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# Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes

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September 12, 2005 – 7:00 p.m.  
Regular Meeting

Borough Administration Building  
148 N. Binkley, Soldotna, Alaska

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**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  
Mrs. Melody Douglas, Chief Financial Officer  
Mr. Sam Stewart, Assistant Superintendent  
Mr. Glen Szymoniak, Assistant Superintendent

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Mrs. Sara Moore	Mr. Joe Nicks
Mr. Gregg Wilbanks	Mrs. Linda Raemaker
Mrs. Phyllis Halstead	Ms. Cathy Carrow
Ms. Sandy McIntire	Mr. Sal Mattero
Mr. Sean Dusek	Mrs. Norma Holmgaard
Mr. Tim Peterson	

Others present not identified.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mrs. Crawford called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. A quorum of School Board members, Mrs. Gilman, Ms. Wassilie, Mrs. Hilts, Dr. Anderson, Mrs. Mullins, Ms. Germano, Mrs. Brown, and Mrs. Crawford were in attendance.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** At 5:01 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 negotiations tactics and strategies. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mrs. Crawford called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.  
*(7:00:17 PM)*

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mrs. Crawford invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.  
*(7:00:20 PM)*

**ROLL CALL:***(7:00:43 PM)*

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

**MISSION STATEMENT:***(7:01:14 PM)*

Ms. Germano read the District's mission statement.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:***(7:01:47 PM)*

The agenda was approved as written with a revision to Item 11a(2).

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:***(7:02:07 PM)*

The School Board Minutes of August 1, 2005 were approved as printed.

Mrs. Crawford thanked those present for sending her cards and letters in expression of sympathy for the loss of her mother.

**SCHOOL REPORT:***(7:02:41 PM)*

Mr. Gregg Wilbanks, Kenai Alternative High School principal, provided information regarding the student interview and acceptance process. He provided assessment information and noted that the school made AYP during the 2004-2005 school year except for graduation rate. He invited the Board to any of the school's special events and noted that the Thanksgiving Day dinner will be held on November 17 at 12:00 p.m. He provided a breakdown of student demographics and stated that this year's goals will be to focus on math and graduation rates. He stated that the school tries to respond to the whole student, both emotional and academic.

Mrs. Gilman asked whether it would be beneficial to change current school programs, or consider offering alternative schools at lower grades. Mr. Wilbanks stated that the time is right for an alternative school at the middle school level and should be housed separately from other schools. He added that he is not sure about offering an alternative school at the lower grades.

Ms. Germano asked whether there is a specific criterion that students must meet in order to be accepted at the Kenai Alternative High School. Mr. Wilbanks stated that student acceptance decisions are made on a case-by-case basis. She asked whether a student could choose to attend KAHS rather than attend their assigned high school. Mr. Wilbanks said that although a student could attend the KAHS, he would pursue the reason for the request because KAHS has a limit of 85 students and the priority is to serve the neediest.

Mrs. Crawford welcomed several high school students and Mrs. Raemaeker, Skyview High School teacher.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:**

*(7:21:27 PM)*

Dr. Peterson stated that Board members have received the 2004-2005 state report regarding Adequate Yearly Progress, a letter from the Governor regarding the Agrium announcement that the company will stay in operation for another year, a Fireweed Academy-West Homer transition update, and District Office workplans.

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

*(7:22:59 PM)*

Ms. Cathy Carrow, KPEA President and representative for KPESA, reported that over the next few weeks the two labor organizations will be conducting meetings throughout the District to gather input for bargaining and to provide information on interest-based bargaining. She stated that she is looking forward to the upcoming bargaining training with the Board, District Office administration, principals, and KPEA and KPESA members. She added that she is very proud of the Anchorage teachers who kept working with the Anchorage School District on a labor contract until it was completed. She thanked the Board for their support of smaller class sizes.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

*(7:25:20 PM)*

Dr. Peterson presented the 2004-2005 Superintendent's Annual Report. She reported that Competency-Based Education conversations will be held throughout District communities. She reported that a review of charter school framework, policies and roles has begun. She reported that the Kenai Middle School leadership class will coordinate the holiday card making event. She reported that the Wellness Committee will meet on September 13 at 4:00 p.m. at the Student Nutrition Services Office; the Site Council/Parent Training will be held Thursday, September 15 at the Soldotna Sports Center at 10:30 a.m.; Constitution Day is September 16 with various activities planned at schools throughout the District; the Curriculum Mappings Trainer of Trainers Meeting will be held September 19-23; the Borough Student Government Conference will be held September 27 at Kenai Central High; and the District Administrator Meeting will be held on September 29 at the Sports Center. She reported that the administrator evaluation conferences have been held and that the District Office has conducted 158 school classroom visits.

