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# **Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes**

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March 2, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.  
Regular Meeting

Homer High School  
600 E. Fairview, Homer, Alaska

**SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:** Mrs. Sammy Crawford, President  
Mrs. Sunni Hilts, Vice President  
Mr. Marty Anderson, Clerk  
Ms. Lynn Hohl, Treasurer  
Mr. Joe Arness  
Mrs. Liz Downing  
Mr. Gregory Gabriel, Jr.  
Mr. Bill Holt  
Mrs. Penny Vadla  
Miss Theresa Ramponi, Student Representative

**STAFF PRESENT:** Dr. Donna Peterson, Superintendent of Schools  
Mrs. Melody Douglas, Chief Financial Officer  
Mr. Dave Jones, Assistant Superintendent

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Mrs. Sheryl Hingley	Mrs. Norma Holmgaard
Mr. Benny Abraham	Mrs. Doris Cannon
Mr. Doug Cannon	Mrs. Laura Norton
Mr. Charlie Walsworth	Ms. Marilyn Dvorak
Miss Katherine Dolma	Ms. Lauren Wentz
Ms. Nancy Vait	Mrs. Rayna Duenas
Mr. Dave Larson	Ms. Karen Wessel
Mr. Dave Spence	Mr. John O'Brien
Mrs. LaDawn Druce	Mrs. Margie Warner
Mr. Al Poindexter	

Others present not identified.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mrs. Crawford called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. A quorum of School Board members, Mrs. Hilts, Mr. Anderson, Ms. Hohl, Mr. Arness, Mrs. Downing, Mr. Holt, Mr. Gabriel, Mrs. Crawford and Mrs. Vadla, were in attendance.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** At 4:03 p.m. Mrs. Vadla 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 strategies and tactics. Mr. Holt seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:** At 4:15 p.m., Mrs. Downing moved the executive session be adjourned. Mr. Holt seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mrs. Crawford called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mrs. Crawford invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT:** Mrs. Vadla read the District's mission statement.

**ROLL CALL:**

Mrs. Sammy Crawford	Present
Mrs. Liz Downing	Present
Mr. Marty Anderson	Present
Mrs. Sunni Hilts	Present
Mr. Joe Arness	Present
Mr. Gregory Gabriel, Jr.	Present
Ms. Lynn Hohl	Present
Mr. Bill Holt	Present
Mrs. Penny Vadla	Present
Miss Theresa Ramponi	Present

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** The agenda was approved with revisions to Item 11a.(6), Approval of Resignations and 11a.(7), Contract and Tenure for Nontenured Teachers 2009-2010.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The School Board Minutes of February 16, 2009 were approved as printed.

**AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:** The Board recognized Miss Katherine Dolma, Homer Middle School student, for being selected as one of two top youth volunteers for Alaska for 2009 by the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards.

The Board presented Golden Apple Awards to Marilyn Dvorak, Homer Flex custodian; Laureen Wentz, Homer Flex aide; Laura Norton, Homer Flex secretary; and Nancy Vait, Homer Flex teacher for their service to Homer Flex students.

**SCHOOL REPORT:** Mr. Benny Abraham, Paul Banks Elementary principal, Mrs. Sharon Schulz, special services teacher, and Ms. Kathy Eller, interventionist, gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting Response to Intervention and the Visualizing and Verbalizing Program.

Ms. Sheryl Hingley, Susan B. English Elementary/High School principal/teacher, reported on how the school is helping students be successful through the implementation of the intervention program, use of the distance education program, delivery of classes in music, art, chemistry, dance and theater, foreign language, and vocational education. She introduced contemporary band students, Matthew Gain, Jordan Geagel, Darin Baines and Lily Kroll, who performed two songs led by Rob Rurka, band teacher.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:**

Mr. Benjamin Handley, Connections and Homer High student, reported the findings of a survey he conducted regarding the daily reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance at District schools. He noted that not all schools follow Alaska Statute 14.03.130 by reciting the pledge regularly and requested that the oversight be corrected

