
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

June 2, 2014 – 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

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Brent Johnson Ms. Martine Dikes
Ms. Pegge Erkeneff Mr. Mike Petersen
Mr. Tim Vlasak Ms. Joann Riener
Mr. John O'Brien Mrs. Patty Sirois

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 5:59 p.m. A quorum of School Board members, Mr. Castimore, Mrs. Downing, Mrs. Hilts, Ms. Hohl, Mr. Holt, Mr. Navarre, Mrs. Vadla, and Mr. Arness were present.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 5:59 p.m., Ms. Hohl moved the Board go into executive session to discuss matters which by law, municipal charter, or ordinance are required to be confidential. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Motion carried unanimously

MOTION: At 6:46 p.m., Mr. Navarre moved the executive session be adjourned. Mrs. Downing seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

At 6:46 p.m. Mr. Arness recessed the meeting until 7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Arness called the meeting back to order at 7:00 p.m.
(7:00:14 PM)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mr. Arness invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.
(7:00:32 PM)

DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT: Ms. Hohl read the District's mission statement.
(7:00:56 PM)

ROLL CALL:*(7:01:13 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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:*(7:01:32 PM)*

The agenda was approved as written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:*(7:01:54 PM)*

The School Board Minutes of May 5, 2014, were approved as revised.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:*(7:02:33 PM)*

The Board presented Mr. Mike Petersen, with the Golden Apple Award for his service to the District as the Project GRAD Executive Director.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:*(7:14:21 PM)*

Dr. Atwater reported on the recently completed State of Alaska school meals administration review, noted that the required corrections have been made, and thanked Mr. Dean Hamburg and his staff for their good work. He stated that, despite the lack of a Homer tower location, ACS continues to work on improving connectivity, will install a tower at Dangerous Cape to increase bandwidth to Nanwalek and Port Graham (possibly by late fall 2014), and is considering five additional locations in the Homer area for future advancements. He noted Borough Ordinance 2014-14 that will slightly change school board district boundaries and effect the population of districts 5 and 7.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SITE COUNCIL AND/OR P.T.A., K.P.A.A., K.P.E.A., K.P.E.S.A, BOROUGH ASSEMBLY:*(7:15:32 PM)*

Mrs. Patty Sirois, KPESA president, welcomed the Project GRAD students and staff and thanked the audience for attending the meeting. She expressed appreciation for the firefighters and the teamwork of the community during the recent Funny River Horse Trail Fire. She stated that NEA-Alaska recently sponsored a poster contest and congratulated Miss Zoya Basargin, 5-8 grade winner; and Mr. Martin Basargin, K-4 grade winner; (both students at Razdolna School) and noted that, as an award, they both received a Nook e-reader. She announced that KPEA and KPESA will sponsor a "kid-zone" booth at the Kenai River Festival on June 6-8, 2014. She noted that the evening's Board meeting agenda includes an action item regarding leave for her and stated that she did not request a leave without pay.

Mr. Brent Johnson, Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly, noted he had recently attempted to phone some of the Board members in order to discuss the District budget. In light of open meetings requirements, he stated that no other assembly member or school board member has spoken to him about the school budget. He is looking forward to the borough assembly meeting tomorrow and the debate over the budget. He noted a letter from Dr. Atwater to the assembly and asked if the letter included the final District information and figures.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT:**

(7:20:45 PM)

Dr. Atwater reported on the District's 2013 High School Graduates Survey, stated that the link to a survey was emailed to the students, noted some of the questions on the survey regarding students' plans and current activities, and stated that the responses are coming in slowly but he will provide the results to the Board when they are complete. He noted the memo in the general information packet regarding support staff resignations and thanked those employees for their excellent work with a special note to Mrs. Mari Auxier, administrative secretary. He reported on the Leadership Academy, held May 28-29, 2014, and thanked Mr. Sean Dusek and the District Instructional Team for their leadership and organization of the event. Dr. Atwater discussed the various events that took place (all at the same time) at Skyview High School recently, including students, staff and administration packing and preparing for the school move; the establishment of the incident command center for the Funny River Horse Trail Fire; and the roofing contractors setting up and beginning their work. He thanked Mr. Dave Tressler for his extraordinary amount of extra work during this process. He thanked Mr. Sean Dusek, Ms. Pegge Erkeneff, Mr. John Pothast and his family, Ms. Sherry Hingley, and Mr. Doug Hayman for their extra efforts and assistance. He noted that although it is not "our fire," it did involve the District in many levels and he is pleased that the District was able to assist.

LEASE AGREEMENTS:

(7:25:05 PM)

Mr. Jones reviewed the report of leases and agreements for the 2014-2015 school year.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

(7:25:51 PM)

Mr. Jones presented the financial report of the District for the period ending April 30, 2014.

