
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

December 2, 2013 – 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
Mr. Dan Castimore
Mrs. Sunni Hilts
Mr. Bill Holt
Mr. Tim Navarre
Mr. Evan Boyer, Student Representative

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mrs. Norma Holmgaard	Mr. Karl Kircher
Ms. Pegge Erkeneff	Ms. Joann Riener
Mr. Doug Hayman	Ms. Crista Cady
Mr. Kent Peterson	Mrs. Tammy Miller
Mr. Karl Kilcher	Senator Cathy Giesel
Mrs. Melissa Linton	Mr. Austin Laber
Mr. Wayne Ogle	Mr. Kelly Wolf
Mr. Mike Hatten	Mrs. Patty Sirois
Mrs. Rebekka Hatten	Mrs. Karen Hamlow
Mr. Jonathon Dillon	Mr. Tim Vlasak
Ms. Martine Dikes	Senator Peter Micciche
Mrs. Katie Burcham	Mr. John O'Brien
Mr. Brent Johnson	Mrs. Teri Zopf-Schoessler
Dr. Nels Anderson	Miss Ali Dusek
Ms. Marilyn Connell	Mr. Melvin Bailey
Miss Moira Pyhala	Miss Courtney Vinzant
Ms. Shelly Endsley	Ms. Shelli Church
Miss Kelci Benson	Ms. Vicki Vinzant
Mr. Mike Gallagher	Mr. Logan Parks
Ms. Sheila Best	Mr. Daryl Vinzant
Miss Katelynn Kerkvliet	Mr. Michael Penland
Mr. Brenden Hanson	Ms. Ruby Gibbons
Ms. Mikala Walkden	Miss Hannah Campos
Mr. James Gallagher	

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
(7:00:09 PM)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mr. Arness invited those present to participate in the Pledge of
(7:00:40 PM) Allegiance.

DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT:

(7:01:05 PM)

Ms. Hohl read the District’s mission statement.

ROLL CALL:

(7:01:18 PM)

Mr. Joe Arness, President	Present
Mrs. Liz Downing, Vice President	Present
Mrs. Penny Vadla, Clerk	Present
Ms. Lynn Hohl, Treasurer	Present
Mr. Marty Anderson	Present
Mr. Dan Castimore	Present
Mrs. Sunni Hilts	Present
Mr. Bill Holt	Present
Mr. Tim Navarre	Present
Mr. Evan Boyer	Absent/Excused

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

(7:01:50 PM)

The agenda was approved as written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

(7:02:09 PM)

The School Board Minutes of November 4, 2013, were approved as printed.

SCHOOL REPORT:

(7:02:30 PM)

Mrs. Norma Holmgaard, principal of Mountain View Elementary School, introduced Mrs. Renee Christensen, 5th grade teacher, who discussed the school’s collaboration program and its effects on student learning. Mrs. Holmgaard discussed the priority of school climate, safety, and the school climate committee. She introduced Mr. Karl Kircher, Assistant Principal, and a group of students who (with the assistance of Board member, Mr. Dan Castimore) performed a school bus safety demonstration. Using bus behavior as an example, Mr. Kircher presented a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the school’s climate; strategic plan; student responsibility; behavior rules, expectations, and plan success. He thanked First Student and the bus drivers for their work. His final slide displayed the committee’s next planned project of student learning targets. Mr. Alex Martin, student, introduced the school’s after-school 4-5 grade choir, led by music teacher Mr. Jonathan Dillon, which sang three songs: *Yuki*; *Alaska’s Flag*, and the Mt. View school song. Mrs. Holmgaard invited those present to attend the school’s band and choir concert on December 5, 2013, at 6:00 p.m. at the school.

RECESS:

(7:29:05 PM)

At 7:29 p.m., Mr. Arness called a recess.

At 7:37 p.m. the Board reconvened in regular session.

MOTION:

Mr. Navarre moved the Board move item numbers 10d. Approval of Kaleidoscope Reauthorization and 10g. Soldotna Schools Advisory Committee Recommendation to the first two items to be addressed under Number 10 Consent Agenda. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Mr. Navarre moved the Board approve an amendment to move items 10d. Approval of Kaleidoscope Reauthorization and 10g. Soldotna Schools Advisory Committee Recommendation to item Number 4. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

MOTION:

(Continued)

Amendment carried unanimously.

Amended motion carried unanimously.

**KALEIDOSCOPE
REAUTHORIZATION:**

(7:39:31 PM)

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve the Kaleidoscope School of Arts & Science reauthorization.

