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# Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes

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March 1, 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. Dave Jones, Assistant Superintendent  
Mr. Sean Dusek, Assistant Superintendent

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Mr. Dave Larson  
Mrs. Sharon Moock  
Mrs. Margie Warner  
Ms. Sheryl Hingley  
Mrs. Laurie Olson  
Mrs. Kelly Reisig

Others present not identified.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.  
(7:00:53 PM)

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mr. Arness invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.  
(7:01:08 PM)

**DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT:** Miss Riley read the District's mission statement.  
(7:01:34 PM)

**ROLL CALL:** Mrs. Sammy Crawford Present  
(7:01:59 PM) 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 with inclusion of a revised version of the proposed changes to BP 3470, Fund Balance, presented for a first read.  
(7:02:29 PM)

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The School Board Minutes of February 15, 2010 were approved as printed.  
(7:03:13 PM)

**SCHOOL REPORT:***(7:03:35 PM)*

Ms. Sheryl Hingley, Port Graham Elementary/High School principal/teacher, presented a PowerPoint highlighting the teacherage, student configuration, staff assignments, support staff, Project GRAD, grant-funded programs, parental involvement, holiday event, challenges of a small school, Native Youth Olympics, Title I Program, tutoring, assessment information, foreign language instruction, Ultimate Careers Program, and changes for the 2010-2011 school year.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:***(7:19:59 PM)*

Dr. Atwater reported that the Board received a letter from Razdolna village expressing concern for lack of space for secondary students to attend school. He noted that the Alaska Department of Immunization will audit District immunization records at south peninsula schools on March 22. He noted that there are four principal/teacher vacancies (Port Graham, Tebughna, Seward Middle, and Kachemak Selo) and that the Seward informational meeting will be March 3; Port Graham informational meeting will be March 5; and the Kachemak Selo informational meeting has already been held with interviews to be held March 10. He invited the Board to attend the April Administrator Meeting at the Challenger Center and added that it will be a goal-setting session.

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SITE COUNCIL AND/OR P.T.A., K.P.A.A., K.P.E.A., K.P.E.S.A, BOROUGH ASSEMBLY:***(7:22:35 PM)*

Mrs. Warner, KPESA president, distributed Cat in the Hat hats in Celebration of Read Across America Day and encouraged the Board members to read to students at school. She reported that she will attend the last segment of the Leaders for Tomorrow training program. She asked for support of a bill on the floor of the national House of Representatives establishing recognition for a Classified Support Staff Person of the Year.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:***(7:26:30 PM)*

Dr. Atwater reported that he attended the Southern Kenai Peninsula Community Project Strategic Planning Session on February 26. He reported that the administration will address the part-time student issue by adding a .5 FTE teacher when the number of classes equals 48 and 1 FTE teacher when the class number equals 96 at a school. He reported that additional bandwidth is being purchased for Port Graham Elementary/High School and Nanwalek Elementary/High School in order to increase their internet service.

**FISCAL YEAR 2011 BUDGET:***(7:33:59 PM)*

Mr. Jones presented the 2010-2011 Preliminary Draft School District budget of \$128,983,838 for the General Fund and special revenue funds totaling \$23,092,231 for a total of \$152,076,069 for all funds.

**BOARD REPORTS:***(7:44:49 PM)*

Mrs. Crawford reported that she read to kindergarten and first grade students at Mt. View Elementary and was impressed by kindergarteners who were using a SmartBoard to conduct a spelling lesson.

Ms. Hohl reported that she attended the AASB Quality Schools/Quality Students meeting in Seward where the School Climate Survey for the responses for the District schools was discussed.

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

Mrs. Hilts reported that she attended the Charter School Oversight Committee meeting prior to the Board meeting.

Mr. Holt attended the KPSAA Executive Board meeting and noted that the group discussed the inclusion of baseball as a sanctioned activity and co-opting activities.

Mrs. Vadla reported that she testified in support of SB213 which would provide money for schools to offer student breakfasts and lunches. She attended the February 18 gifted meeting organized by Mr. Bob Ermold in which the group learned about Moodle. She shared a report titled, *Big Disparities in Gifted Program Offerings and Are we Failing Our Gifted Kids* and added that she hopes the District will pursue high school level gifted programs. She reported that on February 24 she attended the Soldotna Area High School Conversation meeting where the group discussed collaboration and program sharing between Skyview High and Soldotna High. She reported that she attended the Charter School Oversight Committee meeting and the Policy Review Committee meeting.

