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# Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

## Board of Education Meeting Minutes

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April 13, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.  
Regular Meeting

Borough Administration Building  
148 N. Binkley, Soldotna, Alaska

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**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  
Dr. Steve Atwater, Assistant Superintendent  
Mr. Dave Jones, Assistant Superintendent

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Mr. Alan Fields	Mr. Bob Ermold
Mr. Loren Reese	Ms. Sheryl Kaye
Mrs. Pam Howard	Mr. Tim Peterson
Mr. Sean Dusek	Mrs. Norma Holmgaard
Mr. Dave Spence	Mrs. LaDawn Druce
Mr. Todd Syverson	Mr. Dean Hamburg
Mr. Gregg Wilbanks	Mr. Mark Peterson
Mr. Clayton Holland	Mr. John O'Brien
Mrs. Carmen Steph	Mr. Jim Fisher
Ms. Ria Fandel	Mr. Steve Tachick

Others present not identified.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mrs. Crawford called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. A quorum of School Board members, Mr. Arness, Mrs. Downing, Mr. Gabriel, Mr. Holt, Ms. Hohl, and Mrs. Crawford, were in attendance.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** At 5:16 p.m. Mr. Holt 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. Mrs. Downing seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:** At 5:35 p.m. Mr. Arness moved the executive session be adjourned. Mr. Holt seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mrs. Crawford called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.  
(7:00:34 PM)

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**  
(7:00:50 PM)

Mrs. Crawford invited KCHS students, Miss Hilary Domke and Miss Madison Murrieta, to sing the *National Anthem*.

**DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT:**  
(7:02:25 PM)

Mrs. Downing read the District's mission statement.

**ROLL CALL:**  
(7:02:55 PM)

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**  
(7:03:30 PM)

The agenda was approved including a revision to Item 11a.(6), Approval of Teacher Terminations.

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

The School Board Minutes of March 2 and March 11 were approved as printed.

**AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:**  
(7:04:24 PM)

The Board thanked Mr. Steve Wendt, plant manager, Agrium US Inc., for the donation of funds that was used to purchase equipment for the Workforce Development Center.

The Board presented Golden Apple Awards to Ria Fandel, Student Nutrition Services; Fran Stetson, Special Education Teacher; Carmen Stephl, Parent/Teacher/Student Association; and Sally Tachick, Administrative Assistant, School Board/Superintendent, for their service to the District.

Mrs. Crawford distributed pins to Board members in recognition of the NSBA Magna Awards honorable mention.

**SCHOOL REPORTS:**  
(7:21:31 PM)

Ms. Sheryl Kaye, Tebughna Elementary/High School principal, gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the school, community, student activities, Head Start Program, distance learning programs, monthly awards assembly, Stone Soup Behavior Program, Native Youth Olympics participation, family night, Project GRAD Program and the Summer Institute, moose restoration field trip, Shirleyville/Chevron Oil Exploration Career Day, AVTEC Center student visitation, after-school tutoring, parent-teacher conference participation, and assessment scores.

**RECESS**  
(7:29:00 PM)

At 7:29 p.m. Mrs. Crawford called a recess.

**RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:**  
(7:30:37 PM)

At 7:30 p.m. the Board reconvened in regular session.

**SCHOOL REPORTS:***(continued)*

Mr. Bob Ermold, Kenai Alternative High School principal, gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting student activities, life skills lessons, community Thanksgiving Dinner, hot breakfast program, local community support, Grinch Day activity, survival activities, stomp out tobacco activities, educational moose hunting and dressing-out skills, art lessons, guitar class, yearbook and digital technology, young parent program, joint activities with the District preschool program, March of Dimes grant, grants to purchase school equipment and supplies, and increased number of graduates. Two students provided testimony about their positive experiences at the Alternative School and expressed their appreciation for the family atmosphere.

**RECESS***(7:46:51 PM)*

At 7:46 p.m. Mrs. Crawford called a recess.

**RECONVENE AFTER****RECESS:***(7:48:01 PM)*

At 7:48 p.m. the Board reconvened in regular session.

Mr. Alan Fields, Kenai Central High School principal, introduced the school's drum line sponsored by Mrs. Deborah Sounart, music teacher. The students marched in and performed several selections. Mr. Fields gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the new school vision and mission statements, results from surveys of parents and students, and the helicopter rescue training equipment. He recognized Mr. Lincoln Wensley, student, for receiving the Prudential Spirit of Community Award. Mr. Wensley provided information about the project that won him the award. Miss Alex Kiel, student, provided information regarding the school leadership program activities.

