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# Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

## Board of Education Meeting Minutes

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January 14, 2008 – 7:00 p.m.  
Regular Meeting

Borough Administration Building  
148 N. Binkley, Soldotna, Alaska

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**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. Glen Szymoniak, Assistant Superintendent  
Mr. Dave Jones, Assistant Superintendent

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Mrs. LaDawn Druce	Mr. John Cook
Mrs. Jamie Harper	Ms. Barb Ralston
Mr. Sean Dusek	Mrs. Julie Lindquist
Mr. Tim Peterson	Mrs. Doris Cannon
Mr. Alan Fields	Mrs. Sharon Moock
Mr. Dave Spence	Mrs. Norma Holmgaard
	Mrs. Patty Rich

Others present not identified.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

(7:00:19 PM)

Mrs. Crawford called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

(7:00:35 PM)

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

**ROLL CALL:**

(7:01:00 PM)

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

(7:01:31 PM)

The agenda was approved with a request to accommodate the arrival of the Golden Apple recipient.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

(7:02:27 PM)

The School Board Minutes of December 3, 2007, were approved as printed.

**SCHOOL REPORT:**

(7:02:50 PM)

Mr. John Cook, Mt. View Elementary School principal, provided demographics of the school including enrollment and staff

information. Students, Miss Tori Askin, Mr. Abraham Grisham, Miss Jacey Ross, Mr. Jake Eubank, Miss Kayla Heinrich, Miss Megan Kisse, Miss Hetta Quade, Mr. Marley Smith, and Mr. Desmond Ticknor, gave a computer-generated report highlighting classroom activities, use of computers and technology, the DARE Program, field trips, student tutoring, the Halloween Carnival, staff, music activities, parent involvement, and community volunteers. At the direction of music teacher Mr. Mark Lee, band students, Miss Kylie Dimick, Mr. Richard Han, Miss Hevyn Hoff, Miss Hetta Quade, and Miss MakaiLynn Smith, concluded the report by performing several songs.

**RECESS:**

*(7:20:15 PM)*

At 7:20 p.m., Mrs. Crawford called a recess.

**RECONVENE AFTER  
RECESS:**

*(7:23:33 PM)*

At 7:23 p.m. the Board reconvened in regular session.

**AWARDS AND  
PRESENTATIONS:**

*(7:23:35 PM)*

Mrs. Crawford presented Miss Meyer with a Certificate of Achievement for her participation in the AASB Youth Leadership Institute. The Board presented a Golden Apple Award to Ms. Lynn Kocinski, Kenai Middle School Special Education Aide, in recognition for her service to the District.

At 7:24 p.m., Miss Meyer was excused from the meeting.

Mrs. Mullins presented a plaque to Mrs. Crawford recognizing her for outstanding leadership and service to the students of Alaska while serving on the Alaska School Activities Association (ASAA) Board of Directors. Mrs. Crawford noted that Mrs. Mullins will replace her on the ASAA Board.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND  
PETITIONS:**

*(7:30:33 PM)*

Mrs. Crawford reported that she received a congratulatory letter from the State of Alaska for an outstanding audit of the District's Pupil Personnel Services Department. Dr. Peterson reported that she received the same congratulatory letter from the state and thanked Mrs. Harper for her leadership in that department. She invited the Board to attend the Administrator meeting on January 30. She called the Board's attention to the single sheet, two-sided list of District administrators that included their pictures.

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE,  
SITE COUNCIL AND/OR  
P.T.A., K.P.A.A., K.P.E.A.,  
K.P.E.S.A, BOROUGH  
ASSEMBLY:**

*(7:33:02 PM)*

Mrs. Druce introduced herself as the new KPEA president and expressed appreciation to the District Office administration and Mr. Syverson, Soldotna High School principal, for their support as she transitioned into the presidency. She reported that she has recently served on the Professional Development Committee and the Budget Review Committee. She urged the Board to increase the staffing formula for the 2008-2009 school years.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT:**

*(7:37:10 PM)*

Dr. Donna Peterson presented the 2007-2008 Mid-Year Progress on Goals. The report included current progress on goals, current progress on work plans, a list of other unanticipated priorities, and

