



Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes

3/2/2015 – 7:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting

Borough Administration Building
148 N. Binkley, Soldotna, Alaska

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: Mr. Joe Arness, President
Mrs. Sunni Hilts, Vice President
Mrs. Penny Vadla, Clerk
Mr. Dan Castimore, Treasurer
Mr. Marty Anderson
Mrs. Liz Downing
Ms. Lynn Hohl
Mr. Bill Holt
Mr. Tim Navarre
Miss Maria Kulikov, Student Representative

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ms. Joann Riener	Mr. Dave Brighton
Mr. John O'Brien	Mrs. Patty Sirois
Mrs. Julie Cisco	Mr. Blaine Gilman
Ms. Pegge Erkeneff	Mr. John Devolld
Mr. Lee Young	Mrs. Shona Devolld
Mr. Tim Vlasak	Miss Sara Devolld
Mrs. Laurie Olson	Miss Anna Devolld
Mr. Jim White	Ms. Freddie Billingslea
Mr. Rich Bartolowits	Miss Martine Dikes
Mr. Jeff Ambrosier	Ms. Akcinia Kulikov
Ms. Kelly King	Ms. Tamra Wear

Others present not identified.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mr. Arness invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT: Mr. Castimore read the District's mission statement.

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Marty Anderson	Present
Mr. Joe Arness	Present
Mr. Dan Castimore	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 Maria Kulikov	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved with the addition of item 11e. Resolution 14-15-4 in Support of Kenai Peninsula Borough Ordinance 2015-03 supporting the repeal of the seasonal sales tax.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of February 2, 2015, were approved as printed.

The School Board Minutes of February 18, 2015, were approved as printed.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS: The Board presented a Golden Apple Award to Ms. Kelly King, District Students-in-Transition program coordinator, for her service to the District and its students.

SCHOOL REPORT: Mr. Lee Young, Connections Homeschool principal, introduced Mr. Jacob Parrett, Mrs. Shona Devolld and her children, Miss Sara Devolld and Miss Anna Devolld. Mr. Young and Mr. Parrett shared a computer presentation explaining how homeschooling is designed and highlighting the school's programs, vision, student demographics, geographic region served, teaching services provided, social recreational activities, academic activities, and assessment data. Mrs. Devolld, Miss Sara Devolld, and Miss Anna Devolld presented the girls' Science Fair projects and discussed Connections student activities including field trips, academics, and extra-curricular choices.

RECESS: At 7:30 p.m. Mr. Arness recessed the meeting.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS: At 7:34 the Board reconvened in regular session.

Using Lync Technology, Mr. Alan Haskins, Susan B. English School principal, discussed the school's location, Alaska School Performance Indicators (ASPI) 4 star rating, staff, student activities and special projects, special classes, community involvement, swimming pool use and the use of technology in the school programs.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Ms. Tamra Wear, Soldotna High School librarian, discussed the school's library program including the extended hours offered and bussing services provided during those hours. She reported that five District staff and the Soldotna and Homer public librarians attended the Alaska Library Association meeting in Juneau the weekend of February 28. She wished the Board "Happy Dr. Zeus' birthday" and stated that the District librarians are working hard for students.

Miss Jennifer Freeman, coordinator of the Kenai Peninsula Native Youth Leadership program (KPNYL), discussed the program's makeup, formation and purpose. Ms. Freeman read a statement from a student not present and introduced a group of KPNYL students, some of whom spoke in support of the program. She introduced Ms. Bonnie Pearce of Project GRAD and staff member, Mrs. Elizabeth Ukatish. Mrs. Ukatish discussed the three plans and goals of the KPNYL middle school student group.

RECESS:

At 8:04 p.m. Mr. Arness recessed the meeting.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:

At 8:09 the Board reconvened in regular session.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

Mr. Dusek reported that he received notification from the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) regarding broadband assistance funding in the amount of \$27,000, noted that this funding could be cut and stated that Mr. Jim White will testify to the House Finance Committee on March 3 to request that it not be. He announced that Wednesday, March 4 is School Principal's Day, a day to thank all principals. He stated that Friday, March 6 is an inservice day and the last day of third quarter and that Spring Break begins March 9. He announced that on March 17, the District will hold a Joint Budget Worksession with the Borough Assembly.

