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# Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

## Board of Education Meeting Minutes

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May 4, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.  
Regular Meeting

Seward High School  
2100 Swetmann, Seward, 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:**

Mr. Sean Dusek	Mrs. LaDawn Druce
Mrs. Norma Holmgaard	Mrs. Margie Warner
Mr. Hal Smalley	Mr. Wayne Young
Mrs. Laura Beck	Mr. Jerry Dixon
Mr. Trevan Walker	Ms. Martha Fleming
Mrs. Sherry Nauta	Mr. Larry Nauta
Ms. Julie Lindquist	Mr. Dan Krier

Others present not identified.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mrs. Crawford called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m. A quorum of School Board members, Mrs. Crawford, Mrs. Hilts, Mr. Holt, Mrs. Downing, Mr. Gabriel, and Mrs. Vadla, were in attendance.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** At 4:16 p.m. Mrs. Vadla 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. Mr. Holt seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Hohl arrived at 4:20 p.m.

**ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:** At 4:45 p.m. Mr. Gabriel moved the executive session be adjourned. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

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

**DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT:**

Mr. Holt read the District's mission statement.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

The agenda was approved as written.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The School Board minutes of April 13, 2009 were approved as printed.

**AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:**

The Board presented a Golden Apple Award to Daniel Krier, Seward High School Athletic director/teacher, for his service to the District. Although not in attendance, a Golden Apple Award was given to Roger Steinbrecher, former Seward High School coach, and was accepted on his behalf by Ken Carr.

**SCHOOL REPORT:**

Mr. Larry Nauta, Aurora Borealis Charter School administrator, gave a student-created PowerPoint presentation highlighting the school's entrance lottery procedures and the project of assembling the new playground equipment.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:**

Mr. Jerry Dixon, former teacher, thanked Dr. Peterson, School Board members, teachers and administrators of the Seward area. He noted that his children have done well in the Seward schools and added that he enjoyed teaching in this District.

Ms. Phyllis Shoemaker, University of Alaska-Fairbanks Seward Marine Center, reported on the recently held National Ocean Sciences Bowl and reviewed the competition. She added that she would like to see more District participation and support for the teachers who sponsor the competition.

Mrs. Stacy Lane, Boys and Girls Club representative, thanked the Board for allowing the Seward Boys and Girls Club to be housed at Seward Elementary and for use of the school. She stated that there are approximately 80 children enrolled in the club which provides a safe place for students to go after school.

Mr. Tom Callahan, school bus driver, stated that he objects to the use of private vehicles, and coaches who drive students on field trips or cocurricular activities, because it puts licensed bus drivers out of work and is a safety concern.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:**  
*(continued)*

Mr. Cliff Draper, former teacher and current coach, provided a list of the desired attributes of a good administrator and good faculty.

Mrs. Monica Luther, Seaview Community Services representative, summarized the services provided by Seaview Community Services and distributed two agency brochures.

Mrs. Laura Beck, teacher, provided an update regarding the Seward High School music program and a recent trip to the Borough Mass Choir Festival. She encouraged the Board to continue their support of music programs in Seward.

Mrs. Julie Lindquist, Moose Pass resident, stated that there is turmoil at Seward High School among students, parents, community and staff. She thanked the Golden Apple recipients for their contributions. She commended Ms. Martha Fleming for her work with students and read a statement about Ms. Fleming written by a student.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND  
PETITIONS:**

Dr. Peterson reported that the Board received a copy of a letter signed by all Kenai Peninsula legislators regarding Borough Assembly funding to the cap. She reported that the Board is receiving copies of administrative career development reports. She reported that the District received a commendation from the Alaska legislature for the Magna Awards honorable mention.

Mrs. Crawford reminded the Board that there will be a worksession on June 1 to discuss the Board's self-evaluation and that the evaluation forms are to be completed by May 22.

Mrs. Crawford reported that the superintendent evaluation form will be used as a reference for discussion with the new superintendent during a short worksession on June 1.

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

Ms. Amy Haddow, Seward Site Based Council chairperson, reported that the Site Council's community engagement goal is being fulfilled at the elementary, middle, and high schools and provided examples. She asked the Board for continued financial support for programs beyond the basic subjects.

Mrs. LaDawn Druce, KPEA President, reported that recent negotiations meetings ended Friday afternoon and came very close to a positive contract, but is on hold until August 2009. She thanked Mrs. Katie Turnbull, Seward Elementary teacher, for her work on the KPEA Bargaining Team. She noted that the Board will take action on the nontenure teacher contracts which will allow them to make plans for next year. She encouraged the public to attend the Borough Assembly meeting on May 5 at the Seward City Hall and to testify regarding the necessity of funding the District to the cap.

