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# Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

## Board of Education Meeting Minutes

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June 3, 2013 – 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. 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. Sean Dusek, Assistant Superintendent  
Mr. Dave Jones, Assistant Superintendent

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Mrs. Margaret Gilman	Mrs. Margie Warner
Ms. Sara Hardan	Mr. John O'Brien
Mr. Dave Tressler	Mr. Tim Peterson
Dr. Sylvia Reynolds	Mr. James Gallagher
Ms. Sherry Innes	Ms. Martine Dikes
Mr. Steve Carter	Mrs. Debbie Michael
Mr. Austin Laber	Mr. Mike Reynolds
Mr. Brent Johnson	

Others present not identified.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.  
(7:00:53 PM)

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mr. Arness invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.  
(7:01:15 PM)

**DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT:** Ms. Hohl read the District's mission statement.  
(7:01:40 PM)

**ROLL CALL:**

Mr. Joe Arness	Present
Mr. Marty Anderson	Absent/Excused
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
Mr. Hayden Beard	Present

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** The agenda was approved as written.  
(7:02:30 PM)

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

*(7:02:47 PM)*

The School Board Minutes of May 6, 2013, were approved as printed.

**AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:**

*(7:03:06 PM)*

The Board presented Mr. Steve Carter the Golden Apple Award for his service as a volunteer at Nikiski North Star Elementary School.

**HEARING OF DELEGATIONS:**

*(7:07:41 PM)*

Dr. Sylvia Reynolds gave a presentation regarding the Liberian Book Project, a program that provided transportation and funds to ship a supply of outdated Kenai Peninsula Borough School District textbooks (Triumphs and Treasures curriculum) to students in schools in Liberia. She shared a PowerPoint presentation of photos from the project that included some of the schools and students visited. She presented the Board and District with a handmade, wood plaque from the HIS, HEPMA, and CFS schools in Ganta Nimba county of Liberia.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:**

*(7:29:28 PM)*

Dr. Atwater reported that the Department of Labor and Workforce Development approved the District's \$60,000 grant to fund an engineering academy that will provide after school programs similar to the Construction Academy. He announced that the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has approved the use of the water at Tustumena Elementary School. He noted the list of scheduled summer capital projects and maintenance in the general information packet and commented on the large amount of work accomplished each summer.

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

*(7:30:39 PM)*

Mrs. Margie Warner, KPESA president, announced that this will be her last Board meeting as president; that she will attend the representative assembly in Atlanta, GA at the end of June; and then will relinquish the office. She thanked the Board for the opportunity to work with them for the past 7 years.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

*(7:31:45 PM)*

Dr. Atwater reported that, although the economy on the Peninsula is improving, student enrollment at the end of the 2012-2013 school is the lowest in over 20 years. He stated that he met with Borough Mayor Navarre to discuss funding options for needed capital projects (including remaining roofing projects), that the Borough will propose a bond to the public in October for approximately \$25 million, and noted that a related worksession and action item will be included in the July regular meeting agenda. He discussed this year's summer school programs which started today, June 3, and include an Extended School Year (ESY) for students with Individual Education Plans (IEP's), and credit recovery classes which are also available to students online. He announced that internet bandwidth will be doubled at Homer Flex School, Susan B. English School, Sterling Elementary, and Paul Banks Elementary. He thanked Mr. Tim Peterson for his service to the District and wished him well in retirement.

**LEASE AGREEMENTS:**

*(7:34:54 PM)*

Mr. Jones reviewed the report of leases and agreements for the 2013-2014 school year.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

*(7:38:12 PM)*

Mr. Jones presented the financial reports of the District for the periods ending April 30, 2013.

**BOARD REPORTS:***(7:39:51 PM)*

Mrs. Downing reported that the Legislative Committee met on Tuesday, May 7, to discuss the direction of the committee and its processes. She announced that she attended a State House Education special committee meeting earlier in the day regarding Common Core and Alaska Standards. Mrs. Downing added that she attended the interviews for the Homer High principal and assistant principal positions. She reported that she attended the graduation ceremonies for Homer Flex, and Homer High School, and noted that it was Dr. Allan Gee's last graduation at Homer High.

Mrs. Crawford reported that she attended site council meetings at Mt. View Elementary and Kenai Central High; the awards night at Soldotna High; and the graduation ceremonies for Kenai Central High, River City Academy, and Connections Home School.

Ms. Hohl reported that she attended the Seward High and Hope School graduation ceremonies. She stated that three district students have been selected to serve as pages for the U.S. Senate. She reported that she also attended the Seward Elementary award ceremony.