Mr. Anderson reported that he was the keynote speaker at the Skills USA competition which was held at the Challenger Learning Center.

**BOARD WORKSESSION REPORT:***(7:50:50 PM)*

Mr. Arness reported that the Charter School Oversight Committee and the Policy Review Committee met prior to the Board worksessions. He reported that the Board held worksessions regarding Spring Creek High School; FY11 Budget; Policy Manual revisions; and legislation update. He reported that the Board conducted a conference call with Kenai Peninsula legislators. Assemblyman Charlie Pierce joined the Board for dinner. He reported that all Board members attended.

**CONSENT AGENDA:***(7:51:45 PM)*

Items on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Tentative Nontenured Teacher Contracts; Resignations; Long Term Substitute Contract; and 2010-2011 Nontenure Teachers for Tenure.

**TENTATIVE NONTENURED TEACHER CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve tentative nontenured teacher contracts for Erin Cotroneo, Districtwide counselor, Homer Middle; Matthew Tucker, special education resource, Homer High; Gwenn Dailey-Gee, special education resource, Homer Middle; Susan Hawker, special education resource, Kaleidoscope; Marcy True, special education intensive needs, Mountain View Elementary; Robert Ernst, special education resource, Nikiski/Middle High; Lisa Fellows, special education resource, Ninilchik Elementary/High; Kristine Berrios, special education-intensive, Paul Banks Elementary; Peter Gundunas, special education-resource, Skyview High; Kelli Creglow, special education-severe, Soldotna Elementary; Tina Gilman, special education-intensive needs, Soldotna Elementary; Holly Abel, school psychologist, Soldotna Middle; Jennifer Swander, language arts, Spring Creek; Sherry Roach, special education-resource, Sterling Elementary; Ruth Sensenig, language arts, social studies, Susan B.

**TENTATIVE NONTENURED  
TEACHER CONTRACTS:***(continued)*

English Elementary/High; Robin Zinszer, .75 FTE special education-resource, Susan B. English Elementary/High; Michelle Anderson, (temporary), intermediate grades, Tebughna Elementary/High; Christy Gomez, grades K-2, Tebughna Elementary/High; Garrett McMullen, .50 FTE (permanent) special education-resource/.50 FTE (temporary), Title I, Tebughna Elementary/High; Camille Hill, school psychologist, Tustumena Elementary; Linda Lemco, special education-resource, Voznesenka Elementary/High; and Rebecca Paul, special education-resource, West Homer Elementary.

**RESIGNATIONS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve resignations, effective at the end of the 2009-2010 school year, for Eileen Bryson, kindergarten, Kaleidoscope Charter School; David Boyle, language arts, Kenai Central High School; and Linda Ralston, algebra, Nikiski Middle/High School.

**LONG TERM SUBSTITUTE  
CONTRACT:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a long-term substitute contract for Marsha Gustkey, Mountain View Elementary.

**2010-2011 NONTENURE  
TEACHERS FOR TENURE:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a contract and tenure for Ray Archuletta, special education-resource, Homer High; Cynthia Detrow, speech, Homer Middle School; Noelle Phillips, speech, K-Beach Elementary; Granger Nyboer, special education-resource, Kenai Central; Tracy Brown, school psychologist, (.80 FTE), Mountain View; Karma Sherk, special education-intensive/life skills, Nikiski North Star; Tony Jackson, special education-resource, Nikiski Middle/High; Matthew Johnson, special education-intensive needs, Soldotna High School; and James Knoebel, special education-resource, Soldotna High School, nontenured teachers.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Hilts moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 4. Mrs. Downing seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**FIRST READING OF POLICY  
REVISIONS:***(7:52:37 PM)*

The Board heard a first reading of a revised version (3/1/10 at 2:30 p.m.) of proposed changes to BP 3470, Fund Balance.

Ms. Hohl asked that the words “unexpected costs incurred by” be added in front of the first bullet. Mr. Arness stated that the change would be made and that the revised version would appear on the next Board agenda for approval.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/  
COMMENTS:***(7:53:37 PM)*

Ms. Kiki Abrahamson, Fireweed Charter School administrator and lead teacher, announced that Fireweed Charter School is working towards obtaining a facility to house the students and has recently met with an architect to upgrade an existing building to bring it up to code. She stated that she plans to bring a proposal to the April Board meeting requesting that Fireweed Charter be allowed to enter into a lease agreement. She asked the Board to forward any questions to her as soon as possible.