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

Mrs. Patty Sirois, K.P.E.S.A. president, attended the FY16 Budget worksession and stated she was disappointed in the discussion regarding possible staffing cuts. She noted the gain of daylight hours and stated she will be back after Spring Break.

Mr. David Brighton, KPEA president, stated that he was impressed by the Connections' student presentations. He noted Ms. Melissa Cloud's resignation and wished her the best.

Mr. Blaine Gilman, Borough Assembly, discussed the upcoming Joint Budget Worksession and the need for the Board and the Assembly to clarify terms and items to be discussed, such as lapse and projected deficit versus actual deficit, in order to promote clear communication. He noted that three assembly members attended the afternoon's budget worksession and stated that he would request that the Borough fund the District to the cap.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Dusek announced the recent selections of school administrators: Mr. Rich Bartolowits, Connections Homeschool; Mr. Tony Graham, Soldotna High School; and Mr. Richard Breske, Tebughna School. He announced that interviews for the Seward Regional administrator will be held on March 5 at 4:00 p.m. He discussed the Innovation Report in the General Information Packet that provides updates on the Title IIA Assessment Literacy Grant and the ConnectEd Project in Nanwalek. He also noted the memo providing the results of the Gallup Poll Survey that was conducted to assess student social/emotional wellbeing as part of the District's Key Performance Indicators. He highlighted staff members that submitted their resignations for this meeting and thanked them for their service, especially Ms. Jill Raponi.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Mr. Jones presented the financial report of the District for the period ending January 31, 2015.

BOARD REPORTS:

Mrs. Downing reported that she attended the Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB) Fly-In February 7-10, 2015 and met with other school board members, legislators, Governor Walker and Commissioner Hanley to discuss budget concerns. She attended the Tebughna School principal interviews and the Homer Pool and Budget Forum meetings. She visited Kachemak-Selo, Voznesenka and Razdolna Schools. She reported that the Legislative Committee met earlier in the day to discuss AASB Fly-Ins, strategies related to funding and advocacy, and scheduled weekly committee meetings throughout the legislative session. She presented to the Homer Middle School Site Council on the budget.

Mr. Holt attended the Charter School Oversight Committee to discuss the extension of the charter for Greatland Adventure Academy. He attended a Kenai Peninsula School Activities Association (KPSAA) meeting on February 19 and discussed the topics covered. He read Dr. Zeus' stories to students at Redoubt Elementary earlier in the day.

Mrs. Vadla attended the Communication Committee earlier in the day where they discussed AASB Fly-Ins, the superintendent search, school eNews contributions, and the Alert Lockdown Inform Counter Evacuate (ALICE) training.

Mrs. Hilts attended the Central Peninsula and Homer Pool and Budget Forums and noted the positive outlook of attendees. She attended the Seldovia Site Council meeting and the February 18 Board meeting on the superintendent search.

Ms. Hohl reported that she attended the AASB Fly-In February 7-10, 2015 and expressed disappointment over the funding situation. She attended the Homer Pool and Budget Forum and Mr. Dusek's presentation to Homer Chamber of Commerce.

Miss Kulikov attended AASB Fly-In and Youth Leadership Institute February 7-10 and discussed conversations with legislators and budget concerns.

BOARD WORKSESSION REPORT:

Mr. Arness reported that the Board held worksessions regarding, Board Policy, Six Year Plan FY 2016-2021, 403(b) Retirement Plan Document Updates and the FY 16 Budget and an executive session regarding negotiations. All members present at the meeting, attended the worksessions.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Leave of Absence Requests/Certified, Resignations, Long Term Substitute Teacher Contracts and 2015-16 New Administrator Contract.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST/CERTIFIED:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve unpaid leave of absences for Dan Adair, Science Teacher, Nikiski Middle/High School; Renee Christensen, 5th Grade Teacher, Mountain View Elementary School; and Kevin Harding, Special Education Resource/ History/Language Arts Teacher, Kenai Alternative High School, all effective the 2015-16 school year.

