
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes

January 10, 2011 – 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. Sammy Crawford, Clerk
Mrs. Sunni Hilts, Treasurer
Mr. Marty Anderson
Ms. Lynn Hohl
Mr. Bill Holt
Mr. Tim Navarre
Mrs. Penny Vadla
Miss Julie Rang, Student Representative

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Mrs. Patricia Truesdell Mrs. Doris Cannon
Mr. Jim Dawson Mr. Doug Cannon
Ms. Kelsey Cunningham Mr. Todd Syverson
Mr. Jeff Clay Mr. Dave Spence

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
(7:00:06 PM)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mr. Arness invited those present to participate in the Pledge of
(7:00:17 PM) Allegiance.

DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT: Mr. Holt read the District's mission statement.
(7:00:53 PM)

ROLL CALL: Mr. Joe Arness Present
(7:01:20 PM) 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 Julie Rang Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved with a revision to Item 10 a (3), Approval
(7:02:00 PM) of Resignations.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of December 6, 2010, were approved as
(7:02:39 PM) printed.

SCHOOL REPORT:

(7:03:7 PM)

Mr. Tyler Cork Belcher, Hope School twelfth grade student, expressed appreciation for the small class sizes at Hope School and for Mrs. Truesdell who has helped him earn enough credits to graduate. Mr. Belcher presented a slide show highlighting school and community activities. Several students (Mr. Tyler Cork Belcher, Mr. Dagny Cunningham, Mr. Cody Fortin, Miss Alexandra Schell, and Miss Kelsey Cunningham) provided positive testimony regarding their schooling experience at Hope School. Mrs. Truesdell stated that she is proud of the multi-grade students' unique ability to participate in activities together.

Moose Pass School students, Mr. Damnyan Letter, Miss Jessi Hood, and Mr. Blaze Havnen, provided a slide show highlighting student art projects, classroom volunteers, all-school field trips, science experiments, classroom guinea pigs, the school facility and playground area, customized instruction, and physical education.

RECESS:

(7:20:45 PM)

At 7:20 p.m., Mr. Arness called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER**RECESS:**

(7:23:43 PM)

At 7:23 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND
PETITIONS:**

(7:23:48 PM)

Mr. Arness reported that he received a brochure from the State Department of Transportation regarding highway safety for the past two years.

Dr. Atwater called the Board's attention to an update of the District's goals and a memo from Mr. Clayton Holland regarding the designation of students with intensive needs. He reported the list of pre-filed bills was released from the legislature and noted that 3 education bills came from the House and 4 from the Senate. He reported that HB 5, requires a greater emphasis on the teaching of the Constitution and the possibility of including it in the high school graduation qualifying exit exam.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT:**

(7:26:05 PM)

Dr. Atwater reported that the new federal health reform legislation requires plans to expand coverage for young adults up to age 26. He reported that in December the District offered an open enrollment period in which 154 new people were added to the health care roll, and may result in the additional cost of approximately \$1 million. He reported that the search for principal applicants has begun and that the administration has received 6 resignation letters. He noted that the hiring process will begin in February. He reported that during the winter break the Kenai Central High gymnasium sustained water damage from flooding and that the Borough Maintenance Department is monitoring moisture content. He stated that basketball practice is being held at Kenai Middle, and the physical education classes are using the swimming pool and the Kenai Ice Rink. Dr. Atwater thanked the City of Kenai for their generous donation of ice skates and use of the ice rink for students.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

(7:29:04 PM)

Mr. Jones presented financial reports for the District for the periods ending November 30, 2010 and December 31, 2010.

**QUARTERLY BUDGET
TRANSFER REPORT:**

(7:29:44 PM)

Mr. Jones reported on budget transfers Numbers 219 through 509 for various schools and departments within the District.

BOARD REPORTS:

(7:30:22PM)

Mrs. Vadla reported that she attended the Communication Committee meeting to discuss the District's upcoming Strategic Communication Plan in the survey packet. She noted that the group reviewed the timeline and survey and will be submitting comments.

Mrs. Downing announced that Ms. Bonnie Powell, executive director of Project GRAD, has resigned and that Mr. Mike Peterson will be the interim director. She commended Ms. Powell for bringing the organization to a level that positively impacts student skills at seven District schools.

**BOARD WORKSESSION
REPORT:**

(7:33:00PM)

Mr. Arness reported that the Board held worksessions on the Discovery Education program, special education enrollment, the student data dashboard and held a discussion regarding cocurricular activity funding for travel. He reported that the Communications Committee met prior to the worksessions.

CONSENT AGENDA:

(7:33:30 PM)

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were New Teacher Contract, Long-term Substitute Contracts, Resignations, and High School Qualifying Exam Waiver Request 2011-09.

NEW TEACHER CONTRACT:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a new teacher contract for Nella Carol Thompson, (temporary) speech/language pathologist, Districtwide.

**LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE
CONTRACT:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve long-term substitute contracts for Denise Cox, Nikiski North Star and Leigh Ray, Seward Elementary.

