

---

# Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

## Board of Education Meeting Minutes

---

July 9, 2012 – 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. 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:**

|                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Ms. Pegge Erkeneff     | Mr. Andy Rothenberger |
| Mrs. Collette Thompson | Mrs. Laurie Olson     |
| Mrs. Nan Spooner       | Ms. Rashah McChesney  |
| Ms. Zinovia Reutoe     | Mr. Bob Engelke       |
| Mr. David Kimura       |                       |

Others present not identified.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

*(7:01:25 PM)*

Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

*(7:01:50 PM)*

Mr. Arness invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT:**

*(7:02:10 PM)*

Mrs. Crawford read the District's mission statement.

**ROLL CALL:**

*(7:02:40 PM)*

|                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| 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       | Absent/Excused |
| Mr. Tim Navarre     | Present        |
| Mrs. Penny Vadla    | Present        |
| Miss Annaleah Ernst | Absent/Excused |

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:***(7:03:13 PM)*

The agenda was approved with revisions to 10a.(5) Approval of Resignations and 10a.(6) Approval of Administration's Recommendation Regarding Resignation, Laydown Items 10a.(8) Approval of Alaska Energy Authority Biomass Project and Item 14a. Approval of Authorization To Negotiate Contract For Student Transportation Services.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:***(7:04:27 PM)*

The School Board Minutes of June 4, 2012, were approved as printed.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:***(7:04:48 PM)*

Ms. Zinovia Reutoe spoke on behalf of Kachemak Selo School's need for a new school building and presented the Board with a signed petition in support of a new K-12 school.

Andy Rothenberger, Kachemak Selo School principal, addressed the need for a new school due to lack of space, the need to meet the fire code and the addition of a portable versus building a larger school.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:***(7:13:45 PM)*

Dr. Atwater highlighted three items in the General Information packet for the Board's review: the Superintendent's Report; information from the Kenai Peninsula Borough regarding the bid award for the Homer Track renovation; and a memo from Assistant Superintendent Sean Dusek asking the Board to consider the changes to the District's teacher and administrator evaluation system that will be discussed at the Board's August worksession.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:***(7:16:25 PM)*

Dr. Atwater presented the 2011-2012 Site Council Evaluation Report. He reported that in addition to the student obesity study previously done for the southern peninsula, the District also conducted a student obesity study for the rest of the District and that those results will be available in August or September. He stated that the No Child Left Behind Waiver from the State of Alaska does not eliminate requirements but replaces them with others. He noted that August 14 is the regional district-wide inservice day that will begin with a video conference to all areas and that the Board is invited to attend. He said goodbye to Mr. Dave Spence and welcomed Mr. Dave Tressler as the District's Director of Planning and Operations.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:***(7:19:30 PM)*

Mr. Jones presented the financial report of the District for the period ending May 31, 2012.

**BOARD REPORTS:***(7:24:03 PM)*

Mrs. Crawford reported that she, Dr. Atwater and several Board members attended the Kenai-Soldotna Joint Chamber of Commerce meeting on June 19 where Senator Tom Wagoner presented the Board with a State of Alaska proclamation in recognition of the Outstanding School Board of the Year Award.

Ms. Hohl reported that she attended the Spring Creek School's final graduation.

**BOARD WORKSESSION REPORT:***(7:25:14 PM)*

Mr. Arness reported that there were no worksessions this month.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**  
(7:25:28 PM)

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of 2012-2013 Board Goals; Non-Tenure Teaching Contract and Tenure 2012-13; New Teacher Contracts 2012-13; Tentative Non-Tenured Teacher Contracts 2012-13; Resignations; Administration's Recommendation Regarding Resignations; Budget Transfers and Alaska Energy Authority Biomass Project.

**2012-2013 BOARD GOALS:**

Dr. Atwater recommended the Board approve four goals for Board accomplishment during the 2012-2013 school year in the areas of: the School Board's relationship with the Kenai Peninsula Borough regarding school facilities; innovative and flexible instructional approach; improving Site Council effectiveness; and the student transportation system.

**NON-TENURE TEACHING CONTRACT AND TENURE 2012-13:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a teaching contract and tenure for JoEllen Fowler, Teacher/Regular (.50 FTE), Tustumena Elementary School.

