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# Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes

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April 4, 2011 – 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. Sean Dusek, Assistant Superintendent  
Mr. Dave Jones, Assistant Superintendent

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Mrs. Susan Larned	Mr. Tim Peterson
Ms. Mo Sanders	Mrs. Linda Raemaeker
Mrs. Stephanie McDowell	Mr. Todd Syverson
Mrs. Norma Holmgaard	Mr. Alan Fields
Mr. Hal Smalley	Ms. Susan Nabholz
Mrs. Laurie Olson	Mrs. LaDawn Druce

Others present not identified.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.  
(7:00:07 PM)

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mr. Arness invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.  
(7:00:21 PM)

**DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT:** Mrs. Vadla read the District's mission statement.  
(7:00:48 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	Present
Miss Julie Rang	Present

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** The agenda was approved as written.  
(7:01:50 PM)

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

(7:02:10 PM)

The School Board Minutes of March 7, 2011 were approved as printed.

**AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:**

(7:02:37 PM)

The Board presented a Golden Apple Award to Susan Nabholz, Kenai Central High teacher, for her service to the District.

**SCHOOL REPORT:**

(7:05:57 PM)

Ms. Mo Sanders, Soldotna Montessori Charter School administrator, thanked the Board for their work. She provided a brief history of the charter school formation, student enrollment information, staff configuration including special education aides, the school's focus on character and pro social skills, and the upcoming out-of-state field trip to the United Nations and New York City. She introduced several students (Mr. James Oglesbee, Mr. Capra Edwards-Smith, Mr. Cody Quelland, Miss Jessie McDowell, and Miss Ellyce Woodward) who presented a student-created digital photo story highlighting the students' use of technology (GPS, laptop computers, iPods, and digital cameras).

**RECESS**

(7:21:49 PM)

At 7:21 p.m. Mr. Arness called a recess.

**RECONVENE**

(7:27:23 PM)

At 7:27 p.m. the Board reconvened in regular session.

**HEARING OF DELEGATIONS:**

(7:27:51 PM)

Mrs. Linda Raemaeker, Skyview Mock Trial Team coach, introduced the team members, Miss Shay Kurz, Miss Deandra Segovia, Miss Rebecca Egan, Miss Madeline Ransom, Miss Cheyenne Maal and Miss Jazmine Henry, who took turns explaining the mock trial competition process and the practice and fund raising necessary to compete nationally in Phoenix, Arizona in May, 2011. Miss Elizabeth Schoessler and Miss Brooke Hughes are also team members but were not present.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:**

(7:39:56 PM)

Dr. Atwater announced that the Standards Based Assessments are being administered to students in grades 3 through 10 and the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam is being administered to tenth grade students and students who did not pass it earlier. He reported that the District has a principal vacancy at Voznesenka School, and assistant principal vacancies at Nikiski Middle/High and Skyview High. He announced that the recruiting team is attending job fairs during the week of April 11. He noted that two support positions will be added to the District Office staff to assist directors. He recognized Spirit of Youth Award nominees (Taylor Ellison, Homer High; Freya Chey, Kenai Central High; Trace Braxling, Skyview High and the TEDxHomer Teens, Homer High). He announced that the Wellness Committee meeting has been rescheduled for May 3.

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

(7:41:53 PM)

Mrs. Druce, KPEA president, reported that she joined 100 people for the rally to support workers. She announced that students will be participating in statewide testing, and called the Board's attention to an article she wrote for the *Redoubt Reporter* regarding the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). She stated that she wrote the article after returning from Washington D.C. where she testified in front of the US Senate

**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)*

Democrat Steering Committee at the invitation of Senator Mark Begich. She volunteered to answer questions regarding the proposed teacher evaluation system and encouraged the Board to support the full implementation. She announced that three teachers (Gregory Weissenberg, Rob Sparks and Greg Zorbas) will provide a demonstration of a Classroom Without Walls during the April 5 Borough Assembly meeting. She stated that she is proud of Mrs. Linda Raemaeker and the Mock Trial students for placing first in state competition. She stated that she continues to testify in support of increases to state funding for education. She reported that Representative Chenault and Representative Olson held a town hall meeting on March 26. She reported that HB97 may have the most attention but noted that SB84 is better. She announced that former Assembly member Ron Long has submitted his candidacy for Borough Mayor.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT:**

