
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

June 6, 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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Representative Kurt Olson	Mr. Dave Spence
Mr. Sean Dusek	Mrs. Trudy Andree
Mr. John Brenner	Mr. Joe Nicks
Mrs. Dee Brenner	Mr. Tim Peterson
Mrs. Susie Smalley	Mr. Jim White
Mrs. Sharon Moock	Mr. John Pothast
Mrs. Paula Christensen	Mrs. Sheila-Margaret Pothast
Ms. Diane Bush	Mr. Todd Syverson
Ms. Mim Updike	Ms. Marlys Verba
Mr. Scott Earsley	Ms. Thelma Antila
Dr. Roy Anderson	Mrs. Sylvia Reynolds
Mr. Glen Szymoniak	Mrs. Debbie Stewart
	Ms. Bridget Paule

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mrs. Crawford called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. A quorum of School Board members, Mrs. Crawford, Dr. Anderson, Mrs. Hilts, Ms. Wassilie, Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Gilman were in attendance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 4:31 p.m., Dr. Anderson moved the Board go into executive session to discuss matters, the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the Borough. Specifically, the executive session was to discuss litigation. Mrs. Hilts seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 7:00 p.m., Ms. Wassilie moved the executive session be adjourned. Mrs. Hilts seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:
(7:01:15 PM)

Mrs. Crawford invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:*(7:01:29 PM)*

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:*(7:02:22 PM)*

The agenda was approved as written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:*(7:02:35 PM)*

The School Board Minutes of May 2, 2005 were approved as printed.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:*(7:02:55 PM)*

The Board presented Golden Apple Awards to Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Church, Soldotna United Methodist Church, and Diane Bush for providing breakfast programs at various District schools; to Mim Updike for her volunteer service at K-Beach Elementary School; and Scott Earsley, Marlys Verba, and Thelma Antila for their service as ASPIRATION mentors.

The Board presented a gift to Mr. DJ Tyson in appreciation for his service on the Board on behalf of District students.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:*(7:14:53 PM)*

Mrs. Kathy Gensel, Wells Fargo Vice President, presented a check to the District in the amount of \$3,775 as part of the Team Up For Schools Program which is to be spent on direct classroom expenses including teaching materials, school supplies, and teacher compensation. She noted that Wells Fargo employees collected supplies for a number of District schools and that Wells Fargo employees also teach Junior Achievement as well as making their own personal contributions which is matched by Wells Fargo. She explained that Wells Fargo also sponsors the Financial Literacy Program.

Ms. Paco Winnel, parent volunteer at Sears Elementary and Kaleidoscope Charter School and PTA co-president at both schools, asked the Board to assist Kaleidoscope School in locating a larger facility so that the school's program can grow.

Mrs. Jenni Hammond asked the Board to improve public communications and expressed concern that District communications to parents regarding all-day kindergarten were poor. She challenged those present to collect 10 Box Tops For Education this summer and noted that this school year Nikiski North Star Elementary collected enough box tops to earn over \$1000 for the school and that the goal is to double the amount next year.

Mrs. Sylvia Reynolds, K-Beach Elementary principal, thanked the Board and Central Office for the priority of maintaining a lower pupil-teacher ratio.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:
(continued)

Mrs. Trudy Andree, Skyview High School parent, recounted problems encountered by her daughter with the recently implemented State of Alaska High School Graduation Qualifying Exam and questioned whether receiving a standardized proficiency score in each section of the test as a requirement to receive a high school diploma will assure that students will be productive and successful contributors to society.

Mrs. Crawford told those present that the state requires districts to administer the HSGQE and noted that fortunately Representative Kurt Olson is in the audience to hear the comments.

HEARING OF DELEGATIONS:
(7:26:20 PM)

Ms. Bridget Paule, Homer Soil and Water Conservation District education director along with Homer area students, Miss Gillian Beran-Maryott and Miss Hannah Harrison, reported on the Natural Resources Technology Program and the after-school natural resources class. The students asked the Board for their continued support of the after-school class.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND
PETITIONS:**
(7:32:40 PM)

Mrs. Crawford reported that she received a thank you card from the Homer FFA Chapter and the natural resources class. Dr. Peterson reported that a letter has been included in the Board information packet explaining requirements for student contact days for seniors.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT:**
(7:33:53 PM)

Dr. Peterson presented the End of the Year Report, which included a summary of Board action for the 2004-2005 school year as well as progress on administrative work plans and Board goals. She reported that various community, school and program meetings and conversations have been held as follows: May 16, Follow the Leader meeting with Dr. Holloway and energy consultant; May 19, Nanwalek community conversation; May 21, retirement celebration for Dan Gregory; May 23, Connections staff conversation, and Seldovia community conversation, May 27, Skyview High School staff and community conversation, and baseball region tournament; June 1, Class.com conversation; June 2, Child Study Team meeting; and June 3, Soldotna Middle School staff and community conversation. She reported that administrators are in the process of checking out of their buildings for the summer. She reported that, to date, there have been 52 certified resignations or retirements in the District.

