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# Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes

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September 14, 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  
Mrs. Melody Douglas, Chief Financial Officer  
Mr. Sean Dusek, Assistant Superintendent  
Mr. Dave Jones, Assistant Superintendent

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Mrs. Cathy Carrow	Mr. Joe Mooney
Mrs. Stephanie Carroll	Mr. Jim White
Mrs. Margie Warner	Mrs. Vonnie Pierce
Dr. Donna Peterson	Mr. Charlie Pierce
Mrs. Sharon Moock	Mr. Pete Sprague
Mrs. Marilyn Pawluk	Mr. Tim Navarre
Mrs. Linda Raemaeker	

Others present not identified.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mrs. Crawford called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.  
(7:00:47 PM)

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mrs. Crawford invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.  
(7:01:02 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	Present
Mr. Bill Holt	Present
Mrs. Penny Vadla	Present

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** The agenda was approved as written. She noted that the Board would conduct an Executive Session at the end of the meeting.  
(7:02:05 PM)

**DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT:**

*(7:02:29 PM)*

Mrs. Hilts read the District's mission statement.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

*(7:02:53 PM)*

The School Board Minutes of August 10, 2009 were approved as printed.

**AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:**

*(7:03:06 PM)*

The Board presented Golden Apple Awards to Stephanie Carroll, Alaska Communication System Account Representative, for being instrumental in the delivery of data communication services crucial to the District's operations.

**SCHOOL REPORT:**

*(7:08:02 PM)*

Mr. Joe Mooney, Kenai Peninsula Youth Facility teacher, introduced Mr. Steve Keefer, facility superintendent. Mr. Mooney gave a PowerPoint presentation that highlighted the function of the youth facility, school location and facility, life for incarcerated students, student philosophy, the discipline point system, student recognition for achievement and behavior, the school greenhouse, parent conferencing, presentations from the community, demographics, special services, student progress towards graduation, assessment information, drop out information, and student opinion survey information.

**RECESS:**

*(7:25:07 PM)*

At 7:25 p.m., Mrs. Crawford called a recess.

**RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:**

*(7:26:14 PM)*

At 7:26 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

Mrs. Crawford recognized several Skyview High School students in the audience from Mrs. Raemaeker's class.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:**

*(7:26:54 PM)*

Mr. Neal Duperron, parent, listed his objections to the need for background checks for school visitors. He asked why the background checks are reported to the chief financial officer.

Miss Lillian Connor, Homer student, distributed an article regarding Advanced Placement classes, and asked the Board to revise District Policy and allow weighted grades for students who take college classes.

Ms. Ruby Denison, Soldotna resident, spoke in support of weighted grades for college classes and urged the Board to address the issue immediately so that more students will participate in college classes,

Ms. Gina Creedon, Homer parent, spoke in support of weighted grades for students who take college classes. She noted that more students would participate in college classes if the high school did not use a block schedule. She urged the Board to support the AASB resolutions.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:***(7:45:16 PM)*

Dr. Atwater noted that the Board received copies of a memo from the Borough Attorney regarding the Moose Pass land issue. He reported that the District was notified by the Department of Education and Early Development that the special education compliance review will be held during the first week of November and will now be conducted annually instead of every five 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:***(7:47:00 PM)*

Ms. Cathy Carrow, KPEA representative, read a statement from Mrs. LaDawn Druce, KPEA president, supporting academic freedom for teachers who wish to show the presidential broadcast to students.

