
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

February 6, 2012 – 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:

Mr. Sargeant Truesdell	Mr. Mike Peterson
Mrs. Sara Moore	Ms. Bonnie Pierce
Mr. Tim Peterson	Mr. Charlie Pierce
Mrs. Lynn Dusek	Mrs. Margie Warner
Mrs. LaDawn Druce	Mr. Todd Syverson
Ms. Pegge Erkeneff	Mr. John Harro
Mr. John O'Brien	Mrs. Christine Ermold
Mrs. Patty Sirois	Miss Vicky Tachick
Mrs. Cathy Carrow	Mrs. Nelma Treider
Mrs. Kellie Vasilie	Mr. Tim Vlasak
Mrs. Laurie Olson	Mr. Mike Druce
Mr. Joe Rizzo	Mrs. Gretchen Graeff
Mr. Mike Gustkey	Mr. Karl Kircher

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. A quorum of School Board members, Mrs. Crawford, Mrs. Downing, Mr. Navarre, Mrs. Hilts, Mr. Holt, Ms. Hohl, and Mr. Arness were in attendance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 3:02 p.m., Mrs. Crawford 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 strategies and tactics. Mrs. Downing seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURN EXECUTIVE
SESSION:**

At 3:32 p.m., Mrs. Downing moved the executive session be adjourned. Mr. Navarre seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Arness explained that the Board would recess until 7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER:

(7:00:07 PM)

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

(7:00:25 PM)

Mr. Arness invited the Soldotna Middle and Soldotna High combined choir to sing the *National Anthem*.

**DISTRICT MISSION
STATEMENT:**

(7:02:16 PM)

Ms. Hohl read the District's mission statement.

ROLL CALL:

(7:02:39 PM)

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	Absent/Excused
Miss Annaleah Ernst	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

(7:03:14 PM)

The agenda was approved including revisions to Number 11a.(1), Approval of 2012-2013 District Organizational Chart and Number 11a.(2), Approval of 2012-2013 Tentative Administrator Contracts.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

(7:04:00 PM)

The School Board Minutes of January 9, 2012, were approved as printed.

**AWARDS AND
PRESENTATIONS:**

(7:04:23 PM)

The Board presented a Golden Apple Award to Soldotna Mayor Peter Micciche on behalf of the City of Soldotna for their service to Soldotna High School. Mr. Micciche thanked the Board and added that the city has made a concerted effort to recognize the value of the next generation by supporting schools and providing for student safety.

SCHOOL REPORT:

(7:09:42 PM)

Mrs. Sheila Margaret Pothast's Spanish students provided Mexican hot chocolate to the Board members and administration. Mr. Sargeant Truesdell, Soldotna Middle School principal, thanked the school's exploratory teachers for creating the slideshow. He provided school demographic information, staffing information, described the exploratory courses and the partnership with Redoubt Elementary School. He provided a video clip highlighting exploratory courses in art, shop, Spanish, technology, and music.

SCHOOL REPORT:

(continued)

(7:21:33)

Mr. Todd Syverson, Soldotna High School principal, introduced Miss Meggean Bos, Family and Consumer Science teacher, who showcased the six classes offered under the Family and Consumer Science program with the help of three students. Miss Megan English explained the lessons learned in the Interior Design class. Miss Bos noted that the Culinary Arts students made the snickerdoodle cookies that were shared with the Board and administration. Miss Morgan Lancaster explained the lessons learned in the Interpersonal Relationships class. Miss Vicky Tachick demonstrated the feeding and care of the computerized doll as part of the Baby Think It Over program offered in the Child Development class. Mr. Arness assisted with a demonstration of the pregnancy simulator. Mr. Schneider's choir concluded the school report by singing, *Children of the Heavenly Father*.

RECESS:

(7:42:37 PM)

At 7:42 p.m., Mr. Arness called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER**RECESS:**

(7:53:58 PM)

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

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

(7:54:00 PM)

Mr. Henry Anderson, retired teacher and KPEA past president, expressed concern for the direction of negotiations (i.e. regressive salary and working conditions). He explained the need for agency fees and asked the Board to direct the bargaining team to retain the fees section of the negotiated agreement.

Ms. Brett Glidden, McNeil Canyon Elementary parent and Site Council member, spoke against the proposed change in bus service for the Homer area. She suggested the District create an ad hoc committee to thoroughly review and solve the funding problem of student transportation. She suggested that the District urge the state to restructure the reimbursement procedure from a per student basis to a per diem basis. She provided information from and a copy of a report titled, *Cost-Effectiveness in Pupil Transportation: A Comparison of In-House and Contracted Services*.

Ms. Marge Hays explained that she would read a statement written by her husband, Hugh Hayes, who was unable to attend. Mr. Hays is a former teacher and expressed support for union representation fees.

Mr. Karl Kircher, Soldotna Middle School teacher, asked the Board how the elimination of agency fees advances the mission statement.

