
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

April 3, 2006 – 7:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting

Borough Administration Building
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. Todd Syverson	Mr. Spencer Tachick
Mr. Dave Carey	Mr. Josh Northcutt
Mrs. Sharon Moock	Mr. Jim White
Mrs. Laurie Lingafelt	Dr. Ellen Harrison
Mr. Vernel Schneider	Mrs. Heather Pancratz
Mr. Sean Dusek	Mrs. Norma Holmgaard
Mr. Alan Fields	Mr. Larry Nauta
Ms. Deb Germano	Mrs. Sylvia Reynolds
Mr. Dennis Spindler	Mrs. Cathy Carrow
Mr. Joe Nicks	Mrs. LaDawn Druce
Mr. Tony Cloud	Mrs. Debbie Falk

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Mrs. Crawford called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
(7:00:12 PM)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mrs. Crawford invited the Soldotna High School band students to lead the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.
(7:00:20 PM)

ROLL CALL:

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved with a revised Item 10e., Approval of BP 6187, AR 6187, Charter Schools.
(7:01:30 PM)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
(7:01:57 PM)

The School Board Minutes of March 20, 2006 were approved with corrections.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:
(7:03:10 PM)

The Board presented Golden Apple awards to Mr. Tony Cloud, K-Beach Elementary community member; Mr. Dennis Spindler, Soldotna High Custodian; Mrs. Debbie Falk, Nikiski Middle/High career and guidance assistant; and Ms. Holly Zwink, KCHS Special Education teacher for their service to the District.

SCHOOL REPORT:
(7:11:50 PM)

Mr. Todd Syverson, Soldotna High School principal, commended the school staff and explained the school "Acceleration-Plan". He praised the 12 music students who were selected to the state honor band. Mr. Vernel Schneider's percussion band students (Mr. Josh Northcutt, Mr. Spencer Tachick, Mr. Shea Murphy, Mr. Jesse Carlson, Mr. Garrett Mayer, Mr. Jordan Ikerd, Mr. Aaron Gordon, Mr. Ben Widman and Mr. Justin Oleson) concluded the report by playing two songs, *Ritual of the Tribe* and *Circus, Circus*.

RECESS:
(7:27:45 PM)

At 7:27 p.m. Mrs. Crawford called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:
(7:31:37 PM)

At 7:31 p.m. the Board reconvened in regular session.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:
(7:31:43 PM)

Mr. James Kvasnikoff, Nanwalek Village Tribal Chief, asked the Board for more Sugt'stun language instruction and suggested that the Board meet with the Village to work on meeting the goals of No Child Left Behind. He also asked the Board to change the word bilingual to Sugt'stun classroom.

Ms. Sally Ash, Tribal member of Nanwalek, began the testimony speaking in Sugt'stun. She provided historical information about the village and the school; she told the Board that the village would like to have a say in what is taught in the school, who is hired to teach, and how the money is spent. She requested that next fall the native language and culture be taught at the school, that the teacher be paid at a certified rate, and that the District hire aides to assist the teacher.

Ms. Rhoda Moonin, Nanwalek resident, gave her testimony in Sugt'stun.

Ms. Polly Reutov, Kachemak Selo parent, stated that 30 minutes of Russian instruction is not enough and asked the Board to let tutors teach Russian to students for 1 hour each day and for one-half of the day for kindergarten through first grade students.

At 7:50 Mrs. Douglas, Chief Financial Officer, left the meeting.

Ulita Reutov, Kachemak Selo student, expressed concern that Russian is not taught in the high school classes at Kachemak Selo and added that she wants to continue to learn to read and write in two languages.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:
(continued)

Iliia Kuzmin, Kachemak Selo resident, stated that the parents want Russian classes for all children, especially for younger students. He asked the Board to request an exemption from the NCLB requirements. He asked the Board to continue the Russian classes and to provide more funds to operate the school.

Mr. Frank Feoktist Martushev, Kachemak Selo resident, asked the Board to take the Village requests seriously and provide more than 30-minutes of Russian instruction each day. He provided history of the establishment of the Russian villages in Alaska and stated that he is proud to be a Russian-American. He stated that NCLB is a big concern.

Mr. Sergei Serebrekov, Razdolna resident, stated that Razdolna School does not provide entertainment or choice and does not have many of the extras (pool, gymnasium) that are provided at other schools and have purposely declined extra classes. He asked the Board to allow Russian classes to be offered again. Mr. Anderson asked when the last time Russian was taught. Mr. Serebrekov responded that it was taught three or four years ago.

