



# Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes

May 2, 2016 – 6:00 p.m.  
Regular Meeting

Seward High School  
2100 Swetmann, Seward, 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. David Kingsland
Ms. Pegge Erkeneff	Mrs. Patty Sirois
Mr. Trevan Walker	Mr. David Brighton
Mr. Andrew Rothenberger	Ms. Sue McClure
Mr. Conrad Woodhead	Mrs. Mica VanBuskirk

Others present not identified.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., noting the late start was due to technical issues.

**NATIONAL ANTHEM:**

Seward High School student, Miss Susannah Doepken, sang *The National Anthem*.

**DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT:**

Mr. Kelly read the District's mission statement.

**ROLL CALL:**

Mr. Marty Anderson	Present
Mr. Joe Arness	Present
Mr. Dan Castimore	Present
Mrs. Liz Downing	Present
Ms. Lynn Hohl	Present
Mr. Bill Holt	Present
Mr. John Kelly	Present
Mr. Tim Navarre	Present
Mrs. Penny Vadla	Present
Mr. Brian Dusek	Absent/Excused

**MOTION:**

Mr. Kelly moved the Board remove item 10b. FY17 Voznesenka School Recommendation. Ms. Hohl seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

The agenda was approved with the addition of 10a. (7) 2016-17 Tentative Administrator Contract(s) and the removal of 10b. FY17 Voznesenka School Recommendation.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The School Board Minutes of April 4, 2016, were approved as corrected.

The School Board Minutes of April 5, 2016, were approved as printed.

**SCHOOL REPORT:**

Seward Middle School (SMS) principal, Mr. Andy Rothenberger, thanked Ms. Nichols and the SMS foods class for providing dinner for the Board. He thanked his guitar and ukulele classes which performed one song each before the meeting began. Mr. Rothenberger presented a short video displaying photos of the school's students involved in school projects and activities. He discussed failure and pushing through with grit and determination. He itemized school projects and activities, staff abilities and volunteers. He explained the school's scheduling, facilities and demographics. He expressed the value of a child's middle school years. He noted that failures are just as valuable as successes in the development of students and stated that SMS coaches its students through failure.

Mr. Trevan Walker, Seward High School principal, introduced the Seward High School Music Collective who performed "*This Train*." Mr. Walker presented an update regarding Seward High's transition to a Hybrid High School. He discussed the challenges that change can present especially when varying from traditional scheduling and classrooms. He highlighted three mind sets to the program, i.e. graduation requirements, the definition of success, and parent partnerships which drive the school's decision making process. He discussed staff professional development. He noted that Seward High has developed the school's technology program to include almost one computer per student. He further explained how technology is used in the school, the CTE program including local partnerships, and other student programs and personal learning plans. He noted the school's graduation rates, plans for the future including attendance rate reform and intervention program improvements. He highlighted an article in the ASCD Leadership magazine regarding Seward High School.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:**

Ms. Rayette McGlashan, Qutekcak child development coordinator, thanked the Board for the dinner invitation and for partnering with the agency. She discussed the program and the children served.

Mr. David Kingsland stated that Seward Elementary held a program celebrating the National Park Service's Centennial and stated that the school's next newsletter will include a link to a video of the program.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:**

(Continued)

Ms. Jen Haugh, kindergarten teacher, expressed appreciation for the support from Seward community agencies and parent groups. She discussed school field trips and student programs. She expressed dissatisfaction for the collective bargaining process and that the negotiations have not been completed.

Mr. James Wardlow, Qutekcak youth coordinator and Native Youth Olympics (NYO) coach, thanked the District for allowing their program to utilize school facilities for the NYO program. He expressed a desire for more native involvement in student school activities.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:**

Mr. Dusek reported that the application period is closed for the position of Commissioner of Education and the state expects to complete the interview process and have a decision in June. He noted the resolution in the information packet regarding Kenai Peninsula Borough funding. He announced that Mr. Arness and he will present a quarterly update to the Borough Assembly on May 3. He stated the District received a \$25,000 Student Awareness and Suicide Prevention and Post-vention grant and thanked Mrs. Melissa Linton and the district counselors for their work.

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SITE COUNCIL AND/OR AUTHORIZED STUDENT SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS, 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, expressed appreciation for being in Seward. She thanked the audience for attending. She thanked Ms. Kayce James for her direction of the guitar student performance. She noted various appreciation days and periods including: Administrative Professional Day, Student Nutrition Services (SNS) Appreciation Week, Principal's Day, and Teacher Appreciation Day and Week. She expressed appreciation for Miss Susannah Doepken's performance of *The National Anthem*. She expressed appreciation for this year's Caring for the Kenai competition and the BP Teachers of Excellence winners. She requested the Board and administration settle the contract negotiations.