*(7:50:20 PM)*

Dr. Atwater reported that the Division of Public Health Department of Immunization reviewed the immunization records at four District schools and found one in perfect compliance and three others just below perfect compliance. He reported that student transportation contract negotiations continue. He reported that the District was invited to join the educational advocacy group, Citizens for the Educational Advancement of Alaska's Children (CEAAC), but will decline since the benefits of the membership do not outweigh the negatives.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

*(7:52:02 PM)*

Mr. Jones presented District financial reports for the period ending February 28, 2011.

**BOARD REPORTS:**

*(7:55:29 PM)*

Mr. Anderson reported that he attended the AASB Boardmanship Academy and Legislative Fly-in and noted that Carl Rose, Executive Director of AASB, continues to keep Alaskan School Boards informed on education issues. He reported that during his visit to Juneau he discovered that a lot of incorrect information was being propagated through the State House and Senate. He reported that the Association has uniformly worked hard to dispel the inaccurate information. He reported that he met with several legislators and Governor Parnell and that increased funding was the most important topic discussed and is closely tied to the current movement toward giving the oil companies a tax break.

Mrs. Crawford reported that she attended the AASB Boardmanship Academy and Legislative Fly-in and shared the "Kenai Shines" brochure that outlined KPBSD's successes. She reported that District staff (Doris Cannon, Sandy Miller and Michael Hanson) conducted a distance delivery workshop during the Boardmanship Academy. She reported that she has testified several times at the Kenai Legislative Information Office on SB 84 and written letters to the Senate Finance Committee. She noted that a portion of her letter in favor of SB 84 was quoted in AASB's publication, *The Commentary*. She stated that she will testify again on Wednesday, April 6 to the Senate Finance Committee.

**BOARD REPORTS:**

(continued)

Mrs. Hilts reported that she attended the AASB Boardsmanship Academy and Legislative Fly-in and credited the good reception they received to the other District representatives that had previously been to Juneau. She announced that Dr. Atwater has been appointed to the Professional Teaching Practices Commission (PTPC) as the superintendent representative. She noted that the KPBSD group had the only interview with Governor Parnell and thanked Mrs. Tachick for securing the appointment. She noted that legislators do not want to hear from any more school board members regarding education funding; instead they want to hear from parents, grandparents and the business community. She thanked the District administration for providing the data reinforcing the District's successes.

Mrs. Vadla reported that she was invited to speak at Jamie Leman's retirement party at Ninilchik School. She reported that Soldotna High's production of *We are Stardust*, directed by Mr. Druce, was well done. She announced that Soldotna High School has a Future Problem scenario winner which will be announced soon.

Mr. Holt reported that he attended the most recent Skyview High Site Council meeting and added that the group spoke with Mr. Rob Sparks, who was one of the Classroom Without Walls core teacher winners at the ASTE Conference. He commended Mr. Sparks, Mr. Weissenberg and Mr. Zorbas for the award.

**BOARD WORKSESSION REPORT:**

(8:05:13 PM)

Mr. Arness reported that the Board conducted worksessions on Board Policy revisions, the proposed FY12 Budget, Project GRAD, and the Frameworks Teacher Evaluation System. He added that the Board held a conference call with legislators to discuss education legislation. All board members were present.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

(8:05:41 PM)

Items on the Consent Agenda were Approval of High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2011-15; High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2011-16; Revisions to AR 0420, School-Based Management/Site Councils; Tentative Nontenured Teacher Contracts; 2011-12 Nontenured Teachers for Tenure; Request for Long-Term Substitute Contracts; Requests for Leave of Absence-Certified; Resignations; New Teacher Contract; High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2011-17; and High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2011-18.

**HSGQE WAIVER REQUEST NUMBER 2011-15:**

Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2011-15.

**HSGQE WAIVER REQUEST NUMBER 2011-16:**

Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2011-16.

**REVISIONS TO AR 0420:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve revisions to AR 0420, School-Based Management/Site Councils.

