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# Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

## Board of Education Meeting Minutes

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July 7, 2014 – 7:00 p.m.  
Regular Meeting

Borough Administration Building  
148 N. Binkley, Soldotna, Alaska

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**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:** Ms. Pegge Erkeneff Miss Martine Dikes  
Ms. Joann Riener Ms. Denise Kelly  
Mrs. Julie Cisco Ms. Briana Randle  
Mr. David Brighton Mrs. Patty Sirois  
Mr. Andrew Rothenberger Mr. Kevin Lyon  
Mr. Tim Vlasak  
Others present not identified.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.  
(7:01:55 PM)

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mr. Arness invited those present to participate in the Pledge of  
(7:02:04 PM) Allegiance.

**DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT:** Ms. Hohl read the District's mission statement.  
(7:02:38 PM)

**ROLL CALL:** Mr. Joe Arness, President Present  
(7:02:53 PM) Mrs. Liz Downing, Vice President Present  
Mrs. Penny Vadla, Clerk Present  
Ms. Lynn Hohl, Treasurer Present  
Mr. Marty Anderson Absent/Excused  
Mr. Dan Castimore Present  
Mrs. Sunni Hilts Present  
Mr. Bill Holt Absent/Excused  
Mr. Tim Navarre Present

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** The agenda was approved with revisions to 10a. (1) Approval of  
(7:03:19 PM) 2014-2015 Board Goals, 10a. (2) Approval of Budget Transfers, and  
10a. (9) Approval of 2013-14 Resignation (Laydown item) and the  
replacement of item 10e. Approval of Reconsideration of Leave Time  
Request for Kenai Peninsula Education Support Association  
(KPESA) President with Approval of Rescindment of June 2, 2014  
action item 11a. (10) Approval of Leave Time Request/Support.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:***(7:05:03 PM)*

The School Board Minutes of June 2, 2014, were approved as printed.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:***(7:05:45 PM)*

Dr. Atwater reported on the receipt of a Title 1 D Neglected and Delinquent grant through the United States Department of Education. He noted two general information packet memos: the first regarding changes to Alaska School Performance Index (ASPI) and the second summarizing the reduction, from three to two times per week, to be made to the fresh fruit and vegetable program in the upcoming year.

**RECESS:***(7:07:03 PM)*

At 7:07 p.m. Mr. Arness recessed the meeting.

**RECONVENE:***(7:07:55 PM)*

At 7:07 p.m. Mr. Arness reconvened the meeting.

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SITE COUNCIL AND/OR P.T.A., K.P.A.A., K.P.E.A., K.P.E.S.A, BOROUGH ASSEMBLY:***(7:08:00 PM)*

Mrs. Patty Sirois, KPESA president, wished the Board a Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July. She reported on KPESA's activities at the Kenai River Festival. She expressed appreciation for the Title I D grant as reported by Dr. Atwater. She noted that the Funny River Horse Trail fire is now under control. She wished the Board a happy summer and stated that she is looking forward to the upcoming school year.

Mr. David Brighton, KPEA president, introduced himself, stated that he is looking forward to working with the Board, and that he missed seeing Board members at the Kenai River Festival.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:***(7:11:49 PM)*

Dr. Atwater noted the packet item "Site Council Evaluations", thanked Mr. Sean Dusek for developing the new report format, and commented on the commitment of the site councils. He also noted packet item "School Annual Reports to the Superintendent" which summarizes positive school events throughout the year including community outreach. Dr. Atwater reported that at the end of June, Mr. Jason Daniels, K-Beach Elementary teacher, and he participated in a Washington D.C. congressional meeting (organized by Senator Mark Begich), on broadband, where he discussed the District's connectivity challenges and Mr. Daniels presented a brief lesson on wildfires using online resources. He announced that the KPBSD is one of four districts statewide to receive the Department of Education and Early Development Digital Teaching Initiative Innovative District Grant and discussed the scope of the grant. He stated that the District is compiling another grant application that, if awarded, will increase the quality and number of internal assessments. He discussed the intensive work being done to accomplish the reconfiguration of the Soldotna area schools and thanked Mr. Dave Tressler and, for the future, Ms. Julie Cisco for their oversight of this process and the school principals for their extra efforts. He noted that Soldotna school start times will change by 5-10 minutes. He asked the Board to attend the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Kenai Peninsula College, Kenai Peninsula Borough, and Kenai Peninsula Borough School District on August 14, which will include food and gift mementos, and stated that Board and District volunteers will wear coordinated event shirts.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:***(7:14:47 PM)*

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

**BOARD REPORTS:***(7:15:51PM)*

Mrs. Downing reported that the Legislative Committee met earlier in the day and discussed Board goals as related to the committee goals and how the committee can support those goals, AASB resolutions, the calendar for the upcoming year, and pre-session meetings with Kenai Peninsula legislators.