Mrs. Crawford thanked Dr. Peterson for the detailed End of the Year Report.

FINANCIAL REPORT:
(7:39:54 PM)

Mrs. Douglas presented the financial report of the District for the period ending April 30, 2005.

LEASE AGREEMENTS:
(7:40:23 PM)

By memorandum, Mr. Guy Fisher presented a report of leases and agreements for the 2005-2006 school year. Mr. Stewart was available to answer questions.

BOARD REPORTS:
(7:40:57 PM)

Mrs. Hilts reported that she attended graduation ceremonies at Susan B. English Elementary/High School and Razdolna School.

BOARD REPORTS:
(continued)

Mr. Anderson reported that he attended graduation ceremonies at Skyview High School, Voznesenka Elementary/High School, and Kenai Alternative High School.

Ms. Wassilie reported that she attended graduation ceremonies at Moose Pass Elementary, Seward High, and Nanwalek Elementary/High.

Mrs. Crawford reported that she attended four graduation ceremonies and noted that a standing ovation was given for two disabled students at Nikiski High School. She reported that she has continued her weekly meetings with the superintendent, and a KPEA representative.

Mrs. Gilman reported that she attended graduation ceremonies at Seward High and KCHS. She noted that a Seward High student received an award for perfect attendance for 13 years.

Dr. Anderson reported that he attended the graduation ceremony at Soldotna High. He stated that he is pleased that a number of District graduates are returning to the area to work in the medical field which indicates that students are receiving good counseling and are making good choices in future goals.

Mrs. Brown reported that she attended graduation ceremonies at Skyview High and Ninilchik Elementary/High. She thanked local businesses and organizations for funding student scholarships. She added that the community and District have a responsibility to hire local graduates.

CONSENT AGENDA:
(7:50:22 PM)

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Budget Transfers; Resolution 04-05-6, Authorizing the Administration of 504 Accommodation Plans; Long-Term Substitute Teacher Contracts; Resignations; Nontenured Teacher Assignments; New Teacher Assignments; Request for Leave of Absence-Certified; High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver; Administrator Appointments; and Non-Tenured Teachers for Tenure

BUDGET TRANSFERS:

Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve budget transfer Number 423 to move Quality School Grant funds for summer school into summer school teacher salary and benefit accounts.

RESOLUTION 04-05-6:

Mr. Sam Stewart recommended the Board approve Resolution Number 04-05-6 designating Mr. Tim Peterson as the 504 coordinator for District staff and Mrs. Jamie Harper as the 504 coordinator for students.

**LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE
TEACHER CONTRACTS:**

By memorandum, Mr. Fisher recommended the Board approve long-term substitute teacher contracts for Mary Estes, library, Kenai Central High; David Justice, English, Kenai Central High; Jennifer Dowd, science/health, Nikiski Middle/High; and Tammy Flanders, Grade 3, Tustumena Elementary.

RESIGNATIONS:

By memorandum, Mr. Fisher recommended the Board approve resignations effective the end of the 2004-2005 school year from Erling Hofseth, principal, Connections; Amy Stalmaster, intensive needs, Homer Middle School; David Larson, English, Kenai Central High; William Hatch, reading/math, Kenai Middle School; Satorene Jackson, Grade 4, Mountain View Elementary; Christopher J. Towne, music, Paul Banks/West Homer Elementary; Mim McKay, music, Soldotna Middle/Soldotna High; Michelle Gormanous, school psychologist, Sterling Elementary; Craig Johnson, principal/teacher, Susan B. English School; Tamara Johnson, middle school, Susan B. English School; Kristen Peless elementary generalist, Tebughna School; and Lucas Peless, secondary generalist, Tebughna School.