**BOARD COMMENTS:***(7:57:51 PM)*

Mrs. Vadla thanked Ms. Hingley for the Port Graham Elementary/High School report. She thanked Dr. Atwater for the information regarding the home school part-time students and staffing allocations. She thanked Mr. Young for the Spring Creek High School worksession. She asked Mr. Dusek if information was available concerning the positive impact that school clubs have on students. She asked why some schools have more clubs than others.

Mrs. Hilts thanked Mr. Young for the Spring Creek High School report and hopes that the District can continue the high school program for another year before the transition in 2012. She expressed appreciation for the Port Graham Elementary/High School report and thanked Ms. Hingley. She stated that life skills are important to village students and suggested that the District partner with the University of Alaska to bring students out of their villages periodically to take shared classes.

Mr. Navarre reported that the Soldotna Area High Schools Conversation meeting went well and commended Mr. Arness and Dr. Atwater. He reported that Skyview will host the Northern Lights 4A regional basketball tournament March 4, 5 and 6.

Mrs. Downing expressed appreciation for the Spring Creek High School presentation and concern for those students who will not be served if support for the program is lost. She expressed appreciation for the Port Graham School presentation and is grateful that Project GRAD can support the school. She stated that Project GRAD has been working with the Kenai Peninsula College and a Port Graham student. She recommended that village students be involved in a transition program that teaches life skills. She requested that information regarding Fireweed Charter School proposal be sent via email prior to the Board packet. She stated that she is excited about the possibility of co-opting school activities. She shared a thank you from the Homer Cub Scouts to Mrs. Tachick and Dr. Atwater for the quick and efficient support for meeting the goals of their meeting last month.

Mr. Holt reported that he attended the Soldotna Area High School Conversation meeting and noted that Dr. Atwater, Mr. Neill and Mr. Syverson did a good job presenting the information. He commended the students in attendance for their critical thinking and creative ideas. He thanked Ms. Hingley for the Port Graham Elementary/High School presentation. He reported that he recently served as the Course Director of the Region III ski championships and noted that the administrators of all three schools were in attendance.

**BOARD COMMENTS:***(continued)*

Mrs. Crawford thanked Ms. Hingley for the Port Graham Elementary/High School report and Mr. Young for the Spring Creek High School worksession. She thanked Mr. Jones for his work on the budget.

Mr. Anderson thanked Ms. Hingley and Mr. Young for the school reports. He thanked the administration for the school clubs information and noted that clubs are valuable and healthy activities. He stated that he hopes there are mechanisms to review club formations and the conduct of clubs to ensure that they do not cause division, especially those of a political nature.

Ms. Hohl thanked Ms. Hingley for the Port Graham Elementary/High School report and stated that she would like itinerant teachers who are weathered out of village schools be able to make up the time. She stated that she is excited for the increased bandwidth for the school internet program. She would like the District to facilitate opportunities for life experiences for remote students. She suggested that the District acknowledge, support, and encourage student participation in the Native Youth Olympics. She reported that she attended the Alaska PTA Legislative Fly-in as a representative from the Seward PTSA and while there, assisted in two public land presentations. She reported that she met former State Senator Arliss Sturgulewski, who serves on the Jesse Lee Home Charter School Board, and asked her to contact Dr. Atwater or Mr. Arness about making a presentation to the Board on the proposed Seward Leadership School. She reported that she encouraged retired teacher, Doug Capra, to give a presentation to the Board regarding the success of boys in public schools. She reported that Seward High is hosting Southcentral 3A Basketball Tournament.

Miss Riley thanked Ms. Hingley for the Port Graham Elementary/High School report. She reported on her experience as a Project GRAD student along with Port Graham students. She reported that Ninilchik School is hosting the Peninsula 2A basketball tournament.

Mr. Arness acknowledged Ms. Hingley's school report. He reported that during the last couple of meetings Borough Assembly members have joined the Board for dinners and the invitations will continue 1 or 2 at a time since it is an opportunity to establish a connection. He asked the Board for ideas of others to invite. He stated that Mr. Young's presentation was very interesting and suggested that the District actively pursue a similar program at Wildwood Correctional Center.

# UNAPPROVED

**ADJOURN:**  
(8:18:50 PM)

At 8:18 p.m., Mrs. Crawford moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mr. Joe Arness, President

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Mr. Sunni Hilts, Clerk

The Minutes of March 1, 2010,  
have not been approved as of  
March 15, 2010.