
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

January 16, 2013 – 7:00 p.m.
(Rescheduled from January 14, 2013)
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. Elaine Larson	Mrs. LaDawn Druce
Mrs. Michelle Gabriel	Mr. Randy Dowd
Mrs. Teresa Moyer	Mr. Mark Larson
Mr. Tim Vlasak	Mr. Dave Michael
Mr. Jeff Jones	Mrs. Pauline Mills
Mrs. Stephanie Jones	Ms. Martine Dikes
Mr. John Jones	Mr. Dan Kaasa
Mr. John O'Brien	Mr. Matt Fisher
Ms. Kellie Steiner Kelso	Mr. Dan Carstens
Mrs. Debbie Turkington	Ms. Margaret Griffin
Mr. Tim Peterson	Mrs. Robin Dahlman
Mr. Jesse Bjorkman	Ms. Cheryl Tachick
Mr. Clark Whitney	Ms. Noreen O'Brien-Duggan
Ms. Pegge Erkeneff	Mr. Joe Rizzo
Mrs. Terri Tidwell	Ms. Rebecca Boone

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m. A quorum of School Board members, Mr. Anderson, Mrs. Downing, Mr. Navarre, Mrs. Hilts, Mrs. Vadla, and Mr. Arness were present.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 4:19 p.m., Mrs. Vadla 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 negotiation strategies and tactics. Mrs. Downing seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 5:41 p.m., Mrs. Hilts moved the executive session be adjourned. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

At 5:41 p.m., the Board recessed the meeting until 7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER:
(7:00:00 PM)

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

NATIONAL ANTHEM:
(7:00:23 PM)

Kaleidoscope School of Arts and Science students sang the *National Anthem*.

DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT:
(7:01:58 PM)

Mrs. Vadla read the District’s mission statement.

ROLL CALL:
(7:02:14 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	Absent/Excused
Mr. Bill Holt	Present
Mr. Tim Navarre	Absent/Excused
Mrs. Penny Vadla	Present
Mr. Hayden Beard	Absent/Excused

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:
(7:02:44 PM)

The agenda was approved including revisions to 11a. (3) Approval of Resignations.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
(7:03:20 PM)

The School Board Minutes of December 3, 2012, were approved as printed.

SCHOOL REPORT:
(7:03:47 PM)

Mrs. Robin Dahlman, Kaleidoscope School of Arts and Science (KSAS) administrator, spoke briefly about the school and then introduced Mrs. Elaine Larson, music teacher, and her students. The students performed an English, winter solstice, sword dance to various musical instruments played also by KSAS students. Miss Molly McMillan, student, spoke about the attitudes and values of the school. Miss Valerie Villegas, student, explained the school’s yearlong themes and stated that this year’s theme is “The World From Where We Stand.” Mr. Hudson Jackson, student, discussed the school’s conceptual key points such as the 5/6 grade key point “systems.” Miss Darby McMillan, student, reported on the school’s integrated learning or “mushing” everything together. The students concluded their performance by singing *Old Lang Syne*. Mrs. Dahlman closed by recognizing and thanking the school staff, family members, and community members, and by expressing appreciation for being a part of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District.

SCHOOL REPORT:

(continued)
(7:19:57 PM)

Mr. Mike Sellers, Nikolaevsk School administrator was unable to attend the meeting. In his stead, Mr. John Jones, student, offered the school's report and began by thanking the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District for allowing him to represent his school. He presented a PowerPoint highlighting the school's enrollment and demographics, appreciation for the school staff, sports, lunch and breakfast program, "Code of Cooperation," school rules and expectations, school climate, "Git-R-Done" lab for make-up work, vision, student test scores, library, and technology.

RECESS:

(7:26:52 PM)

At 7:26 p.m., Mr. Arness called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER**RECESS:**

(7:36:36 PM)

At 7:36 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

(7:37:00 PM)

Mrs. Debbie Turkington, secretary, Paul Banks Elementary, thanked Mrs. Hilts for visiting the school. She spoke regarding the contract negotiations, the arbitrator's report by Ms. Kathryn Whalen, and asked the Board and school administration to accept the arbitrator's recommendations.

Ms. Noreen O'Brien-Duggan, staff member, Paul Banks Elementary, spoke regarding the contract negotiations, health insurance co-pay, the arbitrator's report and asked the Board and school administration to accept the arbitrator's recommendations.

Ms. Rebecca Boone, staff member, Paul Banks Elementary, spoke regarding the contract negotiations and asked the Board to direct the District bargaining team to accept the union's contract proposal or the arbitrator's recommendations.

Mr. Joe Rizzo, teacher at Nikiski Middle/High and bargaining team member, spoke regarding the contract negotiations and asked for a fair contract.