BOARD REPORTS:

(7:26:32 PM)

Mrs. Hilts reported that she attended six high school graduations and discussed the ceremonies including one for an international student. She attended the Project GRAD board meeting and expressed appreciation for their work.

Mr. Castimore reported that he attended several high school graduation ceremonies and especially noted the Connections ceremony.

Mr. Holt reported that he attended the River City Academy, Skyview High and Nikolaevsk School graduation ceremonies. He discussed the growth and success of River City Academy. He attended the Kaleidoscope Academic Policy Committee meeting.

Mrs. Downing reported that she attended the Homer Flex, Homer High, and Nikolaevsk school graduation ceremonies.

Mrs. Vadla reported that she attended the Skyview High, Soldotna High, and Hope School graduation ceremonies and expressed appreciation for all three, noting that it was Skyview High School's final ceremony. She stated that she was not able to attend the Ninilchik School graduation this year. She discussed student projects that Hope School students made as gifts for the graduation guests and for Dr. Atwater.

**BOARD WORKSESSION
REPORT:**
(7:34:19 PM)

Mr. Arness reported that the Board held worksessions regarding Board policy, FY15 budget update, and Charter School Funding. All members present at the meeting, attended the worksessions.

CONSENT AGENDA:
(7:34:40 PM)

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Resignations, Leave of Absence Request/Certified, Long Term Substitute Contract, New Administrator Contracts, 2014-15 Tentative Tenure Teacher Contract, 2014-15 Tentative Non-Tenured Teacher Contracts, 2014-15 New Teacher Contracts, Leave of Absence Request/Support, AR 5131.7 Weapons and Dangerous Instruments and AR 6153 School Sponsored Trips, and Leave Time Request/Support.

RESIGNATIONS:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve resignations for Michael Audette, Elementary Education, Technology Integration Specialist; Andrea Hackbarth, Kaleidoscope Charter, 5th - 6th Grade Teacher; Karen Hamlow, Skyview High School, Librarian; and Breighley Sexton, Seward High School, Music Teacher; all effective the end of the 2013-14 school year.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE
REQUEST/CERTIFIED:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a Leave of Absence Request/Certified for Paul Gutzler, Special Education Resource Teacher, Homer High School, effective the 2014-15 school year.

**2013-14 LONG TERM
SUBSTITUTE CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve 2013-14 Long Term Substitute Contracts for Todd Boonstra, Kenai Middle School and Ted Reiter, Soldotna High School.

**2014-15 NEW
ADMINISTRATOR
CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve new administrator contracts for Elizabeth Falk, Coordinator, Pupil Services Department; Briana Randle, Assistant Principal, Kenai Central High School; and William Withrow, Assistant Principal, Mt. View Elementary School for the 2014-15 school year.

**2014-15 TENTATIVE TENURE
TEACHER CONTRACT:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a tentative tenure Teacher Contract for Robert Bird (.25 FTE) for the 2014-15 school year.

**2014-15 TENTATIVE NON-
TENURED TEACHER
CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve tentative non-tenured teacher contracts for Monica Acosta, Teacher/Regular; Steven Fink, Teacher/Regular (.25 FTE); Jessica Gal, Teacher/Special Education; and Donna Schneiders, Teacher/Regular for the 2014-15 school year.

**2014-15 NEW TEACHER
CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve new teacher contracts for Will Chervenak, Language Arts/Social Studies Teacher; Lauren Childers, Home Economics/Science/Math Teacher (.70 FTE); Heather Corbett, Speech Language Pathologist; Nathaniel Erfurth, Language Arts/Social Studies Teacher; Alana Greear, Title I/Migrant Teacher; Katie Harken, Language Arts Teacher; Nicole Gaunt, School Counselor; Jennifer Hornung, Science/Math Teacher; Melissa Kelley, Special Education Intensive Needs Teacher; *(continued next page)*

CONSENT AGENDA:

(Continued)

**2014-15 NEW TEACHER
CONTRACTS:**

(Continued)

Catherine Koskey, Special Education Behavior Teacher; Ryan Moss, Spanish Teacher; Benjamin Stephens, Intermediate Grade Teacher; Rebecca Temple, Science/Math Teacher; James Wayne, Secondary Generalist Teacher; and Tamra Wear, Media Specialist & Digital Learning Center Teacher.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE
REQUEST/SUPPORT:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a Leave of Absence Request/Support for Debra Allen, Guidance/Career Assistant, Kenai Central High School, effective the 2014-15 school year.

AR APPROVAL:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve revisions to AR 5131.7 Weapons and Dangerous Instruments and AR 6153 School Sponsored Trips.

