



Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting News In Brief

October 20, 2014 – 7:00 p.m.
Dr. Steve Atwater, Superintendent

Borough Administration Building - 148 N. Binkley
Soldotna, Alaska

WORKSESSION REPORT: The Board held several worksessions prior to the formal business meeting which included Board Policy, State and Federal Legislative Priorities, Innovative Practices: Blended Learning & Digital Learning Initiative, and FY14 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

OATH OF OFFICE: The Oath of Office was administered to newly elected School Board members Mrs. Penny Vadla, Mr. Bill Holt and Mr. Joe Arness, by notary public, Mrs. Debbie Tressler.

SCHOOL REPORT: Mr. Sarge Truesdell, principal of Skyview Middle School, introduced Mr. Jeff Moore and the school drum line, who performed various percussion pieces. Mr. Truesdell discussed the drum line program and its student designed t-shirts. He introduced Mrs. Pothast and her Spanish students who presented the Board with a gift of tortilla chips and salsa. He then discussed the Soldotna area school reconfiguration and thanked the school's staff, the Borough Maintenance Department and Mr. Scott Griebel for their extra work during the process. He noted various school programs and invited the school board to visit the school for a tour. He introduced Mr. John Harro and a group of student council members who shared a video highlighting the school's 5 star Alaska School Performance Index (ASPI) rating; test scores, technology, various programs including PE (with Cross Fit and swimming), welding; fine arts, Spanish, yearbook, "Project Lead the Way", Science, remediation, and student council. Mr. Truesdell thanked the group of staff and students that worked to produce the video.

REORGANIZATION OF BOARD: The School Board Officers for the 2014-2015 school year are Mr. Joe Arness, President; Mrs. Sunni Hilts, Vice President; Mrs. Penny Vadla, Clerk; and Mr. Dan Castimore, Treasurer.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Atwater noted that Friday, October 17, marked the end of the first quarter, stated that it was a very busy time and commended all District staff for their hard work. He reported that the number of students in transition (students that are homeless) is currently 36% higher than this time last year. He announced that the 20 day enrollment count, which determines state funding, ends this week and that our current enrollment number is above projection. He noted District schools that are well over projection and those that are well under and discussed possible reasons for the variances. He reported that the District is forming a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Think Tank, developed by Mr. Clayton Holland and his staff, which will include employees from different geographic regions. He stated that the District also has working FASD parent groups, one in the central peninsula area and one being developed in the Homer area. He reported that the District has developed a new suicide risk assessment which will be implemented after school principals are trained in November and thanked Ms. Angie Nelson and Mrs. Sarah Moore for work on this project. He congratulated parents, coaches, and students for the sports and activities successes during the first quarter and specifically noted state cross country running champion, Miss Allie Ostrander; girls cross country running state champions, Homer High School; and football state champions, Soldotna High School.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Mr. Jones presented the financial report of the District for the period ending September 30, 2014.

QUARTERLY BUDGET TRANSFER REPORT: Mr. Dave Jones reported on budget transfers Numbers 2 through 205 for various schools and departments within the District.

RESOLUTION 14-15-2: The Board unanimously approved Resolution 14-15-2, listing the primary and alternate members in charge of gaming for those schools applying for gaming permits for 2015.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE BOARD: The Board unanimously approved the appointment of Miss Maria Kulikov, a Voznesenka School student, as the student representative to the Board of Education.

RESIGNATIONS: The Board unanimously approved resignations from Vernel Schneider, Music Teacher, Soldotna High School; Julie Stephens, 5th – 6th Grade Teacher, Kaleidoscope Charter School; and Karen Wessel, Principal/Teacher, Homer Flex High School; all effective at the end of the 2014-15 school year.

LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTES/CERTIFIED: The Board unanimously approved a long-term substitute contract for Kellie Bolin, West Homer Elementary School.

NEW TEACHER CONTRACTS: The Board unanimously approved new teacher contracts for the 2014-2015 school year for Rebecca Cole, Primary Grade Teacher, Rachel Grossl, Independent Opportunity Instructor (.40 FTE), and Wanda Reams, Interventionist Teacher.

POLICY REVISIONS: The Board unanimously approved AR 3311 Bids.

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ACCEPTANCE OF THE COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT: The Board unanimously approved acceptance of the FY14 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).

STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES: The Board unanimously approved the revised list of 2015 State and Federal Legislative Priorities.

CONTRACT AMENDMENT FOR INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT: The Board unanimously approved a Contract Amendment for the Interim Superintendent.

FIRST READING OF POLICY REVISIONS: The Board heard a first reading of BB 9320 Meeting Time.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: The next regularly scheduled School Board Meeting is Monday, November 3, 2014, 7:00 p.m., Borough Administration Building, Soldotna, Alaska.

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