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# Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes

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January 13, 2014 – 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  
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. Kari Dendurent Mrs. Melissa Linton  
Mrs. Laurie Olson Ms. Pegge Erkeneff  
Mr. Tim Vlasak Mrs. Elise Boyer  
Mrs. Christine Ermold Mrs. Patty Sirois  
Mr. John O'Brien Ms. Martine Dikes  
Ms. Joann Riener

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  
(7:00:22 PM) Allegiance.

**DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT:** Mr. Holt read the District's mission statement.  
(7:00:56 PM)

**ROLL CALL:** Mr. Joe Arness, President Present  
(7:01:13 PM) Mrs. Liz Downing, Vice President Present  
Mrs. Penny Vadla, Clerk Present  
Ms. Lynn Hohl, Treasurer Present  
Mr. Marty Anderson Present  
Mr. Dan Castimore Absent/Excused  
Mrs. Sunni Hilts Present  
Mr. Bill Holt Present  
Mr. Tim Navarre Present  
Mr. Evan Boyer Present

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** The agenda was approved as revised.  
(7:01:43 PM)

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**  
(7:02:16 PM)

The School Board Minutes of December 2, 2013, were approved as printed.

**SCHOOL REPORT:**  
(7:02:56 PM)

Ms. Kari Dendurent, Homer Middle School (HMS) principal, presented the Board and administration with gift bags containing food items and artwork prepared by students. She presented a PowerPoint regarding the three school goals: academics, implementing the new Alaska standards, and increasing parent involvement. She discussed the school's Alaska School Performance Indicator (ASPI) scores and stated that HMS is a 5 star school. She reported on staff professional development; work on the school's vision and mission statement; and the school art programs and projects. She finished with a student developed Prezi highlighting the school's students and activities.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:**  
(7:18:07 PM)

Dr. Atwater discussed the quarterly discipline report in the Board's general information packet and noted that reported discipline incidents are down, from the first quarter and for the year, for the majority of the categories. He reported that a recent nutrient analysis of the Student Nutrition Services menus reveals that our menus cover all requirements and thanked Mr. Dean Hamburg and his staff for their work. He announced that all District schools are in compliance for student immunizations and thanked Ms. Naomi Walsworth and the school nurses for their efforts. He stated that the BP Teachers of Excellence nomination period is now open, that the applications will soon be available on the District's website, and encouraged the Board to consider nominating a teacher for this award.

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SITE COUNCIL AND/OR P.T.A., K.P.A.A., K.P.E.A., K.P.E.S.A, BOROUGH ASSEMBLY:**  
(7:29:36 PM)

Mrs. Patty Sirois, K.P.E.S.A. president, wished those in attendance a Happy New Year and stated that the amount of daylight is increasing by four minutes per day. She commented on the Friday, January 10, bus accident involving Kenai Central and Skyview High School's Nordic ski teams and wished Mr. Vern Brown, bus driver, a speedy recovery. She stated that the legislative session begins on January 21. She noted the "Raise Your Hand" luncheon scheduled for Jan. 14, and invited the Board to attend.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**  
(7:21:40 PM)

Dr. Atwater reported that the central Homer area natural gas boiler conversion process has begun, that, if things progress as planned, the conversion will be complete sometime in February, and thanked the Kenai Borough Maintenance and Capital Projects departments for their work on this project. He commented on the Friday, January 10, bus accident involving Kenai Central and Skyview High School's Nordic ski teams, expressed appreciation for the assistance of the Valdez emergency personnel, and recognized District staff, coaches, and chaperones for their assistance during the incident. He wished Mr. Vern Brown, bus driver, a full and quick recovery. Dr. Atwater noted the recent passing of Mr. Steve Wolf, former District teacher and coach, discussed his service to the District and its students, and offered his condolences to the family.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS:**  
(7:23:18 PM)

Mr. Jones presented the financial reports of the District for the periods ending November 30, 2013 and December 31, 2013.

**QUARTERLY BUDGET  
TRANSFER REPORT:**  
(7:24:20 PM)

Mr. Dave Jones reported on budget transfers for the second quarter of FY14 for various schools and departments within the District.

**BOARD REPORTS:**  
(7:25:05 PM)

Mrs. Downing reported that the Legislative Committee met earlier in the day and discussed the Governor's proposed budget, the House Task Force on Sustainability, and the Hay Report regarding health care. She stated that the committee will meet more frequently during the legislative session and that the next planned meetings will be held telephonically on January 27, February 3, and 17, 2014.

Ms. Hohl reported that she attended the Association of Alaska School Boards (A.A.S.B.) Winter Boardmanship Academy on December 6-7, 2013, and discussed the sessions she attended.

Mr. Navarre reported that he attended the Legislative Committee earlier in the day and noted issues that the committee will discuss in upcoming meetings. He reported that he attended the A.A.S.B. Winter Boardmanship Academy on December 6-7, 2013, and discussed the sessions he attended.

