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# Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

## Board of Education Meeting Minutes

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November 2, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.  
Regular Meeting

Borough Administration Building  
148 N. Binkley, Soldotna, Alaska

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**SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:**

Mr. Joe Arness, President  
Mrs. Liz Downing, Vice President  
Mrs. Sunni Hilts, Clerk  
Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Treasurer  
Mr. Marty Anderson  
Ms. Lynn Hohl  
Mr. Bill Holt  
Mr. Tim Navarre  
Mrs. Penny Vadla  
Miss Destini Riley, Student Representative

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Dr. Steve Atwater, Superintendent of Schools  
Mrs. Melody Douglas, Chief Financial Officer  
Mr. Dave Jones, Assistant Superintendent  
Mr. Sean Dusek, Assistant Superintendent

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Mrs. Rochelle Hanson	Mrs. Margie Warner
Mrs. Laurie Olson	Mr. Dave Spence
Mr. Dave Spence	Mr. Jim White
Mr. Tim Peterson	Mr. Todd Syverson
Mr. Gregg Wilbanks	Ms. Dawn Edwards-Smith
Mr. Joe Gallagher	Miss Celeste Cannon
Miss Hannah Romberg	

Others present not identified.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. A quorum of School Board members, Mr. Anderson, Mrs. Crawford, Mrs. Downing, Mr. Navarre, Mrs. Hilts, Mr. Holt, Ms. Hohl, Mrs. Vadla, and Mr. Arness were in attendance.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

At 5:16 p.m. Ms. Hohl 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 executive session was to discuss negotiations strategies and tactics. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

At 5:48 p.m., Mrs. Hilts moved the executive session be adjourned. Ms. Hohl seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

*(7:00:48 PM)*

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

*(7:01:18 PM)*

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

**OATH OF OFFICE:**  
(7:01:43 PM)

The Oath of Office was administered to newly elected School Board member Mr. Marty Anderson, by notary public, Mrs. Sally Tachick.

**DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT:**  
(7:03:00 PM)

Ms. Hohl read the District's mission statement.

**ROLL CALL:**  
(7:03:23 PM)

Mr. Joe Arness	Present
Mr. Marty Anderson	Present
Mrs. Sammy Crawford	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
Miss Destini Riley	Present

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**  
(7:04:00 PM)

The agenda was approved with the inclusion of a revision to Item 11a.(4), Approval of Outsourcing for High School Softball.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**  
(7:04:30 PM)

The School Board Minutes of October 19, 2009 were approved with a correction.

**AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:**  
(7:05:08 PM)

The Board presented a Golden Apple Award to Dawn Edwards-Smith, River City Academy Teacher, for her service to the District and the students of River City Academy. Miss Celeste Cannon, River City Academy student, commended her as an exceptional teacher.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:**  
(7:10:52 PM)

Miss Hannah Romberg, Soldotna High School student and National Honor Society president, spoke in favor of Advanced Placement classes and weighted grades.

Mr. Syverson, Soldotna High School principal, spoke in support of offering Advanced Placement classes and weighted grades. He noted that offering weighted grades encourages students to take Advanced Placement classes.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:**  
(7:27:21 PM)

Dr. Atwater reported that the Department of Education and Early Development reported that the three Russian Old Believer schools can meet the adequate yearly progress attendance requirement by using a three-year average assuming that students in the lower level grades take the test.

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SITE COUNCIL AND/OR P.T.A., K.P.A.A., K.P.E.A., K.P.E.S.A, BOROUGH ASSEMBLY:**  
(7:28:28 PM)

Mrs. Margie Warner, KPESA president, announced that Friday, October 30 the bargaining groups reached a tentative settlement and that area visits and teleconferences will be held before a membership vote is taken to ratify the agreement.

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

*(continued)*

Mr. Syverson, KPAA treasurer and president-elect, thanked the administration for working with the principals on an agreement. He thanked Mrs. Douglas for her past work for the District and noted that she will be missed.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT:**

*(7:30:53 PM)*

Dr. Atwater reported that a tentative agreement has been reached with KPEA and KPESA, and that a successful meet and confer meeting was held with KPAA. He explained that Mrs. Douglas' resignation will cause the restructuring of District Office. He announced that the official District enrollment count on October 23 is 9,082 students. He reported that parent-teacher conferences were held October 29 and 30 with diminishing parent participation at the high school level. He presented Mr. Dave Jones with the certificate of professional participation, as chair of the Legal Aspects Committee, awarded by the Association of School Business Officials International.

