
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes

October 19, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting

Borough Administration Building
148 N. Binkley, Soldotna, Alaska

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

Mr. Joe Arness, President
Mrs. Liz Downing, Vice President
Mrs. Sunni Hilts, Clerk
Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Treasurer
Mr. Marty Anderson
Ms. Lynn Hohl
Mr. Bill Holt
Mr. Tim Navarre
Mrs. Penny Vadla
Miss Destini Riley, Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT:

Dr. Steve Atwater, Superintendent of Schools
Mrs. Melody Douglas, Chief Financial Officer
Mr. Dave Jones, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Sean Dusek, Assistant Superintendent

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Mike Sellers	Mr. Tim Peterson
Mrs. Tonja Updike	Mrs. Norma Holmgaard
Mrs. Sharon Moock	Mr. Dante Petre'
Mrs. Margie Warner	Mr. Clayton Holland

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

(7:00:41PM)

Mrs. Crawford called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

(7:00:54 PM)

Mrs. Crawford invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

OATH OF OFFICE:

(7:01:20 PM)

The Oath of Office was administered to newly elected School Board members Mrs. Liz Downing and Mr. Tim Navarre, by notary public, Mrs. Sally Tachick. Mr. Marty Anderson was reelected to the Board but was not in attendance.

DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT:

(7:02:54 PM)

Mrs. Vadla read the District's mission statement.

ROLL CALL:

(7:03:25 PM)

Mrs. Sammy Crawford	Present
Mrs. Liz Downing	Present
Mr. Marty Anderson	Absent/Excused
Mrs. Sunni Hilts	Present
Mr. Joe Arness	Present
Ms. Lynn Hohl	Present
Mr. Bill Holt	Present
Mr. Tim Navarre	Present
Mrs. Penny Vadla	Present
Miss Destini Riley	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

(7:04:05 PM)

The agenda was approved as written.

REORGANIZATION OF BOARD:

(7:04:17 PM)

Mrs. Crawford announced that a reorganization of the Board was in order.

MOTION

Ms. Hohl nominated Mrs. Sunni Hilts as president of the Board. Mr. Holt nominated Mr. Joe Arness as president of the Board. Mrs. Vadla requested that nominations for president be closed. Ms. Hohl seconded.

VOTE:

Sunni Hilts – 2 votes

Joe Arness – 6 votes

Mr. Joe Arness was selected as president.

MOTION

Mr. Navarre nominated Mr. Bill Holt as vice president of the Board. Mr. Holt nominated Mrs. Liz Downing as vice president of the Board. Mr. Navarre requested that nominations for vice president be closed. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

VOTE:

Bill Holt – 3 votes

Liz Downing – 5 votes

Mrs. Liz Downing was selected as vice president.

MOTION

Mrs. Crawford nominated Mrs. Sunni Hilts as clerk of the Board. Mr. Navarre requested that nominations for clerk be closed. Ms. Lynn Hohl seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Sunni Hilts was selected as clerk.

MOTION

Mr. Holt nominated Mrs. Sammy Crawford as treasurer of the Board. Mr. Navarre requested that nominations for treasurer be closed. Ms. Hohl seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Sammy Crawford was selected as treasurer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

(7:11:43 PM)

The School Board Minutes of October 5 were approved with a correction.

SCHOOL REPORT:*(7:12:33 PM)*

Mr. Mike Sellers, Nikolaevsk Elementary/High principal, gave a PowerPoint presentation with the help of four students (Serafima Kalugin, Nadejda Gordeev, Frank Holub, and Anthony Yakunin) that highlighted assessment scores, Personal Education Plans, enrollment, teaching staff, and the standards-based and standards-referenced educational system developed by Dr. Marzano.

HEARING OF DELEGATIONS:*(7:25:10 PM)*

Mrs. Tonja Updike, Governor's Council on Special Education and Disabilities, spoke to the Board about the Council's support of HB 187 (An Act requiring insurance coverage for autism spectrum disorders, describing the method for establishing a treatment plan for those disorders, and defining the treatment required for those disorders; and providing for an effective date).

