

# Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes

August 6, 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:** Mr. John O'Brien  
Mrs. LaDawn Druce  
Ms. Rashah McChesney  
Ms. Pegge Erkeneff  
Ms. Dawn Edwards-Smith  
Mr. Tim Vlasak  
Mr. John Pothast  
Mrs. Margie Warner  
Mrs. Patty Sirois  
Mrs. Laurie Olson

Others present not identified.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 1:53 p.m. A quorum of School Board members, Mrs. Crawford, Mr. Navarre, Mrs. Hilts, Ms. Hohl, Mrs. Vadla, and Mr. Arness were present.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** At 1:53 p.m., Mrs. Crawford 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 superintendent's contract. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:** At 2:16 p.m., Mr. Navarre moved the executive session be adjourned. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

At 2:16 p.m., the Board recessed the meeting to conduct worksessions.

**CALL TO ORDER:**  
(7:00:13 PM)

Mr. Arness called the meeting back to order at 7:00 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**  
(7:00:30 PM)

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

**DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT:**  
(7:00:55 PM)

Mrs. Hilts read the District’s mission statement.

**ROLL CALL:**  
(7:01:23 PM)

Mr. Joe Arness	Present
Mr. Marty Anderson	Absent/Excused
Mrs. Sammy Crawford	Present
Mrs. Liz Downing	Absent/Excused
Mrs. Sunni Hilts	Present
Ms. Lynn Hohl	Present
Mr. Bill Holt	Present
Mr. Tim Navarre	Present
Mrs. Penny Vadla	Present
Miss Annaleah Ernst	Absent/Excused

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**  
(7:02:05 PM)

The agenda was approved with the addition of 11e. Approval of a One-School Concept for the Three Russian Villages of Kachemak-Selo, Razdolna and Voznesenka; 11f. Approval of State Capital Grant funds Transfer to the District Equipment Fund; and 11g. Approval of Funds for a Feasibility Study for a Road to Kachemak-Selo.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**  
(7:04:20PM)

The School Board Minutes of July 9, 2012, were approved as printed.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:**  
(7:05:07 PM)

Dr. Atwater noted that the AASB Resolutions were included in the Board General Information packet; that they will be discussed at the September worksession and that Board comments and additions are welcome. He reported that the state is applying for a waiver from the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and that district comments will be sent to the state. He announced that the district received an application for a new charter school in Soldotna, “The Alaska Academy of Sports and Arts” and that Mr. Jones will meet with the APC group and report to the Charter School Committee in September or October. He reported that on August 10, 2012, the State will release the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) status for district schools; he asked the Board to assist the public with understanding AYP and announced that Mt. View Elementary and Sterling Elementary received a status two or lower so their students are eligible to request attendance at another district school.

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

*(7:07:04PM)*

Mrs. LaDawn Druce, KPEA president, stated that she recently attended the 2012 NEA Annual Meeting and Representative Assembly in Washington D.C. and the National Council of State Education Association (NCSEA) in St. Louis, Missouri. She reported on and provided the Board with copies of NEA's three point plan for reform. She noted that there are proposed state regulations that will be presented to the State School Board regarding teacher evaluation and as Vice-President of NEA Alaska, she is assigned to the State School Board and will monitor those types of regulations. She recommended the use of the Peer Assistance Review Committee as a method to improve the district's effective evaluation instruction. She commented on the new district CTE courses and the need to supplement and not supplant the current curriculum. She invited the Board to attend the KPEA-hosted new teacher luncheon at Soldotna Middle School on Friday at 11:30 a.m. She announced that the KPEA president position has been reduced to halftime so this school year she will also teach halftime at Connections. She encouraged Mrs. Downing, Mr. Anderson and Mr. Navarre to run for reelection. She displayed the cinch sacks and insulated lunch bags that KPEA and KPESA will give away at various local events. She announced that this will be her final year as the local KPEA president and shared a quote from Walter Lippman.

Mrs. Margie Warner, KPESA president, reported that she attended the 2012 NEA Annual Meeting and Representative Assembly in Washington D.C. where the group considered several amendments to the NEA Constitution and 89 new business items. She also attended the Kenai River Festival and she will attend the local fair.

