

---

# Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

## Board of Education Meeting News In Brief

---

April 5, 2010 – 7:00 p.m.  
Dr. Steve Atwater, Superintendent

Borough Administration Building - 148 N. Binkley  
Soldotna, Alaska

---

**WORKSESSION REPORT:** The Board held several worksessions prior to the formal business meeting which included the River City Academy High First Year update; funding for technology replacement plan; KPSAA/ASAA relationship; Fireweed Charter School requests; Nikiski sixth grade relocation; student drug testing and a general discussion with various topics.

**AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:** The Board presented Golden Apple Awards to Phyllis Oberhauser, Nikiski North Star Elementary Pre-Kindergarten Parent Liaison/Teaching Assistant; Bobby Copeland-Paulino, Paul Banks Elementary; and Noreen O'Brien-Duggan, Paul Banks Elementary Teacher's Aide, for their service to the District.

**SCHOOL REPORT:** Mr. John O'Brien, Nikiski Middle/High School principal, introduced staff members Mrs. Kelly Brewer and Mr. Mark Wackler who narrated a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the Title VII Program and the Nikiski Alternative Program. Ms. Sondra Shaginoff-Stewart, Kenaitze Indian Tribe, introduced the Jabela'ina dancers, who performed a song with a drum accompaniment.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Dr. Atwater reported that there are 246 homeless students in the District, a 40% increase over last year. He announced that the Alternative to Out of School Suspension (ATOSS) Program is being dropped because the federal funding for the program has been eliminated. He announced that there are 15 teachers in the Aspiring Principals Program which will begin May 7 with Dr. Donna Peterson as the teacher. He announced that the LD and RTI manuals have been completed and thanked District staff for their work. He reported that the new federal health care requirements will create a significant increase to the District costs since approximately 325 children under the age of 26 could join the plan.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Mr. Jones presented District financial reports for the period ending February 28, 2010.

**RESIGNATIONS:** The Board unanimously approved resignations, effective December 17, 2010, for Lesley Murphy, Grade 6, K-Beach Elementary and, effective at the end of the 2009-2010 school year, from Irma Peterson, Grade 2, K-Beach Elementary; Tracy Brown, school psychologist, Mountain View Elementary; Caitlin Caffall, Grade 2, Mountain View Elementary; Laurie Moon, Grade 2, Mountain View Elementary; Megan Smith, language arts, Nanwalek Elementary/High School; Kimberly DeGard, kindergarten, Paul Banks Elementary; Marsha Bailey, primary, Paul Banks Elementary; Tari Hoeft, physical education, Paul Banks/West Homer Elementary; Erin Oxford, primary, Paul Banks Elementary; Jim Legner, technologist, Pupil Services; Joe Taylor, Grade 4, Redoubt Elementary; John Hersrud, principal/teacher, Seward Middle School; Cindy Litzenberger, counselor, Soldotna Middle School; Mary Hicks, kindergarten through Grade 12 advisor, Seward Connections; Donald Frashier, principal/teacher, Tebughna Elementary/High; Michelle Anderson, intermediate, Tebughna Elementary/High; John Hurley, Principal, West Homer Elementary; and Karen Murdock, special education, intensive, West Homer Elementary.

**NONTENURE TEACHERS FOR TENURE, 2010-11:** The Board unanimously approved teacher contracts for Joshua Brege, construction, Homer High; Bonnie Jason, language arts, Homer Middle School; Maria Calvert, .50 FTE physical education, Kaleidoscope Charter; Joy Harper, Grade 5, Kaleidoscope Charter; Kristin Davis, biology, Kenai Central High; Emily Sims, home

economics, Kenai Central High; Tyler Schlung, special education resource, Kenai Middle School; Brittney Johnson, Grade 5, Mountain View; Kimberly Jordan, special education intensive, Mountain View; Dan Adair, science, Nikiski Middle/High; Adam Anders, physical education, Nikiski Middle/High; Jan Darch, Grade 2, Nikiski North Star; Jennifer Reinhart, kindergarten, Paul Banks Elementary; Laura Jacobsen, Grades 2-6, Razdolna; Katharine Glaser, Grade 2, Seward Elementary; April MacDonald, Grade 4, Seward Elementary; Margaret Griffin, counselor, Skyview High School; and Patrick Dwyer, science, Soldotna Middle School, nontenure teachers, for tenure.

