



# Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes

March 7, 2016 – 6:00 p.m.  
Regular Meeting

Borough Administration Building  
148 N. Binkley, Soldotna, Alaska

**SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:** Mr. Joe Arness, President  
Mr. Bill Holt, Vice President  
Mrs. Penny Vadla, Clerk  
Mr. Tim Navarre, Treasurer  
Mr. Marty Anderson  
Mr. Dan Castimore  
Mrs. Liz Downing  
Ms. Lynn Hohl  
Mr. John Kelly  
Mr. Brian Dusek, Student Representative

**STAFF PRESENT:** Mr. Sean Dusek, Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. John O'Brien, Assistant Superintendent  
Mr. Dave Jones, Assistant Superintendent

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Dr. Christine Ermold  
Mr. Tim Vlasak  
Mrs. Julie Cisco  
Ms. Pegge Erkeneff  
Mr. Conrad Woodhead  
Mr. Tony Graham  
Mrs. Linda Reinhart  
Mrs. Linda Brady  
Mrs. Susan Crane  
Mr. Brent Johnson  
Mrs. Patty Sirois  
Mrs. Debbie Harris

Others present not identified.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mr. Arness invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT:** Ms. Hohl read the District's mission statement.

**ROLL CALL:**

Mr. Marty Anderson	Present ( <i>Telephonically</i> )
Mr. Joe Arness	Present
Mr. Dan Castimore	Present
Mrs. Liz Downing	Present ( <i>Telephonically</i> )
Ms. Lynn Hohl	Present
Mr. Bill Holt	Present
Mr. John Kelly	Present
Mr. Tim Navarre	Present
Mrs. Penny Vadla	Present
Mr. Brian Dusek	Present

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** The agenda was approved with the addition of 10b. Kaleidoscope School of Arts and Science (KSAS) APC Bylaws update and 10c. KSAS Admission and Enrollment Policies Section V revision.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The School Board Minutes of February 1, 2016, were approved as revised.

**AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:**

The Board presented Mrs. Jean Calhoun, West Homer Elementary Secretary, with the Golden Apple Award for her service to the District. Mrs. Calhoun was unable to attend the meeting. President Arness will present the award to her at West Homer Elementary School, at a later date.

The Board presented Mrs. Linda Reinhart, Paul Banks Elementary volunteer, with the Golden Apple Award for her service to the District.

The Board presented Ms. Linda Brady, Chapman School teacher, with the Golden Apple Award for her service to the District.

**SCHOOL REPORT:**

Mr. Conrad Woodhead, Chapman School principal, shared a Prezi presentation highlighting the school's demographics, staff, supportive parents and stakeholders, awards, culture, support of families in need, community partnerships, and school improvement plan. He discussed the school's recent facility upgrades and stated that the school is still in need of some major building improvements. He noted the number of students that live in the area but do not attend the school, including those that attend Connections. He explained the class scheduling and efforts to develop programs that work for all students. Mr. Woodhead discussed student attendance rates and attendance monitoring. He noted several items that contribute to the school's success including collaboration and blended learning. He described the 1 to 1 technology program, provided through a legislative grant, which provided iPods and iPads for student use. He thanked the District and Board for their support. Mr. Jonathan Sharp, teacher, discussed the school's carpentry program while two students presented the Board with student-made birch pencil holders. The students shared their experiences in wood shop.

**RECESS:**

At 6:43 p.m., Mr. Arness recessed the meeting.

**RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:**

At 6:50 p.m., Mr. Arness reconvened the meeting.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:**

Mr. Dusek reported that the recent State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services immunization audit found the District 100% compliant. He thanked Ms. Carmen Magee and all school nurses for their work. He noted that March is national Music in the Schools month and encouraged the Board to attend some of the school music concerts being offered throughout the month. He stated that Governor Walker proclaimed March as Alaska Arts Education Month. He thanked District art teachers and students for their contributions to the Alaska Council of School Administrators "Alaska's Heart through Student Art" student arts and technology legislative reception in Juneau, February 20-23, 2016.

