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# Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes

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September 13, 2010 – 7:00 p.m.  
Regular Meeting

Homer High School  
600 E. Fairview, Homer, 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

**STAFF PRESENT:** Dr. Steve Atwater, Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Dave Jones, Assistant Superintendent  
Mr. Sean Dusek, Assistant Superintendent

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Mr. Dave Larson	Mrs. Laurie Olson
Ms. Margie Warner	Mr. Tim Peterson
Mrs. Norma Holmgaard	Mrs. LaDawn Druce
Mr. Andy Rothenberger	Mrs. Doris Cannon
Mr. Pete Swanson	Mr. Terry Martin
Dr. Allan Gee	Mr. Doug Waclawski
Mr. Benny Abraham	Mr. Tim Vlasak
Ms. Millie Martin	Ms. Anita Harry
Ms. McKibben Jackinsky	

Others present not identified.

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mr. Arness invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**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	Present
Ms. Lynn Hohl	Present
Mr. Bill Holt	Present
Mr. Tim Navarre	Present
Mrs. Penny Vadla	Present

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** The agenda was approved as written.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The School Board Minutes of August 9, 2010, were approved as printed.

**AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:**

The Board presented a Golden Apple Award to Ms. Anita Harry for her service to Homer High School.

**SCHOOL REPORT:**

Mr. Pete Swanson, McNeil Canyon Elementary principal, gave a Powerpoint presentation highlighting student body configuration, staff, school-sponsored programs (Coastal Walk and Clean up, Snow Fiesta, Artists in Schools Program, After School Learning Lab), assessment information, and awards and recognitions received by the school. He thanked the Board for their past support of McNeil Canyon Elementary School programs.

Mr. Andy Rothenberger, Kachemak Selo principal/teacher, gave a Powerpoint presentation highlighting the community, students and staff, enrollment information, assessment, and the three facilities. He narrated a picture tribute to Jean Stockburger, former staff member, who recently passed away.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:**

Mr. Martin invited the School Board to the Ninilchik School 100-year celebration on Friday, September 24 beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Ms. Jennifer Reinhart, Paul Banks Elementary kindergarten teacher, parent and graduate of Homer schools, reported that several years ago the school PTA formed a student wellness committee which has implemented several programs that focus on student health and wellness (i.e. healthy snacks, wake up and walk program to earn points, healthy birthday celebration, after school program). She asked the Board to encourage the District and the Student Nutrition Services to continue to work in partnership with the PTA and local schools to increase the quality and nutrient value of student meals (breakfast and lunch).

Ms. Patricia Cue, registered dietician, reported that she was asked to participate in the Paul Banks Wellness Group in order to coordinate healthy meals and snacks. She asked the Board to help the Student Nutrition Services Program offer healthy, balanced, nutritious meals that will promote future student health.

Representative Paul Seaton announced that he was appointed to the Legislative Higher Education Scholar Funding Task Force and that the group is trying to determine a funding formula for the merit and needs based scholarships and asked the Board for their recommendations or comments. He reported that he serves on the Higher Education Task Force and that one of the goals is to eliminate the need for remedial education at the college level or career technical/vocational training level. He stated that the most effective tool is the Advisory Advocate Program (individual students connecting with adults in the education system). He commended the KPBSD for promoting advocacy programs and recommended that the Board encourage the practice throughout all District schools. He reported that the Education Funding District Cost Factor Committee will provide a recommendation to the legislature and noted that the prevailing attitude is that districts are generally satisfied and that there are still two more years of implementation of the Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) study findings.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:**  
(continued)

Mr. Chris Perk, physical education teacher, stated that cocurricular stipend ranges have been misinterpreted based on what was submitted and asked for a meeting with the administration to resolve the problem.

Mr. Mark Robinson, music teacher at Homer High and Homer Middle, stated that he coaches and works with students every day all year long. He stated that the purpose for the committee review of coaching stipends was to improve stipend ranges. He thanked Dr. Atwater for his involvement in the issue.