CONSENT AGENDA:

(Continued)

RESIGNATIONS:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve resignations from Jason Bickling, Regional Administrator, Seward Middle School & Moose Pass School; Katherine Cloud, 5th Grade Teacher, West Homer Elementary School; Stephanie DeVault, Elementary Multi-Grade Teacher, Port Graham School; Tyran DeVault, Multi-Grade Upper Elementary/Secondary Generalist, Port Graham School; Jill Herbert, Special Education Resource Teacher, Seward Middle School; Samantha Lamphier, Primary Grade Teacher, Redoubt Elementary School; Amy Maguire, 1st-4th Grade Teacher, Kaleidoscope Charter School; Regan Parks, Kindergarten Teacher, Mountain View Elementary School; Lori Pleshe Uponen, 2nd Grade Teacher, Aurora Borealis Charter School; Jill Ramponi, Special Education Intensive Needs Teacher, Soldotna High School; Dianne Spence-Chorman, History Teacher, Homer High School; William Thompson, Math Teacher, Nikiski Middle/High School; Matthew Tucker, Special Education Resource Teacher, Nanwalek School; John Uponen, Music Teacher, Aurora Borealis Charter School; all effective the end of the 2014-15 school year, and Paul Gutzler, Special Education Resource Teacher, Homer High School; effective the end of the 2013-14 school year (LOA 2014-15 school year).

**LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE
TEACHER CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve long-term substitute teacher contracts for Marie Alexson, West Homer Elementary School; Judith Cox, Mountain View Elementary School; and Rebecca Hilbrink, Soldotna High School.

**2015-16 NEW
ADMINISTRATOR
CONTRACT:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a new administrator contract for the 2015-16 school year for Richard Bartolowits, Principal, Connections Program.

MOTION:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**SIX-YEAR PLAN
FY 2016-2021:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve the proposed Six-Year Plan for FY 2016-2021.

MOTION:

Mr. Anderson moved the Board approve the proposed Six-Year Plan for FY 2016-2021. Ms. Hohl seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

POLICY REVISIONS:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve revisions to BB 9320 Meetings, BP 3541.1 School Related Trips, and BP 3514 Environmental Safety.

MOTION:

Mr. Holt moved the Board approve revisions to BB 9320 Meetings, BP 3541.1 School Related Trips, and BP 3514 Environmental Safety. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

POLICY REVISIONS:

(Continued)

MOTION: Mr. Navarre moved the Board approve an amendment to change the regular meeting start time from 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Mrs. Downing seconded.

MOTION: Mrs. Vadla moved the Board amend the amendment to change the regular meeting start time from 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Ms. Hohl seconded.

VOTE ON Vadla Amendment

ADVISORY VOTE: Abstain

YES – Anderson, Hohl, Vadla

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

Amendment failed.

VOTE ON Navarre Amendment

ADVISORY VOTE: Yes

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

NO – Anderson, Castimore, Arness

Amendment carried.

MOTION: Ms. Hohl moved the Board approve an amendment to revise item 5 of Meetings to read “Remote participation in regular meetings is limited to two times per school year starting in October.” Mr. Castimore seconded.

Amendment carried unanimously.

Amended motion carried unanimously.

403(b) RETIREMENT PLAN: Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve adoption of the 403(b) Plan Document Restatement, including the Plan-to-Plan Transfer provision.

MOTION: Mr. Navarre moved the Board approve adoption of the 403(b) Plan Document Restatement, including the Plan-to-Plan Transfer provision. Mr. Holt seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION 14-15-4: Ms. Hohl moved the Board approve Resolution 14-15-4 in support of Kenai Peninsula Borough Ordinance 2015-03 amending KPB 5.18.200 to repeal the seasonal exemption from sales tax on non-prepared food items. Mr. Holt seconded.

RESOLUTION 14-15-3:
(Continued)

Mr. James Price, Mrs. Tara Kain and Ms. Akcinia Kulikov spoke in opposition of Kenai Peninsula Borough Ordinance 2015-03.

