Kenai Peninsula Borough School District
Board of Education Meeting Minutes

October 3, 2005 – 7:00 p.m. | Seward High School
Regular Meeting | 2100 Swetmann, Seward, 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
Miss Kelly King, Student Representative

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:

Mr. Steve Pautz	Mrs. Paula Christensen
Mr. John Cote	Mr. Tim Peterson
Mr. Sean Dusek	Mrs. LaDawn Druce
Mrs. Norma Holmgaard	Ms. Cathy Carrow
Mr. John Cote	Mr. Dave Spence
Mrs. Terry Woodward	Mrs. Patty Rich
Mr. David Kingsland	Mrs. Laurie Olson
Dr. Shannon Atkinson	Ms. Lynn Hohl

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:
Mrs. Crawford called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. A quorum of School Board members, Mrs. Gilman, Ms. Wassilie, Mrs. Hilts, Dr. Anderson, Ms. Germano, Mr. Anderson and Mrs. Crawford were in attendance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:
At 4:05 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. Mr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:
At 5:00 p.m., Dr. Anderson moved the executive session be adjourned. Ms. Wassilie seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:
Mrs. Crawford invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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	Present
Mrs. Debbie Brown	Absent/Excused
Mr. Marty Anderson	Present
Mrs. Sunni Hilts	Present
Miss Kelly King	Present

MISSION STATEMENT:

Dr. Anderson read the District's mission statement.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The agenda was approved with the addition of Item 11a.(7), Approval of Leave of Absence-Support and the addition of Miss Kelly King's autobiography to Item 11a.(4), Approval of Appointment of Student Representative to the Board of Education.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The School Board Minutes of September 12, 2005, were approved with a correction.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:

The Board presented the parents of Miss Kylee Adelmann with the Spirit of Youth Award Nomination Certificate for volunteering at the local teen center and as a promoter of healthy activities for her peers.

SCHOOL REPORT:

Mr. John Cote reported on the transition plans to the new Seward Middle School facility. He provided a simplified copy of the school floor plans and explained the uses of each area. He noted that the move will take place during the 2005-2006 school year and could begin as early as November 1 with students occupying the building on December 15. He noted that dates for a grand opening have not been set yet but that local community leaders will be invited to tour the building in advance. He noted that the new building is smaller in size and therefore some of the District and community programs will have to be accommodated elsewhere.

Mrs. Gilman asked why it is necessary for high school classes to be housed in the middle school. Mr. Cote explained that schools built in the 1970s were considered community centers and noted that the local community uses the Seward High Theater more that the school. He stated that the commons area was probably built as a meeting area for the community. He stated that all of the amenities use square footage for the high school footprint and in order to meet the basic classroom needs, the high school used space that was available in the old Seward Middle School.

Ms. Germano asked how many classrooms are in the high school. Mr. Cote listed several classes and noted that there is enough space to deal with the basic programs but that the high school is short on space.

Mrs. Crawford thanked members of the public for attending the budget hearing and welcomed the students to the meeting.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. Jerry Dixon, former teacher, asked the District to join the lawsuit Moore versus State of Alaska and noted that the Seward PTSA has decided to join the lawsuit.

Ms. Carol Griswold, Seward parent, asked the Board and administration to revisit the block schedule because of its lack of resiliency. She asked the District to change the military request for information to be an opt-in program instead of an opt-out program.

Ms. Germano explained that the opt-in for military information is a requirement of NCLB and added that when students opt-out they are removed from every directory list that is published.

Ms. Lynn Hohl, Seward softball and baseball representative, reviewed the past softball and baseball season addressing issues and concerns that were expressed by the school administrator.

Mr. Ken Carr, Seward PAC, reported that there were three rules that the Seward softball and baseball teams must abide by and added that, throughout the season, each rule was broken.

Miss Jacqueline VanDriessche, Seward High School student, stated that she likes the amount of time provided by a block schedule and explained that if a day is missed there are fewer classes to makeup.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

Dr. Peterson noted that the Board received a copy of a letter from DOEED regarding the new three-tiered teacher certification system.

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

Ms. Cathy Byars, PTSA Membership Chairperson, reported that the Seward PTSA voted unanimously to join the Moore versus State of Alaska lawsuit. She noted that there is playground equipment purchased by the PTSA that is in Soldotna and needs to be delivered and installed at Seward Elementary School.

Mr. Anderson asked whether the Borough or School District was responsible for installing playground equipment. Ms. Byars responded that it is the responsibility of Borough Maintenance to install the equipment.

Dr. Shannon Atkinson, Title VII Indian Education Parent Advisory Committee representative, reported on the purpose of the Indian Education four-year grant, its tutoring activities, and concerns.