**LEAVE TIME
REQUEST/SUPPORT:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a leave time request/support for Patricia Sirois, Administrative Secretary II, Student Nutrition Services, effective the 2014-15 school year.

MOTION:

Mr. Navarre moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 10. Ms. Hohl seconded.

Mr. Navarre removed number 11a. (10) Leave time Request/Support.

Motion carried unanimously for 1-9.

VOTE ON NUMBER 11a. (10):

YES –Downing, Hilts, Vadla, Arness

NO – Anderson, Castimore, Hohl, Holt, Navarre

Motion failed.

**KPSAA HANDBOOK
REVISIONS:**

(7:42:11 PM)

Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve proposed changes to the 2014-2015 Kenai Peninsula School Activities Handbooks (KPSAA).

MOTION:

Ms. Hohl moved the Board approve proposed changes to the 2014-2015 Kenai Peninsula School Activities Handbooks (KPSAA). Mr. Holt seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

POLICY MANUAL REVISIONS:

(7:43:41 PM)

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve revisions to BP 3313 Contracts, Leases and Agreements, BP 3314.3 Equipment Purchases, BP 3350 Payroll, and BP 6161.13 Student Fees for Instruction Materials.

POLICY MANUAL REVISIONS:

(Continued)

MOTION:

Mrs. Vadla moved the Board approve revisions to BP 3313 Contracts, Leases and Agreements, BP 3314.3 Equipment Purchases, BP 3350 Payroll, and BP 6161.13 Student Fees for Instruction Materials. Mr. Castimore seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/
COMMENTS:**

(7:45:16 PM)

Mr. Mike Petersen thanked the Board for awarding him the Golden Apple Award and stated that the Project GRAD staff and students help him succeed. He expressed appreciation for District's graduation survey and the challenges faced in completing such a project.

BOARD COMMENTS:

(7:46:59 PM)

Mrs. Vadla thanked Mr. Jones, Mrs. Olson and Ms. Hayes for their work on the FY 15 budget and charter school funding reports. She expressed appreciation for the information on the Alaska School Activities Association (AASA) waiver for students moving to Soldotna High School this fall. She thanked Dr. Atwater for his recent comments regarding the common core. She expressed appreciation for Ms. Mari Auxier and her work for the District. She announced that on Wednesday, May 28, 2014, she completed her college Capstone course.

Mrs. Hilts stated that Susan B. English School had four high school graduates this year and discussed the "rose ceremony" that was part of the celebration. She explained the "rule of five" which states the belief that people with five caring adults in their life, will be successful, and related the rule to the rose ceremony.

Mr. Holt expressed appreciation for the excellent coordination and work done by the Funny River Horse Trail Fire incident command and fire fighters at Skyview High School.

Mr. Castimore reported that he attended Ms. Renee Henderson's final Kenai Central High School choir performance. He attended the unique Kenai Alternative School graduation ceremony. He stated that he is looking forward to Tuesday, June 3, Board Planning Session.

Mr. Anderson discussed the District enrollment figures in the general information packet; specifically the reduction from the projected enrollment for high school students, the loss of funding as a result of the reduction, and requested that the reasons for the lowered enrollment be researched and analyzed.

Ms. Hohl thanked Mr. Castimore for attending the Seward High School graduation and Mrs. Vadla for attending the Hope School ceremony, as she was unable to do so due to her son's college graduation. She expressed regret that the eastern peninsula did not pursue the Project GRAD program when it was offered. She noted the resignation of Seward music teacher, Ms. Breighley Sexton.

BOARD COMMENTS:

(Continued)

Mr. Navarre expressed appreciation for the excellent coordination and work done by the District, Borough, and incident command center during the Funny River Horse Trail Fire. He stated that firefighters from outside of community were impressed with the community's efforts and support. He thanked Mr. Castimore for his attendance to graduation ceremonies as Mr. Navarre was out of state and unable to attend. He congratulated the District for a great year and all 2014 high school graduates. He thanked the Project GRAD students for attending.

Mrs. Downing reported that she met with Dr. Atwater and Mr. Steve Fleischman, CEO of Education Northwest, on May 8. She attended Homer High School's awards night and expressed appreciation for the work done to assist students with scholarship awards. She reported that the Legislative Committee met earlier in the day and discussed the committee's formation, growth, and development. She thanked Dr. Atwater and Ms. Erkeneff for their insights and assistance to the Legislative Committee.

Mr. Arness thanked those in the audience for attending.

ADJOURN:

(7:58:54 PM)

At 7:58 p.m., Mr. Arness adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Joe Arness, President

Mrs. Penny Vadla, Clerk

The Minutes of June 2, 2014,
have been approved as of
July 7, 2014.