Miss Elena Martushev, Kachemak Selo student, stated that Russian classes were eliminated and now she cannot translate English to Russian. She asked the Board to help the students build their Russian vocabulary.

Fred Martushev, Kachemak Selo resident, stated that school is meant to give children the tools and experience to be productive and responsible citizens and that a piece of paper that says a teacher is highly qualified does not make them highly qualified to teach. He asked the Board to stand up for what works in education.

Sergei Active, Nanwalek Priest, spoke in support of the bilingual classes at Nanwalek Elementary/High School. He asked where the Johnson O'Malley funds are spent. He stated that the native people of Alaska feel that their language is part of their identity and want to preserve it and asked the Board to consider that which is precious to the communities.

Nancy Yeaton, Nanwalek resident, stated that the Village wants a Sugt'stun class rather than a bilingual class. She asked the Board to recognize the current bilingual aide as a certified teacher, to keep the language and culture alive, and to elevate the children's education.

Tatiana Acta, Nanwalek community member, stated that Nanwalek children should recognize that they are native and that they can be intelligent in any language. She stated that village schools do not have music instruction or a gymnasium and should not have to beg for it. She stated that she is proud of village students when they sing in their native language.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

(continued)

Mrs. Crawford asked for a show of hands of from those who have attended in support of Sugt'stun education at Nanwalek, and Russian language education at Kachemak Selo and Razdolna.

HEARING OF DELEGATIONS:

(8:17:45 PM)

Dr. Ellen Harrison, Project GRAD USA senior director of academics, explained that the purpose of the program is to support students in all grades in the seven partner schools through high school graduation to the completion of college. She provided information on the Project GRAD's activities to date, funding information, and highlights and successes.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

(8:22:37 PM)

Dr. Peterson announced that the State Board of Education is considering seven regulation changes and that the public has until May 12 to express their opinions. She reported that all of the regulations can be accessed from the state website. She announced that May 1 is the deadline to express opinions regarding the Adequate Yearly Progress subgroup change and added that the administration will provide a position. She reported that several items of correspondence were received related to agenda items and were included in the Board General Information Packet. She recommended that in response to the packet of letters received from the Kachemak Selo parents, the Board conduct an English Language Learners worksession on April 17 so that the Board can review the federal legislation and research.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

(8:20:10 PM)

Dr. Peterson reported that interviews have been held for Homer Middle School principal, Kenai Middle School assistant principal, and K-Beach Elementary principal. A public meeting will be held in Seward on April 4 to discuss the Seward High School principal vacancy. She announced that the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam and the state mandated standards based assessment will be given beginning April 4 through April 6.

BOARD REPORTS:

(8:25:55 PM)

Mrs. Downing reported that she attended the Homer Middle School Math Meet on Friday, March 31. She congratulated the students for demonstrating their math skills and thanked Suzanne Haines, West Homer Elementary and Homer Middle School teacher and Sara Reinhart, Kachemak Bay Campus math professor for coordinating the event for 80 students districtwide.

WORKSESSION REPORT:

(8:27:36 PM)

Mrs. Crawford reported that the Board held a Project GRAD worksession and heard about the funding challenges of the program from Dr. Harrison. She reported that the discipline hearing was canceled. She reported that the Board spoke to Kenai Peninsula legislators and asked about possible changes to the Area Cost Differential and pointed out that with \$90 million dollars for education as proposed by the governor, it looks as though the District may have to cut 70 to 75 teachers. She stated that the Board is encouraging legislators to do whatever they can to help. She explained that the Board is doing all that they can but must consider what is best for all 9,500 students and the 44 schools in the District. She stated that the budget will be considered during the meeting and, if approved, will be presented to the Borough Assembly on April 4.

CONSENT AGENDA:
(8:29:35 PM)

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Tentative Board meeting Dates for 2006-2007, Request for Leave of Absence-Certified, Resignations, Long-Term Substitute Contract, and Budget Transfer.

TENTATIVE BOARD MEETING DATES FOR 2006-2007:

Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve the schedule for Board meetings for the 2006-2007 school year.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE-CERTIFIED:

Mr. Szymoniak recommended that the Board approve an unpaid leave of absence request from Shona DeVolld, English, Kenai Central High.

