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# Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes

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June 1, 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  
Dr. Steve Atwater, Assistant Superintendent  
Dave Jones, Assistant Superintendent

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Representative Mike Chenault	Senator Tom Wagoner
Mr. Rod Hilts	Mr. Dave Spence
Mr. Tim Peterson	Mr. Bruce Johnson
Representative Kurt Olson	Mr. Phil Hermanek
Mr. Hal Smalley	Mrs. Norma Holmgaard
Mrs. Margie Warner	Mrs. Sharon Mook
Mrs. LaDawn Druce	Mr. Gary Turner
Ms. Bonnie Powell	

Others present not identified.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mrs. Crawford called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.  
(7:00:37 PM)

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mrs. Crawford invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.  
(7:00:48 PM)

**DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT:** Mr. Anderson read the District's mission statement.  
(7:01:12 PM)

**ROLL CALL:**

Mrs. Sammy Crawford	Present
Mrs. Liz Downing	Present
Mr. Marty Anderson	Present
Mrs. Sunni Hilts	Present
Mr. Joe Arness	Present
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 with a revision to Item 10a.(4), Approval of Resignations.  
(7:02:03 PM)

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:***(7:02:21 PM)*

The School Board Minutes of May 4, 2009 were approved with a correction.

**AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:***(7:03:00 PM)*

Representative Chenault, Representative Olson, and Senator Wagoner presented Dr. Peterson with a framed legislative citation for her service as Superintendent of Schools for the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District.

Mr. Jones noted that last year the Board recognized the Kenai Peninsula legislators for approving the three-year cost differential plan. He personally thanked them for their hard work on behalf of the District.

**HEARING OF DELEGATIONS:***(7:09:35 PM)*

Ms. Bonnie Powell, Project GRAD director, thanked Dr. Peterson for her vision and longstanding commitment to the success of each District student. She reported on Project GRAD achievements throughout the 2008-2009 school year.

Mr. Gary Turner, Kenai Peninsula College director, reported on the enrollment increase to 2,200 students at KPC and highlighted the partnership between the District and KPC.

Mrs. Crawford introduced Mr. Bruce Johnson, Association of Alaska School Boards director of Quality Schools/Quality Student, and explained that he will facilitate the Board's goal setting session on June 2.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:***(7:32:09 PM)*

Dr. Peterson reported that the Board received copies of a letter from Board President Crawford to Assembly President Milli Martin regarding regular joint meetings with the Assembly. She reported that the Board received copies of various revisions to Policy Manual exhibit pages. She noted that there has been a change in administrative assignment for Mr. Loren Reese to the Kenai Alternative High School principal. She reported that Fred Meyer sent a check for \$7,138 for the "Support Your Schools" campaign.

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SITE COUNCIL AND/OR P.T.A., K.P.A.A., K.P.E.A., K.P.E.S.A, BOROUGH ASSEMBLY:***(7:33:15 PM)*

Mrs. Druce, KPEA president, expressed appreciation for the Assembly's decision to fund the District to the cap. She expressed concern for the 2009-2010 school calendar and requested the Board approve the administrative recommendation. She noted that the calendar is an item of particular interest to teachers because more time is needed to input grades. She expressed hope that a contract will be ready to ratify in August.

Mr. Hal Smalley, Assembly Member, thanked Dr. Peterson for her successes, dedication, and hard work for the students of the District. He wished the Board and Dr. Atwater the best of luck and added that the Assembly looks forward to working together over the next several years.

**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)*

Mrs. Sharon Moock, KPAA president elect, spoke in support of the administrative recommendation to change the day and date of the end of quarter so that teachers will have time to work on grades and school administrators can attend the Alaska Fall Principals Conference in October. She personally expressed appreciation for Dr. Peterson and wished her good luck in her retirement.