COMMUNICATIONS AND**PETITIONS:**

(7:44:16 PM)

Dr. Atwater reported that at the end of February, the State of Alaska will perform a five-year review of the District's maintenance program and, in addition to visiting the district office to review files, will visit several schools during this evaluation process. He discussed the addition of and funding source for a new district level curriculum and assessment coordinator. He announced that the District will be seeking a partnership with American Productivity and Quality Center (APQC), and stated that in April an APQC representative will attend a Board worksession, and meet with District administrators to discuss the services offered by APQC that could save the District money. He reported that the State of Alaska has approved the district and school improvement plans for Port Graham School, Mt. View Elementary, Sterling Elementary and Tebughna School.

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

(7:46:50 PM)

Mrs. LaDawn Druce, KPEA president, reported that she had testified today (January 16), on behalf of NEA Alaska, at the Legislative Information Office in Anchorage to the Senate Education Committee, chaired by Senator Gary Stevens, regarding teacher evaluation regulations. She announced that she will attend the 57th Annual NEA-AK Delegate Assembly in Anchorage. She discussed the district's teachers, their responsibilities, their extra efforts, school safety, and the shooting incident at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, CT on December 14, 2012. She announced that the BP Teacher of the Year program is currently accepting nominations and discussed ways to encourage teachers to complete their portion of the nomination process. She asked the Board to direct the District to settle a fair employee contract next Tuesday, January 22, 2013.

Mrs. Terri Tidwell spoke in place of Mrs. Margie Warner, KPESA, and expressed appreciation for school district support employees and their dedication, and discussed school safety. She urged the District to settle a fair employee contract on Tuesday, January 22, 2013.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT:**

(7:54:28 PM)

Dr. Atwater announced that after a recent visit to the District's Student Nutrition Services (SNS) department, the State of Alaska Child Nutrition Program reported that the District is meeting all of the standards set for the program and is one of the highest performing in student nutrition and services in the state. He commended Mr. Dean Hamburg, SNS administrator, and the SNS staff for their hard work and success. He reported that after the January 10, 2013, meeting regarding the Soldotna area schools, the District will be promoting a reconfiguration to two grade 7-9 junior high schools, and one grade 10-12 high school for the Soldotna area. All effected Soldotna schools will hold community meetings on this topic on February 11, 2013, and District administration will present a final recommendation to the Board at a worksession in March. He announced that most schools will be closed on Monday with a few noted exceptions. He stated that the BP Teacher of Excellence program is now accepting nominations and encouraged those in attendance to nominate an exceptional teacher. He announced that Dr. Doris Cannon, Director of Elementary Education and Curriculum, has submitted her resignation and wished her the best.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

(7:57:31 PM)

Mr. Jones presented the financial reports of the District for the periods ending November 30, 2012 and December 31, 2012.

**QUARTERLY BUDGET
TRANSFER REPORT:**

(7:58:10 PM)

Mr. Jones reported on budget transfer Numbers 225 through 560 for various schools and departments within the District.

BOARD REPORTS:

(7:58:57 PM)

Mrs. Vadla reported that she attended the Soldotna area school meeting on Jan. 10, 2013, and thanked Mr. John O'Brien, Dr. Steve Atwater, Mr. Sean Dusek and Ms. Pegge Erkeneff for their work on the project, expressed appreciation for the input offered by attendees, and discussed the importance of providing quality education for all District students.

BOARD REPORTS:

(continued)

Mrs. Hilts reported that, despite transportation challenges, she had visited several schools where she spoke to students regarding the needs for their schools and stated that, during these visits, she did not receive any complaints from the students. She thanked Mr. Arness for assigning the school visits to the Board.

Mr. Holt reported that Kenai Peninsula School Activities Association (KPSAA) has formed three working groups to discuss the possibility of discontinuing borough tournaments for high school track, cross country running and cross country skiing and explained changes needed to the KPSAA handbook depending on the decisions of the work groups. He invited Mrs. Vadla to attend a meeting on Thursday, January 17, regarding cross country running.

BOARD WORKSESSION REPORT:

(8:03:38 PM)

Mr. Arness reported that the Board conducted a Policy Committee meeting and several worksessions prior to the formal business meeting on the Correspondence Program Curriculum, Policy Manual Revisions, School Security, and the FY14 Preliminary Budget.

CONSENT AGENDA:

(8:04:11 PM)

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Long Term Substitute Contracts, New Teacher Contracts 2012-13, Resignations, Budget Transfer, and Correspondence Program Curriculum.

LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE CONTRACT:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a long-term substitute contract for Mary Knudsen, Kaleidoscope Charter School.

NEW TEACHER CONTRACTS 2012-13:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve new teacher contracts for Wanda Brenner, Temporary Title I Teacher, Soldotna Elementary School; Gerald Byrne, Temporary (.40 FTE) Marine Technology Instructor, Kenai Central High School and Soldotna High School; Paul Chissus, Temporary (.40 FTE) Career Technology Education Instructor, Susan B. English School; Karen Corbell, Temporary Title I Teacher, Chapman School; Danelle McCarthy, Temporary Instructional/Technology Coach (.50 FTE), Seward Area Schools; and Catrin McKinley, Temporary Title I Teacher, Sterling Elementary School.

