

---

# Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes

---

February 16, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.  
Regular Meeting

Borough Administration Building  
148 N. Binkley, Soldotna, Alaska

---

**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  
Dr. Steve Atwater, Assistant Superintendent

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Mr. Paul Sorenson	Mr. John O'Brien
Mr. Vaughn Dosko	Mr. Tim Sandahl
Mrs. Margaret Gilman	Mrs. Lynn Sandahl
Mrs. Margie Warner	Mr. Tim Peterson
Mr. Todd Syverson	Mrs. Doris Cannon
Mrs. Carole Nolden	Mr. Doug Cannon
Mrs. Norma Holmgaard	Ms. Carolyn Cannava
Mrs. Sharon Moock	Mrs. Debbie Carroll
Mr. Sean Dusek	Mrs. Mary Daly

Others present not identified.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mrs. Crawford called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.  
(7:00:05 PM)

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** In place of the Pledge of Allegiance, Mrs. Crawford invited the Kenai Middle School choir to sing the *Star Spangled Banner*.  
(7:00:21 PM)

**DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT:** Mrs. Downing read the District's mission statement.  
(7:04:13 PM)

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:***(7:05:27 PM)*

The agenda was approved with the removal of Item 9a., Finance Report; Item 3b., Kenai Central High School (School Report); and Item 5a., Teens Against Tobacco Use.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:***(7:05:52 PM)*

The School Board Minutes of February 2, 2009 were approved as printed.

**AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:***(7:06:14 PM)*

The Board presented a Golden Apple Award to Mrs. Carole Nolden, Kenai Middle School secretary, for her service to the school and the District.

**SCHOOL REPORT:***(7:09:47 PM)*

Mr. Paul Sorenson, Kenai Middle School principal, gave a computer generated report highlighting leave a legacy, choir and band programs, school history and demographics, student population, assessment information, and programmatic staffing. Mrs. Dixon reported on the school culture, Character Counts Program, Club Program, mini courses, leadership class, Kossak Korner, student celebrations, tutoring program, intervention program, mentor program and the Read 180 Program. Mr. Dave Fischer reported on Smart Board technology and gave a demonstration with the assistance of Mrs. Downing. Mr. Dosko provided some thoughts on internet teaching. The choir concluded the presentation by singing a folk song from Zambia.

The Kenai Central High School report was postponed to a later meeting.

**RECESS:***(7:38:35 PM)*

At 7:38 p.m., Mrs. Crawford called a recess.

**RECONVENE AFTER****RECESS:***(7:41:36 PM)*

At 7:41 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

**HEARING OF DELEGATIONS:**

The Teens Against Tobacco Use presentation was postponed to a later meeting.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:***(7:42:04 PM)*

Dr. Peterson noted that the Budget Forums will be held in March. She called the Board's attention to changes to the opt out forms and injury forms in the Policy Manual. She announced that two District students (Lincoln Wensley, Kenai Central High and Katherine Dolma, Homer Middle) have been selected as Youth Volunteers for 2009 by the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards and will travel to the White House to receive their awards.

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SITE COUNCIL AND/OR P.T.A., K.P.A.A., K.P.E.A., K.P.E.S.A, BOROUGH ASSEMBLY:***(7:43:10 PM)*

Mrs. Margie Warner, KPESA president, reminded the Board that Monday, March 2, is Read Across America Day, which is supported by NEA-Alaska and encouraged members to read aloud in a classroom.

**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)*

Ms. Jessica Moore, Soldotna Elementary Site Council president, asked the Board for a response to the request made at the February 2 Board meeting by the Site Council and PTA to assist Soldotna Montessori Charter School in relocating to another facility. Mrs. Crawford responded that Mr. Jones is researching the situation. Dr. Peterson stated that a response will come in the next General Information packet to the Board.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT:**

*(7:45:57 PM)*

Dr. Peterson reported that Mr. Jones is currently on extended medical leave and will not be present at the next few Board meetings. She reported that parent-teacher conferences went well. She reminded the Board of the joint Borough Assembly and School Board budget worksession on February 17. She reported that principal selection process meetings have been held and that interviews have been scheduled for the first week of March.