Mr. Navarre moved the Board approve the Kaleidoscope School of Arts & Science reauthorization. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**SOLDOTNA SCHOOLS
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATION:**

(7:40:08 PM)

Dr. Atwater recommended the Board approve the Soldotna School Advisory Committee's recommendations for school mascots and school colors for the 7-8 grade school (Panther and Blue, Purple, Black and White), the 9th grade school (Star and Blue, Purple, Black and White), and the 10-12 building (Star and Blue, Purple, Black and White); and the advisory committee's school name recommendations for the 7-8 grade school (Skyview Middle School), the 9th grade school (Soldotna Prep), and recommends that the Board review the two proposed high school names and decide on one of them for the newly reconfigured 10-12 facility.

Miss Ali Dusek read a letter from the Soldotna High School student council in support of maintaining the school's current name and mascot, and stated that their second name choice is Soldotna Central High School.

Ms. Marilyn Connell spoke in support of maintaining the current name, colors, and mascot at Soldotna High School.

Miss Moira Pyhala spoke in support of changing the name and colors of Soldotna High School.

Mr. Melvin Bailey spoke in support of maintaining the current name, colors, and mascot at Soldotna High School.

Mrs. Tammy Miller spoke in support of maintaining the current name, colors, and mascot at Soldotna High School and stated that if any changes are made, the school's students should be allowed to vote for the changes.

Miss Courtney Vinzant spoke in support of maintaining the current name, colors, and mascot at Soldotna High School.

Ms. Shelly Endsley requested that the Board table the issue for 1-2 years and then decide the name, colors, and mascot at Soldotna High School.

Mr. Mike Hatten thanked Mr. Marty Anderson for responding to his email. He spoke in support of maintaining the current name of Soldotna High School.

**SOLDOTNA SCHOOLS
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATION:**

(Continued)

Ms. Shelli Church spoke regarding the upcoming 8th grade students and the opportunity for them to move forward as a group, discussed the closing of Soldotna Middle School and encouraged the community to support student unity during the upcoming school changes.

Miss Kelci Benson requested that the Board not table the Soldotna school names, colors, and mascots decision in order to allow the community to forward and plan.

Ms. Vicki Vinzant spoke in support of maintaining the current name, colors, and mascot at Soldotna High School.

Mr. Mike Gallagher stated that he does not support the Soldotna school reconfiguration, discussed the work of the advisory committee, possible upcoming changes in the community, and spoke in support of adding purple as a color at Soldotna High School.

Mr. Logan Parks spoke in support of maintaining the current name, colors, and mascot at Soldotna High School.

Mrs. Teri Zopf-Schoessler stated that she does not support the current Soldotna school reconfiguration and asked the board to reconfigure Skyview High School to create a grade 7-12 school in order to offer two high schools for the Soldotna area.

Ms. Sheila Best spoke in support of maintaining the current name, colors, and mascot at Soldotna High School with a limited (2 year) addition of the colors purple and black.

Mr. Daryl Vinzant spoke in support of maintaining the current name, colors, and mascot at Soldotna High School.

Mr. Austin Laber asked that the Board consider student concerns first while making their decisions.

Miss Katelynn Kerkvliet spoke in support of maintaining the current name, colors, and mascot at Soldotna High School and reconfiguring Skyview High School to a 7-12 school to allow for two high schools in the Soldotna area.

Mr. Michael Penland stated that it is unfortunate that Skyview High School is closing, discussed the costs of the changes, and stated that students should be able to choose the high school's name, colors, and mascot.

Mr. Brenden Hanson spoke in support of maintaining two high schools in Soldotna.

Mr. Kent Peterson spoke in support of the Soldotna Schools Advisory Committee's recommendations, including the name change to Soldotna Central High School.

**SOLDOTNA SCHOOLS
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATION:**

(Continued)

Ms. Ruby Gibbons, Ms. Mikala Walkden, and Miss Hannah Campos spoke in support of maintaining the current name, colors, and mascot at Soldotna High School.

Mr. James Gallagher discussed the work of the “Save Skyview” group, the “Save SoHi” group, and upcoming community growth.

Mr. Anderson left the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

MOTION:

Mr. Holt moved the Board approve the Soldotna School Advisory Committee's recommendations for school mascots and school colors for the 7-8 grade school (Panther and Blue, Purple, Black and White), the 9th grade school (Star and Blue, Purple, Black and White), and the 10-12 building (Star and Blue, Purple, Black and White); and the advisory committee's school name recommendations for the 7-8 grade school (Skyview Middle School), the 9th grade school (Soldotna Prep), with the 10-12 high school to be named Soldotna Central High School. Mr. Castimore seconded.

Mr. Navarre requested the Board split the question by school mascot, school colors, and school name

RECESS:

(8:49:51 PM)

At 8:49 p.m., Mr. Arness called a recess.

