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# Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes

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February 2, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.  
Regular Meeting

Borough Administration Building  
148 N. Binkley, Soldotna, Alaska

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**SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:** Mrs. Sammy Crawford, President  
Mrs. Sunni Hilts, Vice President  
Mr. Marty Anderson, Clerk  
Ms. Lynn Hohl, Treasurer  
Mr. Joe Arness  
Mrs. Liz Downing  
Mr. Gregory Gabriel, Jr.  
Mr. Bill Holt  
Mrs. Penny Vadla  
Miss Theresa Ramponi, Student Representative

**STAFF PRESENT:** Dr. Donna Peterson, Superintendent of Schools  
Mrs. Melody Douglas, Chief Financial Officer  
Mr. Dave Jones, Assistant Superintendent  
Dr. Steve Atwater, Assistant Superintendent

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Mrs. Jeanna Carver	Mrs. Sheila-Margaret Pothast
Mr. Todd Syverson	Mrs. Doris Cannon
Mrs. Sharon Moock	Mr. John Pothast
Mr. Randy Neill	Mr. Doug Cannon
Mrs. Margie Warner	Mrs. Norma Holmgaard
Ms. Cindy Hayes	Mrs. Terri Woodward
Mr. Vernel Schneider	Mr. John O'Brien
Mr. Paul Sorenson	Mrs. LaDawn Druce

Others present not identified.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mrs. Hohl called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m. A quorum of School Board members, Mr. Arness, Mrs. Downing, Mr. Holt, Ms. Hohl, and Mrs. Vadla, were in attendance.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** At 3:16 p.m. Mrs. Downing 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 executive session was to discuss negotiations strategies and tactics. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:** At 3:48 p.m., Mrs. Vadla moved the executive session be adjourned. Mrs. Downing seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Ms. Hohl called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.  
(7:00:08 PM)

**NATIONAL ANTHEM:** Ms. Hohl invited the Soldotna High School Swing Choir to sing the  
(7:00:26 PM) *National Anthem.*

**DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT:**

(7:02:45 PM)

Miss Theresa Ramponi read the District's mission statement.

**ROLL CALL:**

(7:03:10 PM)

Mrs. Sammy Crawford	Absent/Excused
Mrs. Liz Downing	Present
Mr. Marty Anderson	Absent/Excused
Mrs. Sunni Hilts	Absent/Excused
Mr. Joe Arness	Present
Mr. Gregory Gabriel, Jr.	Present
Ms. Lynn Hohl	Present
Mr. Bill Holt	Present
Mrs. Penny Vadla	Present
Miss Theresa Ramponi	Present

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

(7:03:47 PM)

The agenda was approved with the addition of Item 11d., Establishing a Superintendent Search Oversight Committee.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

(7:04:19 PM)

The School Board Minutes of January 12, 2009 were approved as printed.

**AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:**

(7:04:49 PM)

The Board presented a Golden Apple Award to Terri Woodward, Skyview High School head custodian, for her promotion and involvement in the Green Program at Skyview High School.

**SCHOOL REPORT:**

(7:07:34 PM)

Ms. Sharon Moock, Soldotna Middle School principal, gave a computer-generated report, highlighting AYP, community and parent involvement, the new school mission statement, a summary of staffing, programmatic staffing, parent survey results, and the future vision. She introduced Mrs. Sheila-Margaret Pothast who explained the new Spanish Program. Mrs. Pothast distributed cascarones –confetti filled eggs made by the students and invited students, Miss Eden Flake and Miss Sarah Mokracek to lead those present in a song called *La arana pequenita* (or *Eensy, Weensy Spider*).

(7:19:56 PM)

Mr. Todd Syverson, Soldotna High School principal, thanked the Board for their legislative lobbying efforts that brought additional funding to the District. He explained the Adopt-a-Star Program. Mrs. Jeanna Carver, Mr. Matt Walton, Ms. Cindy Hayes, and Miss Josephine Daniels each explained their involvement in the Freshman in Transition Program. The Soldotna High School Swing Choir concluded the presentation by singing *Harriet Tubman*.

**RECESS:**

(7:40:00 PM)

At 7:40 p.m., Ms. Hohl called a recess.

**RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:**

(7:44:49 PM)

At 7:44 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND  
PETITIONS:**

*(7:45:10 PM)*

Dr. Atwater presented communications on behalf of Dr. Peterson who was in attendance but could not speak. He reported that the Board received a letter from Mrs. Crawford regarding the NSBA membership annual dues and a request from the Department of Educational and Early Development regarding the District's feedback on the draft of the Alaska Plan developed at the November Education Summit.

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

*(7:46:03 PM)*

Mrs. Margie Warner, KPESA president, reported that negotiations are in progress and going well. She thanked Dr. Peterson for her service to the District and noted that she will leave big shoes to fill.

