
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2005 – 7:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting

Borough Administration Building
148 N. Binkley, Soldotna, Alaska

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: Mrs. Sammy Crawford, President
Ms. Sandra Wassilie, Vice President
Mrs. Debra Mullins, Clerk
Mrs. Margaret Gilman, Treasurer
Ms. Deborah Germano
Dr. Nels Anderson
Mrs. Debbie Brown
Mr. Marty Anderson
Mrs. Sunni Hilts
Mr. DJ Tyson, Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Donna Peterson, Superintendent of Schools
Mrs. Melody Douglas, Chief Financial Officer
Mr. Sam Stewart, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Guy Fisher, Assistant Superintendent

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Dave Carpenter	Mr. Glen Szymoniak
Mr. Tyler Thornton	Mrs. Paula Christensen
Mr. Jim White	Mr. Layton Ehmke
Mrs. Christine Ermold	Ms. Debbie Harris
Miss Megan Kohler	Mrs. Patty Rich
Mr. Joe Nicks	Mrs. Mo Stoner
Mrs. Sharon Moock	Mr. Charlie Walsworth
Mr. Bob VanDerWege	Mr. Glenn Haupt
Ms. Cathy Carrow	

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Mrs. Crawford called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
(7:00:09 PM)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mrs. Crawford invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.
(7:00:11 PM)

ROLL CALL:

Mrs. Sammy Crawford	Present
Ms. Deborah Germano	Present
Mrs. Margaret Gilman	Present
Mrs. Debra Mullins	Absent/Excused
Dr. Nels Anderson	Present
Ms. Sandra Wassilie	Absent/Excused
Mrs. Debbie Brown	Present
Mr. Marty Anderson	Present
Mrs. Sunni Hilts	Present
Mr. DJ Tyson	Present

Mrs. Crawford noted that Mrs. Mullins and Ms. Wassilie are attending the NSBA Annual Conference in San Diego, California.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved as written.
(7:01:18 PM)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
(7:01:28 PM)

The School Board Minutes of April 4, 2005, were approved as printed.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:
(7:01:40 PM)

A certificate of recognition was presented to Mr. Anthony Ming, Kenai Middle School student, by Ms. Debbie Harris, District art specialist, and Ms. Josselyn Burke, Kenai Watershed Forum representative, for artwork used in the 2005 Kenai River Festival t-shirt design.

SCHOOL REPORT:
(7:05:40 PM)

Mrs. Christine Ermold, Sterling Elementary principal, gave a computer-generated presentation highlighting the school demographics, Title I Program, after-school programs, AmeriCorps Program, Palm Pilot Project, Toyota Tapestry Grant, NASA Explorer School Application, and Sea Month activities.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:
(7:15:50 PM)

Mr. Dave Carpenter, Skyview High School soccer coach, presented digital pictures of the recent soccer tournament in Juneau and thanked the Board for their approval of an extended soccer season.

Mr. Tyler Thornton, Skyview High student and soccer player, reported that he and the other players had a wonderful experience in Juneau because of the camaraderie with players from the other teams and the additional activities such as a whale watching trip and a tour of the capitol building.

Ms. Carla Baird, Fireweed Academy Charter School parent, reminded the Board that Fireweed Academy teachers function with no support staff, they teach many subjects, deal with learning difficulties, deal with all discipline issues in the classroom, and added that the whole school is housed in two portables.

Ms. Catie Bursch, Fireweed Academy Charter School parent, summarized the space issues discussion held at a Board worksession prior to the meeting and asked for assistance in locating a place to house the school.

Mrs. Sharon Moock, Kenai Middle School assistant principal and leadership class representative, explained the Kossak Corner leadership project provides free clothes for students in need. She asked those present to consider donating new or slightly used clothing for the project during the clothing drive at Safeway or Carrs on April 30.

Ms. Kiki Abrahamson, Fireweed Academy Charter School lead teacher, stated that West Homer Elementary and Fireweed Academy Charter have the same mission and noted that classrooms at West Homer are underutilized.

Mr. Brian Hirsch, Fireweed Academy Charter School Academic Policy Committee president, noted that Fireweed Charter students have less space per student than West Homer Elementary students and suggested that the Board mediate a face-to-face meeting with parents and staff of both schools.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:
(continued)

Mr. Charlie Walsworth, West Homer Elementary principal, stated that the Fireweed Charter housing issue is a territorial struggle and that there is no process in place to help the situation and asked the Board for assistance.

Mrs. Crawford stated that the Board will make a decision regarding housing space for Fireweed Academy Charter School on May 2 in Seward. She noted that Homer residents can listen via teleconference.

