
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2013 – 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
Mr. Dan Castimore
Mrs. Sunni Hilts
Mr. Bill Holt
Mr. Tim Navarre
Mr. Evan Boyer, Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ms. Joann Riener	Mr. Tim Vlasak
Ms. Pegge Erkeneff	Mr. Dave Tressler
Dr. Christine Ermold	Miss Martine Dikes
Mr. Wayne Ogle	Mr. Brent Johnson
Mr. Dale Bagley	Mrs. Terri Tidwell
Ms. Naomi Walsworth	Mrs. Melissa Linton
Mr. Doug Hayman	Mrs. Chris Granger
Ms. Elise Boyer	Mr. Rob Lewis
Mrs. Patty Sirois	Mr. Dave Michael
Mrs. Laurie Olson	Mrs. Debbie Michael
Mr. Neil Denny	Dr. Nels Anderson
Mrs. Sarah Castimore	Mr. Thomas "Randy" Daly
Miss Mattie Castimore	Mrs. Kathleen Kitson
Miss Emma Castimore	Ms. Renae Shockley

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

(7:00:25 PM)

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

(7:00:42 PM)

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

OATH OF OFFICE:

(7:01:08 PM)

The Oath of Office was administered to newly elected School Board members Mrs. Sunni Hilts, Ms. Lynn Hohl, and Mr. Dan Castimore, by notary public, Mrs. Debbie Tressler.

DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT:

(7:03:17 PM)

Mr. Holt read the District's mission statement.

ROLL CALL:

(7:03:35 PM)

Mr. Joe Arness, President	Present
Mrs. Liz Downing, Vice President	Present
Mrs. Penny Vadla, Clerk	Present
Ms. Lynn Hohl, Treasurer	Present
Mr. Marty Anderson	Absent/Excused
Mr. Dan Castimore	Present
Mrs. Sunni Hilts	Present
Mr. Bill Holt	Present
Mr. Tim Navarre	Present
Mr. Evan Boyer	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

(7:04:07 PM)

The agenda was approved as written.

REORGANIZATION OF BOARD:

(7:04:48 PM)

Mr. Arness announced that a reorganization of the Board was in order.

MOTION

Mrs. Hilts nominated Mrs. Downing as president of the Board. Mrs. Vadla nominated Mr. Arness as president of the Board. Nominations for president were closed. Mr. Arness instructed the Board members to vote using secret ballots. Mrs. Tressler counted the ballots.

Mr. Arness was selected as president.

MOTION

Mr. Navarre nominated Mrs. Liz Downing for vice president of the Board. Nominations for vice president were closed.

Mrs. Downing was selected as vice president.

MOTION

Ms. Hohl nominated Mrs. Penny Vadla for clerk of the Board. Nominations for clerk were closed.

Mrs. Vadla was selected as clerk.

MOTION

Mrs. Hilts nominated Ms. Hohl as treasurer of the Board. Nominations for treasurer were closed.

Ms. Hohl was selected as treasurer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

(7:08:32 PM)

The School Board Minutes of September 9, 2013, were approved as printed.

SCHOOL REPORT:

(7:08:55 PM)

Mr. Doug Hayman, Tustumena Elementary School principal, presented a Prezi presentation highlighting the school's mission statement; staff qualifications, commitment and teamwork; planned, new school roof; school's secretary, Mrs. Pauline Mills; Alaska School Performance Indicator report scores and rating as a four star school; community; high percentage of conference and activity attendance; and plans to improve science scores.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

(7:25:23 PM)

Dr. Nels Anderson commented on the portion of Mr. Doug Hayman’s presentation regarding science scores district and nation-wide. He discussed his concerns regarding the Soldotna schools reconfiguration and the changes being considered to the schools’ colors, names, and mascots.

Mr. Thomas “Randy” Daly, HiSpeed Gear, discussed his technology company, its services offered, his past work with the District, his support of education (including the Challenger Learning Center), his concerns for the District’s technology plan; and his children’s success.

Mrs. Kathleen Kitson requested that the District allow students to use essential oils for medical treatment at school and requested that the Board hold a special session in order to review Food and Drug Administration (F.D.A.) studies supporting essential oil use in place of traditional medicine.