**HEARING OF DELEGATIONS:***(8:07:38 PM)*

Mrs. Eliza Eller, Alaska Peer Support Consortium representative, provided information about the May 11 and 12 Mental Health Recovery Education Conference and one of the featured speakers, Dr. Yvonne Butler, and invited the Board to attend.

At 8:10 p.m. Mr. Anderson left the meeting. He returned at 8:12 p.m.

Mrs. Pam Howard, school nurse, and student members (Randy Jackson, Gina Richards, Mattie Ransom, Saraya Coburn, Kale Schultz, Brook Hughs) of Teens Against Tobacco Use (TATU) provided information about the program and their activities. A YouTube video was presented which was created by the students. Mrs. Jenny Olendorff, parent volunteer, explained how the video was created and thanked the Board for supporting the students of the District.

At 8:20 p.m. Mr. Holt left the meeting. He returned at 8:22 p.m.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:**

(8:26:20 PM)

Dr. Peterson reported that the Board received an updated list of information on portables. She reported that there has been a change of assignment for Mr. Dusek, who will now be the assistant superintendent. She noted that KPBSD was featured in the March edition of the *Statewide Disability Information Newsletter*. She called the Board's attention to the pledge survey information and the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development Education Plan. She announced that the Board received an honorable mention from the Magna Award for their work on the Workforce Development Center.

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

(8:27:48 PM)

Mrs. Druce, KPEA president, expressed appreciation for the school presentations and thanked the Board for supporting the variety of schools necessary to meet the needs of the diverse student population. She recognized the Golden Apple recipients and acknowledged the resignations of many valuable teachers and thanked them for their service. She noted the overwhelming support shown at the April 7 Borough Assembly meeting in regards to at-the-cap funding. She asked the Board to keep programmatic staffing even if budget cuts are necessary. She told the Board that the single most important factor in successfully educating a child is a highly qualified teacher and a class size that is manageable. She expressed disappointment for the possible funding set back if the Borough does not fund to the cap.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

(8:32:56 PM)

Dr. Peterson reported that interviews for the Nanwalek School principal/teacher position will be held April 14; interviews for the Tebughna School principal/teacher position will be held April 15; and reminded the Board of the joint Assembly worksession on April 21. She announced that 2 of the 10 June Nelson scholarships were awarded to District students (Miss Theresa Ramponi and Mr. David Herbert).

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

(8:33:59 PM)

Mrs. Douglas presented District financial reports for the periods ending February 28 and March 31, 2009.

**QUARTERLY BUDGET TRANSFER REPORT:**

(8:34:31 PM)

Mrs. Douglas reported on third quarter budget transfers Numbers 476 through 859 for various schools and departments within the District.

**BOARD REPORTS:**

(8:35:11 PM)

Mr. Anderson reported that he attended March AASB Legislative Fly-in in Juneau and highlighted the seminars held on early childhood development and the federal stimulus money. He reported that Board members met with legislators to discuss District successes and needs.

Mrs. Downing reported that she attended the Project GRAD Board meeting and expressed appreciation for the program's increased financial stability and for the student scholarships funded through the next few years.

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

Ms. Hohl reported that she attended the March Seward School Site Based Council meeting, the District FY10 budget presentation, the March PTSA meeting, the Quality Schools/Quality Students Seward Coordinator meeting, and the Seward Chamber of Commerce meeting.

Mr. Arness reported that he attended the Charter School Oversight Committee meeting and noted that Mrs. Vadla attended telephonically. He reported that the group discussed Fireweed Charter School's wish to expand and to find appropriate space to relocate, and shared space between Soldotna Elementary and Soldotna Montessori Charter School.

Mrs. Crawford reported that she attended the AASB Legislative Fly-in in Juneau and met with approximately 20 legislators. She noted that discussions centered on the federal stimulus package. She attended the National School Board Association Conference in San Diego and on behalf of the Board, received the Magna Award honorable mention and distributed recognition pins for each Board member.

**BOARD WORKSESSION REPORT:***(8:40:54 PM)*

Mrs. Crawford reported that the Board heard an update regarding the instruction proposal and federal stimulus funding and the FY10 Budget. She reminded the Board of the joint worksession with the Borough Assembly on April 21.

**CONSENT AGENDA:***(8:41:45 PM)*

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Resignations; Long-Term Substitute Contracts; New Teacher Contracts; Request for Leave of Absence-Certified; New Administrator Contract; Teacher Terminations; Request to ASAA for Bylaw Waiver; Budget Transfer; and River City Academy Grade Level Expansion.

