# Kenai Peninsula Borough School District
## Board of Education Meeting Minutes

December 3, 2007 – 7:00 p.m. | Borough Administration Building
Regular Meeting | 148 N. Binkley, Soldotna, Alaska

**SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:**
Mrs. Sammy Crawford, President
Mrs. Liz Downing, Vice President
Mr. Marty Anderson, Clerk
Mrs. Sunni Hilts, Treasurer
Dr. Nels Anderson
Mrs. Debra Mullins
Mrs. Debbie Brown
Mr. Bill Hatch
Ms. Lynn Hohl
Miss Brittany Meyer, Student Representative

**STAFF PRESENT:**
Dr. Donna Peterson, Superintendent of Schools
Mrs. Melody Douglas, Chief Financial Officer
Mr. Dave Jones, Assistant Superintendent

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Mr. John Pothast | Mrs. Marnie Bartolini |
| Mr. Jim White | Mrs. Jenni Hammond |
| Mr. Tim Peterson | Mr. Mike Larson |
| Mr. Phil Hermanek | Mr. Lee Young |
| Mr. Sean Dusek | Mr. Joe Nicks |
| Mrs. Lynn Dusek | Mr. Dave Spence |
| Mrs. Natalie Kant | Mrs. Sue Biggs |
| Mrs. Sharon Moock | Mrs. Patty Rich |
| Mr. Gary Turner | Mrs. LaDawn Druce |
| Mrs. Jamie Harper | |

Others present not identified.

**CALL TO ORDER:**
*(7:00:47 PM)*
Mrs. Liz Downing called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**
*(7:00:57 PM)*
Mrs. Downing invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:**
*(7:01:20 PM)*

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|---|---|
| Mrs. Debra Mullins | Present |
| Mrs. Sammy Crawford | Absent/Excused |
| Mr. Marty Anderson | Present |
| Dr. Nels Anderson | Present |
| Mrs. Debbie Brown | Present |
| Mrs. Liz Downing | Present |
| Mr. Bill Hatch | Present |
| Ms. Lynn Hohl | Present |
| Mrs. Sunni Hilts | Present |
| Miss Brittany Meyer | Present |

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**
*(7:01:52 PM)*
The agenda was approved as written.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
*(7:02:16 PM)*

The School Board Minutes of November 5, 2007, were approved as printed.

**AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:**
*(7:02:39 PM)*

The Board presented a Golden Apple Award to Mrs. Natalie Kant, Connections Program teacher, for her service to the District.

**SCHOOL REPORT:**
*(7:05:57 PM)*

Mr. John Pothast, Redoubt Elementary principal, introduced Mrs. Sue Biggs and several third grade students who demonstrated and performed an African song that included drums and audience participation. Mr. Pothast gave a computer-generated presentation highlighting new curriculum materials, co-teaching, special activities (library, physical education, music), extra opportunities (school newspaper, artists-in-the-schools, battle of the books, robotics, forensics, evening family activities), after school activities, and assessment information. He concluded the report with a poem called *Harvest Home*.

**RECESS**
*(7:21:31 PM)*

At 7:21 p.m. Mrs. Downing called a recess.

**RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:**
*(7:26:29 PM)*

At 7:26:29 p.m. the Board reconvened in regular session.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:**
*(7:26:33 PM)*

Mrs. Jenni Hammond, Nikiski parent, asked the Board to lower pupil-teacher ratio in grades 4 through 6. She addressed a news article regarding student discipline in public schools. She asked for parent cooperation during the upcoming legislative session to make their concerns known to local legislators regarding education issues and early funding.

**HEARING OF DELEGATIONS**:
*(7:29:04 PM)*

Mr. Mike Larson, representative from the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, explained the missions of the program and noted that Dr. Peterson has signed a statement of support on behalf of the District administration.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:**
*(7:31:13 PM)*

Dr. Peterson reported that the Board received a letter sent to the Hope community regarding the low student enrollment at Hope Elementary/High and the potential for closure. She explained that the student count is below 10 and, as a result, does not qualify for separate site funding status by the State of Alaska. She noted that the administration will schedule a worksession to update the Board. She noted that career development conference reports have been forwarded to the Board. She noted that the Board received a revised committee list for Board member committee assignments. She reported that the Board received a letter regarding the Workforce Development Center and their summer construction activities.