Mr. John Pothast, KPAA past-president, thanked the Board and District for their work on the effective instruction model. He stated that he appreciates the district evaluation process and the positive results in the schools from this process. He reported that he attended the National Leaders Conference in Washington D.C. and the discussion regarding the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and teacher evaluations in the reform process. On behalf of district administrators, he encouraged the Board to continue support for the current evaluation system without any additions for this school year.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT:**  
*(7:22:50 PM)*

Dr. Atwater reported that to submit a new Biomass application will cost \$6,000 but that a five-year study has shown significant benefits so the district will move forward with this process. He explained that "sequestration" (an automatic deduction of federal spending) will begin on Jan. 2, 2013 and may cause significant cuts to FY14 school funding. He presented the Superintendent's Annual Report and noted that it will be distributed as an insert in the Peninsula Clarion on Sunday, August 19, and other peninsula papers very soon. He thanked Ms. Pegge Erkeneff for her good work on the report. He thanked Mr. Dave Jones for his work negotiating the transportation contract with First Student.

**QUARTERLY BUDGET  
REPORT:**  
*(7:26:45 PM)*  
**BOARD REPORTS:**  
*(7:27:36 PM)*

Mr. Jones reported on budget transfer Numbers 1045 through 1686 for various schools and departments within the District.

Mrs. Crawford reported that she, Mrs. Hilts and 14 other state school board members attended the summer meeting in Sitka which focused on the strategic plan, the future of public education and the FY13 AASB resolutions. She stated that she stayed at Sheldon Jackson College which is being renovated (by private donations, including the Rasmusson Foundation, and volunteers) and serves as the Sitka Fine Arts camp.

Mrs. Hilts reported that she also attended the AASB summer meeting in Sitka and stayed at the renovated Sheldon Jackson College. She stated that AASB is working to represent the school boards across the state and she described the challenges of that process.

**BOARD WORKSESSION  
REPORT:**  
*(7:30:28 PM)*

Mr. Arness reported that the Board held several worksessions prior to the formal business meeting regarding capital equipment/supply funds, KPBSD Evaluation Systems, Career and Technical Education Curriculum, Performance Based Standards, State and Federal legislative priorities, and the Kachemak-Selo, Voznesenka, and Razdolna facility. All Board members were present except Mr. Anderson and Mrs. Downing.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**  
*(7:31:00 PM)*

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Pay Schedule for Substitutes and other Temporary Employees, New Teacher Contracts 2012-13, New Administrator Contract 2012-13, Budget Transfers, New Career and Technical Education Curriculum, Performance Based K-6 Science Standards and 7-12 Social Environments Standards, and Evaluation Systems.

**PAY SCHEDULE:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve the proposed pay schedule for substitutes and other temporary employees for the 2012-2013 school year.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

*(continued)*

**NEW TEACHER CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve teacher contracts for Alexis Kaferstein, Temporary Pre-Kindergarten Teacher/Title I Teacher, Seward Elementary School; Andrea Hackbarth, 5th – 6th Grade Teacher, Fireweed Academy; Anna White, Temporary Title I/Migrant Teacher, Kachemak-Selo School; Breighley Sexton, Music Teacher, Seward Area; Clyde Swaby, Temporary Vocational Education Teacher – Welding, Nikiski Middle/High School; Cynthia Fudzinski, Special Education Resource Teacher (Cross Categorical), Tustumena Elementary School; Jacob Ciesielczyk, Facilitator Gifted Teacher (.50 FTE), Mt. View Elementary School; James Creel, Librarian, Kenai Central High School and Kenai Middle School; Jill DuFloth, Read 180 Teacher, Soldotna Middle School; Joseph Cudd, Math Teacher, Skyview High School; Lindsay Fargrelius, Math Teacher, Skyview High School; Lucas Oliver, Interventionist Teacher, Aurora Borealis Charter School; Margaret Leahy, Speech/Language Pathologist, Seward Area; Matthew Widaman, Welding/Metals/Drafting Teacher, Workforce Development Center; Merci Jusmable, Permanent (.50 FTE)/Temporary (.50 FTE) Librarian, Mt. View Elementary School; Rebecca Binkley, Science/Math Teacher, Nanwalek School; Tia Rose, Special Education Intensive Needs Teacher, Mt. View Elementary School; and Marilee Johansen, Temporary Foods Instructor (.50 FTE), Nikiski Middle/High School.

