

---

# Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes

---

September 11, 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. Randy Neill	Mrs. Doris Cannon
Mr. Bob Ermold	Mr. Jim White
Mr. Matt Fischer	Mr. Ken Halverson
Mrs. Jan Halverson	Mr. Mick Wykis
Mr. Tim Peterson	Ms. Marilyn Pawluk
Mrs. Linda Raemaker	Mrs. LaDawn Druce
Mr. Joe Nicks	Mrs. Jamie Harper
Mrs. Patty Rich	Mrs. Colleen Sinnott
Mrs. Marnie Bartolini	

Others present not identified.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mrs. Mullins called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.  
*(7:00:03 PM)*

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mrs. Mullins invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.  
*(7:00:12 PM)*

**MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Mrs. Mullins asked for a moment of silence from the audience in observance of those lost during the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.  
*(7:00:40 PM)*

**ROLL CALL:**

Mrs. Debra Mullins	Present
Mrs. Sammy Crawford	Present
Ms. Sandra Wassilie	Present
Mr. Marty Anderson	Present
Dr. Nels Anderson	Present
Mrs. Debbie Brown	Present
Mrs. Liz Downing	Present
Mr. Bill Hatch	Present
Mrs. Sunni Hilts	Present

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** The agenda was approved as written.  
*(7:01:48 PM)*

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**  
(7:02:06 PM)

The School Board Minutes of August 7, 2006, were approved as printed.

**AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:**  
(7:02:35 PM)

The Board presented a Golden Apple Award to Mrs. Colleen Sinnott, Tustumena Elementary Special Education teacher, for her service to the District.

**SCHOOL REPORT:**  
(7:05:54 PM)

Mr. Randy Neill, Skyview High School principal, gave a computer-generated presentation with the assistance of several students (Miss Jordan Grant, Miss Molly Lamborn, Miss Chantel Schefers, Miss Lei Lavea) that highlighted clubs, student mentorship, positive student and teacher interactions, the school goal of engaging students, course offerings, student accomplishments and achievements, and the community use of the facility. Mr. Neill concluded the presentation with two videos that featured student activities and sporting events.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:**  
(7:20:04 PM)

Dr. Peterson reported that the administration has received e-mails and phone calls regarding bus route changes. She noted that agendas for upcoming trainings have been included in the Board Information Packet. She reported that she will meet with the Village Council in Tyonek at the end of September.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**  
(7:23:37 PM)

Dr. Peterson reported that she has completed classroom walkthroughs at 8 schools. She reported that the administration has been conducting one-hour individual meetings with all 33 school administrators to discuss their goals for the upcoming year. She reported that she gave presentations at the Seward and Anchor Point Chambers of Commerce; and that she attended two Project GRAD meetings. She reported that the District has had a great school start-up.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**  
(7:25:02 PM)

Mrs. Douglas presented financial reports of the District for periods ending July 30, 2006 and August 31, 2006. She reported that the Alaska Retirement Management (ARM) Board held a special meeting to set the rates for FY08. She reported that the ARM Board set the PERS rate at 39.76 % of the gross payroll and the TRS rate at 54.03%. She reported that Governor Murkowski held a press release announcing that he expects to include the entire portion of the incremental increase (\$505 million) in the FY 08 state budget.

**BOARD REPORTS:**  
(7:26:36 PM)

Ms. Wassilie reported that she attended the graduation ceremony of a Connections Program student in Seward on August 21.

Mrs. Crawford reported that she attended the project GRAD meetings and noted that the Executive Board has had concerns because the earmark money did not come from the US Senate as expected. She stated that there were also concerns for funding that was not received from project GRAD USA. She announced that the District will continue the Project GRAD Program but with reductions to administration.

**BOARD WORKSESSION  
REPORT:**  
(7:28:08 PM)

Mrs. Mullins reported on Board worksessions that were held regarding upcoming conversations regarding the configuration of education in the Kenai area, School Board member participation in PERS, development of a District Long Range Plan, assessment information, negotiated agreements, and cocurricular survey results.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**  
(7:38:27 PM)

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Budget Transfer; Revisions to AR 4112.4, Health Examinations; Revisions to AR 3343, Travel and Per Diem; Revisions to AR 6187, Charter Schools; Tenured Teacher Assignment; New Teacher Assignments; Nontenured Teacher Assignments; Request for Leave of Absence-Certified; and Request for Leave of Absence-Support.

**BUDGET TRANSFER:**

Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve budget transfer Number 8 from the Assessment Department for \$12,500 for rental of a secure site to store and process District, state and federally mandated tests, and budget transfer Numbers 22 and 27 from the Information Services Department to purchase software at schools that have received new student computers as part of the Tech Plan replacement cycle (\$17,700 for Soldotna Middle School, \$13,350 for Kenai Middle School and \$12,150 for Seward Elementary School).