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SITE COUNCIL AND/OR P.T.A., K.P.A.A., K.P.E.A., K.P.E.S.A, BOROUGH ASSEMBLY:**
*(7:32:45 PM)*

Mrs. Bartolini, KPESA president, announced that together KPEA and KPESA have applied for and received grant money from NEA-Alaska for a winter safety program for children. She reported that the money was spent on approximately 5,000 highly reflective zipper pulls and a flyer containing personal safety information and will be distributed to District students. She thanked the volunteers for their help assembling the pulls, NEA-Alaska for making the grant money available, the administration for agreeing to the distribution through the interdistrict mail delivery, and the warehouse staff for delivering the packet to the schools.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**
*(7:37:57 PM)*

Dr. Peterson reported that Mr. Szymoniak is attending a professional development conference. She reported that the FY09 budget survey is online. She noted that software experts are visiting the District as part of the upcoming software conversion. She noted that deferred compensation experts are visiting school staff to provide information regarding retirement. She reported that she spoke to the Kenai Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday, November 28 and that she will attend the upcoming Governor's Summit on Early Learning, and the State Board of Education and Early Development meeting. She noted that December 21 is a minimum day for students and that Nanwalek Elementary/High School and Port Graham Elementary/High School will be in session during Winter Break.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**
*(7:39:44 PM)*

Mrs. Douglas presented the financial report of the District for the period ending October 31, 2007. She noted that the final FY08 budget revision will be made at the January Board meeting.

**COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT:**
*(7:40:29 PM)*

Mrs. Douglas presented the FY07 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and noted that the auditor has submitted an unqualified opinion that the District financial statement reflects the financial condition of the District with no material misstatements.

**SIX-YEAR PUPIL ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS:**
*(7:41:41 PM)*

Mrs. Douglas presented the Six-Year Enrollment Projections (2008-09 through 2013-14) that reflects 8,963 students for FY09. She noted that the 2% annual decline and the closure of Agrium bring the enrollment projection below 9,000 students. She noted that the projection will be revised for one of the charter schools in order to make sure the student count is as accurate as possible.

**BOARD REPORTS:**
*(7:47:49 PM)*

Dr. Anderson reported that the Science Curriculum Committee has discovered that if the curriculum is reorganized in a logical and orderly manner many of the subjects covered in the state and No Child Left Behind mandated science tests will not have been taught before the tests are given. He expressed concern that the science curriculum is designed to cover four years and in seventh grade one-half of the year health is taught instead of science. He reported that he is bothered by comments made by a number of teachers who reported that they have been told not to give science homework or they should make sure that the science homework was included in the time given for math homework so that it is the same amount for both subjects.

**BOARD REPORTS:**
*(continued)*

Mr. Anderson reported that the Charter School Oversight Committee heard from representatives from each of the charter schools as well as the administrator for West Homer Elementary.

He reported that the Committee discussed a space request from Fireweed Charter School and added that he will compile a synopsis of the discussion for other committee members to review and then will forward it to the President along with any recommendations. He reported that the group discussed costing procedures for the various charter schools.

Ms. Hohl reported that she attended the Association of Alaska School Board Annual Conference on November 7 through 12 and will email a written report prior to the next meeting. She reported that she attended the FY09 Budget Review Committee meeting at the District Office on November 12.

Mrs. Hilts reported that she attended the AASB Annual Conference and added that she hopes to again hear from David Warlick who provided a session on 21st Century literacy skills and technology. She reported that she attended the FY09 Budget Review Committee meeting on November 12 and recommended that all Board members attend future meetings. She stated that she was impressed with the administrative team for dealing with the issues brought up by the public during the Committee meeting.

Miss Meyer reported that she attended the AASB Youth Leadership Institute and stated that she met lots of other students from across the state and that it was a positive experience.

