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# Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

## Board of Education Meeting Minutes

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January 9, 2012 – 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. Penny Vadla, Clerk  
Ms. Lynn Hohl, Treasurer  
Mr. Marty Anderson  
Mrs. Sammy Crawford  
Mrs. Sunni Hilts  
Mr. Bill Holt  
Mr. Tim Navarre  
Miss Annaleah Ernst, Student Representative

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Mr. Tim Peterson	Mrs. LaDawn Druce
Mr. Tim Vlasak	Mrs. Margie Warner
Ms. Pegge Erkeneff	Dr. Allan Gee
Mrs. Terri Tidwell	Mrs. Dawn Edwards-Smith
Ms. Gretchen Graeff	Dr. Doris Cannon
Mr. Mick Wykis	Mr. Doug Cannon
Mr. John O'Brien	Ms. Debbie Harris

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 Allegiance.  
(7:00:18 PM)

**DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT:** Mrs. Crawford read the District's mission statement.  
(7:00:47 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 Annaleah Ernst	Present

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** The agenda was approved as written. Mr. Arness notified those present that the Board will conduct an executive session at the end of the meeting and that no further business will be conducted afterwards.  
(7:02:11 PM)

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

*(7:02:52 PM)*

The School Board Minutes of December 5, 2011, were approved as printed.

**SCHOOL REPORT:**

*(7:03:21 PM)*

Dr. Allan Gee, Homer High principal, recognized the staff and students for the pictures used in the PowerPoint presentation. The presentation highlighted the school's theme of "raising the bar", for all Homer High students and staff. He explained that the individual steps to carry out the theme included raising student awareness, implementation, presentation to students, providing academic support, and next steps for those who need assistance. He provided a progress report demonstrating the success of the school's efforts.

Mr. Anderson left the meeting at 7:19 p.m. He returned at 7:21 p.m.

*(7:22:08 PM)*

Mrs. Dawn Edwards-Smith, River City Academy principal/teacher, distributed an informational school report to the Board and administration. Miss Selena Pena (student) gave a brief history of the past five years of RCA's existence, including student demographics and staff information. Miss Isabeau Posey (student) presented information on the school mission statement development process. Mr. Daniel McIntosh (student) provided information on the school's approach to respect for everyone, referred to as CORE (Culture of Respect for Everyone). Mr. Bastian Posey (student) explained the grading and scoring system and the tracking software called Educate. Mrs. Edwards-Smith presented a slide show featuring the three-week interim classes held in January. She noted that RCA has made AYP each year since it was opened.

**RECESS:**

*(7:38:45 PM)*

At 7:38 p.m., Mr. Arness called a recess.

**RECONVENE AFTER**

**RECESS:**

*(7:44:13 PM)*

At 7:44 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND**

**PETITIONS:**

*(7:44:44 PM)*

Dr. Atwater commended the Pupil Services staff for receiving a 100% compliance rating for the administration review and 98.6% rating for student monitoring during the Annual Special Education Compliance Audit of the schools in the Seward area. He announced that public comment closes on January 21 for the proposed transportation changes affecting the southern peninsula area. He reported that he received a letter from Borough Assembly President Knopp suggesting that the maintenance review meeting be conducted administratively and added that he will meet with Mayor Navarre and report back.

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

*(7:46:23 PM)*

Mrs. Warner, KPESA president, announced that labor contract bargaining begins on January 10. She reported that KPESA and KPEA representatives will attend Delegate Assembly in Anchorage on January 26 through 28. She announced that Ms. Cathy Carrow will run for NEA-Alaska president and Mrs. LaDawn Druce will run for vice president. She thanked the staff and students at Homer High and River City Academy for their reports.

**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. Druce, KPEA president, thanked those who spoke to the Board about negotiations during the public hearing held prior to the Board meeting. She thanked the staff and students at Homer High and River City Academy for their reports. She expressed appreciation for the CTE Plan worksession. She announced that she was appointed to and completed the off-site report for the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) Board of Examiners team and will travel to Monmouth University, New Jersey in April. She stated that she feels higher education is doing a better job preparing teachers to work in the classroom. She wished Dr. Atwater good luck during his interview for the Anchorage superintendent position and added that she would recommend him without hesitation but would be sad to see him leave the District. She thanked the Board members for their service.

