
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes

February 1, 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:

Mr. Mick Wykis	Mrs. Sharon Moock
Mr. Tim Peterson	Mrs. LaDawn Deuce
Mr. Mark Larson	Mr. Todd Syverson
Mrs. Elaine Larson	Mr. Hal Smalley
Mr. Allan Miller	Ms. Kelly Reisig
Mrs. Eileen Bryson	Mr. Mike Warfield
Mrs. Margaret Gilman	Mrs. Norma Holmgaard
Miss Alicia McLelland	Mr. Lukas Patten
Mr. Cody Warfield	Mr. Elias Patten
Mr. Jim Dawson	Mr. Dante' Petre

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

(7:01:08 PM)

Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

(7:01:24 PM)

The Kaleidoscope Charter School students sang the *National Anthem*.

**DISTRICT MISSION
STATEMENT:**

(7:03:46 PM)

Mrs. Sunni Hilts read the District's mission statement.

ROLL CALL:

(7:04:13 PM)

Mr. Joe Arness	Present
Mr. Marty Anderson	Present
Mrs. Sammy Crawford	Absent/Excused
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:

(7:04:46 PM)

The agenda was approved with the addition of a Golden Apple Award as Item 3b.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

(7:05:18 PM)

The School Board Minutes of January 11, 2010, were approved as printed.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:

(7:05:41 PM)

Spirit of Youth nomination certificates were awarded to District students, Miss Alicia McLelland, Mr. Cody Warfield, Mr. Lukas Patten, and Mr. Elias Patten, for service to the community.

SCHOOL REPORT:

(7:11:24 PM)

Mr. Mick Wykis, Kaleidoscope Charter School administrator, introduced Mrs. Elaine Larson, music teacher, and her students who sang *The Kenai Life*. Mrs. Kelly Stroh explained the year-long theme and four students (Raleigh Van Natta, Riley Fields, Bridget Marston, Keira Stroh) told the Board about learning science, art, music, drama, life skills and the year-long theme. Mr. Wykis introduced members of the Academic Policy Committee. The students concluded the report by performing a percussion piece called *We Like Snow* using ice scrapers, brooms, shovels and gloves.

The Board presented a Golden Apple Award to Ms. Eileen Bryson, Kaleidoscope Charter School teacher, for her service to the school and the District.

RECESS:

(7:29:22 PM)

At 7:29 p.m., Mr. Arness called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:

(7:34:24 PM)

At 7:34 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

Mrs. Vadla returned to the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

(7:34:57 PM)

Dr. Steve Atwater reported that the School Improvement Plan has been reviewed and approved by the Department of Education and Early Development. He announced that the District has submitted eleven additional intensive needs students to DEED which is being reviewed. He reported that the Soldotna High School Site Council has requested that the District study whether it is necessary to institute mandatory drug testing of students.

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

(7:39:11 PM)

Mrs. LaDawn Druce, KPEA president, reported that she recently attended the NEA-Alaska Delegate Assembly and summarized the meeting events including award presentations, election of officers, and legislative priorities (rural teacher housing, full and forward funding of education, restoring defined benefit retirement system, and defeating the anti-gag initiative). She reported that she visited Kaleidoscope Charter School, Tustumena Elementary and Sterling Elementary School. She thanked the Board for their service to the students of the District.

**P.T.A., K.P.A.A., K.P.E.A.,
K.P.E.S.A, BOROUGH
ASSEMBLY:**

(continued)

Mrs. Sharon Moock, KPAA president, expressed appreciation for Mrs. Laurie Olson and the Finance Department staff for issuing the retroactive payroll checks before the winter break and noted that it is an indication of a good transition within the Finance Department. She thanked Dr. Atwater for the regular meetings with the KPAA leadership.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT:**

(7:47:13 PM)

Dr. Atwater provided an update on the curriculum audit. He reported that Mr. Randy Creamer, Kachemak Selo School principal, requested that the school have a Parent Advisory Committee instead of a Site Council, which was granted. Dr. Atwater reported that 55 different professional development activities have been conducted this school year. He congratulated presidential scholars, Jason Baird and Mark Walsworth from Homer High, and Mr. Alexander Kauffman and William McDermid from Soldotna High.