**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. Cindy Pack, Seward Schools PTSA president, explained how the program is supported and that the group works with all Seward schools. She reported on the field trips, scholarships and programs sponsored by Seward PTSA. She stated that the group needs to focus on membership and parent support. She read the PTSA motto: "Every Child, One Voice".

Mrs. Margie Warner, KPESA president, thanked Carl Locke, Seward Elementary custodian, for his participation as a member of the Bargaining Team. She reported that in March she attended the Educational Support Personnel National Conference in Orlando, Florida.

Mr. Hal Smalley, Borough Assembly member from Kenai, thanked those responsible for coordinating the Board meeting. He reported that the May 5 Borough Assembly Agenda includes Resolution 2009-040, introduction of the Borough's portion of the School District's budget, and encouraged those present to attend and to testify. He commended Mr. Ron Long, Seward area Assembly Member. He asked the public to send their comments regarding District funding to the Borough Assembly and Borough Mayor.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT:**

Dr. Peterson announced that the School District's budget will be introduced at the May 5 Borough Assembly meeting in Seward. She reported the topic for the April 29 Administrator Meeting was the Global Achievement Gap and explained that students need to be "jury ready" when they graduate from high school. She reported that the administrative team from Alaska Performance Excellence (APEX) will visit the District Office to analyze opportunities for improvement. She announced that May 3 through 9 is National Education Week and commended District staff for their dedication and commitment to students.

**BOARD REPORTS:**

Ms. Hohl reported that she attended the Moose Pass Elementary parent community meeting to discuss the regional principalship and the Moose Pass safety corridor, and the Seward Site Council and PTSA meetings.

Mrs. Hilts announced that she attended the AASB Legislative Fly-In in Juneau and the AASB board meeting, and the National School Boards Association meeting in San Diego. She reported on one conference keynote speaker and noted that the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District was prepared with a plan for use of the stimulus funding and that the plan was held up as a standard for all districts in Alaska.

Mr. Holt reported that he attended the KPSAA meeting and that the group discussed the tobacco, alcohol, drug and smoking policy which will now be uniform with the ASAA policy. He reported that new officers were elected.

**BOARD REPORTS:**  
(continued)

Mrs. Vadla reported that on April 13 she participated in the Charter School Committee meeting telephonically and reported that the committee discussed charter schools within regular school buildings. She reported that she attended the May 4 Board Policy Review Committee meeting and the April 21 Joint Board/Assembly Budget worksession.

Sammy Crawford reported that she participated as a judge for the Caring for the Kenai competition and attended the awards banquet.

**BOARD WORKSESSION REPORT:**

Mrs. Crawford reported that some of the Board members attended the Policy Review Committee meeting prior to the worksessions. She reported that during the worksessions the Board heard an update on the Federal Stimulus Funding and the education endowment, and held a discussion on the next steps regarding the Borough and Assembly relationship.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Nontenure Teaching Contracts; Recommendation for Tenure; New Teacher Contracts; Long-Term Substitute Contract; Resignations; and Administrator Contracts.

**NONTENURE TEACHING CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve nontenure teacher contracts for the 2009-2010 school year for Lila Little, Grades 5/6, Chapman Elementary; Melinda Michener, Grades 3/4, Chapman Elementary; Heidi Stokes, generalist .50 FTE, Chapman Elementary; Wendi Dutcher, secondary generalist, Connections; Reubin Payne, generalist, Connections; Peter Brazil, vocational education, Curriculum; Jamie Meyers, Professional Development Coordinator (temporary), Curriculum; Joshua Brege, construction/welding, Homer High; Katherine Kysar, language arts, Homer High; Diane Warner, history, Homer High; Bonnie Jason, language arts/reading, Homer Middle; Daniel Olson, social studies/language arts, Homer Middle; Maria Calvert, physical education .50 FTE, Kaleidoscope Charter; Joy Harper, Grades 4/5, Kaleidoscope Charter; Jeff Baker, physical education .50 FTE, Kenai Central; Kristin Davis, biology/math, Kenai Central; Rosemary Owens, earth science/physical science, Kenai Central; Stacia Rustad, physical education/health, Kenai Central; Jennifer Scott, social studies/language arts, Kenai Central; Emily Sims, home economics, Kenai Central; Steve Fischer, vocational education, Kenai Middle; Margaret Gilman, language arts, Kenai Middle; Kendall DellaSperanza, Grade 4, McNeil Canyon; Maureen Wilkinson, interventionist .50 FTE, McNeil Canyon; Caitlin Caffall, Grade 2, Mountain View; Brittney Johnson, Grade 5, Mountain View; Sarah Kantrud, Grade 3, Mountain View; Timothy McFarland, music, Mountain View; Megan Smith, language arts, Nanwalek; Dan Adair, chemistry/physics/geology, Nikiski Middle/High; Adam Anders, physical education/health, Nikiski Middle/High; Shana Butler, art .50 FTE, Nikiski Middle/High; Mark Wackler, alternative education/Title VII, (temporary), Nikiski Middle/High; Gary Wiebel, counselor, Nikiski Middle/High; Jan Darch, Grade 1, Nikiski North Star; Tricia Young, Title I teacher, (temporary), Nikiski North Star Elementary; Kathryn