Mrs. Margie Warner, KPESA president, extended well wishes to Dr. Peterson and invited her to visit the Nikiski area schools. She stated that the Association is looking forward to working with Dr. Atwater. She reported that she interviewed and was selected to participate in a NEA national program titled, "Leaders for Tomorrow" and will represent the District nationally. She reported that her participation will involve travel to Minneapolis in July, Washington D.C. in November, and Las Vegas in March and added that she will provide the Board with updates.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT:**

*(7:40:27 PM)*

Dr. Peterson presented the End of the Year Report, which included a five-section summary of actions by the Board and administration for the 2008-2009 school year as well as progress on the Long Range Plan and Board goals. She noted that Mrs. Tachick and Mrs. Douglas are on annual leave and thanked those who are substituting in their place. She presented the 2008-2009 Superintendent's Annual Report for the Board's preview and noted that it will be introduced formally at the next Board meeting.

On behalf of the entire Board, Mrs. Crawford presented Dr. Peterson with a framed print as a thank you for her outstanding years of service for the children of the Peninsula.

**LEASE AGREEMENTS:**

*(7:45:49 PM)*

Mr. Jones reviewed the report of leases and agreements for the 2009-2010 school year.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

*(7:46:44 PM)*

Mr. Jones presented the financial report of the District for the period ending April 30, 2009.

**BOARD REPORTS:**

*(7:47:50 PM)*

Mr. Anderson reported that he attended the Soldotna High and Skyview High graduation ceremonies and the Sterling Elementary and Soldotna Montessori Charter sixth grade promotion ceremonies.

Mr. Gabriel reported that he attended the Kenai Middle eighth grade promotion ceremony and the Kenai Alternative and Kenai Central High graduation ceremonies. He especially appreciated the Kenai Alternative student progress and hopes the new administration will support their continued growth.

Mrs. Hilts reported that she was excited at the increased number of graduating seniors at the Russian village schools. She noted that she had attended the first graduation ceremony at Port Graham School.

**BOARD REPORTS:***(continued)*

Mrs. Downing reported that she attended graduation ceremonies at the two KPC campuses, Homer High, and Homer Flex. She stated that she was encouraged by the Homer Flex graduate who stated her goal is to become an elementary teacher.

Mrs. Vadla reported that she attended the Skyview High and Connections Homeschool Program graduation ceremonies. She stated that she was a guest speaker at the Soldotna High graduation ceremony. She announced that she just recently received her doctorate degree. She stated that the Future Problem Solvers team coached by Miss Jennifer McCard won first place in international competition. She noted that another District team placed second.

Mr. Holt reported that he attended the Skyview High, River City Academy and Nikolaevsk graduation ceremonies. He noted that he is amazed at the diversity of schools and students in the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District.

Mr. Arness reported that he attended the Nikiski Middle/High and Kenai Alternative graduation ceremonies.

Ms. Hohl reported that she attended the Assembly Meeting in Seward and wanted to thank Mrs. Druce and Mrs. Warner for their attendance as well. She commended Mrs. Douglas for an outstanding job responding to the Assembly. She also thanked the Assembly members who supported funding to the cap. She reported that she attended the Cooper Landing promotion ceremony, the PTSA and Site Council meetings and the Seward High graduation ceremony.

Mrs. Crawford reported that she attended four graduation ceremonies and highlighted the Ninilchik School valedictorian who was a young woman who had been homeschooled until seventh grade. She highlighted Port Graham School's graduation ceremony because a high school program has been offered for four years allowing students to complete all grades without having to leave the village.

**BOARD WORKSESSION REPORT:***(7:59:07 PM)*

Mrs. Crawford reported that the Board held worksessions regarding the superintendent's evaluation and the Board's self-evaluation, heard the KPSAA update on the tobacco, alcohol, and drug policy and reviewed District policy revisions.

**CONSENT AGENDA:***(8:00:20 PM)*

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Revisions to the KPSAA Handbook; New Teacher Contracts; Recommendation for Tenure; Resignations; Change to April School Board Meeting Date; Alternate 2009-2010 School Year Calendar; Revisions to AR 5125, Student Records; Tenure Teacher Contract; Long Term Substitute Teacher Contracts; Administrator Contracts; Nontenured Teacher Contract; and Request for Leave of Absence-Certified.

