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# Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes

October 5, 2015 – 6:00 p.m.  
Regular Meeting

Borough Administration Building  
148 N. Binkley, Soldotna, Alaska

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**SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:** Mr. Joe Arness, President  
Mrs. Sunni Hilts, Vice President  
Mrs. Penny Vadla, Clerk  
Mr. Dan Castimore, Treasurer  
Mr. Marty Anderson  
Mrs. Liz Downing  
Ms. Lynn Hohl  
Mr. Bill Holt  
Mr. Tim Navarre  
Mr. Brian Dusek, Student Representative

**STAFF PRESENT:** Mr. Sean Dusek, Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. John O'Brien, Assistant Superintendent  
Mr. Dave Jones, Assistant Superintendent

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Dr. Christine Ermold  
Ms. Pegge Erkeneff  
Mr. John Pothast  
Ms. Teri Diamond  
Mrs. Kim Harding  
Mr. David Brighton  
Mrs. Patty Sirois  
Mr. Dan Carstens  
Mr. Bryce Leighton  
Mr. Jake Doth  
Miss Martine Dikes  
Mr. Rod Hilts  
Ms. Sunni Danielowski  
Mr. Matt Fischer

Others present not identified.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m. A quorum of Board members: Mr. Castimore, Mrs. Hilts, Ms. Hohl, Mr. Holt, Mr. Navarre, Mrs. Vadla and Mr. Arness were present.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** At 3:32 p.m., Mrs. Hilts moved the Board go into executive session to discuss matters, the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the Borough. Specifically, the Board met to discuss contract negotiations. Mr. Castimore seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:** At 5:02 p.m. Ms. Hohl moved the Board adjourn the executive session. Mr. Holt seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**RECESS:** At 5:02 p.m. Mr. Arness recessed the meeting.

**RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:** At 5:59 p.m. Mr. Arness reconvened the meeting.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mr. Arness invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT:** Mrs. Hilts read the District’s mission statement.

**ROLL CALL:**

|                    |                |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Mr. Marty Anderson | Absent/Excused |
| Mr. Joe Arness     | Present        |
| Mr. Dan Castimore  | Present        |
| Mrs. Liz Downing   | Absent/Excused |
| Mrs. Sunni Hilts   | Present        |
| Ms. Lynn Hohl      | Present        |
| Mr. Bill Holt      | Present        |
| Mr. Tim Navarre    | Present        |
| Mrs. Penny Vadla   | Present        |
| Mr. Brian Dusek    | Present        |

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** The agenda was approved with revisions to 11a. (6) Resolution 15-16-2 State Long-range Funding Plan and 11b. 2016 State and Federal Legislative Priorities.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The School Board Minutes of September 8, 2015, were approved as corrected.

**SCHOOL REPORT:** Nikiski Middle High School (NMHS) principal, Mr. Dan Carstens, greeted the Board and presented them with a plaque created by the Cad Cam class laser engraver, in conjunction with the wood shop class. With the assistance of Mr. Bryce Leighton (student) and Mr. Jake Doth (teacher), Mr. Carsten’s report focused on four of the school’s programs: Career and Technical Education (CTE), the PE department’s Speed and Strength Training (SST) program, advanced placement classes and the Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) project. Mr. Leighton presented an iPhone created video highlighting the school programs. Mr. Doth, 2014-15 BP Teacher of Excellence, discussed the UAV project and the school’s collaborative work with the University of Alaska Fairbanks’ Geophysical Institute. He explained that the UAV program gives students the opportunity to do real science and described some of the specific projects.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:** Ms. Heather Rasch thanked teachers for their work and discussed her concerns regarding education including, the common core standards, standardized tests and textbooks.

**HEARING OF DELEGATIONS:** Ms. Sunni Danielowski of The American Heart Association (AHA) discussed heart disease and the mission and goal of the AHA. She emphasized the importance of teaching children about fitness and heart healthiness. She complimented the District for their participation in AHA programs such as Jump Rope for Heart. She reported that KPBSD is the third highest ranking school in Alaska for saving lives, based on the AHA rating process. She presented Ms. Teri Diamond, Soldotna Elementary principal, with the association’s “Rookie of the Year” award.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND  
PETITIONS:**

Mr. Dusek announced that there were no exceptions on the recent Carl Perkins audit and thanked Mr. Pothast, Mr. Widaman and Mrs. Eck for their work. He reported that the special education audit is complete and the preliminary report is excellent. He thanked Mr. Holland and the special education staff for their good work. He reminded the Board of the LYNC session on the budget on October 15 at 6:00 p.m. at 22 District sites and encouraged the public and board members to attend. He stated that the next board meeting is November 2.

