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# Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes

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October 5, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.  
Regular Meeting

Homer High School  
600 E. Fairview, Homer, 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 Destini Riley, Student Representative

**STAFF PRESENT:** Dr. Steve Atwater, Superintendent of Schools  
Mrs. Melody Douglas, Chief Financial Officer  
Mr. Dave Jones, Assistant Superintendent  
Mr. Sean Dusek, Assistant Superintendent

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Mrs. Sharon Trout	Mr. Tim Peterson
Mr. John Hurley	Ms. Milli Martin
Mr. Tim Navarre	Mrs. LaDawn Druce
Mrs. Patty Sirois	Mr. Stan White
Ms. Carol Schwartz	Mr. Bill Smith

Others present not identified.

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

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

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

**ROLL CALL:**

Mrs. Sammy Crawford	Present
Mrs. Liz Downing	Present
Mr. Marty Anderson	Absent/Excused
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 Destini Riley	Present

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** The agenda was approved including a revision to Item 10a.(1), Approval of Resolution 09-10-1, Primary Sponsor of Gaming Permits.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The School Board Minutes of September 14, 2009, were approved as printed.

**SCHOOL REPORT:**

Mr. John Hurley, West Homer Elementary, gave a PowerPoint report that highlighted assessment scores in reading, writing and math; parent survey results, and a visit by Governor Parnell.

Mrs. Sharon Trout, Chapman Elementary principal, introduced students Miss Dani Ponte, Miss Jadzia Martin and Mr. Tyler Johnson who provided facts about the school including student demographics, attendance rate, teaching staff, breakfast program, the Character Counts Program and the Intervention Enrichment Program. The report concluded with a short video about Chapman Elementary.

Mrs. Crawford recognized the attendance of Assembly President Milli Martin and Assembly Member Bill Smith.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:**

Miss Taylor Ellison, Homer Middle School student and representative from the Ecological Group, spoke in support of recycling and encouraged those present to put more effort into reducing, reusing and recycling.

Mr. Stan White, teacher and parent, spoke about the scheduling conflicts with the High School Graduation Qualifying Exams in the spring. He explained that the exam is scheduled during the Russian Old Believer Easter week at Kachemak Selo, Razdolna, and Voznesenka. He asked the Board and administration to pursue a waiver request through the Department of Education and Early Development.

Ms. Carol Schwartz, director of UAA Kachemak Bay Campus, thanked the Board and District staff for the extraordinary partnership between the campus and the schools. She noted that the campus enrollment has increased by over 20% since last fall, provided course offering information, explained how facilities are shared, and highlighted the dual credit opportunities.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:**

Dr. Atwater reported that Karen McCarthy, aide to Senator Murkowski, is seeking input from the District and Board regarding the reauthorization of Elementary and Secondary Education Act (known as No Child Left Behind).

**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. LaDawn Druce, KPEA president, spoke in support of returning to a defined benefit state retirement program. She asked the Board to remove the item "Maintain newest retirement tiers as defined contribution" from the District's proposed state priority list.

Assembly President Milli Martin complimented Miss Taylor Ellison who spoke on recycling. She stated that she was stunned to hear about the waiver denial from the Department of Education and Early Development regarding the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam and offered her help to pursue the waiver further. She thanked Mrs. Douglas and Dr. Atwater for the quarterly reports to the Assembly. She commented that her Assembly term is coming to a close but is always ready to support the work of the Board.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT:**

Dr. Atwater reported that the H1N1 flu situation is being monitored throughout the District and thanked Mrs. Naomi Walsworth, health services coordinator, for her assistance in that effort. He reported that he met with community members at Kachemak Selo, Voznesenka, and Razdolna regarding the possibility of constructing a new school to accommodate all three villages. He reported that the District has hired Kelly Reisig as the community relations specialist. He recognized several student athletes (Miss Ivy O'Guinn, Skyview; Miss Bree Mucha, Soldotna High; Miss Alison Barnwell and Mr. Brett Chase, Seward High) for their cross-country running accomplishments.