RECESS:*(7:39:45 PM)*

At 7:39 p.m., Mr. Arness called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER**RECESS:***(7:46:20 PM)*

At 7:46 pm. the Board reconvened in regular session.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND
PETITIONS:***(7:46:22 PM)*

Mr. Arness reported that the Seward High School Site Council submitted a Board policy waiver request to name the new track, football and soccer field, the Roger Steinbrecher memorial field.

Dr. Atwater reported that the Information Packet contains a letter to Commissioner LeDoux regarding the denial of the District's request for a waiver of the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam dates. He added that the waiver was denied again but that the participation rate can be averaged over a three-year period which might provide some relief when determining adequate yearly progress. He reported that the Department of Education and Early Development has notified the District that the Connections Home School Program will be audited. He noted that the six-year projected enrollment report has been delayed until December.

Mr. Arness announced that Board member committee appointments were needed for the Fine Arts Curriculum Committee and the Physical Education Curriculum Committee.

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE,
SITE COUNCIL AND/OR
P.T.A., K.P.A.A., K.P.E.A.,
K.P.E.S.A, BOROUGH
ASSEMBLY:***(7:50:51 PM)*

Mrs. Margie Warner thanked the Board and administration for providing full-time nurses in schools. She noted that she continues to make school visits and that the bargaining team will meet again at the end of October.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

(7:52:54 PM)

Dr. Atwater reported on the H1N1 virus, and noted that permission slips are being distributed for students to be given the vaccine at schools. He noted that the first quarter has ended and that the first semester is short because of the need to finish before the December holiday break. He recommended that instead of conducting a financial impact study that the Board consider a study of the District's internal operations. He announced that the first federal stimulus report was submitted on October 6.

QUARTERLY BUDGET TRANSFER REPORT:

(7:55:18 PM)

Mrs. Douglas reported on budget transfers Numbers 4 through 211 for various schools and departments within the District.

FINANCE REPORT:

(7:55:50 PM)

Mrs. Douglas presented the financial report of the District for the period ending September 30, 2009.

BOARD REPORTS:

(7:56:27 PM)

Mrs. Crawford reported that she and Dr. Atwater were guests on KSRM Radio's talk show, Sound Off. She announced that the Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB) Annual Conference begins Friday, November 6 through Sunday, November 8. She noted that the Board budget will pay the registration fees for new Board members to take the new board member training but that the experienced board member training would be at each member's own expense. She announced that Mrs. Hilts and Mrs. Downing are involved in AASB committee meetings and invited other Board members to attend the Resolutions Committee meeting.

Mrs. Crawford reported that the Policy Review Committee met and discussed the new state law regarding booster seats, fund raising and gaming, and the new policy on internet access.

CONSENT AGENDA:

(7:59:12 PM)

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of New Teacher Assignments; and High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2010-5.

NEW TEACHER ASSIGNMENTS:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve new teacher contracts for the 2009-2010 school year for Barbara Young, (temporary) gifted teacher, Seward Elementary; and Katy Settlemyer, (temporary), .50 FTE, kindergarten through Grade 1 teacher, Nikiski North Star Elementary.

HSGQE:

Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2010-5.

MOTION

Mrs. Hilts moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 and 2. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:
(7:59:51 PM)

Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board establish a standing Board Finance Committee. She suggested that the duties and responsibilities of the Committee could include audit activities, budget activities, and other finance related activities.

MOTION

Mrs. Hilts moved the Board approve the establishment of a standing Board Finance Committee. Mr. Holt seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

BOARD COMMENTS:
(8:00:44 PM)

Mrs. Vadla thanked Ms. Auxier, Mr. Jones, and Mr. White for the information provided at the Policy Review Committee meeting. She thanked Mr. Gabriel for his past Board service. She welcomed Mr. Navarre. She thanked the Nikolaevsk students for their school report and Mrs. Updike for the disabilities information. She reported that she recently judged the Mind-A-Mazes competition at Soldotna Middle School. She reported that she is highly impressed with a gifted class she is taking. She welcomed Mr. Navarre to the Board.