Mr. Rob Lewis discussed his concerns regarding the Soldotna schools’ reconfiguration; the cost of the changes being considered to the schools’ colors, names, and mascots; and requested the board not change the mascots and color schemes.

Ms. Renae Shockley requested that doctor prescribed herbal based remedies, including essential oils, be approved for use in school for her children.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

(7:45:14 PM)

Dr. Atwater discussed a memo regarding the District’s American Productivity and Quality Center (A.P.Q.C.) activities, including one regarding the budgeting processes to be presented at the October 15, worksession. He noted a memo regarding the delay of the purchase of science curriculum materials, for one year, in order to allow vendors to provide materials aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards (N.G.S.S.) and stated that, as a result of this delay, physical education curriculum supply purchases will be made this fiscal year. He asked the Board to note the budget development calendar in the general information packet. He discussed public reservations regarding the national common core standards and accompanying assessments, stated that Alaska is exploring and is assuming an advisory role with “Smarter Balance Consortia” (one of two major consortia that develop assessments for common core standards), and reported that the state is reconsidering and is not fully committed to Smarter Balance at this time.

RECESS:

(7:48:06 PM)

At 7:48 p.m., Mr. Arness called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:

(7:55:50 PM)

At 7:55 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:**

(7:55:57 PM)

Mr. Neil Denny, K.P.E.A president, welcomed and congratulated the newly elected school board members. He spoke regarding the Soldotna schools reconfiguration, thanked Mr. Doug Hayman and Ms. Joann Riener for working to minimize disruptions and maximize resources during this process. He stated that K.P.E.A. opposes the District's legislative priority requesting that the time required for teacher tenure be increased from 3 years to 5 years, gave the reasons for the opposition, and requested that the Board reject this proposed legislative priority.

Mrs. Patty Sirois, K.P.E.S.A president, welcomed Mr. Dan Castimore as a new board member. She commented on recently resolved union issues, those remaining to be resolved, and thanked Ms. Joann Riener, Human Resources Director, for her assistance in this process. She discussed potential staffing changes in the Soldotna schools as a result of the reconfiguration and asked the Board to carefully consider these changes and to provide the proper tools to employees to ensure a successful transition. She commented on the state legislative priority regarding the endorsement of a state-wide health care plan, noted that Department of Administration Commissioner, Ms. Becky Hultberg, will present to the Health Care Committee on October 17, and asked that the Board be cautious and not act until all information is known.

Mr. Brent Johnson, Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly, stated that at the upcoming Borough Assembly meeting, the Assembly will choose the District representative, and stated that, if chosen, he plans to attend the Board committee meetings in order to better understand the Board's direction. He offered to act as the conduit for the Board to communicate with the Assembly.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT:**

(8:03:58 PM)

Dr. Atwater announced that the final meeting of the Soldotna Reconfiguration Advisory Committee will be held on Nov. 19, and stated that the Board will most likely receive the committee's recommendations in December, but possibly in November, depending on the outcome of the October 21, meeting. He informed the Board to expect a letter from the Seward Site Council, and an administrative recommendation at the November Board meeting, regarding the Seward 6th grade reconfiguration. He commented on the quality and success of the recent Mind-a-Mazes competition held on Saturday, Oct. 12, 2013. He thanked the District's technology and finance departments, and their directors, (Mr. Jim White and Mrs. Laurie Olson, respectively) for their work on upgrading and providing staff training for the District's financial software, which will, tentatively, go into effect on November 2-3, 2013.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

(8:06:25 PM)

Mr. Jones presented the financial report of the District for the period ending September 30, 2013.

**QUARTERLY BUDGET
TRANSFER REPORT:**

(8:07:27 PM)

Mr. Dave Jones reported on budget transfers Numbers 6 through 160 for various schools and departments within the District.

