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# Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

## Board of Education Meeting Minutes

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May 3, 2010 – 7:00 p.m.  
Regular Meeting

Seward High School  
2100 Swetmann, Seward, 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. Sean Dusek, Assistant Superintendent

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Mr. Hal Smalley	Ms. C.J. Rea
Mr. John Hersrud	Mr. Trevan Walker
Ms. Martha Fleming	Ms. Mako Haggerty
Mr. Tim Peterson	Ms. Sue McClure
Mr. David Kingsland	Mrs. Laurie Olson
Ms. LaDawn Druce	Mrs. Margie Warner
Mrs. Laura Beck	Ms. Kelly Reisig

Others present not identified.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mr. Arness invited the Seward High School choir to sing the *National Anthem*.

**DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT:** Ms. Hohl read the District's mission statement.

**ROLL CALL:**

Mr. Joe Arness	Present
Mr. Marty Anderson	Absent/Excused
Mrs. Sammy Crawford	Present
Mrs. Liz Downing	Present
Mrs. Sunni Hilts	Absent/Excused
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.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The School Board Minutes of April 5, 2010, were approved as printed.

**SCHOOL REPORT:**

Mr. John Hersrud, Seward Middle School, introduced Mrs. Beck who directed the choir in a song titled, *Bless the Broken Road*. Mr. Hersrud stated that the school focused their work on the three District goals: using and implementing the quality learning model, collaborating, and integration of technology. He featured several student-created web pages. He reported on the six pillars of character in which examples of each were created by the students. He noted that Seward Middle students raised \$3700 for Haiti earthquake relief. He distributed copies of the school's weekly newspaper.

Mr. Trevan Walker, Seward High School, reported that the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges accreditation self-study report was used to develop the school's goals. He explained the process used to rewrite the school's mission statement, guiding principals, and vision statement using input from students, staff, parents and community members. He provided a video documenting student interviews and an explanation by Mr. Walker. He thanked the Board for their support of music at Seward High School and introduced the concert choir who sang, *Now is the Month of May*, directed by Mr. Kyle Schneider. Miss Tyler Washburn and Mr. Gregory von Borstel, students, each reported on their senior service learning projects.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:**

Mrs. Arlene Carpenter, Seward resident and parent, asked the Board for their support of the arts, especially at the middle school and elementary school level. She stated that the schools need to continue with vocal as well as instrumental music. She commended music teachers Mrs. Beck and Mr. Schneider.

Mr. Jesse Atherton, Seward High senior, explained the process that was used to purchase an electric LED reader sign to advertise community events. He stated that he and a committee of booster club members, students, parents, principals and a Seward City Council member worked on the project with the assistance of the Association of Alaska School Boards, American Legion, GCI, the Seward Schools Booster Club, City of Seward, and PTSA.

Ms. Amy Haddow, Seward Site Based Council chairperson, stated that the committee sign is the best promotion of community engagement and thanked Mrs. Julie Lindquist for her involvement in the sign project and the community Frisbee golf course. She noted that the sign replacement was Mr. Atherton's senior learning project.

Mr. Dave Hamner, Seward resident and parent, stated that his family decided to move to the Seward community because of the quality of the school system and community support. He asked the Board to support music programs.

Miss Elena Hamner, student, told the Board about her music experience playing the clarinet at Seward Elementary.

**HEARING OF DELEGATIONS:**

Ms. C.J. Rea, Kenai Fjords National Park education specialist, reported that she is charged with the promotion of conservation, education, and stewardship among District students and credited District teachers with many of the educational ideas which are then piloted in Seward. She provided booklets titled, *Environmental Education Programs for K-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Groups* and *A Teacher’s Guide to Exit Glacier*.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:**

Mr. Arness reported that he received a thank you card from Mrs. Douglas which will be shared among the Board members. Dr. Atwater announced that the Alaska Student Activities Association approved the co-opting of schools which will allow schools with enrollments under 451 to co-opt with another school under the enrollment of 451 for specific activities. He reported that the Department of Education and Early Development has granted a waiver to the District from the state’s testing schedule to accommodate the Russian Old Believer calendar so that tests can be given a day earlier next school year. He reported that the Department of Corrections has assured him that Spring Creek will continue to house a high school for incarcerated youth. He announced that Seward High School will host a high school graduation ceremony on May 4 for Mr. Joshua Kompkoff and that the student will receive a diploma and a special commendation from Governor Parnell.

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

Mrs. LaDawn Druce thanked the Seward Middle and High School choirs and their directors and recognized the student presenters. She praised the new teacher evaluation system. She invited those present to attend the May 4 Borough Assembly to show support for great public education for every child. She requested that the Board remove 10a.(4), Approval of New Teacher Contracts, from the Consent Agenda because there are District teachers who do not have contracts for the 2010-2011 school year who could fill those jobs.