HEARING OF DELEGATIONS:

(8:05:43 PM)

Mr. Mike Petersen and Ms. Bonnie Pierce presented a short video inviting the Board to attend the Project GRAD student showcase on May 5, at the Ninilchik Fair Grounds, from 12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND
PETITIONS:**

(8:13:49 PM)

Dr. Atwater reported that on February 10 and 11, Alaska Shield will conduct a statewide emergency planning exercise which will simulate an area wide water shortage. He stated that as part of the drill, evacuees will be housed at Soldotna Middle School and pets will be cared for in a tent in the school parking lot. He reported that the Alaska Department of Homeland Security and the Office of Emergency Management has requested that the Borough assess the generators to be installed or replaced at Homer Middle School, Moose Pass School, Tustumena Elementary School, and Susan B. English School. He added that should grant money be available, the Borough will replace those specific generators. He announced that the hiring process has begun to replace Mr. VanDerWege, Tustumena Elementary School principal. He invited those present to attend the mass choir event at Kenai Central High, February 7 at 6:00 p.m.

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

(8:16:14 PM)

Mrs. Druce, KPEA president, congratulated Soldotna Mayor Peter Micciche for the city's Golden Apple Award. She commended Mr. Schneider and the Soldotna Middle and Soldotna High choir for singing the *National Anthem* at the start of the meeting. She thanked Ms. Meggean Bos and Mr. John Harro for their work for the Association as a building representative and website webmaster, respectively. She thanked those in the audience for validating the efforts of the Associations and for showing support for education on the Kenai Peninsula. She thanked Mr. Henry Anderson and Ms. Marge Hays for their comments. She agreed that the Association and the District do not need to discuss something that has not been a problem and added that the proposal to strike agency fees is unfounded and a distraction to the bargaining process.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT:**

(8:20:14 PM)

Dr. Atwater reported that 20 administrators and teachers attended the Response to Intervention Conference in Anchorage. He announced that community and staff surveys are available online for the month of February to gather input for the development of the Five Year Plan. He reported that testing has begun for students in Grades 5 and 7 (Terra Nova), Grade 8 (Technology Assessment), and English language learners (English Language Proficiency test). He recognized Mr. Cody Carol, Soldotna High School graduate, for being nominated by Senator Murkowski for an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy. He announced that February is Alaska School Board recognition month and thanked Board members for their service.

Mr. Arness recognized Assembly Member Mr. Charlie Pierce in the audience.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

(8:22:57 PM)

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

FISCAL YEAR 2013 BUDGET:

(8:24:27 PM)

Mr. Jones presented the FY13 Preliminary School District budget of \$143,007,644 for the General Fund and revenue funds totaling \$140,526,201, requiring \$2,481,143 from the fund balance.

BOARD REPORTS:*(8:33:04 PM)*

Mrs. Crawford stated that she and Mrs. Hilts testified to the legislature in favor of SB 171 which would add \$125 to the base student allocation for FY13, \$130 for FY14, and \$135 for FY15. She added that she will testify again on Wednesday, February 8.

Ms. Hohl reported that she attended the Administrator Meeting and participated in the development of the Community Survey and enjoyed talking about the strategic plan.

Mrs. Hilts stated that poor weather prevented her from attending the Administrator Meeting and the Transportation meetings.

**BOARD WORKSESSION
REPORT:***(8:35:57 PM)*

Mr. Arness reported that the Board held a review of a readmission request of an expelled student, discussed the preliminary FY13 Budget, reviewed current state legislation and heard a report on student transportation. He noted that all Board members who are currently present were present for the worksessions.

CONSENT AGENDA:*(8:36:24 PM)*

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of 2012-2013 District Organizational Chart (as revised); 2012-2013 Tentative Administrator Contracts (as revised); New Teacher Contracts; Resignations; Long-term Substitute Contracts; High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2012-008; and Budget Transfers.

**2012-2013 DISTRICT
ORGANIZATIONAL CHART:**

Dr. Atwater recommended the Board approve the revised 2012-2013 District organizational chart that identifies the lines of primary responsibility and relationships between administrative positions.

**2012-2013 TENTATIVE
ADMINISTRATOR
CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a list of tentative administrator contracts for the 2012-2013 school year.

NEW TEACHER CONTRACTS:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve new teacher contracts for Michelle Barrows, (temporary) Special Education resource teacher, Mt. View Elementary School; and Matthew Creamer, (temporary) Special Education intensive needs teacher, Chapman Elementary School.