RESIGNATIONS:

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve resignations from Laurie J. Decker, special education/resource, Homer High School; Cassandra Large, Band, Homer Middle and Homer High School; Elizabeth Burck, science, Kenai Central High; Thomas Burck, vocational education, Kenai Central High; James P. Bennett, Quest, Mt. View Elementary; Darlene E. Gehrke-Conright, music, Nikiski Middle/High School; Ingrid Avril, kindergarten, Paul Banks Elementary; Kim M. Blommel, Grade 4, Seward Elementary; Jennifer W. Carr, Grade 2, Seward Elementary; Neldon Gardner, physical education, Soldotna Middle School; Letitia Hallett, science, Soldotna Middle School; Carol Dallman, librarian, Skyview/Soldotna High Schools; Neal Dallman, special education/resource, Soldotna High; Millie Lewis, special education, West Homer Elementary; and Scott Linner, school psychologist, West Homer Elementary.

LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE CONTRACT:

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve a substitute teacher contract for Dan Hill, Soldotna Elementary principal.

BUDGET TRANSFER:

By memorandum, Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve budget transfer Number 320 requested by the Curriculum Department to purchase Language Arts Curriculum materials.

MOTION

Mrs. Hilts moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 5. Mr. Hatch seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

2006-2007 BUDGET:
(8:30:25 PM)

By memorandum, Mrs. Douglas recommended approval of a FY07 general fund budget of \$92,951,047 and a budget of \$112,315,918 for all funds. Dr. Peterson stated that the budget was developed assuming that the \$90 million from the Governor will be approved and requests full funding from the Borough Assembly.

MOTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve the FY07 general fund budget of \$92,951,047 and a budget of \$112,315,918 for all funds. Mr. Anderson seconded.

Mr. Anderson clarified with Dr. Peterson that the proposed budget which includes the 70-75 teacher reduction was based on funding to the cap by the Borough Assembly.

2006-2007 BUDGET:
(continued)

Mrs. Hilts stated that it is wrong to vote on a budget that continues to cut teachers and staff, and although the Board has asked for help, is once again faced with voting for something that no one wants.

Mrs. Downing stated that the pupil-teacher ratio increase is not acceptable and is hoping for a miracle.

Mrs. Crawford explained that the proposed budget document reflects a decline in enrollment causing a loss of 29 teachers, an increase to the pupil-teacher ratio causing a loss of 41 teachers for a total loss of 70 teachers.

Ms. Tatiana Acta, Nanwalek community member, suggested that a portion of the band supply budget at larger schools be transferred to village schools. She stated that students in Nanwalek do not have the choice to be in band or cocurricular activities.

Dr. Peterson explained that the supply accounts for each school are based on the number of students and that it is up to the school staff to decide how the money is spent. She explained that in most schools music instruments are purchased by students and the cost of activities and equipment is paid by the booster club and individuals.

Mrs. Brown stated that there have been significant increases to the cost of education over the past year and that costs are increasing at every level. She stated that it is the Board's duty to represent all of the children and noted that every group has needs, some are more significant. She noted that the Board received several letters regarding language instruction and assured those present that the Board cares about all of the needs. She explained that the budget is a document that can be changed as necessary. She stated that the District Board and administration has worked hard to solicit input on the budget and yet no one from the audience testified. She stated that she reluctantly supports the budget because the Board needs to continue dialog with the Borough Assembly. She stated that the Borough and District administrations will continue their discussion of the budget. She stated that both organizations have a serious financial problem, and noted that the District will be cutting teachers and will affect how programs will be delivered. She encouraged those present to talk to the Board, the Assembly, and Borough Mayor. She stated that the money is not available and the Board has to have money to pay for the District's priorities.

2006-2007 BUDGET:
(continued)

Mr. Anderson commended the administration for doing so much with little resources. He reminded those present that the Board does not generate revenue; funding is received from the state and federal government. He stated the public needs to speak to legislators who have the power to provide additional funding to the District. He stated that he will reluctantly vote for the budget and noted that if the Borough Assembly does not fund the District to the cap then the 70 teacher reduction will be raised to 95 to 100 teachers. He stated District the is in an extremely critical situation and noted that all of the reserves will be used this year to compensate for the shortfall. He stated that while the governor's proposed \$90 million for education may sound like a lot of money, \$40 million will go to the Public Employee Retirement System and the Teachers Retirement System and \$30 million to inflationary items; the remaining \$20 million statewide will not go very far.

