Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of K-12 Science Curriculum; K-12 Health Curriculum; 2008-2009 Tentative Board Meeting Dates; Long-Term Substitute Contract; 2008-2009 Tentative Nontenured Teacher Assignments, Pupil Services; Resignations; 2008-09 Administrator Contract; High School Graduation Qualifying Examination Waiver Number 2008-05; and Outsourced Baseball and Softball Programs.

K-12 SCIENCE CURRICULUM: Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve the K-12 Science curriculum.

K-12 HEALTH CURRICULUM: Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve the K-12 Health curriculum.

2008-2009 TENTATIVE BOARD MEETING DATES: Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve the schedule for Board meetings for the 2008-2009 school year.

LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE CONTRACT: Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a substitute teacher contract for Kelley Smith, library, Soldotna High School.

**2008-2009 TENTATIVE
NONTENURED TEACHER
ASSIGNMENTS, PUPIL
SERVICES:**

Mr. Jones recommended that the Board approve nontenured Pupil Services teacher assignments for the 2008-2009 school year for Tammy Flanders, resource, Districtwide Pupil Services; Shane Hill, behavior transitions, Districtwide Pupil Services; Donald Schindler, .50 FTE resource, .50 FTE math, history, government, Homer Flex; Ray Archuleta, resource, Homer High; Cheryl Illg, resource, Homer High; Hope Kmetz-Casseri, intensive needs, Homer High; Paul Gutzler, resource, Homer High; Elizabeth Lennon, speech, Homer Middle; Anne Ridgely, emotionally handicapped, Homer Middle; Mitchell Pioch, resource/Quest, Kaleidoscope; Lisa Ferguson, resource, K-Beach Elementary; Noelle Phillips, speech, K-Beach Elementary; Jacob Munyer, resource, Kenai Central High; Tyler Schlung, resource, Kenai Middle; Erica Becker, intensive needs, Mt. View Elementary; Mary Glynn, occupational therapist, Mt. View Elementary; Jason Steadman, speech, Mt. View Elementary; Linda Schopp, .75 FTE resource, .25 FTE Title I, Nanwalek; Wendy Mosely, resource, Nikiski Middle/High; Robanne Stading, .75 FTE resource, .25 FTE Title I, Nikolaevsk Elementary/High; Ben Alexander, resource, Ninilchik Elementary/High; Katherine Van Saun, speech, Ninilchik Elementary/High; Ann Knofel, school psychologist, Seward Elementary; Kathy Sandoval, behavior teacher, Seward Elementary; Joanne Frey, resource, Seward High; Nicole Lyon, resource, Seward High; Tammy Elyea, resource, Skyview High; Elisabeth Feeley, resource, Soldotna Elementary; Stephanie Burns, resource, Soldotna High; Matthew Johnson, intensive, Soldotna High; Kimberly Jordan, intensive, Soldotna High; David Justice, resource, Soldotna High; James Knoebel, resource, Soldotna High; Tracy Brown, school psychologist, Sterling; Granger Nyboer, .50 FTE resource, .50 FTE Title I, Tebughna; Kriste Simonson, school psychologist, West Homer Elementary; and Karen Weston, Quest, West Homer Elementary.

RESIGNATION:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a resignation, effective at the end of the 2007-2008 school year, from Kenneth DiMarzio, vocational education, Nikiski Middle/High.

**2008-2009 ADMINISTRATOR
CONTRACT:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve an administrator contract for Jim Dawson, administrator, Districtwide Administration and Special Projects.

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION
QUALIFYING EXAMINATION
WAIVER NUMBER 2008-05:**

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Examination Waiver Number 2008-5 for a School student.

**OUTSOURCED BASEBALL
AND SOFTBALL PROGRAMS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve outsourced baseball and softball programs for Soldotna High School.

MOTION

Ms. Hohl moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 9. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Ms. Hohl removed Number 3.

Mrs. Brown removed Number 7.

CONSENT AGENDA:
(continued)

MOTION

Motion carried unanimously for Numbers 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9.

