
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

December 5, 2011 – 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
Miss Annaleah Ernst, Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Dr. Doris Cannon | Dr. Christine Ermold |
| Mr. Doug Cannon | Mr. Dave Spence |
| Mrs. Lisa Callahan | Mr. Larry Nauta |
| Ms. Gretchen Graeff | Mrs. Sherry Nauta |
| Mrs. LaDawn Druce | Mrs. Margie Warner |
| Mr. Tim Peterson | Ms. Mo Sanders |
| Ms. Pegge Erkeneff | Ms. Kiki Abrahamson |

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

(7:00:21 PM)

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

(7:00:31 PM)

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

DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT:

(7:00:55 PM)

Mr. Navarre read the District's mission statement.

ROLL CALL:

(7:01:25 PM)

| | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Mr. Joe Arness | Present |
| Mr. Marty Anderson | Present |
| Mrs. Sammy Crawford | Absent/Excused |
| 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 Annaleah Ernst | Present |

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

(7:02:03 PM)

The agenda was approved with an addition of 10h., Approval of the Creation of the Legislative Committee as a Committee of the Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

(7:02:45 PM)

The School Board Minutes of November 8, 2011, were approved as printed.

SCHOOL REPORT:

(7:03:11 PM)

Ms. Sheryl Hingley, Susan B. English Elementary/High School principal, gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the school theme ("success is your only option"), the school goal to improve writing and math skills, City of Seldovia statistics and information, school assessment information, staffing information (support and certified), course offerings, co-curricular activities, lessons using 21st Century Skills, and community involvement. She provided a video clip describing the two-week Workforce Development Academy titled, Ultimate Careers, which was held in May 2011.

(7:15:52 PM)

Ms. Lisa Callahan, Nikiski North Star Elementary principal, stated that the school's philosophy is, "kids are worth everything it takes". She reported that the school is a Title 1 school with 378 students in grades pre-kindergarten through Grade 5. She gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting assessment information, parent involvement, the school goal to increase student learning in reading and writing, the Nikiski Clubhouse, the Character Counts Program, hands-on science exploration, and 21st Century learners skills. She introduced Mrs. Sherry Matson, 5th grade teacher, and students, Garrett Ellis and Jaylen Uhls, who explained and demonstrated a social studies project created with Animoto, a web-based software.

RECESS:

(7:43:25 PM)

At 7:43 p.m., Mr. Arness called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER**RECESS:**

(7:53:44 PM)

At 7:53 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

**AWARDS AND
PRESENTATIONS:**

(7:53:57 PM)

The Board presented a gift of appreciation to Mrs. Tachick for her assistance in preparing the AASB School Board of the Year nomination packet.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND
PETITIONS:**

(7:56:07 PM)

Dr. Atwater reported that he received notice that the Special Education compliance review begins on December 6 for the Seward area schools. He stated that all 23 students who were applied for intensive needs status were approved by the state. He announced that the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires states to conduct an analysis of Special Education and eligibility data and reported that the District was found not to have any disproportionality. He noted that the Enrollment Summary and Class Size Report is included in the General Information packet and that the report shows that class sizes are well below the District pupil-teacher ratio.

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

(7:57:29 PM)

Mrs. Druce, KPEA president, congratulated the Board for being selected as the AASB Outstanding Board of the Year. She noted that the recommendation to open negotiations with KPEA and KPESA is on the consent agenda. She stated that she submitted the intent-to-bargain letter to Dr. Atwater. She announced that Aesop training (automated substitute finder system for teachers and support staff) will be held December 7 and 8. She reported that she attended as the NEA representative for National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) Board of Examiners training. She invited the Board to attend at least one holiday concert. She reported that KPEA decorated a tree as part of the Kenai Visitor's Center fund raiser. She explained that the tree is auctioned off and the proceeds will be donated to the Students in Transition Program. She wished those present a happy holidays.

Mrs. Warner, KPESA president, clarified that the intent to negotiate is a joint letter from KPEA and KPESA. She invited interested persons to assist with the December 2 Regional 1, 2, and 3A wrestling tournament beginning at 9:00 a.m. at Nikiski Middle High. She wished those present a happy holidays.

Ms. Susanna LaRock, Cooper Landing School Parent Advisory Committee president, requested that the Board consider input from the Cooper Landing community on the proposed wording in Board Policy 0530, Criteria for Closing Schools. She distributed copies of revisions that the Cooper Landing community would like to have approved. She reported that the Cooper Landing PAC specifically objects to the proposed language in the section titled, Criteria for closing Schools due to enrollment of less than 10 Students which allows the superintendent to recommend school closure for the current year.

Mr. Brent Johnson, Borough Assembly Representative, introduced himself.