**BOARD REPORTS:**

Miss Destini Riley, Ninilchik High student, reported that she was elected to be the student representative to the Board by her peers during the Districtwide Student Council Conference. She stated that her goal is to give an equal voice to small schools as well as large.

Mrs. Vadla reported that she attended the Districtwide Student Council Conference and spoke to the students about School Board responsibilities and explained the duties of the student representative to the Board. She reported that she attended the Soldotna Middle School site council meeting and visited Ninilchik School.

Mrs. Downing reported that she attended the Project GRAD Board meeting. She noted that funding for the project has become quite stable.

Mr. Holt reported that he attended the Skyview High School site council meeting. He reported that he attended the Kenai Peninsula Student Activities Association executive board meeting and that the group discussed baseball, Kachemak Selo village hockey, and eligibility issues.

Mrs. Crawford reported that she attended the AASB Boardmanship Academy as a moderator in her capacity as AASB Board president. She encouraged those present to nominate youth or youth-friendly businesses for Spirit of Youth recognition. She announced that she will moderate the upcoming teleconference and webinar for new Board members.

**BOARD WORKSESSION  
REPORT:**

Mrs. Crawford reported that Fireweed Charter and Homer Flex High each gave school reports; the Board discussed the 2010 state and federal priorities and the FY11 Budget Process. All members were present except Mr. Anderson.

- CONSENT AGENDA:** Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Resolution 09-10-1, Primary Sponsor of Gaming Permits; Student Representative to the Board; High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2010-1; High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2010-2; Nontenure Teacher Contract; New Teacher Contracts; Long-Term Substitute Contract; High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2010-3; High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2010-4; and Resignation.
- RESOLUTION 09-10-1:** Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve Resolution 09-10-1, listing the primary and alternate members in charge of gaming for those schools applying for gaming permits for FY10.
- STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE BOARD:** Dr. Atwater recommended the Board approve the appointment of Miss Destini Riley, a Ninilchik Elementary/High School student, as the student representative to the Board of Education.
- HSGQE 2010-1:** Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2010-1.
- HSGQE 2010-2:** Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2010-2.
- NONTENURE TEACHER CONTRACT:** Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a nontenure teacher contract for Theresa Salzetti, (temporary) interventionist teacher, K-Beach Elementary.
- NEW TEACHER CONTRACTS:** Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve new teacher contracts for the 2009-2010 school year for Lacey Wisniewski, (temporary) math/science teacher, Kenai Middle School; Robin C. Morris, (temporary) interventionist teacher, Nikiski North Star Elementary; and Patricia Hamre, (temporary) second grade teacher, Seward Elementary.
- LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE CONTRACT:** Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a long-term substitute teacher contract for Zada Friedersdorff, Soldotna Middle School.
- HSGQE 2010-3:** Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2010-3.
- HSGQE 2010-4:** Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2010-4.
- RESIGNATION:** Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a resignation from Diane J. Warner, social studies, Homer High School, effective August 17, 2009.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

*(continued)*

**MOTION**

Mrs. Downing moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 10. Mr. Holt seconded.

Mr. Gabriel removed Number 10a.(1).

Motion carried unanimously on Numbers 2 through 10.

Motion carried unanimously on Number 1.

**REVISED FY10 BUDGET:**

Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve budget adjustments related to benefits and increased health care costs to the FY10 general fund revenue and expenditure budgets in the amount of \$2,379,694 for a total general fund amount of \$125,306,531.

**MOTION**

Mr. Holt moved the Board approve changes to the FY10 general fund revenue and expenditure budgets as proposed for a revised FY10 general fund amount of \$125,306,531. Mr. Gabriel seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES:**

Dr. Atwater recommended the Board approve a list of proposed FY10 federal and state legislative priorities and noted that the background rationale and wording for the final priorities would be developed by administration in time to be included in the Borough's legislative priority publication.

