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# Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes

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February 15, 2010 – 7:00 p.m.  
Regular Meeting

Borough Administration Building  
148 N. Binkley, Soldotna, Alaska

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**SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:** Mr. Joe Arness, President  
Mrs. Liz Downing, Vice President  
Mrs. Sunni Hilts, Clerk  
Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Treasurer  
Mr. Marty Anderson  
Ms. Lynn Hohl  
Mr. Bill Holt  
Mr. Tim Navarre  
Mrs. Penny Vadla  
Miss Destini Riley, Student Representative

**STAFF PRESENT:** Dr. Steve Atwater, Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Sean Dusek, Assistant Superintendent  
Mr. Dave Jones, Assistant Superintendent

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

|                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Mr. Randy Neill     | Mrs. Margie Warner |
| Mrs. Doris Cannon   | Mr. Joe Kashi      |
| Mr. Doug Cannon     | Mrs. LaDawn Druce  |
| Mr. Dave Spence     | Mrs. Sharon Mook   |
| Mrs. Linda Raemaker | Mr. Tim Peterson   |

Others present not identified.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.  
(7:00:42 PM)

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mr. Arness invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.  
(7:00:53 PM)

**DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT:** Mrs. Crawford read the District's mission statement.  
(7:01:18 PM)

**ROLL CALL:**

|                     |         |
|---------------------|---------|
| Mrs. Sammy Crawford | Present |
| Mrs. Liz Downing    | Present |
| Mr. Marty Anderson  | Present |
| Mrs. Sunni Hilts    | Present |
| Mr. Joe Arness      | Present |
| Ms. Lynn Hohl       | Present |
| Mr. Bill Holt       | Present |
| Mr. Tim Navarre     | Present |
| Mrs. Penny Vadla    | Present |
| Miss Destini Riley  | Present |

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** The agenda was approved as written.  
(7:02:15 PM)

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The School Board Minutes of February 1, 2010, were approved with corrections.  
(7:02:35 PM)

**AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:***(7:04:30 PM)*

The Board presented a Golden Apple Award to Mr. Joe Kashi, community volunteer, for coordinating the donation of money for digital cameras, printers, and support equipment for various schools throughout the District. He was also commended for service on the Soldotna Middle Site Council. Mr. Kashi thanked the Soldotna Rotary Club and several Kenai Peninsula community members who assisted in the venture.

**SCHOOL REPORT:***(7:08:26 PM)*

Mr. Randy Neill, Skyview High School principal, staff members and students presented a PowerPoint highlighting the school goals (student success, student engagement, graduation and collaboration), vocational education offerings and new equipment, Skills USA competition, college credits and the partnership with KPC, various clubs offered during the advisory class period, Mock Trial program, SOAR Program, East Wing opportunity, Classroom Without Walls, Ninth Grade House, use of new laptops and Smartboards, student activities, positive and welcoming school climate, Second Chance Program, 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the school celebration, and CPR training. Mr. Peterson's music students sang a Scottish folksong titled, *Annie Laurie*, and a guitar student played a song he wrote.

**RECESS:***(7:35:51 PM)*

At 7:35 p.m. Mr. Arness called a recess.

**RECONVENE AFTER****RECESS:***(7:41:52 PM)*

At 7:41 p.m. the Board reconvened in regular session.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:***(7:42:22 PM)*

Dr. Atwater reported that career development reports are included in the Board information packet by two principals who attended the Reinventing Schools Symposium, which is an introduction to Performance Based Education. He noted that various schools are interested in moving towards a performance-based model and noted that the District administration is advising them to proceed with caution. He reported that the Soldotna High School Site Council sent a letter requesting the funding of additional staff for part-time students and explained that the administration is responding to the request. He reported that the State of Alaska Department of Administration has informed the District that personal information from 2003-2004 PERS and TRS employees was stolen and that a letter is being sent to those who were affected.

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SITE COUNCIL AND/OR P.T.A., K.P.A.A., K.P.E.A., K.P.E.S.A, BOROUGH ASSEMBLY:***(7:46:19 PM)*

Mrs. Druce, KPEA president, extended an invitation from KPEA to the Board to participate in Read Across America Day. She commented on the resignations of Ellen Halseth and Mr. Brazil. She commended Mr. Hartman for the student projects created in the Skyview High vocational education class and Mrs. Raemaker for giving of her personal time as a Mock Trial coach.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT:***(7:49:59 PM)*

Dr. Atwater reported on his attendance at the National AASA Annual Conference. He explained that future federal money will be distributed competitively, and questioned the need for the District to absorb a grant-writing position. He announced that six District schools responded to the crisis in Haiti by raising approximately \$6,000. He commended outstanding achievement by students Will McDermid, National Merit Scholarship finalist; Vienna Schmitter-Schrier, Prudential Spirit of Community Award; and Virginia Richards, Oceana Wills, and the group called "Ecological", Spirit of Youth winners.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:***(7:54:07 PM)*

Mr. Jones presented the financial report of the District for the period ending January 31, 2010.

**BOARD REPORTS:***(7:54:37 PM)*

Mrs. Vadla reported that she attended the Association of Alaska School Board Legislative Fly-in held in Juneau and noted that she attended several forums and workshops, as well as visits with legislators, Commissioner LeDoux, and Governor Parnell.

Mrs. Hilts reported that she attended the Charter School Oversight Committee meeting and that the group heard from a charter school who wishes to expand and obtain a building lease.

Mrs. Downing reported that she attended the AASB Legislative Fly-in and met with approximately 20 legislators, and Governor Parnell and his aide. She stated that she personally met with Commissioner LeDoux.

