Kenai Peninsula Borough School District
Board of Education Meeting Minutes

November 21, 2005 – 7:00 p.m. Borough Administration Building
Regular Meeting 148 N. Binkley, Soldotna, Alaska

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:
Mrs. Debra Mullins, President
Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Vice President
Ms. Sandra Wassilie, Clerk
Mr. Marty Anderson, Treasurer
Dr. Nels Anderson
Mrs. Debbie Brown
Mrs. Liz Downing
Mr. Bill Hatch
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. Paul Sorenson	Mr. Mark Norgren
Ms. McKibben Jackinsky	Mr. Tim Peterson
Mrs. Susan Lacey	Mr. Sean Dusek
Mr. Vince O'Reilly	Mrs. Patty Rich
Mrs. Jean Dixon	Mrs. Paula Christensen
Mrs. Margaret Gilman	Mrs. Rochelle Hanson
Mr. Blaine Gilman	Mr. Jim White
Ms. Jeanne Burger	Mrs. Sharon Moock
Ms. Fayrene Sherritt	Mr. Todd Bureau

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:
Mrs. Mullins called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. A quorum of School Board members, Mrs. Mullins, Mrs. Crawford, Mrs. Downing, Mrs. Brown, Mr. Anderson, Ms. Wassilie, Mr. Hatch, and Mrs. Sunni Hilts were in attendance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:
At 3:06 Mrs. Hilts 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. Ms. Wassilie seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:
At 3:32 p.m., Mrs. Crawford moved the executive session be adjourned. Mrs. Downing seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

CALL TO ORDER:
(7:00:01 PM)
Mrs. Mullins called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:
(7:00:08 PM)
Mrs. Mullins invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:
(7:00:33 PM)

Mrs. Debra Mullins	Present
Mrs. Sammy Crawford	Present
Ms. Sandra Wassilie	Present
Mr. Marty Anderson	Present
Dr. Nels Anderson	Absent/Excused
Mrs. Debbie Brown	Present
Mrs. Liz Downing	Present
Mr. Bill Hatch	Present
Mrs. Sunni Hilts	Present
Miss Kelly King	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:
(7:01:19 PM)

The agenda was approved as written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
(7:01:43 PM)

The School Board Minutes of November 7, 2005, were approved with a correction.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:
(7:03:02 PM)

The Board presented Mrs. Margaret Gilman with appreciation gifts for her past service as a School Board member. Mrs. Gilman thanked the Board for the recognition and acknowledged the amount of work involved with being a Board member. She thanked the Board for their willingness to serve and for making decisions with the best interest of children in mind. She thanked the administration for their hard work.

Mrs. Sammy Crawford was presented with a certificate from Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB) recognizing her for Excellence in Boardsmanship.

SCHOOL REPORT:
(7:07:36 PM)

Mr. Paul Sorenson, Kenai Middle School principal, gave a PowerPoint presentation that highlighted the school history, enrollment information, and assessment scores. A short video created by Mr. Lincoln Wensley, student, was played and featured KMS student activities, academics, staff, the Character Counts Program, and the Welcome All Kids Program. The Leadership Class presented information on the class participation requirements, goals, mission, and projects.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:
(7:25:16 PM)

Ms. Jeanne Burger, Hope Community resident, reported that the Hope Elementary/High School is threatened with possible closure because the enrollment is projected to be less that the 8 (elementary level) required to receive state funding and listed several strategies that the Hope Community is considering to increase and sustain student enrollment.

Mr. Anderson asked Ms. Burger for Hope School projected enrollment information. Ms. Burger responded that only one student will enter kindgergarten next year and three students will be promoted to high school. Mr. Anderson stated that he wanted to make sure that the Board did not make a hasty decision to close the school.

Mr. Todd Bureau, Hope Chamber of Commerce president and resident, reported that he has chosen to live in Hope because it is an exceptional place to live and listed immediate and long term solutions being considered by the Hope Community to boost student enrollment.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:
(continued)

Ms. Fayrene Sherritt, Hope resident and Hope Elementary/High School PTA member, noted that the 12-student school has 49 PTA members who are extremely involved with funding raising, coaching, volunteering in the classroom and more and added that closing the school would have a huge impact on the community and asked the Board what they could do to help keep the school open.

Miss Melissa Shaginoff, student KCHS, asked the Board to consider staffing District schools with full-time nurses so that students with emergency health concerns can be treated immediately.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:
(7:40:30 PM)

Dr. Peterson reported that on November 4 a letter was sent to the Commissioner of Education asking for a response to questions that were generated from the October 17 Board worksession.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SITE COUNCIL AND/OR P.T.A., K.P.A.A., K.P.E.A., K.P.E.S.A, BOROUGH ASSEMBLY:
(7:40:55 PM)

Mrs. Cathy Carrow, KPEA President, reported that Representative Paul Seaton participated in KPEA's American Education Week, celebration activity by spending the day at a Seward school shadowing teachers. She listed several concerns regarding BP 6180 (Dual Credit Guidelines) and asked the Board to proceed with caution.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:
(7:44:44 PM)

Dr. Peterson reported that trainings were held in Math Solutions and Co-teaching and that the Community Conversations on Competency Based Education have been concluded.

