
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

June 7, 2010 – 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. Sunni Hilts, Clerk
Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Treasurer
Mr. Marty Anderson
Ms. Lynn Hohl
Mr. Bill Holt
Mr. Tim Navarre
Mrs. Penny Vadla

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mrs. LaDawn Druce	Mrs. Margie Warner
Ms. Kelly Reisig	Mr. Dave Spence
Mrs. Sharon Moock	Mr. Tim Peterson
Mr. Jim White	Mrs. Laurie Olson
Mrs. Doris Cannon	Mr. Doug Cannon

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 2:32 p.m. A quorum of School Board members, Mr. Arness, Mrs. Downing, Mrs. Hilts, Mrs. Crawford, Mr. Anderson, Mr. Holt, Mr. Navarre and Mrs. Vadla were in attendance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 2:33 p.m. Mrs. Hilts moved the Board go into executive session to discuss subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person, provided the person may request a public discussion and to discuss matters which by law, municipal charter, or ordinance are required to be confidential. Specifically, the executive session was to conduct the superintendent evaluation and the Board self-evaluation and to discuss the details of an employee grievance hearing. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

At 3:30 p.m. Ms. Hohl joined the executive session.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 3:47 p.m., Mr. Anderson moved the executive session be adjourned. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
(7:00:00 PM)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mr. Arness invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.
(7:00:40 PM)

DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT:

(7:01:04 PM)

Mrs. Hilts read the District’s mission statement.

ROLL CALL:

(7:01:31 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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

(7:02:08 PM)

The agenda was approved as written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

(7:02:22 PM)

The School Board Minutes of May 3, 2010, were approved as printed.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

(7:03:18 PM)

Dr. Atwater reported that the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) test will be given to students at the end of January through March with 22 District schools participating. He announced that Cooper Landing School was formally approved by the Department of Education and Early Development to offer kindergarten through twelfth grade school. He reported that the Project GRAD Summer Institute is currently underway which includes participation in the Kachemak Bay Writer’s Conference. He announced that the District will receive federal funds for 4 District schools (Mt. View Elementary, Chapman Elementary, Nanwalek Elementary/High, and Tebughna Elementary/High) to participate in the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program.

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

(7:04:34 PM)

Mrs. Druce, KPEA president, distributed campaign pins advertising opposition to state Proposition 1, known as the “gag law” and reported that NEA-Alaska and NEA-National are financially supporting the campaign to defeat the initiative. She thanked Dr. Atwater for allowing KPEA to host a table at the teacher inservice to distribute informational literature about the proposition. She reported that KPEA will paint faces during the Kenai River Festival June 12 and 13 in an effort to promote classroom teachers and support professionals. She expressed gratitude for the list of nontenure teacher contracts before the Board for approval. She urged the Board and administration to continue to work with the Assembly to improve the budget process. She stated that she will attend the June 8 Assembly meeting. She stated that she is impressed and grateful for the new teacher evaluation process that will be implemented during the 2010-2011 school year.

Margie Warner, KPESA president, reported that U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski spoke to the NEA Political Action Committee about the reauthorization of ESEA and how the Government Pension Offset Windfall Elimination Provision (GPO-WEP) will affect Alaskan retirees.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT:**

(7:10:48 PM)

Dr. Atwater reported that all of the District intensive needs students were certified by the state. He announced that for the 20th consecutive year, the District has won the Alaska Business Officials Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. He provided preliminary test results noting improvement in math and reading and a small dip in writing. He noted that the District has 275 homeless students with the highest number living in Homer. He announced that over 10% of the District graduates now come from nontraditional high schools which supports the need for choice in education. He commended Mrs. Olson for an outstanding job standing in for Dave Jones while he was out of the office.

LEASE AGREEMENTS:

(7:16:21 PM)

Mr. Jones reviewed the report of leases and agreements for the 2010-2011 school year.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

(7:18:35 PM)

Mr. Jones presented the financial report of the District for the period ending April 30, 2010.

BOARD REPORTS:

(7:26:06 PM)

Mrs. Downing reported that she attended graduation ceremonies at Homer High and Homer Flex. She reported that she was asked to provide a welcome speech on behalf of the School Board to the Project GRAD Summer Institute students. She reported that over 40 students were participating in college preparation activities. She reported that she was asked to be the keynote speaker at the Homer Middle School eighth grade promotion.

Mrs. Hilts reported that she attended the graduation ceremonies at Nanwalek, Kachemak Selo, Voznesenka and Seldovia and provided details about each.

Mr. Holt reported that he attended graduation ceremonies at Kenai Alternative, Skyview and Nikolaevsk. He stated that each of the graduations were memorable and unique and that it is good to have diversity in schools and diversity of programs.

Mrs. Crawford reported that she attended graduation ceremonies at Kenai Central High, Soldotna High and River City High.