Mr. David Brighton, KPEA president, expressed appreciation for principals, teachers and SNS employees. He thanked the District for their recent work to resolve an issue regarding sick leave accrual. He announced that the Associations are hosting yearend barbeques. He discussed several of this year's successes including the end of No Child Left Behind, the introduction of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and progress made with student growth maps. He noted the \$50 increase to the base student allocation (BSA) and hopes the legislative session will end well. He discussed the upcoming arbitration and stated that he hopes the contract will soon be settled.

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE,  
SITE COUNCIL AND/OR  
AUTHORIZED STUDENT  
SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS,  
P.T.A., K.P.A.A., K.P.E.A.,  
K.P.E.S.A, BOROUGH  
ASSEMBLY:  
(Continued)**

Ms. Mica VanBuskirk, Seward Site Council president, thanked the Board for removing the pupil teacher ratio (PTR) increase for next school year. She discussed Seward's staffing formulas, Seward's unique sixth grade population, program cuts and the additional assignments given to teachers in order to provide classes needed for students to graduate. She requested that the Board hold a work session on staffing and allow for public input. She stated that the elementary school office needs to be renovated in order to enable the school secretaries to see people entering the building.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT:**

Mr. Dusek acknowledged the Caring for the Kenai winners and twelve finalists. He recognized Student Nutrition Services (SNS) Appreciation Week, Principal's Day, Teacher Appreciation Day and Week and School Nurse's Day and thanked these employees for their efforts. He stated that the BP Teachers of Excellence awards will be held on Wednesday, May 4, where this year's BP Teacher of the Year will be announced. He discussed Mr. Jones' student transportation bids memo, noted that the administration will meet soon with the southern peninsula community to obtain their feedback and will make a bid award recommendation. He thanked Mr. Jones for his work to obtaining multiple vendor bids. He responded in writing to the McNeil Community Council's letter to the Board regarding transportation issues and Mrs. Julie Cisco met with the Council on April 14 to discuss their concerns. He stated that he will continue to monitor legislative budget conversations and testify to the legislature as needed. He thanked Mr. O'Brien and Mr. Jones for their extra efforts during the transition through recent district office staffing cuts.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

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

**QUARTERLY BUDGET  
TRANSFER REPORT:**

Mr. Jones presented the budget transfer report for the third quarter of FY16.

**BOARD REPORTS:**

On Wednesday, April 27, Mrs. Downing represented the Board on KBBI radio's final Coffee Table, along with Representative Paul Seaton, Borough Chief of Staff Mr. Paul Ostrander, and Homer City Manager Ms. Katie Koester, where they discussed the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS), the Teacher's Retirement System (TRS) and other current legislative issues.

Mrs. Vadla attended the National School Board Association (NSBA) Annual Conference in Boston, MA on April 9-11, 2016 and discussed presentations and sessions she attended while there. She attended the Future Problem Solving competition for elementary and middle schools students, noted that no high school students participated and discussed the value of the program. She stated that she was not able to attend the Caring for the Kenai competition this year.

**BOARD REPORTS:**

(Continued)

Ms. Hohl attended the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly meeting in Seward on April 19, 2016 where she spoke in support of fully funding schools. She discussed the approval of the Ninilchik Trading liquor license request and changes made by the Borough in the way the 500 foot proximity distance is measured. She requested that the Board monitor the Borough's marijuana legislation. She stated that the Alaska Vocational Technical Center (AVTEC) construction and instructional electricity classes are volunteering to assist in the completion of the Bear Creek Fire Hall. She asked Mayor Navarre if AVTEC students could be allowed to work on small projects in school buildings.

Mr. Holt attended the Kenai Peninsula Schools Activities Association (KPSAA) executive board meeting on February 18, 2016, and noted the handbook changes brought forward to the Board during the day's work session. He attended the Career and Technical Advisory Committee (CTAC) meeting with Ms. Hohl, on April 7, 2016. He reported that he also attended the NSBA Annual Conference in Boston, MA where he attended different sessions than Mrs. Vadla and noted the value of the classes.

Mr. Kelly attended the Nanwalek ConnectEd iPad program celebration and a Spirit of Youth award presentation.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Mrs. Downing reported that the Legislative Committee met earlier in the day and discussed the agenda items and House Bill 156 - Parental Rights. She noted that Kenai Peninsula legislators will probably have competition during the next election. The Legislative Committee will next meet in August to make plans for upcoming year and only as needed until then.

Mr. Castimore reported that the Policy Review Committee met earlier in the day and discussed two upcoming policy changes.

**BOARD WORK SESSION REPORT:**

Mr. Arness reported that the Board held work sessions entitled Board Policy, KPSAA Handbook Revisions, Career and Technical Education Update, Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Kachemak-Selo School Grant Application and Voznesenka Lease Agreement. All members present at the meeting attended the work sessions.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Leave of Absence Request Certified, Resignation(s), 2016-17 New Teacher Contract(s), 2016-17 New Administrator Contract(s), Long-Term Substitute Contract(s), 2016-17 Tentative Non-Tenured Teacher Contract(s) and Tenure, and 2016-17 Tentative Administrator Contract(s).