Mrs. Hilts expressed appreciation for and discussed the graduations she attended including the 8<sup>th</sup> grade promotion at Susan B. English School, six high school graduations, and her adopted granddaughter's graduation (in Seldovia) from Connections Home School Program. She reported that she attended a site council meeting at McNeil Canyon Elementary. She stated she also attended the board policy committee meeting earlier in the day and discussed the work done at that meeting.

Mr. Navarre reported he attended the graduation ceremonies for Tyonek, Hope, and Kenai Central High schools and discussed the various ceremonies and speeches given by students.

Mrs. Vadla reported that she attended the graduation ceremonies at Ninilchik and Soldotna High schools and discussed those celebrations, including the tradition of handing out roses.

Mr. Holt reported that he attended the graduation ceremonies at Nikolaevsk, Soldotna High and Skyview High schools and discussed the ceremonies and graduates.

**BOARD WORKSESSION  
REPORT:***(7:51:13 PM)*

Mr. Arness reported that the Board held several worksessions regarding Board policy, an FY14 budget update, the teacher evaluation system, Soldotna area schools grades 7-9, and proposed KPSAA handbook revisions. All members currently present at the meeting, attended the worksessions.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**  
(7:51:47 PM)

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Budget Transfers, 2012-13 Long Term Substitute Contracts, Resignations, 2013-14 New Teacher Contracts, 2013-14 Tentative Non-Tenured Teacher Contract and Tenure, 2013-14 Tentative Non-Tenured Teacher Contracts, 2013-14 Tentative Tenure Teacher Contract, and Leave of Absence Request/Certified.

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve Budget Transfers #1374, in the amount of \$77,000 to upgrade PolyCom system capability; #1402, in the amount of \$268,000 to upgrade locks and doors at some schools, replace district office flooring, and for preliminary capital project design work; and #1430, in the amount of \$130,455 for the purchase of security camera software.

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve 2012-13 Long Term Substitute Contracts for Lourdes Link, Ninilchik School; Mary Marshall, West Homer Elementary School; and John Wensley, Mt. View Elementary School.

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve Resignations for Rebecca Arness, 1st Grade Teacher, Sterling Elementary School; James Creel, Librarian, Kenai Middle School/Kenai Central High School; Helen Lindemuth, Librarian, Seward Elementary School; Amanda Miller, Special Education Resource Teacher, Fireweed Academy; and Monica Mullet, Kindergarten Teacher, Mountain View Elementary School.

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve 2013-14 New Teacher Contracts for Sara Erfurth, Language Arts/Drama Teacher, Soldotna High School; Andrea Murphy, US/World History and Government Teacher, Soldotna High School; Kristin Perkins, Primary Grade Teacher, Mt. View Elementary School; Ann Stone, Language Arts Teacher, Kenai Central High School; Lisa Thomas, Computer/At Risk/Credit Recovery Teacher, Skyview High School; and Amber Williams, Pre-Kindergarten Teacher/Title I Teacher, Sterling Elementary School.

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a 2013-14 Tentative Non-Tenured Teacher Contract and Tenure for Ryan Miller, Teacher/Regular, Razdolna School.

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve 2013-14 Tentative Non-Tenured Teacher Contracts for Holly Davis, Teacher/Regular, Soldotna Elementary School; Glendon Fraser, Teacher/Regular, Nanwalek School; Catrin McKinley, Teacher/Regular, Sterling Elementary; Krista Parrett, Teacher/Regular, Nikolaevsk School; and Kara Schreur, Teacher/Regular, Nanwalek School.

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a 2013-14 Tentative Tenure Teacher Contract for Robert Bird, Teacher/Regular (.40 FTE), Nikiski Middle/High School.

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a Leave of Absence Request/Certified for Sheryl Sotelo, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, McNeil Canyon Elementary School.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

*(Continued)*

**MOTION:** Mr. Navarre moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 8. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**FY13 BUDGET REVISION:**

*(7:54:20 PM)*

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve an FY13 Budget Revision in the amount of \$1,069,348, bringing the FY13 General Fund expenditure budget to a total of \$145,975,916.

**MOTION:** Mr. Holt moved the Board approve an FY13 Budget Revision in the amount of \$1,069,348, bringing the FY13 General Fund expenditure budget to a total of \$145,975,916. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**POLICY MANUAL REVISIONS:**

*(7:54:55 PM)*

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve Revisions to AR 0420 School Based Management/Site Councils.

**MOTION:** Mrs. Downing moved the Board remove 10c. Approval of Revisions to AR 0420 School Based Management/Site Councils from the table. Ms. Hohl seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**MOTION:** At the March 4, 2013 Board meeting, Ms. Hohl moved the Board approve an amendment to revise AR 0420 School Based Management/Site Councils, to include, in parenthesis, the word "non-voting" after "Principal" under "Council Composition." Mr. Anderson seconded.

