
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

May 5, 2008 – 7:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting

Seward High School
2100 Swetmann, Seward, 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. Glen Szymoniak, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Dave Jones, Assistant Superintendent

OTHERS PRESENT:

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Mr. Trevan Walker | Mr. Pat Dixon |
| Mr. Wayne Young | Mrs. Jan Halverson |
| Ms. Ginger Blackmon | Mr. Ken Halverson |
| Mr. David Kingsland | Mr. Tim Peterson |
| Ms. Ruth D'Amico | Mrs. Julie Lindquist |
| Ms. Martha Fleming | Mrs. Laura Beck |
| Ms. Augusta Lind | |

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mrs. Crawford called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mrs. Crawford introduced the Seward Middle School Bell Choir who performed *The Alaska Flag* song led by Mrs. Laura Beck.

ROLL CALL:

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|---------------------|----------------|
| 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 | Absent/Excused |
| Ms. Lynn Hohl | Present |
| Mrs. Sunni Hilts | Present |
| Miss Brittany Meyer | Absent/Excused |

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The agenda was approved as written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The School Board Minutes of April 14, 2008, were approved with a correction.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:

The Board presented Golden Apple Awards to Ruth D'Amico, Moose Pass Community for her volunteerism and to Ginger Blackmon, Seward High School principal for her service to the District.

SCHOOL REPORT:

Mr. Ken Halverson, Hope Elementary/High School administrator, introduced Augusta Lind and recognized students. He gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the facility, students, academics, distance education, classroom activities, art appreciation lessons, online classes, physical education and sports activities, community partnerships, graduation, and field trips.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. Pat Dixon, former Quest teacher, noted that there are fewer teachers at Seward schools than in the past and added that as a result, course offerings have been reduced and students are suffering for it.

Ms. Cathy Byars, PTA Membership chair, summarized the events of the National Ocean Science Bowl which was hosted by Seward High School on April 25.

Ms. Augusta Lind, Quest teacher, reported that she enjoys working at Hope school and commended the community for their overwhelming support of the school and students. She reported on the District math bowl.

Ms. Chellie Skoog reported on the fundraising and planning efforts involved with the Seward Community Playground Project and explained that the ADA playground equipment will be assembled by Seward community volunteers.

Mrs. Katie Turnbull, elementary teacher, thanked Mr. Szymoniak for the interview when she was originally hired. She thanked the School Board for providing staffing for interventionists.

Ms. Amy Haddow, Site Based Council, noted that funding for the Seward Sea Life Center has been reduced. She urged the administration to use local resources in District schools.

Mrs. Julie Lindquist thanked Mrs. Laura Beck for teaching music and especially the creation of the bell choir. She reported that she attended the mass Borough choir. She expressed appreciation for the possibility of a music instructor for high school and elementary students.

Mrs. Regina Paul notified the Board that she is continuing her work to repeal the KPSAA proximity rule.

PROJECT GRAD:

Ms. Bonnie Powell explained the partnership between Project GRAD and the District and provided statistics on the number of graduates who have taken advantage of the college scholarship incentives provided by Project GRAD.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND
PETITIONS:**

Dr. Peterson reported that programmatic staffing schedules have been included in the Board's Information Packet along with the Superintendent and Board Self-evaluation forms. She announced that the National School Boards Association affiliate membership confirmation has been received. She reported that the District has received an Intent to Develop a Charter School form which was submitted by the Kenai River Academy of Learning.

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

Mrs. LaDawn Druce, KPEA president, asked whether the District is using all available resources to fullest potential to provide students with different programs and added that she hopes to continue to look at more distance education. She noted that the District technology is far superior than other large districts.

Mrs. Marnie Bartolini, KPESA president, announced that the Association has instituted some scholarships in Homer and Soldotna in memory of Anita Byers, which are being funded through membership dues.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT:**

Dr. Peterson reminded those present that teacher appreciation week begins May 5. She announced that the Alaska Association of Elementary Principals has selected Christine Ermold as the 2008 Alaska Distinguished Principal. She announced the British Petroleum Teachers of Excellence Recognition dinner will be May 12 at 6:00 p.m. and that the teachers who have been selected are Laura Beck, Amy Budge, Diane McBee, Karen Murdock, Tim Sandahl, and Mathew Walton. She announced that graduation ceremonies begin May 19 through 22. She presented a hand bell and engraved base to Sally Tachick and Melody Douglas in recognition of 30 years of service to the District.