BOARD REPORTS:*(8:09:43 PM)*

Mrs. Downing reported that she visited Paul Banks Elementary School on September 10, and discussed her experiences with the school's students. She stated that she attended the A.P.Q.C. workshop on September 12-13, including a workshop on "Transforming Educational Technology" led by Dr. Christine Ermold (with a follow up telephone meeting on October 4, 2013). She expressed appreciation for the opportunity to attend these events, the quality of work done, and noted that (as she views it as inappropriate) she does not plan to attend such workshops in the future. She stated that she attended the Association of Alaska School Boards Fall Boardmanship Academy on September 21-22, and discussed the workshops attended there. On October 2, she participated in the Project GRAD board meeting as a school board representative and commented on the work done at the meeting. She stated that on October 9, she was a guest on KBBI Radio's Coffee Table talk show with Dr. Atwater and Mr. Arness. She represented the Board on October 11, at the Big Brother Big Sisters luncheon, discussed the success of the program, and noted that there is currently not a program in the Kenai and Soldotna area. She reported that the Legislative Committee met earlier in the day where they reviewed and approved the committee goals, and discussed strategies for the upcoming legislative session. She represented the Board at the District Wellness Committee meeting on October 3, where they discussed smoking cessation, and ways to create alternatives to organized high school sports that would provide more physical activity opportunities for students.

Mr. Holt reported that he attended the first Career and Technical Education Committee meeting on September 26, to discuss the parameters of the funding options of the Carl Perkins grants and Senate Bill 184.

Mrs. Vadla reported that, as an observer only, she attended the first 3 Soldotna Schools Advisory Committee meetings, commended the committee for their work, Mr. Doug Hayman for his leadership and guidance, and expressed appreciation for the collaboration and intent of those that attended.

Mrs. Hilts reported that she attended a meeting on September 28, with the Alaska Association of School Administrators (A.A.S.A.) where they discussed state-wide issues and the various groups that work together for the benefit of all Alaskan students. She noted that Dr. Atwater continues to be a leader in the state of Alaska and not just the District. She reported that she attended the Kachemak-Selo community meeting on September 24, regarding the process for the new school and discussed the attendees.

Ms. Hohl reported that she visited Paul Banks Elementary School on September 10, with Mrs. Downing, and expressed appreciation for the school's lower elementary configuration. She stated that on October 10, she attended the superintendent's Seward Site Council Parent Training, commended Dr. Atwater for his presentation, and she attended the Site Council meeting that followed.

**BOARD WORKSESSION
REPORT:**
(8:22:11 PM)

Mr. Arness reported that the Board held worksessions regarding Board Policy, Kachemak-Selo School Education Specifications, State and Federal Legislative Priorities, FY13 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), and Board Reorganization. He noted that all members at the meeting attended the worksessions.

CONSENT AGENDA:
(8:22:48 PM)

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Resolution 13-14-1, Primary Sponsor of Gaming Permits; Student Representative to the Board; 2013-14 Long Term Substitute Contracts; 2013-14 New Teacher Contracts; Resignations; High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2014-04; High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2014-05; High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2014-06; 2013-14 Tentative Tenure Teacher Contract; Resolution 13-14-2, Support of a Paved Lighted Path Along Poppy Lane; Resolution 13-14-3, Support of an Alaska Law Making All Workplaces 100% Smokefree; and Nikolaevsk School Drama, Debate, and Forensics Program.

RESOLUTION 13-14-1:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve Resolution 13-14-1, listing the primary and alternate members in charge of gaming for those schools applying for gaming permits for 2014.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE
TO THE BOARD:**

Dr. Atwater recommended the Board approve the appointment of Mr. Evan Boyer, a Homer High School student, as the student representative to the Board of Education.

**LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE
TEACHER CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve long-term substitute teacher contracts for Judith Cox, Mt. View Elementary School; Melinda Cox, Connections Program; Patrick McCormick, Seward Middle School; and Judith Shields, Soldotna Montessori Charter.

NEW TEACHER CONTRACTS:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve new teacher contracts for the 2013-2014 school year for Jessica Gal, Instructional/Technology Coach (.50 FTE), Seward Area School; Eric Schave, Special Education Resource Teacher, Nanwalek School and Port Graham School; Donna Schneiders, Title I Teacher, Mt. View Elementary School; and Keith Seville III, Foods Instructor (.20 FTE), Nanwalek School.