Dr. Peterson responded to Ms. Germano that the District Student Government Conference will be held at Kenai Central High School. Ms. Germano observed that there are no Board Members on the Charter School Review Group. Dr. Peterson stated that recommendations will come to the Board at a later date and added that the meetings are open to the public. Ms. Germano urged Board members to be involved. Mrs. Crawford stated that she attended the first meeting of the Review Group and emphasized the Board's intent of the Group. Mrs. Crawford asked interested Board members to contact her after the meeting about providing input for the Review Group.

Mrs. Gilman reminded Board members that charters are agreements between the charter school and the Board and not the administration. Dr. Peterson clarified that the Review Group is going to examine the charter process and not any particular charter school. Mrs. Crawford added that the Review Group will recommend a policy that the Board can revise and use for future charter school agreements and processes.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:***(7:31:55 PM)*

Mrs. Douglas presented financial reports of the District for periods ending July 30, 2005 and August 31, 2005. She reported that the actual enrollment has fallen short of the FY06 projection by 200 students which equals a \$1.4 million unrealized state and local effort revenue shortfall. She reported that the administration is addressing the shortfall and that a budget reconciliation plan will come to the Board in November or December. She stated that the delay is caused by the completion of the preliminary OASIS Report from the Department of Education. She stated that the administration is considering budgetary expenditure reductions, a reevaluation of the current fund balance designations and an allocation of the undesignated fund balance if the additional students do not materialize. She stated that another area of concern is the fuel rate increases affecting the utility budgets and announced that Enstar and HEA are expected to propose a 20% increase in natural gas and electrical rates, effective in January 2006. She stated that fuel oil contracts have automatic escalators built into the contracts and since June and September there have been increases of 12% to 17% in some accounts. She stated that on the horizon for FY07 and beyond is the increase in insurance rates in the aftermath of hurricane Katrina. She warned that past insurance rate increases are being paid for through a Borough fund balance and will shortly be eliminated. She announced that a budget worksession is scheduled for October 3 in Seward to address changes to the FY07 budget process. She stated that as part of the regional budget meetings, she is planning to give a brief financial overview and then solicit comments and input from the public.

Dr. Anderson asked whether the administration expects increasing enrollment through the first part of October. Dr. Peterson responded there is a small increase until the first week of October and then a decrease after Permanent Fund Dividend checks are issued. She reported that typically the OASIS numbers come in lower than the September enrollment.

Mrs. Brown asked whether the District budgeted a 17% increase for fuel costs for FY06. Mrs. Douglas replied that there has been much discussion about possible increases but there were no significant changes in utility budgets for FY06. She stated that an increase of approximately 12% was made to the FY05 budget and that the same dollar amount was carried forward into the FY06 budget.

**CONSENT AGENDA:***(7:40:04 PM)*

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Nontenure Teaching Assignments; New Teacher Assignments; Request for Leave of Absence-Certified; Request for Leave of Absence-Support; Resignation; Long-term Substitute Contract; New Administrator Appointments; Nontenured Teacher for Tenure; Budget Transfer.

**NONTENURE TEACHING ASSIGNMENTS:**

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve nontenure teacher assignments for the 2005-2006 school year for Holly Boyle, .50 FTE Reading, Kenai Middle; Vicki Hollingsworth, Grade 6/ language arts and social studies, Kenai Middle; Lucas Peless, (temporary) language arts, Nikiski Middle/High; and Kristen Peless, Grades kindergarten, 1, 2 or multi-grade, Sears Elementary.

