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# Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

## Board of Education Meeting Minutes

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November 4, 2013 – 7:00 p.m.  
Regular Meeting

Borough Administration Building  
148 N. Binkley, Soldotna, Alaska

**SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:**

Mr. Joe Arness, President  
Mrs. Liz Downing, Vice President  
Mrs. Penny Vadla, Clerk  
Ms. Lynn Hohl, Treasurer  
Mr. Marty Anderson  
Mr. Dan Castimore  
Mrs. Sunni Hilts  
Mr. Bill Holt  
Mr. Tim Navarre  
Mr. Evan Boyer, Student Representative

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Dr. Steve Atwater, Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Sean Dusek, Assistant Superintendent  
Mr. Dave Jones, Assistant Superintendent

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

|                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Mr. John Pothast      | Mrs. Christine Ermold |
| Mr. Doug Hayman       | Mr. Tim Vlasak        |
| Mr. Thomas R. Daly    | Miss Martine Dikes    |
| Mr. Paul Kupferschmid | Ms. Sara Hardan       |
| Mr. Neil Denny        | Mrs. Elise Boyer      |
| Mr. John O'Brien      | Mr. Joel Burns        |
| Mrs. Krista Arthur    | Mr. Trevan Walker     |
| Ms. Joann Riener      | Mr. Jason Bickling    |
| Mr. Troy Minogue      | Mr. David Kingsland   |
| Mrs. Tara Oberts      | Mrs. Terri Tidwell    |
| Ms. Pegge Erkeneff    | Ms. Andrea Eggleston  |
| Mrs. Maya Moriarty    | Mr. Austin Laber      |
| Mr. Rob Lewis         | Ms. Shelli Church     |

Others present not identified.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

(7:00:15 PM)

Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

(7:00:49 PM)

Mr. Arness invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**DISTRICT MISSION  
STATEMENT:**

(7:01:11 PM)

Mrs. Vadla read the District's mission statement.

# UNAPPROVED

## **ROLL CALL:**

(7:01:27 PM)

|                                  |                |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Mr. Joe Arness, President        | Present        |
| Mrs. Liz Downing, Vice President | Absent/Excused |
| Mrs. Penny Vadla, Clerk          | Present        |
| Ms. Lynn Hohl, Treasurer         | Present        |
| Mr. Marty Anderson               | Absent/Excused |
| Mr. Dan Castimore                | Present        |
| Mrs. Sunni Hilts                 | Present        |
| Mr. Bill Holt                    | Present        |
| Mr. Tim Navarre                  | Absent/Excused |
| Mr. Evan Boyer                   | Present        |

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

(7:01:58 PM)

The agenda was approved as written.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

(7:02:15 PM)

The School Board Minutes of October 14, 2013 were approved as printed.

## **SCHOOL REPORT:**

(7:02:35 PM)

Mr. John Pothast, Redoubt Elementary Principal, introduced Mrs. Tara Oberts and two groups of pre-kindergarten students. The first group sang "Peanut Butter" by Dr. Jean Feldman. The second group sang "My Mother is a Baker" also by Dr. Jean Feldman. Mr. Pothast then presented a computer presentation highlighting the school's band and Spanish programs, after-school intramurals, Boys and Girls after school program, art, Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (P.B.I.S.) and the related improvements in student discipline, and "Roadrunner" award cards. To complete the presentation, he shared the poem "Compassion" by Kevan Meyers.

## **RECESS:**

(7:24:00 PM)

At 7:24 p.m., Mr. Arness called a recess.

At 7:30 p.m. the Board reconvened in regular session.

## **PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:**

(7:30:35 PM)

Mr. Thomas R. Daly, owner of HiSpeed Gear, spoke regarding the District's technology plan and his concerns over District bid requests that specify a manufacturer.

Ms. Andrea Eggleston, Soldotna Middle School teacher, spoke regarding Soldotna Middle School's color and mascot and asked the Board to allow them to remain unchanged.

