
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

August 4, 2008 – 7:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting

Borough Administration Building
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:

Mrs. Melody Douglas, Chief Financial Officer
Mr. Dave Jones, Assistant Superintendent

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mrs. Sharon Moock	Mrs. Jamie Harper
Mrs. Rhoda Dolifka	Mr. Tim Peterson
Mr. Dale Dolifka	Mr. Phil Hermanek
Mrs. Brenda Ahlberg	Mrs. Margie Warner
Mr. Randy Neill	Mr. Sean Dusek
Mrs. Colette Thompson	Mrs. Doris Cannon
Mr. Joe Nicks	Mr. Doug Cannon

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

(7:00:31 PM)

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

(7:00:44 PM)

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

**DISTRICT MISSION
STATEMENT:**

(7:01:08 PM)

Mrs. Mullins read the District's mission statement.

ROLL CALL:

(7:01:45 PM)

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

(7:02:32 PM)

The agenda was approved as written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
(7:02:39 PM)

The School Board Minutes of July 14, 2008 were approved as printed.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:
(7:02:51 PM)

The Board presented a Golden Apple Award to Dale and Rhoda Dolifka for their volunteer service to Skyview High School students and staff.

HEARING OF DELEGATIONS:
(7:06:28 PM)

Ms. Brenda Ahlberg, Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Club, reported on the Nikiski Boys and Girls Club and noted that they are the only club in Alaska to receive the 21st Century Learning Grant. She noted that the amount of the grant has increased to \$200,000. She provided statistics on the Nikiski North Star School club attendance and added that there are three other school-based sites (Kenai, Soldotna and Seward). She reported that the Seldovia Club is located on school grounds but in a separate building. She compared after-school club attendance statistics to academic success. She reported on the Kinder Club summer program. She provided copies of the Boys and Girls Club Annual Report for Board review.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:
(7:13:25 PM)

Mrs. Douglas noted that Dr. Peterson and Dr. Atwater are attending meetings in Juneau with the Commissioner of the Department of Education and Early Development. She reported that the Administrator Meeting will be held Wednesday, August 6, at Skyview High and the New Administrator meeting will be held Thursday, August 7 at Skyview High. She invited the Board members to attend.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SITE COUNCIL AND/OR P.T.A., K.P.A.A., K.P.E.A., K.P.E.S.A, BOROUGH ASSEMBLY:
(7:14:08 PM)

Mrs. Jenni Hammond, Nikiski PTA representative, invited the Board to attend the first PTA meeting on Thursday, September 4 and noted that there will be an earlier meeting on August 7 to approve the audit. She announced that PTA is learning to collaborate with the Boys and Girls Club. She announced that school supplies are being sold at Nikiski North Star beginning at the time of registration.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:
(7:15:45 PM)

Mrs. Douglas reported that McNeil Canyon Elementary has received assurances that they now have drinkable water. She reported that the District is moving forward with background checks for school volunteers as a pilot project at four schools. She reported that teachers begin work on August 13 and students are in school on August 20 at most schools. Mrs. Douglas presented the 2007-2008 Superintendent's Annual Report.

BOARD REPORTS:
(7:18:05 PM)

Mrs. Crawford reported that she attended the National School Boards Association Pacific Region meeting as president-elect of the Association of Alaska School Boards, which was held in Vancouver, Washington. She reported that the AASB Board of Directors met in Sitka, and noted that the group discussed the FY09 Core Resolutions for eight hours.

**BOARD WORKSESSION
REPORT:**
(7:19:15 PM)

Mrs. Crawford reported that six members were in attendance at the worksessions held prior to the Board meeting (Mullins, Hatch, Downing, Hilts, N. Anderson, Crawford) and that they discussed the Board's goal to increase graduation rates and decrease drop out rates and the proposed FY09 Association of Alaska School Board resolutions.

CONSENT AGENDA:
(7:20:58 PM)

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Substitute and Temporary Pay Schedule; Requests for Leave of Absence-Support; New Teacher Contracts; and Nontenure Teacher Contracts.

**SUBSTITUTE AND
TEMPORARY PAY
SCHEDULE:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve the pay schedule for substitutes and temporary employees for the 2008-2009 school year.

