
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

November 12, 2012 – 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. Penny Vadla, Clerk
Ms. Lynn Hohl, Treasurer
Mr. Marty Anderson
Mrs. Sammy Crawford
Mrs. Sunni Hilts
Mr. Bill Holt
Mr. Tim Navarre
Mr. Hayden Beard, Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT:

Dr. Steve Atwater, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Dave Jones, Assistant Superintendent

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mrs. LaDawn Druce	Mr. Dan Kaasa
Mrs. Margie Warner	Mr. Matt Fischer
Mr. Conrad Woodhead	Ms. Pegge Erkeneff
Mr. Dan Carstens	Mrs. Doris Cannon
Mr. John O'Brien	Mr. Clark Whitney
Mr. Tim Peterson	Mr. Dave Tressler
Mrs. Terri Tidwell	Ms. Martine Dikes
Ms. Rashah McChesney	Mr. Mike Druce
Mr. Jason Bjorkman	Mrs. Pam Burns
Mrs. Christine Ermold	Mrs. Cheryl Romatz
Mr. Brent Johnson	

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

(7:00:15 PM)

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

(7:00:40 PM)

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

**DISTRICT MISSION
STATEMENT:**

(7:01:01 PM)

Mrs. Vadla read the District's mission statement.

ROLL CALL:

(7:01:18 PM)

Mr. Joe Arness	Present
Mr. Marty Anderson	Absent/Excused
Mrs. Sammy Crawford	Absent/Excused
Mrs. Liz Downing	Present
Mrs. Sunni Hilts	Present
Ms. Lynn Hohl	Present
Mr. Bill Holt	Present
Mr. Tim Navarre	Absent/Excused
Mrs. Penny Vadla	Present
Mr. Hayden Beard	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

(7:01:53 PM)

The agenda was approved with the addition of item 2g. Recognition of U.S. Military Veterans present in the audience.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

(7:02:35 PM)

The School Board Minutes of October 15, 2012, were approved as printed.

RECOGNITION OF VETERANS:

(7:02:58 PM)

Mr. Arness asked all U.S. Military Veterans in the audience to stand and be recognized.

SCHOOL REPORT:

(7:03:43 PM)

Mr. Dan Carstens, principal, Nikiski Middle/High School, presented a digital video and computer slide report highlighting Nikiski Middle/High School's staff collaboration, the addition of 6th grade students this year, the challenges of the wide age range of the school's students; school goals; staff professional development; the success of the school's recent Mock Political Convention; and the programs offered through the career and technical education program. He presented the board with a KPBSD banner and bumper stickers made by students of the CAD/CAM class using a Versa Cam.

Mr. Conrad Woodhead, principal, Chapman School, shared a digital slide presentation highlighting programs and features that make Chapman School unique. Mr. Woodhead discussed staffing additions and student enrollment fluctuations. Mr. Jake Roberts, student council president, presented a video and reported on the school's mission. Mr. Woodhead stated that the video presentation was developed by students using iPods that the school received through a legislative grant sponsored by Representative Paul Seaton. Miss Lela Isaac, student council vice-president, reported on her personal school enrollment experience and the reasons that she chose to remain at Chapman School. Mr. Woodhead noted various parent groups and the support they offer the school. He invited those in attendance to visit the school.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

(7:37:03 PM)

Mr. Jones reported on the current contract negotiations between the district, the Kenai Peninsula Education Association (KPEA) and the Kenai Peninsula Education Support Association (KPESA). Using a PowerPoint presentation, he discussed various aspects of the contracts that are currently in arbitration including staff salary increases, ranges and steps, and fixed dollar amount payments. He explained in detail the district's health care program including costs, employee co-pay amounts, the health care reserve account; the health care self-insurance fund balance; and the district's current contract offer.

RECESS:

(8:09:15 PM)

At 8:09 p.m., Mr. Arness called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:

(8:20:20 PM)

At 8:20 p.m. the Board reconvened in regular session.

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

(8:20:40 PM)

Mrs. Margie Warner, KPESA president, acknowledged that Wednesday, November 14, is National Education Support Employees Day. She thanked Mr. Carstens and Mr. Woodhead for their school presentations. She reported that the KPEA and KPESA sponsored a table at the Tsalteshi Spook Night on Oct. 26, and thanked Mr. Holt for his help at this event. She requested that the board consider the employee testimony given at the October 15, board meeting and recommended a team effort to solve negotiation issues. She presented the board and administration with KPEA-KPESA pencils.

Mrs. LaDawn Druce, KPEA president, commented on several items from Mr. Jones' negotiations presentation including salary step and column movement amounts and health care costs. She reported on the state proposed regulations on teacher evaluation that were revised by the State of Alaska Department of Education and Early Development on October 5, 2012. She stated that KPEA is encouraging teachers to respond to the proposed changes by November 30, and to attend the state school board meeting on December 6. She encouraged the board to also examine and comment on the proposed revisions by the November 30, 2012 deadline. She announced that she will be attending a national meeting on the common core standards. She commented on concerns regarding the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) and Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) unfunded liability.