Mr. Austin Laber, Skyview High School student, read a letter from the school's student council regarding the Soldotna school's reconfiguration, especially the high school colors, name, and mascot.

Mr. Rob Lewis spoke regarding his concerns over the cost involved if changes are made to school names, colors, and mascots due to the Soldotna area school's reconfiguration; the need for the cost to be made public before final decisions are made; and he encouraged the Board to leave these three items as they currently are at each site.

## **COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:**

(7:42:34 PM)

Dr. Atwater announced that in a recent private ceremony, the District revised a Golden Apple Award presented to Mr. Joe Kashi in February 2010, to include his wife, Mrs. Terese Kashi, (as she was equally involved in the endeavors for which the award was given) and thanked them both for their service to the District. He reported the FY15 budget is not yet complete but will be available at the November 12, Budget Committee meeting. He discussed the District discipline data report in this month's general information packet. He noted that an Alaska Communications television commercial filmed last summer and featuring the District, is now airing and shows the District well. He thanked Ms. Pegge Erkeneff and Soldotna Middle School for their work on this project.

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

(7:45:27 PM)

Mr. Neil Denny, K.P.E.A president, stated that he and Mrs. Patty Sirois, K.P.E.S.A. president, are continuing to visit schools. He discussed a meeting that he and Mrs. Sirois attended with Mr. Doug Hayman and Ms. Joann Riener regarding the staffing of the Soldotna area schools after the reconfiguration and emphasized the need to remain positive when dealing with student and staff issues.

Mrs. Maya Moriarty, on behalf of herself and Mrs. Mica Van Buskirk, Seward Site Council President, spoke in favor of the reconfiguration of Seward schools to move the 6<sup>th</sup> grade students to the middle school.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

(7:52:43 PM)

Dr. Atwater reported that the 20 day count period for student enrollment ended on October 25, District enrollment is under projection by 162 students (52 of which are Connections Homeschool students) and this reduction will result in the District receiving less funding than budgeted. (Note: Dr. Atwater reported later in the meeting that the 162 student figure is incorrect and that he will provide the Board with the correct figure at their November 5, 2013 worksession.) He stated that work continues on the Soldotna area schools reconfiguration, including the plans for staffing. He thanked Mr. Neil Denny-K.P.E.A., and Mrs. Patty Sirois-K.P.E.S.A., for their collaborative work with Ms. Joann Riener and Mr. Doug Hayman. He reported that there are three early entrance kindergarten students for this year. He stated that the second of the scheduled early release dates went well and thanked the Board for approving these days. He congratulated the Nikiski High and Soldotna High football teams for each winning their respective state championships and Miss Allie Ostrander, Kenai Central High student, for her state cross-country running championship.

## **BOARD REPORTS:**

(7:54:42 PM)

Mr. Holt reported that he attended a Skyview High School Site Council meeting where they discussed the reconfiguration, the philosophy of the staff to know every student in the school, and stated that he hopes that this attitude will carry forward to the new, combined high school.

## **BOARD REPORTS:**

*(Continued)*

Mrs. Vadla reported that she attended the final Soldotna Area Schools Advisory Committee meeting on October 21, thanked Mr. Doug Hayman and the committee for their work, and stated that she is confident that the Soldotna students will handle the changes well. She reported that she visited Soldotna area schools on Halloween and All Saints Day and plans to visit Skyview in the upcoming week.

Ms. Hohl reported that on October 24, 2013, she attended the Seward Public Hearing regarding the reconfiguration of Seward schools.

Mr. Arness reported that on October 24, 2013, he also attended the Seward Public Hearing regarding the reconfiguration of Seward schools.

## **BOARD WORKSESSION REPORT:**

*(7:58:34 PM)*

Mr. Arness reported that the Board held worksessions regarding Board Policy, Capital Projects and Major Maintenance, Seward Elementary and Middle Schools Reconfiguration, New School Construction Process, and Soldotna Advisory Committee Report. He noted that all members at the meeting, except Mr. Arness, attended the worksessions.