Mr. Al Poindexter, Anchor Point resident and former School Board member, invited the Board to the upcoming 17th Annual District Career and Technical Student Organization Performance Based Assessment which will be held in Homer, hosted by the Homer Future Farmers of America. He noted that it would provide an opportunity for the Board to see vocational education student accomplishments. He reported that skilled tradesmen (plumber, mechanic, electrician, etc.) are becoming scarce and this is driving the cost of services higher. He suggested that the District involve more students in vocational education.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:**

Dr. Peterson referred the Board to a memo regarding space at Soldotna Elementary and announced that Miss Theresa Ramponi and Mr. Jesse Carlson (both students at Soldotna High) have each received a \$1,000 scholarship from the Soldotna Elks Lodge, a \$5,000 statewide scholarship and are entered at the national level.

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

Mrs. Druce, KPEA president, announced that March 2 is Read Across America Day. She thanked the Board for the special opportunity to speak to them about the superintendent search and candidate qualifications. She stated that in the eyes of the Association, making teachers feel valued and good communication skills are the most important qualities for a superintendent. She reported that the top three priorities at the NEA-Alaska Delegate Assembly in January were rural housing, funding for education, and returning Alaska retirement to the defined benefit system. She noted that the Board will approve the retirement of three long-time District teachers. She reported that she recently attended a Wellstone Institute Conference in Anchorage. She reported that the conference was outstanding and provided great ideas on communication, motivation, and leadership.

Mrs. Margie Warner, KPESA president, thanked the Board for providing a special opportunity to discuss qualities necessary for the new superintendent. She stated that in the eyes of the Association, good communication skills, experience, honesty, and making employees feel valued, are the most important qualities for a superintendent. She reported that she will attend the upcoming National Education Support Professional Conference in Orlando, Florida.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT:**

Dr. Peterson reported that Dr. Atwater is in Juneau for the Alaska Association of School Administrators Annual Legislative Fly-In. She thanked Homer High for hosting the Board meeting and for the gift of flowers. She announced that the community budget forums begin on March 3; principal interviews begin with West Homer Elementary on March 3; the end of the quarter is Friday, March 5; Spring Break begins March 16 through 20; and that Alan Fields, Kenai Central High School principal was selected as Alaska High School Principal of the Year by the Alaska Association of Secondary School Principals.

**FISCAL YEAR 2010 BUDGET:**

Mrs. Douglas presented the 2009-2010 Preliminary Draft School District budget of \$123,739,902 for the General Fund and special revenue funds totaling \$18,085,300 for a total of \$141,825,202 for all funds. She noted that adjustments will be necessary as soon as the Borough in-kind budget, insurance rate changes, and finalization of the collective bargaining agreement are known. She explained that the budget will be brought back to the Board for action on April 13.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

Mrs. Douglas presented the financial report of the District for the period ending January 31, 2009.

**BOARD REPORTS:**

Mrs. Vadla reported that she assisted with the analytical writing assessment scoring on February 18 and added that she was impressed with Mr. Dusek and the team leaders. She reported that she helped grade over 900 papers from students in Grades 5, 7 and 9.

Mr. Holt reported that he assisted with several ski races at the Tsalteshi Trails as course director. He noted that, for the first time, a Peninsula skier (Kailey Mucha) has won first place in a state championship ski meet.

Ms. Hohl reported that she traveled to Juneau to attend the Quality Schools/Quality Students meeting on February 6 and the AASB Legislative Fly-In on February 7 through 10. She reported that she attended the February Seward Schools Site Council meeting.

Mrs. Crawford reported that she participated in Read Across America Day and read to students at two different schools.

**BOARD WORKSESSION  
REPORT:**

Mrs. Crawford reported that the Board conducted worksessions regarding the FY10 budget and superintendent vacancy; conducted a conference call with Kenai Peninsula legislators; and held a discussion with KPAA, KPEA and KPESA presidents regarding the superintendent vacancy. All Board members were in attendance.

## **SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Mr. Arness provided an update on the progress of the superintendent search, noting that the deadline for applicants is March 9. He reported that, to date, there are five completed applications with approximately 12 more that are in various stages of completion. He suggested that, due to scheduling conflicts, the Board may consider compressing the schedule that was originally created.

