



Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting

Borough Administration Building
148 N. Binkley, Soldotna, Alaska

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

Mr. Joe Arness, President
Mrs. Sunni Hilts, Vice President
Mrs. Penny Vadla, Clerk
Mr. Dan Castimore, Treasurer
Mr. Marty Anderson
Mrs. Liz Downing
Ms. Lynn Hohl
Mr. Bill Holt
Mr. Tim Navarre
Miss Maria Kulikov, Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT:

Mr. Sean Dusek, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Dave Jones, Assistant Superintendent

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. John O'Brien	Mr. Alan Fields
Ms. Pegge Erkeneff	Mr. Vaughn Dosko
Ms. Joann Riener	Ms. Linda Swarner
Mrs. Julie Cisco	Mr. Jason Tauriainen
Mr. Tim Vlasak	Mr. Blaine Gilman
Mrs. Laurie Olson	Mrs. Margaret Gilman
Mr. Saul Friedman	Mr. Greg Zorbas
Representative Mike Chenault	Mr. Simon Nissen
Mr. Joe Rizzo	Mr. Dean Hamburg
Mrs. Tanya Erwin	Mr. Dan Carstens
Mr. Dan Beck	Ms. Akcinia Kulikov
Mr. Rod Hilts	Mr. Paul Ostrander
Miss Martine Dikes	Mrs. Teri Ostrander
Ms. Debbie Sounart	Mr. Shane Bostic
Mrs. Theresa Salzetti	Mr. Jeff Ambrosier
Mrs. Patty Sirois	Mr. David Brighton

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

At 3:39 p.m., Mr. Arness called the meeting to order. A quorum of the School Board was present: Mr. Arness, Mrs. Hilts, Mrs. Vadla, Mr. Castimore, Ms. Hohl, Mr. Holt, Mrs. Downing, and Mr. Navarre. Mr. Anderson was absent.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 3:40 p.m., Ms. Hohl moved the Board go into executive session to discuss matters, the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the Borough. Specifically, the Board met to discuss contract negotiations. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

(Continued)

Mr. Holt stated that he might have a conflict of interest. President Arness stated that, although Mr. Holt’s wife is a bargaining unit member, she does not serve on the National Education Association (NEA) executive board nor is Mr. Holt a member of NEA. As such, President Arness ruled that Mr. Holt would be allowed to participate in the executive session.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 5:42 p.m. Mr. Navarre moved the Board adjourn the executive session. Mr. Holt seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

RECESS:

At 5:43 p.m. Mr. Arness recessed the meeting.

RECONVENE:

(7:00:47 PM)

At 7:00 Mr. Arness reconvened the meeting.

NATIONAL ANTHEM:

(7:01:08 PM)

Kenai Central High School Choir students sang *The National Anthem*.

DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT:

(7:03:11 PM)

Mrs. Downing read the District’s mission statement.

ROLL CALL:

(7:03:26 PM)

Mr. Marty Anderson	Absent/Excused
Mr. Joe Arness	Present
Mr. Dan Castimore	Present
Mrs. Liz Downing	Present
Mrs. Sunni Hilts	Present
Ms. Lynn Hohl	Present
Mr. Bill Holt	Present
Mr. Tim Navarre	Present
Mrs. Penny Vadla	Present
Miss Maria Kulikov	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

(7:03:51 PM)

The agenda was approved as written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

(7:04:04 PM)

The School Board Minutes of December 1, 2014, were approved as printed.

SCHOOL REPORTS:

(7:04:26 PM)

Mr. Alan Fields, Kenai Central High School principal, discussed the school’s accreditation process and stated that KCHS was noted for earning 50 years of consecutive accreditation. He introduced Miss Allie Ostrander and congratulated her as the first Alaskan to win the Nike Cross Country National Championship on Dec. 6, in Portland, OR. He noted the school’s state recognized choir program and introduced choir director Mr. Simon Nissen and his students who performed, *Away from the Roll of the Sea*. Mr. Fields introduced Mr. Greg Zorbas, 2014 Alaska Society for Technology in Education (ASTE) Teacher of the Year, who gave a presentation on the integration of video conferencing and technology at KCHS.