## **TENTATIVE NONTENURED TEACHER CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve tentative nontenure teacher contracts for Amanda Miller, resource (.75 FTE) and Grades K-6 (.25 FTE), Fireweed Academy; Gwenn Dailey-Gee, resource, Homer Middle; Casey Davis, psychologist, Homer Middle; Cheryl Brown, intensive needs, Mountain View; Deana Kahn, psychologist, Mountain View; Sonya Selanoff, kindergarten (.50 FTE permanent/.50 FTE temporary), Nanwalek; Bridgette Reutter, occupational therapist, Nikiski North Star; Barbara Larrivee, intensive needs, Paul Banks; Maretta Taylor, K-5 (.50 FTE permanent/.50 FTE temporary), Port Graham; Benjamin Caswell, psychologist, Seward Elementary; Peter Gundunas, resource, Skyview; Kelli Creglow, preschool, (temporary), Soldotna Elementary; Tina Gilman, intensive needs, Soldotna Elementary; Trina Uvaas, psychologist, Soldotna Elementary; Sarah Swaney, intensive needs, Soldotna High; Bethany Nyboer, resource, Sterling Elementary; Mary Montgomery, resource/Grades 5-6, Susan B. English; Christy Gomez, K-2 (.50 FTE permanent/.50 FTE temporary), Tebughna; Garrett McMullen, resource/Grades K-2 (.50 FTE permanent/.50 FTE temporary), Tebughna; and Robert Thompson II, resource, Voznesenka.

## **2011-12 NONTENURED TEACHERS FOR TENURE:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve Matthew Tucker, resource, Homer High; Susan Hawker, resource, Kaleidoscope School; Marcy True, intensive, Mountain View Elementary; Robert Ernst, resource, Nikiski Middle/High; Lisa Fellows, resource, Ninilchik School; Kristine Berrios, intensive, Paul Banks Elementary; Holly Abel, school psychologist, Soldotna Middle; Jennifer Swander, language arts, Spring Creek; Ruth Sensenig, language arts, Susan B. English; Camille Hill, school psychologist, Tustumena Elementary; and Rebecca Paul, resource, West Homer, nontenure teachers, for tenure.

## **REQUEST FOR LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve long-term substitute contract requests for Rebecca Hilbrink, Ninilchik Elementary/ High and Marsha Gustkey, Sterling Elementary.

## **REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE-CERTIFIED:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve unpaid leaves of absence, effective for the 2011-12 school year, for Jill E. Herbert, preschool, Seward Elementary and R. Douglas Hogue, Frameworks, Soldotna Middle.

## **RESIGNATIONS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve resignations, effective at the end of the 2010-11 school year, for Anne E. Ridgely, emotionally handicapped, Homer Middle; Sherry L. Roach, resource, Homer Middle; Susan Wells, Grade 6, Kenai Middle; Lee Murphy, Grade 6, K-Beach Elementary; Judy Graham, behavior support classroom, Mt. View Elementary; Denis Gardella, science/math, Nanwalek School; Joyce Gardella, language arts, Nanwalek School; Wendy Moseley, resource, Nikiski Middle/High; Michael Williamson, math, Skyview High; and Polly Crawford, language arts, Soldotna Middle. He also recommended resignations be approved from Connie Miller, ELL coordinator, Federal Programs, (effective June 30, 2011); and Jim Dawson, regional principal, Cooper Landing/Hope/Moose Pass, (effective June 8, 2011).

**NEW TEACHER CONTRACT:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a teaching contract for Douglas A. McColl, speech language pathologist, Districtwide.

**HSGQE WAIVER REQUEST  
NUMBER 2011-17:**

Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2011-17.

**HSGQE WAIVER REQUEST  
NUMBER 2011-18:**

Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2011-18.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 11. Mrs. Downing seconded.

Mrs. Hilts removed Number 5, Approval of 2011-12 Nontenured Teachers for Tenure.

Mr. Navarre removed Number 8, Approval of Resignations.

Ms. Hohl removed Number 7, Approval of Requests for Leave of Absence-Certified.

Motion carried unanimously for Numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 9, 10, and 11.

VOTE ON NUMBER 5:

YES – Holt, Vadla, Crawford, Downing, Hohl, Anderson, Navarre, Arness

NO – Hilts

Motion carried for Number 5, Approval of 2011-12 Nontenured Teachers for Tenure.