At 9:00 p.m. the Board reconvened in regular session.

School Mascots:

Mr. Navarre moved the Board amend the motion to make the Board's action, on school mascots, a recommendation to the separate schools and communities in place of an actual approval of the administration recommendation. Ms. Hohl seconded

VOTE ON NAVARRE AMENDMENT:

YES – Hohl, Navarre

NO – Castimore, Downing, Hilts, Holt, Vadla, Arness

Amendment failed.

VOTE ON SCHOOL MASCOTS:

YES – Castimore, Downing, Hilts, Hohl, Holt, Vadla, Arness

NO – Navarre

Motion carried.

School Colors:

A motion by Mr. Navarre to amend the motion to make the Board's action, on school colors, a recommendation to the separate schools and communities in place of an actual approval of the administration recommendation, failed for lack of a second.

School Colors:

(Continued)

VOTE ON SCHOOL COLORS:

YES – Castimore, Downing, Hilts, Holt, Vadla, Arness
NO – Hohl, Navarre

Motion carried

School Names:

Mr. Navarre requested the Board split the question to take up the 7-8 grade and the 9th grade schools' names together; and then the 10-12 grade high school name.

**Grade 7-8 and Grade 9
School Names:**

MOTION:

Ms. Hohl moved the Board amend the motion to include forwarding a recommendation to the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly and the State of Alaska Department of Education and Early Development, based on Borough code, Board Policy, and the precedence set in naming Nikiski North Star in February 2004, if necessary.

Amendment carried unanimously.

Amended motion carried unanimously.

Grade 10-12 School Name:

MOTION:

Ms. Hohl moved the Board amend the motion to include forwarding a recommendation to the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly and the State of Alaska Department of Education and Early Development, based on Borough code, Board Policy, and the precedence set in naming Nikiski North Star in February 2004, if necessary.

Amendment carried unanimously.

MOTION:

Mrs. Vadla moved the Board approve an amendment to name the grade 10-12 high school Soldotna High School. Mr. Navarre seconded.

VOTE ON VADLA AMENDMENT:

YES –Downing, Hohl, Navarre, Vadla, Arness
NO – Castimore, Hilts, Holt

Amendment carried

VOTE ON SCHOOL NAME:

YES –Downing, Hilts, Hohl, Navarre, Vadla, Arness
NO – Castimore, Holt

Amended motion carried.

RECESS:
(10:27:48 PM)

At 10:27 p.m., Mr. Arness called a recess.

Mr. Holt left the meeting at 10:37 p.m.

At 10:38 p.m. the Board reconvened in regular session

**COMMUNICATIONS AND
PETITIONS:**
(10:39:08 PM)

Dr. Atwater noted a memo, in the Board general information packet, summarizing the building capacity of the central peninsula schools. He discussed his report, in the Board general information packet, regarding his recent visit to Washington D.C. area schools which includes a recommendation that the District develop Key Performance Indicators. He reported that a review of the District's students currently on Individual Education Plans (I.E.P.) indicates that racial and ethnic group participation is proportionate.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT:**
(10:40:54 PM)

Dr. Atwater noted the annual class size report in the Board general information packet and reported that most District schools have small classes when compared to some of the larger districts around the state and country. He reported that, due to unforeseen issues, the scheduled Alaska Communications (A.C.S.) equipment upgrades to increase connectivity at Port Graham and Nanwalek schools will not be completed this winter as planned. He noted the Budget Development Committee memo in the general information packet, stated that no specific ideas were offered to make changes or additions to the Board's recommended budget cuts, and stated that the meeting was advertised appropriately.

**FIVE-YEAR PUPIL
ENROLLMENT
PROJECTIONS:**
(10:42:28 PM)

Mr. Jones presented the Five-Year Enrollment Projections (FY14 - FY18) which record that the FY14 enrollment reported to the State of Alaska for the 20-day count was 8,760.1625.

FINANCIAL REPORT:
(10:48:00 PM)

Mr. Jones presented the financial report of the District for the period ending October 31, 2013.

BOARD REPORTS:
(10:43:32 PM)

Mrs. Downing reported that the Legislative Committee met earlier in the day where they discussed state priorities, stated that the committee will meet more often in January and February as the legislative session approaches, and welcomed Mr. Holt to the committee.

Mrs. Hilts reported that the Policy Committee met earlier in the day to discuss Section 3000 of the Board Policy. She stated that she did not attend the Title VII meeting but, upon review of the minutes and reports, she was pleased with the work done.

Mrs. Vadla reported that she attended the Communication Committee earlier in the day where they discussed the employee communications survey, employee news, key communicators, and stated that the committee will next meet in February.

