
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes

February 7, 2011 – 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. 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. Sean Dusek, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Dave Jones, Assistant Superintendent

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. John Cook Mr. John Pothast
Mrs. Norma Holmgaard Mr. Tim Peterson
Mr. Doug Cannon Mrs. Doris Cannon
Mrs. LaDawn Druce Mrs. Margie Warner

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
(7:00:04 PM)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mr. Arness invited those present to participate in the Pledge of
(7:00:17 PM) Allegiance.

DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT: Mrs. Vadla read the District's mission statement.
(7:00:41 PM)

ROLL CALL: Mr. Joe Arness Present
(7:01:10 PM) 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 Present
Miss Julie Rang Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved as written.
(7:01:46 PM)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
(7:02:01 PM)

The School Board Minutes of January 10, 2011, were approved with a correction.

SCHOOL REPORT:
(7:02:57 PM)

Mr. Kaden McKibben and Miss Cydnee Sledge, Mt. View Elementary students, facilitated the report and started by introducing Mr. John Cook, principal; Mr. McFarland, music teacher; Ms. Michelle Thomason, teacher mentor; Mr. Daniel, fourth grade teacher; and the fourth grade class. Ms. Thomasson provided a Power Point slide show highlighting the teacher mentor program and its benefits. Mr. McFarland, music teacher, directed the fourth grade class who performed a song titled, *Possum Come a Knocking*, that was written by the students.

RECESS:
(7:16:31 PM)

At 7:16 p.m. Mr. Arness called a recess.

**RECONVENE AFTER
RECESS:**
(7:21:33 PM)

At 7:21 p.m. the Board reconvened in regular session.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND
PETITIONS:**
(7:22:00 PM)

Dr. Atwater announced that two District students, Alder Fletcher and John Hannan have been invited to apply for the Presidential Scholars' competition. He reported that the arsenic remediation activity has ended at Sterling Elementary. He reported that the school improvement plan for Title I schools has been approved by the Department of Education and Early Development and thanked Mrs. Miller for her coordination in that effort. He reported that principal hiring continues and that interviews for the Spring Creek principal/teacher will be February 8, Mt. View Elementary principal interviews will be in the afternoon on February 8, Soldotna Middle principal interviews will be February 10 and Soldotna Elementary principal interviews on February 11. He reported that February 7 through 11 is Alaska School Counselor week, and that February is School Board recognition month in Alaska.

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE,
SITE COUNCIL AND/OR
P.T.A., K.P.A.A., K.P.E.A.,
K.P.E.S.A, BOROUGH
ASSEMBLY:**
(7:25:00 PM)

Mrs. Warner, KPESA president, reported that she recently attended the NEA-Alaska Delegate Assembly and noted that four discussion items advanced to Priority One: restore defined benefit system, rural teacher housing, PERS employees to be allowed to apply accumulated sick leave towards years of service for retirement, and adequate funding for education. She reported that the Political Action Committee for Education (PACE) will be sending members to Juneau throughout the legislative session. She reported that she will travel to Washington D.C. February 23 through 27 to attend the National Resolutions Committee meeting. She announced that during the Delegate Assembly, Mr. Julian Polushkin, a KPBSD student, was selected as NEA-Alaska Student of the Year.

**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. LaDawn Druce, KPEA president, asked the Board to continue to look at funding for elementary school counselors Districtwide. She announced that BP Teachers of Excellence nominations are due February 14 and Read Across America is March 2. She asked the Board to consider reading at a District school on that date. She reported that she traveled to Philadelphia to participate in NEA's Northeast Regional Training and present a conference on advancing leadership skills. She traveled to Juneau as a representative for PACE and visited with KPBSD legislators. She traveled to the NEA-Alaska Delegate Assembly and noted that three new business items were recommended; support SB3, increase to food services for lunch and breakfast programs; TRS 3 and PERS 4 pension information; and research and develop model teacher evaluation procedures. She reported that two new legislative bills propose an increase to the base student allocation and hopes that it is funded for two or three years into the future. She suggested that with a \$100 increase in the base student allocation combined with the reinstatement of the grocery sales tax, the District would have approximately \$4 million. She reported that she will ask Assembly Member Murphy to join her during school visits so she can see where the money is being spent. She encouraged the Board to visit District schools in order to see that, contrary to public beliefs, schools are not failing.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT:**