RESIGNATIONS:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve resignations effective at the end of the 2011-2012 school year from Kimberly Jordan, Special Education intensive needs teacher, Mt. View Elementary; Gail Knopf, 5th grade teacher, Tustumena Elementary; Daniel Krier, science/physical education teacher, Seward High; Lori Krier, language arts/literature/physical education teacher, Seward High; Lori Manion, Professional Development coordinator, District Office; Belinda Smith, 2nd/3rd grade teacher, Sterling Elementary; Dave Spence, Director of Planning and Operations, District Office; Sharon Thompson, biology/earth science teacher, Homer High School; and Robert VanDerWege, principal, Tustumena Elementary. Mr. Jones also recommended the Board approve a resignation, effective January 31, 2012, from Tammy Taylor, kindergarten/2nd grade teacher, Nikolaevsk School.

**LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE
CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve long-term substitute contracts for Amy Angleton, Skyview High School; Blanche Rogers, Seward Elementary School; Judith Shields, Soldotna Montessori Charter; and Marsha Gustkey, Mt. View Elementary School.

HSGQE:

Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2012-008.

BUDGET TRANSFERS:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve budget transfers Number 603 to move budgets for secondary (grades 6-12) Language Arts Curriculum material purchases to the appropriate schools, and Number 667 to move funds to the appropriate accounts for administrator salaries and benefits.

MOTION

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 7. Mrs. Downing seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**CAREER AND TECHNICAL
EDUCATION PLAN:**

(8:38:04 PM)

MOTION

Dr. Atwater recommended the Board approve the Career Technical Education (CTE) Plan as presented.

Mr. Holt recommended the Board approve the proposed Career Technical Education (CTE) Plan. Ms. Hohl seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**FIRST READING OF POLICY
REVISIONS:**

(8:39:14 PM)

The Board heard a first reading of revisions to BP 6020, Parent Involvement.

BOARD COMMENTS:

(8:39:54 PM)

Mr. Holt expressed appreciation for Dr. Atwater as the superintendent. He thanked those who gave presentations or provided comments. He noted that he has a potential conflict of interest in regards to participation in the negotiations debriefings and final vote because his wife is a teacher in the District.

Mrs. Crawford thanked those in the audience for their attendance and comments. She thanked Soldotna Middle, Soldotna High and the City of Soldotna for their efforts and presentations. She noted that she has a possible conflict of interest in regards to participation in the negotiations debriefings and final vote because her son is an employee for the District.

Mr. Arness stated that he will make a ruling from the chair regarding the possible conflict of interest and that the Board can vote on his decision at the next meeting but until then, Mr. Holt and Mrs. Crawford shall participate in debriefings.

BOARD COMMENTS:*(continued)*

Ms. Hohl expressed appreciation for the school reports. She announced that Soldotna High, Nikiski Middle/High, Nikiski North Star Elementary, Seward Elementary and Seward High submitted entries in the Alaska PTA Reflections Program. She thanked Mayor Micciche for his help with the Boys and Girls Club. She commended Soldotna High School for spending Carl Perkins grant money on the Think it Over Baby program. She stated that regrettably she will not be able to attend the Project GRAD showcase. She stated that she attended the Prevention Coalition meeting in Seward. She reported that she attended the Seward City Council meeting and encouraged them to consider the Seward School Site Council recommendation regarding the proposed land exchange.

Mrs. Hilts expressed appreciation for the school reports. She commended the District for finding programs that bring good results. She stated that the District can show data proving that District students are doing better this year than in the past. She credited teachers for the improvement. She reminded those present that children come first and to keep what is best for them in the forefront. She stated that she is very glad to have Dr. Atwater continue as the superintendent. She thanked the Project GRAD staff for their work with students in small schools and added that the results of their work is confirmed through the students that are graduating from college.

Mr. Navarre thanked the school students and staff for the reports. He congratulated the City of Soldotna for receiving the Golden Apple Award. He thanked those who provided testimony.

Mrs. Downing thanked the public and staff who provided testimony. She stated that she is proud of the District and pleased that Dr. Atwater will continue as the superintendent. She stated that it is great to hear from the Project GRAD staff and was amazed at the impact the program has on students at small schools. She wished good luck to the Board members who are traveling to Juneau to attend the AASB Legislative Fly-in. She reported that she will attend the mass choir event as a proud parent.

Miss Ernst congratulated the City of Soldotna for being awarded a Golden Apple. She thanked Soldotna Middle and Soldotna high for the school reports. She stated that she is looking forward to the mass choir clinic and concert and invited those present to come at 6:00 p.m. to see the individual schools perform, followed by 400 to 450 students on stage singing together. She thanked those in the audience for their attendance and for their show of support. She stated that she is looking forward to representing the School Board and District students at the upcoming legislative fly-in. She is also looking forward to participating in the state Drama Debate and Forensics competition.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:
(8:52:22 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 strategies and tactics. Ms. Hohl seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 9:45 p.m., Mr. Holt moved the executive session be adjourned. Mr. Navarre seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN:

At 9:46 p.m., Mr. Arness adjourned the School Board Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Joe Arness, President

Mrs. Penny Vadla, Clerk

The Minutes of February 6, 2012,
were approved on March 5, 2012
with a correction.