**POLICY MANUAL REVISIONS  
TO AR 4112.4:**

Mr. Stewart recommended the Board approve revisions to AR 4112.4, Health Examinations, deleting the requirement that employees undergo annual tuberculosis tests.

**POLICY MANUAL REVISIONS  
TO AR 3343:**

Mr. Stewart recommended the Board approve revisions to AR 3343, Travel and Per Diem, increasing the mileage reimbursement rate from \$.30 per mile to \$.35 per mile, retroactive to July 1, 2006.

**POLICY MANUAL REVISIONS  
TO AR 6187:**

Mr. Stewart recommended the Board approve revisions to AR 6187, Charter Schools, allowing charter schools in a shared facility to change the estimated number of students, the number of classrooms, or the grades taught for a school year by October 1 of the year preceding.

**TENURED TEACHER  
ASSIGNMENT:**

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve a tenured teaching assignment for Richard Redmond, Homer Middle School counselor.

**NEW TEACHER  
ASSIGNMENTS:**

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve teaching assignments for Barbara Croxford, Districtwide School Psychologist, Central Peninsula; Maygen Jannetta, art teacher, Homer High School; Sara Boersma, Grade 2/3 at Kaleidoscope Charter; Sandra Davis, intermediate grades, K-Beach Elementary; Justin T. Carr, (temporary) language arts, Kenai Central High; David Patat, science, Kenai Central High; Steven D. Schoessler, (.50 FTE permanent) vocational education teacher/(temporary .50 FTE) work coop coordinator, Kenai Central High; Debra Page-O'Connell, Quest, Gifted/Talented Program, Mt. View/Kenai Middle; Sarah J. Lazare, (temporary) Title I teacher, Mt. View Elementary; Elizabeth Ross, .50 FTE elementary music, Mt. View Elementary; Kenneth DiMarzio, vocational education, Nikiski Middle/High; Pavla Tyson, (temporary) generalist, Nikolaevsk

**NEW TEACHER  
ASSIGNMENTS:**  
*(continued)*

School; Dina Marion, (temporary) Title I, Paul Banks Elementary; Shonia Werner, .50 FTE Grade 6, Redoubt Elementary; Joanne Frey, special education/intensive needs, Seward Elementary; Kathy Sandoval, behavior teacher, Seward Elementary; Carlyn Nichols, science/math, Seward High School; Robin Castleman, special education/intensive needs, Skyview High; Megan Jones, .50 FTE language arts, Skyview High; Catherine Kibling, special education, intensive needs, Soldotna High; Stephanie Jez, (temporary) music K-12, Seward Elementary, Middle and High; Elisabeth Feeley, resource teacher, Soldotna Elementary; Cindy Robertson, elementary/secondary generalist, Voznesenka School; Robyn Walls, (temporary) Title I teacher, West Homer Elementary; and Karen Weston, Facilitator-Quest Gifted/Talented Program, West Homer Elementary.

**NONTENURED TEACHER  
ASSIGNMENTS:**

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve tentative nontenure teacher assignments for the 2006-2007 school year for Karen (Kim) Fine, elementary Grades 3-6, Fireweed Academy Charter; Holly Boyle, 8th grade reading, Kenai Middle; Lori L. Young, (temporary) teacher-kindergarten, Redoubt Elementary; Catherine Bethune, Title I teacher, Sears Elementary; Sheri Legg, .50 FTE librarian/media specialist, Sears Elementary; Patricia Truesdell, .50 FTE special education/resource and (temporary) .50 FTE teacher/intervention, Tebughna School.

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

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve a certified leave of absence request from Shonia Werner, .50 FTE 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, Redoubt Elementary (effective September 5, 2006 through November 1, 2006).

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

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve a support staff leave of absence request from Dennis Reger, special education aide, Soldotna Middle School (effective October 1, 2006 through the end of the 2006-2007 school year).

**MOTION**

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 9. Mr. Hatch seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**KPEA NEGOTIATED  
AGREEMENT:**  
*(7:39:39 PM)*

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve the 2006-2009 Kenai Peninsula Education Association Negotiated Agreement.

Mrs. Cathy Carrow, KPEA president, reported that KPEA is pleased with the way the negotiations process was conducted and stated that she feels the package is fair for both parties.