**REVISIONS TO THE KPSAA HANDBOOK:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve revisions to the Participation Guidelines for Activities section of the KPSAA High School Handbook (p. 13 Section V.).

**NEW TEACHER CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve teacher contracts for Richard Metcalf, science/math teacher, Kenai Alternative High School; Misty K. McCown, (temporary) primary grade teacher, K-Beach Elementary; Douglas Armstrong, At Risk Youth teacher, Kenai Youth Facility; Heather Hooper, primary grade teacher, Nikiski North Star Elementary; Shanna F. Johnson, elementary interventionist teacher, Nikiski North Star Elementary; Paul Johnson, (permanent .50 FTE/temporary .50 FTE) vocational education teacher, Nikiski Middle/High; Betsy Vanek, (permanent .50 FTE/temporary .50 FTE) elementary interventionist teacher, Ninilchik School; Micki G. Dunn, school counselor, Skyview High School; Krista M. Heldenbrand, language arts teacher, Skyview High School; Sam Giroux, generalist teacher, Susan B. English.

**RECOMMENDATION FOR TENURE:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve nontenure teacher, Michele Walker, for tenure.

**RESIGNATIONS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve resignations, effective at the end of the 2008-2009 school year, from Jason S. Evans, intermediate, Sterling Elementary; Lee Chadwick, vocational education, Nikiski Middle/High; Ward Romans, middle school history, Nikiski Middle/High; and Ginger Blackmon, principal, Seward High School; Rayna Duenas, principal, Homer High; and Sheri Legg, library, Mt. View Elementary.

**CHANGE TO APRIL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING DATE:**

Dr. Peterson recommended the Board change the April 12, 2010 meeting to April 5 to accommodate those Board members who will be attending the NSBA Annual Conference.

**ALTERNATE 2009-2010 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR:**

Dr. Atwater recommended the Board approve revisions to the previously approved alternative calendar making the last days of the first three quarters a .5 work day and a .5 inservice day.

**REVISIONS TO AR 5125, STUDENT RECORDS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve revisions to AR 5125, Student Records.

**TENURE TEACHER CONTRACT:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a tenure teacher contract for the 2009-10 school year for Judy Graham, special education/behavior, Mountain View Elementary.

**LONG TERM SUBSTITUTE TEACHER CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve long-term substitute teacher contracts for Connie Akers, Homer High and Kimberlie Fister, Seward Middle.

**ADMINISTRATOR CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve administrator contracts for Jim Beeson, assistant principal, Kenai Central High and Scott Handley, principal/teacher, Nanwalek Elementary/High.

**NONTENURED TEACHER CONTRACT:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a nontenure teacher contract for Cheryl Romatz, elementary interventionist, K-Beach Elementary.

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

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a request for unpaid leave of absence for Tari J. Hoeft, physical education, Paul Banks Elementary.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Hilts moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 12. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Ms. Hohl asked to remove Numbers 1 and 6.

Motion carried unanimously for Numbers 2 through 5 and 7 through 12.

**VOTE ON NUMBER 1:**

YES – Hilts, Holt, Arness, Gabriel, Vadla, Crawford  
NO – Anderson, Downing, Hohl

Motion carried for Number 1.

Motion carried unanimously for Number 6.

**RESOLUTION 08-09:**  
*(8:03:53 PM)*

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve the transfer of ownership of five Arctic Winter Games buses to the Kenaitze Indian Tribe for use in their new transportation program.

**MOTION**

Mr. Anderson moved the Board approve the transfer of ownership of five Arctic Winter Games buses to the Kenaitze Indian Tribe for use in their new transportation program. Mr. Holt seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S CONTRACT:**  
*(8:06:26 PM)*

Mrs. Crawford recommended the Board approve a three-year superintendent contract for Dr. Steve Atwater.

