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# Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

## Board of Education Meeting Minutes

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December 7, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.  
Regular Meeting

Borough Administration Building  
148 N. Binkley, Soldotna, Alaska

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**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  
Mr. Dave Jones, Assistant Superintendent  
Mr. Sean Dusek, Assistant Superintendent

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Mrs. Carolyn Cannava	Mrs. Tina Stamer
Mrs. Kelly Vasilie	Mrs. Michelle Gabriel
Mrs. Margie Warner	Mr. Dave Spence
Mrs. Sharon Moock	Mrs. Nancy Courtright
Mr. Rob Moore	Mr. Tim Peterson
Ms. Jan Bobek	

Others present not identified.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 4:54 p.m. A quorum of School Board members, Mr. Anderson, Mrs. Downing, Mr. Navarre, Mrs. Hilts, Mr. Holt, Ms. Hohl, Mrs. Vadla, and Mr. Arness were in attendance.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** At 4:55 p.m., Ms. Hohl 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. Vadla seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:** At 5:30 p.m., Mr. Holt moved the executive session be adjourned. Ms. Hohl seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.  
(7:01:02 PM)

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mr. Arness invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.  
(7:01:14 PM)

**DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT:**

*(7:01:45 PM)*

Mrs. Downing read the District’s mission statement.

**ROLL CALL:**

*(7:02:12 PM)*

Mrs. Sammy Crawford	Absent/Excused
Mrs. Liz Downing	Present
Mr. Marty Anderson	Present
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	Absent/Excused

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

*(7:02:50 PM)*

The agenda was approved as written.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

*(7:03:03 PM)*

The School Board Minutes of November 2 were approved as printed.

**AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:**

*(7:03:34 PM)*

Mr. Arness presented the Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB) Boardmanship recognition certificate to Ms. Hohl.

**SCHOOL REPORT:**

*(7:04:05 PM)*

Ms. Carolyn Cannava, Soldotna Elementary principal, read from the book, Leo the Late Bloomer, which was rewritten to illustrate the education students receive at Soldotna Elementary. Several students (Miss Gracie Carroll, Mr. Ryder Giesler, Miss Katie Creglow, Mr. Jacob Creglow, Mr. Nate Downs, Miss Riley Downs, Mr. Dennis Taylor, Miss Rhys Cannava, Miss Ryann Cannava, and Miss Brittany Taylor) provided short testimonials regarding the skills they have learned during their time at Soldotna Elementary.

**RECESS:**

*(7:15:00 PM)*

At 7:15 p.m., Mr. Arness called a recess.

**RECONVENE AFTER**

**RECESS:**

*(7:19:06 PM)*

At 7:19 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

Mr. Arness recognized students from the Soldotna High School government class in the audience.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:**

*(7:19:50 PM)*

Dr. Atwater noted that career development reports from administrators are being shared with the Board and especially recognized two assistant principals that attended the National Quality Education Conference. He announced that Sterling Elementary has received the Title I Distinguished School Award and will be recognized in Anchorage at the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development 2010 Winter Education Conference. He reported that he wrote a letter of support for a Rotary International grant that, if funded, will provide camera equipment to Nanwalek School, Port Graham School, Susan B. English Elementary/High School, McNeil Canyon Elementary and

**COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:**

*(continued)*

Homer High School. He reported that a similar program has already provided camera equipment to K-Beach Elementary School, Soldotna Middle School, Redoubt Elementary and Skyview High School.

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

*(7:21:18 PM)*

Mrs. LaDawn Druce, KPEA president, highlighted the NEA-sponsored conference recently held in New Orleans. She especially praised keynote speaker, David Berliner from Arizona State University, for speaking on the topic, Narrowing the Curriculum. She reported that while at the conference she attended two workshops (teacher evaluation and student assessment). She reported that she attended a workshop facilitated by Lynne Sawyer regarding teacher evaluation. She announced that almost 50% of the membership participated in the collective bargaining agreement ratification vote and that the agreement was approved. She noted that coaching stipends were increased, the salary schedule was increased, changes were made to the use of sick leave bank days, the establishment of a substitute teacher committee, and changes were made to health care coverage. She spoke in favor of collaboration time for teachers. She recognized three teachers who have submitted their intent to retire.

Mrs. Margie Warner, KPESA president, reported that she recently attended the Leaders for Tomorrow training program in Washington D.C. and provided a summary of the events and training. She announced that the support staff approved the proposed collective bargaining agreement. She noted that the new agreement includes a reduction from 17 columns to 9 columns on the salary schedule and changes in health care coverage. She asked for the Board's support of the new agreement.