## **CONSENT AGENDA:**

*(7:59:10 PM)*

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Resignations, 2013-14 Long Term Substitute Contract, 2013-14 New Teacher Contracts, BP 5141.3 Health Examinations, BP 5128 AK Performance Scholarship, AR 5128 AK Performance Scholarship, BP 5142.3 Restraint and Seclusion (NEW), and BP 6145 Cocurricular Activities, High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2014-07, AR 1312.4 Public Complaints Concerning No Child Left Behind Requirements, Leave of Absence Extension Request/Support, and Leave of Absence Request/Certified.

## **RESIGNATIONS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve resignations from Sheryl Baechler, Special Education Preschool Teacher, Paul Banks Elementary School; Elena Denevan Yoter, Generalist Teacher, Connections Program; and L. Joseph Trujillo, Spanish/Math Teacher, Kenai Central High School; all effective at the end of the 2013-14 school year.

## **LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE TEACHER CONTRACT:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a long-term substitute teacher contract for Shannon Ryan, Seward Elementary School.

## **NEW TEACHER CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve new teacher contracts for the 2013-2014 school year for Rachel Allmendinger, Migrant Teacher, Voznesenka School; Kaitlyn Miller, Title I Teacher, Soldotna Elementary School; Deborah Pollock, Language Arts Teacher (.50 FTE) 1<sup>st</sup> semester, Soldotna High School; and Shannon Ryan, Generalist Teacher, Cooper Landing School.

## **POLICY REVISIONS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve BP 5141.3 Health Examinations, BP 5128 Alaska Performance Scholarship, AR 5128 Alaska Performance Scholarship, BP 5142.3 Restraint and Seclusion (NEW), and BP 6145 Cocurricular Activities.

## CONSENT AGENDA:

*(Continued)*

### HSGQE:

Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2014-07.

### AR APPROVAL:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve AR 1312.4 Public Complaints Concerning Elementary and Secondary Education (NEW).

### LEAVE OF ABSENCE EXTENSION REQUEST/SUPPORT:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a leave of absence extension for Laura Norton, Secretary I, Homer Flex School, effective December 21, 2013 to May 23, 2014.

### LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST/CERTIFIED:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a leave of absence for Karma Sherk, Special Education Intensive Needs Teacher, Nikiski North Star Elementary School, effective the 2014-15 school year.

### MOTION:

Mr. Holt moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 8. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Ms. Hohl removed Numbers 10a. (3) 2013-14 New Teacher Contracts and 10a. (4) BP 5141.3 Health Examinations, BP 5128 AK Performance Scholarship, AR 5128 AK Performance Scholarship, BP 5142.3 Restraint and Seclusion (NEW), and BP 6145 Cocurricular Activities.

Mrs. Vadla removed Number 10a. (2) 2013-14 Long Term Substitute Contract.

Motion carried unanimously for Numbers 10a. (1), and 5-8.

Motion carried unanimously for Number 10a. (2).

Motion carried unanimously for Number 10a. (3).

Motion carried unanimously for Number 10a. (4).

### RECONFIGURATION OF SEWARD ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS:

*(8:04:40 PM)*

Dr. Atwater recommended the Board approve Administrative Recommendation that Seward Middle School be reconfigured to include grades 6, 7, and 8 and William H. Seward Elementary School be reconfigured to include grades K-5, beginning August 2014.

### MOTION:

Ms. Hohl moved the Board approve Administrative Recommendation that Seward Middle School be reconfigured to include grades 6, 7, and 8 and William H. Seward Elementary School be reconfigured to include grades K-5, beginning August 2014. Mr. Holt seconded.

### MOTION:

Ms. Hohl moved the motion be postponed to allow the Board to receive further information during the November 5, 2013, worksession. Mrs. Vadla seconded. Motion withdrawn.