**NEW TEACHER ASSIGNMENTS:**

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve teaching assignments for the 2005-2006 school year for Jennifer Haugh, Grade 5, Chapman School; Tamra Wear, generalist, Connections Program; Lana Putman, (temporary), school psychologist, K-12 Districtwide Pupil Services; M. Hope Kmetz-Casseri, special education intensive needs, Homer High School; Mark Casseri, math, Homer High School; Cassandra Large, band/instrumental music 7-12, Homer High/Homer Middle; Vicki Abraham, (temporary) migrant teacher 7-12, Homer Middle/Homer High School; Lisa R. Morris, (.50 FTE temporary/.50 FTE permanent) Primary Grades K-3, Moose Pass Elementary; Sheri M. Legg, (temporary), librarian/media specialist .50 FTE, Mountain View Elementary; Gerald M. Olson, special education, resource, Nikiski Middle/High; Kevin B. Budge, (temporary), social studies/migrant (after school program), Nikolaevsk; Nikole D. Lyon, special education, resource, Seward High; Scott A. Jonsson, art, Seward High; Myla Liljemark, social studies/generalist 9-12, Seward High School; Jennifer Brockman, high school art, Skyview High School; Stephanie E. Cox, (temporary), high school art, Soldotna High School; Staci Wells, K-6 reading, Soldotna Montessori Charter School; Cheryl L. Romatz, intermediate Grades 4-6, Soldotna Montessori Charter School; Patricia Truesdell, (temporary), elementary generalist, Tebughna School; Lisa A. Gossett, (.50 FTE temporary/.50 FTE permanent), primary teacher, Tustumena Elementary; Derek J. Bynagle, secondary generalist, Nanwalek School; Karen S. Budge, music teacher, vocal and instrumental, Ninilchik School; Darlene Stoddard, K-10 generalist, Port Graham School, and Jennifer Joy Jones, (temporary) Title I teacher, Tustumena Elementary.

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

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve a certified leave of absence request from Ann Wilson, art teacher, Soldotna High.

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

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve support staff leave of absence requests from Tim Greene, Title VII tutor, Nanwalek Elementary/High and Patty Bennett, custodian I, McNeil Canyon Elementary/Homer High.

**RESIGNATION:**

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve a resignation at the end of the 2004-2005 school year from Judy Klunder, Grade 3, Tustumena Elementary.

**LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE CONTRACT:**

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve a substitute contract for Alison Gryga, ATOSS, Federal Programs.

**NEW ADMINISTRATOR APPOINTMENTS:**

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve administrator appointments for Ron Hatcher, assistant principal, Kenai Middle and Curtis Liberty, principal/teacher, Susan B. English.

**NONTENURED TEACHER FOR TENURE:**

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approved Jennifer Wardes, a nontenure teacher, for tenure.

**BUDGET TRANSFER:**

Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve a budget transfer from the Information Services department to purchase additional disk space and expand backup capabilities to include school servers during backup of information.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

*(continued)*

**MOTION**

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**TENTATIVE NONTENURED  
TEACHING ASSIGNMENT:**

*(7:41:02 PM)*

**MOTION**

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve a tentative nontenure teacher assignment for the 2005-2006 school year for Leah Dubber, (temporary) social studies, Kenai Middle School.

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve a tentative nontenure teacher assignment for the 2005-2006 school year. Mr. Anderson seconded.

Mrs. Brown stated that she will abstain from voting because the recommendation includes a family member.

VOTE:

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

ABSTAIN – Brown

Motion carried.

**BOARD POLICY 5131.43:**

*(7:42:20 PM)*

Mr. Stewart recommended the Board adopt BP 5131.43 (Bullying) which reiterates the District's commitment to provide a safe learning environment for students and provides a working definition of bullying.

Mr. Anderson recommended the Board adopt BP 5131.43 (Bullying). Mrs. Hilts seconded.

Dr. Anderson expressed concern with the bullying definition of "repeated" intimidation.

**MOTION**

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve an amendment to remove the word "repeated" from the first sentence of the Bullying Defined paragraph. Ms. Wassilie seconded.

Ms. Germano stated that the word "repeated" was added after the first reading at Board request. She felt that it was important to add the word because students say and do things that they shouldn't and she does not want them disciplined for a single incident. She cautioned the Board to be careful about narrow or broad policy statements.

Dr. Anderson respectfully disagreed with Ms. Germano's statement and related an instance when a threat to life and limb was serious enough that a student should have been expelled and yet no discipline action was taken. He stated that it should not take multiple times for discipline to be imposed and that the administration has enough leeway to decide whether comments are made in jest. He stated that he would like to have the option of discipline for a single egregious event and not be hindered by the term "repeated".