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST/CERTIFIED:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a leave of absence for Seanna Gunn, Kindergarten Teacher, Paul Banks Elementary School, effective the 2016-17 school year.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

(Continued)

**RESIGNATIONS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve resignations from Katie Melrose, Language Arts Teacher, Voznesenka School; Kristina Owens, 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, Fireweed Academy; Michael Reid, Special Education Intensive Needs Teacher, Nikiski North Star Elementary School; and Callie Wilder, Science/Math Teacher, Kachemak-Selo School, all effective end of the 2015-16 school year.

**2016-17 NEW TEACHER CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve 2016-17 New Teacher Contracts for Melissa Gersdorf, Special Education Resource Teacher; Stephanie Knaebel, Special Education Intensive Needs Teacher; Amber Kresl, Pre-Kindergarten/Title 1 Teacher; David Lefton, Special Education Resource/General Education Teacher; Davis Lowery, Special Education Resource Teacher; Walter Love, Vocational Education Teacher; Andrea Messenger, Special Education Resource Teacher; Jessica Moore, Intermediate Grade Teacher; Jennifer Waltenbaugh, Pre-Kindergarten Teacher; and Joetta Wolff, Special Education Intensive Needs Teacher.

**2016-17 NEW ADMINISTRATOR CONTRACT:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a 2016-17 New Administrator Contract for Austin Stevenson, Principal, Soldotna Elementary School.

**LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE TEACHER CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve long-term substitute teacher contracts for Laura Beck, Seward Elementary School; Kelli Boonstra, Mountain View Elementary School; Maria Chythlook, Sterling Elementary School; and John Wensley, Redoubt Elementary School.

**2016-17 TENTATIVE NON-TENURED TEACHER CONTRACT AND TENURE:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a 2016-17 Tentative Non-Tenured Teacher Contract and Tenure for Martha Crawford, Special Education Resource Teacher, Kenai Central High School.

**2016-17 TENTATIVE ADMINISTRATOR CONTRACT:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a 2016-17 Tentative Administrator Contract for Melissa Linton, Coordinator, Curriculum and Assessment.

**MOTION:**

Mr. Anderson moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 7. Mr. Navarre seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**FIRST READING OF POLICY REVISIONS:**

The Board heard a first reading of BP 6115 Ceremonies and Observances.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/ COMMENTS:**

Ms. Terri Carter congratulated Ms. Nickole Lyon for her BP Teacher of Excellence award.

Ms. VanBuskirk expressed appreciation for the community's "Peter Pan" production. She expressed desire for school music and art programs.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

Mr. Anderson noted that graduation season reminds him of the reason for board service.

Ms. Hohl attended the Alaska PTA Convention the weekend of April 29-30, 2016 and noted that Commissioner of Education McCauley spoke and asked for parent feedback regarding ESSA. Ms. Hohl discussed a session at the convention dealing with the success of Finland's schools. She expressed appreciation for the community production of "Peter Pan." She expressed disappointment that the BP Teachers of Excellence awards conflicts with the Seward Music Collective performance so she will miss the musical program. She stated that it is the tenth anniversary of her board service. She requested the Board hold a work session on staffing and a school's basic staffing needs.

Mr. Kelly expressed appreciation that item 10b. FY17 Voznesenka School Recommendation was removed from the agenda. He thanked Mr. Jones for his work in resolving the Voznesenka lease agreement.

Mrs. Downing expressed appreciation for Mrs. Sara Moore's work session presentation regarding career counselors' work. She expressed appreciation for Mr. Walker's school report and the direction of Seward High School.

Mrs. Vadla thanked Mr. Walker and Mr. Rothenberger for their school reports and musical performances. She thanked Seward Middle School for dinner. She stated that she enjoys coming to Seward. She thanked Mrs. Moore and Mr. Widaman for their work session presentations. She thanked Dr. Ermold for the ESSA update and for her work.

Mr. Navarre thanked Seward, Mr. Walker and Mr. Rothenberger for their school reports and stated he is looking forward to his second dessert.

Mr. Holt thanked Mr. Wolfgang Kurtz for solving the meeting's technical issues. He expressed appreciation for the school presentations. He noted that he is in the process of learning to play "Under the Sea" on the ukulele. He echoed Mr. Anderson's sentiment on the enjoyment of graduation season. He stated that this year he will attend his 50<sup>th</sup> high school reunion.

Mr. Arness thanked Mr. Walker and Mr. Rothenberger, the Seward community, and Seward Middle School for dinner.

**ADJOURN:**

At 8:09 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 6-6-16**

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