Mrs. Shannon McBride Morin, parent and former graduate of Homer High, thanked the Board for their work on behalf of District students. She reported that she has been working with the Paul Banks PTA on the issue of healthy choices and meals for students and encouraged the Board to be involved in increasing quality food for students.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND  
PETITIONS:**

Dr. Atwater announced that Aurora Borealis Charter School was selected as a 2010 National Blue Ribbon School. He reported that DOEED sent notification that the District has met all of the criteria for the performance plan in special education. He announced that Discovery Education is hosting the 21st Century Open House at the Challenger Learning Center on Friday, September 17 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and that the Employer Summit will be held on Thursday, September 16 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**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. Druce, KPEA president, stated that the District needs to be fair and equitable when paying coaching stipends. She reported that she testified at the state school board meeting against the proposed changes to teacher recertification requiring recertification credit to align with what the teacher is currently teaching, what they are qualified to teach, or part of an advanced degree. She stated that she opposes the proposed AASB core resolution 5.14, which endorses Alaska's WorkKeys Assessment for students and does support proposed resolution 4.8, which calls for the reestablishment of a defined benefit retirement program that is affordable to Districts. She announced that Thursday, September 16, KPEA will sponsor a candidate forum beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the KPEA Office. She stated that during the forum interviews will be held for the two candidates for Borough Assembly District 4 and added that after the interviews a recommendation will be made by KPEA. She asked the Board to be cognizant of the number of mandated tests, especially given by teachers in the lower grade levels, and to provide assistance for those teachers. She reminded those present that tomorrow President Obama will give his second annual address to students nationwide.

Ms. Margie Warner, KPESA president, reported that she has begun individual school visits on the southern peninsula and expressed appreciation for that opportunity.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT:**

Dr. Atwater reported that Governor Parnell accepted the federal money as part of the jobs bill which will bring \$1.3 million to the District. He reported that student enrollment is 136 students below projection and that Cooper Landing Elementary School only has 8 students. He announced that the annual financial audit was completed last week and that no findings were reported. He congratulated the Finance Department and especially recognized Liz Hayes for her extraordinary job preparing the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. He announced that Sheryl Sotelo, McNeil Canyon Elementary teacher, was selected to receive the ING Unsung Hero award.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

Mr. Jones presented the financial reports of the District for the period ending August 31, 2010.

**BOARD REPORTS:**

Mr. Holt reported that he attended the Finance Committee meeting and that the group discussed the amended 457(b) retirement plan for District employees which will be brought to the Board with a Committee recommendation.

Mrs. Crawford reported that she attended the Policy Committee meeting and that the group discussed the equipment reserve fund and a new policy regulating sex offenders on campus.

Ms. Hohl reported that she attended the Seward PTSA meeting and the Back-to-School nights at each of the Seward schools.

Mrs. Vadla reported that she attended the Finance Committee meeting on September 9 and the Policy Review Committee meeting prior to the Board worksessions earlier in the day. She stated that she was excited about the changes to the 403(b) and the 457(b) retirement plans and suggested that the District provide information to new teachers about the benefits of 457(b). She thanked Mr. Martin for the opportunity to visit Ninilchik Elementary/High on September 3 and added that she met the new teachers and observed engaged student learning. She attended the Districtwide Inservice on August 17.

**BOARD WORKSESSION  
REPORT:**

Mr. Arness reported that the Board conducted worksessions regarding the curriculum audit findings, proposed Policy Manual revisions, the AASB School Climate and Connectedness Survey results, assessment information, the District Improvement Plan, Homer Middle School, proposed AASB Resolutions, and proposed state and federal legislative priorities. All Board members were present except Mr. Anderson.

- CONSENT AGENDA:** Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of K-6 Standards Based Math Curriculum, 7-12 Standards Based Careers Curriculum, 7-12 Standards Based Reading Curriculum; New Teacher Contracts; Revisions to BB 9313, Administrative Regulations and Exhibits and AR 2122 Superintendent of Schools - Job Description; Tenured Teaching Contract; Nontenured Teaching Contract; High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2011-01; and Administrative Recommendation Regarding Leaves of Absence-Support.
- STANDARDS BASED CURRICULUM:** Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve the newly developed Elementary Performance Based Math Curriculum and the newly revised Secondary Performance Based Math, Reading and Careers Curricula.
- NEW TEACHER CONTRACTS:** Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve new teacher contracts for Deana Kahn, school psychologist, Central Peninsula area; Noell A. Boyer, social studies teacher, Kenai Central High School; Melissa B. Morckel, math teacher, Kenai Central High School; Cheryl A. Brown, special education intensive needs teacher, Mountain View Elementary; Kevin R. Hilton (permanent .50 FTE/temporary .50 FTE) primary grade teacher, Mountain View Elementary; Brent C. Hammer, intermediate grade teacher, Nanwalek School; Helen Pauline Rizzo, computer and technology education/librarian, Nikiski North Star Elementary; Justine E. Reese, science/math teacher, Nikiski Middle/High School; Teresa Kiffmeyer, .45 FTE native youth leadership council leader; and Aaron Z. Lohmeyer, (permanent/.85 FTE, temporary .15 FTE) music teacher, Soldotna Elementary/Soldotna Montessori.
- REVISIONS TO BOARD ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION:** Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve proposed revisions to AR 2122 Superintendent of Schools - Job Description.
- TENURED TEACHING CONTRACT:** Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a tenure teacher contract for Lee Murphy at K-Beach Elementary.
- NONTENURED TEACHING CONTRACT:** Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a nontenure teacher contract for Jennifer Keil, (temporary) Grades 7-12 generalist, Razdolna School.
- HSGQE WAIVER:** Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2011-01.
- LEAVES OF ABSENCE-SUPPORT:** Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve unpaid leave of absence requests from James L. Brown, Student Nutrition Services, Homer Area Delivery Driver (effective February 11 to March 11, 2011) and Janine Carlough, Mountain View Elementary custodian (effective for one year beginning September 19, 2010).