Motion carried unanimously.

**REVISIONS TO
MISCELLANEOUS BYLAWS,
POLICIES AND
REGULATIONS:**
(8:42:50 PM)

Mr. Stewart recommended the Board approve various revisions to AR 0420, School Based Management/Site Councils; BP 0530, Criteria for Closing Schools; BP 6162.71 and AR 6162.71, Internet Use; BB 9130, Board Committees; BB 9310, Policy Manual; and AR 6145, Cocurricular Activities.

MOTION

Mrs. Brown moved the Board approve various revisions to AR 0420, School Based Management/Site Councils; BP 0530, Criteria for Closing Schools; BP 6162.71 and AR 6162.71, Internet Use; BB 9130, Board Committees; BB 9310, Policy Manual; and AR 6145, Cocurricular Activities. Mr. Anderson seconded.

Mrs. Brown asked whether the proposed language in BP 0530 was in conflict with federal law regarding school closures. Mr. Stewart explained that if the school enrollment falls below 10 students the school does not maintain their separate site funding and according to the state laws and regulations, the administration does not have an obligation to keep the school open.

VOTE:

Advisory Vote – YES

YES – Downing, Hilts, N. Anderson, M. Anderson, Hatch, Crawford

NO – Brown

Motion carried.

**POLICY AND REGULATION
ADOPTION:**
(8:47:08 PM)

Mr. Stewart recommended the Board approve the adoption of BP 5141.6 and AR 5141.6, Student Nutrition and Physical Activity. He explained that the policy is required by Federal regulation as part of the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 (Section 204: Local Wellness Policies) and must be in place in all school districts nationwide by June 30, 2006.

**POLICY AND REGULATION
ADOPTION:**
(continued)

Mrs. Sharon Moock, Soldotna Middle School principal, stated that she is representing the school site council and PTSA. She clarified that the “cupcake rule” means that schools will not use foods or beverages as rewards for academic achievement. Mr. Stewart stated that snack food can be given at principal discretion but recommended that no more than twice a month. She detailed the actions taken by the SMS staff to reduce the amount of sweets for sale to students, and noted that sales have increased. She expressed concern for the consumption of high caffeine drinks for lunch. She expressed concern that staff will be made to patrol food brought into the building. She provided handouts with information regarding nutrition and loss of revenue. She expressed concern for the loss of revenue if soda machines are removed from schools.

Mrs. Hilts asked whether SMS is currently selling diet drinks. Mrs. Moock responded that the only soda that is being sold is diet and added that sports drinks, fruit drinks, and water is also being sold.

Mrs. Downing clarified that SMS is not selling regular soda and that sales have increased. Mrs. Moock stated that sales of diet drinks, sports drinks and water are significantly increased but they sell very few fruit drinks. Mrs. Downing asked whether high caffeinated drinks such as Rockstar are being brought to school by students instead of buying the drinks at school. Mrs. Moock replied that some students are drinking caffeine drinks instead of buying lunch. Mrs. Downing asked if students would purchase regular soda if it was available instead of the high caffeine drinks. Mrs. Moock replied that more students may drink their lunch if the selection of other items at school is reduced. Mr. Anderson asked whether Mrs. Moock was referring only to the Rockstar drink. She replied that there may be other highly caffeinated drinks but Rockstar is the drink most often seen at school.

Mr. Todd Syverson, Soldotna High School principal, reported that because the schools are community facilities, Soldotna High PTA has requested the Board allow high schools to put soda machines on timers so that it is not sold during the school day but can be purchased in the evening during community events. He noted that the sales from soda machines pay for many school needs and suggested that the Board take more time to consider the policy. Mr. Stewart stated that he would have to research the request for the use of timers and does not object to the postponement of the policy.

Mrs. Margaret Gilman, Assembly Member and former Board member, thanked the Board for the work on the policy, noted that today’s children have a shorter life expectancy than their parents, partly due to diet and exercise. She stated that schools cannot be responsible for children’s obesity but can limit what is sold to them. She reported that when asked about reducing health care costs, the president of the American Medical Association responded that the nation needs to put money into schools specifically to be used for physical education and health education every day so that students learn healthy choices.

**POLICY AND REGULATION
ADOPTION:**
(continued)

Dr. Anderson asked Mrs. Gilman for an opinion on Mr. Syverson's proposal to use timers to regulate soda sales to students. Mrs. Gilman stated that timers might be a nice compromise and acknowledged that eliminating all sugar is not realistic.

