

---

# Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes

---

December 3, 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  
Mr. Hayden Beard, Student Representative

**STAFF PRESENT:** Dr. Steve Atwater, Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Sean Dusek, Assistant Superintendent  
Mr. Dave Jones, Assistant Superintendent

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Mrs. LaDawn Druce	Mr. Randy Neill
Mrs. Margie Warner	Ms. Elizabeth Swaby
Mrs. Christine Ermold	Mr. Wes Andrews
Mr. Kent Peterson	Mr. Johnnie Cotton
Mr. Ryan Reid	Mr. Joseph Cudd
Mr. Wade VonHeeder	Mr. Jesse Settlemyer
Mr. Dave Michael	Mr. Rob Sparks
Mrs. Debbie Michael	Mrs. Terri Tidwell
Mr. Tim Peterson	Mr. Jesse Bjorkman
Mr. Tim Vlasak	Ms. Rashah McChesney
Mr. Todd Syverson	Mr. Todd Boonstra
Ms. Pegge Erkeneff	Mrs. Kelly Boonstra
Mr. Brent Johnson	Mrs. D'Anna Gibson
Mr. John O'Brien	Ms. Teresa Moyer
Mr. Randy Dowd	Mr. Paul Kupferschmid

Others present not identified.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.  
(7:00:37 PM)

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mr. Arness invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.  
(7:01:03 PM)

**DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT:** Mrs. Crawford read the District's mission statement.  
(7:01:29 PM)

# UNAPPROVED

## **ROLL CALL:**

*(7:01:51 PM)*

Mr. Joe Arness	Present
Mr. Marty Anderson	Present
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	Present
Mr. Hayden Beard	Present

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

*(7:02:27 PM)*

The agenda was approved with the addition of Item 10a. (4) Approval of Rescinding Resignation and a revision to Item 10a. (3) Approval of Leave of Absence Request/Support.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

*(7:03:19 PM)*

The School Board Minutes of November 12, 2012, were approved as printed.

## **AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:**

*(7:03:39 PM)*

The Board presented a Golden Apple Award to the Soldotna Elks Lodge 2706 for their support and assistance to the school district and its students, especially their service to the students, parents and staff of Soldotna High School.

## **SCHOOL REPORTS:**

*(7:08:34 PM)*

Mr. Randy Neill, Marathon School principal, and Ms. Elizabeth Swaby described the services offered by and the purpose of Marathon School. Ms. Swaby shared a computer presentation that highlighted the courses and programs offered, the student goal setting program, the special education program and the daily schedule. Mr. Neill discussed the building facility (e.g. room size and accommodations), and security issues of the school.

Mr. Randy Neill, Skyview High School principal, with the assistance of several Skyview staff members, gave a computer presentation highlighting the school's dropout rate, attendance and attendance goals, and several of the school's programs including Project GRAD, Robotics, Classroom Without Walls, Super Activity, Zeros Aren't Permitted (ZAP), Freshman House, Career Pathways Exploration and family/community involvement activities. Mr. Ryan Reid and Mr. Wade VonHeeder (guitar students of Mr. Kent Peterson, Skyview music teacher) performed a guitar arrangement of "We Three Kings" that included improvised solos.

## **COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:**

*(7:47:17 PM)*

Dr. Atwater reported that the State of Alaska released the capital projects priority list and noted that the district's priority list did not fare well. He stated that he will be requesting that the state review and revise the scoring process for these requests. He discussed a letter to the State of Alaska Department of Education containing the district's comments regarding the state proposed changes to teacher evaluation regulations and a letter from Governor Parnell (both included in the Board General Information packet) that contains the governor's regulation recommendations.

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

*(7:50:05 PM)*

Mrs. LaDawn Druce, KPEA president, expressed appreciation for the work of Ms. Debbie Harris, District Art Specialist, Ms. Jamie Meyers, Technology Integration Specialist and Ms. Michelle Thomason, Professional Development Coordinator. She requested that the board approve the recommended FY 15 and FY 16 district calendars, thanked Mr. Jesse Bjorkman for his work on the calendar committee and discussed the work of the committee. She announced that she attended an NEA Workshop in St. Louis, MO regarding Common Core Standards and offered assistance from NEA Alaska to help teachers understand the standards. She stated she will attend the state school board meeting on Thursday, Dec. 5, 2012, and noted items she will discuss at the meeting including student learning data and the teacher evaluation process. She stated that she hopes for contract negotiations to be resolved soon and wished those in attendance a Merry Christmas and a warm holiday.

Mrs. Margie Warner, KPESA president, thanked Mr. Randy Neill for his work at Marathon School and Skyview High School, and Soldotna Elks Lodge 2706 for their support to the district. She expressed hope for the contract negotiations to be resolved soon after the arbitrator's report. She wished those in attendance Merry Christmas and a warm holiday.