RESIGNATIONS:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve resignations, effective at the end of the 2010-2011 school year, from Sharon Trout, Chapman Elementary principal; Carolyn Cannava, Soldotna Elementary principal; Sharon Moock, Soldotna Middle principal; and Alex Trout, Voznesenka School principal.

HSGQE:

Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Exam waiver request number 2011-09.

MOTION

Mr. Navarre moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 4. Mr. Holt seconded.

Mrs. Vadla removed Item 3.

Motion carried unanimously for Numbers 1, 2, and 4.

Motion carried unanimously for Number 3.

BUDGET TRANSFER:

(7:36:10 PM)

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve FY11 budget transfer Number 512 in the amount of \$200,000 for student activity travel costs.

BUDGET TRANSFER:

(continued)

MOTION

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve budget transfer Number 512 in the amount of \$200,000 for student activity travel costs. Mr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

POLICY REVISIONS:

(7:40:54 PM)

MOTION

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve proposed revisions to BB 9250, Compensation, Reimbursement, and Other Benefits.

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve proposed revisions to BB 9250, Compensation, Reimbursement, and Other Benefits. Mr. Holt seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**STUDENT DRUG TESTING
ADMINISTRATIVE
RECOMMENDATION:**

(7:41:42 PM)

MOTION

Dr. Atwater recommended the Board approve the administration's recommendation to not implement drug testing of its student athletes.

Mr. Navarre moved the Board approve the administration's recommendation. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION 10-11-5:

(7:49:15 PM)

Resolution 10-11-5, Borough Funding, endorses the concept of providing a FY12 funding level which would be the equivalent of sales tax revenues plus a real and personal property tax rate of 2.6 mils.

Mrs. Hilts moved the Board approve Resolution 10-11-5, Borough Funding. Mr. Holt seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

BOARD COMMENTS:

(7:51:21PM)

Mr. Holt noted that the Board hosted the mayors from the City of Soldotna and the City of Kenai and that one of the topics discussed was the adversarial student relationship between the schools in the two cities. He reported that the recently held ski meet was organized by all of the local schools and held at Skyview HS.

Mrs. Vadla reported that she met with a young woman at the Youth Services of America office in Anchorage and received some valuable information to share with high school students. She thanked Mrs. Cannon and Ms. Manion for their presentation of Discovery Education. She thanked Mr. Holland, Mr. Vlasak, and Mr. Spence for their presentations to the Board. She thanked the students from Hope and Moose Pass schools for their presentations.

Mrs. Crawford thanked the students from Hope and Moose Pass schools for the school presentations. She also expressed appreciation for the Board worksession presentations, especially the student assessment dash board.

BOARD COMMENTS:

(continued)

Mrs. Hilts expressed appreciation for the worksessions because they were focused around students and what can be done to make things better for them. She stated that the special education presentation was informative and that she would like to see the areas of increase and decrease of enrollment. She stated that she continues to appreciate the amount of in-house work that gets done by the administration and staff. She stated that it would be helpful for the Board to have a legislative liaison.

Mr. Anderson asked whether the cost of adding new people to the District insurance is an unfunded mandate. Dr. Atwater stated that the burden of the cost will be paid for by the District employees and the District budget. He announced that oil revenues are on the decline and cautioned the District to be prudent.

Mr. Navarre reported that the Kenai Chamber of Commerce watched a presentation on the Alaska Construction Career Days. He announced that the Career Days will be held at the Soldotna Sports Center in April and will provide an opportunity for high school students to explore careers related to the construction industry. He shared a picture of himself taken while participating in a demonstration to protest against the government's policies that are destroying public schools, universities and research institutes during his recent trip to Italy. He expressed appreciation for the administration's legislative report and asked that updated information be shared with those participating in the upcoming AASB Legislative Fly-in. Mr. Navarre suggested that the Board appoint a legislative committee.

Ms. Hohl expressed appreciation for the Moose Pass School and Hope School presentations. She announced that she attended her second daughter's graduation from Boise State with a Masters degree in public administration and is working for the Idaho legislature. She stated that she is pleased that implementation of the Youth At Risk Survey was included in the student drug testing recommendation. She stated that she enjoyed the student dash board and Discovery Education worksessions. She stated that she enjoyed the conversation with the mayors.

Mrs. Downing wished those present a Happy New Year. She agreed with comments made by Mrs. Hilts and Mr. Navarre. She reported that she has been researching the use of committees in other school districts and comparing them with KPBSD. She recommended that the Board appoint a legislative committee.

Miss Rang wished good luck to the participants in the Skyview Invitational ski meet.

Mrs. Vadla announced that her daughter was named the Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar and credited the District for the exceptional education she received.

BOARD COMMENTS:

(continued)

Mr. Arness thanked Mr. Dawson for the Moose Pass School and Hope School presentations. He thanked the Board for approving Resolution 10-11-5 and added that he will be working with Assembly Member Smalley to put it on the Borough Assembly agenda.

ADJOURN:

(8:11:27PM)

At 8:11 p.m., Mrs. Vadla moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mr. Navarre seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Joe Arness, President

Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Clerk

The Minutes of January 10, 2011,
were approved on February 7, 2011
with a correction.