VOTE ON HOHL AMENDMENT:

ADVISORY VOTE - No

YES - None

NO - Mrs. Crawford, Mrs. Downing, Mr. Navarre, Mrs. Hilts, Mr. Holt, Ms. Hohl, Mrs. Vadla, Mr. Arness

Amendment Failed

**MOTION:** Ms. Hohl moved the Board approve an amendment to revise AR 0420 School Based Management/Site Councils, to add the following language, "Principal's leadership and expertise are essential to a well-functioning site council. Individual site council bylaws should indicate whether the principal is part of the voting (consensus) on recommendations." after "Elementary school (optional)," under "Council Composition." Mrs. Crawford seconded.

**POLICY MANUAL REVISIONS:**

*(Continued)*

**VOTE ON HOHL AMENDMENT:**

ADVISORY VOTE - Yes

YES – Mrs. Crawford, Mrs. Downing, Mrs. Hilts, Ms. Hohl, Mrs. Vadla

NO – Mr. Navarre, Mr. Holt, Mr. Arness

Amendment Carried

Amended motion carried

**RECESS:**

*(8:07:41 PM)*

At 8:07 p.m., Mr. Arness called a recess.

**RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:**

*(8:20:03 PM)*

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

**KPSAA RECOMMENDED STUDENT HANDBOOK REVISIONS:**

*(8:20:19 PM)*

Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve proposed changes to the 2013-2014 Kenai Peninsula School Activities Handbooks (KPSAA) which include revised language for high school borough tournaments for track & field, cross-country running and Nordic skiing; TAD policy and proximity violations; eligibility language, concussions, home school legislation and Alaska School Activities Association participation; student eligibility; and middle school track season calendar, “B” teams, 6<sup>th</sup> grade student participation, and wrestling weigh-in.

**MOTION:**

Mr. Holt moved the Board approve revisions to the KPSAA Co-Curricular Handbook. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

**MOTION:**

Ms. Hohl moved the Board approve an amendment to replace the word “shall” with “should” in section B. 5 Borough Tournaments line three. Mrs. Downing seconded.

**VOTE ON HOHL AMENDMENT:**

ADVISORY VOTE - No

YES – Mrs. Downing, Ms. Hohl, Mrs. Vadla

NO – Mrs. Crawford, Mr. Navarre, Mrs. Hilts, Mr. Holt, Mr. Arness

Amendment failed.

**MOTION:**

An amendment by Ms. Hohl that the Board “leave the language as it is currently stated in the KPSAA handbook” died for lack of a second.

**VOTE ON MOTION:**

ADVISORY VOTE - Yes

YES – Mrs. Crawford, Mrs. Downing, Mr. Navarre, Mrs. Hilts, Mr. Holt, Mr. Arness

NO – Ms. Hohl, Mrs. Vadla

Motion carried

**SOLDOTNA AREA SCHOOLS  
CONFIGURATION GRADES  
7-9:  
(8:48:35 PM)**

Dr. Atwater recommended the Board approve that effective August, 2014, Soldotna area 9th grade students will be housed at the existing Soldotna Middle School and the Soldotna area 7-8th grade students will be housed at the existing Skyview High School. Further, it is recommended that River City Academy move to the existing Soldotna Middle School in August, 2014.

**MOTION:**

Mr. Navarre moved the Board approve that effective August, 2014 Soldotna area 9th grade students will be housed at the existing Soldotna Middle School and the Soldotna area 7-8th grade students will be housed at the existing Skyview High School. Further, it is recommended that River City Academy move to the existing Soldotna Middle School in August, 2014. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**STUDENT EARLY  
RELEASE/LATE START:  
(8:53:21 PM)**

Dr. Atwater recommended the Board approve schools having a late start or early release on one day per month in September, October, November, January, February, March and April. Those schools that observe the Orthodox Christmas will have a day in December but not in January.

**MOTION:**

Mr. Navarre moved the Board approve schools having a late start or early release on one day per month in September, October, November, January, February, March and April. Those schools that observe the Orthodox Christmas will have a day in December but not in January. Mrs. Downing seconded.

**MOTION:**

Mrs. Downing moved the Board approve an amendment to remove the month of November from the list for early release/late start. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Amendment carried.

Amended motion carried.