Mr. Navarre reported that he attended the Physical Education Curriculum Committee meeting and announced that the next meeting will be March 8. He noted that the Committee has a good representation of large and small schools and elementary through high school.

Mr. Holt reported that he volunteered at the Borough Cross-Country Ski Championships as the Course Director. He noted that the meet was a combination of the Borough Championship and the State Masters Championship.

Mrs. Crawford reported that she attended the AASB Fly-in and read from her written report of the trip.

Ms. Hohl reported that she attended the AASB Legislative Fly-In and the Quality Schools/Quality Students (QS2) meeting and training. She reported on the QS2 activities. She reported that she attended the Seward Schools Site Council meeting. She reported that while at the AASB fly-in she learned that the Mat-Su School District no longer outsources baseball.

**BOARD WORKSESSION  
REPORT:***(8:02:19 PM)*

Mr. Arness reported that the Board held worksessions on the Soldotna Area High School Conversation, Policy Manual Revisions, and preparation for Borough Assembly worksession. He reported that all members were present.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

(8:02:44 PM)

Items on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Fine Arts Curriculum; 2010-2011 Tentative Administrator Contracts; 2010-11 Tentative Tenure Teacher Contracts; Long-Term Substitute Contracts; Revisions to Six-Year Plan and School Construction Needs; Resignations; and Revisions to AR 5111, Student Criteria for Early Entrance; AR 5144.1, Suspension and Expulsion; and AR 5144.2, Suspension and Expulsion (Students with Disabilities).

**FINE ARTS CURRICULUM:**

Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve revisions to the Fine Arts Curriculum.

**2010-2011 TENTATIVE ADMINISTRATOR CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a list of tentative administrator contracts for the 2010-2011 school year.

**2010-11 TENTATIVE TENURE TEACHER CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a list of tentative tenure teacher contracts for the 2010-2011 school year.

**LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve long-term substitute contracts for Heather Callen, Seward High, and Deborah Brophy, Soldotna High.

**REVISIONS TO SIX-YEAR PLAN AND SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION NEEDS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve revisions to the Six-Year Plan for major maintenance and capital improvement projects for fiscal year 2011 through 2017.

**RESIGNATIONS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve resignations, effective at the end of the 2009-2010 school year, from Ellen Halseth, language arts, Homer High School and Peter Brazil, vocational education, Workforce Development Center.

**POLICY MANUAL REVISIONS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve revisions to AR 5111, Student Criteria for Early Entrance; AR 5144.1, Suspension and Expulsion; and AR 5144.2, Suspension and Expulsion (Students with Disabilities).

**MOTION**

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

Ms. Hohl removed Number 1, Approval of Fine Arts Curriculum; Number 2, Approval of 2010-2011 Tentative Administrator Contracts; and Number 5, Approval of Revisions to Six-Year Plan.

Motion carried unanimously for Numbers 3, 4, 6, and 7.

Motion carried unanimously for Number 1.

Motion carried unanimously for Number 2.

Motion carried unanimously for Number 5.

**POLICY MANUAL REVISIONS:**  
(8:09:33 PM)

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve revisions to BP 3270, Disposal of Books, Equipment and Supplies and BP 5145.12, Search and Seizure.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Hilts moved the Board approve revisions to BP 3270, Disposal of Books, Equipment and Supplies and BP 5145.12, Search and Seizure. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**  
(8:10:41 PM)

Mrs. Vadla thanked the Skyview High principal, assistant principal, teachers and students for the school presentation. She reported that she attended the Charter School Oversight Committee meeting and expressed appreciation to Ms. Abrahamson for her work.

Mr. Holt reported that the Board held a good discussion about enrollment at Skyview High School and future collaboration between Skyview High and Soldotna High School and added that the discussion will be ongoing. He stated that River City Academy will also be included.

Mrs. Hilts recommended that the Board consider all of the ramifications of collaborating between the Soldotna area high schools and that there is public support. She noted that Skyview High School's goals were in alignment with the Board's goals and is pleased that student success is a part of the Board goals.

Mrs. Crawford congratulated Mr. Kashi for being selected for a Golden Apple Award and thanked him for the support to the District. She congratulated Skyview High for an excellent school report. She reported that she attended several District budget meetings, and visited Kenai Middle School to see the Smartboards and was astonished on the technology available to students.

Mr. Navarre congratulated Mr. Kashi for being awarded a Golden Apple. He thanked those who have been helpful during his first year as a School Board member. He clarified his earlier objection to a motion that was made out of order. He explained that the Six-Year Plan and School Construction Needs list is developed for the legislature and outlines what qualifies for state reimbursement. He suggested that revisiting the Borough in-kind maintenance and improvement projects list would be helpful.

Mr. Anderson announced that the Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) Skills USA competition will be held on February 18, at the Challenger Center and that the District is heavily involved through the Career and Technical Education Committee. He congratulated Mr. Kashi for receiving a Golden Apple. He shared complimentary comments made by a District student who attends River City Academy.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

*(continued)*

Mrs. Downing requested that the Board review the Six-Year Plan in November. She suggested the Board consider redesigning existing buildings to better fit student needs. She requested a worksession on the Alaska School Activities Association. She expressed appreciation for the Skyview High School report. She echoed comments made by Mrs. Druce regarding Ellen Halseth's resignation.

Miss Riley stated that she was impressed with the Skyview High School report. She reported that she attended the AASB Legislative Fly-in and that, although she was sick during two of the four days, it was a good experience.

**ADJOURN:**

*(8:24:20 PM)*

At 8:24 p.m., Mrs. Crawford moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mr. Holt seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mr. Joe Arness, President

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Mrs. Sunni Hilts, Clerk

The Minutes of February 15, 2010,  
have not been approved as of  
February 18, 2010.