**MOTION**

Mr. Navarre moved the Board delete Mr. Jim Dawson's name from Number 8, Approval of Resignations. Ms. Hohl seconded.

**MOTION**

Mr. Navarre moved the Board go into executive session to discuss subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person, provided the person may request a public discussion. Specifically, the executive session was to discuss Mr. Dawson's resignation. Ms. Hohl seconded.

VOTE ON EXECUTIVE SESSION:

YES – Hohl, Navarre

NO – Crawford, Anderson, Holt, Hilts, Downing, Vadla, Arness

Motion to go into executive session failed.

VOTE ON NAVARRE AMENDMENT:

YES – Navarre

NO – Anderson, Hilts, Downing, Hohl, Holt, Crawford, Vadla, Arness

Amendment failed.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

*(continued)*

**MOTION**

Mr. Navarre moved the Board table action on Number 8 until the next Board meeting. Mr. Anderson seconded.

VOTE TO TABLE NUMBER 8:

YES – Anderson, Navarre, Hohl

NO – Vadla, Crawford, Hilts, Holt, Downing, Arness

Motion to table failed.

Motion carried unanimously for Number 8, Approval of Resignations.

Motion carried unanimously for Number 7, Approval of Requests for Leave of Absence-Certified.

At 8:23 p.m. Mr. Arness called a recess.

At 8:31 p.m. the Board reconvened in regular session.

**RECESS**

*(8:23:35 PM)*

**RECONVENE**

*(8:31:26 PM)*

**FY12 BUDGET:**

*(8:31:46 PM)*

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a General Fund FY12 Budget of \$137,311,226 and a Special Revenue Funds FY12 Budget of \$20,784,071 for a total FY12 Budget for all funds of \$158,095,297.

**MOTION**

Mr. Holt moved the Board approve General Fund FY12 Budget of \$137,311,226 and a Special Revenue Funds FY12 Budget of \$20,784,071 for a total FY12 Budget for all funds of \$158,095,297. Mr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**FRAMEWORKS EVALUATION SYSTEM:**

*(8:41:56 PM)*

**MOTION**

Dr. Atwater recommended the Board approve the adoption of the Frameworks Teacher Evaluation System.

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve the adoption of the Frameworks Teacher Evaluation System. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**2011-2012 TENTATIVE BOARD MEETING DATES:**

*(8:46:34 PM)*

**MOTION**

Dr. Atwater recommended the Board approve a tentative meeting schedule for Board meetings for the 2011-2012 school year.

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve a tentative meeting schedule for Board meetings for the 2011-2012 school year. Ms. Hohl seconded.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board amend the 2011-2012 list of tentative meeting dates by removing the February 20 Board meeting. Mrs. Downing seconded.

**2011-2012 TENTATIVE  
BOARD MEETING DATES:**

*(continued)*

VOTE ON CRAWFORD AMENDMENT:

Advisory Vote – NO  
YES – Crawford, Anderson, Vadla, Downing, Arness  
NO – Holt, Hilts, Hohl, Navarre

Amendment carried.

VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION:

Advisory Vote – YES  
YES – Hilts, Holt, Anderson, Downing, Crawford, Vadla, Arness  
NO – Hohl, Navarre,

Amended motion carried.

**FIRST READING OF POLICY  
REVISIONS:**

*(8:54:43 PM)*

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/  
COMMENTS:**

*(8:56:19 PM)*

The Board held a first reading of revisions to BP 3470, Fund Balance.

Mr. Hal Smalley, Assembly Member, thanked the Board for the budget discussions throughout the year and noted that it will take parent persuasion for the Assembly to increase the funding floor. He stated that the Borough is not poor but the reserves are somewhat smaller than in the past. He announced that the Borough Assembly will begin budget discussions on April 5 and will encourage the Borough Mayor to include increases within the budget that might be zeroed out or reduced in nature. He announced that the Borough Assembly will not receive the Mayor's budget until May 3 and that formal amendments can be made on that date and on May 17 with the approval set for June 7. He encouraged parents to call or email Assembly members with their comments regarding education funding.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

*(8:59:16 PM)*

Mrs. Vadla congratulated the Spirit of Youth Award nominees and the Skyview Mock Trial team. She stated that she will testify in support of SB 84. She commented on Mr. Dan Carstens' and Mr. Doug Waclawski's career development reports. She expressed appreciation for Mr. Mike Peterson's report on the Project GRAD program.