Mr. Anderson reported that he attended graduation ceremonies at River City Academy High and Susan B. English High. He reported that he attended the BP Teachers of Excellence and was pleased that Mrs. Courtright was selected as the Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Navarre reported that he attended graduation ceremonies at Kenai Central High and Ninilchik High.

Mrs. Vadla reported that she attended the Soldotna High awards night, Skyview High Site Council Committee meeting, the BP Teacher of Excellence dinner, and graduation ceremonies at Soldotna High and Skyview High. She expressed appreciation for the thank you notes from a Skyview student and Mr. Syverson. She reported that she attended both Drug Testing Task Force meetings.

BOARD REPORTS:

(continued)

Ms. Hohl reported that she attended a special graduation ceremony at Seward High for Mr. Joshua Kompkoff and noted that several statewide dignitaries attended as well. She reported that she attended the graduation ceremonies at Seward High School and Hope High. She apologized for missing the Spring Creek High graduation and noted that she arrived in time for the reception. She reported that she attended the Seward PTSA meeting.

BOARD WORKSESSION REPORT:

(7:38:12 PM)

Mr. Arness reported that the Board conducted a KPESA Grievance Hearing, the superintendent's evaluation, and the Board's self-evaluation. He reported that the Board participated in worksessions regarding 2010-2011 District Goals, revisions to the KPSAA elementary and high school handbooks, proposed school roof repair bond issue and an update on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds. Ms. Hohl did not attend the grievance hearing.

CONSENT AGENDA:

(7:38:48 PM)

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Resolution Number 09-10-3, Change of Registered Agent/Kenai Peninsula Building Authority, Inc.; Revisions to the KPSAA Handbook; Physical Education Curriculum; Resignations; Resolution Number 09-10-4, Opposition to Proposition 1; Request for Leave of Absence-Certified; Long-Term Substitute Contracts; New Teacher Contracts; Nontenured Teacher Contracts; Administrator Contracts; and Budget Transfers.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 09-10-3:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a recommendation to change the Registered Agent for the Kenai Peninsula Building Authority, Inc., from Dr. Donna Peterson to Dr. Steve Atwater.

REVISIONS TO THE KPSAA HANDBOOK:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve proposed revisions to the elementary and high school Kenai Peninsula Student Activities Association handbooks.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM:

Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve the K-12 Physical Education curriculum.

RESIGNATIONS:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve resignations, effective on May 24, 2010, from Richard Metcalf, science/math, Kenai Alternative High School; and Nicholas Christensen, science, Soldotna Middle School.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 09-10-4:

Dr. Atwater recommended the Board approve Resolution 09-10-4, Opposition to Proposition 1, "An Initiative Creating an Alaska Anti-Corruption Act".

REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE-CERTIFIED:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a request for unpaid leave of absence for Anne Ridgely, special education, Homer Middle.

LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE CONTRACTS:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve long-term substitute teacher contracts for Marsha Gustkey, Mountain View Elementary, and Mary K. Pfundt, West Homer Elementary.

NEW TEACHER CONTRACTS: Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve new teacher contracts for Christopher Brown, language arts teacher, Homer Flex School; Jeremy McKibben, (temporary) Title I teacher, Mountain View Elementary; Sonya L. Selanoff, primary teacher .50 FTE permanent/.50 FTE temporary, Nanwalek School; Barbara Larrivee, special education, intensive needs, Paul Banks Elementary; Deanne Pearson, math teacher/generalist, River City Academy; Benjamin Caswell, school psychologist, Seward Area; and Christie A. Cook, (temporary) intermediate teacher, Tebughna School.

NONTENURED TEACHER CONTRACTS: Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve nontenure teacher contracts for Stacy Naden, art (.50 FTE), Homer High; Patricia Haywood, intermediate (.50 FTE permanent/.50 FTE temporary), K-Beach Elementary; Steve Fischer, Vocational Education, Kenai Middle School; Kathryn Baum Fjelstad, language arts, Ninilchik Elementary/High; Barbara Denboer, language arts, Ninilchik Elementary/High; Bryan Hickey, math, Ninilchik Elementary/High; David Patat, science, Ninilchik Elementary/High; Eric Simonsen, music, Ninilchik Elementary/High; Amy Ware, Title I (temporary), Paul Banks Elementary; Chad Hinders, social studies, Seward High; Bethany Waggoner, art, Seward High; Jeffrey Wolf, Spanish, Seward High; and Christina Granger, pre-kindergarten (temporary .50 FTE), Tustumena Elementary.

ADMINISTRATOR CONTRACTS: Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve administrator contracts for David Larson, principal, Homer Middle; Lisa Callahan, principal, Nikiski North Star; and Dawn Edwards-Smith, principal/teacher, River City Academy.

BUDGET TRANSFERS: Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve budget transfers Numbers 1251, 1252 and 1253 in the amounts of \$113,000, \$51,000 and \$135,000 respectively, to align budgets with anticipated current year expenditures of fuel, transportation contract costs and bus attendant costs for Home to School, Special Services and summer school bus routes in the Central Peninsula and Seward; and Number 1371 for \$66,345 to purchase AIMSweb and Ed Performance.

