Kenai Peninsula Borough School District
Board of Education Meeting Minutes

August 1, 2005 – 7:00 p.m. | Borough Administration Building
Regular Meeting | 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

STAFF PRESENT:
Dr. Donna Peterson, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Sam Stewart, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Glen Szymoniak, Assistant Superintendent

OTHERS PRESENT:
Mr. Jim White
Mr. Dave Spence
Mr. Tim Peterson
Mrs. Cathy Carrow
Mr. Joe Nicks
Ms. McKibben Jackinsky
Mrs. Jamie Harper
Mrs. Norma Holmgaard

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:
Mrs. Crawford called the meeting to order at 4:41 p.m. A quorum of School Board members, Mrs. Crawford, Mr. Anderson, Mrs. Brown, Ms. Wassilie, Ms. Germano, Mrs. Gilman, and Mrs. Mullins were in attendance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:
At 4:42 p.m. Mrs. Mullins 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 negotiations tactics and strategies. Mrs. Gilman seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:
At 5:40 p.m., Mrs. Mullins moved the executive session be adjourned. Ms. Germano seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

RECESS:
At 5:41 p.m. Mrs. Mullins moved the Board take a recess. Ms. Wassilie seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:
(7:01:05 PM)
At 7:01 p.m. Mrs. Mullins moved the Board reconvene in regular session. Ms. Germano seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

MOMENT OF SILENCE:
(7:01:20 PM)

Mrs. Crawford called for a moment of silence in observance of the recent deaths of Mr. Don Gilman, Judge Charles Cranston, and Mr. Drew Scalzi, and for the Alaskan Boy Scout leaders who were killed in an electrical accident.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:
(7:02:03 PM)

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

MISSION STATEMENT:
(7:02:36 PM)

Mr. Anderson read the District mission statement.

ROLL CALL:
(7:03:03 PM)

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:
(7:03:39 PM)

The agenda was approved as written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
(7:03:49 PM)

Mrs. Brown moved the School Board approve the Minutes of July 11, 2005 with a correction. Mr. Anderson seconded.

VOTE:

YES – Mullins, Germano, Gilman, Anderson, Brown, Wassilie
NO – Crawford

Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:
(7:06:54 PM)

Dr. Peterson noted that the Board information packet contains a letter from the Alaska Division of Forestry thanking the District for their support during the forest fire suppression efforts, especially for Sterling Elementary custodian Wayne Cowan and principal Christine Ermold. She noted that the Parent Student Handbook has been distributed to schools. She noted that the Summer School report and a letter from Governor Murkowski regarding the Agrium closure issue are also in the information packet.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:
(7:00821 PM)

Dr. Peterson explained that Mrs. Douglas is attending the National Institute for Governmental Purchasing Conference. She noted that on July 28 and 29 the District hosted the Differentiated Instruction Institute which included 80 participants. She reported that she attended the Alaska Sea Life Center educational program. She reminded the Board that the filing period for the Borough election is August 1 though 15. She invited the Board to attend the August 8-9 Administrator Meeting and the August 10 New Administrator Meeting which will be held at Skyview High School. She reported that the New Teacher Orientation will be held on August 13. She

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: *(continued)*

noted that welcome letters have been completed for the Back to School issues of the Kenai Peninsula newspapers. She explained that the Calendar Committee has decided to start the 2005-2006 school year on a Monday because January 2 is a holiday resulting in an eleven-day Holiday Break and an additional day was added to Spring Break to accommodate the Arctic Winter Games.

CONSENT AGENDA: *(7:11:34 PM)*

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of New Teacher Assignments; Nontenured Teacher Assignment; Nontenured Teacher for Tenure; Revisions to AR 0510 (School District Report Card); Revisions to AR 4111 (Recruitment and Selection); Administrator Appointment; Budget Transfer; Seward Middle School Furniture and Equipment List; and Resolution Number 05-06-1 In Support of Acceptance and Appropriating a State Grant in the Amount of $225,000 for a Natural Gas Pressure Reducing System in Ninilchik.