Mr. Anderson asked Mr. Sean Dusek to explain certain data on the recent quarterly discipline report.

Mrs. Hilts announced that the Charter School Committee met earlier in the day and discussed clarification of the roles of the superintendent and the Board in allocating space for charter schools. She discussed the National School Board Association (N.S.B.A.) Pacific Region Winter meeting, which she attended December 14-16, 2013. She reported on her attendance to and testimony at the January 7-8, 2014, Senate Subcommittee on Education regarding the common core standards and the Alaska academic standards.

**BOARD WORKSESSION  
REPORT:**  
(7:36:19 PM)

Mr. Arness reported that the Board held worksessions regarding Board Policy, Body Mass Index Report, and Key Performance Indicators. He noted that all members at the meeting attended the worksessions.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**  
(7:36:43 PM)

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Resignations, 2013-14 Long Term Substitute Contracts, 2013-14 New Teacher Contracts, Board Member Committee Appointments, and Board of Education Request Form.

**RESIGNATIONS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve resignations from Debra Hayes, Special Education Resource Teacher, K-Beach Elementary School; Sandra Miller, Coordinator, K-12 Schools/Assessment & Federal Programs; and Judy Standafer, Principal/Teacher, Susan B. English School, all effective at the end of the 2013-14 school year.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

*(Continued)*

**LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE  
TEACHER CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve long-term substitute teacher contracts for Marsha Gustkey, Seward Elementary School; and Thomas Rhyner, Redoubt Elementary School.

**NEW TEACHER CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve new teacher contracts for the 2013-2014 school year for Monica Acosta, Title I Teacher, Tebughna School; and Emily Warner, Language Arts Teacher, Kenai Central High School.

**BOARD MEMBER  
COMMITTEE  
APPOINTMENTS:**

Mr. Arness recommended the Board approve a list of Board members to various District-level committees.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REQUEST FORM:**

Dr. Atwater recommended the Board approve exhibit E 9000(c) Board of Education Request Form.

**MOTION:**

Mr. Navarre moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 3. Mrs. Downing seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**MOTION:**

Mr. Navarre moved the Board approve Number 10a. (4) Board Member Committee Appointments. Ms. Hohl seconded.

**MOTION:**

Mr. Navarre moved the Board approve an amendment to 10a. (4), to remove Mr. Navarre from the Policy Review Committee and to direct the Board President to assign a chair and a vice-chair to each Board committee. Mr. Anderson seconded.

Amendment carried unanimously.

Amended motion carried unanimously for Number 10a. (4).

**MOTION:**

Mr. Navarre moved the Board approve Number 10a. (5) Board of Education Request Form. Mr. Holt seconded.

**MOTION:**

Mr. Navarre moved the Board approve an amendment to 10a. (5) to revise the form by removing the text, "Requests from Board members to District Administration requiring more than 15 minutes to prepare."; "what problem will be solved; what situation improved"; and "How does this action align with the Board or District goals?" Ms. Hohl seconded.

At 7:54 p.m. Mr. Arness passed the gavel to Mrs. Downing in order to comment on the amendment.

At 7:59 p.m. Mrs. Downing returned the gavel to Mr. Arness.

**MOTION:**

Ms. Hohl moved the Board split the question by the three separate revisions. Mr. Holt seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REQUEST FORM:**  
(Continued)

VOTE ON: Removal of the text “Requests from Board members to District Administration requiring more than 15 minutes to prepare.”

Advisory Vote – No  
YES – Anderson, Hilts, Navarre  
NO – Downing, Hohl, Holt, Vadla, Arness

Amendment failed.

VOTE ON: Removal of the text “what problem will be solved; what situation improved”.

Advisory Vote – Yes  
YES –Anderson, Hilts, Hohl, Holt, Navarre, Vadla  
NO – Downing, Arness

Amendment carried.

VOTE ON: Removal of the text “How does this action align with the Board or District goals?”

Advisory Vote – Yes  
YES –Anderson, Downing, Hilts, Hohl, Navarre  
NO – Holt, Vadla, Arness

Amendment carried.

**MOTION:**

Ms. Hohl moved the Board approve an amendment to 10a. (5) to revise the form to include the two additional choices of: “Agenda” and “Worksession,” under “Type of Request.” Mrs. Downing seconded.

At 8:31 p.m., Mrs. Vadla left the meeting.

At 8:31 p.m. Mr. Arness passed the gavel to Mrs. Downing in order to comment on the amendment.

At 8:32 p.m. Mrs. Downing returned the gavel to Mr. Arness.

Amendment carried unanimously.

At 8:33 p.m., Mrs. Vadla rejoined the meeting.

**MOTION:**

Mr. Navarre moved the Board approve an amendment to 10a. (5) to revise the form to add “(No more than three.)” following the word “Member(s)” under “Board Member(s) requesting” and to remove “For action/discussion on (meeting date).” Ms. Hohl seconded.

Amendment failed unanimously.

