
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2010 – 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
Mr. Dave Jones, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Sean Dusek, Assistant Superintendent

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mrs. Laurie Olson	Mrs. Margie Warner
Ms. Kris Holdereid	Mr. Tim Peterson
Mrs. Patty Tilbury	Mrs. Norma Holmgaard
Ms. Debbie Harris	Mr. Terry Martin
Ms. Cindy Schnabl	

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.
(7:01:40 PM)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mr. Arness invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.
(7:01:57 PM)

DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT: Ms. Hohl read the District's mission statement.
(7:02:26 PM)

ROLL CALL:

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved as written.
(7:03:22 PM)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of December 7, 2009, were approved as printed.
(7:03:32 PM)

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:*(7:03:52 PM)*

The Board presented a Golden Apple Award to Mrs. Patricia Tilbury, Ninilchik School secretary, and Ms. Cindy Schnabl, Ninilchik School volunteer, for their service to the school and the District.

Ms. Debbie Harris and Ms. Laura Forbes presented the District with a certificate and framed poster from the Kenai Visitor's and Cultural Center in recognition for assistance with the summer art show and for providing the educational component.

SCHOOL REPORT:*(7:14:41 PM)*

Mr. Terry Martin, Ninilchik School principal, introduced Miss Sabrina Ferguson, student. They took turns highlighting information about the school, including the instructional day, assessment results, Adequate Yearly Progress, Project GRAD, enrollment information, staffing information, course offerings, cocurricular competition accomplishments, academic competitions, after school programs, graduate information, District and statewide leadership roles filled by former staff and students, and community support for the school. Miss Ferguson invited those present to the school's centennial celebration next year.

HEARING OF DELEGATIONS:*(7:24:52 PM)*

Ms. Kris Holderied, NOAA Kasitsna Bay Laboratory Director, explained that the lab has been a federal laboratory for 50 years and operates in partnership with the University of Alaska-Fairbanks for research and education. She explained that their mission is to improve understanding of how subarctic coastal ecosystems respond to changing conditions, in support of coastal management. She described the new facility and told the Board about the education programs available at the lab. She reported that the lab has partnerships with KPBSD, Project GRAD, Center for Alaska Coastal Studies, and the University of Alaska.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:*(7:38:37 PM)*

Mr. Arness reported that the Board received a thank you note from former Board member Greg Gabriel for the plaque of appreciation.

Dr. Atwater reported that changes to the Title I federal stimulus funds require that reporting be done by school, which the District is already doing. He reported that new regulations regarding the establishment of preschools with federal funds are being followed and noted that applications are being completed for Nikiski North Star Elementary, Mt. View Elementary, Soldotna Elementary, Tustumena Elementary, Chapman Elementary, Voznesenka and Kachemak Selo. He reminded the Board of the Parent Group Training on January 28 and invited them to attend.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SITE COUNCIL AND/OR P.T.A., K.P.A.A., K.P.E.A., K.P.E.S.A, BOROUGH ASSEMBLY:*(7:40:44 PM)*

Margie Warner, KPESA president, thanked the Finance Department for issuing the retroactive payroll checks in a timely manner. She congratulated the Golden Apple recipients.

**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. Druce, KPEA president, stated that she will be interested to see results from the District curriculum audit and the new teacher evaluation and added that in both areas, the District administration, School Board and Association need to educate, communicate, and work with teachers throughout the implementation process. She announced that she will join other elected delegates statewide to attend NEA-Alaska's Delegate Assembly on January 28-30 and explained that the group's mission is to set policies and priorities for the upcoming legislative session. She reported that former District teacher, Judy Salo will receive the Hall of Fame Award and Alison Barnwell, Seward High School student, will receive the Achievement Award at the Delegate Assembly. She urged those present to watch the PBS show Bill Moyers Journal featuring Greg Mortenson, author of Three Cups of Tea and Stones Into Schools: Promoting Peace With Books Not Bombs, at 7:00 p.m. She noted that several District schools participate in Mr. Mortenson's international service-learning fund raising program, Pennies for Peace. She reported this school year she has encountered an unusual number of employees with serious health issues and urged those present to reach out and assist those in need and to enjoy every day.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT:**

