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# Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes

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July 13, 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

**STAFF PRESENT:** Dr. Steve Atwater, Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Dave Jones, Assistant Superintendent  
Mr. Sean Dusek, Assistant Superintendent

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Mr. Hal Smalley Mrs. Margie Warner  
Mr. Tim Peterson Mrs. LaDawn Druce  
Mrs. Norma Holmgaard Borough Mayor Dave Carey

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  
(7:00:53 PM) Allegiance.

**DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT:** Mrs. Downing read the District's mission statement.  
(7:01:15 PM)

**ROLL CALL:** Mrs. Sammy Crawford Present  
(7:01:44 PM) Mrs. Liz Downing Present  
Mr. Marty Anderson Present  
Mrs. Sunni Hilts Present  
Mr. Joe Arness Absent/Excused  
Mr. Gregory Gabriel, Jr. Absent/Excused  
Ms. Lynn Hohl Present  
Mr. Bill Holt Absent/Excused  
Mrs. Penny Vadla Present

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** The agenda was approved as written.  
(7:02:26 PM)

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The School Board Minutes of June 1, 2009, were approved as  
(7:02:37 PM) printed.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:***(7:03:08 PM)*

Dr. Atwater reported that Mrs. Douglas is in Washington D.C. participating in the Eagle Leadership Institute as part of the Eagle Award. He reviewed a memo from Dr. Peterson (former superintendent) regarding the Board's request to review the possibility of broadcasting Board meetings. He called the Board's attention to the individual school annual reports to the superintendent and cited some examples of good ideas. He provided an update on the Shanta Creek fire which has already burned 13,000 acres. He noted that Skyview High School is currently hosting 480 firefighters and related personnel.

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SITE COUNCIL AND/OR P.T.A., K.P.A.A., K.P.E.A., K.P.E.S.A, BOROUGH ASSEMBLY:***(7:05:48 PM)*

Mrs. Druce, KPEA president, reported that she was invited by the NEA state president to attend a round table discussion in Anchorage on June 22. She stated that the group discussed assessment and accountability, closing the achievement gap, and alternative salary compensation. She reported that she attended the NEA National Representative Assembly Convention in San Diego on June 30 through July 7. She stated that the 3 areas of concern for NEA are to transform education, to rebuild the middle class in America, and to build capacity as an organization. She reported that the group heard from Education Secretary Arne Duncan. She summarized Secretary Duncan's address and expressed appreciation for him and the current national administration for reaching out to NEA and asking for help and guidance with education policies. She stated that student assessment is more than test scores. She noted that teachers collaborating in a meaningful way with enough time, resources and support will take the District into a higher level of education.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:***(7:11:40 PM)*

Dr. Atwater presented the 2009-2010 Site Council Evaluation Reports from each school. He presented the 2008-2009 Superintendent's Annual Report that included the District goals, highlights of the year, an achievement profile, technology and energy information, and a message from Dr. Peterson.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:***(7:12:50 PM)*

On behalf of Mrs. Douglas, Mr. Jones presented the financial report of the District for the period ending May 31, 2009.

**QUARTERLY BUDGET REPORT:***(7:14:14 PM)*

On behalf of Mrs. Douglas, Mr. Jones reported on budget transfers Numbers 862 through 1335 for various schools and departments within the District.

Mrs. Crawford acknowledged and welcomed Borough Mayor Dave Carey in the audience.

**BOARD REPORTS:***(7:17:50 PM)*

Ms. Hohl reported that she attended the Seward PTSA meeting.

Mrs. Vadla reported that she attended the British Petroleum community appreciation picnic.

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

Mrs. Crawford reported that she was a guest on KSRM radio's talk show, Sound Off. She reported that she attended the NSBA Pacific Region Summer Meeting in Anchorage. She noted that one of the main topics was a report from Alaska and the Intervention Project with Level 5 schools.