Mrs. LaDawn Druce, KPEA president, stated that, although bringing teachers together is a great idea, the Homer and Seward teachers were not pleased to travel to the January 19 inservice and suggested that the administration use the polycom system. She stated that she did not hear complaining from teachers about the inservice just the need for more information and thanked Dr. Atwater for postponing the decision making process and for the follow-up email to all teachers. She reported that she was required to attend the national conference in Reno because KPEA is a recipient of National Education Association grant money to pay for her position as a full-time president. She expressed sympathy for other states who are suffering from drastic cuts in funding. She noted that the Alaska state legislative session has begun and asked the Board to pay attention to SB 23, HB 30, and HB 54 which returns the state retirement plans to a defined benefit system.

Mr. John O'Brien, KPAA president, reported that District schools have benefitted greatly from programmatic staffing, and thanked the administration and Representative Mike Chenault for the funding to make it a reality. He expressed appreciation for forward funding and that he is able to retain all of his teachers this school year and will again next school year. He wished Dr. Peterson the best in her future endeavors. He noted that it is a distinct pleasure to work for her and that in his 16-year career, she is among the best superintendents he has worked with. He stated that the superintendent tenure national average in a large district is 2½ years and in that amount of time academic improvement or instructional improvement cannot take place. On behalf of KPAA, he urged the Board to look within the organization before spending thousands of dollars to hire a national search service. He acknowledged the amount of leadership already working for KPBSD and added that KPAA is looking forward to working closely with the Board in selecting the next superintendent.

**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)*

Mr. Pete Sprague, Soldotna area Borough Assembly member, expressed appreciation for the presentations by Mrs. Moock and Mr. Syverson and was especially interested in remarks made by Mrs. Pothast regarding the middle school Spanish Program. He reported that Borough Assembly members were recently in Juneau and spoke with the Kenai Peninsula delegation. He stated that the Borough is well positioned with House Speaker Mike Chenault and Senate President Gary Stevens in leadership roles. He stated that Assembly members participated in the Alaska Municipal League Legislative Conference while in Juneau and noted that education and PERS and TRS funding are high priorities of AML and the Borough. He encouraged the Board to keep advocating for forward funding of education, funding for the state retirement systems, and the adjustments to the funding formula. He extended best wishes to Dr. Peterson in her future endeavors and commended her for an excellent job as superintendent over the past 10 years.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT:**

*(8:02:24 PM)*

Dr. Atwater provided the report on Dr. Peterson's behalf. He reported on five items: 1) Project GRAD would be receiving \$10,000 from Wal-Mart; 2) community presentations have been scheduled for four administrative vacancies (Soldotna High assistant principal, West Homer Elementary School principal, Nanwalek School principal/teacher, Tehughna School principal/teacher); 3) Parent Group Training was held on Thursday, January 29; 4) the District is on high alert and information is ready for the local radio stations and the website should there be a volcanic eruption from Mt. Redoubt; and 5) Governor Palin has appointed Mr. Dave Jones to be a member of the Education Funding District Cost Factor Commission.

**BOARD REPORTS:**

*(8:04:32 PM)*

Mrs. Vadla reported that she attended the January 19 Districtwide inservice and the Playground Committee meeting at Soldotna High School.

Mr. Holt reported that he attended the January 19 Districtwide inservice. He reported on his involvement in two ski meets.

Ms. Hohl reported that she recently attended a Site Council meeting and jazz concert at Soldotna High School. She reported that she attended the Quality Schools/Quality Students meetings in Seward and the Seward PTSA meeting.

**BOARD WORKSESSION  
REPORT:**

*(8:09:03 PM)*

Mrs. Hohl reported that the Board conducted an executive session regarding negotiations and then during a worksession, discussed the superintendent vacancy and how to proceed with hiring a replacement. She reported that the Board heard an update regarding Response To Intervention, held a worksession on the World Language Curriculum and participated in a conference call with Kenai Peninsula Legislators regarding education legislation. She reported that all members who were at the Board meeting were present for the worksessions except Mr. Gabriel who missed the executive session.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**  
(8:09:50 PM)

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of High School Graduation Qualifying Examination Waiver Number 2009-07; Tenure Teacher Contracts 2009-2010; Administrator Contracts 2009-2010; Resignations; Long-Term Substitute; and 2009-2010 District Organizational Chart.

**HSGQE WAIVER:**

Dr. Atwater recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Examination Waiver Number 2009-07.

**TENTATIVE TENURE  
TEACHER CONTRACTS 2009-  
2010:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a list of tentative tenure teacher contracts for the 2009-2010 school year.

**ADMINISTRATOR  
CONTRACTS 2009-2010:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a list of tentative administrator contracts for the 2009-2010 school year.

**RESIGNATIONS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve resignations effective at the end of the 2008-2009 school year from Donna Peterson, ED.D., superintendent; Cheryl Schweigert, principal/teacher, Nanwalek Elementary/High; Elisabeth Feeley, resource, Soldotna Elementary; Allan Howard, assistant principal, Soldotna High School, and Charlie Walsworth, principal, West Homer Elementary,

**LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a long-term substitute contract for Ed Frink, Kachemak Selo.

**2009-2010 DISTRICT  
ORGANIZATIONAL CHART:**

Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve the 2009-2010 District organizational chart that identifies the lines of primary responsibility and relationships between administrative positions.