Mrs. Mullins reported that the Health Committee met and reported that several elementary teachers have been invited to attend the next meeting in order to provide input on how to put the K-6 curriculum together to better serve their needs. She stated that as a member of the Alaska Student Activities Association she attended a two-day meeting in Anchorage in which wrestling was discussed at length. She stated that she attended the AASB Annual Conference and provided new school board training. She reported that she attended a session by Mr. Warlick who provided valuable information regarding technology and how to find accurate information online. She reported that during the Board of Directors meeting she was voted in to replace Mrs. Crawford on the ASAA Board of Directors.

On behalf of AASB, Mrs. Mullins presented Boardsmanship awards to Ms. Lynn Hohl, Mrs. Liz Downing, and Mrs. Sunni Hilts. Dr. Nels Anderson was awarded the Excellence in Boardsmanship Award.

Mrs. Downing reported that she and others from the District Office attended the Fireweed Charter School APC meeting to discuss concerns and the need for the Charter School to grow. She reported that she attended the AASB Annual Conference and has presented a written report to the Board.

**BOARD WORKSESSION REPORT:**
*(8:02:23 PM)*

Mrs. Downing reported that the Board worked on a review of the Board Protocols and Bylaws, heard the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, and held a discussion regarding FY09 enrollment projections. She noted that the Board heard updates regarding the Six-Year Plan and school portables, the work of the Community Action Coalition, and the Quality Schools/Quality Students Program.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**
*(8:08:08 PM)*

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Six-Year Plan and School Construction Needs; Resignations; Resolution 07-08-3, Support for Kenai Peninsula College Student Housing; Budget Transfers; Nontenured Teacher Contract; New Teacher Contract; Request for Leave of Absence-Support; Budget Transfers/Curriculum Materials Purchases; and Request for Leave of Absence-Certified.

**SIX-YEAR PLAN AND SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION NEEDS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve the proposed Six-Year Plan and list of major maintenance and capital improvement projects for FY10.

**RESIGNATIONS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve resignations from Amy Alexander, special education intensive needs at Paul Banks Elementary (effective November 30, 2007); Abby Tennant, kindergarten teacher at Paul Banks Elementary (effective November 30, 2007); and Jeanna Carver, FACS instructor, Soldotna High (effective at the end of the 2007-2008 school year).

**RESOLUTION 07-08-3:**

Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve Resolution 07-08-3, Support for Kenai Peninsula College student housing.

**BUDGET TRANSFERS:**

Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve budget transfers Number 102 for $40,000 to pay for lessons for Connections Program students and Number 117 for $27,350 and $11,105 to pay for salary and retirement benefits, respectively, for a Kaleidoscope Charter School Special Education half time teacher.

**NONTENURED TEACHER CONTRACT:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a nontenured teacher contract for Kenneth DiMarzio, vocational education at Nikiski Middle/High.

**NEW TEACHER CONTRACT:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a new teacher contract for Barbara Baysinger, (temporary) Grades 3 through 6 teacher.

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

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a leave of absence request from Shane Cotman, custodian I, Mt. View Elementary (effective January 1, 2008 through the remainder of the 2007-2008 school year).

**BUDGET TRANSFERS/ CURRICULUM MATERIALS PURCHASES:**

Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve budget transfer Number 113 for various amounts totaling $531,333 to various schools to purchase language arts and math curriculum materials.

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

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a leave of absence request from Mary Glynn, occupational therapist at Mt. View Elementary (effective November 26 through December 21, 2007.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**
*(continued)*

Mr. Gary Turner asked the Board to support Resolution 07-08-3 regarding student housing construction which would allow students to stay on the Peninsula and attend KPC in a structured dorm situation. Mr. Turner explained that the college is seeking housing to accommodate 100 students.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 9. Mrs. Hilts seconded.

Mr. Hatch removed item Number 1, Approval of Six-Year Plan and School Construction needs from the Consent Agenda.

Motion to approve Numbers 2 through 9 carried unanimously.

