
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes

July 16, 2007 – 7:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting

Borough Administration Building
148 N. Binkley, Soldotna, Alaska

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

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Mick Wykis	Mr. Dale Dolifka
Mr. Dave Spence	Mr. Sean Dusek
Mrs. Jamie Harper	Mrs. Marnie Bartolini
Mr. Joe Nicks	Mrs. Norma Holmgaard
Mrs. Satorene Jackson	Mrs. Doris Cannon
Mrs. Patty Rich	Mrs. Debbie Allen
Mrs. Jenni Hammond	Mrs. Joyce Woodcock
Mrs. Sharon Moock	Mr. John Cook

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Mrs. Crawford called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
(7:00:26 PM)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mrs. Crawford invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.
(7:00:39 PM)

ROLL CALL:

Mrs. Debra Mullins	Absent/Excused
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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mrs. Brown moved the Board amend the agenda to add item 10d. Approval to Rescind the Consolidation of Sears Elementary and Mt. View Elementary Schools. She further requested that public testimony be accepted during the meeting and at the August 6 meeting. Mr. Hatch seconded.
(7:01:41 PM)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

(continued)

VOTE:

YES – Downing, Brown

NO – Hiltz, N. Anderson, M. Anderson, Hatch, Hohl, Crawford

Amendment failed.

The agenda was approved with a revision to 10a.(3) Approval of 2007-2008 Annual Agenda Guideline.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

(7:30:47 PM)

The School Board Minutes of June 4, 2007, were approved with a correction.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

(7:32:31 PM)

Mrs. Jenni Hammond, Nikiski resident, reported that she listened to the Legislative Education Funding Task Force meeting and noted that there are very small school districts in rural Alaska and suggested that the state might want to consider district consolidation statewide. She stated that she is thankful that her daughter is attending Nikiski North Star Elementary because of the resources available to her. She expressed concern that Charter Schools take money away from the general fund in the areas of transportation, special education, and food services.

Mrs. Satorene Jackson, K-Beach area resident and former teacher, praised Mr. Dawson for his leadership skills and his ability to meet the needs of all of the students.

Mrs. Joyce Woodcock, Kenai resident, stated that she is disappointed that the Board did not add the request to reconsider the action to consolidate Sears Elementary and Mt. View Elementary to the agenda and noted that the students will suffer for it.

Ms. Donna Anderson, Kenai resident and Sears Elementary teacher, reported that the Sears Elementary and Mt. View Elementary consolidation decision has affected her personally and professionally and asked the Board to not rescind their previous actions. She questioned the motives of the Concerned Citizens Coalition since the group was formed after the announcement that Mr. Dawson would not be the principal at Mt. View Elementary.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

(7:46:41 PM)

Dr. Peterson called the Board's attention to the 2006-2007 Professional Development Report, the announcement of an award from the National School Public Relations Institute, and the 2006-2007 Highlights which were included in the Board Information Packet.

At 7:47 p.m. Dr. Anderson left the meeting.

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

(7:47:49 PM)

Mrs. Patty Rich, KPESA rights chairperson, stated that she will speak to the Board detailing how poorly several long-term employees have been treated by the District.

At 7:48 p.m. Dr. Anderson returned to the meeting.

RECESS:

(7:51:29 PM)

At 7:52 p.m., Mrs. Crawford called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER

RECESS:

(7:58:17 PM)

At 7:58 p.m. the Board reconvened in regular session.

Ms. Chyrell Richardson, Anchor Point resident, and Ms. Helen Desjarden, Homer resident, gave permission to Ms. Patty Rich to publicly use their names during testimony.

Mrs. Rich provided a detailed description of Ms. Richardson, Ms. Desjarden and two other employee's loss of District employment and health coverage and suggested that the District is targeting older employees and that they are being discarded at the end of their careers.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT:**

(8:12:01 PM)

Dr. Peterson presented the 2006-2007 Site Council Evaluation Reports from each school and noted that the administration pays close attention to training needs or requests. Dr. Peterson presented the 2006-2007 Superintendent's Annual Report and noted that the Board Information Packet contained a larger report by individual schools that is shared throughout the District. She extended an invitation for the Board to attend the Small Schools Institute in Homer, July 30 through August 3. She noted that the administration is in the process of searching for a replacement for the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Stewart. She reported that she attended the July 11 and 12 Legislative Education Funding Task Force meetings and noted that the next meetings will be August 1 and 2.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

(8:20:01 PM)

Mrs. Douglas presented the financial report of the District for the period ending May 31, 2007. She explained that the next report for FY07 will be the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).