Mr. Hal Smalley, Assembly Member, introduced other Assembly Members in the audience (Ms. Sue McClure, Mr. Bill Smith, and Mr. Mako Haggerty). He explained that committee meetings will begin earlier in the day on May 4 and that the business meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Seward City Offices. He commended the school choirs who performed and the students who presented their community service projects.

Ms. Margie Warner reminded those present that May 2 through 8 is Teacher Appreciation Week and noted that it takes support staff as well as teachers to educate children.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT:**

Dr. Atwater reported that the curriculum audit has been concluded and that the final report is due in July. He reported that the Information Services Department has completed an upgrade to the District's storage capacity. He reviewed actions taken by the state legislature and noted that there is no new funding plan for education. He announced that the legislature passed the Governor's Performance Scholarship and that more details will come. He reported that the Borough Assembly passed a resolution to set a funding floor for the School District for the 2010-2011 school year which results in a \$4 million reduction and noted that he has taken a series of measures to meet the reduction and asked the Board for their support.

**MOTION**

Mr. Navarre moved the Board support the Superintendent's proposed funding plan. Ms. Downing seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

On behalf of Mr. Jones, Dr. Atwater presented the District financial report for the period ending March 31, 2010.

**QUARTERLY BUDGET  
TRANSFER REPORT:**

On behalf of Mr. Jones, Dr. Atwater reported on the third quarter budget transfers Numbers 471 through 937 for various schools and departments within the District.

**BOARD REPORTS:**

Ms. Downing reported that she attended the Borough Assembly joint worksession on April 6 to discuss the FY11 budget. She stated that on April 12 she attended the West Homer Elementary principal interviews; on April 16 she presented awards at the Boroughwide intermediate school math meet; on April 20 she attended the Project GRAD Board meeting and gathering at Land's End; on April 21 she participated in the curriculum audit; on April 26 she attended the Homer Middle School choir concert; and on April 27 she attended the District goal-setting session with school administrators.

Mr. Holt reported that he attended the Northwest Association of Accredited Schools accreditation review process at Skyview High School. He reported that he attended the Kenai Peninsula Student Activities Association executive Board meeting and the Districtwide Administrator meeting.

Mrs. Vadla reported that on April 17 she attended the KPEA and KPESA retirement forum, on April 19 she attended the Future Problem Solving board meeting, on April 27 she attended the Districtwide Administrator goal setting meeting, on May 3 she visited Seward Elementary, and on April 10-12 she attended the National School Board Association Annual Conference.

Mrs. Crawford reported that she attended the Districtwide Administrator goal-setting session, participated in the District curriculum audit, and spoke with state legislators during the last five days of the session.

**BOARD REPORTS:**  
(continued)

Ms. Hohl reported that she attended the Districtwide Administrator goal-setting session, participated in the curriculum audit and the Borough Assembly joint worksession, and attended the Seward PTSA, Site Council, and Seahawk Booster Club meetings.

**BOARD WORKSESSION REPORT:**

Mr. Arness reported that the Board held worksessions regarding the physical education curriculum, administrative tasks, the teacher evaluation system, and funding to the cap. All Board members who were present at the Board meeting were present for the worksessions.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Resignations; High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2010-09; Substitute Contract; New Teacher Contracts; Nontenure Teacher Contracts; Nontenure Teacher for Tenure, 2010-11; Administrator Contracts; Budget Transfers.

**RESIGNATIONS:**

By memorandum, Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve resignations, effective at the end of the 2009-2010 school year, from Lourdes Link, resource, K-Beach Elementary; Oakley Cothran, physical education, Kenai Central High; Allan Miller, science, Kenai Middle; Gregg Wilbanks, principal, River City Academy; Abby Smola, counselor, Soldotna High School; Linda Lemco, resource, Voznesenka; and Marilyn Kirkham, Grade 6, West Homer Elementary. Mr. Jones also recommended the Board approve the resignation of Jamilyn Harper, program coordinator, Pupil Services, effective June 4, 2010.

**HSGQE:**

Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2010-09.

**SUBSTITUTE CONTRACT:**

By memorandum, Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a long-term substitute contract for Deanne Pearson, Skyview High School.

**NEW TEACHER CONTRACTS:**

By memorandum, Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve teacher contracts for Amy Sundheim, school psychologist, Homer Area; Ryan Miller, (temporary) science/math teacher, Kachemak-Selo School; Lindsey Pender, language arts teacher, Kenai Central High; Denis Gardella, science/math teacher, Nanwalek School; and Joyce Gardella, (temporary) language arts/social studies teacher, Nanwalek School.