**NEW ADMINISTRATOR CONTRACT:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a new administrator contract for Mr. Douglas Hayman, Principal, Tustumena Elementary School.

**BUDGET TRANSFERS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve budget transfers in the amounts of \$267,093 for capital projects; \$122,420 to reflect actual FY12 electric utility charges; and \$107,055 to purchase Occupational/Physical Therapy Services.

**CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM:**

Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve the adoption of the new Career and Technical Education courses.

**PERFORMANCE BASED K-6 SCIENCE STANDARDS AND 7-12 SOCIAL ENVIRONMENTS STANDARDS:**

Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve the adoption of the Performance Based K-6 Science Standards and 7-12 Social Environments Standards.

**EVALUATION SYSTEMS:**

Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve revisions to the KPBSD Effective Instruction and Effective Leadership Evaluation Systems.

**MOTION:**

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 7. Ms. Hohl seconded.

Ms. Hohl removed numbers 11a.(1); Approval of Pay Schedule for Substitutes and other Temporary Employees 2012-2013 and 11a.(2); Approval of New Teacher Contracts 2012-13.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**  
*(continued)*

Motion carried unanimously for Numbers 3 through 7.

**MOTION:**

Ms. Hohl moved to amend 11a.(1) to increase Aide/Instructional Assistant substitute pay to \$11.50. Mr. Navarre seconded.

VOTE:

YES – Hohl, Vadla

NO – Crawford, Navarre, Holt, Hilts, Arness

Amendment failed.

**MOTION:**

Ms. Hohl moved the Board approve an amendment to 11a.(1) to direct district administration to provide a comparable pay analysis of other districts of Aide/Instructional Assistant substitute pay during the budget cycle in order to consider a mid-year pay increase. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

**MOTION:**

Ms. Hohl moved the Board approve an amendment to the amendment to 11a.(1) to direct district administration to provide a comparable pay analysis of other districts of Aide/Instructional Assistant substitute pay during the budget cycle without considering a mid-year pay increase. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

VOTE ON HOHL AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT:

YES – Hohl, Vadla, Navarre, Holt, Hilts

NO – Crawford, Arness

Amendment to the amendment carried.

VOTE ON AMENDED HOHL AMENDMENT:

YES – Hohl, Vadla, Navarre, Holt, Hilts

NO – Crawford, Arness

Amended amendment carried.

Amended motion carried for Number 1.

Motion carried unanimously for Number 2.

**CORRECTION TO FY13  
BUDGET REVISION:**  
*(7:50:27 PM)*

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a correction to the FY13 budget revision of July 9, 2012.

**MOTION:**

Mrs. Crawford moved 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. Mr. Navarre seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**POLICY MANUAL REVISIONS:**  
(7:52:00 PM)

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve revisions to BP and AR 5022 Parent/Student Handbook, BP and AR 5125 Student Records, BP 5125.1 Release of Directory Information, BP 5125.2 Challenging Student Records, BP and AR 5128 Alaska Performance Scholarship Program, BP 5131.6 Alcohol and Other Drugs, BP 6000 Concepts and Roles, BP and AR 6145.22 Concussion in Student Athletics and Student Activities, and BP 6146.3 High School Graduation Qualifying Exam.