### **MOTION**

Mr. Gabriel moved the Board remove the superintendent hiring discussion from the table. Mr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

### **MOTION**

Mrs. Vadla moved the Board approve further discussion of the superintendent hiring process. Mr. Gabriel seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

### **MOTION**

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the following, "To provide an opportunity for all Board members to prescreen applications from 5:00 p.m. on March 9 until 12:00 p.m. on March 10. They will submit their top five picks to Human Resources. Consensus applicants created thereby will be invited to interview either in person or telephonically on March 11, beginning at 10:00 a.m." Mrs. Hilts seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Arness reminded the Board to submit their interview questions for the superintendent candidates to Mr. Peterson, Human Resources director, by March 6.

Mrs. Crawford invited the public to provide comments regarding the superintendent search. No public comments were made.

## **CONSENT AGENDA:**

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of New Teacher Contracts; Long-Term Substitute Contracts; Request for Leave of Absence-Support; Requests for Leave of Absence-Certified; Social Studies Curriculum; Resignations; and Contract and Tenure for Nontenured Teachers 2009-10.

## **NEW TEACHER CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended that the Board approve new teacher contracts for Matthew O. Keranen, (temporary) intermediate grade teacher, Tebughna School; and Patricia J. Truesdell, (temporary) K-12 teacher, Hope School.

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

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve substitute teacher contracts for Ruby Jane Smith, Redoubt Elementary and Deborah Brophy, Skyview High School.

## **REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE-SUPPORT:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a noncertified unpaid leave of absence request for twenty days for Natalie Kohler, records clerk, District Office.

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

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a one-year unpaid certified leave of absence request for Lisa M. Rolph, behavior intervention teacher, Soldotna Middle School and Katherine G. Serge-Hoeschen, language arts teacher, Voznesenka.

**SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM:**

By memorandum, Dr. Atwater recommended the Board approve the social studies curriculum as presented at the February 16 Board meeting.

**RESIGNATIONS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve resignations effective at the end of the 2008-09 school year from Hal Neace, science, Homer Middle School; Jordan Fink, science/math, Kenai Alternative High School; Terry Anne Cramer, Grade 3, Mountain View Elementary; Rose Anne Keating, Grade 5, Mountain View Elementary; Michelle Naujeck, language arts, Soldotna High School; Alissa Mattson, language arts, Soldotna High School; Richard Redmond, itinerate counselor, Homer Area; Patti Walker, Grade 3, Redoubt Elementary; and Judith Cox, Grade 2, Redoubt Elementary.

**CONTRACT AND TENURE FOR NONTENURED TEACHERS 2009-10:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a contract and tenure for Pavla Tyson, K-6 .50 FTE Title I, .50 FTE Title II, Chapman; Gabe Evins, Grades 9-12, Connections; Steve Schoessler, Workforce Development, Curriculum; Paul Story, .50 FTE Districtwide counselor/.50 FTE counselor, Homer High; Maygen Jannetta, art .50 FTE, Homer High; Sara Boersma, kindergarten, Kaleidoscope; Justin Carr, language arts, Kenai Central; Scott Peek, algebra, computers, Kenai Central; Douglas O'Brien, Grades 4-8, Moose Pass; Kellie Davidson, Grade 1, Mt. View; Lyndi Miller, Grade 2, Mt. View; Heather Pancratz, language arts/social studies, Nikolaevsk; Kim Hays, Grade 5/6, Ninilchik; Dina Marion, Title I, Paul Banks; Darilyn Caston, kindergarten, Redoubt; Tanya Erwin, Title I, Redoubt; Elizabeth Sowers, Grade 4, Redoubt; Angela Brown, math, Skyview High; Cary Calvert, algebra, Skyview High; Rene Hobbs, art, Skyview High; Jeff Moore, music, Soldotna Middle; Darci Drury, Grades 3-4, Sterling; Shonia Werner, Grade 6, Tustumena; Cindy Denny, Grades 3-4, Voznesenka; Ben Stephens, Grade 5, West Homer; Robyn Walls, interventionist .50 FTE, West Homer; James Reinseth, K-2, Nanwalek; Penny Connealy, math, Ninilchik; Breta Brown, math, Nikiski Middle/High; and Carlyn Nichols, science, Seward High, nontenured teachers.