FINANCIAL REPORT:
(7:45:43 PM)

Mrs. Douglas presented the financial report of the District for the period ending October 31, 2005. She notified the Board that a FY06 budget adjustment will be forthcoming at the December 5 Board meeting.

PRESENTATION OF ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS:
(7:46:30 PM)

Mrs. Melody Douglas presented the Six-Year Enrollment Projections (2006-07 through 2011-12) that reflects 9,244 students for FY07. She explained that the report reflects a total decline of approximately 800 students by 2012; a districtwide reduction of 2% with the exception of the charter schools, alternative programs, Cooper Landing Elementary School and Hope Elementary/High School. She recognized Mrs. Laurie Olson for her work on the report.

CLASS SIZE ENROLLMENT REPORT:
(7:48:31 PM

Mr. Sam Stewart presented the Class Size Enrollment Report that included a comparison of pupil-teacher ratios throughout District schools. He thanked the school principals and secretaries as well as Mrs. Loretta Bixby for their contributions to the report.

BOARD REPORTS:
(7:49:21 PM)

Mrs. Crawford reported that she attended the Project GRAD meeting in Homer and noted that wonderful things are happening at all 7 schools. She stated that the group received a report on the Move It Math Program and the Success for All Reading Program. She stated that two Ninilchik Elementary/High School students reported that they were very excited to receive college scholarship money. She reported that she attended the Charter School Committee meeting and noted that the group is developing questions about policy. She reported that she has been appointed to the Alaska School Activities Association Board.

BOARD REPORTS:
(continued)

Ms. Wassilie reported that on November 10 she attended the Community Conversation on Competency Based Education in Seward. She reported that on November 15 she attended the Language Arts Curriculum Committee and the Career and Technical Education Advisory Committee (CTE). She reported that the CTE group toured KCHS and the vocational education building. She noted that the meeting focused on Tech Prep and Workforce Development Programs and added that the advisory committee has representatives from small businesses, Job Service, and Conoco Phillips. She noted that Job Service is funding career planning counselors statewide including two in Kenai to work with District schools.

Mrs. Downing reported that on November 7 she attended the Community Conversation on Competency Based Education in Homer which was well attended. She reported that the Homer's Happening event attracted 200 to 300 teenagers and adults who participated in discussions on many different topics as well as other activities. She reported that she led a discussion about how to make education more interesting from kindergarten through college.

Mrs. Mullins reported that she attended the Calendar Committee meeting and added that a recommendation will come to the Board for approval at a future meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA:
(7:55:35 PM)

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of New Teacher Assignments and High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Number 2006-01.

NEW TEACHER ASSIGNMENTS:

Mr. Glen Szymoniak recommended the Board approve teacher assignments for Benjamin Lavigne, (temporary) Title I teacher at Nanwalek School; Tina M. Wise, elementary music K-6 teacher at Paul Banks and West Homer Elementary; and Angela M. Wheat, (temporary) .50 FTE math teacher at Soldotna Middle School.

HSGQE WAIVER:

Mr. Stewart recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Number 2006-01.

MOTION

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 and 2. Mr. Hatch seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

STUDENT EXPULSION
(7:56:27 PM)

MOTION

Ms. Wassilie moved the Board approve the following decision regarding student expulsion 2005-06-002: "The student has a pattern of willful disobedience and defiance of school authority and has engaged in repeated conduct which is harmful to the welfare, safety, and morals of other students. The student is expelled from the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District schools with the provision that he be allowed to complete his high school education through Connections." Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

BOARD COMMENTS:
(7:58:19 PM)

Mrs. Brown expressed appreciation for the information gathering stage regarding the possible closure of Hope Elementary/High and Cooper Landing Elementary. She expressed concern for the situation and asked those present to think of ways to solve the enrollment problem. She stated that when a KPB community struggles with problems of this magnitude it causes a ripple effect throughout the Borough. She reported that she attended the Community Conversation on Competency Based Education in Ninilchik and noted that the meeting was not well attended. She stated that the conversation needs to touch more families and added that there was a mixed review of the meeting. She stated that she will be interested to read a report of the Districtwide conversations. She expressed appreciation for the amount of participation by the KPB legislators and added that the delegation is preparing for the upcoming legislative session and much of their attention will be spent on the extra revenue caused by increased oil prices. She reported that she was privileged to attend the welcome party for President George Bush and his wife Laura during their stop over in Anchorage. She reported that she had the opportunity to speak to President Bush and his wife. She praised Alaskan soldiers and their families who were also in attendance.