**MOTION:**

Mrs. Hilts moved the Board approve revisions to BP and AR 5022, Parent/Student Handbook; BP and AR 5125, Student Records; BP 5125.1, Release of Directory Information; BP 5125.2, Challenging Student Records; BP and AR 5128, Alaska Performance Scholarship Program; BP 5131.6, Alcohol and Other Drugs; BP 6000, Concepts and Roles; BP and AR 6145.22, Concussion in Student Athletics and Student Activities; and BP 6146.3, High School Graduation Qualifying Exam. Mr. Holt seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**POLICY MANUAL REVISION:**  
(7:53:57 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. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**RUSSIAN VILLAGES  
FACILITY:**  
(7:54:41 PM)

**MOTION:**

Mrs. Hilts moved the Board approve a single school for the three Russian Old Believer communities of Voznesenka, Razdolna and Kachemak-Selo and furthermore direct the superintendent or his designee to work with the borough on the feasibility of a road out of Kachemak-Selo connecting to the existing roads. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**STATE CAPITAL GRANT  
FUNDS:**  
(7:55:43 PM)

**MOTION:**

Mr. Navarre moved the Board approve that \$1,000,000 from the FY13 state capital budget grant be transferred into the district's equipment fund and be allocated in the same manner. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

**MOTION:**

Mr. Navarre moved the Board postpone action on the motion until the next regular meeting. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**KACHEMAK-SELO ROAD  
STUDY:**

*(7:57:06 PM)*

Mr. Navarre moved the Board allocate up to \$50,000 to the feasibility study of a road into Kachemak-Selo. The funds should come from the \$75,000 in planning money previously allocated to the Homer track design, if available, otherwise, use unallocated fund balance. Ms. Hohl seconded.

**MOTION:**

Mr. Navarre moved the Board approve an amendment to change the last sentence of the motion to read, "The funds should come from the \$75,000 in planning money previously allocated to the Homer track design, otherwise, use other funds as appropriate." Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Amendment carried unanimously.

Amended motion carried unanimously.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

*(8:02:25 PM)*

Mr. Holt reported that the River City Rotaract Club (Twin City Young Rotarians) built a disc golf course at Tsalteshi Trails in coordination with the Tsalteshi Trails Committee.

Mrs. Crawford thanked those involved with the worksessions, especially the evaluation process and the new CTE curriculum and courses. She stated that she is pleased with the Superintendent's Annual Report. She noted that she has the names of the keynote speakers for the AASB annual conference in November and asked interested persons to contact her.

Ms. Hohl reported that the Kenai American Legion baseball team is travelling to Billings, Montana for the American Legion Championship and Aurora Borealis Charter School won a power generation contest. She requested that the individual CTE courses be listed in the News in Brief. She thanked Ms. Erkeneff for her work on the Superintendent's Annual Report.

Mrs. Vadla commented on the success of the worksessions, especially the CTE curriculum and evaluation process. She stated that she hopes the new state and federal legislative priorities will encourage forward funding to the student base allocation. She thanked Ms. Erkeneff for her work on the Superintendent's Annual Report. She welcomed Mr. Doug Hayman, Principal, Tustumena Elementary, and thanked the union delegates for their contribution to the board and education.

Mrs. Hilts thanked the audience for attending the board meeting. She stated that the district's evaluation process is at the forefront of the leading districts in the nation.

**MOTION:**

Mr. Navarre moved the Board direct the superintendent to write a letter to Governor Sean Parnell, on behalf of the school board, requesting that in his general fund budget the governor provide for forward funding with an annual increase to the student base allocation. Mrs. Hilts seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.



**MOTION:**

Mr. Navarre moved the Board send a capital project request to the state for repair and improvements to the Kenai Peninsula running track and fields. Mr. Holt seconded.

**MOTION:**

Mr. Arness moved the Board amend the motion authorizing district administration to request capital appropriations as administration deems appropriate. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Amendment carried unanimously.

Amended motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Navarre welcomed Mr. Doug Hayman, Principal, Tustumena Elementary. He thanked Ms. Erkeneff for her work on the Superintendent's Annual Report.

Mr. Arness thanked the public for their attendance at the board meeting. He stated that he is looking forward to another successful school year.

Ms. Hohl requested an excused absence for the Sept. 10, 2012 board meeting in Homer.

Mr. Arness requested an excused absence for the Sept. 10, 2012 board meeting in Homer.

**ADJOURN:**  
*(8:19:56 PM)*

At 8:19 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 August 6, 2012,  
were approved on  
September 10, 2012 as written.