BOARD REPORTS:

(7:49:02 PM)

Mr. Navarre reported that the Physical Education Curriculum Committee will meet on February 8.

Mrs. Vadla reported that she attended the Public Budget Forum at Skyview High School and thanked Mr. Jones and Mrs. Olson for the information provided. She reported that she attended the Policy Manual Review Committee meeting and that the group discussed a proposed policy regarding fund balance, a change to the 403(b) and 407 retirement plans and school facilities.

Ms. Hohl reported that she attended the meeting of the Fine Arts Curriculum subcommittee on visual arts. She thanked Mr. Navarre for attending the Public Budget Forum in Seward.

Mrs. Downing reported that she and Mrs. Hilts attended the Public Budget Forum in Homer and the Homer High Site Council meeting. She reported that she attended the Policy Manual Review Committee meeting prior to the Board meeting.

Mr. Holt reported that he attended the Public Budget Forum at Skyview High School. He reported that he attended the Skyview High Site Council meeting and noted that the school is struggling with declining enrollment.

Mr. Arness reported that he and Dr. Atwater have attended the Nikiski community meetings regarding the possible relocation of the sixth grade students to the Nikiski Middle/High School and noted the entire Nikiski community has been involved in the conversation and that no changes will occur for the 2010-2011 school year.

**BOARD WORKSESSION
REPORT:**

(7:53:04 PM)

Mr. Arness reported that the Board held worksessions on proposed policy manual revisions, the FY11 budget, administrative tasks, revisions to the Fine Arts Curriculum, and legislative priorities, and conducted a conference call with Kenai Peninsula legislators. All members were present except Mrs. Crawford, who was excused.

CONSENT AGENDA:
(7:53:39 PM)

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of 2010-2011 District Organizational Chart; Resolution 09-10-2, Support for State Funding for School Meals; Cooper Landing Elementary School Grade Level Reconfiguration; Long-term Substitute Contracts; Resignations; Budget Transfers; and New Teacher Contract.

2010-2011 DISTRICT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART:

Dr. Atwater recommended the Board approve the 2010-2011 District organizational chart that identifies the lines of primary responsibility and relationships between administrative positions.

RESOLUTION 09-10-2, SUPPORT FOR STATE FUNDING FOR SCHOOL MEALS:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve Resolution 09-10-2, Support for State Funding for School Meals.

COOPER LANDING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GRADE LEVEL RECONFIGURATION:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve the reconfiguration of Cooper Landing Elementary School from the current K-8 configuration to a K-12 configuration.

LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE CONTRACTS:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a long-term substitute contract for Tom Rhyner at Redoubt Elementary, Corise Story at McNeil Canyon Elementary, and Sherry Nauta at K-Beach Elementary.

RESIGNATIONS:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve resignations effective at the end of the 2009-2010 school year from Randy Creamer, principal/teacher, Kachemak Selo School; Kathy A. Atkinson, kindergarten, Mountain View Elementary; Joanne Wainwright, pool/physical education, Skyview High School; Jennifer Justis, generalist, Port Graham School; Riley Justis, generalist, Port Graham School; and effective January 6, 2010 for Karlene Meyers, Grade 6, Soldotna Elementary.

BUDGET TRANSFERS:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve budget transfers Number 509 in the amount of \$149,534 from Kaleidoscope Charter School to adjust the certified salary to align with the approved Collective Bargaining Agreement; and Number 592 in the amount of \$86,000 from Soldotna Montessori Charter School for the purchase of smart boards and computers for instruction.

NEW TEACHER CONTRACT:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a new teacher contract for Michelle Fournier, Migrant Program teacher (temporary), Razdolna School.