Ms. Carol Griswold, PTSA Representative, asked how to get copies of the qualifications of each teacher in the Seward area. She noted that the military information opt-out form is easy to find on the Anchorage School District website and suggested that the District consider using the same method to provide the form. She expressed appreciation for the Board's efforts to ensure that students are eating healthier food. She reminded those present that October 4 is Election Day and urged them to vote.

Ms. Lynn Hohl, Alaska PTA Region V Vice President, reported on the PTA National Convention where she attended as a delegate. She thanked Dr. Peterson for the Site Council/Parent Group Training in September and added that the PTA conducted a training beforehand.

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

Ms. Cathy Carrow, KPEA president, reported that KPEA supports most of the goals of NCLB but noted that the Act sometimes interferes with efforts to help all children learn. She asked the Board and administration to work with KPEA to fix and fund NCLB. She suggested that the District join other educators around the state to seek full and adequate funding from the legislature. She reminded those in the audience that October 4 is Election Day and explained that the ballot propositions that put a cap on sales tax will have a profound affect on education. She announced that Interest Based Bargaining training will be held on October 11, 12 and 13 and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to learn and work together.

Mr. Ken Carr, Co-president Seward PAC Council and former Seward Middle School teacher, informed those present that Seward public school children are receiving a quality education and are proficient in anything they need to be, at every grade level. He thanked the Board for their time and work. He stated that the schools are safe. He suggested to those present to contact state legislators and ask for the money that is deserved.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Peterson reported that the Site Council and Parent Training was held on September 15. She reported that the administration continues to visit schools, especially small schools where there is new staff. She reported that the District Student Government Conference was held on Tuesday, September 27. She reported that the Arctic Winter Games organization recently hired Shawn Maltby as the Care and Comfort Manager. She reported that an Arctic Winter Games volunteer rally will be held on Saturday, October 8. She reported that the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam is being given this week.

FY05 COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT:

Mrs. Douglas presented the FY05 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. She thanked Mrs. Laurie Olson and Ms. Jamie Moore for their work on the report and noted that it meets national requirements for financial reporting. She noted that KPBSD Finance Department is honored by the Government Finance Officer's Association and the Association of School Business Officials International. She reported that the auditor's opinion is that the CAFR fairly presents, in all material aspects, the financial position of the District. She suggested that the Board review the Management Discussion and Analysis on page 25 and the Notes to the Financial Report on page 47 because the two sections will give a good snapshot of the financial circumstances of the District. She noted that the artwork on the cover of the document was created by Dillon Vestor and Brandy Denna, former Soldotna High School students.

BOARD REPORTS:

Mrs. Gilman reported that she recently attended the Wellness Committee meeting and was pleased that the *Clarion* and *Anchorage Daily News* newspapers reported on the meeting. She stated she was encouraged by the commitment of the people involved with the Committee and added that one of her goals is to incorporate health and wellness and nutrition information into the curriculum. She stated that the District needs to make sure that what is taught in the classroom matches the food that is served in the lunchroom. She reported that the use of vending machines was discussed at the meeting.

Mrs. Crawford welcomed Miss King to the Board as the student representative.

Miss Kelly King reported that the Districtwide Student Government Conference was held on September 27 with 5 schools represented and 75 students in attendance. She stated that the group discussed networking between schools and ways to get students involved in leadership roles. She stated that during the meeting she was elected by her peers to serve as the student representative and added that she is learning a lot and is feeling a bit overwhelmed but is excited to serve.

Ms. Wassilie reported that the Career and Technical Education Advisory meeting was held on September 20. She stated that due to a communication problem she did not attend the meeting but reported that Mr. Ward provided her with information. She stated that the Carl Perkins grant system is changing to a competitive mini-grant system and noted that the Committee will consider moving to a programmatic approach with a different program being supported each year. She explained that for this year the mini-grant process will be used and noted that applications are due to Sean Dusek on November 1.

Mrs. Crawford reported that she attended part of the Curriculum Mapping training and added that it was impressive training for teachers and principals to put together their plan for matching the curriculum with the state standards. She reported that she attended part of the charter school meetings where policy options are being considered.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Request for Leave of Absence-Certified, New Teacher Assignments, Resolution 05-06-2 (Primary Sponsor of Gaming Permits), Appointment of Student Representative to the Board of Education, Resignation, and Budget Transfers.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE-CERTIFIED:

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve a request for leave of absence for Dale Moon, Curriculum and Assessment, effective October 3, 2005.

NEW TEACHER ASSIGNMENTS:

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve teaching assignments for Maryvonne Guillemin, (temporary) foreign language teacher, Homer High School; Marcia Lee, (temporary) librarian, .50 FTE Homer Middle/.50 FTE Homer High; Katharine Bynagle, secondary generalist, Nanwalek School; and Lacey Wisniewski, (temporary) secondary generalist, Port Graham School.