**BOARD POLICY 5131.43:**  
(continued)

Mrs. Hilts commented that Dr. Anderson's concerns are dealt with in BP 3522.6. She stated that serious threats should be dealt with and would not consider them to be bullying.

Mr. Anderson stated that the District has excellent administrators who can make the decision whether bullying has occurred at a younger level but with older children and young adults they can interpret it differently. He stated that removing the word "repeated" will solve problems with the policy statement.

Ms. Germano asked about the harassment policy. Mr. Stewart noted that Mrs. Hilts referred to a policy titled, Violent and Aggressive Conflict and further explained that if a student commits a violent act, the administration can recommend expulsion or long-term suspension. Ms. Germano asked if the policy adequately meets the needs of the bullying statement. Mr. Stewart explained that bullying is not a single act by definition and takes place over a long time.

Dr. Anderson stated that he is aware of an instance where a child transferred schools to avoid a real life threat and that no discipline was imposed against the aggressor for the single event. Mr. Stewart responded that the District harassment policy would address the aggressive threat if the school administration were made aware.

Ms. Wassilie stated that the type of behavior that Dr. Anderson is describing would be considered violent and aggressive conduct and not bullying. She stated that students may go beyond the limits of appropriate behavior as they learn to socialize and added that she does not want to see a policy that is so rigid that students will be disciplined when instead the infraction should be used as a learning experience.

Mrs. Brown stated that she will not support the Nels Anderson amendment because students make mistakes and should not be punished for each event. She stated that the District has needed a policy addressing bullying and felt that the proposed language fits and that the word "repeated" should be kept in the language.

Mrs. Gilman stated that she will vote against the Nels Anderson amendment. She stated that the Bullying Policy includes a broad range of definitions and guessed that everyone in the room was probably guilty of one or more of the offenses listed during their school career. She stated that the role of the school is to educate children and social behavior is another area to educate.

VOTE:

YES – M. Anderson, N. Anderson, Mullins, Crawford

NO – Brown, Hilts, Wassilie, Gilman, Germano

Amendment failed.

Motion carried unanimously.

**BOARD POLICY 0520:**  
(7:53:24 PM)

Mr. Stewart recommended the Board adopt BP 0520 (School Accountability/School Improvement) which states the process for implementation of school improvement plans when schools do not make adequate yearly progress (AYP).

**MOTION**

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board adopt BP 0520 (School Accountability/School Improvement). Ms. Germano seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**AASB CORE RESOLUTIONS:**  
(7:54:35 PM)

Mrs. Crawford explained that recommendations from the Board for the AASB resolutions would be forwarded to AASB for consideration at the Annual Conference.

**MOTION**

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve the 2005 Core Resolutions. Mr. Anderson seconded.

Ms. Brown stated that she will not support the resolutions because the public is not aware of the significance of the resolutions, especially those regarding funding of schools at the state level. She explained that when recommendations are made by organizations such as AASB, there are implications and, if passed, are then lobbied by AASB staff to the legislature. She noted that although there were copies available at the Board meeting and a notice in the newspaper, there was no public testimony. She noted that she has not been receiving her Board packet in time to study the materials and feels unprepared to speak to the resolutions even though the results must be reported to AASB by a certain deadline.

Ms. Wassilie noted that most of the resolutions are continuing and have been in existence for a year or more and while they are used to affect law, are not binding.

Ms. Germano expressed appreciation for the review work by the AASB Board of Directors and noted that there were not many changes to the resolutions. She stated that the resolutions were available on the District website with the regular Board packet items.

Ms. Crawford reported that the resolutions were posted on the District website as well as all year long on the AASB website.

**MOTION**

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve an amendment to AASB Core Resolution 2.3 to strike the title and replace it with "Equitable District Cost Factors", to add the words "some communities in" before the word "Alaska" in the second sentence of the first paragraph, to delete the entire third sentence of the first paragraph, and to delete the first, third and fourth paragraphs of the Rationale section. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Germano amendment carried unanimously.

**MOTION**

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve an amendment to add the former first, third and fourth paragraphs of the Rationale section of Resolution 2.3 to the end of Resolution 2.20. Dr. Anderson seconded.

**AASB CORE RESOLUTIONS:**  
(continued)

Ms. Germano stated that there is information in the rationale paragraphs that is valuable.

Germano amendment carried unanimously.