**RESIGNATIONS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve resignations from Carolyn Window, music, Chapman School; Walter T. Ward, Workforce Development coordinator, Curriculum; Don Schindler, resource, Homer Flex; Marica Lee, librarian, Homer High; Jan Spurkland, credit recovery, Homer High; Jason Nissly, music, Homer High; Erin Briscoe, speech/language pathologist, Homer Middle; Beverly Wisdom, language arts, Homer Middle; Raymond Bailey, Grade 4/5, Kachemak-Selo; Janice Hagan-Delaney, Grade 1, K-Beach Elementary; Judith E. Downs, Drug Free Schools specialist, Kenai Central High; Jacob Munyer, resource, Kenai Central High; Raven Puente, kindergarten, Mountain View Elementary; Denise L. Cox, pre-kindergarten/media specialist, Nikiski North Star Elementary; Ann Kendall, Grade 6, Nikiski North Star Elementary; Judith A. Shields, Grades 1/2, Nikiski North Star Elementary; David Legg, assistant director, Pupil Services; Lynn Dusek, Grade 2, Redoubt Elementary; Patricia Springer-Hann, speech/language, Redoubt Elementary; Michael J. Richards, science, Seward Middle School; Kevin Freedman, language arts, Skyview High School; Lisa Lybrand, counselor,

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

*(continued)*

Skyview High School; Gigi Banas, intensive needs, Soldotna Elementary; M. Jayne McFarland, speech-language pathologist, Soldotna Elementary; Rachel Pioch, social studies, Soldotna Middle School; and Holly Alston, generalist, Susan B. English School.

**LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve long-term substitute contracts for Marsha Gustkey, Seward Elementary; Helen E. Lindemuth, Seward High School; Jennifer Tabor, Soldotna Middle School; and Paul Zobeck, Soldotna Middle School.

**NEW TEACHER CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve teacher contracts for Heidi Stokes, (temporary), .50 FTE K-6 teacher, Chapman School; and Bridget M. Clark, (temporary), Title I teacher, Ninilchik School.

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

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve an unpaid leave of absence for Karlene Meyers, Grade 6, Soldotna Elementary, effective January 10, 2010 for the remainder of the 2009-10 school year.

**NEW ADMINISTRATOR CONTRACT:**

Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve an administrator contract for the 2009-2010 school year for John Hurley, principal, West Homer Elementary.

**TEACHER TERMINATIONS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve the termination, at the end of the 2008-09 school year, of Lee Chadwick, vocational education, Nikiski Middle/High and Judy Graham, Emotionally Handicapped, Soldotna Middle School, for failure to return a signed contract for the 2009-2010 school year.

**REQUEST TO ASAA FOR BYLAW WAIVER:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve the authorization of a waiver request to Alaska School Activities Association Bylaw Article 7 Section 9 B Cooperative School Programs to pursue the ability for students in the Head of the Bay Schools being allowed to play for the Homer High School hockey team.

**BUDGET TRANSFER:**

Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve budget transfer Number 874 in the amount of \$57,600 to pay for the actual cost of certified salaries at Kaleidoscope School of Arts and Sciences Charter School.

**RIVER CITY ACADEMY GRADE LEVEL EXPANSION:**

Dr. Atwater recommended the Board approve a request from River City Academy (RCA) to expand its enrollment guidelines to accept students in Grades 7 and 8.

Mrs. Kim Duggar, Homer resident, asked the Board to approve the request to forward a waiver request to ASAA that would allow the students attending the Head of the Bay Schools to be allowed to play on the Homer High School hockey team.

Mr. Vladimir Sanarov, Voznesenka School student, spoke in support of the hockey waiver request and added that participation by the Russian students would build a bridge between the two communities.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**  
(continued)

Mr. Keril Sanarov, Voznesenka School student, spoke in support of the hockey waiver request.

Mr. Dennis Sanarov, Voznesenka School student, spoke in support of the hockey waiver request.

Mr. Alex Sanarov, Voznesenka School student, spoke in support of the hockey waiver request.

Mr. Konstantin Reutov, Kachemak Selo School student, spoke in support of the hockey waiver request and added that participation in sports keeps students in school and away from drugs and alcohol.

**MOTION**

Ms. Hohl moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 9. Mr. Gabriel seconded.

Ms. Hohl removed Number 9, Approval of River City Academy Grade Level Expansion.

Motion carried unanimously for Numbers 1 through 8.

VOTE ON NUMBER 9

YES – Downing, Arness, Holt, Anderson, Gabriel, Crawford

NO – Hohl

Motion carried for Number 9.