(7:32:21 PM)

Dr. Atwater reported that the calendar for Russian Old Believer schools has been set. He noted that the list of administrator contracts for approval includes Vaughn Dosko as the principal for Kenai Middle School, Christine Ermold to serve as administrative oversight for Cooper Landing Elementary in addition to her duties as Sterling Elementary principal and Jason Bickling to provide administrative oversight for Moose Pass School in addition to his duties as Seward Middle School principal. He announced that the student leadership group is in Juneau participating in the Close-Up Program and will also meet with the governor. He announced that he will attend the American Association of School Administrators Annual Conference in Denver February 17 through 19. Dr. Atwater reported that the Kenai Central High gymnasium can be used beginning February 10 and did not require major repairs to damage caused from flooding in December. He added that more serious work to the floor will take place during the summer.

BOARD REPORTS:

(7:35:18 PM)

Mrs. Vadla reported that she attended the Communication Committee meeting and noted that all members were present. She stated that Mr. Dave Henson presented the National Schools Public Relations Association community accountability program survey timeline and that Dr. Atwater will revise the document. She added that an email list will be prepared so that the survey can be completed online.

BOARD REPORTS:

(continued)

Mrs. Downing reported that she visited with the principals at West Homer Elementary and Paul Banks Elementary. She reported that she attended a percussion presentation by students at Paul Banks Elementary who were studying from an Artist-in-Residence, Mr. Eddie Wood. She reported that she attended the AASB Legislative Fly-in and noted that there were some great presentations on technology and education. She noted that the Kenai delegation held discussions with other Board members throughout the state, met with over 30 legislators and met with Governor Parnell at the governor's mansion.

Mrs. Vadla reported that she attended the Soldotna High School Site Based Council meeting on January 11. She reported that she attended the AASB Legislative Fly-in in Juneau and was impressed with the presentation by Jason Ohler on the digital community and the digital citizen.

Ms. Hohl reported that she attended the Seward PTSA meeting, the Seward Schools Site Based Council meeting, the Quality Schools/Quality Students meeting in Juneau and the AASB Legislative Fly-in. She reported that Julie Lindquist, Seward High School parent, and Marilyn Johnson, Tebughna Elementary/High School principal, also attended the QS2 meeting. She reported that through the use of QS2 money, two projects have been accomplished in Seward and the community is looking at starting a school radio station.

Miss Rang reported that she attended the Youth Advocacy Institute as well as the AASB Legislative Fly-in. She reported that, while in Juneau, she had the opportunity to be a guest page. She stated that the meetings with legislators were very positive.

Ms. Hohl reported that she has attended two principal evaluation committee meetings and provided the Board with a rough draft copy of the framework of practice that goes along with the teachers' framework. She stated that the committee would like input from the Board and asked that ideas and comments be sent to her or Mr. Dusek.

Mr. Navarre reported that he attended the Kenai Middle School Site Based Council meeting and noted that the superintendent spoke to the group about the principal replacement process. He reported that he attended the AASB Fly-In in Juneau and noted that the Hope community has a new legislator, Senator Kathy Giesell. He stated that legislators are discussing ways to fund education and ways to sustain it. He noted that once again, the focus is on vocational education.

Mrs. Crawford reported that she attended the Recognition Committee meeting.

**BOARD WORKSESSION
REPORT:**
(7:46:12 PM)

Mr. Arness reported that the Board held worksessions regarding intervention and preschool and conducted a conference call with Kenai Peninsula legislators to discuss education legislation. All members were present. He noted that prior to the worksessions, the Communication Committee met.

Mr. Arness recognized students in the audience from Soldotna High.

CONSENT AGENDA:
(7:46:58 PM)

Items on the Consent Agenda were Approval of New Teacher Contracts; Long-term Substitute Teacher Contracts; Resignations; 2011-2012 District Organizational Chart; High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2011-10; High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2011-11; Budget Transfers; and 2011-2012 Tentative Administrator Contracts.

