Kenai Peninsula Borough School District
Board of Education Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2007 – 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
Mr. Marty Anderson, Treasurer
Mrs. Liz Downing, Clerk
Dr. Nels Anderson
Mrs. Debbie Brown
Ms. Lynn Hohl
Mr. Bill Hatch
Mrs. Sunni Hilts
Miss Lydia Ames, 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. Mike Sellers	Mrs. Doris Cannon
Mr. Charlie Walsworth	Mrs. Sharon Moock
Mr. Tim Peterson	Mr. John O'Brien
Mrs. Marnie Bartolini	Mr. Joe Nicks
Mr. Sean Dusek	Mrs. Jamie Harper
Mrs. Laurie Manion	Mr. Wally Hufford
Mr. Travis Moore	

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:
(7:00:06 PM)
Mrs. Mullins called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:
(7:00:16 PM)
Mrs. Mullins invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:
(7:00:40 PM)

Mrs. Debra Mullins	Present
Mrs. Sammy Crawford	Present
Mr. Marty Anderson	Present
Dr. Nels Anderson	Absent/excused
Mrs. Debbie Brown	Present
Mrs. Liz Downing	Present
Mr. Bill Hatch	Present
Ms. Lynn Hohl	Present
Mrs. Sunni Hilts	Present
Miss Lydia Ames	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:
(7:01:16 PM)
The agenda was approved as written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
(7:01:44 PM)
The School Board Minutes of December 4, 2006 were approved as printed.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:
(7:02:13 PM)

The Board presented Mr. Wally Hufford, speech pathologist, and Mr. Travis Moore, community volunteer, with Golden Apple Awards in recognition for their service to the District.

SCHOOL REPORT:
(7:08:20 PM)

Mr. Charlie Walsworth, West Homer Elementary principal, gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting student test scores, grade level themes, programs, professional development, activities, community participation and future plans.

Mr. Michael Sellers, Port Graham Elementary/High School principal, introduced Mr. Mike Peterson, Project GRAD academic coach, who gave an overview of the program and accomplishments. Mr. Mike Kvasnikoff, 7th grade student, gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the school staff, student configuration and grade levels, class schedule, the facility and equipment, community and parent support, course offerings, activities, cultural events and arts. Mr. Kvasnikoff showed pictures of students working on an Alaskan Native wood storytelling mask and announced that the school will auction the mask on E-Bay to raise money to help pay for field trips.

RECESS:
(7:36:12 PM)

At 7:36 p.m., Mrs. Mullins called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:
(7:42:04 PM)

At 7:42 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:
(7:42:42 PM)

Mrs. Jenni Hammond, Nikiski parent, reminded those present that January 16 is the first day of legislative session and urged those present to be aware of the prefiled education bills. She asked the Board not to impose unfunded mandates upon schools. She commented that every parent needs to feel that they are needed and have a voice in their child's education.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:
(7:46:32 PM)

Dr. Peterson announced that the Administrator Meeting will be held on January 25 at the Soldotna Sports Center and the Site Council and Parent Group Training will be held on January 31 at the Kenai River Center and will concentrate on legislative issues. She reported that the Board was copied on a letter to Mayor Williams from the Department of Transportation regarding Skyview High School traffic issues. She reminded those present of the budget forums to be held on January 23 at Seward High, January 25 at Kenai Central High, and January 30 at Homer High.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:
(7:48:09 PM)

Dr. Donna Peterson presented the 2006-2007 Mid-Year Progress on Goals. The report included current progress on goals, current progress on work plans, a list of other unanticipated priorities, and an outlook of the District Office workload for the second semester. She announced that Miss Lydia Ames, School Board Student Representative, has been named a Commended Student in the 2007 National Merit Scholarship Program.

FINANCIAL REPORT:
(7:50:58 PM)

Mrs. Douglas presented the financial report of the District for the periods ending November 30, 2006 and December 31, 2006.

BUDGET TRANSFER REPORT:
(7:51:33 PM)

Mrs. Douglas reported on quarterly budget transfers Numbers 52 through 127 for various schools and departments within the District.

BOARD REPORTS:
(7:52:10 PM)

Mr. Anderson reported that the Charter School Oversight Committee met to discuss the charter school lottery process, special bussing for Kaleidoscope Charter School's Willow Street location, available school space, and costs incurred between charter schools and neighborhood schools. He reported that the Oversight Committee developed a letter of request for information which was forwarded to the Board president.

Mrs. Brown reported that the 2007-2008 school calendar was reviewed by the Calendar Committee and is recommend for adoption.

Mrs. Mullins reported that the Policy Review Committee met during the first week in January 2007 and reviewed policies that were returned by the Board during the December 4, 2006 meeting. She reported that the Committee also reviewed various other policy revisions including school sponsored trips.