**RECESS:**

*(7:56:20 PM)*

At 7:56 p.m., Mr. Arness called a recess.

**RECONVENE AFTER  
RECESS:**

*(8:04:48 PM)*

At 8:04 p.m., the board reconvened in regular session.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT:**

*(8:04:55 PM)*

Dr. Atwater reported that of the 4,000 sections of the high school exit exam that require student completion, only 135 sections remain for high school juniors and seniors to pass. He announced that a new interpreter has been hired for Nanwalek School. He reported that on Monday, December 10, the Leadership Team will receive training on the operation of the electronic reporting system for the District Strategic Plan. He stated that Nikolaevsk School hosted the Southwest Regional Mixed 6 Volleyball Tournament where they finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> place and Nikolaevsk student, Blake Klaich, was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player. He discussed upcoming school events and concerts, stated that Mrs. Tressler will send a schedule of these events to the Board, and noted that Nikiski Middle/High School will be hosting the 1-2-3A State Wrestling Championships on December 7 and 8, 2012.

**BOARD REPORTS:**

*(8:07:12 PM)*

Mr. Holt announced that he attended the Career and Technical Education (CTE) curriculum development work group meeting with Mr. Dan Bohrsen where they discussed technology and incorporating it into the curriculum.

Mrs. Vadla reported that she attended the Project SEARCH Open House on November 27, 2012, at Central Peninsula General Hospital and discussed the district's partnership with this "school-to-work" program for students with disabilities.

## **BOARD REPORTS:**

*(Continued)*

Mr. Beard reported that he spoke to Ms. Elizabeth Ukatish, PCE Liaison for Project GRAD, regarding native youth representation in student councils. He noted that the student council in Seward is working on developing tribal council representation to the student council. He stated that he is attempting to contact Port Graham School in Port Graham and Tebughna School in Tyonek in order to offer assistance in developing the student council programs there and that he hopes to increase native representation to student councils throughout the district.

Ms. Hohl reported that she participated in a National School Board Association webinar that offered an update on sequestration and suggested actions for school board members. She attended the Alaska School Activities Association (ASAA) All-State Music Festival Command Performance where central peninsula and Homer schools were well represented in the band, choir and orchestra (including two Seward violinists).

Mr. Navarre expressed appreciation for being excused from the November board meeting. He attended the Kenai Chamber of Commerce Luncheon on November 28, 2012, and complimented Dr. Atwater for his presentation at that meeting. He thanked Mr. Arness for recognizing Dr. Atwater at the luncheon for his work as superintendent of schools and as this year's Superintendent of the Year. He noted that he visited Mt. View Elementary School where he presented the "Soaring Eagle" awards given by the student council to the "Students of the Month" for November.

## **BOARD WORKSESSION REPORT:**

*(8:12:39 PM)*

Mr. Arness reported that the Board held several worksessions prior to the formal business meeting which included the District Art Specialist Program, Professional Development Report, Greatland Adventure Academy Charter School, Six-Year Plan and School Construction Needs, Class Size Study Report and Budget Update, Policy Revisions, and Committee Structure.

## **CONSENT AGENDA:**

*(8:13:30 PM)*

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2013-04; FY15 and FY16 District Calendars; Leave of Absence Request/Support and Rescinding of Resignation.

## **HSGQE:**

Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2013-04.

## **FY15 AND FY16 DISTRICT CALENDARS:**

Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve the proposed 2014-15 and 2015-16 Districtwide Calendars.

## **LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST/SUPPORT:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a leave of absence for Michael Reid, Special Education Emotional Disabilities Aide, Mountain View Elementary School, effective January 28, 2013 to May 23, 2013 and Angela Douthit, Special Education Emotional Disabilities Aide, Kenai Central High School, effective January 8, 2013 through May 23, 2013.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

*(Continued)*

**RESCINDING OF  
RESIGNATION:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve the administrative recommendation to rescind the resignation of Brian Zinck, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher, Nikiski North Star Elementary School.

**MOTION**

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**FY13 BUDGET REVISION:**

*(8:14:38 PM)*

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a change in the current FY13 General Fund expenditure budget total from \$146,637,793 to a total of \$147,045,264.

**MOTION**

Mr. Holt moved the Board approve a change in the current FY13 General Fund expenditure budget total from \$146,637,793 to a total of \$147,045,264. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**GREATLAND ADVENTURE  
ACADEMY CHARTER  
SCHOOL APPLICATION:**

*(8:17:16 PM)*

Dr. Atwater recommended the Board approve the Greatland Adventure Academy Charter School application.