Mrs. Mook, KPAA president, thanked Mr. Jones, Mrs. Douglas and Mr. Peterson for their assistance in developing a contract for the administrators. She asked the Board to approve the KPEA and KPESA collective bargaining agreements and expressed appreciation for the new coaching salary schedule.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

*(7:36:42 PM)*

Dr. Atwater reported on the two-day visit to Seward which included a visit to Spring Creek Correctional Facility, Alaska Vocational and Technical Center (AVTEC), Alaska Sea Life Center, and Seward area schools. He commended teachers who contributed to discussions and provided assistance regarding the use of Quality Learning Tools. He reported on the progress regarding water quality at Sterling Elementary.

**SIX-YEAR PUPIL ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS:**

*(7:39:58 PM)*

Mr. Jones presented the Six-Year Enrollment Projections (2010-11 through 2015-16) that reflects 9,075 students for FY11.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

*(7:40:51 PM)*

Mr. Dave Jones presented the financial report of the District for the period ending October 31, 2009.

**BOARD REPORTS:**

*(7:42:37 PM)*

Mr. Holt reported that he attended the KPSAA Board of Directors meeting and that the group discussed the possibility of bidding baseball as a sanctioned sport.

**BOARD REPORTS:**

*(continued)*

Mrs. Vadla reported that she attended the analytical writing assessment meeting and commended the teachers and district administration for continuing the assessment for the past twenty years. She commended Mr. Dusek and Mr. Vlasak for coordinating and supporting the assessment. She reported that she attended the Renzulli training held at Soldotna Middle School and thanked Dr. Atwater and Mr. Ermold for involving her. She reported that she enjoyed the Soldotna High School play, Surfin' Summer, directed by Mr. Druce.

Mr. Navarre reported that he has been attending the Physical Education Curriculum meetings and noted that the state has prepared a draft curriculum available for review. He reported that the Committee has decided to use the state and federal guidelines in order to develop the District's curriculum.

Ms. Hohl reported that she attended the Seward Schools Site Council meeting and Seward PTSA meeting. She thanked Dr. Atwater for the two-day visit to Seward. She reported that she attended the Seward Chamber of Commerce meeting in which Dr. Atwater was the guest speaker. She noted that she, along with several community leaders and Dr. Atwater, attended the Seward Sea Life Center meeting. She reported that she attended the Seward Elementary Veteran's Day Concert. She noted that she will miss two upcoming curriculum committee meetings.

**BOARD WORKSESSION REPORT:**

*(7:48:13 PM)*

Mr. Arness reported that the Board discussed the possibility of the relocation of the District Administration Office; the Six-Year Plan and School Construction Needs Report; the Six-Year Pupil Enrollment Projections; and increased teacher collaboration time. He reported that the Board conducted an executive session and noted that all Board members were present except Mrs. Crawford.

Mr. Navarre requested that the Board schedule another worksession to provide more background information on the list of school construction needs.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

*(7:50:11 PM)*

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Six-Year Plan and School Construction Needs; New Teacher Contracts; Long-Term Substitute Contract; Resignations; Request for Waiver to School Board Policy 7511; and Nanwalek School-Port Graham School Basketball Program.

**SIX-YEAR PLAN AND SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION NEEDS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve the proposed Six-Year Plan and list of major maintenance and capital improvement projects for FY11 through 2017.

**NEW TEACHER CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve new teacher contracts for Ashley E. Rolph, (temporary), .50 FTE ATOSS facilitator, Central Peninsula Area; Eric P. Knudtson, (temporary), .50 FTE Grade 3-6 teacher, Fireweed Academy; Sarah G. Compton, (temporary), primary grade teacher, Ninilchik School; Holly L. Davis, (temporary), primary grade teacher, Redoubt Elementary; and Helen E. Lindemuth, (temporary), .50 FTE librarian, Seward Elementary.

**LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE CONTRACT:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a long-term substitute contract for Mark Larson, Skyview High School.

**RESIGNATIONS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve resignations from Nancy Vait, language arts, Homer Flex (effective at the end of the 2009-10 school year); Carol VanDerWege, interventionist, Mountain View Elementary (effective November 30, 2009); and Marisol Tapia, Spanish, Soldotna High School, (effective at the end of the 2009-10 school year).