**NEW TEACHER CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve teacher contracts for Amanda Adair, Special Education Resource Teacher, Kenai Middle School; Anne Buckbee, Temporary (.50 FTE) Interventionist, Redoubt Elementary School; Carrie Lundari, Instructional/Technology Coach (.50 FTE), Seward Area; Christina Beahm, Elementary General/Instrumental Music Teacher, Nikiski North Star Elementary; Christina Tuls, Special Education Resource Teacher, Sterling Elementary School; Diane Rodriguez, Kindergarten, Mt. View Elementary School; Emily Smith, Intermediate Grade Teacher, Soldotna Elementary School; Jacob Parrett, Generalist - Teacher/Advisor, Connections Program; Jeremy Nettleton, Science Teacher, Skyview High School; Jonathan Crocker, 6th - 8th Grade Teacher, Chapman School; Jonathan Sharp, 5th - 6th Grade Teacher, Chapman School; Marcia Stanziale, Special Education Resource Teacher, Tebughna School; Molly Hull, Temporary Title I/Interventionist Teacher, Nikiski North Star Elementary; Natalie Tews, Art/Technology Teacher (.50 FTE), Kenai Middle School; Phillip Leck, Science Teacher, Soldotna High School; Shoshannah Brasher, Math Teacher, Homer Middle School; Timothy Galpin, Special Education Resource Teacher, Soldotna Elementary School; Wendy Potton, Math Teacher, Soldotna Middle School; Erin Thomson, Temporary, Intermediate Grade Teacher, Tebughna School; and Mayme Grant, Science Teacher, Kenai Middle School.

**NONTENURED TEACHER CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve tentative nontenured teacher contracts for Carmen Hayes, Teacher/Regular - Permanent (.50 FTE)/Temporary (.50 FTE), Redoubt Elementary; Mandi Young, Teacher/Regular, Mt. View Elementary School; Tammy Taylor, Teacher/Regular - Permanent (.50 FTE)/Temporary (.50 FTE), Nikolaevsk School; and Tracie Beck, Teacher/Regular, K-Beach Elementary School.

**RESIGNATIONS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve resignations, effective at the end of the 2011-12 school year, from Summer Dallman, Kindergarten Teacher, Mt. View Elementary School; Riley Justis, Generalist-Teacher/Advisor, Connections Program and Deborah Jacobson, Science Teacher, Skyview High School.

**ADMINISTRATIVE  
RECOMMENDATION  
REGARDING RESIGNATIONS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve the administrative recommendation that the resignation, effective at the end of the 2011-12 school year, for Gary Wiebel, School Counselor be denied.

**BUDGET TRANSFERS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve budget transfers for \$222,862 for actual heating fuel charges at various school locations; \$128,800 for home to school pupil transportation/bus routes; \$54,000 for bus assistants; \$142,000 for special education bussing; \$114,054 for extra-curricular salaries/benefits and capital projects for school facilities; \$54,085 for computer server security license; \$85,000 for financial software upgrade; \$94,194 for Special Services curriculum materials; and \$119,303 for video conferencing equipment, software and training.

**ALASKA ENERGY  
AUTHORITY BIOMASS  
PROJECT:**

Dr. Atwater recommended the Board approve that District Administration work with the Borough Administration to resubmit the grant application with the Alaska Energy Authority to secure funds for a biomass fueled furnace for the Seward schools.

**MOTION:**

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

Mrs. Vadla removed Number 1, Approval of 2012-2013 Board Goals.

Ms. Hohl removed Number 6, Approval of Administration's Recommendation Regarding Resignations.

Ms. Hohl removed Number 8, Approval of Alaska Energy Authority Biomass Project.

Motion carried unanimously for Numbers 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7.

Motion carried unanimously for Number 1.

Motion carried unanimously for Number 6.

Motion carried unanimously for Number 8.

**FY13 BUDGET REVISIONS:**  
(7:37:04 PM)

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve an increase in FY13 General Fund Revenue and Expenditure Budgets (due to changes in the state funding calculation and subsequent changes to borough funding) of \$3,630,149, bringing the total FY13 General Fund budget to \$146,637,793 and an increase in the FY13 Pupil Transportation Revenue and Expenditure Budgets of \$2,165,050 to reflect the change in pupil transportation funding from the state, bringing the FY13 Pupil Transportation budget to \$7,590,700.

**MOTION:**

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve revisions to the FY13 general fund and expenditures, for a total of \$146,635,793. Mr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**POLICY MANUAL REVISIONS:**  
(7:48:01 PM)

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve proposed revisions to BP 5144.1 Suspension and Expulsion, BP and AR 6141 Curriculum Development, AR 6153 School-Sponsored Trips, BP and AR 6161.1 Selection of Instructional Materials, and the Adoption of BP and AR 6190 Evaluation of Instructional Programs.