NEW TEACHER CONTRACTS:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve new teacher contracts for Christopher D. Etzwiler, (temporary) science/math teacher, Razdolna School; and Judith M. Michaels, (temporary) Special Education Resource Teacher, Tustumena Elementary.

**LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE
TEACHER CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve long-term substitute contracts for Judy Cox, Mountain View Elementary and Marc Swanson, Seward Middle School.

RESIGNATIONS:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve resignations effective at the end of the 2010-2011 school year from Barbara C. Anderson, science/health, Distance Learning; Paul Sorenson, Kenai Middle School principal; Katherine Pault, special education/Mountain View Elementary; Terry Martin, Ninilchik School principal; and Tamra Wear, library media, Soldotna High School.

**2011-2012 DISTRICT
ORGANIZATIONAL CHART:**

Dr. Atwater recommended the Board approve the 2011-2012 District organizational chart that identifies the lines of primary responsibility and relationships between administrative positions.

HSGQE:

Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2011-10.

HSGQE:

Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2011-11.

BUDGET TRANSFERS:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve budget transfers Number 605 and 618 to revise Fireweed Academy Charter School's salary, benefit, and rent accounts to reflect changes in the school configuration and enrollment. Mr. Jones also recommended the Board approve Number 649 in the amount of \$100,000 to be used for electrical upgrades needed in schools as a result of increased installation of Smart Boards in classrooms throughout the district.

**2011-2012 TENTATIVE
ADMINISTRATOR
CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a list of tentative administrator contracts for the 2011-2012 school year.

CONSENT AGENDA:

(continued)

MOTION

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

Motion carried unanimously.

BOARD COMMENTS:

(7:50:28 PM)

Mr. Holt invited those present to join the junior ski program on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. to ski or snowshoe on the Tsalteshi Ski Trails.

Mrs. Crawford thanked the Mt. View Elementary students and staff for the report. She reported that she was told that the local judges are very concerned about the increase in drug use among young students and want to partner with the District to resolve the problem.

Ms. Hohl reported that she was invited to be a judge for a debate competition at Seward High. She asked whether there will be litigation regarding the use of water at Moose Pass School. She expressed appreciation for the Mt. View Elementary report, especially the original music. She announced that the National Ocean Science Bowl, a basketball tournament, and a memorial service for a former student were recently held at Seward High.

Ms. Rang thanked Mr. Cook and the Mt. View Elementary students and staff for the school report.

Mrs. Vadla commended Skyview High students for winning the high school mock trial competition. She thanked Mr. Cook and Mr. McFarland for the Mt. View Elementary School report. She stated that the worksessions prior to the Board meeting were enjoyable and specifically thanked Mrs. Michael Hanson for the intervention information and Mrs. Sandy Miller for the preschool overview. She thanked the high school students who were in attendance.

Mrs. Hilts commended the Mt. View Elementary students and teachers for the report. She stated that the worksessions were positive and appreciated the solid data. She reported that she was invited to be a judge for a seventh and eighth grade civics assignment at Susan B. English. In honor of School Board Appreciation month she expressed appreciation for her fellow members.

Mr. Navarre asked for an excused absence for the February 21 Board meeting since he will be attending meetings in Juneau. He thanked Mt. View Elementary students and staff for the school report.

UNAPPROVED

BOARD COMMENTS:

(continued)

Mrs. Downing requested an excused absence for the February 21 Board meeting since she will be in Anchorage attending the Alaska Society on Technology in Education Conference. She announced that she will attend the Wellness Committee meeting on February 8. She reported that she will travel to Anchorage with students from Homer Middle School to attend the Math Counts competition.

Mrs. Vadla asked for an excused absence for the February 21 Board meeting since she will be attending a meeting on service learning.

Ms. Hohl reported that she will be in Juneau representing the state PTA during the State PTA Legislative Fly-in.

Mr. Arness thanked the Soldotna High school students for their attendance. He thanked the students and staff from Mt. View Elementary School for the report.

ADJOURN:

(8:01:53 PM)

At 8:01 p.m., Mr. Arness adjourned the School Board Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Joe Arness , President

Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Clerk

The Minutes of February 7, 2011,
have not been approved as of
February 9, 2011.