Mrs. Christine Ermold, KPAA president, commented on the positive things happening in district schools including: the end of the first quarter and parent-teacher conferences being completed, support being given to district families that are struggling, and students becoming more active in community service projects. She invited the board to visit the schools. She reported that district administrators have been involved in several state-wide events including the Alaska Principals' Conference in Anchorage in October. She thanked Mrs. LaDawn Druce for her comments on the teacher evaluation process. She stated that the Kenai school district is a leader in the state, especially in the evaluation process, and she encouraged the board's continued support of the effective instruction model. She stated that the district's new math curriculum is aligned with the State of Alaska standards, district report cards are very close to being aligned and that the district helps to set the stage in Alaska for what effective instruction looks like in both elementary and secondary levels.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

(8:35:43 PM)

Dr. Atwater reported on the student enrollment count and noted that the district's total enrollment is 17 students higher than projected. He stated that the district has only one early entrance kindergartener for this school year. He reported that he attended training on Adverse Childhood Effects (ACEs) in Homer on Wednesday, November 7, discussed the effects that ACEs have on brain development and learning, and stated that he will review a program from Walla Walla, Washington in order to determine its usefulness to the district. He announced that Mr. Michael Crawford, district webmaster, has resigned and the district is currently considering options for his replacement. He thanked all district teachers and support staff for their hard work at the end of the quarter. He thanked those district employees that are also military veterans for their service to our country and reported that he had attended Kalifornsky Beach Elementary School's Veteran's Day assembly on Friday, November 9, 2012.

FIVE-YEAR PUPIL ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS:

(8:38:52 PM)

Mr. Jones presented the Five-Year Enrollment Projections (FY14 - FY18) which record that the FY13 enrollment reported to the State of Alaska for the 20-day count is 8,891.7125 students.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

(8:41:58 PM)

Mr. Jones presented the financial report of the District for the period ending October 31, 2012. He reported that the Budget Review Committee met on November 8, where he informed attendees that the District will have to address a \$2.7 million deficit in the general fund, discussed options for handling the deficit, and asked for the attendees' input. He stated that he will summarize and present the input to the Board at the December 3, board meeting.

BOARD REPORTS:

(8:46:58 PM)

Mrs. Hilts reported that she attended the Association of Alaska School Board's (AASB) Annual Conference where Dr. Steve Atwater and Mr. Joe Arness offered a presentation on the district's evaluation process, and Ms. Pegge Erkeneff offered a presentation on effective communication. Mrs. Hilts noted that she attended a "Meaningful Meetings" session where the Kenai school district was cited as "the" example of how to develop an agenda. She announced that Mrs. Penny Vadla was one of ten people statewide to be awarded the AASB Masters Boardmanship Award for 2012.

Mrs. Vadla reported that she attended the Communications Committee Meeting earlier in the day where they reviewed the work done in the past six months by Ms. Pegge Erkeneff and the committee including the district's: Strategic Plan and Goals, annual report and brochures. She thanked Ms. Erkeneff for her excellent work for the district. She read a statement from Ms. Elizabeth Davis, Assessment Administrator for the State of Alaska Department of Education and Early Development, commenting on the high quality of the district's annual report. She reported that she attended Mr. Carl Rose's seminar at the AASB Conference regarding volunteers and public servants where the Kenai school district was offered as a positive example. She thanked Ms. Pegge Erkeneff, Dr. Steve Atwater, district administrators and teachers for their good work.

BOARD REPORTS:

(Continued)

Mrs. Downing announced that she attended the AASB Annual Conference. She reported that she attended the Wellness Committee meeting on Tuesday, November 6, where they reviewed several wellness related topics including the effects of good health on learning, obesity, tobacco policy violations, the state wellness conference, and the Homer pilot for the "4th R" (respect). She attended the Big Brothers and Big Sisters luncheon with Dr. Atwater in Homer on Friday, November 9, and the Communications Committee Meeting earlier today where they discussed ways to increase parent and community involvement in the district.

Mr. Holt announced that he attended a Kenai Peninsula School Activities Association (KPSAA) executive board meeting where they discussed transportation for afterschool activities, aligning the KPSAA rules relating to tobacco, alcohol and drugs use with Alaska School Activities Association (AASA) rules, and "B" team activities for middle and high schools.

Ms. Hohl reported that she attended the AASB Annual Conference where Dr. Steve Atwater was honored as Superintendent of the Year and Mrs. Sunni Hilts was chosen as the AASB president-elect. She reported on the sessions she attended while at the conference including: the Resolution Committee Meeting, Dr. Sven Haakanson's session, Ms. Rhonda Kite's session, several worksessions, and round table discussions. She reported that she attended the Budget Development Committee Meeting on November 8, and the Board Policy and Charter School Committee meetings earlier today.

Mr. Beard reported that he attended the AASB Youth Leadership Institute where he participated in sessions on leadership, strategies for effective meetings, a round table discussion with AASB members and a session of readings and poetry regarding student and school issues, and drug and alcohol abuse.

Mr. Arness reported that he attended the Nikiski Middle/High School Mock Political Convention on October 30, discussed the success of the convention, and encouraged those present to attend in the future.