(7:46:35 PM)

Dr. Atwater thanked the Information Services Department for reimaging and placing 998 computers in various schools during the winter break. He thanked the Borough Maintenance staff for installing the new Smart Boards on classroom walls throughout the District. He noted that the District is in the process of revising the teacher evaluation system and a meeting will be held January 13 to discuss the project and answer questions. He explained that the project will include 10 principals who will participate in a mini-pilot program in January in place of the District's present evaluation tool. He reported that interviews are being conducted for those interested in the Aspiring Principals Program. He reported that Nanwalek School and Port Graham School are on holiday break until January 20. He announced that the Board will conduct joint worksessions with the Borough Assembly on February 16 and April 6. He commended the Finance Department for generating the retroactive checks so quickly.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

(7:49:53 PM)

Mr. Jones credited the hard work by Mrs. Olson and the Payroll Department, Mrs. Campbell and the Information Services Department, and the new District finance software for issuing the retroactive payroll checks before the winter break.

Mr. Jones presented the financial report of the District for the periods ending November 30, 2009 and December 31, 2009.

**QUARTERLY BUDGET
TRANSFER REPORT:**

(7:52:05 PM)

Mr. Jones reported on quarterly budget transfers Numbers 212 through 470 for various schools and departments within the District.

BOARD REPORTS:

(7:53:56: PM)

Mr. Holt reported that he attended the Calendar Committee meeting and noted that the Committee made some minor adjustments to the 2010-2011 calendar and that the winter break was adjusted for the 2011-2012 calendar. He reported that he attended the Finance Committee meeting and that the group discussed 403(b) and 457(b) retirement plans, fund balance, and budget revisions.

Mrs. Vadla reported that she attended the Policy Manual Review Committee meeting and thanked Mr. Jones, Ms. Auxier, Mrs. Olson and Mrs. Nelson for their work in preparation of the meeting. She reported that the group discussed school sponsored trips, and the disposal of books. She reported that she attended the Finance Committee meeting and appreciated the information regarding the 403(b) and 457(b) retirement plans and fund balance.

BOARD WORKSESSION REPORT:

(7:56:22 PM)

Mr. Arness reported that the Board conducted worksessions regarding the upcoming District Curriculum Audit; weighted grades and Read 180. The Board postponed the administrative tasks update for the next meeting. All members were present except Mr. Anderson who was excused.

CONSENT AGENDA:

(7:56:52 PM)

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Long-Term Substitute Contracts; 2010-11 and 2011-12 School Year Calendars; Resignations; and New Teacher Contracts.

LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE CONTRACTS:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve long-term substitute teacher contracts for James Bennett, Nikiski Middle/High School; Jennifer Carr, Seward Elementary School; and Sharon Stevens-Ganser, Seward Elementary School.

2010-11 AND 2011-12 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDARS:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve revisions to the 2010-11 and 2011-12 school calendars.

RESIGNATIONS:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve resignations from Diane Patch, kindergarten, McNeil Canyon (effective at the end of the 2009-10 school year); and Shonna R. Bilyeu, language arts, Voznesenka School (effective January 14, 2010).

NEW TEACHER CONTRACTS:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve new teacher contracts for Shawna R. Vlasak, (temporary) pre-kindergarten teacher/Title I teacher, Mountain View Elementary; Jane M. Dunn, (temporary) kindergarten teacher, Paul Banks Elementary; and Christina S. Granger, (temporary) pre-kindergarten teacher, Tustumena Elementary.

MOTION

Mrs. Vadla moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 4. Ms. Hohl seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

FY10 BUDGET REVISION:

(7:59:14PM)

Mr. Jones recommended the Board of Education approve changes to the FY10 general fund revenue and expenditure budgets to reflect a revision from \$125,306,531 to \$126,370,162 for an increase of \$1,063,631.