Ms. Margie Warner, KPESA president, reported on school visits, thanked the administration for the opportunity to make the visits. She reported that she will attend the upcoming state board of directors meeting in Anchorage and that she will be nominated to fill one of two Region III state director seats.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:***(7:53:38 PM)*

Dr. Atwater reported that the Commissioner of Education passed an emergency regulation to allow students to receive educational services while they are home in the event school is closed for an outbreak of the H1N1 virus. He reported that Ms. Paula Christensen has been hired on a contract basis as the Stimulus Coordinator and that Mrs. Lana King has been hired to oversee the accounting of the stimulus funds. He reported on recent school visits and the student shadowing during a few of his visits. He clarified that school volunteer background checks are only concerned with criminal activities which are reported to Mr. Tim Peterson. He reported that a preliminary discussion has been held with the Borough Mayor regarding the possibility of a maintenance bond. He reported that he will conduct an exploratory discussion with the residents of Voznesenka, Razdolna and Kachemak Selo regarding the possibility of constructing a new school to accommodate the three growing communities.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:***(7:58: PM)*

Mrs. Douglas presented the financial reports of the District for the periods ending July 31, 2009 and August 31, 2009.

**BOARD REPORTS:***(8:00:36 PM)*

Mrs. Downing reported that she and Mrs. Crawford participated in the call-in radio program, Coffee Table through the public radio stations KBBI and KDLL.

Mrs. Vadla reported that she attended the August 17 Districtwide Inservice and noted that the keynote speaker was good.

Mr. Holt reported that he attended the Districtwide Inservice and commended Dr. Atwater and the keynote speaker for the friendly atmosphere.

Mrs. Hilts reported that she attended the AASB resolutions teleconference and that significant discussion was held on the resolution regarding the Work Keys Project.

**BOARD WORKSESSION****REPORT:***(8:05:31 PM)*

Mrs. Crawford reported that she attended the Districtwide Inservice. She reported that she and Dr. Atwater gave a quarterly update to the Borough Assembly on August 18. She noted that she and Dr. Atwater are scheduled to be guests on KSRM's Sound Off program on Friday, October 9. She presented a written report on the Board's progress on goals.

Mrs. Crawford reported that the Board discussed Policy Manual Exhibit 9322, Order of Business for Board Agendas and 2009-2010 talking points. She added that the Board heard reports regarding assessment, fund balance and student enrollment.

**CONSENT AGENDA:***(8:06:27 PM)*

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Budget Transfer Request; Nontenure Teacher Contract; New Teacher Contracts; and Request for Long-Term Substitute Teacher Contract.

**BUDGET TRANSFER  
REQUEST:**

Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve budget transfer Number 27 for \$50,087 to adjust the account code structure of the pool supervisor position.

**NONTENURE TEACHER  
CONTRACT:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve tentative nontenured teacher contracts for Ingrid McKinstry, permanent .50 FTE/temporary .50 FTE, math teacher/interventionist, Homer Middle School.

**NEW TEACHER CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve teaching contracts for David R. Christal, .50 FTE K-6 teacher, Chapman School; Mary D. Simondsen, music teacher, Chapman School; Amy J. Christianson, music teacher-instrumental, Homer Middle and Homer High School; Anna M. Fisher, social studies teacher, Homer High School; Zachary J. Zimny, art teacher, Homer Middle School; Lenore S. Swanson, primary grade/music/physical education teacher, McNeil Canyon Elementary; Renee A. Christensen, intermediate grade teacher, Mountain View Elementary; Kimberly Trammell, temporary, kindergarten teacher, Nikiski North Star Elementary; Denaya L. DeVold, temporary, primary grade teacher, Nikiski North Star Elementary; Eric Simondsen, music teacher-vocal & instrumental, Ninilchik School; Kjersten M. Syth, temporary, physical education teacher, Paul Banks/West Homer Elementary; Peter L. Gundunas, special education, resource teacher, Skyview High School; and Seanna N. Gunn, temporary .50 FTE Grade 5 teacher, West Homer Elementary.

**REQUEST FOR LONG-TERM  
SUBSTITUTE TEACHER  
CONTRACT:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a long-term substitute teacher contract for Julie Shaw, Kachemak Selo.

**MOTION**

Mr. Gabriel moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 4. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

**REQUEST FOR LONG-TERM  
SUBSTITUTE TEACHER  
CONTRACT:**

*(continued)*

Ms. Hohl removed 10a(1) Approval of Budget Transfer.