**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. Patty Sirois, K.P.E.S.A. president, welcomed Mr. Brian Dusek to the Board. She expressed appreciation for the Nikiski Middle High School presentation. She noted that at the September 29 Soldotna Chamber of Commerce luncheon, Mr. Dusek announced that he will participate in the American Cancer Society Polar Bear Jump-Off Challenge in January, 2016. She reminded the Board to vote on October 6. She asked the Board to consider a wage increase for nurse and paraprofessional substitutes. She expressed concern about the safety of paraprofessionals working with violent students. She noted her granddaughter will soon be one year old.

Mr. David Brighton, KPEA president, stated that today is World Teacher's Day, and expressed appreciation for teachers. He expressed appreciation for the Students of the Month honored at the September 29 Soldotna Chamber Luncheon. He welcomed Mr. Brian Dusek to the Board. He reported that Mrs. Sirois and he had been visiting schools. He believes that the work on Student Growth Maps is going well and teachers are progressing in their development.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT:**

Mr. Dusek stated that in order to participate in the American Cancer Society Polar Bear Jump-Off Challenge he must raise \$750 in donations by November 15. He announced that Kaleidoscope School of Arts and Science was awarded the National Blue Ribbon Award (one of three Alaskan schools to earn this designation) and there will be a local formal ceremony in November after Mrs. Dahlman and a school APC member accept the award in Washington D.C. He stated that October is Principal Appreciation month. He noted that the state principals' conference will be held October 17-20 and will include a training on AMP (Alaska Measures of Progress) results. He reported that the State Board Of Education will meet on October 9 to set the AMP state proficiency levels. On October 13, state superintendents will receive additional AMP training and preliminary test results. The public release of the AMP results will be October 19 and the Board will discuss the test results during a work session on November 2. All three area Key Communicator meetings are complete and went well. He explained the Soldotna Prep School collaborative project with the Kenai Peninsula Borough Geographic Information Systems (GIS). He reported on his attendance to the Alaska Superintendents Association (ASA) conference on September 24 -27 in King Salmon and announced that he is the 2016-17 ASA president-elect. He will be out of the office October 8-12 to attend family weekend at the University of Wisconsin. During his absence, Mr. O'Brien will be the acting superintendent.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

Mr. Jones presented the financial report of the District for the period ending August 31, 2015.

**BOARD REPORTS:**

Mrs. Hilts discussed meeting (along with other board members and Mr. Dusek) with Representative Seaton on September 9 in Homer and Senator Dunleavy on September 21 in Soldotna and stated their conversation centered on education funding. She stated that Senator Dunleavy was impressed with the KPBSD. She said that the meetings were successful, although not encouraging, and helped build relationships with the legislators.

On Thursday, October 1, Mrs. Vadla was part of a four person government panel at Skyview Middle School to discuss her role as a school board member and the challenges faced.

Mr. Navarre attended the Soldotna Key Communicator meeting and thanked Mr. Dusek and Ms. Erkeneff for their work.

Mr. Holt discussed his attendance to the first Kenai Peninsula School Activities Association (KPSAA) executive board on September 17 where they seated three new members, Mr. Conrad Woodhead, Mr. Dan Beck and Mr. Kent Peterson. He noted that Mr. Pothast has replaced Mr. O'Brien as the executive secretary.

Ms. Hohl discussed the meeting with Representative Seaton and stated that she was amazed that he requested additional information be provided to legislators, as she feels the District does a good job of providing handouts and information. She attended the Seward Key Communicator meeting and requested the Board be copied on communications sent to the Key Communicators. She attended the Seward site council and PTSA meetings.

**BOARD WORK SESSION REPORT:**

Mr. Arness reported that the Board held work sessions entitled Board Policy, 2016 State and Federal Legislative Priorities and Resolution 15-16-2, World Languages Curriculum, Fine Arts Curriculum and FY17 Budget and an executive session. All members present at the meeting attended these meetings.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Resolution 15-16-1 Primary Sponsor of Gaming Permits, Student Representative to the Board, 2015-16 Resignations, 2015-16 New Teacher Contracts, Long Term Substitutes/Certified and Resolution 15-16-2 State Long-range Funding Plan.

**RESOLUTION 15-16-1:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve Resolution 15-16-1, listing the primary and alternate members in charge of gaming for those schools applying for gaming permits for 2016.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE BOARD:**

Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve the appointment of Mr. Brian Dusek, a Soldotna High School student, as the student representative to the Board of Education.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

*(Continued)*

**RESIGNATIONS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve resignations from Nate Creel, Special Education Resource Teacher, Homer High School, effective September 8, 2015; Kellie Pitman, Mentor Teacher, district wide, effective at the end of the 2015-16 school year; and Naomi Wade, Math/Science Teacher, Seward Middle School, effective October 2, 2015.