Mrs. Lana Syverson, Soldotna high school teacher, stated that she has a philosophical problem with the proposed wellness policy because young adults are taught to think for themselves and the message being sent is that they are not trusted to make choices and yet they are trusted to drive automobiles, serve in the military, take out college loans, etc.

Mrs. Tracy Silta, K-Beach lunch duty volunteer, thanked the committee members for their work on the wellness policy, and expressed concern about sweets currently being sold on the lunch cart.

Ms. Germano suggested the Board postpone the wellness policy because there are still a lot of unanswered questions. She suggested that the policy begin with elementary students. She stated that school staff members should not be expected to take on the duty of policing food. She stated that she supports the concept of allowing high school students to make their own choices.

Mr. Stewart explained that with the passage of the wellness policy, sweets sold on the lunch cart will no longer be available and all soda sales will be eliminated, including diet soda.

MOTION

Mrs. Hilts moved the Board approve the adoption of BP 5141.6 and AR 5141.6, Student Nutrition and Physical Activity. Mr. Hatch seconded.

Miss King acknowledged the nation's obesity issue and supported the philosophy behind the proposed policy but felt that it would be a bad decision to approve it tonight before the students from other schools have a chance to provide input. She stated that the Soldotna High School Student Council discussed the wellness policy and felt that although they supported the reasons for the policy, they could not support the language because it drastically reduces the amount of money raised to pay for student activities, cocurricular items, and student travel. She questioned whether school lunches meet the nutritional guidelines set forth in the policy. She supported the postponement of the policy.

Mr. Anderson stated that he supports the idea of controlling what is available to elementary students and possibly middle school students. He agreed that high school students should make their own decisions and suspected that if not, they will leave at lunch, which creates a larger problem.

MOTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board postpone action on the adoption of BP 5141.6 and AR 5141.6, Student Nutrition and Physical Activity until the April 17 meeting. Mr. Hatch seconded.

**POLICY AND REGULATION
ADOPTION:**
(continued)

Mrs. Brown reported that she attended some of the Wellness Committee meetings and acknowledged the amount of work involved. She reported that she attended all nutrition seminars at the statewide conference; it was suggested that in rural villages traditional foods be included in lunch menus and noted that the proposed wellness policy provides for the accommodation of religious, ethnic, and cultural diversity of the student body. She noted that traditional foods may be exempt from food standards and that part of the problem statewide is that there is no real opportunity for school districts to purchase traditional foods. She reported that more work needs to be done at the state level to make Alaskan foods available for purchase rather than spending federal dollars for food prepared elsewhere. She stated that she would support the postponement of the policy to allow for more input from site councils. She related a story regarding the sales of specialty coffee as an inappropriate fund raiser for the National Honor Society and asked if schools still had the coffee machines and what will happen to them if the wellness policy is approved.

Mr. Stewart explained that specialty coffee drinks would not be allowed to be sold at schools under the language of the wellness policy. Mrs. Crawford clarified with Mr. Stewart that the District is required to have a wellness and physical education policy.

Mr. Hatch stated that he supports the wellness policy but would like to hear from other school communities and would favor postponement.

Dr. Anderson reminded the Board that comments must be germane to postponement and that they should not conduct a worksession during the Board meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

RECESS:
(9:23:02 PM)

At 9:23 p.m. Mrs. Crawford called a recess.

**RECONVENE AFTER
RECESS:**
(9:31:11 PM)

At 9:31 p.m. the Board reconvened in regular session.

**REVISIONS TO CHARTER
SCHOOL POLICY AND
REGULATION:**
(9:31:18 PM)

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve proposed revisions to BP 6187 and AR 6187, Charter Schools. A revised version was provided to the Board and those present with green colored text to signify the recommended language.

Mr. Tony Lewis, Kaleidoscope Charter School parent and Charter School Committee member, stated that it is good policy to allow charter schools to use the school building space where space is available. He stated that the current process for sharing facilities works well and noted that the proposed language circumvents that process. He stated that the revised policy should include language that better clarifies the process, allow for multi-year contracts, evaluation of charter schools, and goals and objectives.

**REVISIONS TO CHARTER
SCHOOL POLICY AND
REGULATION:**

(continued)

Ms. Teresa Brown, Montessori Charter School Academic Policy Committee member, suggested that the policy revision include language that makes public schools accountable if they do not keep their contract obligations.