Amended motion carried unanimously for 10a. (5).

**SCIENCE CURRICULUM:**  
(8:38:10 PM)

Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve the Science Curriculum as presented.

**MOTION:**

Mr. Holt moved the Board approve the Science Curriculum as presented. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

At 8:39 p.m., Mrs. Downing left the meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

**SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM:**  
(8:39:51 PM)

Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve the Social Studies Curriculum as presented.

Mrs. Elise Boyer spoke regarding the Social Studies curriculum and the importance of current events.

**MOTION:**

Mrs. Vadla moved the Board approve the Social Studies Curriculum as presented. Mr. Holt seconded.

Ms. Hohl requested that the record reflect her suggestion to include in future curriculum revisions, social studies classes that are allowed for the Alaska Performance Scholarship.

Motion carried unanimously.

**POLICY MANUAL REVISIONS:**  
(8:41:57 PM)

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve revisions to BP and AR 6145.22 Concussion in Student Athletes, and AR 6164.5 Child Find.

**MOTION:**

Mrs. Vadla moved the Board approve revisions to BP and AR 6145.22 Concussion in Student Athletes, and AR 6164 Child Find. Ms. Hohl seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**FY14 SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS BUDGET REVISION:**  
(8:42:53 PM)

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve the FY14 Special Revenue Funds Budget Revision to increase the Student Transportation expenditure budget by \$689,480 to allow for the purchase of 5 activity busses and to adjust salary and benefit budgets; and to increase the Food Service revenue budget by \$200,000 (as a result of increased Federal revenue) and Food Service expenditure budget by \$21,692 to adjust salary and benefit budgets.

**MOTION:**

Mrs. Vadla moved the Board approve an FY14 Special Revenue Funds Budget Revision as revised. Mr. Holt seconded.

At 8:45 p.m., Mrs. Downing rejoined the meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**  
(8:51:04 PM)

Mrs. Vadla thanked those in attendance for coming. She congratulated the Pop Warner, Soldotna High School, and Nikiski High School football teams for their success during the past season. She thanked Ms. Dendurent for the presentation. She wished those present a Happy New Year. She requested an excused absence for the February meeting.

Mrs. Hilts discussed the evening's work. She expressed appreciation for the Homer Middle School presentation. She noted the recent Nordic ski bus accident, wished Mr. Vern Brown a full and rapid recovery and thanked him for his service, and thanked Dr. Atwater, Ms. Erkeneff, and the Valdez community for their good work and assistance. She wished those present a Happy New Year. She requested an excused absence for the February meeting.

Mr. Navarre discussed the evening's work on the Board of Education Request form. He wished Mr. Vern Brown a full and rapid recovery and suggested the recognition committee commend the Valdez community for their response and care during the Nordic ski bus incident. He expressed appreciation for Ms. Dendurent's presentation, especially the student developed Prezi.

Mrs. Downing stated that she danced the salsa at Homer High recently and enjoyed spending time with the students. She expressed appreciation for the evening's work on the Board of Education Request form. She discussed the recent Nordic ski bus accident, wished Mr. Vern Brown a full and rapid recovery, and thanked Ms. Erkeneff for her communications. She noted the recent passing of Homer residents and former district employees, Mr. Steve Wolf and Mr. Frank Libal, and requested prayers for former District assistant superintendent Mr. Peter Larson.

Mr. Holt reported that he will serve on the P.E. Curriculum Committee. He reported that the Tsalteshi Youth Ski program began recently and discussed the program's success.

Mr. Anderson discussed the evening's work on the Board of Education Request form.

Ms. Hohl suggested that the Legislative Committee collaborate with P.T.A.s and other parent groups. She reported that she and Mr. Holt attended the Career and Technical Advisory Committee (C-TAC)/Carl Perkins reallocation meeting on December 5, 2013. She reported that she attended the District/Borough Joint Budget Worksession on December 3, 2013. She expressed appreciation for the Homer Middle School presentation and gift bags. She noted the recent Nordic ski bus accident, wished a full recovery to those involved, and expressed appreciation for the work done. Ms. Hohl noted the recent passing of three Seward community members: Mr. Skip Fletcher, Mr. Duane LeVan, and Mr. Linne Bardarson. She wished those present a wonderful New Year.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

*(Continued)*

Mr. Boyer discussed the evening's agenda. He expressed appreciation for being member of the Board. He expressed appreciation for the community action and assistance given during the recent Nordic ski bus accident. He thanked Homer Middle School for the presentation and the Prezi.

Mr. Arness asked the Board to collaborate with Dr. Atwater to compose a letter of appreciation to the Valdez community and school district. He reminded the Board of the Tuesday, January 14, Worksession in the Assembly Chambers.

**ADJOURN:**

*(9:05:25 PM)*

At 9:05 p.m., Mr. Arness adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mr. Joe Arness, President

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Mrs. Penny Vadla, Clerk

The Minutes of January 13, 2014, have been approved as of February 3, 2014.