**NEW TEACHER CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve new teacher contracts for the 2015-2016 school year for Melanie Beverly, Primary Grade Teacher; Ronald Halsey, Physical Education Teacher; Ryan Lundstrom, Intermediate Grade Teacher; Samantha Rogers, Intermediate Grade Teacher; and Katherine Serge-Hoeschen, Migrant Education/ Title 1 Teacher.

**LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE  
TEACHER CONTRACT:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a long-term substitute teacher contract for Laura Beck, Seward Elementary; Lindsey Blaine, Nikolaevsk School; and Laurie Hebert, Seward Elementary.

**RESOLUTION 15-16-2:**

Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve Resolution 15-16-2 State Long-range Funding Plan as revised.

**MOTION:**

Mr. Navarre moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 6. Mr. Holt seconded.

Mr. Castimore removed item 6 Resolution 15-16-2 State Long-range Funding Plan.

Motion carried unanimously for items 1-5.

VOTE ON item 6: Resolution 15-16-2 State Long-range Funding Plan

ADVISORY VOTE: Yes

YES – Hiltz, Hohl, Holt, Navarre, Vadla, Arness

NO – Castimore

Motion carried.

**STATE AND FEDERAL  
LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES:**

Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve the list of proposed 2016 State and Federal Legislative Priorities as revised.

Mr. Matt Fischer asked the Board to request a recommendation from the Health Care Committee regarding ways to reduce district health care costs, item two on the 2016 State Legislative Priorities.

**MOTION:**

Mr. Navarre moved the Board approve the list of proposed 2016 State and Federal Legislative Priorities as revised. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**AASB NOMINATION:**

Ms. Hohl moved that the Board nominate Mrs. Sunni Hilts for the Association of Alaska School Boards' (AASB) Carl Rose Governance Award. Mr. Holt seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

Ms. Hohl stated that she will not be able to attend the Polar Bear Jump-Off in January. She announced that the Seward Ensemble will perform and represent the District on Saturday, November 7, at the AASB Annual Conference in November and apologized for not first bringing a formal request to the Board for their approval. She asked the Board to develop a process for future situations of this type. She stated that she would like to report on the AASB Fall Boardmanship Academy during the November 2 work sessions.

Mr. Holt welcomed Mr. Brian Dusek to the Board. He thanked Mr. Carstens for the school presentation. He expressed appreciation for the GIS project at Soldotna Prep. School and thanked Ms. Bobbi Lay (Kenai Peninsula Borough), Mr. Branden Bornemann (Kenai Watershed Forum) and Ms. Stephanie Queen (City of Soldotna) for their work on developing this program.

Mr. Castimore reminded everyone listening to attend the Budget meeting on October 15 at 6:00 p.m. at any of the 22 sites. He expressed appreciation for the District's use of technology for this event.

Mrs. Vadla welcomed Mr. Brian Dusek to the Board. She wished District administrators a happy principal appreciation month. She congratulated Kaleidoscope School of Arts and Science for the Blue Ribbon Award. She congratulated the Homer High School and Kenai Central High School girls cross country running teams and the Soldotna High School football team for their regional championships. She recognized Mr. Dave Kingsland for his synopsis of the leadership conference he recently attended. She thanked Keith and Debbie Hamilton for joining the Board during dinner.

Mr. Navarre thanked Nikiski Middle High School and Mr. Carstens for the school presentation. He congratulated Mr. Brian Dusek and welcomed him to the Board, stating that the Board and the administration are a partnership. He discussed his past experience with the Polar Bear Jump-Off, his "upside down" polar bear costume and stated that he will donate towards Mr. Dusek's participation.

Mrs. Hilts thanked Ms. Hohl for nominating her for the AASB Carl Rose Award, noting that she is only one part of an outstanding board. She assured Mr. Brian Dusek that mistakes during board meetings are normal and not to worry. She expressed appreciation for the meeting's presentations and speakers. She commented that the state financial situation is dire and will affect everyone, but it can also cause people to work together and create a single focus of Alaska's children as the top priority.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

*(Continued)*

Mr. Dusek congratulated the Homer High School and Kenai Central High School girls cross country running teams for their state championships. He congratulated the Soldotna High School football team for their Northern Lights Conference championship. He thanked Nikiski Middle High School and the American Heart Association for their presentations. He congratulated Kaleidoscope School of Arts and Science for the Blue Ribbon Award. He thanked the Board for welcoming him.

Mr. Arness stated that the Board received a new stack of "Music Matters" postcards in the mail. He congratulated Kaleidoscope School of Arts and Science for the award. He thanked Mr. Carstens for the school presentation. He welcomed Mr. Brian Dusek to the Board.

**ADJOURN:**

At 7:18 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

Approved 11-2-2015

Submitted by Mrs. Debbie Tressler  
Administrative Secretary to the Board of Education