**NONTENURE TEACHING  
CONTRACTS:**  
(continued)

Baum-Fjelstad, language arts, Ninilchik Elementary/High; Barbara DenBoer, language arts, Ninilchik Elementary/High; Bryan Hickey, math, Ninilchik Elementary/High; Miriam McKay, music, Ninilchik Elementary/High; David Patat, science, Ninilchik Elementary/High; Marsha Bailey, kindergarten, Paul Banks Elementary; Kimberly Degard, Grade 1, Paul Banks Elementary; Erin Oxford, kindergarten, Paul Banks Elementary; Jennifer Reinhart, kindergarten, Paul Banks Elementary; Brandon Young, Grade 1, Paul Banks Elementary; Shonna Bilyeu, language arts, Razdolna; Laura Jacobsen, Grades 2-5, Razdolna; Timothy Whip, Title 1 teacher (.75 FTE temporary, migrant teacher .25 FTE temporary), Razdolna; Ranada Hassemmer, interventionist, Redoubt Elementary; Joseph Taylor, Grade 6, Redoubt Elementary; Katherine Glaser, kindergarten, Seward Elementary; April MacDonald, Grade 4, Seward Elementary; Susan Pfeiffenberger, Title I Teacher, (temporary), Seward Elementary; Kyle Schneider, music, Seward Elementary; Erin Sterley, intermediate, Seward Elementary; Chad Hinders, social studies, Seward High; Naomi Karlin, art, Seward High; Michelle Walker, language arts/social studies (.50 FTE temporary, .50 FTE permanent), Seward High; Margaret Griffin, counselor, Skyview High; Barry Hartman, vocational education, Skyview High; Rhonda Neill, library .50 FTE, Skyview High; Elizabeth Reiter, credit recovery, Skyview High; Byron Weeks, science, Skyview High; Darlene Port, music, Soldotna Elementary; Cindy Schlung, interventionist .50 FTE, Soldotna Elementary; Shaya Straw, Grade 3, Soldotna Elementary; Meggean Bos, home economics, Soldotna High; Dana Edwards, math, Soldotna High; Tamra Wear, library .50 FTE, Soldotna High; Nicholas Christensen, science, Soldotna Middle; Steve Cunningham, social studies, Soldotna Middle; Patrick Dwyer, science, Soldotna Middle; Richard Forcum, vocational education, Soldotna Middle; Sheilah-Margaret Pothast, Spanish .50 FTE, Soldotna Middle; Jennifer Swander, language arts, Spring Creek; Amanda Brendtro, interventionist (.50 FTE permanent/.50 FTE temporary), Sterling Elementary; Belinda Espy, Grades 3/4, Sterling Elementary; Jason Evans, Grade 6, Sterling Elementary; Linda Vroman, Title II teacher, (.73 FTE temporary), Sterling Elementary; Frederick Foster, social studies/secondary generalist, Voznesenka; and Kurtis Schoenberg, kindergarten through Grade 2, Voznesenka.

**RECOMMENDATION FOR  
TENURE:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a contract and tenure for Donny Joachim, intermediate, K-Beach Elementary, a nontenured teacher.

**NEW TEACHER CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve teacher contracts for Marianne Kasch, intermediate grade teacher, Kaleidoscope Charter; Michelle Scott, (temporary), intermediate grade teacher, Tebughna; and Jennifer Keil, (temporary), language arts teacher, Voznesenka.

**LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE  
CONTRACT:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve long-term substitute contract for Denaya DeVold, Kaleidoscope Charter.

**RESIGNATIONS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve resignations effective at the end of the 2008-2009 school year from Lucas Peless, language arts, Nikiski Middle/High; Denise Romans, interventionist, Nikiski North Star Elementary; Tamara Elyea, resource, Skyview High; and Terry A. Day, interventionist, Tustumena Elementary.