Dr. Kristin Mitchell, Soldotna Montessori School parent, expressed concern that charter school contract obligations at shared facilities be similar for both groups. She stated that parents choose charter schools because they value the education of their children and the opportunity to be strongly involved in schools. She asked for a show of hands of those who support charter schools.

Ms. Kiki Abrahamson, Fireweed Academy teacher, stated that the policy is not ready to be adopted, and offered the Board information on shared facilities. She highlighted former Fireweed Academy students who successfully competed in the recent Homer Math Meet.

Mrs. Laurie Lingafelt, Soldotna Elementary parent volunteer and Charter School Committee member, stated that the committee's task was to review the current District charter school policy and provide recommended changes. She reported that after much discussion, the document presented is a collective effort of the committee and provides equal opportunity for all students and encouraged the Board to approve it.

Mrs. Debbie Carroll, parent, read a letter written by Mrs. Janet McNary in support of the proposed revisions to the charter school policy. Mrs. McNary stated that although all members of the group did not agree, they did their best to compromise and that the document produced is representative of the group as a whole and any other version brought forward by any member of the committee should be considered a personal opinion. Mrs. Carroll stated that she also supports the proposed charter school policy revisions.

Mr. Larry Nauta, Aurora Borealis administrator, stated that the proposed charter school policy revision is an excellent document, and although it isn't perfect he encouraged the Board to approve it as written.

Ms. Pako Whannell, Kaleidoscope parent and volunteer, read a letter written by her daughter who is happy to be a student at Kaleidoscope Charter School and would like the school to continue growing.

Mrs. Barb Ralston, Sears Elementary teacher, expressed appreciation for the work of the Charter School Policy Review Committee and asked the Board to approve the proposed document as written.

MOTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve the proposed revisions to BP 6187 and AR 6187, Charter Schools as presented by the administration. Mr. Hatch seconded.

**REVISIONS TO CHARTER
SCHOOL POLICY AND
REGULATION:**

(continued)

In response to a request from Mr. Anderson, Mr. Szymoniak reviewed the changes to the policy that were presented at the last Board worksession and are now recommendations. Mrs. Crawford clarified with Mr. Szymoniak that the stricken language was deleted since the last worksession.

Mr. Anderson asked whether the annual determination of adequate space made by the superintendent refers to charter schools that wish to expand. Mr. Szymoniak explained that the annual determination of space is to prevent displacement of neighborhood school students.

Mrs. Downing expressed appreciation for the public comments and added that although the policy may not be perfect, it is a place to start and can be fixed in the future if necessary. She stated that the Board needs to move on and should continuously review the regulations and exhibit. She encouraged those present to provide input during the coming year.

Dr. Peterson clarified that Board action is necessary for the charter school policy, administrative regulation and exhibit. Mrs. Crawford explained that action must be taken as soon as possible so that new contracts can be negotiated.

Mrs. Brown asked if there was a possible conflict with proposed language in green text on page BP 6187(b) with green text on page BP 6187(d) and AR 6187(d) regarding who is responsible for locating and determining adequate space for charter schools. She recommended the proposed policy and regulation not be approved. Mr. Szymoniak explained that BP 6187 explained that green text is not replacement language for red text and that each colored text represented two different options. He explained that during the committee meetings there was disagreement over whether it was the Board's responsibility to locate space for a charter school and the administrative recommendation was that it was not the responsibility of the Board. Mr. Szymoniak explained that charter schools are unique in KPBSD because they share facilities with neighborhood schools. He explained that AR 6187(d) especially covers those situations where two schools share one facility and that the superintendent makes the determination whether there is adequate space for a charter school to move in. Mrs. Crawford clarified that it is recommended that it is not the Board's responsibility to find a facility but if there is room in an existing school then a charter school can request to share the facility.

**REVISIONS TO CHARTER
SCHOOL POLICY AND
REGULATION:**

(continued)

Mrs. Brown stated that if the Board is trying to adopt language that delegates the superintendent to make the decision about whether a charter school may share a facility it is not clear. Mr. Szymoniak explained that the difference between the policy and the regulation is that the Board is not responsible for finding a location for the charter school but may allow a charter school to share a facility provided there is adequate space. Mr. Szymoniak explained that charter schools can operate from a church, a warehouse, or any type of building. Mrs. Brown asked if the facility would be a component of the contract with the Board. Mr. Szymoniak stated that they would request to come into a school and the Board would have the authority to allow the request and the superintendent would inform the Board about whether there is adequate space.

