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# Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes

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October 18, 2010 – 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. Sammy Crawford, Clerk  
Mrs. Sunni Hilts, Treasurer  
Mr. Marty Anderson  
Ms. Lynn Hohl  
Mr. Bill Holt  
Mr. Tim Navarre  
Mrs. Penny Vadla  
Miss Julie Rang, Student Representative

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Mr. Hal Smalley  
Mr. Tim Vlasak  
Mrs. Norma Holmgaard  
Mrs. Kelly Reisig  
Mr. Tim Whip  
Mrs. LaDawn Druce  
Mrs. Sharon Mook  
Mr. Dante Petri

Others present not identified.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.  
(7:00:28 PM)

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mr. Arness invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.  
(7:00:50 PM)

**OATH OF OFFICE:** The Oath of Office was administered to newly elected School Board members Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Mrs. Sunni Hilts and Ms. Lynn Hohl, by notary public, Mrs. Sally Tachick.  
(7:01:21 PM)

**DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT:** Mrs. Downing read the District's mission statement.  
(7:03:10 PM)

**ROLL CALL:**

Mr. Joe Arness	Present
Mr. Marty Anderson	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	Absent/Excused
Miss Julie Rang	Present

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** The agenda was approved as written.  
(7:04:55 PM)

**REORGANIZATION OF BOARD:**

*(7:05:06 PM)*

**MOTION**

Mr. Arness announced that a reorganization of the Board was in order.

Mrs. Crawford nominated Mr. Joe Arness as president of the Board. Mr. Navarre requested that nominations for president be closed. Ms. Hohl seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Arness was selected as president.

**MOTION**

Mr. Navarre nominated Mrs. Liz Downing as vice president of the Board. Mr. Navarre requested that nominations for vice president be closed. Ms. Hohl seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Liz Downing was selected as vice president.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Downing nominated Mrs. Sammy Crawford as clerk of the Board. Mr. Navarre requested that nominations for clerk be closed. Ms. Hohl seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Sammy Crawford was selected as clerk.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Crawford nominated Mrs. Sunni Hilts as treasurer of the Board. Mr. Navarre requested that nominations for treasurer be closed. Mr. Holt seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Sunni Hilts was selected as treasurer.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

*(7:07:50 PM)*

The School Board Minutes of September 13, 2010, were approved as printed.

**SCHOOL REPORT:**

*(7:08:25 PM)*

Mr. Timothy Whip, Razdolna School principal, summarized the school's history, and reviewed school staff assignments and student population growth. He reported on the school's change to performance-based education and future education plans. He presented a student-created PowerPoint highlighting student activities, pictures of staff and school facilities, student activities, library relocation project, classroom activities, art activities, field trips, assessment information, and school goals. He invited the Board to visit the school.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND  
PETITIONS:***(7:27:45 PM)*

Dr. Atwater reported that recommendations from the Employer Summit and a review of the next steps regarding the Curriculum Audit are in the Board's General Information Packet. He reported that the District Office senior management and leadership team will conduct a planning retreat on Friday, October 22. He noted that press releases regarding national merit semi-finalists, Advanced Placement scholar awards, and Student Nutrition Services community meetings in Homer, Kenai, and Seward were included in the Board's General Information Packet. He reported that the District will host a college fair at Kenai Central High and will include recruiters from approximately 48 colleges.

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE,  
SITE COUNCIL AND/OR  
P.T.A., K.P.A.A., K.P.E.A.,  
K.P.E.S.A, BOROUGH  
ASSEMBLY:***(7:30:02 PM)*

LaDawn Druce, KPEA president, reported on the October 2 Policy Assembly meeting and read a new resolution regarding support for the implementation of the Framework for Teaching system. She expressed appreciation for the District's decision to hire an elementary counselor at Mt. View Elementary School. She reported that she recently watched the documentary, *Waiting for Superman*, and recommended those present see it even though it is an unbalanced scathing criticism of public schools, teacher's associations and unions. She stated that parental accountability is necessary at every level of education and recounted a story of a home schooled third grade student new to a District classroom that hadn't learned to hold a pencil and noted that it will be counted against the new teacher during standardized testing. She reported that KPEA endorsed Linda Murphy for Borough Assembly and was pleased that she was elected. She reported that the extracurricular stipends issue has been resolved thanks to the assistance of Dr. Atwater, Mr. Jones and Mr. Peterson. She thanked the District administration for the proposed policy revision allowing for more Section 457(b) retirement plan providers for employees. She thanked Mrs. Hilts, Ms. Hohl and Mrs. Crawford for running for reelection to the Board and Miss Rang for serving as the student representative to the Board.