Mr. John Pothast, KPAA president, reported that principals are extremely busy with the teacher evaluation system and added that although, it is incredibly time consuming, the feedback is quality time and is producing good conversations and changes in teaching. He reported that District administrators are working at the state association leadership level and the national level. He stated that the Kenai Peninsula Administrators Association is looking forward to good conversations regarding negotiations. He wished Dr. Atwater good luck during the upcoming superintendent interviews. On behalf of district administrators he expressed appreciation for the senior management leadership team and the Board members for their work on behalf of students.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT:**

*(7:54:37 PM)*

Dr. Atwater reported that the District received a grant from the Department of Labor for \$26,000 which was used to pay for the implementation of the Career and Technical Education Plan. He stated that the first step of the five year plan will be completed at the Administrator Meeting on January 25 at 8:30 a.m. He announced that school was canceled today at Tebughna School because the Village of Tyonek was without power and the school's back-up generator did not work. He reported that Voznesenka School was dismissed early (after the minimum day) because a water main broke. He complimented Ms. Erkeneff for her communications work during the recent school lock-down drills.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

*(7:56:31 PM)*

Mr. Jones presented a financial report for the District for the period ending November 30, 2011.

**QUARTERLY BUDGET  
TRANSFER REPORT:**

*(7:59:12 PM)*

Mr. Jones reported on budget transfers Numbers 204 through 526 for various schools and departments within the District.

**BOARD REPORTS:**

*(8:01:08 PM)*

Ms. Vadla reported that the Communication Committee worked on developing key phrases for the committee and the District. She stated that the group reviewed the communication goals. She commended Ms. Erkeneff for her collaborative efforts and for bringing the community and constituents online.

**BOARD REPORTS:***(continued)*

Ms. Hohl reported that she and Mr. Navarre participated in the AASB Winter Academy on negotiations.

Mr. Holt reported that he and Ms. Hohl attended the Career and Technical Education meetings prior to the winter break. He thanked Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Bohrnsen, Mr. Eveland and others and noted that there is a lot of enthusiasm for the plan. He stated that the funding provided by SB84 for the next five years is acting as a catalyst to spur the program along.

Mr. Arness reported that he and Dr. Atwater met with Kenai Peninsula legislators on December 27 and 28 to discuss the District capital projects list. He noted that they both learned how to present the list to the state administration and the governor.

**BOARD WORKSESSION REPORT:***(8:04:16: PM)*

Mr. Arness reported that the Board conducted worksessions on Policy Manual revisions; the FY13 Budget; bus safety; the Career and Technical Education Plan; revisions to BP 0210, Goals for Learning; and heard reports on the AASB Boardsmanship Academy. The Board conducted a public hearing regarding KPESA and KPEA negotiations.

**CONSENT AGENDA:***(8:04:52 PM)*

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Legislative Committee Charge; High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2012-006; High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2012-007; Long-term Substitute Teacher Contracts; New Teacher Contracts and Budget Transfers.

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CHARGE:**

Mr. Arness recommended the Board approve the charge for the Board level Legislative Committee.

**HSGQE:**

Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2012-006.

**HSGQE:**

Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2012-007.

**LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE TEACHER CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve long-term substitute contracts for Jane Parrish, Soldotna Elementary School and Anne Buckbee, Redoubt Elementary School.

**NEW TEACHER CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a new teacher contract for Tracie Beck, (temporary) interventionist teacher, K-Beach Elementary; Jeremy McKibben, (temporary) Title I teacher, Redoubt Elementary; and Suzanne Seguela, (temporary) .25 FTE, 3rd – 6th grade teacher (language arts/social studies/specials), Fireweed Academy.

**BUDGET TRANSFERS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve budget transfers Numbers 528 in the amount of \$168,300 to pay for telephone charges and Number 529 in the amount of \$320,000 to purchase additional language arts curriculum materials.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

*(continued)*

**MOTION**

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 6. Mrs. Downing seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**POLICY MANUAL REVISIONS:**

*(8:06:10 PM)*

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve revisions to BP 0530, Criteria for Closing Schools and BP 6145.2, Interscholastic Competition.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve revisions to BP 0530, Criteria for Closing Schools and BP 6145.2, Interscholastic Competition.