**BOARD WORKSESSION REPORT:***(7:17:52 PM)*

Mrs. Crawford reported that the Board held worksessions on proposed policy revisions, 2009-2010 School Board Goals, Board goal talking points and federal stimulus funds. She reported that the Board hosted a Dine and Discuss session with members of the Federal Programs Advisory Committee.

**CONSENT AGENDA:***(7:20:56 PM)*

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Acceptance of Federal Stimulus Funds; 2009-2010 Board Goals; 2009-2010 Annual Agenda Guideline; Budget Transfer; New Administrator Contracts; Nontenure Teacher Contracts; New Teacher Contracts; Resignations; Revisions to AR 3360, Travel and Per Diem and AR 5144.11, Due Process.

**ACCEPTANCE OF FEDERAL STIMULUS FUNDS:**

Dr. Atwater recommended the Board approve the District's application for State Fiscal Stabilization Funds (SFSF) under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

**2009-2010 BOARD GOALS:**

Dr. Atwater presented four goals for accomplishment during the 2009-2010 school year in the areas of student success; parent, student and community engagement; constituent communication; and improvement of graduation rates and decrease dropout rates.

**2009-2010 ANNUAL AGENDA GUIDELINE:**

Dr. Atwater recommended the Board approve the 2009-2010 Annual Agenda Guideline.

**BUDGET TRANSFER:**

By memorandum, Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve budget transfer Number 1302 in the amount of \$63,000 to pay for FY09 fuel costs for the home-to-school bus routes in the Central Peninsula area.

**NEW ADMINISTRATOR CONTRACTS:**

Dr. Atwater recommended the Board approve administrator contracts for Dennis Allan Gee, Ed.D., principal at Homer High; Timothy Vlasak, director of Secondary Education and Assessment; and Donald R. Frashier, principal/teacher at Tebughna Elementary/High.

**NONTENURE TEACHER CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve tentative nontenured teacher contracts for Stacy Naden, (temporary .50 FTE) art teacher, Homer High School; Patricia J. Truesdell, K-12th grade teacher, Hope School; Joanna Greene, (permanent .50 FTE/temporary .50 FTE) grades 4-5 teacher, Kachemak Selo; Joseph Taylor, primary grades teacher, Redoubt Elementary; and JoEllen Fowler, (permanent .50 FTE interventionist/temporary .50 FTE) Title I teacher, Tustumena Elementary.

**NEW TEACHER CONTRACTS:** Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve teacher contracts for Dennis Welch, generalist teacher/advisor, Connections; Steve M. Cothran, social studies/history teacher, districtwide distance education; Emanuela Meriggi, foreign language/history teacher, districtwide distance education; Connie L. Akers, .50 FTE librarian, Homer High School; Jennifer Booz, science/math teacher, Homer Middle School; Gwenn Dailey-Gee, special education resource teacher, Homer Middle School; Summer A. Dallman, kindergarten teacher, Mountain View Elementary; Cynthia McKibben, primary grade teacher, Mountain View Elementary; Dylan Hooper, middle school science teacher, Nikiski Middle/High; Laura Niemczyk, language arts teacher, Nikiski Middle/High; Rose M. Kiernan, primary grade teacher, Nikiski North Star Elementary; Karen Pala, (temporary) pre-kindergarten teacher/Title I teacher, Nikiski North Star Elementary; Vivian Norenberg, (permanent .50 FTE/.50 FTE temporary) Title I teacher/elementary teacher, Nikolaevsk School; Carolyn M. Farmer, intermediate grade teacher, Redoubt Elementary; Albert Plan, math/science teacher, Seward Middle School; Eric M. Pomerleau, athletic/activities director, Skyview High; Jesse Settlemeyer, language arts teacher, Skyview High; Kelli Creglow, (temporary) special education preschool teacher, Soldotna Elementary; Cynthia Ussing, intermediate grades teacher, Sterling Elementary; Paul S. Chissus, (temporary .50 FTE) generalist teacher, Susan B. English Elem/High; and Linda Lemco, special education resource teacher, Voznesenka School.