**BOARD WORKSESSION
REPORT:**

(10:52:44 PM)

Mr. Arness reported that the Board held worksessions on Board Policy, Kaleidoscope Charter School, Strategic Plan Update, and Legislative Priorities. He stated that all members that attended the meeting also attended the worksessions including Mr. Holt and Mr. Anderson.

MOTION:

Mr. Navarre moved the Board direct the superintendent to report to the Charter School Committee with Ms. Hohl's November 25, 2013, Board Information Request form (regarding superintendent and board roles in charter school building use requests) and any recommendations to changes in policy, if needed. Mr. Castimore seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA:

(10:55:45 PM)

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Leave of Absence Request/Support, Budget Transfers, Resignations, 2013-14 Long Term Substitute Contracts, and 2013-14 New Teacher Contracts.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE
REQUEST/SUPPORT:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a leave of absence for Jill Evans, Library Aide, Kenai Central High School/Kenai Middle School, effective January 13, 2014, to January 12, 2015.

BUDGET TRANSFERS:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve budget transfer 304 to adjust salary and benefit account budgets for actual employees hired this school year at Aurora Borealis Charter School.

RESIGNATIONS:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve resignations from David Larson, Language Arts Teacher, Homer High School, effective at the end of the 2013-14 school year; and Ann Stone, Language Arts Teacher, Kenai Central High School, effective November 13, 2013.

**LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE
TEACHER CONTRACT:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a long-term substitute teacher contract for Deborah Michael, Redoubt Elementary School.

NEW TEACHER CONTRACTS:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve new teacher contracts for Steven Fink, Robotics/Technology Instructor (.25 FTE), Seward Middle School; Lisa Miller, Title I Teacher, Seward Elementary School; RaeAnn Nye, Special Education Intensive Needs Teacher, K-Beach Elementary School; and Helen Rizzo, Title I Teacher, Nikiski North Star Elementary.

MOTION:

Mr. Navarre moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 5. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

SCIENCE CURRICULUM:
(10:56:39 PM)

Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve the Science Curriculum as presented.

MOTION:

Mr. Navarre moved the Board postpone action on items 10b. Approval of Science Curriculum and 10c. Approval of Social Studies Curriculum until the January 12, 2014, regular meeting. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

BUDGET REVISION:
(10:57:37 PM)

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve an FY14 Budget Revision as presented.

Mr. Navarre moved the Board approve an FY14 Budget Revision as presented. Mrs. Hilts seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

POLICY REVISION:
(10:58:17 PM)

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a revision to BP 6145.2 Interscholastic Competition.

Mrs. Downing moved the Board approve a revision to BP 6145.2 Interscholastic Competition. Ms. Hohl seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

FIRST READING OF POLICY REVISIONS:
(10:48:48 PM)

The Board heard a first reading of revisions to BP 6145.22 Concussion in Student Athletes.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/ COMMENTS:
(10:59:32 PM)

Dr. Nels Anderson thanked the Board for their work on the Soldotna schools reconfiguration. He told Mr. Jones that birth rate statistics are accessible from local agencies.

BOARD COMMENTS:
(11:01:04 PM)

Mrs. Vadla thanked Mr. and Mrs. John Pothast for the gift of baked goods. She thanked the local legislators for joining the Board for dinner. She expressed appreciation for those that attended and spoke during the meeting, especially the students.

Mrs. Hilts discussed the evening's work. She wished Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to those in attendance.

Mr. Navarre thanked the Soldotna Schools Advisory Committee for their work. He thanked students Mr. Gallagher and Mr. Laber for their work during the reconfiguration process. He wished Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to those in attendance. He asked Ms. Erkeneff if she was able to note the brochure ideas during the Communications Committee Meeting.

Mrs. Downing thanked the staff, students, community, administration, and the Board for their hard work on the evening's decisions. She wished all in attendance, Happy Holidays.

BOARD COMMENTS:

(Continued)

Mr. Castimore thanked all involved for their hard work and discussed some of the comments made during the evening. He noted that sometimes the right decision will cost money. He reported that he attended the "Save the Stars" rally on Wednesday, November 27, 2013.

Ms. Hohl expressed appreciation for the student voices during the Pledge of Allegiance, the Mountain View Elementary School presentation, and for those that spoke during the evening. She requested an excused absence for the January meeting.

Mr. Arness wished those in attendance a Merry Christmas.

ADJOURN:

(11:09:04 PM)

At 11:09 p.m., Mr. Arness adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Joe Arness, President

Mrs. Penny Vadla, Clerk

The Minutes of December 2, 2013 have been approved as of January 13, 2014.