NONTENURED TEACHER ASSIGNMENTS:

By memorandum, Mr. Fisher recommended the Board approve tentative nontenure teacher assignments for the 2005-2006 school year for Kristine Barnes, Grade 6, Nikiski North Star Elementary; Mary M. Hicks, .50 FTE generalist, Seward Area Connections; Luanne Bressler, Grades 3-4, Soldotna Elementary; and Karlene Meyers, Grade 6, Soldotna Elementary.

NEW TEACHER ASSIGNMENTS:

By memorandum, Mr. Fisher recommended the Board approve teacher assignments for the 2005-2006 school year for Michael L. Hanson, (temporary) itinerant professional development coach, Central Peninsula; Kriste Simonson, (temporary) school psychologist, Districtwide, Pupil Services; Christine M. Kemp, primary grades teacher, Kaleidoscope Charter School; Perry G. Corsetti, science teacher, Nikiski Middle/High School; Timothy J. Helvey, social studies teacher, Ninilchik Elementary/High School; Shannon Riley, special education resource teacher for Susan B. English, Nanwalek and Port Graham; Shannon K. West, intermediate grades teacher, Soldotna Montessori Charter School; John W. O'Neil, secondary generalist, Tebughna School; Catherine A. O'Neil, teacher/intervention, Tebughna School; Bonnie S. Stangl, (temporary) itinerant literacy coach, for Voznesenka School, Razdolna School, Nikolaevsk Elementary/High, Port Graham Elementary/High, Nanwalek Elementary/High, Kachemak Selo School, Ninilchik Elementary/High, and Tebughna Elementary/High.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE-CERTIFIED:

By memorandum, Mr. Fisher recommended the Board approve a one-year unpaid leave of absence request for the 2005-2006 school year for Paula Patterson, school psychologist, Seward Elementary.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION QUALIFYING EXAM WAIVER:

Mr. Stewart recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver request Number 2005-07.

ADMINISTRATOR APPOINTMENTS:

Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve the appointment of Lee Young as principal at the Connections School; Sharon Conley as the regional principal at Nikolaevsk Elementary/High and Chapman Elementary; and John Pothast as principal at Redoubt Elementary.

**NON-TENURED TEACHERS
FOR TENURE:**

By memorandum, Mr. Fisher recommended the Board approve Breta Brown, Ned Clooten, and Lisa M. Rolph, nontenure teachers, for tenure.

MOTION

Ms. Wassilie moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 10. Mrs. Gilman seconded.

Mrs. Gilman asked how many additional students were enrolled in summer school from 2004. Mrs. Christensen responded that the District has enrolled over 650 students as compared to 380 students in 2004.

Motion carried unanimously.

STUDENT EXPULSION:

(7:51:44PM)

MOTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve the following decision of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education in the matter of the expulsion of JB: "CONCLUSIONS: Based on the discussion and findings in written and oral evidence presented to the school board the recommendation of expulsion for one year is upheld. The student is not allowed on school premises or at school activities during the period of expulsion. The student may be readmitted if the following conditions are met:

1. Student allowed to enroll in Connections and must complete a year's course work of at least eight core classes (two semesters each of math, science, social studies, and language arts) prior to readmission no earlier than in January 2006 to high school; and
2. Student be eligible for readmission in January 2006 to high school if by that time he completes the following:
 1. attends 80% of his recommended counseling sessions with CPCS; and
 2. completes a safety assessment that indicates he does not pose a danger to himself or others; and
 3. completes a formal drug assessment and follows the assessments recommendations which would include random broad spectrum urinalysis at the parent's expense.

The student does have the right to file an appeal to this within 30 days of this final decision. This decision will be submitted to the Superior Court of the State of Alaska at Kenai in accordance with the Alaska Rules of Appellate Procedure." Mrs. Gilman seconded.

VOTE:

Yes – Hilts, Wassilie, N. Anderson, Gilman, Crawford

Abstain – M. Anderson, Brown

Motion carried.

**KPSAA HANDBOOK
RECOMMENDED CHANGES:**

(7:54:20 PM)

MOTION

By memorandum, Mr. Fisher recommended the Board approve proposed changes to the KPSAA High School Handbook.

Mrs. Gilman moved the Board approve recommended changes to the KPSAA High School Handbook. Mrs. Hilts seconded.

**KPSAA HANDBOOK
RECOMMENDED CHANGES:**
(continued)

Mrs. Brown asked for clarification of the proposed changes to soccer should the recommendation pass. Mrs. Crawford explained that the recommendation changes the number of soccer events from 10 to 12. Mrs. Brown stated that she will vote against the motion because 10 soccer events is adequate.

