



Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes

December 7, 2015 – 6:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting

Borough Administration Building
148 N. Binkley, Soldotna, Alaska

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: Mr. Joe Arness, President
Mr. Bill Holt, Vice President
Mrs. Penny Vadla, Clerk
Mr. Tim Navarre, Treasurer
Mr. Marty Anderson
Mr. Dan Castimore
Mrs. Liz Downing
Mrs. Sunni Hilts
Ms. Lynn Hohl
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: Ms. Joann Riener
Ms. Pegge Erkeneff
Mrs. Julie Cisco
Mr. Tim Vlasak
Dr. Christine Ermold
Mr. Clayton Holland
Mr. John Pothast
Mr. Kevin Downs
Mr. Kent Peterson
Mr. Conrad Woodhead
Mr. Ray Marshall
Mr. Curt Schmidt
Mrs. Patty Sirois
Mr. David Brighton
Mr. Rod Hilts
Ms. Laurel Hilts
Ms. Robin Hoffmann
Mr. Clayton Smith
Mr. Pete Swanson

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

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

DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT: Mrs. Vadla read the District's mission statement.

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Marty Anderson	Present
Mr. Joe Arness	Present
Mr. Dan Castimore	Present
Mrs. Liz Downing	Present
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 as revised with the movement of item 10c. Board Member Resignation to 10f. and the additions of 10c. Response to Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB) Ordinance 2015-27, 10d. Providing Direction to the Administration Regarding the Upcoming Student Transportation Contract and 10e. Providing Direction to the Administration Regarding a McNeil Canyon Bus Route.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The School Board Minutes of November 2, 2015, were approved as revised.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:

The Board presented Mr. Clayton Smith with the Golden Apple Award for his service to the District at Homer High School.

The Board presented member Mrs. Sunni Hilts with a gift in honor of and in appreciation for her service as a school board member.

SCHOOL REPORT:

West Homer Elementary principal, Mr. Ray Marshall, with the assistance of Ms. Becky Paul and Ms. Catherine Hayworth, highlighted the school's goals, honors, staff, student achievement, and Alaska Measures of Progress (AMP) test results. Ms. Paul explained the school's Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS) program. She presented the Board with the school's PBIS program brochure, pencils and a plastic "Orca" chip. Ms. Hayworth discussed the factors that contribute to the PBIS program's success. Mr. Marshall discussed the school's discipline data and procedures. In closing, he shared a story about a third grade student's use of the PBIS model to ask his parents for a goat. Ms. Robin Hoffmann, staff member, presented Mrs. Hilts with a West Homer Elementary t-shirt in appreciation of her service to the school board.

Mr. Curt Schmidt, principal of Soldotna Prep School, discussed the "Creating STARS" program. He explained the benefits of a 9th grade academy. He reviewed the school's first year including academic performance data, courses offered, and improvements to the amount of students on track to graduate. He shared student behavior statistics and other data including afterschool tutoring attendance. He shared the school's mission and vision. He discussed staff academic teams, school electives, advisory period, personalized learning plans, and extra-curricular activities (which are shared with Soldotna High School). He invited the Board to visit the school.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. Kent Peterson invited the Board to the Soldotna High School music concert on Tuesday, December 8 at 7:00 p.m. He explained the "Music Matters to Me" postcards that the Board has received in the mail throughout the fall. He stressed the importance of music in education, the love of learning that music can stimulate, and the way music reaches students with varying abilities and strengths.

At 7:14 p.m., Mr. Anderson left the meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

Mr. Dusek reported that district auditors have received direction from the state on the handling of the on behalf component of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and it is expected that the report will be ready for the January board meeting. He reminded the Board that their December 8 work session will be held in the Steffy Building at the Kenai Peninsula College (KPC) beginning at 9:00 a.m.

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, noted that she was absent at the November meeting. She expressed appreciation for Mr. Clayton Smith's Golden Apple award. She thanked Mr. Clayton Holland for his assistance in improving paraprofessional safety. She thanked Mrs. Hilts for her service to the Board. She wished the Board a Merry Christmas.

Mr. David Brighton, KPEA president, stated that he serves on the Golden Apple award committee and was pleased to see Mr. Clayton Smith earn the award. He wished the Board Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. He said goodbye to Mrs. Hilts.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Dusek thanked the Board for their leadership and support during his first year as superintendent. He asked the Board to review Dr. Ermold's general information packet memo regarding supplemental resources use. He congratulated Kaleidoscope School of Arts and Science on their Blue Ribbon Award. He reported that on December 2, he presented a district update at the Kenai Chamber of Commerce luncheon and attended Senator Peter Micciche's town hall meeting. He congratulated Connections student, Miss Anna DeVolld, winner of lighting of Capital Christmas Tree Contest and stated that she was a great representative of the district and state. He congratulated the Kenai Central High School student leadership group for their successful spaghetti feed fundraiser to benefit the Students In Transition (SIT) program. He thanked Ms. Erkeneff for her work on the SIT matching donation. He stated that the first semester ends on December 18. He thanked retirees Mr. Rob Moore and Mr. Vern Kornstad for their service to the District. He expressed appreciation for Mrs. Hilts, thanked her for her service and stated that he will miss working with her.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

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

FIVE-YEAR PUPIL ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS:

Mr. Jones presented the Five-Year Enrollment Projections (FY16 – FY20) which record that the FY16 preliminary enrollment reported to the State of Alaska for the 20-day count was 8789.66.