**BOARD REPORTS:**

*(7:46:57 PM)*

Mrs. Vadla reported that she attended the AASB Legislative Fly-in in Juneau and highlighted the various sessions. She reported that the Board visited with legislators and discussed District success stories, provided rationale for statewide and district educational needs, shared state and federal priorities list, and reported on the positive impact of programmatic staffing.

Miss Ramponi reported that she attended the AASB Youth Leadership Conference and Legislative Fly-in in Juneau. She stated that she participated in youth leadership activities and then joined the Board members for the legislative appointments.

Mr. Gabriel reported that he attended the AASB Legislative Fly-in in Juneau and noted that he advocated for continued funding for vocational education.

Mrs. Crawford reported that she attended the AASB Legislative Fly-in in Juneau, and noted that the Board visited with 22 legislators and staff as well as the education representative in the Governor's office. She reported that the group talked about block grants, funding for education, forward funding, and early childhood education.

**BOARD WORKSESSION  
REPORT:**

*(7:51:28 PM)*

Mrs. Crawford reported that the Board held worksessions on the Social Studies Curriculum, superintendent vacancy, and FY10 Budget.

**SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH  
COMMITTEE REPORT:**

*(7:52:15 PM)*

Mr. Arness provided an update on the progress of the superintendent search, provided a tentative timeline to be followed and then invited the public to provide comments, either verbal or written.

No public comments were made.

**SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT:***(continued)*

A Board discussion was held to consider the superintendent candidate interview process. The topics included the tentative timeline, Board member involvement and individual schedules for March and April, review and screening of applicants, amount of time to conduct the interviews, the number of candidates to interview, and the type of interview to conduct.

**MOTION**

Mr. Gabriel moved the Board table the discussion of the superintendent vacancy until the March 2 meeting when the field is more clearly defined. Mr. Arness seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**CONSENT AGENDA:***(8:08:55 PM)*

Items on the Consent Agenda were Approval of World Language Curriculum; High School Graduation Qualifying Examination Waiver Number 2009-08; Tentative Nontenured Teacher Contracts; Recommendation for Tenure; Long-Term Substitute Contracts; Request for Leave of Absence-Certified; and Resignation.

**WORLD LANGUAGE CURRICULUM:**

Dr. Atwater recommended the Board approve the proposed World Language Curriculum.

**HSGQE WAIVER 2009-08:**

Dr. Atwater recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Examination Waiver Number 2009-08.

**TENTATIVE NONTENURED TEACHER CONTRACTS:**

By memorandum, Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve tentative nontenured teacher contracts for Ray Archuleta, special education-resource, Homer High; Matthew Tucker, special education-resource, Homer High; Erin Briscoe, speech, Homer Middle; Susan Hawker, special education-resource, Kaleidoscope; Cynthia Detrow, speech, Kenai Middle; Tyler Schlung, special education-resource, Kenai Middle; Noelle Phillips, speech, K-Beach Elementary; Marcy True, special education-intensive needs, Mountain View; Karma Sherk, special education-intensive/life skills, Nikiski North Star; Robert Ernst, special education-resource, Nikiski/Middle High; Tony Jackson, special education-resource, Nikiski/Middle High; Kristine Berrios, special education-intensive, Paul Banks; Riley Justis, secondary generalist, Port Graham; Jennifer Shinew, .50 FTE generalist/.50 FTE Title II (temporary), Port Graham; Holly Abel, school psychologist, Soldotna Elementary; Jayne McFarland, speech pathologist, Soldotna Elementary; Matthew Johnson, special education-intensive needs, Soldotna High; Kimberly Jordan, special education-intensive needs, Soldotna High; James Knoebel, special education-resource, Soldotna High; Tracy Brown, school psychologist, Sterling; Sherry Roach, special education-resource, Sterling; Holly Alston, generalist, Susan B. English; Ruth Sensenig, language arts, social studies, Susan B. English; Robin Zinszer, .75 FTE special education-resource/.25 FTE Title II (temporary), Susan B. English; Granger Nyboer, .50 FTE special education-resource/.50 FTE Title I (temporary), Tebughna; Camille Hill, school psychologist, Tustumena; and Rebecca Paul, special education-resource, West Homer Elementary.