**MOTION:**

Mrs. Vadla moved the Board approve proposed revisions to BP 5144.1 Suspension and Expulsion, BP and AR 6141 Curriculum Development, AR 6153 School-Sponsored Trips, BP and AR 6161.1 Selection of Instructional Materials, and the Adoption of BP and AR 6190 Evaluation of Instructional Programs. Mrs. Hilts seconded.

VOTE ON REVISIONS TO BP 5144.1, BP and AR 6141, AR 6153, BP and AR 6161.1 and the Adoption of BP and AR 6190:

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

Motion carried.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S CONTRACT:**  
(7:50:14 PM)

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve revisions to AR 2121 Superintendent's Contract.

**MOTION:**

Mrs. Hilts moved the Board approve revisions to AR 2121 Superintendent's Contract. Mrs. Downing seconded.

**MOTION:**

Mr. Navarre moved the Board postpone the motion until the next regular meeting. Mrs. Hilts seconded.

VOTE ON MOTION TO POSTPONE TO A CERTAIN DATE:

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

Motion to postpone carried.

**FIRST READING OF POLICY REVISIONS:**  
(7:55:20 PM)

The Board heard a first reading of proposed revisions to BP 5022 Parent/Student Handbook, BP 5125 Student Records, BP 5125.1 Release of Directory Information, BP 5125.2 Challenging Student Records, BP 5128 Alaska Performance Scholarship Program, BP 5131.6 Alcohol and Other Drugs, BP 6000 Concepts and Roles, BP 6145.22 Concussion in Student Athletics and Student Activities, and BP 6146.3 High School Graduation Qualifying Exam.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**  
(7:57:39 PM)

Mrs. Crawford commented on the Site Council Report and the need for cohesion. She thanked Board members for sending cards when her mother-in-law passed away.

Mrs. Vadla thanked the Kachemak Selo School group for coming to speak to the Board about their school needs.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**  
(continued)

Mr. Anderson thanked the Kachemak Selo School group for coming to speak to the Board on behalf of their school.

Mrs. Hilts thanked the Kachemak Selo School group for coming to speak to the Board and commented on the progress and cohesiveness of the District's schools.

Ms. Hohl reported that she had attended some of the "First Friday" art events in Seward including one at the Balto School. She reported that she spoke to the Seward City Council asking them to postpone the land exchange. She requested a worksession in August regarding guidelines for new construction. She suggested a spreadsheet format for the Site Council Evaluations and the Superintendent's Report in addition to the narrative. She asked for the definition of "net days" on the Superintendent's contract item.

Mr. Navarre commented on the need for the Board to review and clarify the process for the Kachemak Selo School project including funding options. He commented on the "Board and Administrator Journal" and that he would like the Board to discontinue receiving the subscription.

Mrs. Downing commented that she attended Kachemak Selo School's graduation and agreed there is a need for adequate facilities for those students.

Mr. Arness thanked the Kachemak Selo School group for attending.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

At 8:07 p.m., Mrs. Downing 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 School District. Specifically, the executive session was to discuss the pupil transportation contract. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

At 9:18 p.m., Mrs. Hilts moved the executive session be adjourned. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**AUTHORIZATION TO NEGOTIATE CONTRACT FOR STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES:**

(9:19:15 PM)

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve the administrative recommendation authorizing the Superintendent to continue negotiations with First Student and enter into a new transportation contract, to negotiate and enter into a one-year or five-year extension of the existing contract with changes he deems necessary, or to negotiate and enter into a five-year contract with a different transportation vendor without issuing an additional RFP as is deemed in the best interests of the District by the Superintendent. The Superintendent may proceed simultaneously with these options.

Mr. David Kimura, First Student bus attendant, spoke on behalf of First Student bus drivers and attendants and requested the Board approve the five year contract with First Student.

**MOTION:**

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve the administrative recommendation authorizing the Superintendent to continue negotiations with First Student and enter into a new transportation contract, to negotiate and enter into a one-year or five-year extension of the existing contract with changes he deems necessary, or to negotiate and enter into a five-year contract with a different transportation vendor without issuing an additional RFP as is deemed in the best interests of the District by the Superintendent. The Superintendent may proceed simultaneously with these options.

**MOTION:**

Mr. Anderson moved to amend the motion to state that this authorization is specifically designated not to exceed the dollar amount previously approved by the Board and is valid only until August 6, 2012. Ms. Hohl seconded.

Amendment carried unanimously.

Amended motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURN:**  
*(9:30:06 PM)*

At 9:30 p.m., Mr. Navarre moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Mr. Joe Arness, President

---

Mrs. Penny Vadla, Clerk

The Minutes of July 9, 2012,  
were approved on August 6,  
2012 as printed.