MOTION

Mr. Holt moved the Board approve changes to the FY10 general fund revenue and expenditure budgets to reflect a revision from \$125,306,531 to \$126,370,162 for an increase of \$1,063,631. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

BOARD COMMENTS:

(8:00:10 PM)

Mr. Holt thanked Mr. Martin and Miss Ferguson for the Ninilchik School presentation. He reported on the Trails Association's program called "No Kid Left Inside" and was pleased that already 70 children have signed up.

Mrs. Crawford thanked Commissioner of Education, Larry LeDoux, for his attendance at the Board dinner. She stated that she is pleased with curriculum audit presentation. She thanked Mr. Kircher for his presentation regarding Read 180. She praised the Ninilchik School staff and student for the school presentation and Ms. Holdereid for the Kasitsna Bay Laboratory. She asked for an excused absence from the February 1 Board meeting since she will be serving on the NSBA nominating committee.

Ms. Hohl expressed appreciation for the dinner discussion with Commissioner of Education LeDoux and the information from Ms. Holdereid for the Kasitsna Bay Laboratory. She thanked Mr. Martin and Miss Ferguson for the Ninilchik School presentation. She congratulated the Golden Apple recipients. She stated she was excited to hear from Ms. Harris about another District art project and noted that she would like to see the poster collection some day.

Miss Riley reported that she was able to attend the Kasitsna Bay Laboratory summer program through Project GRAD. She thanked Mrs. Tilbury and Mrs. Schnabl for their service to Ninilchik School and commended Mr. Martin and Miss Ferguson for the school report.

Mrs. Vadla thanked Commissioner LeDoux for the interesting meeting with the Board. She congratulated Mrs. Tilbury and Ms. Schnabl for their Golden Apple Awards. She thanked Mr. Martin and Miss Ferguson for the Ninilchik School report. She expressed appreciation for the District Curriculum Audit worksession led by Mr. Rouse. She thanked those who came for discussion on weighted grades. She thanked Ms. Holdereid for the Kasitsna Bay Laboratory information. She thanked Mrs. Druce and Mrs. Warner for speaking to the Board and to Dr. Atwater for the weekly updates.

Mrs. Hilts thanked all who presented information to the Board.

BOARD COMMENTS:

(continued)

Mr. Navarre thanked Commissioner LeDoux for visiting with the Board. He announced that the next Budget Information Meetings will be held in Nikiski at 5:30 p.m. on January 12, at Kenai Central High on January 14 at 6:30 p.m.; at Skyview High on January 18 at 5:30 p.m.; and at Homer High on January 20 at 5:00 p.m. He thanked the administration for the budget presentation and reviewed a chart comparing the eight largest districts to KPBSD and funding to the cap. He commended the District for making Adequate Yearly Progress.

Mrs. Downing expressed appreciation for the opportunity to talk to Commissioner LeDoux and others who are interested in education such as the arts program and NOAA. She suggested that Board members who are attending the AASB Legislative Fly-in in February start making arrangements. She wished those present a Happy New Year.

Mrs. Vadla thanked Mr. Kircher and Ms. Elmore for the Read 180 Update.

Ms. Hohl stated that she will visit the Kasitsna Bay Laboratory and added that the Read 180 update was wonderful.

Mr. Arness discussed the AASB Legislative Fly-in and announced that Mrs. Downing, Mrs. Crawford, and Ms. Hohl will attend the February Fly-In and that Mr. Anderson and Mrs. Vadla will be alternates.

Mr. Arness thanked Mr. Martin for the Ninilchik School report and Ms. Holdereid for the Kasitsna Bay Laboratory report.

ADJOURN:

(8:14:33 PM)

At 8:14 p.m., Mrs. Crawford moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Joe Arness, President

Mrs. Sunni Hilts, Clerk

The Minutes of January 11, 2010,
have not been approved as of
January 22, 2010.