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT:**

*(continued)*

an outlook of the District Office workload for the second semester. She reminded the Board of the January 22 budget work session with the Borough Assembly beginning at 10:00 a.m. and reminded those present of the public budget forums (January 22 at KCHS,

January 24 at Seward High, January 30 at Homer High) at 7:00 p.m. in the school libraries. She reported that this week she will attend Professional Teaching Practices Commission hearings, give the keynote speech at the Department of Education and Early Development Winter Conference, and attend a meeting with representatives of the University of Alaska to work on the Superintendent Program. She announced that District secretaries and related support personnel completed a successful week of training to prepare for the upcoming software conversion.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

(7:40:02 PM)

Mrs. Douglas presented the financial report of the District for the periods ending November 30, 2007 and December 31, 2007.

**QUARTERLY BUDGET  
TRANSFER REPORT:**

(7:40:25 PM)

Mrs. Douglas reported on quarterly budget transfers Numbers 51 through 175 for various schools and departments within the District.

**BOARD REPORTS:**

(7:40:58 PM)

Mr. Anderson reported that the Charter School Oversight Committee met to review the charter school fact sheet, the Fireweed Academy request for additional space at West Homer Elementary, and a legislative request from Fireweed Charter to change the status from a single site based upon their 10 years of existence.

Mrs. Mullins reported that the Health Curriculum Committee finished the 6<sup>th</sup> grade section. She announced that there will be another meeting next week to finish middle school and 6<sup>th</sup> grade and then the committee will start work on the high school section. She reported that the Board Policy Committee met to review several policies including sexual harassment, exclusion from attendance, health care emergencies, suspension and expulsion, guidance and counseling services, student mental health medication and services, and naming of School District facilities.

Mrs. Crawford reported that she attended Pacific Region meeting in December which included a considerable amount of training. She noted that she attended a session regarding Native languages and heard a presentation from an astrophysicist from the Maunaloa Observatory who recommended that physics be taught in every school to every student.

**BOARD WORKSESSION  
REPORT:**

(7:46:51 PM)

Mrs. Crawford reported that the Board discussed the FY09 Preliminary Budget, reviewed a draft of the Long Range Plan and heard an update of the Hope School student enrollment. She explained that the Board conducted a subcommittee review of various Board Bylaws and Protocols.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

(7:49:31 PM)

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Request for Leave of Absence-Certified; Long-Term Substitute Teacher Contracts; Resignations; Budget Transfer; Budget Transfers from Contingency Fund; New Teacher Contracts; Outsourced Baseball and Softball at Homer High; Administrative Recommendation Regarding Request for Leave of Absence-Support; and Request for Leave of Absence-Support.

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

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve an unpaid leave of absence request for Megan Reinseth, Nanwalek Elementary/High Principal/Teacher (effective December 17, 2007 through June 6, 2008).

**LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE TEACHER CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve long-term substitute teacher contracts for Theresa Morse, kindergarten, Kaleidoscope Charter School; Jennifer Carr, special education, Seward High School; and Heather Wendt, English, Skyview High.

**RESIGNATIONS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve resignations from Stan Steffensen, science/digital storytelling, Kenai Middle School (effective May 22, 2008) and Mary Dougherty, counselor/librarian, Skyview High (effective October 17, 2008).

**BUDGET TRANSFER:**

Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve budget transfer Number 140 for \$11,484 to pay for additional benefits for currently hired Kaleidoscope Charter School employees; and Number 174 for \$29,713 to pay for summer school aide salaries.

**BUDGET TRANSFERS FROM CONTINGENCY FUND:**

Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve Contingency Fund budget transfers Number 175 and Number 176 for \$5,650 and \$5,394, respectively, to purchase components for replacement sound systems for Seward High School and Homer High School Auditoriums to facilitate Board of Education meetings held in Seward and Homer.

**NEW TEACHER CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve teacher contracts for Betsy Vanek, (temporary) Title I interventionist teacher, Ninilchik Elementary/High; Kimberly DeGard, (temporary) kindergarten teacher, Paul Banks Elementary; and Rebecca K. Paul, (temporary) Title I interventionist teacher, West Homer Elementary.