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

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve unpaid leave of absence requests from Kellie Steiner Kelso, secretary, Nikiski North Star Elementary; Susan J. Lamb, school nurse, Seward Elementary, and Mary Ferguson Bell, school nurse, West Homer Elementary.

NEW TEACHER CONTRACTS:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve teacher contracts for M. Jane McFarland, speech language pathologist, Districtwide, Central Peninsula area; Erin Briscoe, speech language pathologist, Districtwide, Homer area; Chad Hinders, social studies teacher, Seward High School; Belinda Espy, intermediate grade teacher, Sterling Elementary; and Kurtis M. Schoenberg, kindergarten through second grade teacher, Voznesenka School.

**NONTENURE TEACHER
CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve nontenure teacher contracts for Jennifer Swander, language arts teacher, Spring Creek School; and Robyn M. Walls, .50 FTE elementary interventionist teacher, West Homer Elementary.

MOTION

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 4. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

BOARD COMMENTS:
(7:22:06 PM)

Mr. Anderson congratulated Mr. and Mrs. Dolifka for being awarded the Golden Apple. He thanked the Boys and Girls Club for their long association with the School District and the positive impact their programs have on the students of the District. He stated that he is pleased that the drinking water problem has been solved at McNeil Canyon Elementary and is looking forward to resolving the same problem at Sterling Elementary. He stated that he is proud to be part of a school board that has provided two of the last three AASB presidents. He stated that he is looking forward to another exciting year of education on the Kenai Peninsula.

Mrs. Hilts expressed appreciation for the Nikiski Boys and Girls Club and for the work being done to increase the District's graduation rate and lower the drop out rate.

BOARD COMMENTS:

(Continued)

Mr. Hatch stated that he is excited about the Board's goal to decrease the District drop-out rate and added that it is one of the best goals the Board has had. He asked for prayers for his parents who are in frail health.

Dr. Anderson reported that during the worksession the Board discussed the District drop-out data. He stated that he questioned the benefits of preschool and that it is successful if parents are totally involved in a long-term basis. He stated that it is difficult to determine the right decision and added that the statistics show that the DARE Program has not been a significant help in eliminating drug use among students. He referred to an article in the August issue of *The School Board Journal* that analyzed classroom size data and that the results of the studies varied from positive to negative to neutral. He stated that while data is important, the Board must realize the limitations of it and proceed with as much information as possible. He suggested that the Board target the individual student and make sure that as few drop out as possible and do everything possible to keep them in school.

Mrs. Mullins reported that along with Mrs. Crawford she attended the AASB Board of Directors meeting to review the FY09 Core Resolutions. She clarified that the recommendation to delete Resolution 1.1, Pledge of Allegiance, was because it was felt that the resolution should be a belief statement and then it would not be necessary to lobby the legislature. She thanked Mr. and Mrs. Dolifka for their volunteerism.

Mrs. Downing stated that she is looking forward to the start up of school. She expressed appreciation to Mrs. Holmgaard and Mr. Dusek for their work gathering drop out rates and graduation rates. She reported that nearly forty states have pre-kindergarten programs and that long-term studies show how much improvement there is in the upper grades and even into adulthood for students who have received pre-kindergarten education. She clarified that pre-kindergarten education involved only a few hours per week of enrichment activities that introduce children to concepts that are developmentally appropriate and provide a jump start on future education. She cited Nikiski North Star Elementary's pre-kindergarten program as a great example, which has been operating for 3 years, and added that none of the first and second grade students who completed the program needed tutoring. She stated that the program impacted Nikiski North Star Elementary students and can save the District money in the long run.

Mrs. Crawford thanked Mr. and Mrs. Dolifka for their service to the District. She thanked the Boys and Girls Club for their work with District students. She thanked the administration for the graduation rate/drop out rate information and for the FY08 Annual Report.

ADJOURN:
(7:32:32 PM)

At 7:32 p.m., Mrs. Mullins moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mr. Hatch seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Sammy Crawford, President

Mr. Marty Anderson, Clerk

The Minutes of August 4, 2008,
were approved on September 8, 2008
as written.