BOARD WORKSESSION REPORT:

(8:58:55 PM)

Mr. Arness reported that the board conducted committee meetings on the Communications Committee, Board Policy Committee and Charter School Committee, and worksessions on Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), Overweight/Obesity Study Data, Title VII By-Laws, and Student Transportation Update. He noted that all members currently in attendance also attended the worksessions. An Executive Session was scheduled for 5:15 p.m. but was not held.

CONSENT AGENDA:

(8:59:40 PM)

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2013-003, Resignations, New Teacher Contracts 2012-13, Resolution 12-13-3, Support of a Paved Lighted Path Along Poppy Lane, and Resolution 12-13-4, Support of a Community Development Grant for a new school at Kachemak-Selo.

HSGQE:

By memorandum, Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2013-003.

RESIGNATIONS:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve resignations from Barbara Gray, Elementary Multi-Grade Teacher, Nanwalek School; and Keith Gray, Language Arts/Social Studies Teacher, Nanwalek School, both effective November 2, 2012; and Donna Bartman, Computer/Photography/Yearbook Teacher, Soldotna High School; Sandra Lyons, 4th/5th Grade Teacher, Sterling Elementary School; Rick Matiya, Government/History Teacher, Soldotna High School; and Brian Zinck, 3rd Grade Teacher, Nikiski North Star Elementary School; all effective at the end of the 2012-13 school year.

**NEW TEACHER CONTRACTS
2012-13:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve new teacher contracts for Kellie Bolin, Temporary Science Teacher, Homer High School; Glendon Fraser, Temporary Language Arts/Social Studies Teacher, Nanwalek School; and Kara Schreur, Temporary Elementary Multi-Grade Teacher, Nanwalek School.

RESOLUTION 12-13-3:

Dr. Atwater recommended the Board approve Resolution 12-13-3 Support of a Paved Lighted Path Along Poppy Lane.

RESOLUTION 12-13-4:

Dr. Atwater recommended the Board approve Resolution 12-13-4 Support of the Kenai Peninsula Borough's Application for an Alaska Community Block Grant.

MOTION:

Mrs. Downing moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 5. Mr. Holt seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

(9:02:07 PM)

Mr. Jones recommended the Board accept the FY12 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).

MOTION:

Mrs. Vadla moved the Board accept the FY12 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). Mr. Holt seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

POLICY MANUAL REVISIONS:
(9:02:54 PM)

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve revisions to BP 3290 Gifts, Grants and Bequests and BP 6174 Bilingual-Bicultural Education.

MOTION:

Ms. Hohl moved the Board approve revisions to BP 3290 Gifts, Grants and Bequests and BP 6174 Bilingual-Bicultural Education. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

K-12 MATH CURRICULUM:
(9:03:50 PM)

By memorandum, Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve the revised K-12 Math Curriculum.

MOTION:

Mrs. Vadla moved the Board approve the revised K-12 Math Curriculum. Mrs. Downing seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/
COMMENTS:**
(9:05:14 PM)

Mr. Matt Fischer, Soldotna Middle School teacher and member of the district Health Committee, commented on the need to complete the employee contract negotiations and discussed several items from Mr. Dave Jones report including salaries and health insurance costs.

BOARD COMMENTS:
(9:11:11 PM)

Mr. Holt thanked Mr. Dan Carstens, principal, Nikiski Middle/High and Mr. Conrad Woodhead, principal, Chapman School, for their presentations.

Mrs. Vadla thanked those in attendance for coming. She noted that the kuspuk, earrings and hair barrette she wore were purchased at the AASB Annual Conference during the June Nelson Memorial Scholarship fundraiser and encouraged schools to inform their students about this scholarship and to nominate deserving students for the "Spirit of Youth" award. She announced that she attended the Budget Development Committee Meeting on November 8, and thanked Mr. Dave Jones for his presentation at that meeting.

Ms. Hohl thanked Mr. Dan Carstens, principal, Nikiski Middle/High and Mr. Conrad Woodhead, principal, Chapman School, for their presentations. She welcomed Mr. Hayden Beard, student representative, to the Board and expressed appreciation for his work at the AASB Youth Institute. She reported that she attended Seward Site Council-PTSA meeting and Seward Elementary School's Veteran's Day concert. She encouraged district administration to hire a local resident to fill the position of district webmaster.

Mrs. Hilts expressed appreciation for the youth, the excellent attendance, and the round table discussions at the AASB Annual Conference. She thanked those in attendance for coming and welcomed Mr. Hayden Beard, student representative, to the Board.

BOARD COMMENTS:

(Continued)

Mrs. Downing congratulated Mrs. Sunni Hilts for being selected as the AASB president-elect. She thanked those in attendance for coming.

Mr. Arness suggested to Mr. Matt Fischer that he check into the appropriateness of his speaking to Board regarding the contract negotiations. He encouraged KPEA and KPESA representatives to talk to the district administration in an effort to settle the contract.

ADJOURN:

(9:18:15 PM)

At 9:18 p.m., Mr. Arness adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Joe Arness, President

Mrs. Penny Vadla, Clerk

The Minutes of November 12, 2012, have not been approved as of December 3, 2012.