Mr. Anderson asked whether the Board is treating charter schools fairly by giving them only a few months notice prior to cancellation of their contract when Hope Elementary and Cooper Landing Elementary were given two years notice prior to closure.

Mrs. Hilts stated that it would be the charter school's choice whether to be located in a warehouse or in a neighborhood school.

Dr. Peterson explained that enrollment figures are due in December; based on the enrollment, the administration will review the school capacities, review boundary changes, and other factors that might affect student enrollment and that a determination could be made in enough time to allow for planning for all of the students.

MOTION

Mrs. Brown moved the Board amend the proposed language in BP6187(b) by deleting Option 1(a), "It is not the Board's responsibility to locate a facility to operate a charter school." Motion died for lack of a second.

VOTE:

Advisory Vote – YES

YES – Hatch, Hilts, Downing, N. Anderson, Brown, Crawford

NO – M. Anderson

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 05-06-4:

(10:19:12 PM)

In response to a Board directive, Dr. Peterson presented Resolution 05-06-4 Declaring Children as Alaska's Top Priority.

MOTION

Mrs. Hilts moved the Board approve Resolution 05-06-4 Declaring Children as Alaska's Top Priority. Mrs. Downing seconded

Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/
COMMENTS:**

(10:20:18 PM)

Mr. Frank Feoktist Martushev asked how schools achieve No Child Left Behind if money is not available. Mrs. Crawford thanked Mr. Martushev and asked him to help lobby for more funds.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/
COMMENTS:**
(continued)

Mrs. Sally Ash asked whether language instruction will be eliminated for next school year now that the budget has passed. Dr. Peterson explained that the Board makes decisions on the budget (including pupil-teacher ratios) and that the administration makes decisions regarding language instruction. Dr. Peterson explained that it was agreed to conduct a worksession at the next Board meeting to educate the Board regarding all English language learners. Dr. Peterson stated that no decision has been made about whether to offer more than the necessary basics.

Mr. Illia Kuzman asked if the bilingual was voted on. Mrs. Crawford explained that bilingual instruction was not a business item on the agenda and explained that a worksession will be held on April 17; it will be discussed but probably not voted on.

Mr. Stewart explained how school buildings are staffed, how core subjects are selected and pointed out that there is not much teaching staff left to teach extra courses. Mrs. Crawford further explained that the number of teachers is dependent on the number of students at each school and that the administrator decides what subjects are taught as long as the curriculum is offered.

Mr. Sergei Serebrevkov asked whether the testimony from Kachemak Selo or Razdolna residents helped the Board make any decisions regarding the teaching of Russian. Mr. Stewart stated that it is helpful for the Board and administration to hear public testimony and that on April 17 the administration will have a worksession with the Board to reexamine what can be offered with available funds and staff. Mrs. Crawford explained that all schools are treated equally and that all comments are appreciated. She explained that the District is cutting 70 teachers Districtwide so it is impossible to add teachers. She suggested that the public lobby the legislature for more teachers. Mr. Serebrevkov stated that the Village doesn't ask for much and feels as though they are not treated fairly compared to other schools. Mr. Serebrevkov stated that Russian language instruction is not a big request and was hoping the Board would find some way to accommodate them.

Dr. Anderson explained that part of the problem is that the District must be in compliance with federal law regarding the hiring of highly qualified teachers. He stated that if the federal government will allow an exemption from the highly qualified mandate, then assistance may be possible. He stated that the Board is working on options to accommodate the language instruction request as long as it is within the law. Dr. Anderson explained that the Board sets the philosophy and the administration conducts the day-to-day business of the District. Mr. Serebrevkov stated that if the District were to advertise for a highly qualified Russian teacher via the internet and in the newspaper, a highly qualified teacher will respond. Dr. Anderson explained that the Board cannot get rid of a tenured teacher in order to hire another teacher to specifically teach Russian. Dr. Anderson further explained that the District is facing the layoff of a large number of teachers for the 2006-2007 school year. He stated that he will try to help find a way to accommodate language instruction requests.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/
COMMENTS:**
(continued)

Mrs. Hilts assured Mr. Serebrekov that the Board is trying to make an effort to assist with the language request. She acknowledged that Kachemak Selo is being impacted by the reduction of District funds. She stated that the Board will continue to listen and will do their best to help.