**FY10 BUDGET:**  
(8:59:34 PM)

Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve a FY10 general fund budget of \$123,739,902 and special revenue funds totaling \$18,085,300 for a total FY10 budget for all funds of \$141,825,202 as presented. The recommendation includes local effort funding at the cap and an allocation of fund balance in the amount of \$1,245,667.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Downing moved the Board approve the FY10 budget as presented by Mrs. Douglas. Mr. Holt seconded.

**MOTION**

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve an amendment allowing provisional approval for the District to reissue nontenure contracts at the administration's discretion. Mr. Anderson seconded.

Amendment carried unanimously.

Amended motion carried unanimously.

**2009-2010 TENTATIVE  
BOARD MEETING DATES:**  
(9:04:44 PM)

Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve a tentative meeting schedule for Board meetings for the 2009-2010 school year. Two schedule options were presented.

**2009-2010 TENTATIVE  
BOARD MEETING DATES:**  
(continued)

**MOTION**

Mrs. Downing moved the Board approve the Option B tentative meeting schedule with the October 5 meeting to be held in Homer and that a spring meeting be held in Seward for the 2009-2010 school year and that the administration be directed to develop a plan by the end of July to provide periodic access under guidelines that will be determined by the end of July (first meeting in August) so that members of the communities at a distance from the Soldotna-Kenai area have access during the Board meetings to provide comments. Ms. Hohl seconded.

Mrs. Downing suggested that the Homer and Seward meetings could be reversed for the following year.

**MOTION**

Mr. Arness moved the Board divide the question and vote on the administrative directive separately. Mr. Anderson seconded.

VOTE TO DIVIDE THE QUESTION:

YES – Anderson, Arness

NO – Holt, Gabriel, Downing, Hohl, Crawford

Motion failed.

VOTE ON ITEM 11c.:

YES – Arness, Holt, Gabriel, Downing, Hohl, Crawford

NO – Anderson

Motion carried.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**  
(9:25:23 PM)

Mrs. Downing thanked the hockey students for their testimony and Mr. Arness for the amendment to the FY10 budget.

Mr. Holt supported the hockey recommendation and felt that the ASAA waiver request was appropriate. He commended the TATU students for the YouTube video. He expressed appreciation for the Kenai Alternative School report and shared a comment by a former student who felt the school provided a valuable program. He referred to a *Peninsula Clarion* newspaper article written by a Skyview High School student regarding the realities of text messaging.

Mr. Arness compared the Kenai Central High School current student body president with the student body president from forty years ago.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

*(continued)*

Ms. Hohl expressed appreciation for the school reports. She commended Tebughna School staff for the improved student assessment scores. She noted that upon her return from the NSBA conference in which outstanding student performances were featured, she is reassured by the District's talent after seeing the KCHS drum line. She stated that she was impressed by the student leadership roles and added that she would like to see the Caring for the Kenai video, Saving the Dunes. She congratulated the Golden Apple Award recipients. She thanked the tobacco group for their report and noted that she would like to have the group give their presentation at schools in Seward. She expressed hope that ASAA will accept the District's waiver request. She noted that she will be attending the upcoming PTA Convention.

Mr. Gabriel thanked the three administrators for the school reports and expressed appreciation that all schools are incorporating cultural education, hands-on activities and community partnerships.

Mr. Anderson congratulated the Golden Apple Award recipients. He expressed appreciation for the three school reports and especially recognized the progress made at Tebughna School. He reported that he recently judged the forensic competition and was impressed by the amazing student talent and encouraged those present to attend. He stated that he is proud of Kenai Alternative staff and students as well as all District staff and students. He expressed appreciation for the new Board, which has been together since the October elections, and for the shared mutual respect and consideration.

Mrs. Crawford congratulated the Golden Apple Award recipients, and thanked the school staff and students for the school reports. She shared concerns expressed by Mrs. Druce for the loss of valuable long-time teachers. She thanked Mr. Arness for the amendment to add in the nontenure teachers as soon as possible as part of the FY10 budget approval.

**ADJOURN:**

*(9:38:11 PM)*

At 9:38 p.m. Ms. Hohl moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Downing seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Crawford explained that the Board has adjourned from the regular meeting but has the need for an executive session.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

*(9:38:46 PM)*

At 9:38 p.m. Mrs. Downing moved that 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 the new superintendent's contract. Mr. Gabriel seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURN EXECUTIVE  
SESSION:**

At 10:11 p.m. Mr. Holt moved the executive session be adjourned.  
Ms. Hohl seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mrs. Sammy Crawford, President

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Mr. Marty Anderson, Clerk

The Minutes of April 13, 2009,  
were approved on April 20, 2009  
as written.