**FIRST READING OF POLICY  
REVISIONS:  
(8:56:13 PM)**

The Board heard a first reading of proposed revisions to BP 3515 School Safety and Security.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/  
COMMENTS:  
(8:56:45 PM)**

Mr. Brent Johnson discussed recent unsuccessful requests he had made to two district schools for a list of the school's valedictorians from the time the school opened and requested that the District require schools to maintain the information on a plaque or in a book at the school site.

Mr. Arness noted that this will be Mr. Beard's last meeting with the Board, presented him with a gift from the Board and expressed appreciation for his service.

**BOARD COMMENTS:***(9:00:56 PM)*

Mrs. Vadla expressed appreciation for Mr. Beard's wit and intelligence and thanked him for his service to the Board. She congratulated the track and field teams from Kenai Central High and Kenai Middle schools for their recent performances, and Ms. Kortney Stroh for her "Rock the Kenai" presidential environmental youth award. She discussed meeting a Kenai Middle School volunteer math tutor on a recent plane trip. She thanked Mrs. Lisa Ferguson and Mrs. Deb Hayes for dinner. She expressed appreciation for the work done on the Soldotna area schools reconfigurations, thanked Mr. Dave Jones for his work on the budget, and Mr. John O'Brien for his work on the KPSAA handbook. She stated that she will be learning to work with E-portfolios through a UAA technology fellowship and will share her knowledge with Dr. Atwater.

Mr. Holt expressed appreciation for the day's discussions and decisions. He expressed appreciation for Mr. Beard, his shoe styles and wished him well.

Mrs. Hilts expressed appreciation for Mr. Beard, and wished him well. She thanked Mrs. Lisa Ferguson and Mrs. Deb Hayes for dinner. She commented on the number of controversial issues on the agenda for this meeting and the need to always make the very best decisions possible.

Mrs. Crawford commented on the amount of work accomplished at the meeting. She thanked Mr. Beard for his service to the Board. She congratulated Mr. Carter on his Golden Apple award. She said goodbye to Mr. Tim Peterson.

Mr. Navarre thanked Mr. Tim Peterson for his service to the District. He thanked Mrs. Margie Warner for her service as KPESA president. He congratulated Mr. Carter on his Golden Apple award and expressed appreciation for the award program. He thanked Mr. Beard for his service to the Board and wished him well in the future. He thanked Mrs. Lisa Ferguson and Mrs. Deb Hayes for dinner. He expressed appreciation for the day's work, debates, and decisions. He thanked Mrs. Tressler for her work.

Ms. Hohl congratulated Ms. Tessa Adelman of Seward High School for her first place finish in the state shot put and discus competitions and on setting new state and school records; and Mr. Miles Knotek on his first place finish in the state 3,200 meter run. She reported that she attended the Seward PTSA, SeaView Community Services board meeting, Seward Coordinated Transportation Plan meeting, Seward Prevention Coalition, and a public reception hosted by the Friends of the Jesse Lee Home. She stated that she testified (individually) to the Seward City Council regarding the city shop proposal traded from the Seward Elementary school site. She stated that in Robert's Rule of Order, in the event of a tie vote, a motion fails. She encouraged District administration to continue discussions regarding the Seward Middle School reconfiguration. She asked the District to provide her with a copy of the contract with the consultant for the Seward Biomass Project.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

*(Continued)*

Mrs. Downing thanked Mr. Tim Peterson for 33 years of service to the District. She stated that she attended a training and board meeting for the Green Dot Program in Homer which provides strategies to bystanders of violence on how to interrupt an incident and invited the public to attend an introductory session on Friday, June 7, from 8:30 – 10:00 a.m. and Monday, June 10 at Homer High. She thanked Mr. Beard for his service to the Board. She expressed a desire for the District to provide co-curricular activities that equal competitive sports opportunities.

Mr. Beard thanked the Board and expressed appreciation for being a member. He discussed his experiences while serving and the work done by the School Board. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to attend the Association of Alaska School Board’s conferences in Juneau and Anchorage.

Mr. Arness thanked Mr. Beard and expressed appreciation for his intelligence, ability to learn quickly, wished him well, and encouraged him to stay in touch with the Board. He discussed his vote on the KPSAA Handbook revisions and explained his vote. He reminded the Board of the Planning Session on Tuesday, June 4, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at Soldotna High School library. He announced that the State Board of Education will be meeting in the Borough Assembly Chambers on June 6 & 7, and that the Board will host a dinner for them on June 7, at 5:30 p.m. at Redoubt Elementary School.

**ADJOURN:**

*(9:22:52 PM)*

At 9:22 p.m., Mr. Arness adjourned the School Board meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mr. Joe Arness, President

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Mrs. Penny Vadla, Clerk

The Minutes of June 3, 2013  
have been approved as of  
July 1, 2013.