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# Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

## Board of Education Meeting News In Brief

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November 4, 2013 – 7:00 p.m.  
Dr. Steve Atwater, Superintendent

Borough Administration Building - 148 N. Binkley  
Soldotna, Alaska

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**WORKSESSION REPORT:** The Board held several worksessions prior to the formal business meeting which included Board Policy, Capital Projects and Major Maintenance, Seward Elementary and Middle Schools Reconfiguration, New School Construction Process, and Soldotna Advisory Committee Report.

**SCHOOL REPORT:** Mr. John Pothast, Redoubt Elementary Principal, introduced Mrs. Tara Oberts and two groups of pre-kindergarten students. The first group sang “Peanut Butter” by Dr. Jean Feldman. The second group sang “My Mother is a Baker” also by Dr. Jean Feldman. Mr. Pothast then presented a computer presentation highlighting the school’s band and Spanish programs, after-school intramurals, Boys and Girls after school program, art, Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (P.B.I.S.) and the related improvements in student discipline, and “Roadrunner” award cards. To complete the presentation, he shared the poem “Compassion” by Kevan Meyers.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:** Dr. Atwater reported that the 20 day count period for student enrollment ended on October 25, District enrollment is under projection by 162 students (52 of which are Connections Homeschool students) and this reduction will result in the District receiving less funding than budgeted. He stated that work continues on the Soldotna area schools reconfiguration, including the plans for staffing. He thanked Mr. Neil Denny-K.P.E.A., Mrs. Patty Sirois-K.P.E.S.A., for their collaborative work with Ms. Joann Riener and Mr. Doug Hayman. He reported that there are three early entrance kindergarten students for this year. He stated that the second of the scheduled early release dates went well and thanked the Board for approving these days. He congratulated the Nikiski High and Soldotna High football teams for each winning their respective state championships and Miss Allie Ostrander, Kenai Central High student, for her state cross-country running championship.

**RESIGNATIONS:** The Board unanimously approved resignations from Sheryl Baechler, Special Education Preschool Teacher, Paul Banks Elementary School; Elena Denevan Yoter, Generalist Teacher, Connections Program; and L. Joseph Trujillo, Spanish/Math Teacher, Kenai Central High School; all effective at the end of the 2013-14 school year.

**LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE TEACHER CONTRACT:** The Board unanimously approved a long-term substitute teacher contract for Shannon Ryan, Seward Elementary School.

**NEW TEACHER CONTRACTS:** The Board unanimously approved new teacher contracts for the 2013-2014 school year for Rachel Allmendinger, Migrant Teacher, Voznesenka School; Kaitlyn Miller, Title I Teacher, Soldotna Elementary School; Deborah Pollock, Language Arts Teacher (.50 FTE) 1<sup>st</sup> semester, Soldotna High School; and Shannon Ryan, Generalist Teacher, Cooper Landing School.

**POLICY REVISIONS:** The Board unanimously approved BP 5141.3 Health Examinations, BP 5128 Alaska Performance Scholarship, AR 5128 Alaska Performance Scholarship, BP 5142.3 Restraint and Seclusion (NEW), and BP 6145 Cocurricular Activities.

**HSGQE:** The Board unanimously approved High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2014-07.

**AR APPROVAL:** The Board unanimously approved AR 1312.4 Public Complaints Concerning Elementary and Secondary Education (NEW).

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE EXTENSION REQUEST/SUPPORT:** The Board unanimously approved a leave of absence extension for Laura Norton, Secretary I, Homer Flex School, effective December 21, 2013 to May 23, 2014.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST/CERTIFIED:** The Board unanimously approved a leave of absence for Karma Sherk, Special Education Intensive Needs Teacher, Nikiski North Star Elementary School, effective the 2014-15 school year.

**RECONFIGURATION OF SEWARD ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS:** The Board approved Administrative Recommendation that Seward Middle School be reconfigured to include grades 6, 7, and 8 and William H. Seward Elementary School be reconfigured to include grades K-5, beginning August 2014.

**FIRST READING OF POLICY REVISIONS:** The Board heard a first reading of revisions to BP 6145.2 Interscholastic Competition.

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING:** The next regularly scheduled School Board Meeting is Monday, December 2, 2013, 7:00 p.m., Borough Administration Building, Soldotna, Alaska.

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