**QUARTERLY BUDGET
REPORT:**

(8:20:42 PM)

Mrs. Douglas reported on budget transfers Numbers 292 through 716 for various schools and departments within the District.

BOARD REPORTS:

(8:22:09 PM)

Ms. Hohl reported that she attended the Spring Creek Correctional High School graduation ceremony.

**BOARD WORKSESSION
REPORT:**

(8:22:45 PM)

Mrs. Crawford reported on worksessions conducted prior to the meeting regarding site council involvement, recommended 2007-2008 School Board goals, and staffing at small schools.

CONSENT AGENDA:*(8:30:11 PM)*

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Budget Transfers, 2007-2008 Board Goals, 2007-2008 Annual Agenda Guideline, New Administrator Contracts, Nontenured Teacher Contracts, New Teacher Contracts, Resignations, Contract and Tenure for Nontenured Teachers, and Request for Leave of Absence-Support.

BUDGET TRANSFERS:

Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve various budget transfers in excess of \$10,000.

2007-2008 BOARD GOALS:

Dr. Peterson presented four goals in the areas of Board Bylaws, long-range planning, site councils, and delivery of education for accomplishment during the 2007-2008 school year as a result of the Board's June 5 planning session.

2007-2008 ANNUAL AGENDA GUIDELINE:

Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve the 2007-2008 Annual Agenda Guideline.

NEW ADMINISTRATOR CONTRACTS:

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve administrator contracts for Douglas Waclawski, principal/teacher at Razdolna Elementary and Priscilla R. Shaw, assistant principal at Skyview High School.

NONTENURED TEACHER CONTRACTS:

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve nontenured teacher contracts for Mindy Hunter, Grades 3/4 teacher, Chapman; Michael Hanson, (.75 FTE permanent/.25 FTE temporary) generalist-teacher/advisor, Connections; Maygen Jannetta (.50 FTE permanent/.50 FTE temporary) art teacher, Homer High; Marcia Lee, .50 FTE librarian, Homer High; Jan Spurkland, (temporary) .50 FTE teacher-credit recovery math, Homer High; Vicki Abraham, (temporary) Migrant teacher, Homer Middle; Sara Boersma, kindergarten teacher, Kaleidoscope Charter; Christine Casiano, Grades 1/2 multiage teacher, Kaleidoscope Charter; Kelly Balise, teacher-intermediate grades, K-Beach Elementary; Shannon West, math/reading teacher, Kenai Middle; Catherine Bethune, (temporary) .50 FTE Title I teacher, Mountain View Elementary; Kellie Davidson, grades K-1 multi-grade teacher, Mountain View Elementary; Teresa Elmore, (temporary) reading teacher, Nikiski Middle/High; Shana Kolipano, art teacher, Nikiski Middle/High; Michelle Burnett, kindergarten teacher, Nikiski North Star Elementary; Kersten Osborn, kindergarten teacher, Nikiski North Star Elementary; Lisa Nissly, K-12 music/elementary reading, Ninilchik; Dina Marion, (temporary) Title I teacher, Paul Banks Elementary; Tanya Erwin, .50 FTE K-6 reading teacher, Redoubt Elementary; David Scott Tomaso, Grade 6, Redoubt Elementary; Scott Ruch, Grades 5/6 teacher, Seward Elementary; Angela Brown, math teacher, Skyview High School; Maryvonne Guillemin, teacher-Spanish/English or math .90 FTE, Skyview High School; Stephanie Cox, high school art teacher, Soldotna High School; Jeana Hayes, math/language arts teacher, Soldotna Middle; Carly Reimer, middle school physical education/science, Soldotna Middle; Staci Wells, reading teacher, Soldotna Montessori; Darci Drury, Grades 3/4 teacher, Sterling Elementary; Sarah Lazare, (temporary) Title I teacher, Sterling Elementary; Sandra Lyons, (temporary) teacher-Grades 2/3, Sterling

Elementary; Damara Burnett, (.50 FTE permanent secondary

**NONTENURED TEACHER
CONTRACTS:**

(continued)

language arts/.25 FTE temporary) generalist, Susan B. English; James Perzechino, (.50 FTE temporary) middle school generalist/.50 FTE permanent secondary generalist, Tebughna School; Lisa Gossett, Grade 3 teacher, Tustumena Elementary; Kim Hays, (temporary) Title I teacher, Tustumena Elementary; Shonia Werner, Grade 6, Tustumena Elementary; Ben Stephens, (temporary) teacher-Grade 3, West Homer Elementary; and Robyn Walls, (temporary) teacher-Grades 4/5, West Homer Elementary.