BOARD REPORTS:

Mr. Holt attended the World Languages Curriculum committee meeting on November 24, stated that teachers were very enthused over the chosen Middlebury Interactive program, discussed the positive attributes of the curriculum and expressed appreciation for being part of the committee.

BOARD REPORTS:

(Continued)

Mrs. Downing stated that the Legislative Committee met earlier in the day and discussed their agenda items. She reminded the Board of the Kenai Peninsula legislators that will attend the work session on December 8. In preparation for the meeting, she asked the Board to review the 2016 state legislative priorities.

Ms. Hohl attended the Career and Technical Advisory Committee (CTAC) meeting via teleconference where they made recommendations on the Carl Perkins grant funds.

BOARD WORK SESSION REPORT:

Mr. Arness reported that the Board held work sessions entitled Board Policy, Nanwalek School ConnectEd, Transportation, and World Language Curriculum. He stated that the remaining published work sessions will be rescheduled. All members present at the meeting, including Mr. Anderson, attended the work sessions. He noted for the record that Mr. Anderson left the meeting at 7:14 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Leave of Absence Request Certified; Resignations; Resolution 15-16-3 Kaleidoscope School of Arts and Science Blue Ribbon Award; Leave of Absence Request Support; 2015-16 New Teacher Contracts; and 2015-16 Long Term Substitute Contracts.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST/CERTIFIED:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a leave of absence for Jennifer Sorenson, Generalist Teacher, Razdolna School, effective the 2016-17 school year and Karen Weston, Gifted and Talented Teacher, McNeil Canyon Elementary School, effective January 4, 2016 through May 19, 2016.

RESIGNATIONS:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve resignations from Cathy Carrow, Title 1 Pre-K Teacher, Mountain View Elementary School; Mary Fischer, Physical Education Teacher, Mountain View Elementary School; Kari Greiner, 2nd Grade Teacher, Paul Banks Elementary School; Vern Kornstad, Library/Computer & Technology Teacher, Nikiski Middle/High School; Robert Moore, Social Studies Teacher, Skyview Middle School; Deborah Piper, 2nd Grade Teacher, McNeil Canyon Elementary School; Francie Roberts, Mathematics/Natural Resources Teacher, Homer High School; Linda Rourke, Counselor, Homer Middle School; all effective at the end of the 2015-16 school year.

RESOLUTION 15-16-3:

Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve Resolution 15-16-3 recognizing Kaleidoscope School of Arts and Science for the National Blue Ribbon School Award.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST/SUPPORT:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a leave of absence for Alice Weber, Head Custodian I, Tebughna School, effective November 30, 2015 to June 10, 2016.

2015-16 NEW TEACHER CONTRACTS:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a new teacher contract for Nate Creel, Special Education Resource Teacher.

CONSENT AGENDA:

(Continued)

**LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE
TEACHER CONTRACT:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a long-term substitute teacher contract for Maria Chythlook, Sterling Elementary School; Laura McIndoe, Sterling Elementary School; and Marc Swanson, Seward Middle School.

MOTION:

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

Mr. Castimore removed item 3 Resolution 15-16-3 Kaleidoscope School of Arts and Science Blue Ribbon Award.

Motion carried unanimously for items 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6.

Motion carried unanimously for item 3.

**WORLD LANGUAGE
CURRICULUM:**

Mr. O'Brien recommended the Board approve the World Languages Curriculum.

MOTION:

Mr. Holt moved the Board approve the World Languages Curriculum. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**RESPONSE TO KP
B ORDINANCE 2015-27:**

Mr. Castimore moved that the Board direct the school board President to send a letter to the Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB) Assembly expressing strong opposition to KPB Ordinance 2015-27. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Ms. Debbie Carrie spoke in opposition to KPB Ordinance 2015-27.

VOTE:

ADVISORY VOTE: Yes

YES –Castimore, Downing, Hilts, Hohl, Holt, Vadla, Arness

NO – Navarre

Motion carried.

**TRANSPORTATION
CONTRACT RFP:**

Mr. Castimore moved that the Board direct the administration to create a request for proposal (RFP) for the student transportation contract and solicit two separate options. Proposal one would include a two tiered bus schedule for the entire peninsula. Proposal two would include the current single tiered schedule in the southern peninsula and the two tiered schedule for the remainder of the peninsula. Mrs. Downing seconded.

**TRANSPORTATION
CONTRACT RFP:**
(Continued)

VOTE:

ADVISORY VOTE: Yes
YES –Castimore, Downing, Hilts, Hohl, Holt, Vadla, Arness
NO – Navarre

Motion carried.