**MOTION**

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve a three-year superintendent contract for Dr. Steve Atwater. Mrs. Downing seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**FIRST READING OF POLICY REVISIONS:**  
*(8:07:05 PM)*

The Board heard a first reading of revisions to BP 3515, School Safety and Security; BP 3522, School Security; BP 3530, Risk Management; BP 5030, School Discipline and Safety; BP 5125, Student Records; BP 5125.1, Release of Directory Information.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**  
*(8:08:26 PM)*

Mr. Holt thanked Dr. Peterson for the support she has given him as a new Board member. He cracked cascarones (confetti filled eggs) over the heads of Dr. Peterson and Dr. Atwater to wish them good luck.

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

Mr. Arness reported that one of the high points of his 20 years as a Board member is the day he introduced Dr. Peterson as the new superintendent at the Districtwide inservice after she was hired. He noted that the revised board-approved 2009-2010 school year calendar resolves issues raised by the bargaining groups during negotiations process six years ago.

Ms. Hohl said goodbye to Dr. Peterson.

Mr. Gabriel thanked Dr. Peterson for her years of service and expressed appreciation for welcoming him to the Board and providing needed assistance. He welcomed Dr. Atwater as the new superintendent. He thanked Mr. Smalley and the Borough Assembly for approving a request to fund the District budget to the cap. He thanked the legislative delegation for their help at the state level.

Mr. Anderson wished Dr. Peterson the best of luck in the future. He commended her for her many qualities and professionalism at every level. He expressed appreciation for her hard work and considers her a good friend. He reported that he was appointed by Governor Palin to the Workforce Investment Board as a representative of secondary education statewide. He reported that he attended the first worksession of the group in May. He stated that he will be working with the local regional advisory council and will continue working as a liaison for the district in the area of career and technology. He noted that he was also assigned to the Assessment and Evaluation Committee to ensure that statewide dollars are properly used.

Mrs. Vadla thanked the legislators who were in attendance. She thanked Dr. Peterson for her hard work over the last 10 years and added that she appreciates how she cares about kids. She expressed appreciation for the Year End Report. She thanked Ms. Powell for the Project GRAD information and Mr. Turner for the KPC information. She thanked the KPEA and KPESA representatives and Mrs. Mook for attending. She thanked Mr. Smalley for his help as a member of the Assembly. She expressed disappointment that some of the graduation ceremonies fall on the same date.

Mrs. Downing expressed appreciation for the attendance of the Kenai Peninsula legislators to honor Dr. Peterson. She praised District staff. She thanked Ms. Powell for the Project GRAD information and Mr. Turner for the KPC update. She commended the partnership between KPC and the District. She expressed admiration for Dr. Peterson and added that she is an incredible role model, extremely focused when dealing with challenges and maintains a high level of professionalism. She stated that the Board will miss her.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

*(continued)*

Mrs. Hilts stated that even though it is Dr. Peterson's last meeting, there is no angst about it because of her legacy. She expressed appreciation for the periodic book reviews provided by Dr. Peterson. She stated that the Board wishes her good luck and expects her to stay visible in the world of education and public service.

Mrs. Vadla stated that she is looking forward to working with Dr. Atwater.

Mrs. Crawford thanked the Borough Assembly, legislature, and Dr. Peterson for all the hard work on behalf of the District. She stated that she is looking forward to working with Dr. Atwater. She reminded the Board of the June 2 goal planning session at 8:45 a.m. at the Soldotna City Hall Council Chambers. She thanked Dr. Peterson for bringing rigor to education.

**ADJOURN:**

*(8:22:10 PM)*

At 8:22 p.m., Mr. Anderson moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Downing seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mrs. Sammy Crawford, President

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Mr. Marty Anderson, Clerk

The Minutes of June 1, 2009, have not been approved as of June 28, 2009.