Mr. Hal Smalley, Assembly Member, reported that the joint Assembly and School Board meeting on October 12 regarding the School District budget process was well received and that new information was provided. He reported that three new Assembly members were sworn in (Linda Murphy, Brent Johnson, and Ray Tauriainen) and asked those present to thank outgoing members, Gary Superman, Paul Fischer, and Pete Sprague for their service. He thanked the Board members for their service. He congratulated the newly selected Board officers.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT:***(7:39:58 PM)*

Dr. Atwater stated that through the use of Moodle, an online forum, teachers are able to collaborate much easier. He reported that five schools worked together during the October 15 inservice day. He stated that the October 7 Site Council and Parent Group training was not well attended and that the January training will be conducted via video conference. He congratulated the Soldotna High School and Kenai Central High School football teams for qualifying to play in the state small schools championship game.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT:***(continued)*

He noted that the state swim meet will be held in November and wished District swimmers good luck, including Miss Rang, the new student representative to the School Board. Ms. Hohl reported that the Seward High cross-country running team placed second at the state championship and won the academic award.

At 7:42 p.m. Mr. Anderson left the meeting.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:***(7:42:21 PM)*

Mr. Jones presented the financial report of the District for the period ending September 30, 2010. He explained that the roll-over encumbrances from the General Fund for the 2009-2010 school year was \$2,095,000 and the charter school fund balance was \$675,000 which accounts for the discrepancy between the revenues and expenditures.

At 7:44 p.m. Mr. Anderson returned to the meeting.

**QUARTERLY BUDGET  
TRANSFER REPORT:***(7:44:24 PM)*

Mr. Jones reported on budget transfers Numbers 6 through 214 for various schools and departments within the District.

**BOARD REPORTS:***(7:45:32 PM)*

Mrs. Downing reported that she provided a welcome speech at the Superintendent's Fall Conference held in Homer. She reported that she attended the Project GRAD Board meeting and was pleased that they received an unqualified, positive audit. She presented longevity pins to staff at Homer Middle. She attended the Policy Review Committee meeting prior to the Board worksessions. She reported on two Edutopia Webinars (Individualized Learning and College and Career Ready).

Mrs. Hilts reported that she and the Susan B. English School staff spoke in support of performance-based education to the community and the Seldovia City Council and was pleased that there is community support for the program.

Mr. Holt reported that he attended the Career and Technical Education Curriculum Committee and presented longevity pins at Tustumena Elementary.

Mrs. Crawford reported that she attended the joint School Board and Assembly worksession to discuss the District's budget process and is hopeful that the open communication can continue. She reported that the Recognitions Committee met recently and has made some selections. She reported that she attended the Policy Review Committee meeting. She reported that she attended the Ninilchik Elementary/High School 100-year Celebration.

Ms. Hohl reported that she attended the Seward Schools Site Council meeting and the joint School Board and Assembly worksession. She participated in the NSBA webinar regarding strategic portfolios and the AASB New Board Member Orientation webinar. She asked the Board to encourage school site councils not to meet on the same night as a School Board meeting.

**BOARD WORKSESSION  
REPORT:**  
(7:54:27 PM)

Mr. Arness reported that the Board conducted worksessions on the Board Reorganization Process, the Connections Homeschool Program, proposed Policy Manual revisions and the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. All Board members were present except those who were excused. He reported that the Policy Review Committee met prior to the Board worksessions.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**  
(9:55:01 PM)

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Resolution 10-11-2, Primary Sponsor of Gaming Permits; Student Representative to the Board; High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Numbers 2011-02, 2011-03, 2011-04, 2011-05, 2011-06, and 2011-07; New Teacher Contracts; Long Term Substitute Contracts; Resignations; Administrator Contract; and Nontenure Teacher Contracts.