Mrs. Marnie Bartolini, KPESA president, reported that the members have voted in favor of the contract and asked for the Board's support.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve the 2006-2009 Kenai Peninsula Education Association Negotiated Agreement. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**KPESA NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT:**  
(7:46:27 PM)

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve the 2006-2009 Kenai Peninsula Education Support Association Negotiated Agreement.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve the 2006-2009 Kenai Peninsula Education Support Association Negotiated Agreement. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**AASB CORE RESOLUTIONS:**  
(7:47:35 PM)

Dr. Peterson explained that the 2006 AASB resolutions are presented to the Board for consideration. The approved resolutions will be forwarded to AASB for consideration at the Annual Conference.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve the 2006 AASB Core Resolutions. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Dr. Anderson asked to remove 1.2, Opposing Mandated School Consolidation.

Mrs. Brown asked to remove 1.9 Compulsory Attendance; 1.5 School Vouchers; 1.3 Opposing Mandated Borough Formation; and 1.8 Home-Schooled Accountability.

**VOTE ON 2006 CORE RESOLUTIONS:**

YES – Hilts, N. Anderson, Downing, M. Anderson, Crawford, Hatch, Wassilie, Mullins  
NO – Brown

Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION 1.2:**

Resolution 1.2, Opposing Mandated School Consolidation

Motion failed.

**RESOLUTION 1.3:**

Resolution 1.3, Opposing Mandated Borough Formation

**VOTE:**

YES – Hatch, M. Anderson, Crawford, Downing, Hilts, Wassilie, N. Anderson, Mullins  
NO – Brown

Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION 1.5:**

Resolution 1.5, School Vouchers

**VOTE:**

YES – N. Anderson, Downing, Hatch, M. Anderson, Hilts, Crawford, Wassilie, Mullins  
NO – Brown

Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION 1.8:**

Resolution 1.8, Accountability for Home-Schooled Students Outside the Public School System.

VOTE:

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

NO – Brown

Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION 1.9:**

Resolution 1.9, Compulsory Attendance

VOTE:

YES – Hilts, M. Anderson, Crawford, Downing, N. Anderson,  
Wassilie, Mullins

NO – Brown, Hatch

Motion carried.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

*(8:21:43 PM)*

Dr. Anderson expressed concern for the amount of money the District will pay out for the TRS and PERS contributions and added that the increases are not expected to drop until the year 2039. He predicted that the increased retirement costs will make it difficult to obtain area cost differential equity from the legislature.

Ms. Wassilie reported that she joined Spring Creek School staff in hosting 10 Fullbright Scholarship students from Germany. She stated that the group traveled to Homer and visited some of the Russian schools. She commented that she encounters at least one KPBSD graduate per year who has studied Russian and is working towards a college degree in the language. She reported that she attended Dr. Peterson's presentation at the Seward Chamber of Commerce. She noted that the District's cocurricular participation rate equals the graduation rate.

Mrs. Downing expressed appreciation for the Skyview High School report and was especially pleased to learn about strategies being used to engage students in activities. She noted that students who are engaged in activities usually stay in school and graduate. She reported that Fireweed Academy sponsored a storyteller and singer who sang about peace and safety at school.

Mrs. Crawford complimented Skyview High School students and staff for their report and added that she was especially inspired by the mentor program for freshman students. She stated that she was pleased that the Board passed both labor contracts unanimously. She thanked the state legislators and especially Representative Mike Chenault who helped with legislation that increased the District's area cost differential for the 2006-2007 school year. She reported that the cost savings to the District could be substantial over the long-term if the Board withdrew from the PERS system.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**  
(continued)

Mr. Anderson commented that he was pleased that negotiations were successfully concluded. He reported that he listened to Mr. D.J. Tyson (former student representative to the Board) who was playing the piano in a local restaurant. Mr. Tyson will further his music skills in Chicago. He asked those present to remember those who were lost in the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 and to recognize those who are serving the country ensuring public safety and protecting freedom.

Mr. Hatch commended the negotiations teams for their many hours of hard work. He commended the administration and school staff for the smooth start-up of school.

Mrs. Hilts expressed appreciation for the students in attendance at the Board meeting. She stated that the Board wants to hear from students regarding the Kenai area school educational configuration conversation. She stated that September 11 is a day of remembrance of those who were killed in the terrorist attacks and of honoring those who were heroes. She reported that she attended a Chamber of Commerce presentation by Dr. Peterson.

Mrs. Mullins expressed appreciation for the student attendance at the Board meeting. She stated that she was pleased with the negotiation process. She reminded the Board of the 2006 AASB Annual Conference in November and asked members who are interested in attending to notify her or Mrs. Tachick. She stated that the best way to prevent the terrorist attacks like the one on September 11 is to teach children about the world and to appreciate other cultures.

**ADJOURN:**  
(8:39:27 PM)

At 8:39 p.m., Mrs. Crawford moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mr. Hatch seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Mrs. Debra Mullins, President

---

Ms. Sandra Wassilie, Clerk

The Minutes of September 11, 2006,  
were approved on October 2, 2006  
as written.