**MOTION**

Mr. Hatch moved the Board amend the Six-Year Plan and School Construction needs list by moving the Kenai Middle Office remodel from Number 15 to Number 12. Mr. Anderson seconded.

VOTE ON HATCH AMENDMENT

Advisory Vote: YES
YES – Brown, Hilts, Hatch, Hohl, M. Anderson, Downing
NO – Mullins, N. Anderson

Amendment carried.

Amended item Number 1 approved unanimously.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**
*(8:24:50 PM)*

Ms. Hohl, reported that she gave a report to the Seward City Council, participated in the Quality School, Quality Students Initiative interview, and requested Board support for notification and inclusion in the Hope School conversations. She stated that she enjoyed the Redoubt Elementary presentation. She stated that she had questions regarding portables and their use. She stated that she was sorry to miss the Kenai Alternative High School Thanksgiving dinner. She asked for more information regarding capital project needs throughout the District.

Mrs. Brown reported that she attended the AASB Annual Conferences and expressed concern that the State of Alaska Department of Labor is not bringing forward solid projections regarding Alaska labor force needs. She added that without knowing the needs, it is difficult for families and school boards to make future educational plans for students. She wished those present a Merry Christmas.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**
*(continued)*

Mr. Anderson reported that he attended the AASB Annual Conference and attended the Department of Labor session and noted that there is a large gap between school districts and the Department. He noted that the financial gap between a one- or two-year technical degree and a 4-year degree is closing. He thanked Redoubt Elementary staff and students for the school report. He stated that he is not pleased with the nature of the questions in the Community Action Coalition Youth Survey and gave examples of questions related to ethnicity, religion, hand guns, etc. He read a statement regarding future use of the survey.

Mr. Hatch reported that Mr. Warlick (speaker at the AASB Annual Conference) said that educators are charged with preparing students for a future that cannot be predicted.

Dr. Anderson noted that 900 out of a total of 9,000 students Districtwide are enrolled in the Connections Program, which means that the remaining approximately 8,000 students are being housed in buildings that can accommodate 14,000 students. He predicted that the District will have less than 50% capacity at many buildings in the near future. He stated that he was completely surprised and honored to receive the Excellence in Boardsmanship award.

Miss Meyer thanked the Redoubt Elementary staff and students for the presentation. She wished those present a Merry Christmas.

Mrs. Hilts expressed her appreciation for the Redoubt Elementary school report. She thanked the students who were in attendance and added that she is impressed with those who stayed until the end of the meeting. She expressed hope that the students will return to a future meeting and speak to the Board about what they think the District priorities should be. She encouraged Dr. Peterson to speak to the State Board of Education and Early Learning about imposing mandates regarding student assessments and reading courses for teachers. She stated that she is pleased that the District places an importance on vocational education. She wished those present a Merry Christmas and a happy holiday.

Mrs. Mullins expressed appreciation for the Redoubt Elementary school report and artwork. She congratulated Mrs. Douglas, Chief Financial Officer, and the entire Finance Department for the unqualified opinion from the auditor. She reported that she received an invitation to the Governor's Summit on Education and will attend but not as a member of the KPBSD Board of Education. She wished those present a Merry Christmas.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**
*(continued)*

Mrs. Downing noted that she included a written report of the sessions that she attended during the AASB Annual Conference in the Board Information Packet. She stated that she attended the full-day vocational education workshops and felt that the Department of Labor laid out the areas of industrial growth. She reported that there were a number of presentations from various vocational education programs statewide, some of which are similar to those offered in the KPBSD. She stated that she would like to see the District give a vocational education presentation at a future Annual Conference. She reported that the District is considering student-built portables. She noted that technology is changing the way vocational education courses are being taught. She stated that the Redoubt Elementary presentation was enjoyable and expressed appreciation for the creative activities and inclusive classrooms. She wished those present Happy Holidays.

**ADJOURN:**
*(8:44:10 PM)*

At 8:44 p.m., Mrs. Mullins moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mr. Hatch seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mrs. Liz Downing, Vice President

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Mr. Marty Anderson, Clerk

The Minutes of December 3, 2007,
were approved on January 14, 2008
as written.