Mrs. Downing expressed appreciation for the Nikolaevsk School report and commended the students for their public speaking skills. She thanked Mrs. Updike for the disabilities presentation and thanked her for focusing on the positive things being done to help disabled students. She welcomed Mr. Navarre and thanked the Board for electing her as vice president.

Mr. Holt thanked the Nikolaevsk students and Mr. Sellers for the school report. He welcomed Mr. Navarre and added that it has been a pleasure serving with Mr. Gabriel.

Ms. Hohl thanked the School Board and especially past Board president, Mrs. Debra Mullins, for including Seward, Nanwalek and Tyonek in the District Quality Schools/Quality Students (QS2) Initiative through the Association of Alaska School Boards. She reported that recently the Seward community celebrated the grand opening of the disc golf course which was paid for by QS2 funds, local matching funds and in-kind donations from the community. She reported that she attended the Wellness Institute in which Commissioner LeDoux talked about writing new statewide standards for physical education. She asked whether the Physical Education Curriculum Committee should postpone their work until new state standards are developed. She stated that she would be willing to serve on the Fine Arts Curriculum Committee or the Physical Education Curriculum Committee. She reported that she attended Senator Gary Stevens' town meeting in Seward. She suggested that the Board consider developing amendments to the proposed AASB resolutions during the Annual Conference that would address testing during major religious holidays and insurance assistance for children with autism.

BOARD COMMENTS:*(continued)*

Mrs. Hilts congratulated the newly elected Board officers. She welcomed Mr. Navarre to the Board. She thanked Mrs. Crawford for her service over the past two years as Board president and as president elect and president of AASB. She expressed appreciation for the Nikolaevsk School report and commended the students for their speaking and cooking skills. She expressed interest in an internal audit of the District's efficiencies. She expressed appreciation for Mrs. Updike's comments regarding disabled students.

Miss Riley thanked Mrs. Updike for her comments and the Nikolaevsk students for the school report.

Mrs. Crawford welcomed Mr. Navarre to the Board. She reported that as AASB president, she hosted a webinar for new Board members and noted that Mr. Navarre participated. She reported that she attend the Soldotna High School Site Council meeting a few weeks ago. She expressed appreciation for the establishment of a standing Board Finance Committee. She agreed with the idea of a study of the District's internal efficiencies and would like to veer away from an economic impact study. She thanked Nikolaevsk students and Mr. Sellers for the school report. She announced that Commissioner LeDoux has offered to meet with individual school boards during the AASB Annual Conference. She congratulated Mr. Arness for being elected president.

Mr. Navarre congratulated Mr. Arness for being selected as Board president. He stated that he will rely on the help of other Board members, will try to be a good listener, and will offer input. He provided a brief history of his family and life on the Kenai Peninsula, his involvement on the Assembly and with the Chamber of Commerce, and vocational education instruction. He congratulated the Kenai Central High football team for winning the small school state championship and commended both Kenai Central and Soldotna High for their sportsmanship. He stated that he would like to have the small school championship games played on the Kenai Peninsula. He stated that he is interested in serving on the Physical Education Curriculum Committee and the standing Finance Committee. He congratulated the newly elected Board officers. He thanked the Nikolaevsk School students and Mr. Sellers for the school report.

Mr. Arness appointed Ms. Hohl to serve on the Fine Arts Curriculum Committee and Mr. Navarre to serve on the Physical Education Committee.

Mr. Arness stated that Mrs. Tachick will send a notice to Board members regarding membership on the various District level committees and the standing Board Finance Committee and solicit membership requests. He thanked Nikolaevsk School students and staff for the report and for the dinner they provided prior to the October 5 Board meeting in Homer.

BOARD COMMENTS:
(continued)

Mrs. Downing asked those present for a standing ovation for Mrs. Crawford in recognition for the hard work she has done as Board president this past year.

ADJOURN:
(8:20:21 PM)

At 8:20 p.m., Ms. Hohl moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Joe Arness, President

Mrs. Sunni Hilts, Clerk

The Minutes of October 19, 2009,
were approved on November 2, 2009
with a correction.