Ms. Cindy Denny, Voznesenka School teacher, stated that she is on the Tier 3 retirement system and is not eligible for social security or guaranteed an Alaska state retirement and asked the Board to remove "maintain newest retirement tiers as defined contribution" from the proposed state legislative priority list.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Vadla moved the Board approve a list of proposed FY10 federal and state legislative priorities. Mr. Holt seconded.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Vadla moved the Board amend the state legislative priority list by removing "maintaining newest retirement tiers as defined contribution". Mrs. Downing seconded.

**VOTE ON VADLA AMENDMENT:**

Advisory Vote – Yes

YES – Gabriel, Hilts, Downing, Holt, Hohl, Vadla, Crawford

NO – Arness

Amendment carried.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Hilts moved the Board amend the state legislative priority list to include the 2009 state priority "Provide support for additional workforce development courses and career and technical needs". Ms. Hohl seconded.

**LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES:**

*(continued)*

**MOTION**

Mrs. Downing moved the Board amend the amendment to include all of the 2009 state legislative priorities. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Amendment to the amendment carried unanimously.

Amendment carried unanimously.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Hilts moved the Board amend the state legislative priority list to replace the words “should replace” with the words “could blend” in the last priority of the original list of 2010 priorities.

Amendment carried unanimously.

Amended motion carried unanimously.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

Mr. Holt welcomed Miss Riley to the Board. He added that during the KPSAA executive board meeting, discussion was held on whether to continue borough track and cross-country championships.

Mrs. Vadla welcomed Miss Riley to the Board. She thanked Mr. Hurley and Mrs. Trout for the school presentations. She thanked Assembly President Martin, and Mr. White for speaking to the Board. She announced that she would like to speak to Mrs. Crawford regarding school connectedness.

Mr. Arness welcomed Miss Riley to the Board. He thanked the Nikolaevsk students for catering the Board’s dinner. He thanked Ms. Martin for her service to the Kenai Peninsula Borough.

Mrs. Downing thanked Ms. Martin for her service to the Borough, the college and for all of her other contributions. She congratulated Homer High School for winning a play off spot for the state football championship. She commended Ms. Callahan and Ms. Ridgley for hosting the boroughwide cross country meet. She urged those present to vote on October 6. She welcomed Miss Riley to the Board.

Ms. Hohl welcomed Miss Riley. She expressed appreciation for Miss Ellison’s comments regarding recycling. She suggested the Board recognize recycling and energy conservation efforts districtwide. She expressed appreciation for all four of the school presentations. She thanked Mrs. Schwartz for the Kachemak Bay Campus information and Ms. Martin for her service to the Board and Assembly. She announced that she will attend the wellness conference along with Mrs. Walsworth. She stated that she would like to see outsourced sports treated the same as cocurricular activities sponsored by the District.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

*(continued)*

Mr. Gabriel welcomed Miss Riley and looks forward to hearing her input. He thanked Ms. Martin for her service on the Borough Assembly. He thanked the school administrators for the school presentations.

Miss Riley thanked the Board for their guidance and her peers for voting for her.

Mrs. Hilts thanked Ms. Martin for her service as a School Board member, Assembly member and community member. She welcomed Miss Riley to the Board and added that the Board appreciates student comments. She thanked those who spoke to the Board and school administrators who provided school reports.

Mrs. Crawford thanked Ms. Martin for her service. She welcomed Miss Riley to the Board. She expressed appreciation for the school presentations. She invited those present to nominate an outstanding youth or youth-friendly business for the Spirit of Youth award. She announced that she and Dr. Atwater will be guests on the KSRM radio show, Sound Off, on Friday, October 9.

**ADJOURN:**

At 8:42 p.m., Mrs. Downing moved the School Board Meeting 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 October 5, 2009,  
have not been approved as of  
October 8, 2009.