Mr. Serebrekov stated that it is hard to find information about School Board meetings and only learned about the meeting last night. Mrs. Crawford explained that School Board meetings are planned a year in advance.

Mrs. Brown asked Mr. Serebrekov about Russian language instruction given to students after school. Mr. Serebrekov responded that the classes after school are related to their religion and compared it to Shakespearean English. Mrs. Brown stated that state legislators and administrators need to be made aware of the needs of small schools. She explained that if a recommendation is made during the April 17 worksession and Board action is necessary it will appear on the agenda. She suggested that Mr. Serebrekov ask the school administrator to help locate School Board meeting information.

Mr. Serebrekov asked if there is anything else that can be done to further their request. Mrs. Crawford encouraged the Russian village residents to speak to state legislators regarding education funding. Mr. Serebrekov reported that Russian instruction was eliminated at Kachemak Selo before NCLB was enacted and asked why. Mrs. Crawford explained that instruction decisions are made based on the number of teachers and students. She stated that teachers have been cut; teachers in every school all over the district, over the past ten years. Dr. Peterson explained that programs have been cut at all schools. Mr. Stewart dispelled a myth that there is an abundance of federal money to pay for language instruction.

Mrs. Zinovia Reutov, Kachemak Selo resident, translated a letter from Mr. Peter Reutov who asked the Board to reinstate Russian and Sugt'stun language classes at the Russian schools and Nanwalek School respectively.

BOARD COMMENTS:
(10:40:29 PM)

Dr. Anderson stated that according to information shared at a recent medical conference, Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) and all learning disabilities are all closely related and that 45% of the children with ADD were born out-of-wedlock to young, distraught mothers. He named several national leaders who have had to overcome some type of disability and reported that there are alternatives to medication. He reported that children who took medications for ADD had a markedly decreased history of substance abuse in their future.

BOARD COMMENTS:
(continued)

Mrs. Downing reported on the recently held college Career Fair, which included many presenters and was hosted by Homer High and that approximately 600 students attended from schools in nearby communities. She reported that Andrea Greg, Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education, said that it was the best college and career fair she has ever attended. She reported that there were 75 presenters.

Miss King thanked those who testified regarding increased language instruction and reminded those present that she represents all students throughout the District and cares about the quality of education at every school.

Mr. Anderson told those present that the Board and administration care about all students no matter where they live and expressed frustration at not having the answers to the language instruction problem voiced by the village school parents and community members. He stated that the administration includes talented people and although they must work within restrictions, they will work towards finding answers to the language instruction issues. He expressed appreciation for comments made by Mr. Martushev comparing the Board to soldiers fighting the battle for the best education for all students. He cautioned against the use of the terms "us" and "them" and related a personal story about his father who did not learn to read or write and from that experience wants to make sure all children receive a good education regardless of culture.

Mrs. Hilts thanked those for attending and stated that she is pleased that the Board will hold a worksession to discuss language instruction issues. She thanked Mrs. Crawford for allowing the public time to speak freely with the Board. She acknowledged the cost of travel to Soldotna from Nanwalek or the Russian villages. She stated that she was thrilled about the passage of Resolution 05-06-4, Declaring Children as Alaska's Top Priority and would like to convince the state's leaders. She stated that the State of Alaska has enough money to provide a good education for all of its children. She related a personal story of two Seldovia students who were willing to stand with her and help lobby for adequate funding for education by sending a letter to legislators signed by the community. She suggested that each Kenai Peninsula community pass a resolution that asks the State of Alaska to declare children their top priority and offered to supply copies of an example resolution to those interested.

Mr. Hatch reported that he was invited to judge the Forensics meet on Saturday, April 1 and was amazed by the eloquent speeches by fifth grade students and recommended to all present that, if the opportunity arises, they volunteer to be a judge.

BOARD COMMENTS:

(continued)

Mrs. Crawford thanked those present for staying to the end of the meeting. She thanked Mr. Syverson and the percussionists of the Soldotna High School band for an excellent school report. She welcomed Mrs. Larned, former Board member. She reported that she will travel to Chicago to attend the National School Board Association National Conference along with Mr. Anderson and Mrs. Hilts.

ADJOURN:

(10:53:49 PM)

At 10:53 p.m., Mr. Hatch moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Debra Mullins, President

Ms. Sandra Wassilie, Clerk

The Minutes of April 3, 2006,
were approved on April 17, 2006,
with revisions.