SCHOOL REPORTS:*(KCHS Continued)*

Mr. Zorbas highlighted the various components of the video education program. Using Polycom technology, he connected with Ms. Elaine Shuck, Education Director of the Americas for Polycom and president elect of the United States Distance Learning Association. Ms. Shuck discussed Polycom's collaborative work with Mr. Zorbas at KCHS and stated that, due to their program's success, KCHS is frequently used as her "poster child" in presentations. Mr. Zorbas further discussed national and international classes taught with technology such as Polycom and One Vision Solutions. He also highlighted local connections with other districts' schools and the ability to offer an extra history class through the program. In closing, Mr. Fields thanked Mr. Nissen, the choir students and Mr. Zorbas for their assistance with the report.

(7:34:48 PM)

Mr. Vaughn Dosko, Kenai Middle School principal, introduced Mr. Dan Beck, Assistant Principal, and Ms. Debbie Sounart, band director, and a group of her band students who performed *O Canada, My Country 'Tis of Thee, and You're a Grand Old Flag*. Ms. Sounart discussed the music program and the development of music education including the use of technology to develop sheet music for her classroom. Mr. Dosko and Mr. Beck presented a PowerPoint presentation highlighting "anomalies" of the school including the band and choir program; video conference classes with Cooper Landing students; student population and demographics; school sports, clubs, and activities; school traditions; the school's communication goal; and building use frequency, user groups and procedures. Mr. Dosko stated that KMS is a community school. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to share with them.

RECESS:*(7:59:06 PM)*

At 7:59 p.m. Mr. Arness recessed the meeting.

RECONVENE:*(8:09:54 PM)*

At 8:09 Mr. Arness reconvened the meeting.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:*(8:10:11 PM)*

Mr. Ben Carpenter requested that the Board provide the results of the investigation into recent concerns about the holiday assembly at Nikiski Middle High School (NMHS).

Mr. Jason Tauriainen spoke in support of the Nikiski Middle High School staff and the school's holiday assembly and read a letter of support from his daughter, Hannah Tauriainen, former NMHS student.

The following people spoke in support of the Nikiski Middle High School staff and the school's holiday assembly:

Mr. Perry Solmonson, Mrs. Linda Williams, Mrs. Ramona Malston, Ms. Darcy McCaughey, Ms. Carla Jenness, Ms. Adina Johnson, Mrs. Tanya Erwin, Ms. Carol Strickland, Ms. Shannon Bird, Ms. Kelly McCaughey, Ms. Gretchen Graeff, Ms. Shannon Biamonte, Mr. Cy Cox, Ms. Amber Douglas, Ms. Nora Ribbens, Ms. Amy Stock, Mr. Jesse Bjorkman, Mr. Joseph Yourkoski (student), Ms. Jessica Doth, and Mr. Bill Thompson.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

(Continued)

Mr. Joe Rizzo spoke in support of the Nikiski Middle High School staff and the school’s holiday assembly and asked the Administration to revise the process for dealing with this type of situation.

The following people testified that they felt the Nikiski Middle High School holiday assembly was inappropriate:

Mr. James Freeman, Mr. William Justice

Mr. Rob Ernst discussed the meaning of taking offense, stated that the NMHS Christmas Show was not meant to offend and apologized to anyone that was offended.

Mr. Dan Carstens, Nikiski Middle High School principal, discussed his nine year tenure at the school, the school’s community and stated that his intention is to always build relationships with kids. He apologized to anyone that was offended by the school holiday assembly.

Mr. Dylan Hooper thanked the Nikiski community for the support they have shown NMHS during the past week.

RECESS:

(9:24:44 PM)

At 9:24 p.m. Mr. Arness recessed the meeting.

RECONVENE:

(9:40:43 PM)

At 9:40 p.m. Mr. Arness reconvened the meeting.

HEARING OF DELEGATIONS:

(9:41:14 PM)

Ms. Linda Swarner, executive director of the Kenai Peninsula Food Bank, discussed the organization’s programs and their collaborative work with the District.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

(9:52:45 PM)

Mr. Dusek reported that he received communications in December from KPEA and KPESA requesting that collective bargaining be opened. He received a report from the State of Alaska stating that the District immunizations are 100% compliant and thanked Ms. Carmen McGee and District nurses for their work.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SITE COUNCIL AND/OR P.T.A., K.P.A.A., K.P.E.A., K.P.E.S.A, BOROUGH ASSEMBLY:

(8:53:46 PM)

Mr. Mike Peek, president of NMHS site council, discussed the school and staff; school pride; school climate; attendance; classes and programs offered; activities and sports; and staff awards and recognition. He invited community members to visit the school. He spoke in support of the school’s holiday show. He requested that the Board and District administration reevaluate the way they respond to information posted on social media.