**REQUEST FOR WAIVER TO SCHOOL BOARD POLICY 7511:**

Mr. Jones recommended that the Board approve a waiver request from the two-year rule in School Board Policy 7511, Naming of Facility, be granted and that a recommendation to the Borough Assembly be forwarded in support of the "Roger Steinbrecher Memorial Field" in Seward.

**NANWALEK SCHOOL-PORT GRAHAM SCHOOL BASKETBALL PROGRAM:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve the addition of a basketball program for Nanwalek School (cooperative with Port Graham School and co-ed if necessary) as a district sanctioned activity and to include a coaching stipend.

Mr. Carl Kircher, Soldotna Middle School teacher, spoke in support of the proposed collective bargaining agreement.

**MOTION**

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**KPEA COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT:**  
*(7:53:25 PM)*

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve the 2009-2012 Kenai Peninsula Education Association Collective Bargaining Agreement.

**MOTION**

Mr. Holt moved the Board approve the 2009-2012 Kenai Peninsula Education Association Collective Bargaining Agreement. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**KPESA COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT:**  
*(7:54:08 PM)*

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve the 2009-2012 Kenai Peninsula Education Support Association Collective Bargaining Agreement.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Hilts moved the Board approve the 2009-2012 Kenai Peninsula Education Support Association Collective Bargaining Agreement. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**POLICY REVISION:**  
*(7:54:54 PM)*

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve revisions to BP 6146.1, High School Graduation Requirements.

Mrs. Downing moved the Board approve revisions to BP 6146.1, High School Graduation Requirements. Mr. Holt seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

(7:56:27 PM)

Mr. Holt agreed that locating teacher substitutes is very difficult and added that he is pleased that progress is being made in that area. He thanked the staff at Kenai central High, Soldotna High and Skyview High for their work in submitting a bid to host the state cross country running championships at the Tsalteshi Trails and noted that Mr. Curtis Schmidt, Skyview High assistant principal, has been leading the effort.

Mr. Anderson reported that he recently met with representatives of AVTEC as a member of the Workforce Investment Board and on behalf of the District. He noted that the Career and Technology Education Advisory Committee will meet on December 10 and the Sterling Site Council will also meet on December 10.

Ms. Hohl expressed appreciation for the students in the audience. She asked if the Board approves the Kenai Peninsula Administrator Contract. She reported that Dr. Atwater attended the Seward PTSA meeting.

Mrs. Vadla thanked the Soldotna High School students for attending the meeting. She thanked Mrs. Moock for attending. She thanked the Kenai Peninsula legislators for meeting with the Board during the dinner break. She thanked Mrs. Melody Douglas and Laurie Olson for their work on the FY10 budget. She expressed support for the increased teacher collaboration time. She expressed appreciation for the professional overviews from administrators who have attended a conference or workshop. She congratulated Ms. Hohl for earning the AASB Boardmanship Certificate. She thanked Mr. Spence for the Six-year Plan and Mr. Jones for the Projected Enrollment Report.

Mrs. Hilts expressed appreciation for the worksession discussions prior to the Board meeting and for the discussion with the Kenai Peninsula legislators. She wished those present a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mr. Navarre thanked the Kenai Peninsula legislators for meeting with the Board. He noted that Senator Con Bunde, representing the Hope community, was in attendance. He reported that House Speaker Mike Chenault, Representative Seaton, and Senator Wagoner attended the meeting and noted that Representative Olson attended the November 2 Board meeting. He thanked the community for supporting a fundraiser that earned over \$21,000 to assist a Kenai Central High School student to pay for medical costs.

Mrs. Downing reported that she attended the Homer Middle Site Council meeting. She reported that she attended the AASB Annual Conference in Anchorage and noted that it was one of the most productive conferences she has attended. She stated that the section on brain research was especially meaningful and would like to see the District utilize what is known about brain development by teaching foreign languages at earlier ages and starting school later in the day for older students. She reported that she had meetings with Commissioner Larry LeDoux and Senator Hollis French, and had lunch with Senator Gary Stevens and his staff. She wished those present a Happy Holidays.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

*(continued)*

Mr. Arness confirmed that all Board members present signed up on the Budget Informational meetings. He wished those present a Merry Christmas.

**ADJOURN:**

*(8:06:32 PM)*

At 8:06 p.m., Mr. Holt moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mr. Navarre seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mr. Joe Arness, President

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Mrs. Sunni Hilts, Clerk

The Minutes of December 7, 2009,  
were approved on January 11, 2010  
as written.