Ms. Hohl moved the Board postpone action on Number 3 until the April 14 Board meeting. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

VOTE ON NUMBER 7:

Advisory Vote: YES

YES – Hiltz, N. Anderson, Downing, Hatch, M. Anderson, Hohl,
Mullins, Crawford

NO – Brown

Motion carried.

**FIREWEED CHARTER
SCHOOL REQUEST FOR
ADDITIONAL SPACE:**

In accordance with Board Policy, Dr. Peterson explained that the administration has determined that one additional classroom could be made available for Fireweed Charter School at West Homer Elementary beginning in the 2008-2009 school year.

Ms. Janet Fink, former Homer teacher, expressed disappointment at the administration's determination of additional space for use by Fireweed Charter School at West Homer Elementary and outlined concerns of space, future growth, and safety.

Mrs. Chris Donich, West Homer Elementary parent, expressed concern for West Homer Elementary's use of Room 108, future enrollment, and space for growth.

Ms. Debbie Poore, former Paul Banks Elementary teacher, stated that offering options and choices makes the entire educational community stronger and asked the Board to support the use of another room at West Homer Elementary for Fireweed Charter.

Mr. Charlie Gibson, Fireweed Charter School parent, explained that Fireweed Charter School staff and parents have made agonizing choices in order to maintain a low pupil-teacher ratio and asked the Board to allow Fireweed Charter School to use Room 108 at West Homer Elementary because the administration has determined that space is available.

Mr. Allen Jantzi, Homer resident, stated that Fireweed Charter School's request for additional space is an issue of wants and needs and urged the Board to make a decision that would least negatively affect all of the children of the school.

Mr. Bob Romanko, West Homer Elementary parent, stated that special education students will need the additional space of Room 108 and asked the Board not to give the room to Fireweed Charter School and to require them to develop a comprehensive plan for future growth.

**FIREWEED CHARTER
SCHOOL REQUEST FOR
ADDITIONAL SPACE:**

(continued)

Ms. Tracy Tillion, West Homer Elementary parent, explained that Room 108 is used by West Homer Elementary students on a daily basis and suggested that Fireweed Charter develop a plan for future growth elsewhere. She questioned the October 1 deadline for charter school requests for change and noted that Fireweed Charter's request was untimely.

Ms. Sally Rogers, West Homer Elementary parent, addressed the various reasons that out-of-area students attend West Homer Elementary. She addressed the issue of the school design and intended use of the rooms.

Mrs. Catrin Lovett, West Homer Elementary parent, expressed frustration that information and requests from Fireweed Charter School were conflicting. She asked the Board to read AS 14.03.255(d) regarding charter school facilities. She stated that the District exceeds the number of charter schools allowable by one. She related a personal experience regarding her daughter and Title I tutoring services that were provided in Room 108.

Ms. Mikala Walkden, Paul Banks Elementary intensive needs aid and West Homer Elementary parent, stated that West Homer Elementary staff needs the use of Room 108 to serve special needs students and related a personal experience in which her daughter used the room as a quiet testing area.

Ms. Leanna Raymond, West Homer Elementary parent, explained the need for additional special education space at West Homer Elementary and detailed the pupil services staff and their case loads. She suggested that the District hire another intensive needs teacher within the next two school years since there will be 14 more students coming from Paul Banks Elementary.

Mrs. Millie Martin, Homer area resident, Assembly member and former Board member, reported that she attended the community meeting and thanked the Board members who attended. She explained that elementary buildings were designed for maximum student use including extra classrooms for special education teachers. She expressed hope that, with additional funding, it might be possible to hire counselors in elementary schools which would require additional space. She stated that if her children were in a crowded classroom next to a charter school classroom of only a few students she would be angry. She recommended those present to read, *A Place Called School*, by John Goodlad. She reported that she contacted Representative Seaton's office and learned that money has been added to the state operating budget for the three low enrollment charter schools in the state. She asked that the Board keep Room 108 for use by West Homer Elementary students.

Mrs. Janet Bowen, Fireweed Charter School parent, stated that parents in the area who are looking for choice in kindergarten through second grade could be served through Fireweed Charter School, and asked the Board to grant the request for additional space.