RESOLUTION 05-06-2: Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve a list of primary and alternative members in charge of gaming for those schools applying for gaming permits for FY06.

APPOINTMENT OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION: Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve the appointment of Miss Kelly King, a Soldotna High School student, as the student representative to the Board of Education.

RESIGNATION: Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve a resignation for Judy Graham, special education/emotionally handicapped, Soldotna Elementary.

BUDGET TRANSFERS: Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve Budget Transfer Number 49 to purchase software licenses for the Connections Program and Budget Transfer Number 53 to pay for pavement removal and replacement at Aurora Borealis Charter School.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE-SUPPORT: The Board approved an unpaid support leave of absence request for Robert Klunder, custodian, Soldotna High School, effective September 28, 2005 through the remainder of the 2005-2006 school year.

MOTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 7. Mr. Anderson seconded.

Mrs. Gilman asked to remove Number 1 from the Consent Agenda.

Ms. Wassilie asked to remove Number 6 from the Consent Agenda.

Motion carried unanimously for Items 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7.

Mrs. Gilman expressed concern for the timing of the leave of absence request and for leave granted for an employee to take a job in another location with the understanding that the District would save the job. She asked if her concerns are addressed in the Negotiated Agreement. Dr. Peterson reported that leaves of absence are addressed in the Negotiated Agreement and that it is up to the Board to approve them. Dr. Peterson reported that it has been the District's practice to forward all requests and most of them are recommended for approval.

Ms. Germano clarified that when an employee is granted a leave of absence their former job may not be available upon their return. Dr. Peterson clarified that the employee would have a job with the District. She read from the Negotiated Agreement, Leaves of Absence Section and added that it does not address taking another job.

Mr. Stewart stated that the leave request would not have been recommended for approval if the administration did not already have a plan to take care of the needs of that position. He added that the leave actually helped the District with a personnel matter.

Item 1 carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA:
(continued)

Ms. Wassilie expressed concern for budget transfer 53 for pavement replacement at the Aurora Borealis Charter School. She stated that because it is a charter school request, she is unsure of the defined relationship. She asked whether it is the best use of the school's funds because there is nothing budgeted for an increase in fuel costs which will be needed in the future. She asked whether the facility is owned by the Borough.

Mrs. Douglas responded that all school facilities are Borough-owned with the exception of some of the remote Russian communities. Ms. Wassilie asked whether the pavement request should be a request for the Borough to address. Mrs. Douglas explained that charter school funds are under their own purview within the law. Mrs. Douglas further explained that apparently the playground surface is less than ideal and the Borough Administration determined that it is something that should be paid for by the Charter School. Mrs. Douglas reported that Aurora Borealis has funds to pay for the new pavement and also has the funds to pay for increased fuel costs.

Ms. Wassilie noted that money for the budget transfer is coming from the 4901, Other Expenses, funds in which there is a lot of money. Mrs. Doulglas explained that charter schools generally hold contingency funds in the 4901 account.

Ms. Wassilie stated that until some of the questions are resolved she cannot support the expense and may set a precedent of the District paying for things that are not appropriate. Mrs. Douglas explained that charter schools have their own budgets and are similar to a separate school district under the umbrella of the KPBSD. She further explained that their budget can be used as they determine (within the constraints of the law) but still needs Board approval. Ms. Wassilie asked why the transfer is coming to the Board for approval. Mrs. Douglas explained that state law requires that charter school budgets be held under the umbrella of the school district where they reside.

Ms. Wassilie asked if the money carries over to the next year if it is not spent. Mrs. Douglas confirmed that the charter school money carries over.

MOTION

Ms. Wassilie moved the Board amend the motion to split the question and vote on budget transfer Number 53 separately. Mr. Anderson seconded.

Mr. Anderson asked why the Borough will not pay for the improvements at the Aurora Borealis Charter School since they own the property. Mrs. Douglas explained that the new pavement is considered an improvement and not part of the basic structure of the building and added that the District is responsible for paying for improvements.

Mr. Anderson asked whether an internal board considered the school's request. Mrs. Douglas explained that the Aurora Borealis Charter Academic Policy Council approved the request.

Ms. Germano explained that the Aurora Borealis Charter School is a single-site school and is well-funded. She stated that while she may not agree with the transfer, the school is within its rights to spend the money and she will not oppose the request. She stated that the District sets capital improvement project priorities and noted that a charter school that is well funded will not make it to the top of the list when there are more urgent issues at other playgrounds. She stated that if the charter school has the money to spend on their playground, the Board should not deny the request.

Mrs. Gilman pointed out that state law does not require the District to provide housing for charter schools or their students but the KPBSD does and that accommodation should be considered as part of the charter school discussion. She stated that Aurora Borealis has more than $700,000 in their budget which is ironic since the Board just heard from Seward Elementary representatives who sold wrapping paper for five years to buy playground equipment. She stated that the example shows the inequity in funding that is happening in charter schools and regular public schools. She stated that she will support the budget transfer because Aurora Borealis is following the rules and the money belongs to them.