RESIGNATIONS:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve resignations from Eric Schave, Special Education Resource Teacher, Nanwalek School/Port Graham School, effective December 31, 2013; and Susan Smith, Special Education Intensive Needs Teacher, K-Beach Elementary School, effective December 20, 2013.

HSGQE:

Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2014-04.

HSGQE:

Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2014-05.

HSGQE:

Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2014-06.

CONSENT AGENDA:

(Continued)

**2013-2014 TENTATIVE
TENURED TEACHER
CONTRACT:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a Tentative Tenured Teacher Contract for David Patat, Teacher/Regular.

RESOLUTION 13-14-2:

Dr. Atwater recommended the Board approve Resolution 13-14-2 Support of a Paved Lighted Path Along Poppy Lane.

RESOLUTION 13-14-3:

Dr. Atwater recommended the Board approve Resolution 13-14-3 Support of an Alaska Law Making All Workplaces 100% Smokefree.

**NIKOLAEVSK SCHOOL'S
DRAMA/DEBATE/FORENSICS:**

Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve adding Drama/Debate/Forensics as a district sanctioned activity to Nikolaevsk School.

MOTION:

Mr. Navarre moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 12. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Ms. Hohl removed Numbers 10a.(10), Approval of Resolution 13-14-2, Support of a Paved Lighted Path Along Poppy Lane; 10a.(11), Approval of Resolution 13-14-3, Support of an Alaska Law Making All Workplaces 100% Smokefree; and 10a.(12), Approval of Nikolaevsk School Drama, Debate, and Forensics Program.

Motion carried unanimously for Numbers 1-9.

Motion carried unanimously for Number 10.

MOTION:

Ms. Hohl moved the Board approve an amendment to 10a. (11) to add the word "indoor" before the word "workplaces" in the "THEREFORE" section of the resolution. Mr. Holt seconded.

VOTE ON HOHL AMENDMENT:

Advisory Vote – Yes

YES – Hohl, Arness

NO – Castimore, Downing, Hilts, Holt, Navarre, Vadla

Amendment failed.

Motion carried unanimously for Number 11.

Motion carried unanimously for Number 12.

POLICY MANUAL REVISIONS:
(8:35:28 PM)

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve revisions to BP 5138 Student Possession and Use of Personal Electronic Devices, Including Cellular Phones (NEW) and BP 6172 Special Education.

MOTION:

Mrs. Downing moved the Board approve revisions to BP 5138 Student Possession and Use of Personal Electronic Devices, Including Cellular Phones (NEW) and BP 6172 Special Education. Mr. Holt seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE
COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL
FINANCIAL REPORT:**
(8:36:22 PM)

Mr. Jones recommended the Board accept the FY13 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).

MOTION:

Mrs. Vadla moved the Board accept the FY13 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). Mr. Navarre seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**RECOMMENDATION FOR
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES:**
(8:37:17 PM)

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve administration recommendation for professional services for educational specifications for the new school at Kachemak Selo.

MOTION:

Mrs. Hilts moved the Board approve administration recommendation for professional services for educational specifications for the new school at Kachemak Selo. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**STATE AND FEDERAL
LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES:**
(8:38:43 PM)

Dr. Atwater recommended the Board approve a list of proposed FY14 State and Federal Legislative Priorities as revised.

MOTION:

Mrs. Downing moved the Board approve the list of proposed FY14 State and Federal Legislative Priorities. Ms. Hohl seconded.

MOTION:

Mr. Castimore moved the Board approve an amendment to remove the legislative priority related to "Teacher Tenure." Ms. Hohl seconded.

VOTE ON CASTIMORE AMENDMENT:

Advisory Vote – Abstain

YES – Castimore, Hilts, Vadla

NO – Downing, Hohl, Holt, Navarre, Arness

Amendment failed.

**STATE AND FEDERAL
LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES:**

(Continued)

VOTE:

Advisory Vote – Yes

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

NO – Castimore

Motion carried.

**FIRST READING OF POLICY
REVISIONS:**

(8:53:15 PM)

The Board heard a first reading of revisions to BP 5141.3 Health Examinations; BP 5128 Alaska Performance Scholarship; BP 5142.3 Restraint and Seclusion (NEW); and BP 6145 Cocurricular Activities.