Mrs. Hilts reported on her attendance to the National School Boards Association Pacific Region Summer Meeting in June and commented on the exceptional quality of choices in the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District.

**BOARD WORKSESSION REPORT:***(7:18:48 PM)*

Mr. Arness reported that the Board held worksessions regarding Board Policy, Equipment Funds, Charter School In-kind Services and Rent, Emergency Action Plan Revision and ALICE Training, Board Committees, Board Goals, and Kachemak-Selo School Site. With the exception of Mr. Arness, all members present at the meeting attended the worksessions.

**CONSENT AGENDA:***(7:19:27 PM)*

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of 2014-2015 Board Goals, Budget Transfers, 2013-14 New Administrator Contract, 2014-15 Tentative Administrator Contract, 2014-15 Tentative Non-Tenured Teacher Contracts and Tenure, 2014-15 Tentative Non-Tenured Teacher Contracts, 2014-15 New Teacher Contracts, AR 5112.6 Education for Homeless Children and Youths and AR 6146.5 Special Services Grading and Graduation, and 2013-14 Resignation.

**2014-2015 BOARD GOALS:**

Dr. Atwater recommended the Board adopt the 2014-2015 Board Goals as revised.

**BUDGET TRANSFERS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve budget transfers #1297 for \$113,978 to purchase a tandem axle box truck; 1397 for \$389,832 and 1405 for \$128,269 to purchase physical education, social studies, and music curriculum materials and equipment, and 1465 for \$72,030 to purchase districtwide Discovery Education software.

**2013-14 NEW ADMINISTRATOR CONTRACT:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a 2013-14 administrator contract for Julie Cisco, Director of Planning and Operations.

**2014-15 TENTATIVE ADMINISTRATOR CONTRACT:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a 2014-15 Tentative Administrator Contract for Julie Cisco, Director of Planning and Operations.

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

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a Tentative Non-Tenured Teacher Contract and Tenure for the 2014-2015 school year for Carmen Hayes, Teacher/Regular.

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

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve Tentative Non-Tenured Teacher Contracts for the 2014-2015 school year for Kristie Cotroneo, Teacher/Regular and Helen Rizzo, Teacher/Regular.

**2014-15 NEW TEACHER  
CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve new teacher contracts for the 2014-2015 school year for David Aamodt, Speech Language Pathologist; Heather Anding, Intermediate Grade Teacher; Laura Armstrong, Special Education Resource Teacher; Edan Badajos, Interventionist Teacher (.50 FTE); Todd Boonstra, Physical Education/Health Teacher (.75 FTE); Cheryl Brandt, Migrant/Title I Teacher; Nate Creel, Special Education Resource Teacher; Debra Cross, Special Education Resource Teacher; Joshua Demlow, Science/Math Teacher; Shanna Demlow, Special Education Resource/Social Studies Teacher; Jessi Felice, Special Education Resource Teacher; Wendy Foster, Temporary Dental Assistant Instructor (.20 FTE) 1<sup>st</sup> semester; Michael Gullett, Generalist Teacher; Marilee Johansen, Temporary Foods Instructor (.20 FTE) 1<sup>st</sup> semester; Shane Lopez, Government/Alaska Studies (.50 FTE); Connie Mann, Special Education Resource Teacher; Katrina Nore, Music Teacher; Naomi Parrish, Independent Opportunity Instructor (.40 FTE); Sarah Peters, School Psychologist; Geoffrey Randle, Special Education Resource Teacher; Erin Ratcliff, Intermediate Grade Teacher; Keith Seville III, Foods Instructor (.20 FTE); and Belinda Smith, Facilitator Gifted Teacher (.50 FTE).

**POLICY MANUAL REVISIONS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve revisions to AR 5112.6 Education for Homeless Children and Youths and AR 6146.5 Special Services Grading and Graduation.

**RESIGNATION:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a resignation for Thomas Cavanaugh, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, Sterling Elementary, effective at the end of the 2013-14 school year.

**MOTION:**

Mr. Navarre moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 9. Mr. Castimore seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**KPSAA PARENT REP.:**  
*(7:21:03 PM)*

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve Ms. Bridget Clark as the parent representative to the Kenai Peninsula School Activities Association, Executive Board.

**MOTION:**

Mrs. Vadla moved the Board approve Ms. Bridget Clark as the parent representative to the Kenai Peninsula School Activities Association, Executive Board. Mr. Navarre seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**FY14 BUDGET:**  
*(7:21:46 PM)*

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a list of revisions to the FY14 budget.