BOARD WORKSESSION REPORT:
(7:55:09 PM)

Mrs. Mullins reported that the Board conducted a Policy Review of proposed revisions, discussed the Kenai Conversation issue, heard a report from the Calendar Committee, discussed the FY 08 Preliminary Draft Budget, and heard an update of the staffing process. She urged those present to attend the upcoming budget forums and to provide input regarding funding to the state legislature. She reminded the Board that there will be a joint worksession with the Borough Assembly on January 16.

CONSENT AGENDA:
(8:04:58 PM)

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Budget Transfers; High School Graduation Qualifying Examination Waiver Number 2007-04; New Teacher Assignments; Resignations; Long-term Substitute Teacher Contracts; and Tenured Teacher Assignment.

BUDGET TRANSFERS:

Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve budget transfer Number 122 in the amount of $30,000 to pay for student lessons, such as driving, art, music, dance and swimming through the Connections Program; Numbers 124, in the amount of $120,000 to pay for teacher and aide salaries and health care costs for Kaleidoscope Charter School staff; Number 125 for $36,600 to adjust the TRS account for Kaleidoscope Charter School; Number 140 in the amount of $129,662 to cover the cost of upgraded internet access at Nanwalek, Port Graham and Voznesenka; and Number 141 in the amount of $39,000 to cover the cost of heating system changes from fuel oil to natural gas at Ninilchik and Tustumena schools.

HSGQE WAIVER:

Mr. Stewart recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Examination Waiver Number 2007-04.

NEW TEACHER ASSIGNMENTS: Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve teacher assignments for Jan B. Spurkland, (temporary) generalist, Homer Middle School and Susan A. Hawker, (temporary) Grade 4, teacher, Soldotna Elementary.

RESIGNATIONS: Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve resignations from Linda Farnham, Intensive Needs, K-Beach Elementary (effective January 16, 2007) and Curtis Liberty, principal/teacher, Susan B. English School (effective at the end of the 2006-2007 school year).

LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE TEACHER CONTRACTS: Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve long-term substitute teacher contracts for Ed Frink, math, Homer Middle School; Kelly Johnson, Grade 5, Nikiski North Star Elementary School; and Dan Hill, special education, Soldotna High School.

TENURED TEACHER ASSIGNMENT: Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve a tenured teacher assignment for Michael F. Boyle, Districtwide curriculum/ assessment.

MOTION Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 6. Mrs. Hilts seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

REVISIONS TO THE 2007-2008 SCHOOL DISTRICT CALENDAR: Mr. Stewart recommended the Board approve revisions to the 2007-2008 District calendar. The proposed revision changes the end of the semester from January 14, 2008 to December 21, 2007 and makes December 21, 2007 a minimum student day; changes the inservice day from January 14, 2008 to January 21, 2008; and changes the vacation day from April 11, 2008 to April 18, 2008.

MOTION Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve revisions to the 2007-2008 District calendar. Mrs. Downing seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

POLICY REVISIONS: Mr. Stewart recommended the Board approve revisions to BP 5131.6, Alcohol and Other Drugs and BP and AR 5141.21, Administering Medication.

MOTION Mrs. Hilts moved the Board approve revisions to BP 5131.6, Alcohol and Other Drugs and BP and AR 5141.21, Administering Medication. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

MOTION Ms. Hohl moved the Board approve an amendment to BP 5131.6 to add the words "student school" between the number "45" and the word "days" in the first sentence and the words "following a due process hearing pursuant to applicable School Board Policies" at the end of the first sentence, under the paragraph titled, Possession/Under the Influence During School. Mrs. Brown seconded.

Amendment carried unanimously.

POLICY REVISIONS:
(continued)

MOTION

Mrs. Hilts moved the Board approve an amendment to AR 5141.21 to add the words "antibiotics, diabetic medications" after the word "inhaler" in numbered paragraph 2a. Mr. Hatch seconded.

Amendment carried unanimously.

MOTION

Ms. Hohl moved the Board approve an amendment to AR 5141.21 to change the name from "EpiPen" to "EpiPen®"; to delete the words "in advance" in numbered paragraph 2 under the heading Emergency Care and Medications; and to add a legal reference at the end of the regulation. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Amendment carried unanimously.

Amended motion carried unanimously.