Motion carried unanimously for Numbers 2 through 4.

Motion carried unanimously for Number 1.

**AASB CORE RESOLUTIONS:**  
*(8:10:16 PM)*

Mrs. Crawford explained that the 2010 AASB Belief Statements and Core Resolutions are presented to the Board for consideration.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Vadla moved the Board approve the 2010 AASB Belief Statements and Core Resolutions. Mr. Holt seconded.

Mrs. Vadla removed 2.2a (Fully Implement Increases To The District Cost Factor And Intensive Needs Sections Of The Foundation Formula And Begin Immediate Review Of The District Cost Factors) and 2.19 (Increased Formula Funding). Mrs. Hilts removed 1.9 (Compulsory Attendance Law).

Motion carried on all 2010 AASB Belief Statements and Core Resolutions except 2.2a, 2.19 and 1.9.

**VOTE ON AASB RESOLUTION 1.9**

YES – Holt, Arness, Vadla, Downing, Gabriel

NO – Hohl, Hilts, Crawford

Motion carried.

Motion to approve AASB Resolution 2.2a failed.

Motion to approve AASB Resolution 2.10 carried.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**  
*(8:28:02 PM)*

Mr. Holt suggested the Board carefully study the question of weighted grades before making any changes and added that it is difficult to compare Advanced Placement classes to college classes.

Mrs. Vadla thanked Mr. Dusek and Mrs. Douglas, Mr. Jones for worksession. She thanked Ms. Carroll for her service to the District and Mr. Mooney for the school report. She thanked Mr. White and his staff for the technology that has been installed in District schools. She expressed the importance of District leaders and teachers who attend professional development opportunities and bring the information back to the District. She thanked Mrs. Carrow for reading the letter from Mrs. Druce regarding President Obama's broadcast to students and added that she received calls from parents who were unhappy that their children weren't allowed to see it.

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

Mrs. Downing reported that after receiving an email from Ms. Creeden regarding weighted grades, she requested that the Board and Policy Committee review the issue. She reported that she spoke to Representative Seaton regarding items on the Health Education Committee agenda. She thanked Mr. Mooney for his school presentation. She reported that she will serve on AASB Nominations Committee. She announced that two of her former students were on the District's new teacher contract list which was approved by the Board.

Ms. Hohl expressed appreciation for the work on the Moose Pass safety corridor issue. She thanked Mr. Mooney and Mr. Keefer for their work at the Kenai Youth Facility. She asked the Board to review the school construction process prior to the next construction project to eliminate any ambiguity. She expressed concern for students who can't afford college classes and therefore would not receive weighted grades. She reported that she heard from parents who were disappointed that their children were not allowed to watch President Obama's broadcast with their peers.

Mr. Gabriel thanked Mr. Mooney for the school report and for his work with students.

Mrs. Hilts explained that the Board is trying to pay close attention to all matters of the District and want to give every possible opportunity to all students. She expressed appreciation for the school report and the District's focus on energy conservation. She thanked Dr. Atwater and District staff for a great beginning to the school year.

Mrs. Crawford announced that Paul Banks Elementary was featured in the May 31 issue of the *Alliance for a Healthier Generations School Success Newsletter*. She thanked Mr. Mooney for the school report and for his work with students. She noted that the weighted grades issue is very complicated and that the College Board has approved thirty-one courses for college credit. She reminded those present that the Board conducted a year-long study of the topic several years ago.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:***(8:43:14 PM)*

Mr. Arness 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. Hilts seconded.

**ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

At 9:19 p.m., Mrs. Hilts moved the executive session be adjourned. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

# UNAPPROVED

**ADJOURN:**

At 9:20 p.m., Mrs. Hilts moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Vadla 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 September 14, 2009,  
have not been approved as of  
September 25, 2009.