Mr. Blaine Gilman and Mr. Dave Brighton spoke in support of Kenai Peninsula Borough Ordinance 2015-03.

At 9:32 p.m. Mr. Arness passed the gavel to Mrs. Hilts in order to speak to the motion.

At 9:36 p.m. Mrs. Hilts passed the gavel back to Mr. Arness.

VOTE ON 11e. Resolution 14-15-4:

ADVISORY VOTE: No
YES –Hohl, Navarre, Vadla
NO – Anderson, Castimore, Downing, Hilts, Holt, Arness

Motion failed.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Ms. Hohl noted the resignations of Mr. Jason Bickling and Ms. Jill Herbert. She attended the Alaska PTA Legislative Fly-in in Juneau and stated that, sponsored by the Alaska PTA Board of Managers and the Seward PTSA, two parents and two sixth grade students also attended to advocate for schools. She commented on the advocacy done at the AASB Fly-In by Miss Maria Kulikov and her chaperone, Ms. Rachel Allmendinger.

Mr. Holt thanked Mr. Jason Bickling and Mr. Lee Young for their service to the District. He congratulated Mr. Rich Bartolowits on his new position as principal of Connections Homeschool.

Mrs. Downing expressed appreciation for the school reports and KPNYL presentation. She noted it was a very busy month and commented on the quality of board conversations throughout the day. She stated that Mr. Arness changed her mind on the vote for Resolution 14-15-4. She recognized Ms. Melissa Cloud and the teacher mentor program and noted that the program could be cut if the current budget proposal is approved.

Mr. Castimore thanked Assemblyman Gilman for his work on Kenai Peninsula Borough Ordinance 2015-03 and stated he feels that the Borough Assembly is better equipped to deal with tax issues than the District. He expressed appreciation for the Connections' student presentations.

Mrs. Vadla thanked Mr. Young for his report and wished him the best in retirement. She thanked Mr. Alan Haskins, Ms. Tamra Wear, and the staff and students from KPNYL. She thanked Mr. Jason Bickling and Ms. Jill Ramponi for their service to the District. She welcomed Mr. Rich Bartolowits and Mr. Tony Graham to their new positions. She stated that she is pleased with the ConnectEd Grant and would like to visit Nanwalek to see how the program comes together. She thanked Assemblyman Gilman for his work on Kenai Peninsula Borough Ordinance 2015-03.

BOARD COMMENTS:

(Continued)

Mr. Navarre expressed appreciation for school presentations including the Tebughna School report during the worksessions. He thanked Mr. Gilman for his work and support of the District and schools.

Mrs. Hilts agreed with all of the previous appreciations. She noted that, among other topics, current budget discussions include jobs, quality of education, and fund balance and stated it is a difficult conversation. She discussed and expressed concern over the recommendation by the House Finance Committee and Representative Lynn Gattis to reduce the DEED budget an additional 16.1% above the Governor’s recommended budget cut. She expressed appreciation for the KPNYL students’ attentiveness during the meeting.

Miss Kulikov congratulated Ms. Kelly King for her award and expressed appreciation for her work. She commented on the quality of the Connections School report and noted that she is taking classes through Connections. She commented on the Soldotna High School library program and thanked Ms. Wear for her Cat in the Hat costume. She enjoyed the KPNYL presentation and stated that the students in the program are future leaders. She noted the difficulty of the decision on Resolution 14-15-4 but stated she felt the Board made the right decision.

Mr. Arness agreed with all of the previous appreciations. He offered his personal assistance to Mr. Gilman but felt the Board should not support KPB Ordinance 2015-03. He reminded the Board they will meet March 3 beginning at 12:30 p.m. to conduct the superintendent interviews and the first interview will be at 12:45 p.m.

ADJOURN:

At 9:56 p.m., Mr. Arness adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Joe Arness, President

Mrs. Penny Vadla, Clerk

Approved 4-6-15

Submitted by Mrs. Debbie Tressler
Administrative Secretary to the Board of Education