BOARD REPORTS:

Mrs. Mullins reported that she is a member of the KPSAA Executive Board and attended a meeting on April 23. She reported that the group heard from Alaska School Activities Association (ASAA) Director, Gary Mathews, who reported on the new citizenship rule and elected new officers. She reported that she is also the Association of Alaska School Boards representative on the ASAA Board of Directors and that they recently approved a policy dealing with alcohol, tobacco and controlled substance abuse. She reviewed the four offenses and discipline measures included in the new policy.

Mr. Anderson reported that he attended the Career and Technical Advisory Committee (C-TAC) meeting and noted that collaborative plans were discussed to connect youth to possible employers, possible funding sources, safety training incentive, etc.

**BOARD WORKSESSION
REPORT:**

Mrs. Crawford reported that the Board heard an update on Quality Schools/Quality Students and Project GRAD and held worksessions on the District's Professional Development Plan and Board Bylaws and Protocols. She noted that the Seward Travel Club provided dinner for the Board and administration.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Long-Term Substitute Teacher Contracts; Requests for Leave of Absence-Support; Resignations; New Administrator Contracts; Nontenure Teacher for Tenure; Nontenure Teacher Contracts; New Teacher Contracts; and Budget Transfer.

**LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE
TEACHER CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve long-term substitute teacher contracts for Patricia Hansen, Grade 3, Redoubt Elementary; Herb Wottlin, Grade 5/6, Seward Elementary; and Irene Hegwer, resource, Soldotna High School.

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

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve leave of absence requests from Teresa Goff, custodian, Nikiski Middle/High (effective April 29, 2008 until April 29, 2009) and Susan E. Evans, intensive needs aide, West Homer Elementary (effective for the 2008-2009 school year).

RESIGNATIONS:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve resignations from Johanna Tennant, grade 6 through 8, Chapman Elementary; Cheryl L. Illg, resource, Homer High School; Pepper Pond, science, Kenai Alternative; Linda Schopp, resource, Nanwalek Elementary/High; Kate Biegert, resource, Nikiski Middle/High; and Clark Fair, English, Skyview High.

**NEW ADMINISTRATOR
CONTRACTS:**

Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve administrator contracts for the 2008-2009 school year for Stephen G. Atwater, assistant superintendent, District Office; David E. Larson, assistant principal, Homer High School; Lisa M. Nissly, principal, Homer Middle School; and Steven W. Kenrick, principal/teacher, Port Graham School.

**NONTENURE TEACHER FOR
TENURE:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve nontenure teacher Mary Margaret Hicks, for tenure.

**NONTENURE TEACHER
CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve nontenure teacher contracts for Heather Pancratz, language arts/social studies, Nikolaevsk Elementary/High; and Kristine Berrios, special education/intensive needs, Paul Banks Elementary.

NEW TEACHER CONTRACTS:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve teacher contracts for the 2008-2009 school year for Breta Brown, math/interventionist teacher, Nikiski Middle/High; and Denise Romans, elementary interventionist teacher, Nikiski North Star Elementary.

BUDGET TRANSFER:

Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve budget transfer Number 709 for \$50,000 to purchase playground equipment for Aurora Borealis Charter School.

MOTION

Mrs. Hilts moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 8. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

FY 08 BUDGET REVISION:

Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve an increase of \$5,284,929 to revise the general fund budget from \$117,272,948 to \$122,557,877; and Special Revenue funds have increased \$1,415,231 from \$17,702,020 to \$19,117,251 for a total School District FY08 Revised Budget of \$141,675,128. No contingency fund.