**FIREWEED CHARTER
SCHOOL REQUEST FOR
ADDITIONAL SPACE:**

(continued)

Ms. Lisa Fellows, Homer Middle School special education aide and parent, urged the Board to avoid shifting students around and predicted that West Homer Elementary's enrollment will increase in the future, which may require two additional teachers.

Ms. Claire Waxman, Fireweed Charter School parent, related a personal story about her son who is now an art student in college, and the need to offer kindergarten through Grade 6 at Fireweed Charter. She suggested that Fireweed Charter develop a plan for expansion in its own location.

Ms. Clare Kryshak, West Homer Elementary parent, stated that the tension of two schools in the same building increases each year and predicted that Fireweed Charter's space request will be an annual event and asked the Board to review the space request process and keep parents informed. She asked the Board to retain Room 108 for West Homer Elementary.

Mr. Jon Coke, Fireweed Charter School parent, noted that there are a lot of students in the Homer area and many are being home schooled and suggested that the Board locate more classroom space.

Ms. Rachel Livingston, Fireweed Charter School parent, stated that West Homer Elementary was built to hold 450 students, excluding staff, and noted that the enrollment of both schools is 238. She suggested that future space needs for both schools be reviewed.

MOTION

Mr. Hatch moved the Board provide use of one additional classroom at West Homer Elementary, for a total of 5, for use by Fireweed Charter School for the 2008-2009 school year with the provision that if the West Homer Elementary student enrollment increases during the fall count to the point that, by formula, the addition of a twelfth teacher is necessary, then West Homer Elementary will have use of the classroom at the end of the first quarter. Fireweed Charter will develop a plan by March 1, 2009 to relocate to another location for the 2009-2010 school year. Mr. Anderson seconded.

MOTION

Mr. Hatch moved the Board amend the motion to replace the words "during fall count" to "fall 10-day count". Mrs. Brown seconded.

VOTE ON HATCH AMENDMENT:

Advisory Vote – YES

YES – Hohl, Brown, N. Anderson, Hatch, Hilts, M. Anderson, Downing, Crawford

NO – Mullins

Amendment carried

**FIREWEED CHARTER
SCHOOL REQUEST FOR
ADDITIONAL SPACE:**

(continued)

VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION:

Advisory Vote – YES

YES – Hohl, M. Anderson, Hatch, Crawford

NO – Brown, N. Anderson, Hilts, Downing, Mullins

Amended motion failed.

MOTION

Mrs. Brown moved the Board approve the administrative language that states, “After carefully reviewing all aspects and potential implications of this request, and in accordance with Board Policy, the School Board has determined that West Homer Elementary can accommodate one more classroom for use by Fireweed Charter School during the 2008-2009 school year.” Motion died for lack of a second.

MOTION

Mr. Anderson moved the Board accept the memorandum and recommendation by the administration dated February 27, 2008 and to allow Fireweed Charter School to use Room 108 and to adopt other aspects of the memorandum. Motion died for lack of a second.

At 9:22 p.m. Mrs. Crawford left the meeting.

MOTION

Mrs. Brown moved the Board postpone action on the item until the next regularly scheduled School Board meeting on April 14. Dr. Anderson seconded.

VOTE ON POSTPONEMENT:

Advisory Vote – NO

YES – N. Anderson

NO – Hilts, Hohl, M. Anderson, Brown, Downing, Mullins, Hatch

Motion failed.

MOTION

Mrs. Brown moved the Board approve language that states, “after carefully reviewing all aspects and potential implications of this request and in accordance with Board Policy, the administration and School Board has determined that West Homer Elementary can accommodate one more classroom for use by Fireweed Charter School during the 2008-2009 school year. Mr. Anderson seconded.

VOTE:

Advisory Vote – YES

YES – M. Anderson, Hohl

NO – Hatch, Mullins, N. Anderson, Hilts, Brown, Downing

Motion failed.