Mr. Paul Kupferschmid, parent and coach from Kasilof; Mrs. Kelly Boonstra, parent; Mrs. D'Anna Gibson, parent and coach; and Mr. Todd Boonstra, parent and former KPBSD teacher; spoke in support of Greatland Adventure Academy Charter School.

Ms. Teresa Moyer, parent and Greatland Adventure Academy Charter School Founding Committee member, spoke in support of Greatland Adventure Academy Charter School and read a letter of support from Ms. Michelle Ostrowski from the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge.

**MOTION**

Ms. Hohl moved the Board tentatively approve the Greatland Adventure Academy Charter School application dated December 3, 2012, to allow timely submission to the state. This tentative approval is subject to Board action once the facility, budget, contract and any changes to the application are finalized. Mr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

*(8:46:26 PM)*

Mrs. Vadla thanked those in attendance for coming and thanked the Pothast family for the snacks that they provided that afternoon.

## **BOARD COMMENTS:**

*(Continued)*

Mr. Holt thanked the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge for allowing peninsula skiers to host a ski race on a Refuge lake during the weekend of December 1, 2012, and discussed the race success. He noted that he will request Refuge use again for the weekend of December 8, due to the cancellation of the “Lynx Loppett” ski race in Anchorage.

Mrs. Crawford thanked Skyview High School, Marathon School and Mr. Randy Neill, principal, for their presentations and excellent work for the district. She expressed appreciation for the day’s worksessions. She thanked Greatland Adventure Academy Charter School for their work and wished them well. She announced that she judged the spelling bee at K-Beach Elementary School and taught a session on parliamentary procedure at Soldotna High School. She reported that she had recently returned from Zimbabwe, Africa, shared a picture of the hot lunch program at a school she visited which consisted of a wood fire and two pots (one pot contained polenta and the other contained bush beans), stated that the school has no electricity or computers but only chalkboards, and expressed appreciation for the dedication of the teachers and the enthusiasm of the students.

Mrs. Hilts noted the productivity and conversations of the day regarding education and expressed appreciation for the Board’s work. She stated that two visiting legislators had joined the Board for dinner and discussion that evening. She thanked those in attendance for coming and staying until the end of the meeting. She thanked the Skyview High School guitar students for their performance, thanked the students for the robotics demonstration, and expressed appreciation for Marathon School and the opportunities for success offered to its students. She wished those in attendance a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mr. Navarre commented on the productivity of the day and thanked Mrs. Downing for her work on the committee list. He expressed appreciation for Ms. Debbie Harris, her presentation and her 11 years of service to the district. He congratulated the Soldotna Elks Lodge 2706 for their long history of commitment to education and the community. He thanked Skyview High School, Marathon School and Mr. Randy Neill, principal, for their presentations and excellent work. He wished those in attendance a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and announced that he will play Santa Claus for three days in a Kenai Middle School play.

Mr. Anderson thanked Skyview High School, Marathon School and Mr. Randy Neill, principal, for the presentations and expressed special appreciation for the student guitar performance. He stated his strong support for Greatland Adventure Academy Charter School and other charter school and alternate education programs and encouraged the Greatland Adventure Academy Charter School Committee to contact existing district charter schools for assistance and ideas.

# UNAPPROVED

## **BOARD COMMENTS:**

*(Continued)*

Ms. Hohl reported that she attended the Moose Pass Bizarre and noted that the Cooper Landing School participated in this craft fair. She attended the Alaska PTA Board of Managers meeting, the Alaska PTA Advocacy and Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads Of Great Students) training where they discussed ways to increase the presence of fathers in schools, and the Seward Prevention Coalition Meeting and stated that the coalition's next town hall meeting will be in January and the topic will be "Community Solutions to Underage Alcohol and Drug Use." She requested an excused absence for the January, 2013 board meeting. She thanked the Pothast family for the snacks that they provided that afternoon and wished the Pothast family, and those in attendance, a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mrs. Downing agreed with Mrs. Hilts regarding the valuable work and conversations of the day regarding education and wished happy holidays to those in attendance.

Mr. Beard thanked Skyview High School, Marathon School and Mr. Randy Neill, principal, for their presentations, wished success to Greatland Adventure Academy Charter School and expressed appreciation for full board attendance at the meeting. He wished happy holidays to those in attendance.

Mr. Arness reminded the board to check their email for the school visitation sign-up sheet from Mrs. Tressler. He wished those in attendance a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

## **ADJOURN:**

*(8:59:30 PM)*

At 8:59 p.m., Mr. Arness adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Mr. Joe Arness, President

---

Mrs. Penny Vadla, Clerk

The Minutes of December 3, 2012, have not been approved as of January 14, 2013.