**MOTION**

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve an amendment to replace the word “impending” with the word “ongoing” in Resolution 2.21. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Dr. Anderson asked whether there was interest in changing the words “financial relief” to “responsibility”. Mrs. Crawford clarified that Mrs. Douglas suggested that only the title of the resolution be changed.

Germano amendment carried unanimously.

Ms. Germano noted that Resolution 1.8, Accountability for Home-Schooled Students Outside the Public System, is an issue that will continue to be a statewide problem.

Mr. Anderson asked why the word “substantially” was added and asked for some history on the resolution. Mr. Stewart explained that home-schooled students will be allowed to use an alternative to the HSGQE. Dr. Anderson reported that Representative Chenault addressed this issue a few years ago and received approximately 1200 negative responses from the public. Dr. Anderson stated that he is interested in working on the issue with home-school families.

Mrs. Gilman stated that she strongly believes that students not in the public school system should be taking the same tests, so the state can have accurate data for NCLB.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Gilman moved the Board approve an amendment to delete Resolution 1.2, Opposing Mandated School Consolidation. Ms. Germano seconded.

Mrs. Gilman stated that school consolidation is a responsible fiscal policy as well as academic policy, and as a school board that is fully-funded by the Borough, everything possible must be done to campaign for fiscal responsibility among other districts.

Dr. Anderson stated that he has adamantly supported the deletion of Resolution 1.2 in the past and added that he is not sure that it is worth the effort.

Mrs. Brown asked for clarification about whether the term consolidation in Resolution 1.2 meant schools or school districts. Mrs. Crawford replied that the term means consolidation of school districts.

Mrs. Gilman stated that it is ridiculous to have 53 school districts in the State of Alaska. She stated that although it is not a popular decision, it is the right thing to do.

**AASB CORE RESOLUTIONS:**  
(continued)

Ms. Germano stated that it is valuable to continue the consolidation conversation and if there is no opposition there is no conversation. She stated that the District's adequate funding issue is stopped because the state leadership is upset that there are four school districts on Prince of Wales Island. She stated that until these issues are resolved, the District will continue to pay a price.

Mrs. Brown suggested that the consolidation topic may be a matter of poor timing until the cost differential is dealt with.

Ms. Wassilie stated that she will not support the Gilman amendment and added that she is not sure that there is a cost savings. She stated that there is a legislative task force that is examining local governments and their survival. She added that there is direction that can come from the legislature and added that more meaningful consolidation will come when local areas initiate it. She noted that there is an argument that some districts are too large and added that she believes in local direction on this matter.

**VOTE ON GILMAN AMENDMENT:**

Yes – Mullins, M. Anderson, Germano, N. Anderson, Gilman, Hilts, Crawford

No – Wassilie, Brown.

Gilman amendment carried.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Gilman moved the Board approve an amendment to delete Resolution 1.3, Opposition To Mandated Borough Formation. Mr. Anderson seconded.

Ms. Germano stated that she will not support the Gilman amendment because the state has a means of taxing residents of unorganized boroughs if they choose. She stated that forcing borough organization is an easy way out of taking responsibility by the legislature.

Mr. Anderson questioned whether AASB should be involved with the issue of mandatory boroughs.

Ms. Wassilie stated that she will not support the Gilman amendment because currently there are a number of rural communities that cannot financially support their municipal governments and are folding.

Mrs. Mullins stated that she will not support the Gilman amendment because there are some people who move into unincorporated areas because they do not wish to be leveled with a government that will not serve them in such a large area.

**AASB CORE RESOLUTIONS:**  
(continued)

Mrs. Brown stated that Resolution 1.3 remotely relates to education because it addresses funding but that AASB is out of line if they are going to develop a resolution for every political issue that has any remote connection to education. She further added that AASB should not be involved in the formation of boroughs and that it should be a legislative responsibility. She stated that although she would personally testify to the legislature in favor of mandatory borough formation, it is not an issue that AASB should be involved with. She asked Mrs. Crawford how the public will know of the Board's amendments to the AASB resolutions. Mrs. Crawford stated that information will be available on the web and that all 53 school districts provide quite a bit of input into the resolutions.

Ms. Wassilie stated that the AASB resolution regarding borough formation was developed because during the time Alaska became a state the borough was chosen as the form of government which includes the administration of education.

**VOTE ON GILMAN AMENDMENT:**

YES – Gilman, M. Anderson, Germano, Hiltz, N. Anderson, Brown  
NO – Mullins, Wassilie, Crawford

Gilman amendment carried.

**VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION:**

YES – Hiltz, N. Anderson, Germano, Wassilie, Gilman,  
M. Anderson, Mullins, Crawford  
NO – Brown

Amended motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF AASB  
FUNDING RESOLUTION:**  
(8:29:13 PM)

Mrs. Crawford recommended the Board approve an additional AASB resolution regarding health care funding for consideration at the annual meeting.

**MOTION**

Ms. Wassilie moved the Board approve the proposed additional AASB resolution regarding health care funding. Ms. Germano seconded.

Mrs. Gilman stated that she is pleased that the Board is proposing the resolution and added that she was struck by the fact that approximately 10% of the District budget is spent on health care costs for current employees. She noted that health care costs are a tremendous problem for all Districts, governmental agencies, and citizens. She stated that she would like to see a nationwide grassroots effort to alert attention at the federal level.

Ms. Wassilie thanked Mrs. Gilman and Mrs. Crawford for their work on developing the health care resolution. She stated that although fuel costs seem to be rapidly catching up, health care costs are a major cost of public and private budgets and therefore, will support the new resolution at the conference.

Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/  
COMMENTS:**

*(8:32:06 PM)*

Mrs. Jenni Hammond, Nikiski North Star parent, stated that the Borough Assembly should fully fund education at all times. She expressed hope that all parent groups can prepare for the upcoming legislative session at the Parent/Site Council Training meeting on Thursday, September 15. She urged those present to send box tops and Campbell soup labels to Nikiski North Star to redeem for school materials and equipment.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

*(8:33:28 PM)*

Ms. Wassilie stated she would like to receive the AASB Resolutions earlier so they could be addressed with more preparation. She stated that she has heard positive comments in Seward regarding the pupil-teacher ratio at the K-3 grade level and expressed appreciation for the music teacher in the K-8 program. She reported that she attended a Seward Site Council meeting where the principal told the group that 23 of the 28 students who did not return to Seward High School had left the community and the District. She stated that she did not know why they left. She expressed appreciation for the KAHS report.

Mrs. Hilts stated that AASB adopted the theme "Make Students Our Top Priority" and added that the public should be asking legislators and other leaders to also support making children the state's top priority. She reported that the Board had an earlier discussion about the age gap of experienced and non experienced workers in education. She added that the current workforce is not filling leadership positions and that the situation is likely to worsen. She stated that the Board needs to focus on asking the public to step forward and declare that children are the top priority. She reported that Mr. Young and a counselor from the Connections Program visited Seldovia and noted that there are approximately 9 students who are being home-schooled through the program. She stated that the community spread the word that the District has the best home-school program for Kenai Peninsula Borough students, and that no other district can provide a better program for KPBSD students. She stated that it was heart warming to see the working relationship between Susan B. English High School and the Connections Program. She stated that she is looking forward to visiting other schools. She noted that Kachamak Selo made AYP. She stated that some schools are facing some difficult challenges with partial to full changes in staff and that despite the staff changes at Susan B. English School, her children and other students are busy working on school projects that are fulfilling the expectations of the District's mission statement.

Ms. Germano thanked Mr. Wilbanks for the KAHS report. She explained the AASB resolutions process, and noted that there will be more opportunities to discuss the resolutions. She noted that the resolutions have not changed much over the years except to delete some of them. She reminded those present that the resolutions are a compilation of all districts in the state and that the Board of Directors will prioritize the resolutions. She stated that the AASB resolutions are reviewed by the Board annually. She stated that while she always wants public input, she was elected by the public to represent them and takes that obligation seriously. She stated that she does her homework and if the public feels she is not doing a good job, she will not be reelected.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

(continued)

Mr. Anderson thanked Mr. Wilbanks for the KAHS presentation and added that he thoroughly enjoyed the graduation ceremony last year. He stated that he was amazed at the many KAHS partnerships. He thanked the students in the audience for attending the meeting. He stated that he is pleased to hear that the Fireweed Academy relocation is going smoothly. He reported that he welcomed students on the first day of school at Sterling Elementary along with the principal. He stated that he was impressed that in only her second year as principal, Mrs. Ermold not only knew the names of almost every student but knew their parents' names as well. He stated that although he has expressed displeasure with AASB in the past, they are an organization that represents the school boards statewide and provides influence with the legislature. He stated that he believes the District would not have received the funding at the current level without a unified voice provided by AASB. He stated that it is a discredit to assume that the public is out of touch with educational issues and was confirmed by the 1200 emails received by Representative Chenault regarding home schooling accountability. He mentioned that he will speak to Mrs. Crawford regarding the Sterling Elementary School roof.