## **RECONFIGURATION OF SEWARD ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS:**

*(Continued)*

### **VOTE:**

Advisory Vote – Yes

YES – Castimore, Hilts, Holt, Vadla, Arness

NO – Hohl,

Motion carried.

## **FIRST READING OF POLICY REVISIONS:**

*(8:32:46 PM)*

The Board heard a first reading of revisions to BP 6145.2 Interscholastic Competition.

## **PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/ COMMENTS:**

*(8:34:21 PM)*

Mr. Troy Minogue, Soldotna Area Schools Advisory Committee member, expressed appreciation for the committee's work, spoke in of support its recommendations, and asked the Board to also support those recommendations.

Mr. Paul Kupferschmid, Soldotna Area Schools Advisory Committee member, expressed appreciation for the committee's work, discussed the rivalry between Skyview and Soldotna High Schools, and asked the Board to support the committee's recommendations.

Ms. Shelli Church, Soldotna Middle School teacher, spoke regarding the Soldotna Area Schools Advisory Committee process, stated that she would like the current Soldotna Middle School mascot, colors, and name to carry over to the new school site, and expressed appreciation that the Soldotna Middle School staff will be maintained and transferred to the new school.

## **BOARD COMMENTS:**

*(8:41:20 PM)*

Mr. Holt expressed appreciation for Soldotna Area Schools Advisory Committee's work and positive attitude, stated that he agrees with the need to maintain the Soldotna Middle School Spartan legacy. He thanked Mr. Pothast and Redoubt Elementary for their presentation. He stated that he is hoping for snow so that the community can enjoy the newly added trail in the Tsalteshi system.

Mr. Castimore thanked the Board for their patience while he is learning. He stated that he will attend the Association of Alaska School Boards (A.A.S.B.) Annual Conference November 7-10, 2013. He thanked Mr. Doug Hayman for his work as the Soldotna Area Schools Advisory Committee chair.

Ms. Hohl thanked Mr. Pothast and Redoubt Elementary for their presentation. She expressed her desire that a committee be formed to plan for the Seward schools reconfiguration. She reported that she attended the Juvenile Justice Action Team meeting in Seward and discussed and thanked the attendees. She stated that she attended an Alaska Behavior Health Association Board training as a Seaview Community Services Board representative. She expressed appreciation for the various committees and agencies that all work together for the good of Alaskan communities.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

*(Continued)*

Mr. Boyer thanked the Board for their patience while he is learning and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve. He thanked Mr. Austin Laber, Skyview High School student, for his presentation. He thanked Redoubt Elementary for their presentation and for the school's approach to positive reinforcement.

Mrs. Vadla congratulated the Pop Warner Soldotna Saints Junior Pee Wee, Nikiski High, and Soldotna High football teams for each winning their respective state championships. She expressed appreciation for the October 8, 2013, Mind A-Mazes competition. She encouraged the public to attend future Project SEARCH Open House events. She thanked the Seward area residents and the Skyview High School representatives for their comments. She thanked Redoubt Elementary for their presentation. She thanked Soldotna Middle School staff for their comments and input. She thanked Mr. Doug Hayman for his work with the Soldotna Area Schools Advisory Committee. She thanked Mr. Arness for his comments during a worksession earlier in the day.

Mrs. Hilts thanked the Board for the flowers given to celebrate her election as this year's A.A.S.B. president. She expressed appreciation for the District, the Board, and the emphasis placed on, and aid given to, District students in transition. She expressed appreciation that the evening's discussions focused on students and children.

Mr. Arness stated that Ms. Hohl represented her opinion and that it is unfortunate she has been ridiculed for it. He asked that the community respect the opinions of the Board members, and endeavor to understand that the Board's goal is to make the best decisions possible for all concerned.

**ADJOURN:**

*(8:52:55 PM)*

At 8:52 p.m., Mr. Arness adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mr. Joe Arness, President

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Mrs. Penny Vadla, Clerk

The Minutes of November 4, 2013, have not been approved as of December 2, 2013.