VOTE:

Advisory Vote – YES

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

NO – Brown

Motion carried.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/
COMMENTS:**
(7:57:04 PM)

Mr. Al Poindexter, Alaska Association of Conservation Districts Executive Director, reported that the Homer Soil and Water Conservation District is spending approximately \$40,000 on the natural resources program and added that they, along with the State Association of Conservation Districts, are interested in entering into a partnership agreement with the School Board.

Mrs. Crawford reminded Board members that the June 7 planning session will begin at 8:30 a.m. She noted that Mr. Anderson will be unable to attend until 12:30 p.m. She stated that the Board will begin the meeting with a self-evaluation and the superintendent evaluation, conduct a review of Board Bylaws, and participate in a goal setting session facilitated by Mr. Jerry Covey (former Alaska Commissioner of Education).

BOARD COMMENTS:
(8:00:45 PM)

Mrs. Gilman thanked Mr. Tyson for his service as the District student representative. She thanked Wells Fargo for the donation. She especially thanked the two church organizations and Ms. Diane Bush for providing school breakfast programs.

Dr. Anderson agreed with Mrs. Gilman's comments regarding the recognition of District volunteers. He thanked Mr. Tyson for his service and added that he would like him to consider running for election again next year. He noted that he was glad to see Mr. Poindexter and expressed appreciation for his work with natural resources conservation. He related a story about two members of the public who recently thanked him for his service on the Board.

Mrs. Brown thanked Representative Olson for his attendance at the Board meeting and added that she hoped to hear from the Kenai Peninsula legislative delegation. She expressed appreciation for the District's approach to reduce fuel costs. She noted that the Borough and District used different percentages to calculate inflation for energy costs. She suggested that more energy efficient equipment be purchased when a replacement is necessary and suggested that the topic be considered during the Board planning session.

BOARD COMMENTS:
(continued)

Mr. Anderson thanked Wells Fargo for the donation, expressed appreciation to Mr. Tyson for his service on the Board, recognized those involved with the breakfast programs, and thanked the Homer FFA for their presentation. He reported that he visited Sterling Elementary and noted that the students find the new principal approachable and are excited about learning. He noted that the school roof needs repair. He reported that he visited the Soldotna Elementary summer school program. He reported that the Sterling Community Council has asked him to serve on the council as an ex-officio member representing education.

Mr. Tyson summarized his Board experience beginning with the activities director who convinced him to run for the position. He stated that although it has been stressful at times, it has been an enjoyable year and he has learned quite a bit. He thanked the Board for their help and added that he may consider running for reelection but is unsure at this time.

Mrs. Hilts expressed appreciation for the contribution of those who were recognized by the Board. She told those present that the Board will conduct their annual evaluation of the Board and the superintendent on June 7. She reminded those present that only two legislators agreed that children should be the state's top priority and that the assurance of early and equitable funding did not happen. She reported that legislators did not hear from parents and urged those present to contact legislators during the next session and let them know that Alaska's children should be a top priority because they are the future. She stated that the Board often sees exciting examples of the results of a good education and reminded those present that Alaska is a wealthy state and should have one of the best educational systems in the United States. She noted that the District has lost some good teachers because their future employment with the District is too uncertain. She noted that across-the-water schools will have new administrators and staff and added that it is a new opportunity to do wonderful things for students. She asked those present to join together to encourage the legislature to make children a priority.

Ms. Wassilie thanked Mr. Tyson for his service and complimented him for learning the job quickly. She noted that Miss Kyle Aldeman, Seward High School student, received an award for perfect attendance for 13 years and added that her mother voluntarily developed and has operated the Seward community Teen and Youth Center for over 20 years. She expressed appreciation for Mrs. Hammond's remarks regarding improved public communications and quoted Mrs. Manion's mantra to "involve parents early and often" and suggested that the topic be considered during the Board planning session. She expressed compassion for the mother whose daughter leaves the District without a diploma and encouraged legislators to review the problem. She stated that she was pleased to hear the natural resources report and thanked Mr. Poindexter for his comments and the request for a partnership with the District.

Mrs. Crawford thanked the Board for their comments and added that she is looking forward to the Board planning session.

ADJOURN:
(8:17:34 PM)

At 8:17 p.m., Mrs. Gilman moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Sammy Crawford, President

Mrs. Debra Mullins, Clerk

The Minutes of June 6, 2005
were approved on July 11, 2005.
as written.