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

Mrs. Patty Sirois, K.P.E.S.A. president, congratulated the evening's Golden Apple recipients. She expressed appreciation for school nurses and their recent 100% compliant audit. She discussed the value of music and arts in education. She greeted Mrs. Debbie Harris, art specialist, in the audience. She thanked Mr. Castimore for his comments during the afternoon's work session, regarding Board fringe benefits. She expressed disappointment with the costs of District legal fees and noted a recent fund transfer to increase that budget. She hopes that the contract negotiations will soon be settled.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT:**

Mr. Dusek recognized various students for recent sports and activities awards. He congratulated Mr. Trevan Walker for being selected as the Alaska Society for Technology in Education (ASTE) Administrator of the Year. He discussed the seminars which he attended at the AASA national superintendent's conference February 11-13, 2016. He stated that Mr. Cody McCanna has been selected as the new administrator for Aurora Borealis Charter School. He noted several items in the general information packet including the information on the Seldovia shop award, Mr. Pothast's Innovation Committee report, and an update on the Voznesenka School lease. Mr. Dusek stated that the state budget is currently being reviewed by the House Finance Committee and is tentatively scheduled to move to the floor on March 9. Local residents wishing to testify to the Senate Budget sub-committee about the budget, may do so on Wednesday, March 9, at the Legislative Information Office in Kenai. He stated that Tuesday, March 8, the Board will hold a work session at Soldotna High School beginning at 9:30 a.m. The Board and Borough Assembly will meet in a joint budget work session on March 8 at 1:00 p.m. in Borough Assembly Chambers. He announced that Mrs. Lassie Nelson will retire in June and expressed appreciation for her work and service to the District.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

Mr. Jones presented the financial report of the District for the period ending January 31, 2016.

**PRESENTATION OF THE  
FY17 BUDGET:**

Mr. Jones reported on the current status of the FY17 Preliminary General Fund budget. Mr. Arness offered the Board and the public an opportunity to comment. No comments were offered.

**BOARD REPORTS:**

Mrs. Downing attended the Key Communicator Collaboration on February 2, the Innovation Committee meeting on March 1 and the Homer Public Budget Forum meeting on February 23. She attended (telephonically) the Communication and Legislative Committee meetings earlier in the day.

**BOARD REPORTS:**

(Continued)

Ms. Hohl attended the Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB) February Legislative Fly In in Juneau and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to represent the Board and to receive valuable professional development, and insight into legislation and the legislature. She discussed legislative action and issues that occurred during her time there. She was disappointed in the legislators that were only willing to meet with their constituents so the number of scheduled appointments was decreased from previous years. She expressed appreciation for the District students' work displayed at the "Alaska's Heart through Student Art" exhibit. She attended the AASB large district meeting. She participated in the Effective Instruction Committee meeting on March 4 and expressed appreciation for Dr. Christine Ermold's facilitation and presentation.

Mrs. Vadla attended the Soldotna Public Budget Forum meeting on February 17. She attended the Key Communicator Collaboration on February 2. She participated in the Communication and Legislative Committee meetings earlier in the day.

Mr. Brian Dusek attended the AASB Spring Academy in February in Juneau and attended legislator appointments with Ms. Hohl. He noted the positive influence of the KPBSD in the state. He reported that he is working with Mr. O'Brien and Ms. Erkeneff to develop a student advisory board to the school board which will improve communications with District student councils.

Mr. Holt attended the Key Communicator Collaboration on February 2. He attended the Soldotna Public Budget Forum meeting on February 17. He read Dr. Seuss stories to students at Soldotna Elementary.

Mr. Navarre reported that the Legislative Committee met earlier in the day, discussed their agenda items and received a presentation from Mrs. Linda Swarner from the Kenai Peninsula Food Bank. He stated that Mr. Kelly, Mrs. Downing and he will attend the AASB Legislative Fly In March 19-22.

**BOARD WORK SESSION  
REPORT:**

Mr. Arness reported that the Board held work sessions entitled Alternative Schools, Board Policy, Kenai Peninsula Building Authority Parcels and the FY17 Budget. All members present at the meeting, attended the work sessions.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were approval of Resolution 15-16-5 March Music in Our Schools Month, Budget Transfers, 2015-2016 New Teacher Contracts, Resignations, 2015-2016 Long Term Substitute Contract(s), 2016-17 Tentative Non-Tenured Contract(s), 2016-17 Tentative Non-Tenured Contract(s) and Tenure, Leave of Absence Request Certified and Cancellation of March 21, 2016 Board Meeting.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

(Continued)

**RESOLUTION 15-16-5 MUSIC  
IN OUR SCHOOLS MONTH:**

Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve Resolution 15-16-5 proclaiming March 2016 as Music in Our Schools Month.