Mrs. Brown asked whether the Board could postpone action to the June meeting so that it will be more convenient for Homer parents. Mrs. Crawford responded that staff and parents would like an answer before the end of the school year so they can plan accordingly.

Ms. Germano asked about the availability of teleconference equipment at Seward High.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:
(7:39:39 PM)

Mrs. Crawford noted that Congressman Young will submit a request to the U.S. Transportation Infrastructure Committee to possibly include the East End Road project and added that there are no promise of its passage. She stated that she received copies of the DEC drinking water reports from District schools and noted that they are routine. She announced that she has a copy of the ASAA Strategic Plan that is being considered for adoption.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:
(7:40:40 PM)

Dr. Peterson thanked Mrs. Crawford and Mrs. Gilman for their assistance judging the District Forensics Meet. She announced that judging for the Caring for the Kenai competition will occur on Thursday, April 21 at 6:00 p.m. and that the Masonic Awards Ceremony will be held at 7:00 p.m. at Kenai Central High School. She noted that House Health Education and Social Services Committee hearing of the overview of the area cost differential study has been canceled.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SITE COUNCIL AND/OR P.T.A., K.P.A.A., K.P.E.A., K.P.E.S.A, BOROUGH ASSEMBLY:
(7:42:18 PM)

Mrs. Cathy Carrow, KPEA president, recognized Central Office administration and Board members for expressing their views about public education funding; commended Dr. Anderson for the guest editorial in the Anchorage Daily News; commended Dr. Peterson for speaking with community members and her peers regarding the lack of education funding for KPBSD; and commended NEA President Bill Bjork for calling for a refocus on the debate on early and adequate funding for education and equity in education funding.

FINANCIAL REPORT:
(7:44:28PM)

Mrs. Douglas presented the financial report of the District for the period ending March 31, 2005.

Ms. Germano asked Mrs. Douglas about money listed under Council on the Arts. Mrs. Douglas responded that the posting was made to correct an error. Mrs. Douglas responded that the District received a mini-grant in the amount of \$925.

QUARTERLY BUDGET TRANSFER REPORT:
(7:46:19 PM)

Mrs. Douglas reported on third quarter budget transfers Numbers 92 through 310 for various schools and departments within the District.

**QUARTERLY BUDGET
TRANSFER REPORT:**
(continued)

Mrs. Gilman asked about budget transfers regarding natural gas charges. Mrs. Douglas explained that the finance department is cleaning up the chart of accounts and that money was transferred to separate the amount spent by schools on natural gas.

BOARD REPORTS:
(7:47:53 PM)

Mrs. Crawford reported that she traveled to Nanwalek and Port Graham on Thursday, April 14 along with Sam Stewart, assistant superintendent; Loren Leman, lieutenant governor; Milli Martin, assembly member; and Heather Pancratz, Project GRAD. She stated that the group was able to watch Project GRAD in action, watched bilingual instruction and Move It Math, participated in a cultural lunch, visited with school and adults in the community, and toured other community facilities. She noted that several District teaching couples have been laid off until funding is determined.

CONSENT AGENDA:
(7:49:21 PM)

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Administrator Appointments; Resignations; Long Term Substitute; and New Teacher Assignment

**ADMINISTRATOR
APPOINTMENTS:**

Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve the appointment of Sean Dusek as director secondary education/curriculum and assessment at Central Office and Randall Neill as assistant principal at Kenai Central High School for the 2005-2006 school year.

RESIGNATIONS:

Mr. Fisher recommended the Board approve resignations (effective at the end of the 2004-2005 school year) from William F. Craine, math at Homer High School; Theresa L. Owens, special education, intensive needs at K-Beach Elementary; Kirstie L. Willean, Grade 4 at Seward Elementary; Kelley Smith, librarian at Soldotna High School; and Darrell Hagen, social studies/activities director at Soldotna Middle School.

LONG TERM SUBSTITUTE:

Mr. Fisher recommended the Board approve long-term substitute teacher contracts for Wendi Dutcher, Grade K-3 at Connections and Nancy Thibodeau, English at Skyview High School.

**NEW TEACHER
ASSIGNMENT:**

Mr. Fisher recommended the Board approve a new teacher assignment for the 2005-2006 school year for Lisa Ferguson, special education resources teacher at K-Beach Elementary.

MOTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 4. Mrs. Hilts seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 04-
05-5:**

Mr. Fisher recommended the Board approve Resolution Number 04-05-5 providing Board input to ASAA regarding proposed eligibility changes.

MOTION

Mr. Anderson moved the Board approve Resolution Number 04-05-5. Mrs. Gilman seconded.