Mr. Holt encouraged the Montessori Charter School students to take their GPS devices with them when they go to the United Nations.

Mrs. Crawford thanked Soldotna Montessori Charter School staff and students for the report. She expressed appreciation for the Project GRAD update. She was pleased that the Frameworks evaluation system will be implemented. She announced that she has never voted on a \$158 million budget. She stated that the Soldotna High School production of We Are Stardust was wonderful.



**BOARD COMMENTS:**

*(continued)*

Mr. Navarre expressed disappointment over the vote on the amendment to delete the February 20 meeting and felt that the Board did not debate the number of meetings enough. He stated that although he expresses frustration over the District processes, he does support the superintendent and communicates well with Dr. Atwater. He stated that School Board members should not be limited at any level or be constrained to a 3-minute time limit.

Mr. Anderson reported that he visited Sterling Elementary School and was pleased that the water is safe to drink from the fountains. He expressed disappointment that water is leaking from the school roof and would like to have it repaired. He thanked the Montessori Charter School staff and students and the Mock Trial team for their presentations. He thanked the administration and Mrs. Tachick for their hard work. He announced that he, along with other Board members, will attend the National School Boards Association Annual Conference in San Francisco. He thanked Mr. Arness for his leadership as Board President.

Mrs. Downing reported that she attended the District Policy Review Committee meeting and that a large number of policies were reviewed. She encouraged the Board to consider adopting a policy that would allow assistance dogs as well as service dogs in schools. She commended the Project GRAD organization. She congratulated District staff who presented at the ASTE Conference. She announced that March is Arts Month and reviewed several events in Homer that she attended. She reported that she proctored and presented awards during the Borough Math Meet. She enjoyed comments by the peacemakers and friend menders from the Montessori Charter School. She congratulated the Mock Trial team members and encouraged the Board to showcase student national successes. She reported that she will attend the National School Boards Association Annual Conference and then will travel to Washington D.C.

Ms. Hohl reported that she attended the National PTA Legislative Fly-in in Washington D.C. and assisted with a draft resolution for Congressman Young regarding public school land trust. She reported that the Borough Assembly will meet in Seward on April 19. She attended the Choose Respect rally in Seward. She expressed appreciation for the presentations and congratulated the Mock Trial team for placing first in state and wished them good luck at the international competition. She commended the Montessori Charter School students for their GPS skills.

Miss Rang wished good luck to the the Skyview Mock Trial team with their upcoming competition in Phoenix, Arizona. She congratulated Mrs. Nabholz for receiving the Golden Apple Award and thanked her for her hard work with the Job Shadow Program. She thanked Ms. Sanders and the Soldotna Montessori Charter School students for the presentation.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

(continued)

Mrs. Vadla announced that *National Geographic* has published artwork by Maureen McCombs, a former Ninilchik School student.

Mr. Arness announced that a Board member is needed to serve on the Language Arts Committee which will meet on April 19, June 6 through 8, July 25 through 28 and September 22 and 23. He asked interested Board members to contact him after the meeting. He asked Board members to contact him with questions regarding the proposed superintendent evaluation form. He stated that the Board will conduct a short worksession prior to the May Board meeting to finalize the evaluation document. He thanked the Board for participating in the meeting and added that the application of time constraints for Board comments is not disrespectful. He explained that the time limit was implemented as a method to offset individuals previously on the Board who were not respectful of other members by subjecting them to lengthy tirades. He stated that the time limit can be eliminated by the Board at any time. He stated that the second meeting in February did not appear to be necessary and that a second meeting might be better held in November or in late spring.

**ADJOURN:**

(9:17:56 PM)

At 9:17 p.m., Mr. Arness adjourned the School Board Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mr. Joe Arness, President

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Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Clerk

The Minutes of April 4, 2011,  
have not been approved as of  
April 14, 2011.