Ms. Wassilie reported that during a conversation with Assembly Member Gilman, she learned that the Borough sands the school parking lots and the School District sands the sidewalks and playground areas. She reported that she enjoyed reading the Class Size Report and was pleased to note that there were no sections at the elementary level with 30 or more students. She noted that there are some large classes at the middle school and high school level. She reported that on November 17 she visited Hope Elementary/High School and noted that she had a delightful visit with the students and added that strong community support for the school is evident. She noted that a 50-member PTA in a town the size of Hope is tremendous. She expressed appreciation for the problem solving approach by the members of the Hope Community.

Miss King recognized the KMS students for the school report and stated that she was encouraged to see so many students involved in leadership at the middle school level. She thanked the Hope community members for speaking to the Board and was pleased that they are working on the problem from many angles. She stated that she was interested in the Policy Manual discussion during the worksession prior to the Board meeting.

Mrs. Crawford thanked the administration for the Class Size Report and the Enrollment Projections Report and added that she appreciates the early information for making upcoming decisions. She stated that the conversation with the legislative delegation was helpful and was encouraged that they are willing to continue the monthly meetings with the Board. She thanked Mr. Sorenson, the students and staff for the KMS report. She reported that she, Mr. Anderson and various members of the administration attended the Kenai Alternative High School Thanksgiving dinner. She asked for an excused absence from the December 5 meeting.

BOARD COMMENTS:
(continued)

Mr. Hatch stated that he enjoyed the KMS report. He reported that he visited Sears Elementary School and the Kaleidoscope Charter School and commented that he was impressed by the remarkable display of two schools working together for the good of their students. He stated that the economic reality of charter schools mandate growth and expressed hope that as the Kaleidoscope Charter School grows they can continue the current relationship with Sears Elementary.

Mrs. Hilts expressed appreciation for the KMS report and added that it is wonderful to see students interested in leadership. She stated that she will miss Mrs. Gilman and Ms. Germano as members of the Board. She stated that it was important to hear from the Hope residents and noted that Seldovia has similar population problems. She noted that an *Anchorage Daily News* article mentioned boarding home schools as an option for educating rural students. She stated that in the past boarding schools were the only option for many rural students to complete their education and were not very successful because students tended to drop out. She stated that communication and transportation has changed considerably over the years and that boarding homes may once again be an option. She stated that she hopes the District can look seriously at developing a quality program for small schools but acknowledged that the bottom line revolves around money. She stated that if the community of Hope offers a good education for students, young families will come. She stated that the District needs to consider other options such as more itinerant teachers, block scheduling, or relocating the school elsewhere for a short period of time. She assured those present that closing a small school is a huge issue for the Board and administration and is not taken lightly. She wished those present a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. Anderson thanked the KMS staff and students for the presentation and commended the leadership class for their activities. He thanked the Hope residents for sharing their concerns and noted that he is planning to visit the community to become more educated about the issue. He thanked the legislators for their attendance at the worksession and for their hard work. He reported that he attended the Kenai Alternative School Thanksgiving dinner and noted that it was a wonderful event. He thanked Mr. Spence for providing information in response to questions concerning the Sterling Elementary School. He thanked Mr. Dave Tressler, Borough Maintenance Director, for the explanation of expenditures and school maintenance and for walking through the Sterling Elementary facility. He was pleased to note that the school will receive exterior paint and new flooring in the future. He thanked Miss King for her comments and input during the Policy Manual worksession.

BOARD COMMENTS:
(continued)

Mrs. Downing thanked the KMS students for the leadership report and was impressed with their accomplishments so far this school year. She expressed appreciation for the comments from the Hope residents and was pleased to hear of their strategies to resolve the enrollment problem. She stated that she was encouraged to hear that the Kenai Peninsula legislators care about the District and are doing as much as they can for education on the Peninsula. She thanked Mr. Stewart for his efforts in communicating with Homer residents regarding the military opt out issue and for facilitating the Community Based Education Conversation in Homer.

Mrs. Mullins reassured the Hope residents that the administration is paying attention to the public testimony and that the Board will try to do what is best for Hope Elementary/High School students. She expressed appreciation for the worksession with the Kenai Peninsula legislators and stated that they urged the Board needs to get the message out to the remaining legislators. She thanked Board members for coming to the meeting well prepared.

ADJOURN:
(8:20:59 PM)

At 8:20 p.m., Mrs. Crawford moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mr. Hatch seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mrs. Debra Mullins, President

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Ms. Sandra Wassilie, Clerk

The Minutes of November 21, 2005,
were approved on December 5, 2005
as written.