MOTION

Mr. Navarre moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 7. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Ms. Hohl removed Item Number 3, Approval of Cooper Landing Elementary Reconfiguration.

Motion carried unanimously for Numbers 1, 2, and 4 through 7.

Motion carried unanimously for Number 3.

403(B) PLAN REVISIONS:
(7:56:52 PM)

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve revisions to Article 6 of the District's 403(b) written plan allowing loans by current and former employees.

MOTION

Mr. Holt moved the Board approve revisions to Article 6 of the District's 403(b) written plan allowing loans by current and former employees. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Motion approved unanimously.

FIRST READING OF POLICY REVISIONS:
(7:57:59 PM)

The Board heard a first reading of BP 3270, Disposal of Books, Equipment and Supplies and BP 5145.12, Search and Seizure.

BOARD COMMENTS:
(7:58:35 PM)

Mr. Holt stated that he was impressed with the Fine Arts Curriculum. He commended the Kaleidoscope Charter School staff and students for great presentation and to Mrs. Bryson for the Apple Award. He stated that a part of the Board's focus should be on making sure that each student has a teacher or teachers that they connect with.

Ms. Hohl commended the Kaleidoscope Charter School students for their singing abilities. She praised the HOBY Program and noted that her daughter benefited from the program while at Seward High School. She asked Dr. Atwater for a definition of Parent Advisory Committees and how they differ from Site Councils. She asked for an update on any Tyonek issues before attending the AASB Legislative Fly-In. She thanked Assembly Member Smalley and Assembly President Sprague for joining the Board for dinner. She requested that language be added to BP 5145.12, Search and Seizure, letting parents know the police may be called if something illegal is found in their child's locker.

Miss Riley stated that she was impressed by the Kaleidoscope Charter School students. She announced that she has started a blog website to connect with other District students allowing them to weigh in and discuss issues before the Board. She asked the Board for assistance and suggestions with the blog.

Mrs. Vadla thanked Mr. Wykis for the Kaleidoscope Charter School report. She thanked two high school government students for their attendance at the meeting. She stated that she was impressed with the Fine Arts Curriculum. She thanked the Kenai Peninsula legislators for their participation in the conference call held prior to the Board meeting. She commended the students who were nominated for the Spirit of Youth Award and added that students should be celebrated for their contributions.

Mrs. Hilts applauded Miss Riley for establishing a blog site for District students because the Board wants to hear their opinions. She reported that the Board had a good conversation with Kenai Peninsula legislators. She expressed appreciation for the legislative Education Committee.

BOARD COMMENTS:
(continued)

Mr. Navarre thanked Mr. Wykis and the staff and students at the Kaleidoscope Charter School for their presentation. He congratulated Mrs. Bryson for being selected for a Golden Apple Award and noted that it was well deserved. He remembered Mrs. Mary Willets, a former District teacher, who taught Alaska history. He expressed appreciation for the Kenai Peninsula legislators who participated in the teleconference call prior to the Board meeting. He thanked Assembly President Sprague and Assembly Member Smalley for joining the Board for dinner. He reminded those present about the upcoming joint meetings with the Assembly.

Mrs. Downing expressed appreciation for the singing by the Kaleidoscope Charter School students. She expressed appreciation for the House and Senate Education Committees for their work and that legislators now consider it important to educate the whole child. She thanked Assembly President Sprague and Assembly Member Smalley for joining the Board for dinner. She reported that she has attended several House legislative Education Committee meetings and reviewed highlights from the meetings including the global challenges facing the American workforce.

Mr. Arness expressed appreciation for the Kaleidoscope Charter School report. He described Mrs. Bryson's annual potato digging field trip, which is held at his parent's garden.

ADJOURN:
(8:13:51 PM)

At 8:13 p.m., Mrs. Vadla moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Hilts seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Joe Arness, President

Mrs. Sunni Hilts, Clerk

The Minutes of February 1, 2010,
were approved on February 15, 2010
with corrections.