**MOTION**

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 7. Mrs. Downing seconded.

Ms. Hohl removed Item Number 1.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

*(continued)*

Motion carried unanimously for Numbers 2 through 7.

Motion carried unanimously for Number 1.

**AASB CORE RESOLUTIONS:**

Dr. Atwater recommended the Board approve the proposed 2011 AASB Core Resolutions.

**MOTION**

Mr. Navarre recommended the Board approve the proposed 2011 AASB Core Resolutions. Ms. Hohl seconded.

**MOTION**

Mr. Navarre moved the Board approve the administrative recommendation to delete proposed resolution 5.14, Relating to the Career Assessment Requirement. Mr. Holt seconded.

VOTE ON NAVARRE AMENDMENT:

YES – Navarre, Arness

NO – Hiltz, Crawford, Hohl, Downing, Holt, Vadla

Amendment failed.

Motion carried unanimously.

**FIRST READING OF POLICY REVISIONS:**

The Board heard a first reading of proposed revisions to BP 3530, Risk Management and the adoption of BP 6146.5, Differential Requirements for Individuals with Exceptional Needs.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

Mr. Holt reported that he assisted with the Skyview Invitational Cross-country Running Meet and that over 900 students statewide and approximately 200 community athletes participated.

Mrs. Crawford thanked Mr. Swanson for the McNeil Canyon School report, Mr. Rothenberger for the Kachemak Selo School report and Mr. Larson for the Homer Middle School report (given during the Board worksession). She expressed appreciation for the curriculum audit and AASB resolutions discussions.

Ms. Hohl thanked the Paul Banks Elementary School PTA representatives for speaking about the wellness and student nutrition program. She asked whether cocurricular stipends are contractual or decided by KPSAA. Dr. Atwater replied that the stipend amounts are negotiated and the coach/sponsor placement is an administrative function. She congratulated Aurora Borealis Charter School for being selected as a Blue Ribbon School. She noted that she forwarded the bond issue information to the Seward Site Council and the Seward Mayor who will share it with the city council members. She announced that the Seward community held a farewell celebration for former teacher Jerry Dixon who recently passed away. She thanked Representative Paul Seaton for speaking to the Board.

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

Mrs. Vadla thanked those who testified. She thanked the District administration for hosting the August 17 Districtwide in-service. She thanked the administration for the onslaught of information provided to the Board.

Mr. Navarre thanked Mr. Abrahamson for hosting the visit to Paul Banks Elementary School. He reminded those present to vote during the October 5 election and that the District bond initiative for school roofs will be on the ballot. He thanked the students from Voznesenka School for providing the Board's meal.

Mrs. Downing thanked Mr. Larson for the Homer Middle School report. She reported that she attended the Homer Middle School open house and complimented the teachers and the newly-evolving advisory program. She thanked the Paul Banks PTA representatives for speaking to the Board. She thanked Representative Paul Seaton for the legislative update. She reported that she will speak to the Homer Chamber of Commerce about the school roof repair bond issue. She thanked Chris Perk and Mark Robinson for speaking to the Board about coaches. She urged those present to support the state mentor program and added that it is an extremely valuable tool for new principals and teachers and a way for experienced educators to share their expertise. She thanked those present for their attendance.

Mr. Arness appointed Mr. Holt to serve on the Career and Technical Education Curriculum Committee and appointed Mr. Anderson as an alternate. He noted that the committee meeting dates are September 20, October 4 and 9.

Mrs. Vadla asked for an excused absence from the October 18 Board meeting.

**ADJOURN:**

At 8:40 p.m., the School Board Meeting was adjourned.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mr. Joe Arness, President

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Mrs. Sunni Hilts, Clerk

The Minutes of September 13, 2010,  
have not been approved as of  
September 28, 2010.