**CLASS SIZE REPORT:**

*(7:34:51 PM)*

Mr. Sean Dusek presented the 2009-2010 Class Size Enrollment Report that included a comparison of pupil-teacher ratios throughout District schools.

**BOARD REPORTS:**

*(7:39:28 PM)*

Mrs. Crawford distributed copies of the Alaska Education plan. She noted that the latest publication of *Alaska ICE News* featured an article regarding the community mural in Tyonek.

Mrs. Hilts reported that she attended the Charter School Oversight Committee meeting in which the differences in budgeting formats of charter schools and traditional community schools was discussed.

Mrs. Vadla reported that she attended the Charter School Oversight Committee meeting and the Finance Committee meeting. She thanked Mr. Jones and Mrs. Douglas for responding to her questions and noted that the single audit report was given during the Finance Committee meeting.

Mr. Holt reported that he attended the Finance Committee meeting and added that the group discussed the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and audit and 403(b) retirement plan.

Ms. Hohl reported that she attended the Arts Curriculum Committee meeting and noted that the Seward student representative on the committee, Mr. Nathan Freemster, was also in attendance.

**BOARD WORKSESSION  
REPORT:**

*(7:42:41 PM)*

Mr. Arness reported that the Charter School Oversight Committee and Finance Committee meetings were held prior to the Board worksessions. He reported that the Board held worksessions on weighted grades, policy revisions, class sizes, board goals, and the proposed economic impact study. He noted that all members were in attendance.

Mr. Arness welcomed Mr. Pete Sprague, newly-elected Assembly president, in the audience.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**  
(7:43:43 PM)

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of AR 6162.71, Acceptable Use Policy/Internet Safety Policy; Adoption of BP 6114.4, Pandemic/Epidemic Emergencies; Resignation; and Outsourcing for High School Softball.

**AR 6162.71:**

Mr. Dave Jones recommended the Board approve revisions to AR 6162.71, Acceptable Use Policy/Internet Safety Policy.

**ADOPTION OF BP 6114.4:**

Mr. Dave Jones recommended the Board approve the adoption of BP 6114.4, Pandemic/Epidemic Emergencies.

**RESIGNATION:**

Mr. Dave Jones recommended the Board approve a resignation effective November 30 from Melody Douglas, Chief Financial Officer.

**OUTSOURCING FOR HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve an outsourced activity application for girls' fast-pitch softball at Kenai Central High.

**MOTION**

Mr. Anderson moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 4. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Mrs. Hilts removed Number 3, Approval of Resignation.

Mrs. Hohl removed Number 4, Approval of Outsourcing for High School Softball.

Motion carried unanimously for Numbers 1 and 2.

Mrs. Hilts removed Number 3 to wish Mrs. Douglas good luck with her future plans and to regretfully support her decision to retire. All other Board members provided complimentary comments regarding Mrs. Douglas and her service to the District.

Motion carried unanimously for Number 3.

**MOTION**

Ms. Hohl moved the Board approve an amendment to request KPSAA consider the pros and cons of making softball and baseball sanctioned school athletic activities rather than outsourced activities for the purpose of bringing a recommendation back to the Board for action after the next regularly scheduled KPSAA meeting.

**VOTE ON HOHL AMENDMENT:**

Advisory Vote – Yes

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

NO – Crawford, Navarre

Amendment carried.

Amended motion carried unanimously.

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE  
COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL  
FINANCIAL REPORT:**

*(8:08:47 PM)*

Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve the acceptance of the FY09 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). She noted that Mr. Alex Beckman, Mikunda, Cottrell, & Co., Inc., presented information on the audit during the Finance Committee meeting. She stated that the auditing firm rendered an unqualified opinion on our financial statement. She noted that approximately 75% of the FY09 general fund expenditures went for instructional purposes. She recognized the Finance Department and especially Mrs. Elizabeth Hayes and Mrs. Laurie Olson for their exemplary work on the document.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Downing moved the Board approve the acceptance of the FY09 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**FIRST READING OF POLICY  
REVISIONS:**

*(8:12:05 PM)*

The Board heard a first reading of revisions to BP 6146.1, High School Graduation Requirements.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/  
COMMENTS:**

*(8:19:35 PM)*

Mr. Pete Sprague, Borough Assembly president, announced that orbital microphones will soon be installed in the Assembly Chambers. He wished Mrs. Douglas the best of luck in her future endeavors and thanked her for being an excellent resource of information. He noted that the District's CAFR received the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting from ASBO International.