**MOTION**

Ms. Downing moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 6. Mr. Arness seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**FY09 BUDGET REVISION:**

Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve FY09 Budget Revisions to the general fund amount of \$120,377,796 and \$20,036,324 for special revenue funds for a total for all funds of \$140,414,120.

**MOTION**

Mr. Gabriel moved the Board approve the FY09 budget revisions to the general fund amount of \$120,377,796 and \$20,036,324 for special revenue funds for a total for all funds of \$140,414,120. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**POLICY REVISIONS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve proposed Revisions to BP and AR 1330, Use of School Facilities and Properties, E 1330, Room/Building Use Permit; AR 2122, Superintendent of Schools – Job Description; E 2240, Management and Communication Systems; E 2250, Absence from Buildings; BP 3311, Bids; and BP 3316, Conflict of Interest.

**POLICY REVISIONS:**  
(continued)

**MOTION**

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve proposed Revisions to BP and AR 1330, Use of School Facilities and Properties, E 1330, Room/Building Use Permit; AR 2122, Superintendent of Schools – Job Description; E 2240, Management and Communication Systems; E 2250, Absence from Buildings; BP 3311, Bids; and BP 3316, Conflict of Interest. Mr. Gabriel seconded.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Downing moved the Board divide the policies and remove BP and AR 1330, Use of School Facilities and Properties and E 1330, Room/Building Use Permit to consider separately. Mr. Holt seconded.

Motion to divide carried unanimously.

Motion to approve remaining policies carried unanimously.

VOTE ON BP, AR and E 1330:

Advisory Vote – YES

YES – Arness, Holt, Downing, Gabriel, Vadla,

NO – Hohl

Motion carried.

**ESTABLISH A  
SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH  
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE:**  
(8:23:29 PM)

**MOTION**

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the following: “The establishment of a committee of three Board members to be appointed by the president of the Board. The charge for this Committee shall be to monitor the superintendent search process, report to the Board regarding that process, participate as appropriate in initial applicant screenings, make recommendations to the Board relative to the process, and return Board wishes and direction to guide administrative activities relative to the search process. This Committee will terminate when finalists are scheduled to interview before the Board.” Mr. Holt seconded.

Mr. O’Brien, KPAA president, asked the Board to involve the associations in the process.

Motion carried unanimously.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**  
(8:28:11 PM)

Mrs. Vadla congratulated Mr. Jones on being appointed to the Education Funding District Cost Factor Commission and Mrs. Douglas on being selected for the Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO) Eagle Award. She noted that it will be difficult to fill Dr. Peterson’s shoes. She thanked Mrs. Miller for the Response to Intervention worksession, Mrs. Cannon for the World Language Curriculum worksession, and Mrs. Moock and Mr. Syverson for the school reports.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**  
(continued)

Mr. Holt expressed appreciation for the school reports and especially thanked the Soldotna High School swing choir for their singing contribution. He thanked Mrs. Pothast in Spanish for the student-made cascarones. He stated that it has been a pleasure working with Dr. Peterson and is looking forward to the remaining few months.

Mrs. Downing, congratulated Mr. Jones for his statewide committee appointment and Mrs. Douglas for the Eagle Award. She stated that she is impressed with the variety of courses offered at Soldotna Middle School and the Adopt A Star Program, Freshman Transition Program and swing choir at Soldotna High School. She expressed sadness that the Board accepted Dr. Peterson's resignation and wished her the best in her future plans.

Miss Ramponi thanks Mrs. Moock and Mr. Syverson for school reports and especially enjoyed the swing choir and Spanish Program presentations. She stated that she was impressed with the Freshman in Transition Program.

Mr. Gabriel thanked Mrs. Moock and Mr. Syverson for the school presentations, and especially commended the swing choir and Mrs. Pothast's presentation of the middle school Spanish Program. He stated that he hopes the Freshman in Transition Program can continue in order to collect data on how it affects the retention/drop-out rate/graduation rate. He congratulated Mrs. Douglas on receiving the Eagle Award and Mr. Jones for the statewide committee appointment. He thanked Dr. Peterson for her service to the District and noted that it will be tough to replace her.

Mrs. Hohl agreed with all of the previous Board member comments. She stated that she enjoyed being on the World Language Curriculum Committee. She noted that the NSBA membership has afforded her many professional development opportunities that were not previously available and supported the District's membership renewal.

**ADJOURN:**  
(8:35:38 PM)

At 8:35 p.m., Mr. Arness moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mr. Gabriel seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mrs. Lynn Hohl, Treasurer

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Mr. Marty Anderson, Clerk

The Minutes of February 2, 2009,  
were approved on February 16, 2009  
as written.