**MCNEIL CANYON SCHOOL
BUS ROUTE:**

Mr. Castimore moved the Board of Education direct the administration to continue the after school, McNeil Canyon to Homer bus route, for the duration of the FY16 school year and to review this route prior to the FY17 school year. Ms. Hohl seconded.

Mr. Pete Swanson spoke in support of continuing the after school McNeil Canyon to Homer bus route.

MOTION:

Mr. Navarre moved the Board approve an amendment to include the continuation of Tier 1 service in Homer for the duration of the current contract, through June 2017. Mrs. Hilts seconded.

VOTE ON NAVARRE AMENDMENT:

ADVISORY VOTE: No
YES – Hilts, Navarre
NO – Castimore, Downing, Hohl, Holt, Vadla, Arness

Amendment failed.

VOTE ON MCNEIL CANYON BUS ROUTE:

ADVISORY VOTE: Yes
YES – Anderson, Castimore, Downing, Hilts, Hohl, Holt, Navarre
Vadla, Arness
NO –

Motion carried unanimously.

**BOARD MEMBER
RESIGNATION:**

Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve the resignation of board member, Mrs. Sunni Hilts.

Mrs. Vadla moved the Board approve the resignation of board member, Mrs. Sunni Hilts if she writes an essay about it. Mrs. Downing seconded.

Ms. Hohl moved the board amend the motion to declare a vacancy on the Board. Mrs. Downing seconded.

Amendment carried unanimously.

Mrs. Vadla removed the portion of the motion “if she writes an essay about it.” As the motion’s second, Mrs. Downing endorsed the removal.

Amended motion carried unanimously.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Ms. Hohl attended the PTA Legislative Issues Conference the weekend of November 14, 2015 and noted that PTA members will travel to Juneau to support education. She stated that she is amazed that Mrs. Hilts is leaving the Board and Mr. Dusek has been the district superintendent for a year. She attended the Seward Chamber of Commerce luncheon where Senator Micciche spoke on the state fiscal situation and his survey results. She noted the resignation of Ms. Naomi Wade, Seward math teacher, and mentioned Mr. Marc Swanson, substitute teacher, and the historical videos that he produces for the Turnagain Arm National Heritage Center.

Mr. Holt expressed appreciation for Mrs. Sunni Hilts. He hopes that the West Homer Elementary student, talked about during the school PBIS presentation, will get his requested goats.

Mrs. Downing stated that she experienced some frustration earlier in the day, then detailed the day's work sessions and presentations and stated that she is proud to be part of the Board. She congratulated Ms. Francie Roberts on her retirement. She remarked that Mrs. Hilts is inspirational and will be missed.

Mr. Navarre thanked Ms. Erkeneff for her work on SIT matching fund donation and the anonymous donor and noted the importance of the program. He thanked Mr. Jim White and Mr. Ted Notter for their years of service to the district. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas. He thanked Mrs. Hilts for her service to the Board and noted that, while on the borough assembly, he worked to acquire the nine member board task force that allowed for Mrs. Hilts' board seat.

Mr. Castimore attended an Alert Lockdown Inform Counter Evacuate (ALICE) training for City of Kenai earlier in the day, noted that the school board has not yet attended such a training and offered the Kenai SRO to present to the board on ALICE. He stated that he will miss Mrs. Hilts but is happy for her and wished her well.

Mrs. Vadla thanked all presenters. She expressed appreciation for the ConnectEd presentation and Ms. Kleine. She thanked Mrs. Linton and Dr. Ermold for their work on the World Languages Curriculum and noted she would like it to begin for students at an earlier age. She thanked Mr. Peterson for his comments on music education. She noted the resignations of Mr. Robert Moore, Ms. Cathy Carrow and Mr. Vern Korstad, and wished them well. She told Mrs. Hilts that she is kind, considerate, caring, and knowledgeable and wished her well in retirement. She wished everyone Happy Holidays from the school board.

Mr. Brian Dusek thanked the Board for allowing him to attend the AASB Youth Leadership Institute and stated that it was a great experience. He discussed a district-wide fundraiser that he organized to raise money for the Bethel School and asked the Board to contact him for more information or to volunteer to help. He congratulated Mrs. Hilts on her retirement and thanked her for her service.

BOARD COMMENTS:

(Continued)

Mrs. Hilts expressed appreciation for the AASB Annual Conference. She stated that Mr. Dusek is well thought of and represents the District well. She discussed how much serving on the Board has meant to her. She expressed appreciation for District administrators, parents, students, and communities. She asserted that children should be declared Alaska's top priority. She declared that boards of education are the foundation of democracy. She thanked the Board, administration and staff for their service.

Mr. Arness expressed appreciation for Mrs. Hilts and wished her the very best. He wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. He reminded the Board of their work session on December 8 in the Steffy Building at the Kenai Peninsula College, beginning 9:00 a.m., and of the next regular meeting on January 11, 2016.

ADJOURN:

At 8:28 p.m., Mr. Arness adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Joe Arness, President

Mrs. Penny Vadla, Clerk

BOE approved 1/11/16

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