Dr. Anderson stated that the issue is a matter of state law coming in conflict with Board Policy and unless the request is immoral, illegal, or unethical, the Board does not have a right to do anything but approve it.

VOTE TO DIVIDE THE MOTION:

Advisory Vote: ABSTAIN
YES – Wassilie
NO – Germano, Gilman, Hilts, N. Anderson, M. Anderson, Crawford

Amendment failed.

Item Number 6 carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AASB NOMINATION:

MOTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve the nomination of Mrs. Mullins to the Association of Alaska School Boards Board of Directors. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/ COMMENTS:

Mrs. Lynn Hohl noted that state statute still requires that districts provide a gifted program at the high school level even if there is no specific funding. She asked the Board to waive the $200 fee for Alaska Online classes when the course is not offered at a local school and a schedule conflict keeps the student from taking a course in Seward that is offered by Alaska Online. She asked the Board to consider identifying some of the Alaska Online classes to replace the Quest classes that have been eliminated.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Dr. Anderson reported that the Board has discussed whether to join the Moore versus State of Alaska lawsuit and has decided to put their efforts into achieving equity in school funding and referred to the article he wrote for the ADN Compass section. He stated that Representative Chenault and others are courageously working hard on the issue.

Ms. Germano commented that Representative Chenault was the only Peninsula legislator who worked hard to resolve the equity in educational funding issue and thanked him for organizing a task force to begin the work. She thanked the community for attending the meeting. She was pleased to hear that the Site Council/Parent Training meetings were successful. She reminded those present to vote.

Ms. Wassilie welcomed Miss King to the Board and added that she is intrigued by Miss King's ideas about networking with other District students. She thanked the Seward students for their attendance. She stated that she has strong feelings about supplying student information for any organization whether it is the military or business and industry. She responded to Dr. Atkinson's Title VII report by noting that there are some very stable communities on the Peninsula, such as Ninilchik, with families that have been residents for many years versus the transitory population in Seward. She added that the transitory population can affect the number of students who are not proficient. She noted that she included a copy of a report on the Alaska Dialog on Preparing for the Alaska Gas Pipeline and that many Alaskan leaders attended the meeting. She reported that during the meeting there was a strong support for preschool and for putting funds into career and technical education. She invited students to apply to attend the Conference of Young Alaskans for ages of 16 to 25. She stated that the Conference is being modeled on the Alaska Constitutional Convention and will be held at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks on January 13 though 16 to address quality of education, healthy communities and families, developing leaders in the next generation, responsible government, and reviving the Alaska last frontier spirit.

Mrs. Hilts welcomed Miss King. She appreciated comments by a Seward student who said that make-up work is character building. She reported that the Board discussed legislative priorities during a worksession prior to the meeting. She urged those present to talk to neighbors in Anchorage and get them excited about making children a top priority. She stated that the public must create a climate to hear the message and noted that the best support for children came from Alaskan Native legislators. She stated that she was delighted about the progress of the Indian Education Committee. She remarked that the school board membership could look very different at the next meeting if two of the members are elected to the Assembly. She wished good luck to Ms. Germano and Mrs. Gilman and urged those present to vote. She requested an excused absence for the October 17 meeting.

BOARD COMMENTS: (continued)

Mr. Anderson thanked Mr. Cote for the Seward Middle School transition report. He thanked the community for their participation and passion for education and for taking the time to attend. He wished good luck to Ms. Germano and Mrs. Gilman on their candidacy for Borough Assembly and added that they will be greatly missed if they are elected. He thanked Mrs. Gilman for her continued crusade for student nutrition, health, and wellness. He thanked Ms. Wassilie for her questions regarding the Aurora Borealis Charter School budget transfer and added that there is a lot more to understand about the charter school and school board relationship. He stated that there is much more that the Board needs to understand and suggested that an expert speak to the Board about charter schools. He welcomed Miss King to the Board. He stated that he is beginning his third year on the Board and has thoroughly enjoyed the experience even though it is a lot of work.

Miss King thanked the Board for the approval of her appointment.

Mrs. Gilman thanked the Seward community for their attendance and comments. She commended Mr. and Mrs. Adelmann on their daughter's perfect attendance for 13 years of school.

Mrs. Crawford thanked the Seward community for their comments during the budget hearing and during the meeting. She thanked the Seward High School students for their attendance. She thanked Mr. Cote for the Seward Middle School transition report. She welcomed Miss King to the Board. She asked Board members to consider serving on the Calendar Committee.

ADJOURN:

At 8:53 p.m., Mr. Anderson moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Hilts 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 October 3, 2005,
were approved on October 17, 2005
as written.