BOARD COMMENTS:

(8:54:10 PM)

Mrs. Vadla welcomed Mr. Dan Castimore and Mr. Evan Boyer to the Board. She stated that she had intended to vote differently on the 2014 State and Federal Legislative Priorities. She thanked Mr. Doug Hayman for his school presentation and for his work on the Soldotna schools reconfiguration. She thanked Mayor Nels Anderson for attending and for his comments.

Mr. Holt welcomed Mr. Dan Castimore to the Board. He thanked Mr. Doug Hayman and Tustumena Elementary for the school presentation. He thanked Dr. Nels Anderson for his comments regarding science and discussed its importance.

Mrs. Hilts welcomed Mr. Dan Castimore and Mr. Evan Boyer to the Board. She thanked Mr. Doug Hayman for his school presentation. She thanked the Borough Assembly members for attending. She expressed appreciation for her recent re-election to Board, and for the honor to serve on the School Board and represent her communities. He thanked Dr. Nels Anderson for attending. Mrs. Hilts announced the birth of her new great-granddaughter.

Mr. Castimore thanked the Board for their support and patience, including Mrs. Tressler, as he learns the Board processes. He thanked District administration for their work on the state and federal legislative priorities list, especially regarding worker's compensation. He thanked Mr. Doug Hayman for his work on the Soldotna schools reconfiguration and discussed his personal experience as a part of the first class of grades 6, 7, and 8 at Kenai Middle School.

BOARD COMMENTS:

(Continued)

Mr. Navarre welcomed and congratulated Mr. Evan Boyer for being elected to serve as the student representative to the Board and commented on the quality of his nomination speech. He congratulated and welcomed Mr. Dan Castimore to the Board. He congratulated Mrs. Hilts and Ms. Hohl on their re-elections. He thanked newly elected Borough Assembly members, Mr. Dale Bagley, Mr. Wayne Ogle, and Mr. Brent Johnson, for attending. He thanked Mr. Doug Hayman for his school presentation and his work on the Soldotna schools reconfiguration. He discussed the challenges of the reconfiguration process and expressed confidence in the committee's ability to make the best decision for the District and its students.

Ms. Hohl thanked her district for re-electing her to serve another term. She reported that on September 10, she met with Ms. Ginny Espenshade, executive director of the Kenai Peninsula Youth Court, regarding establishing a youth court in Seward, stated that Ms. Espenshade will attend a meeting in Seward on October 25, which will also be attended by a probation officer, a district attorney, and a Kenaitze Indian Tribe representative. She reported that she attended an Alaska Behavioral Health Association meeting as part of the Seaview Community Board. She stated that she attended the National Education Association (N.E.A.) fall conference (October 11-13, 2013), and discussed the tracts attended there. She welcomed Mr. Dan Castimore and Mr. Evan Boyer to the Board. She thanked the Tustumena Elementary staff for their work.

Mrs. Downing thanked Dr. Nels Anderson for attending. She congratulated Mr. Dan Castimore and Mr. Evan Boyer and welcomed them to the Board. She congratulated Mr. Arness on his election as Board president.

Mr. Boyer thanked the Board and administration for welcoming him and commented on his desire to contribute as a member of the Board. He congratulated Nikolaevsk School on their decision to participate in the Drama, Debate, and Forensics program and discussed the school's participation in a recent workshop at Homer High School. He expressed appreciation for Mr. Doug Hayman's presentation for Tustumena Elementary and the school's science program. He discussed challenges he had faced, when he first enrolled at Homer High School, due to a lack of a strong science program in his former school district.

Mr. Arness welcomed Mr. Dan Castimore and Mr. Evan Boyer to the Board and stated that he feels it will be an interesting year for the Board. He thanked Mr. Doug Hayman for his school presentation and his work on the Soldotna schools reconfiguration.

ADJOURN:
(9:09:21PM)

At 9:09 p.m., Mr. Arness adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Joe Arness, President

Mrs. Penny Vadla, Clerk

The Minutes of October 14,
2013, have been approved as of
November 4, 2013.