Dr. Ermold, KPAA secretary, reported that District principals have been dealing with several school start time delays and closures due to poor weather. On behalf of the administrators she thanked Dr. Atwater and Mr. Dusek and Mr. Jones for the timely communications. She reported that Analytical Writing Assessment (AWA) scoring was completed as well as the first round of nontenure teacher evaluations. She encouraged the Board to attend band, choir, orchestra and elementary music performances. She reported that the next inservice/teacher work day will include the second round of report cards using Power School and training on the new sub finder system.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT:**

(8:10:30 PM)

Dr. Atwater reported that the new Career Technical Education Plan is near completion and will be shared in January 2012. He announced that the School Climate and Connectedness Survey will be conducted at large high schools throughout the District. He noted that the public comment period regarding proposed changes to BP 0210 has closed and that 204 people viewed the policy and only 9 provided comments. He reported that the administration is working on the FY13 budget and that a staffing correction will be included. He announced that the lice issue among District students is diminishing. He thanked Mrs. Vadla for her recent assistance in securing lodging over the weekend for visiting Seward students.

**FIVE-YEAR PUPIL
ENROLLMENT
PROJECTIONS:**

(8:13:01 PM)

Mr. Jones presented the Five-Year Enrollment Projections (2012-13 through 2016-17) that reflects 8,871 students for FY13.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

(8:15:33 PM)

Mr. Jones presented the financial report of the District for the period ending October 31, 2011.

BOARD REPORTS:

(8:16:48 PM)

Ms. Vadla stated that she attended the Communications Committee and reported on the activities. She reported that the group discussed web access of District information, social media, and an art contest to create logos to promote key phrases that were developed by the committee.

Mr. Holt reported that he attended the KPSAA executive board meeting and that the group discussed voting rights and length of term of the parent representative member. He added that the group discussed the concussion policy and was pleased that student academic testing will not be permitted when there has been a head injury. He reported that the group discussed borough championships such as cross-country running and track.

**BOARD WORKSESSION
REPORT:**

(8:21:19 PM)

Mr. Arness reported that the Board held two student expulsion hearings and a hearing regarding three District charter school reauthorizations. He reported that the Board held worksessions on the tobacco violation pilot program, the graduate survey results, student obesity study data and the Six-Year Plan and School Construction Needs. He reported that all Board members currently present attended all meetings and hearings except himself who was not available for the charter school meetings.

CONSENT AGENDA:

(8:22:05 PM)

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Six-Year Plan and School Construction Needs; AR 4111, Recruitment and Selection and AR 6161.4, Acceptable Use Policy/Internet Safety Policy; Language Arts Curriculum Revision; Resignations; Long-term Substitute Teacher Contracts; Recommendation to Open Negotiations with KPEA and KPESA; Board Member Committee Appointments; Resolution 11-12-2, Support of a Paved Lighted Path Along Poppy Lane; High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2012-005; and Leave of Absence Request-Support.

**SIX-YEAR PLAN AND
SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION
NEEDS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve the proposed Six-Year Plan and list of major maintenance and capital improvement projects for FY13 through 2019.

POLICY MANUAL REVISIONS:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve revisions to AR 4111, Recruitment, and Selection and AR 6161.4, Acceptable Use Policy/Internet Safety Policy.

**LANGUAGE ARTS
CURRICULUM REVISION:**

Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve the proposed revised Language Arts Curriculum.

RESIGNATIONS:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve resignations from Catherine Kibling, special education resource teacher, Mountain View Elementary (effective December 16, 2011) and Taj Smith, special education resource teacher, Soldotna Montessori (effective November 21, 2011).

**LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE
TEACHER CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve long-term substitute teacher contracts for Wanda R. Brenner, Mountain View Elementary and Kaci Tauriainen, Nikiski North Star Elementary.

**RECOMMENDATION TO
OPEN NEGOTIATIONS WITH
KPEA AND KPESA:**

Mr. Jones recommended that a formal opportunity for public input be provided on contractual issues under the public presentation. He further recommended that the District prepare to open negotiations with Kenai Peninsula Education Association and Kenai Peninsula Education Support Association no later than February 15, 2012.

**BOARD MEMBER
COMMITTEE
APPOINTMENTS:**

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

RESOLUTION 11-12-2:

Dr. Atwater recommended the Board approve Resolution 11-12-2, Support of a Paved Lighted Path Along Poppy Lane.

HSGQE WAIVER:

Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2012-005.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE
REQUEST-SUPPORT:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a leave of absence for Martha Hughes, school nurse, Nikiski Middle/High School (effective January 1, 2012 through January 1, 2013).

MOTION

Mr. Navarre moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 10. Mr. Holt seconded.

Mrs. Downing removed Number 10a.(7), Approval of Board Member Committee Appointments.

Mrs. Vadla removed Number 10a.(1), Approval of Six-Year Plan and School Construction Needs.