**BUDGET TRANSFERS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve budget transfers 486 to purchase elementary math curriculum supplies and 538 through 541 on behalf of the Charter Schools for their portion of in-kind services and building rent.

**NEW TEACHER CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve 2015-2016 New Teacher Contracts for Judith Eckert, generalist teacher and Greg Neeley, computer education/welding teacher (.80 FTE).

**RESIGNATIONS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve resignations from Dan Adair, Science Teacher, Nikiski Middle/High School, effective end of the 2014-15 school year (LOA 2015-16 school year); Rose Armstrong, 2nd Grade Teacher, Nikiski North Star Elementary School, effective end of the 2014-15 school year (LOA 2015-16 school year); Michelle Green, Primary Grade Teacher, Nikiski North Star Elementary School, effective end of the 2014-15 School year (LOA 2015-16 school year); Maygen Lotscher, Art Teacher, Homer High School, effective end of the 2014-15 school year (LOA 2015-16 school year); Karen Weston, Quest Facilitator Teacher, McNeil Canyon Elementary School, effective December 18, 2015 (LOA 2nd half of 2015-16 school year); and David Aamodt, Speech/Language Pathologist, Homer Area; Julie Boll, Kindergarten/1st Grade Teacher, Ninilchik School; Gayle Buben, 2nd/3rd Grade Teacher, Soldotna Elementary School; Hannah Gutschenritter, Social Studies Teacher, Skyview Middle School; Patricia Haywood, 6th Grade Teacher, K-Beach Elementary School; Holly Hoke, School Psychologist, Seward Elementary School; Christina MacDougall, Interventionist/ Primary Grade Teacher, Paul Banks Elementary School; Barbara McNinch, Occupational Therapist, Soldotna Elementary School; Zackary Miller, Third Grade Teacher, West Homer Elementary School; Hannah Vincent, English Language Learner Specialist, District Office; Jeffrey Vincent, Science Teacher, Soldotna Prep School; Camron Wyatt, Vocational Education Teacher, Homer High School; and Holly Zwink, Special Education Resource Teacher, Kenai Central High School; all effective end of the 2015-16 school year.

**LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE  
TEACHER CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve 2015-2016 long-term substitute teacher contracts for Maria Chythlook, Soldotna Prep School; Judy Cox, Mountain View Elementary School; Shirley Gribble, West Homer Elementary School; Marsha Gustkey, Seward Elementary School; Lori Jenkins, Voznesenka School; Sarah Jones, Soldotna High School; Jan Spurkland, Chapman School; and John Wensley, K-Beach Elementary School.

**TENTATIVE NON-TENURED  
TEACHER CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve 2015-2016 tentative non-tenured teacher contracts for Shanna Demlow, Teacher/Special Education; Terri Lyn Gentry, Teacher/Regular; Devin Michel, Teacher/Regular; and Colby Way, Teacher/Regular.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

(Continued)

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

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve 2015-2016 tentative non-tenured teacher contracts and tenure for Sally Ash, Teacher/Regular; Penny Bearden, Teacher/Regular; Glendon Fraser, Teacher/Regular; and Kara Fraser, Teacher/Regular.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE  
REQUEST/CERTIFIED:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a leave of absence for Carolyn Russell, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, Redoubt Elementary School, effective the 2016-17 school year.

**CANCELLATION OF BOARD  
MEETING:**

Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve the cancellation of the scheduled March 21, 2016 board meeting.

**MOTION:**

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**KSAS APC BYLAWS UPDATE:**

Ms. Hohl moved that the Board approve the Kaleidoscope School of Arts and Science (KSAS) Bylaws revisions as presented to the Charter School Committee at their March 7 meeting. Mr. Holt seconded.

Ms. Hohl described the revisions in detail.

VOTE on 10b.:

ADVISORY VOTE: Dusek

YES – Castimore, Hohl, Holt, Kelly, Navarre, Vadla, Arness

NO –

ABSTAIN: Anderson, Downing

Motion carried.

**KSAS ADMISSION &  
ENROLLMENT POLICIES:**

Ms. Hohl moved that the Board accept the Charter School recommendation to approve the bylaws update for KSAS APC for their admission and enrollment policies section V-3. Mr. Holt seconded.

Ms. Hohl described the revisions in detail.