Mrs. Patty Sirois, K.P.E.S.A. president, wished everyone Happy New Year. She thanked the Board for allowing those in attendance to testify in spite of the time limit expiring. She expressed appreciation for Mr. Bjorkman’s and Mr. Carstens’ statements. She stated that she and Mr. Brighton met with Mr. Dusek and she thanked him for his work on staffing issues. She requested that retired employees returning to work as a substitute, be placed at the top of the pay scale and that regular employees substituting earn their regular rate of pay.

Mrs. Sirois noted recent accidents in the state involving students, stated that the District, KPEA, KPESA, and Safe Kids will be provided reflectors for students to wear and have suggested that student

ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SITE COUNCIL AND/OR P.T.A., K.P.A.A., K.P.E.A.,

**K.P.E.S.A, BOROUGH
ASSEMBLY:**
(Continued)

councils participate in developing student safety programs. She congratulated Miss Allie Ostrander and KCHS for her national championship. She expressed appreciation for the KCHS and KMS musical performances. She noted that after school building use and activities require extra effort from support staff. She noted the 100% immunization compliance rate for the District nurses.

Mr. David Brighton, KPEA president, expressed appreciation for the Nikiski Middle High School staff and community. He discussed Mr. Zorbas' work with distance learning including a professional development class that he offers. He reported that on Saturday, January 10 he met with a group of teachers and the Department of Education to prepare for the new Alaska Measures of Progress (AMP) test and discussed the District's work towards being prepared for this new assessment.

Mr. Jeff Ambrosier, KPAA president, stated that principals will meet, via Lync, on Thursday, January 15 to prepare for the new AMP assessment and discussed the adjustments needed to make this new test successful. He stated that administrators will meet next week, via Lync, to discuss student growth maps. He commended Tustumena Elementary for completing growth maps for all of the students. He expressed appreciation for Mr. Dusek's work to bring KPBSD to the forefront of education in Alaska and especially cited his work on the teacher evaluation process and student growth maps. He stated that KPAA supports Mr. Dusek as superintendent of schools.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT:**
(10:14:58 PM)

Mr. Dusek reported on the administration hiring timelines for Homer Flex, Tebughna School, Soldotna High School, and Connections Homeschool Program and invited the Board to attend the community meetings. He noted Mr. Jones' swimming pool update memo in the General Information Packet which outlines the next steps in the decision making process and thanked Mr. Jones for his work on the process. He noted that Monday, January 19 is Martin Luther King Day and most schools will be closed. He stated that the legislative session opens on January 20. He announced that the next Administrator Meeting will be held on January 21 and invited the Board to attend. He conveyed that the next school board meeting will be on February 2, a quick turnaround from this meeting. He congratulated and thanked the certified and support staff retirees approved on the agenda and especially thanked Ms. Cathy Rolph for her service to the district.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:
(10:19:14 PM)

Mr. Jones presented the financial reports of the District for the periods ending November 30, 2014 and December 31, 2014.

**QUARTERLY BUDGET
TRANSFER REPORT:**
(10:20:47 PM)

Mr. Jones presented the budget transfer report for the second quarter of FY15.

BOARD REPORTS:*(10:21:51 PM)*

Mr. Castimore attended the Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB) Winter Boardmanship Conference in December where they discussed negotiations and met with senate and house leaders to discuss the upcoming legislative session.

Mrs. Downing reported that the Legislative Committee met earlier in the day to plan for the AASB February Legislative Fly-In and to review pre-filed bills. After the Legislative Committee meeting, she met with Senator Peter Micciche to discuss budget issues and the legislative session. She stated that she will attend the Wellness Committee Meeting on January 13.

Ms. Hohl attended the Cooper Landing School recognition program.

Mrs. Hilts attended a community meeting at Susan B. English School to discuss the school's damaged shop and reported that the building will be restored. She attended a meeting at Voznesenka School where they discussed the school's transportation needs and school facilities needs for the Old Russian Believer communities.

Mrs. Vadla attended the KPBSD Art Educator Art Show and noted the District art teachers work exhibited there. She discussed the importance and value of the arts in education.

Mr. Navarre reported that on December 30 he attended a high school basketball game in Homer. He commented that Miss Allie Ostrander serves as a student representative to the Kenai City Council and commended her, her parents and KCHS for her successes.

BOARD WORKSESSION REPORT:*(10:30:17 PM)*

Mr. Arness reported that the Board held worksessions regarding Board Policy, FY15 Budget Revision and FY16 Budget Information, the Superintendent Position and an executive session. All members present at the meeting attended the worksessions.