**KPSAA OUTSOURCE AGREEMENTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve agreements for outsourced baseball and softball at Homer High.

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

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve an administrative recommendation to deny an unpaid leave of absence for Emily Garrity, bookkeeper/library aide, Homer High School.

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

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve an unpaid leave of absence request for Robert F. Ernst, special education aide, Nikiski Middle/High (effective January 7, 2008 through the end of the 2007-2008 school year).

**MOTION**

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

Mrs. Downing removed Number 8.

Motion on Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 7 and 9 carried unanimously.

**VOTE ON CONSENT AGENDA NUMBER 8:**

YES – Mullins, Crawford

NO – Hatch, Downing, N. Anderson, M. Anderson, Hilts, Hohl

Motion failed.

**FY08 BUDGET REVISION:**  
(7:53:52 PM)

Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve a revised FY08 Expenditure Budget of \$117,272,948. This revision reflects an adjustment of the annual salary and benefits; a Connections Program increase due to additional enrollment; an amount for mandated Medicaid payments; an increase in the transfer of funds for two additional special services bus routes; and the creation of a contingency fund.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Hilts recommended the Board approve a revised FY08 Expenditure Budget as presented. Mr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**  
(7:56:38 PM)

Mr. Hatch expressed appreciation for the Mt. View Elementary School report.

Ms. Hohl reported that she participated in the AASB online New Board Member training in October. She reported she attended the Hope community meeting and thanked Mr. Jones for his work. She thanked Mrs. Lindquist and other community members for their participation on the Board Bylaws and Protocols Committee. She wished Mr. Anderson a happy birthday. She announced that Seward Elementary has been nominated to receive the Blue Ribbon Award. She asked to represent the Board at the upcoming Hope School early graduation ceremony.

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

Mr. Anderson expressed appreciation for the Mt. View Elementary presentation, especially the slogan on the students' t-shirts which read "Together we Soar". He reported that he attended the Soldotna Middle School Christmas musical. He congratulated the administration for a successful audit of the special education services. He announced that he has served for 5 years on the School Board and is excited to work with other Board members, the administration, and the public to make KPBSD the best district possible.

Dr. Anderson recognized Soldotna High School students who were attending the meeting as a class assignment and thanked them for coming. He expressed appreciation for the Mt. View Elementary School report.

Mrs. Hilts, on behalf of the Board and administration, expressed shock and sorrow for the families who suffered a great loss due to the December 24 plane accident which took the lives of Kenai Peninsula residents. She expressed appreciation to the District and the Kenai Peninsula communities who provided immediate support for the grieving families, and added that a fund has been established at Wells Fargo Bank to assist them as well.

Mrs. Mullins expressed appreciation for the musical presentation by the Mt. View Elementary students and for the parents who support music programs. She expressed appreciation for the letter from the Department of Education and Early Development and congratulated the District department for a successful audit. She thanked District staff for their hard work in meeting AYP requirements. She expressed appreciation to the members of the public who volunteered to serve on the Board Bylaws and Protocols Committees.

Mrs. Downing reported that Dr. Ron Keffer, Homer High School principal, has stated that he will retire at the end of the school year. She reported that she attended the West Homer Elementary Site Council meeting in December and shared information from the Charter School Oversight Committee with the group. She reported that she met with Mr. Abrahamson, Paul Banks Elementary principal, for a school update. She stated that she is encouraged by legislation and the growing nationwide emphasis on early childhood education. She announced that Homer has a newly established non-profit organization called Kachemak Kids that is educating pre-kindergarten children.

Mrs. Crawford thanked the Mt. View Elementary students and staff for the school report. She thanked the administration for their hard work and noted that the Mid-Year Report on Goals was impressive including the list of additional unexpected issues. She thanked the public who were appointed to work on Board Bylaws and Protocols Committee for their service. She announced that Dr. Anderson will serve on Policy Review Committee to fill a vacancy.

**ADJOURN:**  
(8:09:43 PM)

At 8:09 p.m., Dr. Anderson moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mrs. Sammy Crawford, President

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Mr. Marty Anderson, Clerk

The Minutes of January 14, 2008,  
were approved on February 4, 2008  
as written.