**RECOMMENDATION FOR TENURE:**

By memorandum, Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve Mindy Hunter, special education-gifted, Fireweed Academy; Mary Glynn, occupational therapist, K-Beach Elementary; Jacob Munyer, special education-resource, Kenai Central; Karen Weston, special education-gifted, McNeil Canyon; Susan Connor, special education-resource, Mountain View; David Brown, special education-resource, Nikiski Middle/High; Wendy Moseley, special education-resource, Nikiski Middle/High; Robanne Stading, .50 special education-resource/.25 FTE Title I (temporary)/.25 FTE migrant (temporary), Nikolaevsk; Joanne Frey, special education-intensive, Seward Elementary; Ann Knofel, school psychologist, Seward Elementary; Kathy Sandoval, special education-behavior teacher, Seward Elementary; Tammy Elyea, special education-resource, Skyview; Mitchell Pioch, special education-resource, Skyview; David Justice, special education-resource, Soldotna High; and James Perzechino, generalist, Tebughna, nontenure teachers for tenure.

**LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE CONTRACTS:**

By memorandum, Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve long-term substitute contracts for Susan Whipp, Nikiski North Star Elementary; Peter Gundunas, Pupil Services; and Suzanne Goodwill, Sterling Elementary.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE-CERTIFIED:**

By memorandum, Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve an unpaid one-year leave of absence request for Sharon R. Thompson, science, Homer High School, effective for the 2009-10 school year.

**RESIGNATION:**

By memorandum, Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a resignation effective at the end of the 2008-2009 school year from Audrey Gray, Grades K-2, Tebughna School.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Downing moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 7. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Mrs. Hilts removed Number 3.

Motion carried unanimously for Numbers 1, 2, 4 through 7.

**VOTE ON NUMBER 3:**

Advisory Vote – YES

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

NO – Hilts

Motion carried for Number 3.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

*(8:11:53 PM)*

Mrs. Vadla, thanked Kenai Middle School staff for the presentation and especially recognized the choir, the programmatic staffing report, and the work on school culture and student success. She congratulated the two students who were selected as Youth Volunteers for 2009 by the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

*(continued)*

Mr. Gabriel thanked Mr. Sorenson and the Kenai Middle School staff for the school report. He especially recognized Mrs. Bird for her work with the middle school choir.

Mrs. Hilts encouraged those present to read an editorial in the Homer News titled, *Dr. Peterson's History Good Model For Filling Superintendent's Post*. She explained that she was absent from the February 2 meeting due to poor weather and did not have a chance to express her regrets over Dr. Peterson's resignation. She noted that her son was inducted into the Alaska Association of School Activities Hall of Fame for Susan B. English School for his leadership qualities. She added that it is rewarding as a parent and a school board member to see students with special needs accomplish great things and credits District schools, teachers, and the community.

Mrs. Crawford thanked the Kenai Middle School staff for the report. On behalf of the Board she expressed sympathy and condolences for the families at Kenai Central High who were affected by the serious vehicle accident involving students and parent volunteers. She reminded Board members of the February 17 joint budget worksession with the Borough Assembly.

**ADJOURN:**

*(8:17:13 PM)*

At 8:17 p.m., Mrs. Downing moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Mrs. Sammy Crawford, President

---

Mr. Anderson, Clerk

The Minutes of February 16, 2009,  
have not been approved as of  
February 18, 2009.