**RESOLUTION 10-11-2:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve Resolution 10-11-2, listing the primary and alternate members in charge of gaming for those schools applying for gaming permits for 2011.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE  
TO THE BOARD:**

Dr. Atwater recommended the Board approve the appointment of Miss Julie Rang, a Kenai Central High School student, as the student representative to the Board of Education.

**HSGQE:**

By memorandum, Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2011-02.

**HSGQE:**

By memorandum, Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2011-03.

**HSGQE:**

By memorandum, Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2011-04.

**HSGQE:**

By memorandum, Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2011-05.

**HSGQE:**

By memorandum, Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2011-06.

**HSGQE:**

By memorandum, Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2011-07.

**NEW TEACHER CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve new teacher contracts for the 2010-2011 school year for Bridgette Reutter, occupational therapist, Districtwide, Central Peninsula; Casey Davis, school psychologist, Homer Area; Matthew Epplin, (permanent .50 FTE/temporary .50 FTE) primary grade teacher, Mountain View Elementary; Michelle Green, (temporary) primary grade teacher,

**NEW TEACHER CONTRACTS:**  
*(continued)*

Nikiski North Star Elementary; Barbara A. Baysinger, (temporary) K-8/Title I teacher, Port Graham School; Justin Hostetter, (temporary) .50 FTE Title I teacher, Redoubt Elementary; Jill Quesenberry, (temporary) Kindergarten teacher, Redoubt Elementary; Wesley Andrews, school counselor, Skyview High School; Laura Fourtner, (permanent .50 FTE/temporary .50 FTE) school counselor, Skyview High School; Michael Redell, .50 FTE credit recovery teacher, Soldotna High School; and Mary Montgomery, (permanent .75 FTE/.25 FTE temporary) special education resource/K-3 teacher, Susan B. English School.

**LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve long-term substitute teacher contracts for Diane Patch, Chapman School; Kathy Thompson, Soldotna Elementary; and Holly Alston, West Homer Elementary.

**RESIGNATIONS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve resignations from Teresa Kiffmeyer, Native Youth Council coordinator, Federal Programs (effective October 4, 2010); Anna Widman, art, Nikiski Middle/High School (effective September 13, 2010); Wayne A. Young, principal/teacher, Spring Creek School (effective at the end of the 2010-11 school year); and Carole Demers, Grade 4, West Homer Elementary (effective at the end of the 2010-11 school year).

**ADMINISTRATOR CONTRACT:**

Dr. Atwater recommended the Board approve an administrator contract for D. Shane Hill, principal/teacher at Port Graham School.

**NONTENURE TEACHER CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve nontenure teacher contracts for Theresa Salzetti, (temporary) interventionist teacher, K-Beach Elementary; and Lacey Wisniewski, (temporary) .50 FTE math/reading teacher, Kenai Middle School.

**MOTION**

Mr. Navarre moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 13. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT:**

*(7:59:04 PM)*

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve the acceptance of the FY10 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).

**MOTION**

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve the acceptance of the FY10 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. Mr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**POLICY MANUAL REVISIONS:**  
*(7:59:59 PM)*

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve revisions to BP 3530, Risk Management and adopt BP 6146.5, Differential Requirements for Individuals with Exceptional Needs.

**POLICY MANUAL REVISIONS:**

*(continued)*

**MOTION**

Mr. Navarre moved the Board approve revisions to BP 3530, Risk Management and adopt BP 6146.5, Differential Requirements for Individuals with Exceptional Needs. Mrs. Downing seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**AASB BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
NOMINATION:**

*(8:00:38 PM)*

Mrs. Crawford submitted a request for approval from the Board for nomination to the Association of Alaska School Boards, Board of Directors.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Downing moved the Board approve the nomination of Sammy Crawford to the Association of Alaska School Boards, Board of Directors. Mr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**FEDERAL AND STATE  
LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES:**

*(8:01:23 PM)*

Dr. Atwater recommended the Board approve a list of proposed FY11 federal and state legislative priorities.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve a list of proposed FY11 federal and state legislative priorities. Mr. Navarre seconded.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve an amendment to the federal and state lists by removing each of the references to health care reform. Mr. Navarre seconded.