**NONTENURE TEACHER CONTRACTS:**

By memorandum, Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a nontenure teacher contract for the 2010-2011 school year for Elizabeth Reiter, at-risk youth teacher, Kenai Youth Facility; Shawna Vlasak, (temporary) pre-kindergarten, Mountain View Elementary; Seanna Gunn, primary, Paul Banks Elementary; and Helen Lindemuth, .50 FTE librarian, Seward Elementary.

**NONTENURE TEACHER FOR TENURE, 2010-11:**

By memorandum, Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a contract and tenure for Jamie Meyers, (temporary) technology integration specialist.

**ADMINISTRATOR  
CONTRACTS:**

Dr. Atwater recommended the Board approve administrator contracts for the 2010-2011 school year for Jason Bickling, principal/teacher at Seward Middle School; Marilyn K. Johnson, principal/teacher at Tebughna School; and Raymond E. Marshall, principal at West Homer Elementary.

**BUDGET TRANSFERS:**

Mrs. Olson recommended the Board approve budget transfers Number 1013 for \$120,000 to pay for internet charges and Number 1014 for \$524,008 to pay for Aruba Networks equipment used to provide wireless connectivity throughout District schools.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 8. Mr. Navarre seconded.

Mr. Navarre removed Number 4, Approval of New Teacher Contracts.

Motion carried unanimously for Numbers 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, and 8.

Motion carried unanimously for Number 4.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

Mr. Arness presented a plaque of appreciation and thank you card to Miss Destini Riley for her service as the student representative on the School Board.

Mr. Holt expressed appreciation to Miss Riley for her service.

Mrs. Vadla thanked staff and students who presented the Seward Middle School and Seward High School reports and the students who spoke about their community service learning projects. She congratulated Mr. Dan Marshall who was selected as one of the BP Teachers of Excellence. She expressed appreciation to all teachers in honor of National Teacher Appreciation Week. She thanked the Borough Assembly Members for their attendance at the Board meeting. She thanked Miss Riley for her service on the Board.

Mrs. Crawford thanked Seward community members and the Borough Assembly members for their attendance. She thanked Ms. Rea for the Kenai Fjords presentation, and the students and staff at Seward Middle and Seward High for the school presentations, and especially recognized the senior service projects. She stated that she is excited about the new teacher evaluation system and thanked District teachers for all of their work in honor of National Teacher Appreciation week.

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

Mr. Navarre thanked Seward High School for hosting the Board meeting. He stated that the Borough Assembly members have the best interests of the Borough and the School District in mind and will eventually come to the right conclusion regarding School District funding. He noted that there is still quite a bit of communication that needs to happen between the Board and the Assembly and hopes that the two groups will become a better team in order to provide the best education possible for District students. He thanked the Borough Assembly for their work.

Ms. Hohl reported that she attended the Seward Elementary and Seward High School joint music concert. She commended the senior learning project reports and noted that there have been discussions about making the projects mandatory. She thanked Mr. Walker for his work with the Northwest Association of Accredited Schools accreditation team. She thanked Mr. Hersrud for the Seward Middle report. She thanked Miss Riley for her service on the Board. She noted that the Seward community is celebrating teachers and staff during National Teacher Appreciation Week. She thanked Mrs. Julie Lindquist for her volunteerism at Seward area schools. She thanked the Board for providing the Quality Schools/Quality Students grant from AASB. She expressed hope that Seward schools would qualify for Project GRAD money and assistance. She thanked Ms. Rea for the Kenai Fjords presentation.

Mrs. Downing stated that she was thrilled with ASAA's decision to allow co-opting of school activities and noted that the change will benefit students in small schools statewide. She thanked Miss Riley for her service on the Board. She thanked the Seward community for their attendance. She acknowledged Mrs. Lindquist and thanked Eastern Peninsula teachers, staff and administrators for their hard work.

Miss Riley thanked the Board for their assistance throughout her year of service. She announced that she will soon be a Project GRAD scholar and is glad that the organization will have continued funding. She stated that she is excited about the change in ASAA requirements allowing small schools to co-opt with other schools for student activities.

Mr. Arness thanked Ms. Rea for her presentation and thanked Seward High School for hosting the Board meeting. He asked for concurrence from the Board to have the flexibility to schedule an hour-long worksession with the Borough Assembly on June 7 prior to the meeting, if appropriate.

**ADJOURN:**

At 8:49 p.m., Mrs. Vadla moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Crawford 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 May 3, 2010,  
were approved on June 7, 2010  
as written.