**MOTION**

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 7. Mrs. Hilts seconded.

Mr. Gabriel removed Number 5.

Motion carried unanimously on Numbers 1 through 4, 6 and 7.

Motion carried unanimously on Number 5.

## BOARD COMMENTS:

Mr. Arness thanked Homer High School for hosting the Board meeting.

Mrs. Vadla congratulated the Golden Apple Award recipients. She thanked the administrators and school staff at Paul Banks Elementary and Susan B. English Elementary/High School for the reports. She thanked Homer High for catering the Board dinner. She commended Mr. Poindexter for his work with the Homer FFA.

Mr. Holt commented that the letters of retirement read like a District history lesson, especially the letter from Hal Neace. He stated that he is looking forward to traveling to Seldovia and thanked the school administrators at Paul Banks Elementary and Susan B. English Elementary/High School for the school reports.

Mrs. Downing expressed regret at Mr. Neace's resignation. She stated that social studies is an incredibly important part of a child's education and related a personal story about a social studies teacher who taught her how to study the facts and voice an opinion. She expressed hope that the new social studies curriculum will help students learn facts about history and culture etc., as well as critical thinking skills. She stated that she is proud to see Katherine Dolma's recognition as well as the Homer Flex staff. She expressed appreciation for the Paul Banks Elementary School report. She thanked the Homer residents for their attendance.

Ms. Hohl expressed appreciation for both school reports and added that it was a pleasure to hear the Susan B. English band students perform. She expressed disappointment that Seward students will not be attending the CTSO Conference and explained that money is difficult to raise for academic travel since there are no gate receipts. She reported that she attended the Seward Quality Schools/Quality Students coordinating committee meeting; participated in the National School Boards Association webinar titled, Building Successful Relationships With Your Superintendent; and attended the Alaska PTA Legislative Fly-in.

Mr. Gabriel thanked Homer High for hosting the meeting. He expressed regret that he will be unable to attend the upcoming budget forums. He invited those present to contact him to share their comments regarding the budget. He thanked the students who provided dinner for the Board and congratulated Miss Dolma and the Golden Apple Award recipients. He expressed appreciation for the Susan B. English School band performance.

Miss Ramponi thanked the staff at Paul Banks Elementary School and Susan B. English Elementary/High School for the school reports.

# UNAPPROVED

Mr. Anderson thanked the staff at Paul Banks Elementary School and Susan B. English Elementary/High School for the school reports and especially appreciated the band students for presentations. He explained the importance of playing music and learning to work together in a band and commended the Seldovia community for their support. He thanked Mr. Handley for speaking to the Board regarding his pledge survey findings.

Mrs. Hilts thanked the staff for the school reports and noted that she is one of the parents participating in the Rosetta Stone foreign language program through the Susan B. English School. She stated that the school is an excellent example of the future of small schools because there is collaboration between the school, the village tribe, the Boys and Girls Club, and the community. She noted that there are several rock bands in the Seldovia community. She noted that Susan B. English School also collaborates with other schools and the Kasitsna Bay Laboratory, a world class laboratory. She explained that some Seldovia students will stay in school because of the vocational education course offerings and not the academic placement classes. She asked for an excused absence for the April 13 meeting.

Mrs. Crawford commended the school staff and students for the school reports and for the staff who were selected as Golden Apple Award recipients. She noted that she is sorry to lose so many experienced teachers. She congratulated Miss Ramponi for being awarded the two scholarships and welcomed Mr. Jones back from his absence.

## **ADJOURN:**

At 9:04 p.m., Mrs. Downing moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mr. Gabriel seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mrs. Sammy Crawford, President

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Mr. Anderson, Clerk

The Minutes of March 2, 2009,  
have not been approved as of  
March 9, 2009.