BOARD COMMENTS:
(8:16:44 PM)

Mrs. Brown asked Dr. Peterson if energy cost saving measures have been implemented throughout the District. Dr. Peterson replied that the District administration continues to gather information about energy savings but that it was determined that a full-force effort was premature. She added that the administration has decided to monitor these activities in the Mat-Su Borough School District. She added that it is not a project that the administration will implement without full involvement of the Board and an understanding of what is involved by employees. Mrs. Brown asked if the District has taken steps to lower energy costs. Mr. Szymoniak replied that the Mat-Su School District hired two employees to specifically work on saving energy costs. He stated that Borough Maintenance has been taking energy saving measures for many years. He stated that the District will cooperate and work together with the Borough. Mrs. Brown asked whether the conversion from heating fuel oil to natural gas at Ninilchik Elementary/High School was a wise choice because of the rate increase by Enstar. Mrs. Douglas stated that even though there is an increase in natural gas rates the District will still come out significantly ahead by converting to natural gas.

Miss Ames congratulated Mr. Hufford and Mr. Moore for being awarded a Golden Apple and recognized them for their service. She thanked Mr. Walsworth for the West Homer Elementary School report. She thanked Mr. Sellers, Mr. Peterson and Mr. Kvasnikoff from Port Graham Elementary/High School for the school report. She thanked Mrs. Jenni Hammond for her comments and Dr. Peterson for announcing the 2007 National Merit Scholarship Program Commended Student recognition. She thanked the Calender Committee for their work on the 2007-2008 District calendar. She thanked the Board for their work on the Policy revisions. She wished those present a good New Year.

BOARD COMMENTS:
(continued)

Mr. Anderson thanked Mr. Walsworth, Mr. Sellers, Mr. Peterson and Mr. Kvasnikoff for the school reports. He acknowledged the amount of work involved with the Kenai Conversation and added that he hopes to resolve the issue before attending the AASB Legislative Fly-In to lobby for educational funding. He stated that the Board needs to present a unified community and added that there is a lot more to lose with the cost differential legislation than with the issue of shared facilities. He stated that the District is facing decreased revenue, decreased enrollment, increased instructional costs, increased benefit costs, increased retirement costs, which equals decreased employees and an increased pupil-teacher ratio. He stated that he hopes the Board can travel to Juneau in a unified manner and lobby for the implementation of the full ISER Study. He noted that the budget figures presented by the Administration are based upon receiving one-quarter of the area cost differential amount recommended by the ISER Study and if the legislature does not grant the recommended amount, the financial picture will be much bleaker than originally predicted. He stated that the public feels that the financial woes of the District is just another false alarm and each year the District is rescued and credited the administration for their hard work.

Mrs. Hilts expressed appreciation for the school reports. She encouraged those present to review the superintendent's 2006-2007 Midyear Report and expressed concern for the District's aging workforce and noted that a large percentage of the staff will retire in the next five years. She noted that the University of Alaska graduated three special education teachers and added that the District needs many more. She stated that the public needs to encourage students to become teachers and to lobby legislators to make the education of Alaska's children a top priority. She added that teachers should be held in highest esteem and be provided salaries, conditions, and opportunities that will encourage students to become teachers.

Mrs. Downing thanked Mr. Walsworth, Mr. Sellers, Mr. Peterson and Mr. Kvasnikoff for the school reports. She announced that the District is in the process of developing the FY08 budget and encouraged those present to contact legislators and lobby for adequate educational funding. She announced that enrollment in education programs at the University of Alaska has increased significantly in the past few years but noted that the public needs to lobby the legislature for the forward funding of education so that teachers will know what the future holds.

Ms. Hohl thanked Mr. Walsworth and Mr. Sellers for the school reports. She congratulated Mr. Hufford and Mr. Moore for being awarded a Golden Apple and Miss Ames for being selected as a 2007 National Merit Scholarship Program Commended Student. She reported that Alaska State PTA is planning a parent training on January 31 and noted that the PTA Legislative Fly-In will be held in February.

BOARD COMMENTS:
(continued)

Mrs. Crawford thanked Mr. Walsworth, Mr. Sellers and especially Mr. Kvasnikoff for the school reports. She thanked Dr. Peterson and the District staff for the workplans and updates. She congratulated Miss Ames for being selected as a 2007 Commended Student by the National Merit Scholarship Program. She expressed concerns for the budget and added that the loss of 75 teachers in the 2007-2008 school year, due to decreased enrollment and an increased pupil-teacher ratio, is frightening.

Mrs. Mullins thanked Mr. Walsworth and Mr. Sellers for the school report. She thanked Mr. Kvasnikoff for doing a good job assisting with the Port Graham Elementary/High School report. She reported on several funny experiences during visits with students throughout the District. She added that students need to know that there are adults who care about them. She noted that all students reported that they liked the principal at their school.

ADJOURN:
(8:36:32 PM)

At 8:36 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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Mrs. Liz Downing, Clerk

The Minutes of January 15, 2007,
were approved on February 5, 2007
as written.