Kenai Peninsula Borough School District
Board of Education Meeting Minutes

June 5, 2006 – 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
Mr. Sam Stewart, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Glen Szymoniak, Assistant Superintendent

OTHERS PRESENT:
Mrs. Jenni Hammond
Mrs. Paula Christensen
Mrs. Marni Bartolini
Mr. Phil Hermenak
Mrs. Laurie Olson
Mrs. Cathy Carrow
Mr. Tim Peterson
Mr. Joe Nicks
Mr. Sean Dusek
Mr. Jim White
Mr. Dave Carey
Mr. Dave Spence
Mrs. LaDawn Druce

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:
Mrs. Crawford called the meeting to order at 2:38 p.m. A quorum of School Board members, Mrs. Crawford, Mrs. Hilts, Ms. Wassilie, Mrs. Downing, Mr. Hatch and Dr. Anderson (arrived at 2:45 p.m.) were in attendance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:
At 2:39 p.m., 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 and to discuss subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person, provided the person may request a public discussion. Specifically, the executive session was to discuss negotiations and to conduct the superintendent evaluation. Dr. Peterson was invited to attend the superintendent evaluation. Mrs. Downing seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:
At 4:07 p.m., Mrs. Hilts moved the executive session be adjourned. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

CALL TO ORDER:
(7:02:11 PM)
Mrs. Crawford called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:
(7:02: 26 PM)

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

ROLL CALL:
(7:02:52 PM)

Mrs. Debra Mullins	Absent/Excused
Mrs. Sammy Crawford	Present
Ms. Sandra Wassilie	Present
Mr. Marty Anderson	Absent/Excused
Dr. Nels Anderson	Present/Arrived at 7:15 p.m.
Mrs. Debbie Brown	Present
Mrs. Liz Downing	Present
Mr. Bill Hatch	Present
Mrs. Sunni Hilts	Present
Miss Kelly King	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:
(7:03:35 PM)

The agenda was approved as written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
(7:03:43 PM)

The School Board Minutes of May 1, 2006, were approved with revisions.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:
(7:05:40 PM)

Mrs. Jenni Hammond testified regarding teacher hiring, legislative funding, funding accountability, charter school practices and configuration.

Mrs. Donna Reutov, Kachemak Selo parent, thanked Mr. Szymoniak and Mrs. Hilts for attending the graduation ceremony and thanked the administration for help in locating a certified teacher.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:
(7:10:11 PM)

Dr. Peterson reported that two letters were received regarding charter school space allocation and shared facilities.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:
(7:10:39 PM)

Dr. Peterson reported that she recently spoke at the Kenai Chamber of Commerce meeting. She reported that high school graduations and retirement ceremonies have been concluded. She announced that principal check out meetings began on June 5 and includes a 30-minute visit with each administrator to discuss personal and school goals. She reported that June 13 through 15 District staff members will attend the ACSA Summer Leadership Academy titled, Systemic Change: Achieving Large-Scale Reform at the School, District and State Levels, with Michael Fullan. She reminded the Board of the Annual Planning Session on June 6 at 9:00 a.m. at the City of Soldotna Council Chambers. Dr. Peterson presented the End of the Year Report, which included a summary of Board action for the 2005-2006 school year as well as progress on administrative work plans and Board goals.

FINANCIAL REPORT:
(7:20:51 PM)

Dr. Peterson presented the financial report of the District for the period ending April 30, 2006. She informed the Board that the Alaska Retirement Management (ARM) Board will likely implement the recommended actuarial employee rates of 32% for PERS and 42% for TRS for FY08.

BOARD REPORTS:
(7:22:45 PM)

Mrs. Hilts reported that she attended five graduation ceremonies.

BOARD REPORTS:
(Continued)

Mrs. Downing reported on graduation ceremonies at Homer Flex, Homer High and the Connections Homeschool Program.

Mr. Hatch reported on graduation ceremonies at KCHS and Nikiski High School.

Ms. Wassilie reported on the Seward High School graduation ceremony and the Seward Middle School eighth grade graduation ceremony.

Mrs. Crawford reported on graduation ceremonies at Nikolaevsk Elementary/High School, Hope Elementary/High School, and the Connections Homeschool Program.

WORKSESSION REPORT:
(7:31:42 PM)

Mrs. Crawford reported that the Board held an Executive Session to discuss negotiations and to conduct the superintendent evaluation. She noted that the Board held worksessions on the Kaleidoscope Charter School enrollment increase request, the proposed changes to the KPSAA handbooks, and heard a presentation regarding the new online employment application process.