MOTION

Mrs. Hilts moved the Board approve a total School District FY08 Revised Budget of \$141,675,128. Mrs. Downing seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

FIRST READING OF POLICY REVISIONS:

The Board heard a first reading of new regulations and policies and/or revisions to Section 9000, Board Bylaws and BP 1140, Responsibilities of the Board; BP 1312, Public Complaints Concerning the Schools; E 1312 (b), Public Complaints Concerning the Schools; AR 2122 (a) (b), Superintendent of Schools – Job Description; E 9000, Role of Board and Members; BB 9010, Public Statements; E 9110, Student Representative on KPBSD Board of Education – Job Description; BB 9120, Officers and Auxiliary Personnel; BB 9121 (a) (b), President; BB 9130, Board Committees; E 9130, Board Committees; BB 9200, Board Members; BB 9223 (a) (b), Board Vacancies; BB 9230, Orientation; BB 9240, Board Development; BB 9250, Compensation, Reimbursement, and Other Benefits; AR 9250, Compensation, Reimbursement, and Other Benefits; BB 9271, Code of Ethics; E 9271 (a) (b) (c), Code of Ethics; BB 9310, Policy Manual; BB 9311, Board Policies; BB 9313, Administrative Regulations and Exhibits; BB 9320 (a) (b), Meetings; BB 9321, Executive Sessions; BB 9322, Agenda/Meeting Materials; E 9322 (a), Order of Business; AR 0520 School Improvement Plan – Development, Approval and Implementation; BP 3580, District Records; BP 5030, School Discipline and Safety; BP 6164.3, Student Mental Health – Medication and Services; BP 6164.4, Child Find; BP 6172, Special Education; BP and AR 3541.1, School Related Trips; BP 6156.1, High School Graduation; BP 5116, School Attendance Boundaries, and E 5116, Out-of-Area Attendance Request.

Mrs. Julie Lindquist asked for clarification of a revision to BB 9200 regarding board member participation as an officer in school based organizations.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/ COMMENTS:

Mrs. Julie Lindquist stated that she participated as a community member on the Board Bylaw and Protocol Committee and added that the review provided an in-depth look at all of the Board's responsibilities and added that the process has provided a positive growing experience.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mrs. Hilts reminded those present to let teachers know that they are appreciated and why. She congratulated Mrs. Tachick for her years of service and added that the School Board could not function without her. She stated that Mrs. Douglas ensures that the business of the District is done correctly and noted that she is well respected all over the state.

Ms. Hohl commented that it was wonderful to hear music provided by the students during the Board meeting. She congratulated Mrs. Laura Beck for being chosen as a BP Teacher of Excellence. Ms. Hohl noted that she has a copy of the program from the National Ocean Science Bowl if anyone wants to look at it. She noted that Mr. Halverson will retire at the end of the school year. She stated that, unfortunately, she will not be in Seward for the assembling of the new playground equipment.

Dr. Anderson stated that it has been a pleasure to represent the students throughout the District. He congratulated the community of Seward for the generous scholarships to outgoing seniors. He assured those present that the Board has made some unkind budget cuts but has tried to be fair across the District. He stated that it disturbs him that the Seward community is not as upbeat as they have been in the past and encouraged a more positive attitude. He noted that Mr. Jerry Dixon is a past BP Teacher of the Year and a great asset to the District along with Sammy Crawford and Luanne Reynolds. He expressed hope that distance delivery courses can provide more equality among all schools.

Mrs. Mullins stated that in 1980 Hope School was a one-room school house and that the community was growing and looking forward to a new school building. She stated that she will not run for reelection in the fall and therefore will not be back in Seward as a school board member. She reminded those present that the Board has been trying for many years to correct the area cost differential problem and even though the Legislature has addressed the issue it hasn't paid off 100% yet; there is still more to come. She expressed appreciation for the Seward Middle School bell choir.

Mrs. Downing stated that it is always a pleasure to come to Seward, and especially appreciated the bell ringers. She thanked Mr. Szymoniak and the Professional Development staff for their hard work and added that the District now has a plan that addresses what teachers need. She apologized for not attending the math bowl but will be back in Seward for a school field trip.

BOARD COMMENTS:
(continued)

Mrs. Crawford reminded Board members of the June 2 Board meeting and the June 3 planning day with John Host, past Superintendent of the Year while working for the Sitka City School District and a finalist for the Commissioner of Education. She congratulated Mrs. Tachick and Mrs. Douglas for 30 years of service. She commented that it is a pleasure to work with Mr. Jones on the Policy Review Committee. She reminded Board members that the Superintendent evaluation and Board Self-evaluations are due to her by May 27. She thanked Seward community for attending the meeting.

ADJOURN:

At 8:24 p.m., Mrs. Mullins moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Sammy Crawford, President

Mr. Marty Anderson, Clerk

The Minutes of May 5, 2008,
were approved on June 2, 2008
as written.