RESOLUTION NUMBER

04-05-5:

(continued)

Mrs. Hilts stated that ASAA should not dictate grade standards to districts as well as periodic grade checks. She stated that throughout the state, students struggle to stay in sports and that each district should be allowed to determine what the standard should be and if not, she predicted that there will be adjustments made to grading standards. She stated she is not against improving standards but she would like to keep kids in school and noted that participation in sports keeps children in school.

Mrs. Gilman asked whether there were provisions for students with an IEP under the current ASAA or KPSAA guidelines with regard to eligibility and GPA. Mr. Fisher stated that the student must have the required GPA but how the grade is determined is set forth in the IEP which takes the student's abilities into account. She stated that a 2.0 GPA is a bar that students can strive for and achieve. She cautioned the District against taking students who struggle with academics out of class for four or five days to compete in sports.

Dr. Peterson stated that the proposed changes came with short notice and the administration felt that a fall implementation would not allow time to study the impact to the district and students. She stated that the administration recommends that ASAA take some time prior to implementation to study the issue.

MOTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve an amendment to move the statement regarding the one-time summer transfer policy to be included in the first bullet. Ms. Germano seconded.

Dr. Anderson stated that he was hoping that the changes would be implemented during the fall of 2005 and added that the summer transfer policy has been grossly abused over the years and it is time to be eliminated.

Amendment carried unanimously.

Dr. Peterson clarified that the first bullet should have said "fall 2005". She stated that the one-time summer transfer policy has been used widely throughout the District and in some cases, has been abused. She stated that there are some cases where parents are making school choices for legitimate academic reasons and noted that one of the unintended consequences if the policy change were implemented next fall is that parents will immediately move their children prior to the end of this school year so that they will meet the 18 weeks of nonparticipation in sports and be eligible for next year. She stated that it would be better to have a year to plan so that a correct decision could be made.

Dr. Anderson asked if there will ever be a year when the summer transfer rule would not be a problem. He stated that he understood that exceptional cases would be granted waivers. He stated that he cannot agree that it be delayed. Dr. Peterson responded that schools in the District are not comprehensive schools and parents make choices for their children based on what is offered.

RESOLUTION NUMBER

04-05-5:

(continued)

MOTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve an amendment to change the date from “2006” to “2005” in the first bullet and add the words “in the fall of 2006” at the end of the sentence regarding the one-time summer transfer policy. Ms. Germano seconded.

VOTE ON ANDERSON AMENDMENT:

Advisory Vote: YES

NO – Germano

YES – Gilman, M. Anderson, Brown, Hilts, N. Anderson, Crawford

Amendment carried.

Ms. Germano stated that the proposed changes include a number of unintended consequences and is uncomfortable supporting them. She reminded those present that the changes include all school activities including academic competitions. She stated she is concerned that seniors will not participate during their last year of high school because of the five-period requirement and noted that with the lack of teaching staff and program offerings that the District cannot provide enough classes for each senior to take five classes. She expressed concern for the proposed change to grade checks and noted that the changes take away from the District’s current system. She asked why the Board would agree to give away anything that works for KPBSD just because something else works for the Anchorage School District. She cautioned against giving up local control and added that she cannot support the proposed changes. She suggested that, to encourage more students to participate in sports, a rule be adopted specifying that students cannot play varsity sports for more than four years. She stated that although agrees with higher standards for students, she is afraid that students will not participate because of the five-period rule change.

Dr. Anderson stated that the resolution does not agree to give up local control on any issue. He reported that the resolution states that the proposed changes require further review so that local control can be added.

Mr. Anderson read from the second bullet and added that the Board is supporting Ms. Germano’s objections. He stated that he agrees with the Resolution and will support it as written.

Mrs. Crawford reminded the Board that the resolution will be sent to ASAA to provide input for the District but that ASAA will make the final decision.

Mrs. Brown stated that she approves of the bullet asking for ASAA to develop a communication plan regarding the bylaw changes prior to implementation. She noted that the second bullet is too broad and doesn’t specify the amount of time for a delay.

RESOLUTION NUMBER
04-05-5:
(continued)

Mr. Tyson stated that the five-period rule will cause students to take another elective just to fulfill the requirement.

Ms. Germano noted that the District offers few electives and that some underclass students (who do not participate in a sport or activity) will not be able to take certain electives because seniors are in the class to fulfill the five-period requirement. She stated that the Board's issues are not addressed in the Resolution and isn't sure where they will be addressed. She stated that she interprets the Resolution to mean that the District believes that the proposed changes are okay but that they should be delayed until all unintended consequences are reviewed.

MOTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve an amendment to replace the first sentence of the second bullet with the words "ASAA delay implementation for the revision of the enrollment rule, and the semester credit rule proposals, which we feel need revision." Mrs. Hilts seconded.