CONSENT AGENDA:*(10:30:42 PM)*

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Resignations, Budget Transfers, 2014-15 New Teacher Contract, and Revision of Pay Schedule for Substitutes and other Temporary Employees 2014-2015.

RESIGNATIONS:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve resignations from Marilyn Johnson, Principal, Tebughna School and Cathleen Rolph, Facilitator Gifted Teacher, Soldotna Prep School, both effective the end of the 2014-15 school year.

BUDGET TRANSFERS:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve budget transfer #360 for Soldotna Montessori Charter School for the purchase of instructional materials and #397 for the Curriculum Department for the purchase of elementary math curriculum supplies.

NEW TEACHER CONTRACT:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a 2014-15 New Teacher Contract for Roderic Van Saun, Temporary Marine Technology Instructor (.20 FTE) for second semester.

CONSENT AGENDA:

(Continued)

REVISION OF PAY SCHEDULE:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve the revised Pay Schedule for Substitutes and other Temporary Employees for the 2014-15 school year, effective February 24, 2015.

MOTION:

Mrs. Hilts moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 4. Mr. Holt seconded.

Mrs. Vadla removed item 11a. (3) 2014-15 New Teacher Contract.

Motion carried unanimously for items 1, 2, and 4.

Motion carried unanimously for item 3.

POLICY REVISION:

(10:33:10 PM)

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve revisions to BP 3344 Remote Site Living Expenses, BP 3471 Equipment Reserve Fund and AR 6146.1 High School Graduation Requirements.

MOTION:

Mr. Castimore moved the Board approve revisions to BP 3344 Remote Site Living Expenses, BP 3471 Equipment Reserve Fund and AR 6146.1 High School Graduation Requirements. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

FY15 BUDGET REVISION:

(10:34:25 PM)

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve the FY15 General Fund and Special Revenue Fund Budget Revisions as recommended.

MOTION:

Mrs. Hilts moved the Board approve the FY15 General Fund and Special Revenue Fund Budget Revisions as recommended. Ms. Hohl seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

BOARD COMMENTS:

(10:35:03 PM)

Mrs. Hilts wished everyone Happy New Year. She is looking forward to an exciting winter and spring.

Mr. Navarre expressed appreciation for the evening's school reports and student performances. He thanked Assemblyman Gilman for attending the meeting. He stated that, after the situation is resolved, he will review the board policy to develop a better way to respond to situations such as the recent one at Nikiski Middle High School.

Mrs. Vadla expressed appreciation for the evening's school reports and students' performances. She thanked the Nikiski community for their testimony. She expressed appreciation for the substitute pay rate increases. She thanked Ms. Linda Swarner for her presentation.

Mr. Castimore noted Ms. Hohl's board request for information (received by email) and stated he would like to see a response to it.

BOARD COMMENTS:

(Continued)

Mrs. Downing expressed appreciation for the evening's school reports and students' performances. She thanked the Nikiski community for their testimony.

Mr. Holt expressed appreciation for the evening's school reports and students' performances.

Ms. Hohl expressed appreciation for the evening's school reports and students' performances and stated that student presentations are the highlight of the Board meetings. She noted that on a recent trip to Baltimore, she found that the city still celebrates the 2013 200th anniversary of the writing of *The National Anthem*. She expressed appreciation for the beginnings, direction and growth of the distance learning program. As a member of the Seward Community Choir she has worked with a music notation program and complimented Ms. Sounart's ability to quickly transpose student music. She commented on the passion and support shown by the Nikiski community at the evening's meeting.

Miss Kulikov noted the quality of the room's new microphone system. She expressed appreciation for the KCHS choir performance and thanked the District for making music in education a priority. She noted the work the District is doing to connect schools nationally and internationally including the COSI program that Mr. Zorbas discussed in his presentation. She stated that the KCHS students should be proud of their accomplishments. She commented that she does not know the facts of the events at NMHS but appreciates the parent and community support. She expressed appreciation for the work done by the Kenai Peninsula Food Bank. She wished Mr. Navarre a belated happy birthday.

Mr. Arness announced that he was recently a victim of a phishing incident, apologized to anyone that received an email because of this and thanked the District Information Services Department for their help and expertise. He discussed the NMHS incident, noting that he felt caught in the middle, expressed appreciation for the Nikiski community support and commended Mr. Dusek for his handling of the situation.

ADJOURN:

(10:53:51 PM)

At 10:53 p.m., Mr. Arness adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Joe Arness, President

Mrs. Penny Vadla, Clerk

Approved 2-2-15