NEW TEACHER ASSIGNMENTS:

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve teacher assignments for Sean F. Campbell, English/language arts, Homer High School; Benjamin C. Alexander, (temporary), special education/resource, Ninilchik; Kersten M. Osborn, (.50 FTE temporary/.50 FTE permanent) Grades 2/3, Nikiski North Star Elementary; Janet L. Holdt, K-8 music, Seward Elementary/Seward Middle School; Theresa Zabala, (.50 FTE permanent/.50 FTE temporary) Grade 3 teacher, Seward Elementary; Bridgit Gillis, vocal music, Soldotna Middle/Soldotna High School; Kathryn R. Baum Fjelstad, language arts, Soldotna Middle School; Stephanie Burns, special education/resource, Soldotna High School; Carly L. Reimer, middle school science, Soldotna Middle School; Ruth Decker, (temporary) .15 FTE music, Soldotna Montessori; and Phyllis Bishop, .50 FTE social studies, Voznesenka School.

NONTENURED TEACHER ASSIGNMENT:

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve a nontenure teaching assignment for Geoffrey Glover, (temporary) K-6/Title I teacher at Nanwalek Elementary/High.

NONTENURED TEACHER FOR TENURE:

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve Audra McCubbins, a nontenured teacher, for tenure.

REVISIONS TO AR 0510:

Mr. Stewart recommended the Board approve revisions to AR 0510 (School District Report Card).

REVISIONS TO AR 4111:

Mr. Stewart recommended the Board approve revisions to AR 4111 (Recruitment and Selection).

ADMINISTRATOR APPOINTMENT:

Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve an administrator appointment for Loren Reese as the principal of Kenai Central High.

BUDGET TRANSFER:

Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve budget transfer Number 1 to purchase software in accordance with the Technology Plan 2.

SEWARD MIDDLE SCHOOL FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT LIST:

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve a list of furniture and equipment for the Seward Middle School.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 05-06-1:

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve Resolution Number 05-06-1 (In Support of Acceptance and Appropriating a State Grant in the Amount of $225,000 for a Natural Gas Pressure Reducing System in Ninilchik).

MOTION

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

Ms. Wassilie asked to remove Consent Agenda Items 7 and 9.

Motion to approve items Numbered 1 through 6 and 8 carried unanimously.

Ms. Wassilie asked for an explanation of the software purchase for the Tech Plan 2. Mr. White explained that under the Tech Plan schools are allocated $150 for software for each new computer. He noted that that practice has been consistent throughout the fifth year of the Tech Plan.

Consent Agenda Item 7 approved unanimously.

Ms. Wassilie stated that although the conversion to natural gas at Ninilchik Elementary/High School looks like a good choice, she has concerns about additional costs to the Borough and District as part of the conversion process.

Mr. Szymoniak stated that it was his understanding that the grant received by the Borough will cover the conversion costs. Ms. Wassilie asked for clarification about whether the grant will cover all costs. Mr. Spence stated that there is an agreement with Enstar that they will pay for additional costs, if necessary. Mr. Spence further explained that Enstar is working on the entire corridor in the Ninilchik area. He added that with the acceptance of the grant, Borough maintenance will also be doing some of the conversion work which is included in their budget.

Mr. Stewart explained that the Borough administration approached the District to request Board approval which will give them the authority to accept the grant money.

Ms. Germano stated that it is not clear that there is no cost to the District and suggested that language be added clarifying the Board's position. She noted that current language states that "nothing in excess of $225,000 for the pressure reducing system" and does not mention the rest of the project. Mr. Spence referred the Board to a memorandum from Mrs. Golden, Borough Grants manager, which spells out the details of the project and that the Borough is responsible for the cost. Ms. Germano stated that the resolution does not include the same language regarding costs.

Mrs. Brown suggested that the Board support the resolution and added that there are people who believe that a conversion to natural gas will be a cost savings over fuel oil. She stated that although there is no guarantee that the District will realize a savings once the Ninilchik School is converted to natural gas, the Board should support the resolution.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 05-06-1:
(continued)

Mrs. Gilman stated that the resolution language is clear that Enstar will be required to assume all costs over the $225,000 amount.

Ms. Wassilie stated that the resolution language does not say that the District is free from any of the conversion costs.

MOTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve an amendment to Resolution Number 05-06-1 to add the words "there will be no additional maintenance costs or construction costs to the School District, and" at the end of the seventh "whereas". Ms. Wassilie seconded.

Mr. Anderson asked whether the Germano Amendment included future costs related to the natural gas system such as the replacement of the boiler. Ms. Germano clarified that the amendment speaks specifically to the conversion project.

VOTE:

YES – Brown, Anderson, Gilman, Germano, Wassilie, Crawford
NO – Mullins

Amendment carried.