Miss Sarah Barsis, Skyview High School student and National Honor Society secretary, commended the District's early graduation request process. She explained that her request was approved and that she will graduate in December to attend college in January.

Mr. Joe Gallagher, River City Academy parent, thanked Mrs. Dawn Edwards-Smith for her work with his son.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

*(8:24:13 PM)*

Mr. Holt stated that students need to be encouraged to take rigorous courses for college preparation.

Mrs. Vadla congratulated and thanked Mrs. Edwards-Smith. She thanked the students who provided testimony to the Board. She thanked Mr. Syverson for the letter and testimony regarding Advanced Placement classes and weighted grades. She told Mrs. Douglas that she will be missed and welcomed Mr. Jones and Mrs. Olson to their new responsibilities.

**BOARD COMMENTS:***(continued)*

Mrs. Crawford expressed appreciation for the weighted grades discussion and the need to make sure that the District's most capable students are taking rigorous and challenging classes. She reported that she participated in the selection of the next Teacher of the Year which will be announced at AASB Annual Conference. She stated that she is looking forward to presiding at the upcoming conference. She thanked Mrs. Douglas for her service to the District, adding that she will be missed. She asked for an excused absence from the December 7 meeting.

Mrs. Hilts stated that students need to know that the most challenging thing about an Advanced Placement class is the challenge. She stated that it is the Board's responsibility to create educated and enthusiastic life-long learners.

Mr. Anderson thanked the voters in District 5 for reelecting him for another 3 years. He welcomed Miss Riley and Mr. Navarre to the Board. He reported that he attended the annual Workforce Investment Board meeting and noted that approximately \$52 million is being set aside by the state to retrain Alaskans for work. He stated that a large component of that effort will be to build a bridge between high school students and further education. He stated that the District's Personal Education Plan will fit well and help transition students directly into the opportunities offered by the state.

Mr. Navarre thanked Mrs. Tachick and other District staff for help transitioning into the Board member position. He supported educational choices and opportunities for students and added that he is anxious to visit each of the District's schools. He stated that he is looking forward to attending the upcoming AASB Annual Conference.

Ms. Hohl reported that she attended the Seward PTSA meeting, the Seward Booster Club meeting, took tickets at the Halloween carnival, and attended the Borough capital improvement meetings for the eastern peninsula. She reported that she received an inquiry about whether Hope residents could have a community school program rather than build a community center. She reminded the Board that they had requested a follow-up worksession on the new facility use policy approved last school year. She expressed concern that Miss Romberg was bored with the first two years of high school until she could take Advanced Placement classes. She reported that she was impressed during a visit to the Soldotna Middle School Digital Photography classroom. She reminded the Board that the waiver policy is not mandatory; rather it is based on whether the school has the funds to pay for the waivers. She stated that she will miss Mrs. Douglas. She welcomed Mr. Jones to his new role and congratulated him on receiving national recognition. She asked the Board and administration to investigate parent-teacher conference participation.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**  
*(continued)*

Mrs. Downing asked for a worksession on understanding the Kenai Peninsula Student Activities Association and Alaska School Activities Association organizations. She expressed appreciation for the discussion on Advanced Placement courses and weighted grades and that there may be other courses that would be equally valuable. She suggested that school site councils discuss ways to improve participation in parent-teacher conferences. She expressed appreciation for the work by the administration and counselors regarding Personalized Education Plan.

Miss Riley reported that one of her teachers plans to send letters to parents that did not attend the parent-teacher conferences, informing them of their child's progress. She stated that she supported the idea of a student shuttle to schools that offer Advanced Placement classes.

Mr. Arness thanked Mrs. Edwards-Smith for her work with students. He thanked Mrs. Douglas for her service to the District.

**ADJOURN:**  
*(8:40:56 PM)*

At 8:40 p.m., Mrs. Crawford moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mr. Joe Arness, President

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Mrs. Sunni Hilts, Clerk

The Minutes of November 2, 2009,  
were approved on December 7, 2009  
as written.