**RESIGNATIONS:** Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve resignations effective at the end of the 2008-2009 school year from Shannon West, math/reading teacher, Kenai Middle School; and Naomi Karlin, art, Seward High School.

**REVISIONS TO POLICY  
MANUAL ADMINISTRATIVE  
REGULATIONS:** Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve revisions to AR 3360, Travel and Per Diem and AR 5144.11, Due Process.

**MOTION**

Mr. Anderson moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 9. Mrs. Downing seconded.

Mrs. Hilts removed Number 2, Approval of 2009-2010 Board Goals.

Motion carried unanimously for Numbers 1 and 3 through 9.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Hilts moved the Board approve an amendment to change the language in Goal Number 1 in the first bullet to replace the words "Individualized Learning Plan" with the words "Personal Education Plan" and in Goal Number 2 in the last bullet to add the words "and site councils" after the words "student council members". Ms. Hohl seconded.

Amendment carried unanimously.

Amended motion carried unanimously for Number 2.

**CONSENT AGENDA:***(continued)*

Mrs. Crawford noted that the Goals will be grammatically corrected but that the content will remain the same.

**POLICY REVISIONS:***(7:23:00 PM)*

Mr. Jones recommended approval 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; and BP 5125.1, Release of Directory Information.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Downing moved the Board approve 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; and BP 5125.1, Release of Directory Information. Mr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**FIRST READING OF POLICY REVISIONS:***(7:28:57 PM)*

The Board heard a first reading of revisions to BP 4156.2, Awards and Recognition and BP 6145.2, Interscholastic Competition.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/ COMMENTS:***(7:30:25 PM)*

Borough Mayor Carey thanked the School District for their cooperation with the Shanta Creek firefighting efforts involving over 1000 people. He thanked the schools and District administration for the smooth relocation of the statewide dog show from Skyview High School to Soldotna High School so that Skyview could be used as the fire command center. He noted that it has been an excellent example of cooperation between all agencies. He asked the District for cooperation and assistance with the Borough administration's pursuit of alternative energy and energy conservation and efficiency grants.

**BOARD COMMENTS:***(7:39:02 PM)*

Mrs. Vadla welcomed Superintendent Atwater and Assistant Superintendent Dusek. She thanked the administration for the worksessions on federal stimulus funds and the 2009-2010 Board goals. She thanked the administration for the KPSAA handbooks and expressed appreciation for the individual school annual reports. She thanked those who helped with the worksessions and those who spoke to the Board.

Ms. Hohl reported that she attended the Spring Creek graduation. She announced that she will attend the Alaska State PTA Summer Board meeting in August. She requested that the Board conduct a worksession on the national standards for parent involvement.

Mrs. Downing agreed with Mrs. Vadla's comments. She expressed appreciation for the emphasis by the Borough on energy conservation and alternative energy.

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

Mr. Anderson expressed appreciation to Dr. Atwater for his communications during the short time he has been superintendent and wished him success in his new position with the District. He expressed appreciation for the comments made by Borough Mayor Carey. He suggested that the most important assessment is to ask students five to ten years after graduation if they felt they were prepared when they left high school.

Mrs. Hilts welcomed Dr. Atwater as the new superintendent and Mr. Dusek, as the new assistant superintendent. She commended the administration for the fairly seamless transition. She thanked Borough Mayor Carey for the positive comments. She explained that Susan B. English Elementary/High School received \$2,000 in energy saving funds. She expressed appreciation for the worksessions and noted that the federal stimulus money will be spent in ways that will provide long term benefits to the District.

Mrs. Crawford congratulated and welcomed the new Senior Management team. She expressed appreciation for Borough Mayor Carey's comment. She stated that she is proud to be a member of the KPBSD Board of Education.

**ADJOURN:**  
*(7:47 PM)*

At 7:47 p.m., Mrs. Hilts moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mr. Anderson 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 July 13, 2009,  
have not been approved as of  
July 16, 2009.