Amended motion carried unanimously.

NEW TEACHER ASSIGNMENT:
(7:26:18 PM)

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve a teacher assignment for Laurel Hilts, (temporary) K-6/Title II teacher, Susan B. English Elementary/High.

MOTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve a teacher assignment for Laurel A. Hilts, (temporary) K-6/Title II teacher, Susan B. English Elementary/High. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

FIRST READING OF POLICY REVISIONS:
(7:26:57 PM)

The Board heard a first reading of BP 5131.43 (Bullying) and BP 0520 (School Accountability/School Improvement).

Ms. Wassilie stated that bullying is a significant issue and added that the District is making great strides through various programs in addressing bullying. She expressed concern that the policy is focused on discipline and added that there may be other interventions that could be outlined and suggested that other positive interventions be used such as counseling on a case-by-case situation.

Mr. Anderson stated that the proposed policy is in line with the District's mission statement. He noted that AASB has done a lot of work on the topic of bullying. He stated that every child should go to school in a safe and supportive environment.

FIRST READING OF POLICY REVISIONS:
(Continued)

Mrs. Brown suggested that the word "counseling" be added in front of the words "suspension and termination" and added that she would not like to see mandatory counseling that would include a cost to the District.

Mr. Stewart stated that as a former counselor he cautioned the Board to stay away from the term counseling as a disciplinary action. He stated that after listening to the Board's comments, the language could be changed to say "are subject to appropriate interventions and/or disciplinary action" and would include counseling.

BOARD COMMENTS:
(7:33:30 PM)

Mrs. Gilman thanked the administration for their work on staffing and for paying close attention to detail to ensure that no elementary classroom in the District has more than a 2-student variance from the formula. She stated that parents are pleased about the impending start up of school. She announced that her youngest child will be going to kindergarten this year. She thanked those present for flowers and letters of support and encouragement for the death of her father-in-law, former Borough Mayor Don Gilman.

Mr. Anderson thanked the community, the partners in education, parents and teachers for their communications to legislators regarding educational funding. He stated that all legislators know that funding is a priority on the Kenai Peninsula and added that the lobbying has created a much higher profile for education.

Mrs. Mullins expressed appreciation for those in the audience. She expressed appreciation to the Board for the worksession discussions and to the administration for the information about the first day of school. She asked the Board members to give their suggestions to the Policy Committee.

Mrs. Brown reported that the worksessions were productive and added that she is looking forward to new proposed language in the Board Bylaws section. She suggested that the Board provide a forum for public involvement so they can be aware of the manner in which the Board is functioning. She stated that policy is important, especially with regards to the proposed bullying policy. She recognized the loss of former Mayor and Senator Don Glman and former Assembly Member and Representative Drew Scalzi. She recognized the two men as people that cared and were willing to take a stand. She stated that it is an honor to serve on the Board.

Ms. Germano stated that with the administration's work on staffing the school year will start off well. She expressed appreciation for the funding from the legislature but cautioned that the District could be in the same spot next year and encouraged the Board and communities stay vigilant in their lobbying efforts. She expressed concern regarding the student handbook and the section addressing student dress codes and stated that site councils should address dress codes. She suggested that the handbook list the directory information form.

BOARD COMMENTS:
(Continued)

Ms. Wassilie stated that she was impressed with the District's focus on energy efficiency and added that she is in favor of the Ninilchik Elementary/High School natural gas conversion. She expressed appreciation for the worksession on energy education. She stated that she feels fortunate to have known former Borough Mayor and Senator Don Gilman. She stated that she also worked with former Assembly Member and Representative Drew Scalzi and noted that both men made significant contributions to the Kenai Peninsula and the state.

Mrs. Crawford thanked the administration for the staffing report and for listening to the Board's wishes regarding class sizes. She expressed appreciation for the reports in the information packet, especially the summer school report. She reported that she and Mrs. Mullins attended the AASB Board meetings in Unalaska. She reported that the group worked on resolutions that will come to the Board in September. She suggested that the Board consider drafting a resolution on the topic of health care. She asked the Board members to notify her if they are interested in participating in training on October 12 and 13 by the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service.

ADJOURN:
(7:47:33 PM)

At 7:47 p.m., Mrs. Mullins moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Ms. Germano seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mrs. Sammy Crawford, President

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Mrs. Debra Mullins, Clerk

The Minutes of August 1, 2005 were approved on September 12, 2005 as written.