MOTION Mr. Navarre moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 11. Mr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

BOND ISSUE: Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a request to submit two bond proposals to the Kenai Peninsula Borough electorate to pay for roof repairs at 18 District schools.
(7:45:10 PM)

MOTION Mr. Navarre moved the Board approve a request to submit two bond proposals to the Kenai Peninsula Borough electorate to pay for roof repairs at 18 District schools. Mr. Holt seconded.

MOTION

Mr. Navarre moved the Board approve an amendment to include an asterisk next to the bond issue amounts in bold and an asterisk and bold the explanation paragraph at the bottom of the memo of recommendation. Mr. Holt seconded.
Amendment carried unanimously.

Amended motion carried unanimously.

FY10 BUDGET REVISION:

(7:46:55 PM)

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve proposed changes to the FY10 general fund budget of \$126,345,205 and special revenue fund budgets of \$38,617,356 for a total of \$164,962,561 in all funds.

MOTION

Mr. Holt moved the Board approve proposed changes to the FY10 general fund budget of \$126,345,205 and special revenue fund budgets of \$38,617,356 for a total of \$164,962,561 in all funds. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/
COMMENTS:**

(7:47:42 PM)

Mrs. Moock, Soldotna Middle principal, reported that the Informational Services Department staff will replace 164 computers at the school and thanked Mr. White for coordinating the effort. She praised the IS Department staff for their efficiency. She thanked Mr. Vlasak and Mr. Henson for implementing a software program that provides test data that can be sorted by grade level.

BOARD COMMENTS:

(7:52:03 PM)

Mr. Holt reported that he recently had lunch with two former District graduates who have been successful since high school graduation and noted that there are many other students who are just as successful.

Mrs. Crawford stated that the graduation ceremonies were all well attended and that they provide a wonderful opportunity for communication and outreach with those who do not have children in school. She stated that she is excited about the new teacher evaluation form.

Mr. Anderson stated that he is in his seventh year on the Board and is pleased to participate in the graduation ceremonies. He stated that he is not pleased that the District will be using a portion of the fund balance next year. He cautioned that there will be difficult years ahead for the state and that the District should hold on to the fund balance for as long as possible.

Ms. Hohl thanked Mrs. Druce for the "Vote No on Proposition 1" campaign buttons and for assisting with the teacher evaluation pilot program. She reported that she attended the SeaView Community Services Board meeting. She agreed with Mrs. Moock's positive comments regarding the Information Services Department. At Seward Elementary she attended the Boys and Girls Club Arbor Day celebration, mural unveiling, and the memorial tree dedication in honor of former school psychologist, Ann Knofel.

BOARD COMMENTS:

(continued)

Mrs. Vadla thanked Mrs. Druce for distributing the campaign buttons and added that Proposition 1 is not an anti-corruption act. She stated that the new teacher evaluation tool is exciting and that she looks forward to the outcome. She stated that she will attend the Analytical Writing Assessment Committee meetings. She expressed appreciation for the worksessions prior to the Board meeting and thanked Mr. Jones and Dr. Atwater for the information provided. She stated that she enjoyed the article written by Dr. Atwater in the June edition of the School Administrator magazine titled, "Can We Live Without Federal Involvement." She reported that she attended the Drug Testing Task Force meeting prior to the worksessions and that the group is divided on the decision about whether to test students.

Mrs. Hilts stated that the Board had a productive day and that she was pleased that Mr. Jones is back at work.

Mr. Navarre stated that there needs to be more communication between the Assembly, School Board and the two administrations and that a meeting in September or October will be beneficial to next year's budget process. He thanked Mr. Jones, Mrs. Olson and the administration for their work throughout the budget process. He thanked the Borough Assembly members for their continued communication and added that he is looking forward to a smoother process next year.

Mrs. Downing stated that she is looking forward to more stability within the administration of the Homer schools. She stated that she attended the recent principal interviews and is encouraged by the new staff. She was impressed by the \$1.5 million of scholarship money awarded to Homer High students. She stated that she is looking forward to hearing about the personal education plan work being done in the counselors' meeting. She asked for an excused absence for the July 12 meeting.

Mr. Arness explained that the Board meeting audio was being web streamed on a trial basis and if successful, would continue. He stated that the use of web streaming is an attempt to become more accessible to Board meetings by the outlying areas of the Borough. He announced that an email link from the Board's website has been added to allow public comment on agenda items and can be submitted anytime prior to the start of the meeting. He reminded Board members of the June 8 Planning Session at the Kenai River Center beginning at 8:45 a.m.

ADJOURN:
(8:06:14 PM)

At 8:06 p.m., Mrs. Vadla moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mr. Navarre seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Joe Arness, President

Mrs. Sunni Hilts, Clerk

The Minutes of June 7, 2010,
were approved on July 12, 2010
with a correction.