CONSENT AGENDA:
(continued)

Motion carried unanimously for Numbers 2 through 6 and 8 through 10.

Motion carried unanimously for Number 10a.(1).

MOTION

Mrs. Downing moved the Board approve an amendment to 10a.(7) to replace Liz Downing with Lynn Hohl on the Charter School Committee and replacing Lynn Hohl with Liz Downing on the Communications Committee. Ms. Hohl seconded.

Amendment carried unanimously.

Amended motion carried unanimously for Number 10a.(7)

**FIREWEED ACADEMY
CHARTER SCHOOL
REAPPLICATION:**
(8:34:08 PM)

Mr. Jones recommended that the Board approve the Fireweed Academy Charter School reapplication.

MOTION

Mrs. Downing moved that the Board approve the Fireweed Academy Charter School reapplication. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**AURORA BOREALIS
CHARTER SCHOOL
REAPPLICATION:**
(8:35:22 PM)

Mr. Jones recommended that the Board approve the Aurora Borealis Charter School reapplication.

MOTION

Mr. Navarre moved the Board approve the Aurora Borealis Charter School reapplication. Ms. Hohl seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**SOLDOTNA MONTESSORI
CHARTER SCHOOL
REAPPLICATION:**
(8:36:19 PM)

Mr. Jones recommended that the Board approve the Soldotna Montessori Charter School reapplication.

MOTION

Mr. Anderson moved the Board approve the Soldotna Montessori Charter School reapplication. Mr. Holt seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

FY12 BUDGET REVISION:
(8:37:43 PM)

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a change in the current FY12 expenditure budget total of \$138,142,615, to a total of \$139,930,278.

MOTION

Mr. Holt moved the Board approve a change in the current FY12 expenditure budget total of \$138,142,615, to a total of \$139,930,278. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

STUDENT EXPULSION:

(8:38:48 PM)

MOTION

Mr. Navarre moved the Board approve the expulsion of the student who was the subject of the expulsion hearing held on December 5, 2011 at 9:30 a.m. Student Expulsion Number 2011-12-001. Mr. Anderson seconded.

Mrs. Hilts notified those present that she will abstain from voting since she was not in attendance at the hearing.

Motion carried.

STUDENT EXPULSION:

(8:40:33 PM)

MOTION

Mr. Navarre moved the Board approve the expulsion of the student who was the subject of the expulsion hearing held on December 5, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. Student Expulsion Number 2011-12-002. Mrs. Downing seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE:

(8:41:28 PM)

MOTION

Mrs. Downing moved the Board create a Committee of the Board – a Legislative Committee based on BB 9130, Committees of The Board. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

FIRST READING OF POLICY REVISIONS:

(8:44:26 PM)

The Board heard a first reading of revisions to BP 0530, Criteria for Closing Schools, and BP 6145.2, Interscholastic Competition.

BOARD COMMENTS:

(8:46:14 PM)

Mrs. Vadla thanked those who presented to the Board. She thanked the students and staff at North Star Elementary for the school report. She thanked the administration for the post school outcome study report for 2001 and 2010.

Mr. Holt expressed appreciation for the students who presented the North Star Elementary School report.

Mrs. Hilts wished those present a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mr. Anderson thanked those who presented to the Board. He thanked the Board and administration for the improved communications during Board worksessions. He wished those present a happy holidays.

Mr. Navarre wished those present a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. He thanked the superintendent and students who created the District Christmas cards.

Ms. Hohl expressed appreciation for the school reports. She was pleased that KPSAA will bring forward a change in choosing the parent representative on the executive board and allowing them voting rights. She stated that she attended the Seward Elementary third grade class play. She encouraged those present to come to the AVTEC Academy Café. She announced that she has a new grandchild due in July 2012. She wished those present a Merry Christmas.

BOARD COMMENTS:

(continued)

Mrs. Downing thanked Dr. Atwater for the presentation at the Homer Chamber of Commerce luncheon meeting. She noted that she and Mr. Navarre attended. She expressed appreciation for the school presentations.

Miss Ernst thanked the maintenance staff for quickly responding to the complications brought on by the warm weather. She thanked the students and staff for providing the school reports. She wished those present a happy holidays.

Joe Arness wished those present a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. He noted that the Board has need for an executive session and that no other business will be dealt with except to adjourn.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

(8:52:30 PM)

At 8:52 p.m., Mrs. Downing moved the Board go into executive session to discuss matters, the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the Borough. Specifically, the executive session was to discuss negotiations. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 10:02 p.m., Mrs. Vadla moved the executive session be adjourned. Mr. Navarre seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN:

At 10:03 p.m., Mr. Arness adjourned the School Board Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Joe Arness, President

Mrs. Penny Vadla, Clerk

The Minutes of December 5, 2011,
were approved on January 9, 2012
as written.