Dr. Anderson reported that he was absent from the August 1 School Board meeting to attend the National Boy Scout jamboree where an accident claimed the lives of four Alaskan Scout leaders, two of whom were personal friends. He stated he has been impressed with the outpouring of condolences and thanked the public for their expressions of sympathy.

Mrs. Gilman reported that the school year is off to a good start and has attended four open houses within the City of Kenai. She stated that she is pleased with the quality of the teachers and added that they were extremely knowledgeable, excited about their jobs, and like their students. She reported that several teachers told her it has been the best school start-up in many years and noted that no one has complained to her about class sizes. She reported that her children have a mix of seasoned and new teachers. She reported that her daughter brought home a book written by Hannah Watkins, a KPBSD student, titled, *Heidi and the Tsunami*, which was written as part of the Caring for the Kenai competition. She stated that Miss Watkins has five more books planned with the same disaster preparedness theme. She noted that after Miss Watkins won the Caring for the Kenai contest the Borough Emergency Management, School District and various private businesses worked with her to publish enough copies so that every kindergarten student as well as local libraries received a copy of the book. Mrs. Gilman commented that Miss Watkins is a product of the KPBSD and is proud of her accomplishments and noted that there are many other wonderful opportunities for students within the District. She stated that she is pleased that the Wellness Committee will meet tomorrow to discuss student nutrition and expressed appreciation that some schools have already put restrictions on the purchase of soft drinks. She thanked Mr. Wilbanks for the KAHS report and added that the Board should consider an alternative school for elementary and middle school students.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**  
(continued)

Mrs. Brown reported that there is much excitement throughout the District and added that she has spoken to young people and parents of children in the charter schools. She stated that students throughout the District are falling in love with their teachers. She expressed hope that there will be no more teacher transfers. She reported that she recently heard about a former District graduate that is a highly-sought-after engineer and credited District teachers for providing him with the skills to be successful. She thanked District staff for a good school start-up. She commented that the high cost of fuel will make it very difficult for families to afford food and other necessities and cautioned the Board about their requests for funding priorities from the legislature. She praised the required observance of Constitution Day and added that she hopes it continues because the topic is worthwhile. She stated that it was enjoyable to read about Mrs. Crawford's mother's life story and noted that she provided home delivered meals through the Meals on Wheels Program for 15 years. She commended Mrs. Crawford for her public leadership as demonstrated by her mother and expressed sympathy for the loss.

Mrs. Crawford added that her mother and father delivered meals until her father turned 90 and that her father also read books to school students until he was 93. She thanked the Board for the cards and for the flowers that were sent to her mother's funeral.

Mrs. Mullins requested an excused absence for the October 3 Board meeting. She expressed appreciation for the work plans that were shared with the Board and added that after reading them she is pleased that the Board settled on only three goals. She expressed appreciation to the students in the audience for their attendance and invited them to call or email Board members with questions. She stated that the first day of school was enjoyable and was impressed with uplifting feelings. She reported that she spent several minutes in each classroom and noted that she did not receive any phone calls at the end of the school day. She expressed appreciation for all of the work by school staff preparing for the new school year and noted that the students have been excited to begin school. She noted that her seat on the AASB Board of Directors expires this school year and requested that her nomination for reelection be included on the next Board agenda if the Board concurs.

Mrs. Crawford stated that Mrs. Mullins' nomination to the AASB Board of Directors will be added to the next Board agenda.

Mrs. Crawford, thanked Mr. Wilbanks and the KAHS staff for providing a valuable service to many students. She reported that it has been a great start to the school year and noted that she has received many positive calls and comments from students, parents and teachers. She stated that the District Office work plans are outstanding and added that she is overwhelmed by how much is accomplished by the lean staff. She noted that Board members have received the Policy Manual updates which can also be accessed online.

**ADJOURN:**  
(PM)

At 9:02:12 p.m., Mrs. Mullins moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Dr. Anderson 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 September 12, 2005,  
were approved on October 3, 2005.  
with a correction.