CONSENT AGENDA:
(7:33:07 PM)

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Budget Transfers; Recommended Changes for KPSAA Middle School Handbook; Recommended Changes for KPSAA High School Handbook; Nontenure Teaching Assignments 2006-07; Long-Term Substitute Teacher Contracts; Nontenure Teacher Assignment, 2005-06; New Teacher Assignments, 2006-2007; Resignations; Change to School Board Meeting Date; New Administrator Appointments; and Administrative Recommendation Regarding a Request for Leave of Absence-Support.

BUDGET TRANSFERS:

By memorandum, Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve budget transfer Number 401 by Kaleidoscope Charter School to pay for long-term certified substitute wages ($11,000) and instructional aide wages ($16,100); Numbers 440 and 460 by the administration to pay for long-term wages and benefits for substitutes who were hired for extenuating circumstances, such as maternity leave, leave of absence or extended sick leave at Tustumena Elementary ($46,962), Kenai Youth Facility ($10,852), K-Beach Elementary ($16,051), and Voznesenka School ($17,500); and Number 452 by Aurora Borealis Charter School to pay for travel costs to the International Future Problem Solving Competition ($14,000).

RECOMMENDED CHANGES FOR KPSAA MIDDLE SCHOOL HANDBOOK:

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve proposed middle school handbook changes recommended by the Kenai Peninsula School Activities Association member schools for the 2006-2007 school year.

RECOMMENDED CHANGES FOR KPSAA HIGH SCHOOL HANDBOOK:

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve proposed high school handbook changes recommended by the Kenai Peninsula School Activities Association member schools for the 2006-2007 school year.

2006-2007 NONTENURE TEACHING ASSIGNMENTS:

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve a nontenure teacher assignment for the 2006-2007 school year for Lisa Morris, primary Grades K-3, Moose Pass Elementary; Bonnie Stangl, teacher, Grades K-10, Port Graham; Jennifer Dowd, Grade 1, Sears Elementary; Stephanie Cox, art teacher, Soldotna High; Alissa Mattson, language arts, Soldotna High; Robert Shively, language arts, Soldotna High; and Tamra Wear, (temporary) math .75FTE, Soldotna High.

LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE TEACHER CONTRACTS:

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve long-term substitute teacher contracts for Sherry Dillon, special education, resource, K-Beach Elementary; Kelley Smith, librarian, Mountain View Elementary; and Ann Fantz, math, Seward High School.

2005-2006 NONTENURE TEACHER ASSIGNMENT:

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve a nontenure teacher assignment for the 2005-2006 school year for Elizabeth Lennon, (temporary) speech language pathologist, Districtwide/Central Peninsula.

2006-2007 NEW TEACHER ASSIGNMENTS:

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve teacher assignments for the 2006-2007 school year for Linda M. Farnham, special education, intensive needs, K-Beach Elementary; Annette E. Knofel, school psychologist, Seward Elementary; David L. Justice, special education, resource, Soldotna High School; and Douglas O'Brien, special education, resource, West Homer Elementary.

RESIGNATIONS:

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve resignations for Tim McFarland, music/art, Aurora Borealis Charter School; Paula Christensen, director of Elementary Education/Curriculum; Breanna Bloom, special education, intensive needs, K-Beach Elementary; Louise Heite, speech therapist, Kenai Middle School; Michelle Graves, science/computers, Nikiski Middle/High; Karen Budge, music, Ninilchik School; Sharon Stevens-Ganser, Grade 5/6, Seward Elementary; Loretta Swanson, Grade 2, Seward Elementary; Mark Woodward, language arts/social studies, Seward Middle School; Jenny Brockman, art, Skyview High School; Ann Wilson, art, Soldotna High School; M. Jayne McFarland, speech pathologist, Soldotna Middle School; and Ronanda Liberty, generalist, Susan B. English.

CHANGE TO SCHOOL BOARD MEETING DATE:

Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve a recommendation to change the October 16, 2006 Board meeting to Monday, October 23, 2006 to accommodate administrative staff and Board member travel schedules.

NEW ADMINISTRATOR APPOINTMENTS:

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve the appointment of Rayna Neumiller as the assistant principal of Homer High and Ginger Lee Blackmon as principal of Seward High.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION REGARDING A REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE-SUPPORT:

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve the administrative recommendation regarding an unpaid request for leave of absence for John Standifer, custodian, Tebughna Elementary/High School. The recommendation was to deny the request.

MOTION

Ms. Wassilie moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 11. Mr. Hatch seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

KALEIDOSCOPE CHARTER SCHOOL REQUEST:
(7:33:55 PM)

The Kaleidoscope Charter School administration and Academic Policy Committee requested the Board approve the enrollment of 22 additional students for a total enrollment of 166 students and to allow the lease of space at the Willow Street Mall to house fourth grade students.

