
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

Board of Education Meeting News In Brief

September 9, 2013 – 7:00 p.m.
Dr. Steve Atwater, Superintendent

Homer High School
600 E. Fairview Ave., Homer, Alaska

WORKSESSION REPORT: The Board held several worksessions prior to the formal business meeting which included Board Policy, iTouch in Schools, Annual Assessment Report, Curriculum/Social Studies and Science, State and Federal Legislative Priorities, and the Association of Alaska School Boards (A.A.S.B.) Resolutions.

SCHOOL REPORTS: Mr. Pete Swanson, McNeil Canyon Elementary School principal, introduced Mrs. Mo Wilkinson (student council advisor) who discussed the student council projects including helping families in need and providing soccer goals for the schools. She introduced the student council representatives who shared a computer presentation that highlighted the school's past, and current school traditions such as field trips, Science Fair, school skating rink, school sports, art projects, the "Link-up" music program that includes students performing with the Kenai Peninsula Orchestra, student fun days, interviews with staff members, and finished with a school, staff, and student photo to commemorate the school's 30th anniversary. Ms. Kendall Dellasperanza read a statement of "favorite memories" from Ms. Amy Budge, teacher. In closing, Mr. Swanson stated that McNeil Canyon has been rated a four star school by the Department of Education and Early Development, noted the school's low rating in the attendance category, and the possibility of being rated a five star school if attendance were to be improved. He thanked the students for their work on the presentation.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Atwater noted that the first school early release day will be Wednesday, Sept. 18, and schools will release 90 minutes early to allow for staff collaboration. He reported that the Information Services Department has completed updating the operating system on District computers, and thanked Mr. Jim White and his staff for completing this project. He announced that, due to increased enrollment, staffing adjustments have been made at Soldotna High School, (adding one ½ time science teacher and one ½ time language arts teacher) and at Sterling Elementary (increase the principal position to full time). He announced that Mrs. Michael Hanson has been assigned to be the principal of Cooper Landing School. He stated that (following the Board's decision to cut the FY15 budget by the fund balance amount used for operations in FY13) the amount the board will consider for budget cuts, at the October meeting, will be approximately \$1.2 million. With the recent financial audit complete, he thanked Ms. Liz Hayes for her extraordinary and timely work in completing the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: Mr. Jones presented financial reports of the District for the periods ending July 31, and August 31, 2013.

RESIGNATIONS: The Board unanimously approved the resignation from Patrick Nolden, Soldotna High School, effective at the end of the 2013-14 school year.

NEW TEACHER CONTRACTS: The Board unanimously approved new teacher contracts for Tiffany Carter, Math Teacher, Soldotna Middle School; Judith Eckert, Special Education Intensive Needs Teacher, West Homer Elementary School; Ellen Kenna, Speech Language Pathologist, Nikiski North Star Elementary; Emily Kornelis, Speech Language Pathologist, Central Peninsula Area; Heidi Renner, Elementary Physical Education/Health Teacher (.75 FTE), Kaleidoscope School of Arts and Science; Rand Seaton, Exploratory Teacher (.75 FTE), Homer Middle School; Samuel Tilly, Generalist Teacher (.50 FTE), Kenai Middle School; and Janae Van Slyke, Primary Grade Teacher, Sterling Elementary School.

2013-2014 NON-TENURE TEACHER CONTRACTS: The Board unanimously approved tentative non-tenured teacher contracts for Adrienne Bostic, Teacher/Regular, Nikiski North Star Elementary School; Gerald Byrne, Teacher/Regular (.20 FTE), Soldotna High School; Marilee Johanson, Teacher/Regular (.20 FTE), Nikiski Middle/High School; and Judy Odhner, Teacher/Regular (.20 FTE), Seward High School.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST/SUPPORT: The Board unanimously approved a leave of absence request for Laura Norton, Secretary I, Homer Flex School, effective September 11, 2013, to December 20, 2013.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION QUALIFYING EXAM WAIVER REQUEST NUMBER 2014-02: The Board unanimously approved High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2014-02.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION QUALIFYING EXAM WAIVER REQUEST NUMBER 2014-03: The Board unanimously approved High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2014-03.

POLICY REVISIONS: The Board unanimously approved revisions to AR 1330 Use of School Facilities and Properties, E 1330 Room and Building Use Application.

A.A.S.B. CORE RESOLUTIONS: The Board unanimously approved a revised list of recommendations to the 2013 A.A.S.B. Core Resolutions.

FIRST READING OF POLICY REVISIONS: The Board heard a first reading of revisions to BP 5138 Student Possession and Use of Personal Electronic Devices, Including Cellular Phones and BP 6172 Special Education.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: The next regularly scheduled School Board Meeting is Monday, October 14, 2013, 7:00 p.m., Borough Administration Building, Soldotna, Alaska.

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