NEW TEACHER CONTRACTS:

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve teacher contracts for Johanna Tennant, teacher-middle school self contained at Chapman School; Jamie L. Meyers, (temporary) Professional Development Coordinator, Central Peninsula, Elementary Education; Donald Schindler, .50 FTE social studies teacher/.50 FTE special education resource teacher at Homer Flex Alternative School; Katherine R. Kysar, (temporary) language arts teacher at Homer High School; Diane Warner, social studies teacher at Homer High School; Emily Sims, home economics teacher at Kenai Central High; Iris Korzon, math teacher at Kenai Middle School; Adam K. Anders, .50 FTE physical education teacher/.50 FTE athletic director at Nikiski Middle/High School; Abby Tennant, (.50 FTE permanent/.50 FTE temporary) Grades K-2 teacher at Paul Banks Elementary; Laura M. Jacobsen, (temporary .50FTE Title I/Migrant teacher/permanent .50 FTE) K-8 generalist at Razdolna School; Jennifer Reinhart, Grades K-2 teacher at Paul Banks Elementary; Elizabeth Sowers, Grade 4 teacher at Redoubt Elementary; Naomi Karlin, art teacher at Seward High School; Cary M. Calvert, math teacher at Skyview High School; Maria Calvert, teacher-generalist at Skyview High School; Elizabeth Chicken, language arts teacher at Skyview High School; Patrick Dwyer, science teacher at Soldotna Middle School; Deanne Pokryfki, .50 FTE math teacher at Soldotna Middle School; and Susan Connor, Grades K-2 teacher at Voznesenka School.

RESIGNATIONS:

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve resignations from Sam Stewart, assistant superintendent, District Office (effective June 29, 2007); Tim Jacobson, yearbook/construction/welding (effective May 24, 2007); and Kathryn Baum Fjelstad, language arts, Ninilchik Elementary/High (effective May 24, 2007).

**CONTRACT AND TENURE
FOR NONTENURED
TEACHERS:**

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve contracts and tenure for the 2007-2008 school year for Luanne Bressler, intermediate grades, K-Beach Elementary; Kim Knecht, Grade 3 teacher, K-Beach Elementary; Sheri Legg, .50 FTE librarian/media specialist, Mountain View Elementary; Alissa Mattson, language arts teacher, Soldotna High School; Linda Etwiler, (temporary) Title I/Migrant teacher, Voznesenka School; and Elizabeth VonZiegesar-Whip, .50 FTE librarian/media specialist, West Homer Elementary.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF
ABSENCE-SUPPORT:**

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve an unpaid leave of absence request for the 2007-2008 school year from support employee Cheryl Barber, special education aide, K-Beach

Elementary.

CONSENT AGENDA:

(continued)

MOTION

Mrs. Hilts moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 9. Mr. Anderson seconded.

Mrs. Hilts removed item Number 2, Approval of 2007-2008 Board Goals.

Consent agenda Items 1 and 3 through 9 approved unanimously.

MOTION

Mrs. Hilts moved the Board postpone action on item Number 2, Approval of 2007-2008 Board Goals, to the August 6 meeting. Mr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

POLICY MANUAL REVISIONS:

(8:32:30 PM)

Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve revisions to BP and AR 1230, Organizations Supporting Student Activities. The revisions address an effort to develop a 'super booster' club, to be used on a volunteer basis by schools to address all student activities offered at a school on an equitable basis. This concept will also address fund raising concerns brought to the District's attention by local businesses.

MOTION

Mrs. Downing moved the Board approve revisions to BP and AR 1230, Organizations Supporting Student Activities. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

KPSAA HIGH SCHOOL HANDBOOK REVISIONS:

(8:36:52 PM)

Mrs. Crawford explained that the KPSAA High School Handbook revisions were postponed from the June 4 meeting.

MOTION

Mr. Hatch moved the Board amend the motion to delete the words "KPBSD Student Activity Pass, \$30." Dr. Anderson seconded.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

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

NO – Brown

Amendment carried.

VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION:

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

NO – Brown

Amended motion carried.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/
COMMENTS:***(8:48:11 PM)*

Mrs. Jenni Hammond, Nikiski resident, stated that she is interested in the Board goals. She urged the Board to consider lowering the pupil-teacher ratio because it is necessary for special education students. She reported that the Nikiski North Star Elementary staff and parents are still waiting for a portable.

Ms. Tracey Kautz, Kenai resident, expressed disappointment that Mr. Dawson was not retained as the principal of Mt. View Elementary. She stated that parents report the morale at Sears Elementary was low last school year, and as a result, she will home school her daughter next year.

Mrs. Gina Keil, Kenai resident, confirmed that emails she sent to Board members and the superintendent were received and requested a response.

Mrs. Joyce Woodcock, Kenai resident, thanked Mrs. Brown and Mr. Hatch for the motion to rescind Board action consolidating Sears Elementary and Mt. View Elementary. She clarified the terms micromanagement and macromanagement. She urged the Board to return Mr. Jim Dawson as the principal of Mt. View Elementary and suggested that an emergency meeting be convened to vote on the issue.

BOARD COMMENTS:*(8:59:43 PM)*

Mrs. Brown asked the Board and the public to read the section titled, "*Change Research: Minimizing Resistance to Change*" in the Parent Involvement Booklet.

MOTION

Mrs. Brown moved the Board go into executive session to discuss subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person, provided the person may request a public discussion. Motion died for lack of a second.

Mr. Anderson thanked the public for their public testimony and reminded those present that all students within the Kenai Peninsula Borough belong to the District. He explained that he was elected to represent the public which includes approximately 60,000 people with differing views on issues and added that if the voters are not happy with his Board performance they can vote him out of office. He stated that district and Kenai Peninsula communities are excellent.

Mrs. Hilts assured those present that public testimony is not forgotten but that sometimes the Board does not agree with what is said. She reported that the District has consistently opposed mandatory district consolidation throughout the State of Alaska because local control should remain as such. She expressed concern as a parental grandmother, that shop classes or physical education classes will not be offered at Susan B. English Elementary/High School next year. She asked for the public's support for vocational education.

BOARD COMMENTS:*(continued)*

Mrs. Downing asked that more detail be included in the weekly Highlights and that upcoming events be listed. She reported that she listened to the Legislative Education Task Force meeting and noted that presentations from the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District public and administration were outstanding. She announced that the District should be proud that they will have an impact on the funding process.

Ms. Hohl noted that she has almost completed one year of Board service. She asked for acronyms to be spelled out when they are mentioned in the Highlights. She expressed regrets that she will be unable to attend the Small Schools Institute in Homer. She thanked Mrs. Jenni Hammond for testifying on such short notice.

Dr. Anderson stated that he would have preferred to vote on the rescission of the consolidation action and added that he would have voted to sustain the administration. He stated that unfortunately, the way the motion was presented made it impossible to support. He expressed concern for the employees who are losing health care benefits. He stated that the greatest discrimination in the United States is the availability of health care and would like to see it changed. He reported that he hopes to have a discussion with the administration on where there might be some common agreement regarding No Child Left Behind (NCLB). He noted that the new version of NCLB moves vocational education funding to Title I.

Mrs. Crawford thanked the Board for their assistance during the meeting and their professionalism. She expressed appreciation for the Site Council Report, End of the Year School Report, and Highlights. She acknowledged those present who wanted the Board to reconsider the Sears Elementary and Mt. View Elementary consolidation decision and noted that on the other hand there are many who have moved on and are eager for the new Mt. View Elementary and Kaleidoscope Charter configurations. She stated that she hopes that the consolidation will be a learning experience for students.

MOTION

Mrs. Brown moved the Board approve a request to seek a legal opinion regarding the scope of authority of the Board of Education including an analysis of Alaska State Statute so that both the Board and the administration can understand where their authority begins and ends. Ms. Hohl seconded.

VOTE:

YES – Brown

NO – Hatch, M. Anderson, Downing, Hohl, Hilts, N. Anderson, Crawford

Motion failed.

UNAPPROVED

ADJOURN:
(9:24:45 PM)

At 9:24 p.m., Mr. Anderson moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Debra Mullins, President

Mrs. Liz Downing, Clerk

The Minutes of July 16, 2007
have not been approved as of
July 25, 2007.