**FIREWEED CHARTER
SCHOOL REQUEST FOR
ADDITIONAL SPACE:**

(continued)

MOTION

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve a directive to keep Fireweed Charter School at status quo with the use of four classrooms and that the remaining classrooms are to be used collaboratively. Mrs. Hilts seconded.

VOTE:

Advisory Vote – YES

YES – M. Anderson, Hilts, N. Anderson, Mullins, Downing

NO – Hohl, Hatch, Brown

Motion carried.

RECESS:

At 9:46 p.m. Mrs. Downing called a recess.

**RECONVENE AFTER
RECESS:**

At 9:51 p.m. the Board reconvened in regular session.

**FIRST READING OF POLICY
REVISIONS:**

The Board heard a first reading of revisions to BP 6153, AR 6153 and E 6153, School Sponsored Trips.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/
COMMENTS:**

Mrs. Leah Handley, Homer parent, spoke in support of out-of-state field trips, and noted that she recently traveled with 130 Homer students and community members to Italy and encouraged the Board not to discontinue out-of-state field trips.

Mr. Chris Perk, Homer High School teacher and coach, stated that he was pleased that money has been allocated towards extracurricular activities in the FY09 budget to be used for state competitions. He urged the Board to keep the extracurricular money in the budget because it is part of the District's mission.

Ms. Shannon McBride Morin, Homer area resident, asked the Board to provide healthy school lunches and provided a list of signatures from 80 teachers and parents who would like the school lunches to be improved.

Ms. Sally Rogers thanked the Board for making a decision regarding the Fireweed Charter School space request.

Ms. Nina Burkholder, Homer parent, requested that the School Board consider the healthy school lunch request.

Mr. Allen Jantzi, Homer resident, stated that while he supported the Board's decision regarding Fireweed Charter School's request for additional space, he and the Homer community supports Fireweed Charter School's need to exist and added that they will assist the school in finding their own space.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Ms. Hohl reported that she attended the Cooper Landing Elementary site council meeting in which possible scenarios for a site administrator were discussed. She gave a personal report regarding School Board business to the Seward City Council, participated in the Quality Schools/Quality Students Steering Committee teleconference, and attended the Seward Prevention Coalition meeting. She thanked the Voznesenka School parents and students for catering the Board's dinner. She thanked those who attended the Board meeting and those who provided testimony.

Mrs. Brown thanked Mrs. Martin for the historical perspective of the District. She disagreed with the proposal to fund prekindergarten. She expressed concern that Tustumena Elementary will not have a full-time principal and would like the District to reinstate funding for items that have been eliminated from the budget in the past. She stated that the District is in crisis management and urged the Board to make sure the District is stable in fundamental areas such as pupil-teacher ratio, a principal at each school, and a healthy hot lunch program.

Mr. Anderson stated that he has promised to eat a school lunch at District schools each day of the coming week. He stated that, although he is disappointed with the Board's decision regarding Fireweed Charter School's request for additional space, he supports the Board. He reminded those present that when Fireweed Charter School moves from West Homer Elementary, the school will be at 48 percent capacity.

Mr. Hatch stated that he supports Fireweed Charter School and hopes they can use the Board's decision as a catalyst to move forward with their program.

Mrs. Hilts thanked the Razdolna staff for their school presentation. She expressed appreciation for the dinner catered by Voznesenka School parents and students.

Mrs. Mullins explained that the Fireweed Charter School request for additional space was a difficult decision for the Board. She stated that she supports Fireweed Charter School and suggested that they develop a long range future plan. She stated that she supports educational choice. She expressed appreciation for the dinner catered by Voznesenka School staff, parents, and students. She thanked those who attended the meeting.

Mrs. Downing reported that the State Senate passed the Education Funding Task Force legislation and that with additional funding, the Board can start to do things better. She assured those present that each of the Board members supports choice in education and supports Fireweed Charter School. She predicted that the community will assist Fireweed Charter to locate additional space that will provide an environment that the students deserve. She suggested that instead of addressing the healthy school lunch program issue at the April meeting, it would be better to wait until ongoing work on the matter is completed.

UNAPPROVED

ADJOURN:

At 10:25 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 March 3, 2008,
have not been approved as of
March 6, 2008.