VOTE ON 10c.:

ADVISORY VOTE: Dusek

YES – Castimore, Hohl, Holt, Kelly, Navarre, Vadla, Arness

NO –

ABSTAIN: Anderson, Downing

Motion carried.

**FIRST READING OF POLICY  
REVISIONS:**

The Board heard a first reading of BB 9320 Meetings.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/  
COMMENTS:**

Mrs. Sirois stated that Mr. David Brighton did not attend the meeting due to illness. She stated that she would like Mr. Woodhead to purchase a pair of pink socks (matching his) for Mr. Graham.

Mrs. Downing was disconnected from the meeting at 7:33 p.m. She reconnected at 7:34 p.m.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

Ms. Hohl added that she attended the Key Communicator Collaboration on February 2. She recognized the students honored at the state Reflections Competition and stated that next year's theme will be "What is Your Story?" She reported on her attendance to a SeaView Community Services board meeting. She reported on the Alaska Tsunami Ocean Sciences Bowl held February 26-28. She noted Mrs. Nelson's retirement and will miss working with her. She recently visited her granddaughters in Seattle. She thanked Mr. Brian Dusek for his work in Juneau. She thanked a Paul Banks student for the invitation to their First Friday Art Extravaganza and stated that she wished she could attend.

Mr. Kelly expressed appreciation for the evening's Golden Apple Award recipients. He stated that if the additional \$50 to the Base Student Allocation (BSA) is approved in the governor's budget, he would like those funds to be dedicated to the Pupil Teacher Ratio in order to keep class sizes lower. He expressed appreciation for Mr. Woodhead and his school report.

Mr. Castimore noted that in the December 15, 1975 Board meeting minutes, Mr. Dick Swarner reported why the Kenai Peninsula Building Authority was formed. He expressed appreciation for Mrs. Nelson and remembered her time as the Nikiski High School secretary.

Mrs. Vadla thanked Mrs. Linda Swarner for her report at the Legislative Committee meeting. She thanked Mr. Reese and Mr. Brown for speaking during the Alternative Schools work session. She thanked Mr. Woodhead for his report and for bringing students with him. She discussed Mr. Jeff Ambrosier's career development grant synopsis in the general information packet.

Mr. Navarre congratulated the evening's Golden Apple Award recipients. He thanked Mr. Woodhead for his school report and the students for the pencil holder gift. He thanked Mrs. Debbie Harris for her advocacy for arts in education and in students' lives. He thanked Mr. Brent Johnson for attending the meeting. He expressed appreciation for the collaborative work done by the Borough and the District in order to benefit students.

Mr. Holt expressed appreciation for Mrs. Nelson and her work for the District. He thanked Mr. Tony Graham for attending the meeting. He discussed the Tsalteshi Trails ski program classes which were cancelled for the third year in a row due to the weather.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**  
(Continued)

Mrs. Downing congratulated the evening's Golden Apple Award recipients. She thanked Mr. Woodhead for his report.

Mr. Anderson thanked the District administration for their work during a difficult financial time.

Mr. Dusek congratulated Mrs. Nelson on her upcoming retirement. He congratulated the evening's Golden Apple Award recipients. He expressed appreciation for Chapman School and stated that he attended their recent "pie in face" event. He attended the Key Communicator Collaboration on February 2. He reported that representatives from the KPNYO and the Key Communicators attended the Student Advisory Council meeting. He expressed appreciation for getting to know Ms. Hohl during the AASB Legislative Fly In.

Mr. Arness thanked Mr. Castimore for citing the minutes regarding the Kenai Peninsula Building Authority and remembered Mr. Dick Swarner, his work for the District and his personality. He thanked Mr. Woodhead for his presentation and his pink sock idea.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

At 7:45 p.m., Mr. Navarre 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. The executive session was held to discuss contract negotiations. Mr. Kelly seconded.

VOTE ON EXECUTIVE SESSION.:

ADVISORY VOTE: Dusek

YES – Castimore, Downing, Hohl, Holt, Kelly, Navarre, Vadla, Arness

NO –

When the vote was taken, Mr. Anderson was found to have left the meeting.

Motion carried.

**ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

At 9:57 p.m., Mr. Navarre moved the Board adjourn the executive session. Ms. Hohl seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was noted that the results of the executive sessions were to give direction to the administration regarding employee contract negotiations.



**ADJOURN:**

At 9:57 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

Approved 4-4-2016

Submitted by Mrs. Debbie Tressler  
Administrative Secretary to the Board of Education