Mr. Tony Lewis, Kaleidoscope Charter School Academic Policy Committee member, spoke in support of the school's request for increased enrollment.

Mrs. Trudy Jones, Kaleidoscope Charter School parent, supported the concept of a community discussion regarding Kenai area school configurations and equitable funding among all types of schools.

Mrs. Mim Updike, Kaleidoscope Charter School parent, clarified the use of grant money and spoke in support of the school's expansion request.

Mrs. Gloria Walden spoke against the Kaleidoscope Charter School enrollment request.

Miss Danielle Updike, Kaleidoscope Charter School student, described the school's activities and spoke in support of the increased enrollment request.

Miss Kyla Whannel, Kaleidoscope Charter School student, described school lessons and activities.

Mr. Pako Whannel, Kaleidoscope Charter School parent, spoke in support of the school's enrollment request.

Mr. Jeff Whannel, Kaleidoscope Charter School parent, clarified charter school funding sources and the issue of shared facilities.

Mr. Brian Heath, Kaleidoscope Charter School parent, spoke in support of the school's growth.

Mr. Steven Ramsey, Kaleidoscope Charter School parent, asked the Board to support the school's request for student growth.

Mrs. Jenni Hammond, parent, recommended that the Kaleidoscope Charter School grow slowly and that the Kenai education community be allowed to have a discussion on the matter.

KALEIDOSCOPE CHARTER SCHOOL REQUEST:
(Continued)

Mrs. Misty Hamilton, Kaleidoscope Charter School parent, asked the Board to consider what is best for the school.

MOTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board allow Kaleidoscope Charter School's request to expand to 166 students as outlined. Mrs. Brown seconded.

VOTE:
Advisory Vote – YES
YES – N. Anderson, Brown, Crawford, Downing, Hatch, Wassilie
NO – Hilts

Motion carried.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/ COMMENTS:
(8:22:53 PM)

Mr. Tony Lewis thanked the Board for the support.

Mrs. Gilman asked the Board to ensure that the Kenai area community school configuration discussion occurs.

Mr. Feoktist Martushef, Kachemak Selo community member, thanked the Board for hiring a Russian teacher.

Mrs. Nichole Sheldon, Kaleidoscope Charter School teacher, thanked the Board for the expansion request decision.

Ms. Nancy Yeaton asked the Board to retain the current Grades 3-5 teacher at Nanwalek Elementary/High School.

Ms. Kelly Yeaton, Nanwalek resident, shared a letter of support from the community regarding the retention of the teacher for Grades 3-5 and request that the community be involved in the school staff hiring process.

Mr. Feoktist Martushef, Kachemak Selo community member, expressed concern for Razdolna School teaching staff.

Mrs. Kelli Stroh, Kaleidoscope Charter School teacher, thanked the Board for the expansion request decision.

Mrs. Anita Heath thanked the Board for providing choice in education.

Miss Tania Romanoff, Nanwalek Elementary/High student, spoke in support of a teacher who was not retained.

Mr. Brian Heath thanked the Board for their service and invited the public to visit the school.

BOARD COMMENTS:
(8:37:34 PM)

Dr. Anderson expressed appreciation for the public testimony.

Mrs. Downing thanked those who spoke to the Board.

BOARD COMMENTS:
(Continued)

Mrs. Hilts expressed appreciation for the graduation ceremonies, thanked the legislature for the one-year money, noted that the PERS and TRS issue will be huge in the coming years, and noted that Representative Mike Chenault is recognized throughout the state as a supporter of education.

Mr. Hatch expressed concern for the lack of public participation in the Kenai community school configuration conversation.

Mrs. Brown thanked the legislature and governor for the additional funding, noted that the Assembly will vote to set the mil rate to cover expenses, and encouraged those present to bring their school problems to the Board.

Ms. Wassilie encouraged the Board to conduct the proposed Kenai area school configuration discussion, explained how charter schools are administered, suggested that the Board revisit the Charter School policy, specifically the process to address issues for the following school year, agreed that there is an inequity in funding between charter schools and traditional schools and reported on the San Francisco school system.

Mrs. Crawford commended Miss King for her outstanding service on the Board.

Miss King recognized the Kaleidoscope Charter School parents and community for their advocacy; she thanked the Board for the recognition.

Mrs. Crawford pointed out that many local graduates have furthered their education, reported that she attended the production of *Mariner's Revenge* which was a senior class project used as a fund raiser for KDLL (local public radio).

ADJOURN:
(8:53:20 PM)

At 8:53 p.m., Mr. Hatch moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Brown 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 June 5, 2006,
were approved on July 17, 2006
as written.