**MOTION:**

Mr. Navarre moved the Board approve a list of revisions to the FY14 budget. Mrs. Downing seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**FY15 BUDGET:**  
(7:22:35 PM)

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve revisions to the FY15 Budget.

**MOTION:**

Mrs. Downing moved the Board approve revisions to the FY15 Budget. Mr. Navarre seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**RESCINDMENT OF JUNE 2, 2014 ACTION ITEM 11A. (10) APPROVAL OF LEAVE TIME REQUEST/SUPPORT:**  
(7:23:00 PM)

(NOTE: At the June 2, 2014 meeting, the Board failed to approve a motion to grant 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 rescind the vote taken during the meeting of June 2, 2014, that defeated the motion to grant a full time release to the KPESA president. Mrs. Hilts seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**MOTION:**

Mr. Navarre moved that to the extent that the parties' Negotiated Agreement may require the Board of Education approval of Ms. Sirois' leave, the Board of Education hereby approves Ms. Patty Sirois being on full time release for FY 2015, in accordance with the Negotiated Agreement. Mrs. Hilts seconded.

Mrs. Patty Sirois requested that the Board approve Mr. Navarre's motion, stated that she feels it is fair to KPESA and the District and noted that the action is currently in grievance arbitration.

Motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION 14-15-1:**  
(7:33:38 PM)

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve an amendment to the 403(b) Retirement Plan to allow for universal availability.

**MOTION:**

Mrs. Vadla moved the Board approve an amendment to the 403(b) Retirement Plan to allow for universal availability. Ms. Hohl seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**K-SELO SITE SELECTION:**  
(7:34:10 PM)

Dr. Atwater recommended the Board approve the School Site Selection Committee's recommendation for the location of a new school at Kachemak-Selo.

Mr. Andrew Rothenberger, principal of Kachemak-Selo School and community representative, expressed appreciation for the Board's support and for their work on the school site selection, especially Mr. Arness and Mr. Castimore. He invited the Board to visit the Kachemak-Selo community and to consider holding a Board meeting there.

**MOTION:**

Mrs. Hilts moved the Board approve the School Site Selection Committee's recommendation for the location of a new school at Kachemak-Selo. Mrs. Downing seconded.

**K-SELO SITE SELECTION:**

*(Continued)*

VOTE:

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

Motion carried.

**FIRST READING OF POLICY REVISIONS:**

*(7:41:48 PM)*

The Board heard a first reading of BP 1114 Communication Using Electronic Media – NEW, BP 5127 Graduation Ceremonies and Activities, BP 6146.1 High School Graduation Requirements, BP and AR 6146.3 High School Graduation Qualifying Exam – DELETE, BP 6146.51 Differential Requirements for Individuals with Exceptional Needs, BP 6146.8 Diplomas, and BP 6164.5 Intervention/Assistance Teams.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

*(7:43:30 PM)*

Mrs. Vadla thanked Mrs. Debra Hayes and Mrs. Lisa Ferguson for dinner. She thanked Mr. Jones for his report on charter school in-kind services. She congratulated Seward Mt. Marathon Race competitors Miss Allie Ostrander (1<sup>st</sup> place youth race overall, women, and new record set), Mr. Michael Marshall (1<sup>st</sup> place youth race men) and her son (63<sup>rd</sup> place men's race). She thanked the District for presenting Resolution 14-15-1. She encouraged the public to visit the Kenai Fine Arts Center and view her daughter's exhibit.

Mrs. Hilts invited the public to visit Seldovia.

Mr. Navarre welcomed the new District administrators that joined the Board for dinner earlier. He thanked Kenai Police Chief Gus Sandahl for attending the worksession on the ALICE emergency response plan and for his continued commitment to work with the District.

Mrs. Downing expressed appreciation for the beautiful summer.

Mr. Castimore reminded the public that dipnetting opens in Kenai on Thursday, July 10, 2014, recommended the Kasilof fishery, and wished the public a good July.

Ms. Hohl thanked the new District administrators that joined the Board for dinner earlier. She thanked Mr. Andrew Rothenberger for attending the meeting. She welcomed Mrs. Julie Cisco, planning and operations director. She discussed the Seward Mt. Marathon Race and those that attended. She thanked Mrs. Colette Thompson and Ms. Holly Montague, borough attorneys, for their assistance in preparing for the meeting. She offered condolences for the passing of the father of former Board member Ms. Sandy Wassilie.

Mr. Arness expressed appreciation for the evening's meal.

**ADJOURN:**  
(7:48:10 PM)

At 7:48 p.m., Mr. Arness adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mr. Joe Arness, President

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Mrs. Penny Vadla, Clerk

The Minutes of July 7, 2014,  
have been approved as of  
August 4, 2014.