RESIGNATIONS:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve resignations for Benny Abraham, Principal, Paul Banks Elementary, effective at the end of the 2012-13 school year; Doris Cannon, Director, Elementary Education and Curriculum, effective June 30, 2013; Melinda Cox, Special Education Resource Teacher, Nikiski North Star Elementary School, effective at the end of the 2012-13 school year; Patricia Johnson, Math Teacher, Soldotna Middle School, effective at the end of the 2012-13 school year; Laura Pillifant, Physical Education/Health Teacher, Soldotna Middle School, effective at the end of the 2012-13 school year; Dana Strong, Language Arts/Social Studies Teacher, Ninilchik School, effective January 15, 2013; and Tammy Taylor, Kindergarten - 3rd Grade Teacher, Nikolaevsk School, effective December 21, 2012.

CONSENT AGENDA:

(continued)

BUDGET TRANSFER:

Mr. Jones recommended approval of budget transfer Number 523, in the amount of \$88,436 to move funds to the correct salary account and align the budget with staff hired for the positions.

**CORRESPONDENCE
PROGRAM CURRICULUM:**

Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve the curriculum and materials vendor list for Connections Homeschool Program.

MOTION

Mrs. Downing moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 5. Mr. Holt seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**FIRST READING OF POLICY
REVISIONS:**

(8:04:59 PM)

The Board heard a first reading of BP 100 Philosophy and BP 5131.43 Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying.

BOARD COMMENTS:

(8:06:05 PM)

Mrs. Vadla thanked Chief Pete Mlynarik, Soldotna Police Department, and Lt. Dave Ross, Kenai Police Department, for attending the school security worksession during the afternoon. She commended Mrs. Christine Ermold for her nomination for the "Women in School Leadership" award. She expressed appreciation for the presentations from Kaleidoscope School of Arts and Science and Nikolaevsk School. She thanked Mr. Lee Young, Connections Homeschool administrator, for his presentation during the worksessions and discussed the diversity of District schools.

Mrs. Hilts discussed the challenges of traveling recently due to the severe weather. She reported that she attended a meeting of various state school board associations and commented on the quality of people serving in Alaska and their willingness to work together. She announced that she and her husband attended the Soldotna Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Banquet on Friday, January 11, 2013, and congratulated Dr. Steve Atwater for being chosen as the Chamber's "Person of the Year." She commented on the resignations of Dr. Doris Cannon, Director of Elementary Education and Curriculum, and Mr. Benny Abraham, Paul Banks Elementary administrator, and expressed appreciation for the quality of teachers, staff and students in the District.

Mrs. Downing stated that she will be participating in the Association of Alaska School Board's Legislative Fly-In, February 2-5, 2013, in Juneau where she will advocate for the District and its students. She reported that the Wellness Committee will be meeting soon and expressed appreciation for the Homer community members that will be participating. She commented on the service of Mr. Benny Abraham, Paul Banks Elementary administrator, and Ms. Rebecca Boone, Paul Banks Elementary teacher, and the roles they both played in her son's education. She thanked all District employees including Student Nutrition Services staff and Dr. Atwater for the quality work they do for the District.

BOARD COMMENTS:

(continued)

Mr. Holt commented on Ms. Laura Pillifant's upcoming retirement. He reported that he served as Course Director for the Skyview Invitation Ski meet during the weekend of January 12, 2013, and commented on the challenges faced at the race due to the rainy weather. He discussed the success of the Youth Ski Program stating that there are currently over 100 children participating and many of them skied at Tsalteshi Trails after the ski race on January 12, and again on January 13, also in the rain. He announced a Besh Cup Ski Race at Tsalteshi Trails the weekend of January 19, 2013, and the Kenai Classic Ski Race at Tsalteshi Trails on Friday, January 18, 2013.

Mr. Anderson expressed appreciation for the presentations from Kaleidoscope School of Arts and Science and Nikolaevsk School. He congratulated Mr. Dave Jones, Assistant Superintendent, for being named the Alaska Association of School Business Officials' 2012 School Business Official of the Year. He discussed "systems" and expressed appreciation for the District's system. He thanked school bus drivers for their work. He commented on the negotiations process, noted it is also a system and thanked everyone involved in the process for their contributions.

Mr. Arness commended Mr. John Jones, Nikolaevsk School student, for his presentation.

ADJOURN:

(8:17:40 PM)

At 8:17 p.m., Mr. Arness adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Joe Arness, President

Mrs. Penny Vadla, Clerk

The Minutes of January 16, 2013, have approved as of February 11, 2013.