Ms. Germano stated that she likes the Anderson amendment.

Mrs. Brown stated that she will support the Anderson amendment.

Mrs. Gilman asked how many seniors are not taking a full course load. Mr. Stewart stated that he does not have any research information. He noted that some seniors take four classes and then work or work for credit.

VOTE ON ANDERSON AMENDMENT:

Advisory Vote: YES

NO – Gilman

YES – Germano, Hilts, N. Anderson, M. Anderson, Brown, Crawford

Amendment carried.

Ms. Germano stated that a delay of implementation of the proposed changes is necessary because there are fewer classes at the high school level and this will impact the budget.

RECESS:
(8:27:46 PM)

At 8:27 p.m. Mrs. Crawford called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER
RECESS:
(8:32:33 PM)

At 8:32 p.m. the Board reconvened in regular session.

MOTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve an amendment to replace the first sentence in the second bullet to say "ASAA delay implementation of the enrollment rule, and the semester credit rule proposals, which we feel need revision.", and that the second sentence should read "These represent substantive changes in current practice". Ms. Germano seconded.

Amendment carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NUMBER
04-05-5:
(continued)

VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION:

Advisory Vote: YES

NO – Gilman

YES – Hilts, Brown, Germano, N. Anderson, M. Anderson, Crawford

Amended motion carried.

Mrs. Crawford advised those present that any individual may submit comments regarding the proposed changes to ASAA.

BOARD COMMENTS:
(8:36:26 PM)

Dr. Anderson suggested that the Board may want to shorten the comments made by individual Board members and noted that the comments during the April 18 meeting took over an hour and are five pages long.

Mr. Anderson thanked Mrs. Ermold for the Sterling Elementary presentation and Mr. Carpenter and Mr. Thornton for the soccer report. He reported that he visited with Senator Wagoner. He reminded those present that when considering the Fireweed Charter housing issue “we all are humans, we are all Americans, we are all Alaskans, and Fireweed Charter and West Homer staff and parents are all Homer residents and we need do what is best for kids.” He stated that he attended the Redoubt Spring Concert and stated that he is looking forward to the high school graduation ceremonies. He stated that he plans to visit Sterling Elementary.

DJ Tyson congratulated Mr. Anthony Ming for his art work. He thanked Mrs. Ermold for the Sterling Elementary report. He announced that the Kenai Central High School prom was held April 16 and that his date agreed to be his girlfriend,

Mrs. Brown expressed appreciation for the Sterling Elementary report. She commended the Kenai Middle School leadership class for the clothing drive and thanked the adults who are assisting the students. She stated that she would like the District to make every effort to allow Homer residents to voice their comments regarding the Fireweed Charter School issue via teleconference at the next meeting in Seward.

Mrs. Gilman thanked Mrs. Ermold and commended her for using the community resources to benefit students. She commended Mrs. Manion, Nikiski North Star Elementary principal, for organizing the Borough Forensics Meet. She shared a concern from parents that there is little student involvement in the meet by secondary students. She expressed frustration over the ninth cancellation of the area cost study hearing and noted that it costs the District money each time it is canceled. She suggested that those present call Representative Neuman and ask when it will be heard.

Mrs. Hilts stated that she will send more emails regarding the area cost study. She thanked those who gave presentations and acknowledged those who spoke to the Board regarding the Fireweed Charter housing issue.

BOARD COMMENTS:
(continued)

Ms. Germano thanked Mrs. Ermold for the Sterling Elementary School presentation and those who spoke to the Board regarding the Fireweed Charter School issue. She stated that she would like the administration to try to arrange for teleconference capabilities for the May 2 meeting.

Mrs. Crawford reported that the Forensic Meet was enjoyable. She reported that she attended the Nikiski North Star production titled, "We Haz Jazz" and added that it was a great collaborative effort on behalf of the teachers. She thanked Dr. Anderson and Mrs. Gilman for writing newspaper editorials. She asked those present to continue to write letters urging the legislature to consider the area cost study. She thanked Mrs. Holmgard for the No Child Left Behind worksession. She thanked those who attended the Fireweed Charter School worksession. She thanked Mrs. Ermold for the Sterling Elementary School presentation. She asked the Board to complete the board self-evaluation form and the superintendent evaluation form and submit them by June 1. She noted that the forms will be emailed and sent in the May 2 Board packet and must be returned to herself or Mrs. Tachick either via U.S. mail, fax, or email.

ADJOURN:
(8:48:37 PM)

At 8:48 p.m., Ms. Germano moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Sammy Crawford, President

Mrs. Debra Mullins, Clerk

The Minutes of April 18, 2005
were approved on May 2, 2005
as written.