Amendment carried unanimously.

**RECESS:**

*(8:04:10 PM)*

At 8:04 p.m., Mr. Arness called a recess.

**RECONVENE AFTER  
RECESS:**

*(8:05:21 PM)*

At 8:05 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

Amended motion carried unanimously.

**FIRST READING OF POLICY  
REVISIONS:**

*(8:05:59 PM)*

The Board heard a first reading of BP and AR 3471, Equipment Reserve; and BP 3350, Payroll, and AR 3350, Payroll – IRS Retirement Plans.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

*(8:07:35 PM)*

Mr. Holt expressed appreciation for the Razdolna School presentation.

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

Mrs. Crawford stated that after reading Representative Paul Seaton's letter regarding retirement defined benefit and defined contribution plan, she has changed her personal opinion. She was pleased to hear that KPEA is supportive of the new teacher evaluation system. She thanked Mr. Whip for the Razdolna School presentation. She reminded those present that October 18 is Alaska Day and suggested that interested persons nominate a deserving youth for the Spirit of Youth award. She reported that she spoke to Soldotna Middle School students about serving on the school board and was pleased with the large range of questions from them. She congratulated Mr. Arness for receiving the McKinnon Award for school board service and welcomed Miss Rang to the Board as the student representative.

Mr. Anderson welcomed Miss Rang to the Board. He apologized for being absent from the last school board meeting and explained that he was weathered in at Granite Point. He complimented the Board and expressed excitement at starting his eighth year on the Board. He thanked his constituents for the letters and phone calls and apologized for not returning all of them. He thanked Representative Seaton for the letter regarding retirement and added that if the state returned to a defined benefit program, it would be financial suicide. He expressed grief over the personal loss of close friends through a drowning accident.

Ms. Hohl expressed appreciation for the re-election to another three-year term on the School Board. She asked for additional information regarding the Six-Year Plan and School Construction Needs prior to the December 6 meeting. She requested that the Board have access to Board policies during worksessions and meetings through the use of a laptop. She was pleased that an elementary counselor will be hired for Mt. View Elementary School. She thanked Ms. Reisig for the recent press releases and for focusing attention on the positive things happening in the District.

Mrs. Hilts expressed condolences to Mr. Anderson for the loss of good friends. She encouraged those present to visit Razdolna School but cautioned that the school should be notified ahead of time since the roads can be difficult to navigate. She reported that she attended the Employer Summit and noted that each employer group mentioned the value of service learning.

Mr. Navarre thanked Mr. Whip for the Razdolna School presentation. He congratulated the newly selected Board officers. He asked Mr. Jones for the date of the budget meeting. Mr. Jones responded that the Budget Development Committee will meet November 10 in the Borough Assembly Chambers and added that he invited Assembly members. Mr. Navarre encouraged those present, Borough Assembly members and the community to attend. Mr. Jones announced that a public notice has been sent asking those interested to apply to be a member of the committee.



**BOARD COMMENTS:**

*(continued)*

Mrs. Downing welcomed Miss Rang to the Board. She stated that she recently attended the College Council meeting and that the Kenai Peninsula College is interested in assisting with the transition from high school to post secondary education. She complimented West Homer Elementary teacher Carole Demers and noted that she was among the resignations approved on the agenda.

Miss Rang reported that she attended the Districtwide Student Council meeting in Seward and was selected to serve on the Board as the student representative.

Mr. Arness announced that Mrs. Vadla and Mr. Holt will serve on the Communications Committee. He asked Board members to notify him if they wish to be reassigned to other committees. He suggested that the Equipment Fund Policy have a maximum amount spelled out in the policy language. He thanked the Board members for re-electing him to the Board President position. He asked members to notify him if they would like to change the seating arrangement.

**ADJOURN:**

*(8:25 PM)*

At 8:25 p.m., Mr. Arness adjourned the School Board meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mr. Joe Arness, President

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Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Clerk

The Minutes of October 18, 2010  
have not been approved as of  
October 22, 2010.