The recommendation was divided into two questions and BP 6145.2, Interscholastic Competition was considered first.

Motion carried unanimously for revisions to BP 6145.2, Interscholastic Competition.

**RECESS:**

*(8:09:14 PM)*

At 8:09 p.m., Mr. Arness called a recess.

**RECONVENE AFTER**

**RECESS:**

*(8:11:53 PM)*

At 8:11 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

**MOTION**

Ms. Hohl moved the Board amend BP 0530 by adding a fourth numbered item under the Considerations section that would say, "Small school communities with an enrollment near 10 students are encouraged to consider parent and community input in developing a plan for the educational needs of their students, should closure occur." Mr. Holt seconded.

**VOTE ON HOHL AMENDMENT:**

Advisory Vote – Abstain

YES – Hohl, Arness

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

Amendment failed.

**VOTE ON REVISIONS TO BP 0530:**

Advisory Vote – Yes

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

NO – Hohl

Motion carried.

**BOARD COMMENTS:***(8:23:50 PM)*

Mr. Holt congratulated Homer High for instituting higher standards for academics and noted the correlation to the school's best football season in many years.

Mrs. Vadla stated that she will read Dr. Reeves' book and thanked Mr. Truesdell for sharing the information. She thanked Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Eveland, and Mr. Dan Bohrnsen for the Career and Technical Education Plan presentation. She thanked the students and staff for the school reports. She thanked Mr. Jones for explaining the budget to the Board. She apologized for the amount of work related to the effective instruction model for teacher evaluation and added that this is the method that should have been used.

Mrs. Hilts stated that she was a Type M with experience in lieu of credentials when she first taught in Seldovia. She stated that it was exciting to talk about academics and thanked Dr. Gee and the students and staff at River City Academy for the school reports. She expressed anxiety for the FY13 budget because there will not be enough money unless there is assistance from the state. She stated that KPBSD is an excellent school district and asked whether the District can continue at a high level without a budget increase. She encouraged those present to solicit support for education at the state level and Borough Assembly and to present a united front.

Mrs. Crawford expressed appreciation for the two school reports. She wished Dr. Atwater good luck during his upcoming interview for superintendent of the Anchorage School District. She stated that the CTE presentation was exciting and interesting. She was pleased that negotiations begin on January 10. She stated that during her recent trip to China she visited a school classroom with 44 six- and 7-year old students that had one chalkboard and a workbook for each student.

Mr. Anderson thanked both administrators and students for the two school reports. He noted that it has been a few years since the Board has had to talk about a shortage of money and encouraged the Board members to be proactive towards additional funding.

Mr. Navarre thanked Homer High School and River City Academy students and staff for the report. He thanked Dr. Atwater for information on the situation in Homer regarding the school lock-down exercise.

Ms. Hohl expressed appreciation for both school reports and for the worksession regarding the CTE Plan. She expressed concern for the FY13 budget. She noted that it is not inappropriate to use the word "encourage" in Board policies and cited several examples. She thanked Dr. Atwater for his work and wished him well during his upcoming interview.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

*(continued)*

Mrs. Downing wished those present a happy New Year. She reported that she is proud that the District is providing a world class education to its students. She noted that there will be changes and challenges ahead. She wished Dr. Atwater good luck during his upcoming interview and thanked him for moving the District in the right direction.

Miss Ernst expressed appreciation for the school reports. She stated that she is supportive of the CTE Plan because it allows students to be exposed to a variety of careers.

Mr. Arness announced that Mrs. Crawford will chair the Legislative Committee. He asked interested Board members to contact him or Mrs. Crawford within the next week if they wish to serve on the committee. He added that he would be willing to allow four members on the committee.

Mrs. Vadla asked to be excused from the February and March meetings.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

*(8:39:55 PM)*

At 8:39 p.m., Mrs. Hilts moved the Board go into executive session to discuss matters, the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the Borough. Specifically, the executive session was to discuss negotiations. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

At 9:30 p.m., Mrs. Vadla moved the executive session be adjourned. Mrs. Downing seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURN:**

At 9:31 p.m., Mr. Arness adjourned the School Board Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mr. Joe Arness, President

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Mrs. Penny Vadla, Clerk

The Minutes of January 9, 2012,  
were approved on February 7, 2012  
as written.