**ADMINISTRATOR  
CONTRACTS:**

Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve an administrator contract for the 2009-2010 school year for Phillip A. Graham, Soldotna High School assistant principal; Kevin Downs, Pupil Services, program coordinator; and Jamilyn Harper, Pupil Services, program coordinator.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Downing moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 6. Mrs. Hilts seconded.

Ms. Hohl removed Number 1.

Motion carried unanimously for Numbers 2 through 6.

**VOTE ON NUMBER 1:**

Advisory Vote – YES

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

NO – Hohl

Motion carried.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/  
COMMENTS:**

Mrs. Julie Lindquist asked if the sports schedules could be more consistent and less changes and that more attention be paid to safety concerns and ice on sidewalks. She noted that the Seward music programs are valuable.

Mr. Ken Carr, former teacher, reported that he recently worked with junior class members on job interview skills and noted that it was a pleasure to listen to them and hear about their future plans. He encouraged community members to talk with students. He thanked Dr. Peterson for her work as superintendent of the District.

Ms. Carla Nichols, former Seward High School graduate and currently a teacher, reported on the partnership with the Alaska Sea Life Center and the World of Work (WOW) Program. She reported that the program was established to increase rigor for marine biology students.

Mrs. Cindy Pack, PTSA for Seward Schools, reported that PTSA may sponsor CPR classes next school year for high school students.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/  
COMMENTS:**

*(continued)*

Mrs. Monica Luther, Seward resident, reported on the Seward Statehood Symposium that included many community activities and presentations from elementary students on research they conducted about the last 50 years of Alaska and Seward. She thanked the Board for encouraging the Seward High service project and commended one particular student who has been volunteering with the Infant Learning Program playgroup.

Mrs. Laura Beck, Seward Middle teacher, reported on art program activities in partnership with community members and organizations.

Mrs. Sandy Deland, PTSA member and Girl Scout Troop leader, commended the students and teachers for the amount of time and research put into Seward Statehood Symposium. She praised Seward teachers and related a story regarding her daughter's successes in spelling and math.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

Mrs. Vadla thanked the Seward Travel Club for providing the dinner. She thanked Mr. Nauta for the school report. She congratulated Mr. Krier and Mr. Steinbrecher. She thanked those who provided comments and the Seward teachers for providing a quality education for students.

Mr. Holt expressed appreciation for the Seward music programs. He reported that he assisted with the Skyview High School talent show which was organized by the National Honor Society students. He stated that community organizations and community projects are important to schools and commended the Seward residents for their involvement. He encouraged those present to attend the Borough Assembly meeting on May 5 because it is important for the Assembly to hear from members of the community.

Mrs. Downing announced the upcoming Math Bowl in Seward on May 8. She reported that she attended a retirement gathering for Mr. Charlie Walsworth, West Homer Elementary principal. She reported that she is looking forward to the upcoming graduation ceremonies.

Ms. Hohl reported that she attended the Borough Mass Choir Festival and added that it was wonderful to see Seward students on stage. She reviewed the Seward Statehood Symposium activities, noted that the entire event was wonderful, and thanked Mrs. Deland for her report on it. She reported that she will attend the Cooper Landing grade school graduation ceremony. She thanked Ms. Nichols for bringing back the WOW Program. She thanked the Aurora Borealis Charter School staff for the presentation.



**BOARD COMMENTS:**  
*(continued)*

Mr. Gabriel thanked those who spoke to the Board and especially appreciated hearing of the many community programs and partnerships. He thanked Mr. Smalley for attending the meeting and commended Seward Assemblyman Mr. Long for being an advocate for education. He reminded those present that the Board makes decisions based on what the community wants, such as funding at the cap. He encouraged those present to attend the Assembly meeting and voice an opinion regarding School District funding.

Mrs. Hilts reported that she attended the Quest Film Festival in Homer on April 29. She reported on the Tri-school Academy which included high school students at Nanwalek, Port Graham, and Seldovia. She reported that the students studied marine science, built sheds, earned OSHA safety certifications, and learned leadership skills. She read some student comments and added that these types of events keep students in school.

Mrs. Crawford thanked those who attended and for their contributions and praised the Seward staff and students. She encouraged those present to attend the May 5 Borough Assembly meeting and testify regarding School District funding. She congratulated those who received Golden Apple Awards. She reminded Board members to complete the Board Self-Evaluation Form and return it to her or Mrs. Tachick by May 22.

**ADJOURN:**

At 8:46 p.m., Mr. Gabriel moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Hilts seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mrs. Crawford, President

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Mr. Marty Anderson, Clerk

The Minutes of May 4, 2009,  
were approved on June 1, 2009  
as written