**NONTENURE TEACHER CONTRACTS, 2010-11:** The Board unanimously approved nontenure teacher contracts for Steve Cothran, distance education, Curriculum & Assessment; Emanuela Meriggi, distance education, Curriculum & Assessment; Heidi Stokes, .50 FTE permanent, generalist/.50 FTE temporary, Title I teacher, Chapman; Mary Simondsen, .50 FTE music, Chapman Elementary; Wendi Dutcher, secondary generalist, Connections; Reubin Payne, generalist, Connections; Dennis Welch, generalist, Connections; Connie Akers, library .50 FTE, Homer High; Amy Christianson, band, Homer High; Anna Fisher, social studies, Homer High; Jennifer Booz, science, Homer Middle; Ingrid McKinstry, math/interventionist, Homer Middle; Daniel Olson, social studies/language arts, Homer Middle; Zachary Zimny, art, Homer Middle; Patricia Truesdell, kindergarten through Grade 12 generalist, Hope; Joanna Greene, Grades 4-5, Kachemak-Selo; Kimberly Fields, Grade 2, Kaleidoscope Charter; Marianne Kasch, Grade 5, Kaleidoscope Charter; Shana Butler, .50 FTE library, K-Beach Elementary; Richard Metcalf, science/math, Kenai Alternative; Douglas Armstrong, science, Kenai Central; Jeff Baker, physical education, Kenai Central; Oakley Cothran, .50 FTE physical education, Kenai Central; Stacia Rustad, physical education, health, Kenai Central; Jennifer Scott, social studies, language arts, Kenai Central; Margaret Gilman, language arts, Kenai Middle; Rochelle Horbacz, math/science, Kenai Middle; Megan O'Neill, math/intervention, Kenai Middle; Kendall DellaSperanza, Grade 4, McNeil Canyon; Lenore Swanson, music/physical education/primary, McNeil Canyon; Maureen Wilkinson, interventionist, McNeil Canyon; Renee Christensen, Grade 5, Mountain View Elementary; Nicole Cunningham, Grade 1, Mountain View; Summer Dallman, Grade 1, Mountain View Elementary; Sarah Kantrud, Grade 3, Mountain View Elementary; Cynthia McKibben, Grade 3, Mountain View Elementary; Timothy McFarland, music, Mountain View Elementary; Jesse Bjorkman, social studies, Nikiski Middle/High; Dylan Hooper, science, Nikiski Middle/High; Paul Johnson, vocational education workforce development (.50 FTE permanent/.50 FTE temporary), Nikiski Middle/High; Mim McKay, music, Nikiski Middle/High; Laura Niemczyk, high school language arts, Nikiski Middle/High; Jessica Sobey, language arts, Nikiski Middle/High; Mark Wackler, alternative education/credit recovery, Nikiski Middle/High; Anna Widman, art, Nikiski Middle/High; Gary Wiebel, counselor, Nikiski Middle/High; Tammy Farrell, computer/library, Nikiski North Star Elementary; Heather Hooper, .50 FTE primary, Nikiski North Star Elementary; Shanna Johnson, primary, Nikiski North Star Elementary; Rose Kiernan, primary, Nikiski North Star Elementary; Robin Morris, interventionist, Nikiski North Star Elementary; Katy Settlemyer, .50 FTE kindergarten through Grade 1 teacher, Nikiski North Star Elementary; Kimberly Trammell, kindergarten, Nikiski North Star Elementary; Karen Pala, temporary, early education, Nikiski North Star Elementary; Tricia Young, Title I teacher (temporary), Nikiski North Star Elementary; Vivian Norenberg, permanent .50 FTE Grades 2-4/temporary .50 FTE Title I/Migrant, Nikolaevsk Elementary/High; Kjersten Syth, physical education, Paul Banks Elementary; Brandon Young, Grade 1, Paul Banks Elementary; Carolyn Farmer, Grade 6, Redoubt Elementary; Ranada Hassemmer, interventionist, Redoubt Elementary; Kara Schreur, Grade 2, Redoubt Elementary; Susan Pfeiffenberger, .50 FTE permanent interventionist/.50 FTE temporary title 1, Seward Elementary; Kyle Schneider, music, Seward Elementary; Erin Flowers, intermediate, Seward Elementary; Barry Hartman, vocational education, Skyview High; Krista Heldenbrand, language arts, Skyview High; Rhonda Neill, library .50 FTE, Skyview High; Eric Pomerleau, physical education, athletic director, Skyview High; Jesse Settlemyer, language arts, Skyview High; Byron Weeks, science, Skyview High; Eric Dahl, intermediate, Soldotna Elementary; Shaya Straw, Grade 3, Soldotna Elementary; Cindy Schlung, 50 FTE

permanent interventionist/.50 FTE temporary Title I, Soldotna Elementary; Meggean Bos, home economics, Soldotna High; Dana Edwards, .75 FTE permanent, math/.25 FTE temporary, principles of engineering, Soldotna High; Tamra Wear, library .50 FTE, Soldotna High; Nicholas Christensen, science, Soldotna Middle; Richard Forcum, vocational education, Soldotna Middle; Sheilah-Margaret Pothast, Spanish .50 FTE, Soldotna Middle; Amanda Brendtro, interventionist .50 FTE, Sterling; Jonathan Horbacz, Grades 5/6, Sterling Elementary; Belinda Smith, Grades 3/4, Sterling Elementary; Cynthia Ussing, intermediate, Sterling Elementary; Linda Vroman, Title I teacher, .50 FTE (temporary), Sterling Elementary; and Joellen Fowler, .50 FTE permanent interventionist/.50 FTE (temporary) Title I, Tustumena Elementary.

**ANNUAL REPORT REQUIREMENT FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS:** The Board unanimously approved language in each District charter school renewal contract requiring that an annual report be submitted to the superintendent as part of their end of the year check out process.

**NEW TEACHER CONTRACT:** The Board unanimously approved a teacher contract for Bristol A. Whitmore, Spanish teacher, Soldotna High.

**HSGQE:** The Board unanimously approved High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Numbers 2010-06, 2010-07, and 2010-08.

**ADMINISTRATOR CONTRACTS:** The Board unanimously approved administrator contracts for the 2010-2011 school year for Lori Manion, professional Development Coordinator, Curriculum/Assessment; and Andrew Rothenberger, principal/teacher, Kachemak-Selo.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE-SUPPORT:** The Board unanimously approved an unpaid leave of absence, effective for the 2010-2011 school year for Marivel Petska, Special Education Aide, Homer High.

**FY11 BUDGET:** The Board unanimously approved a General Fund FY11 Budget of \$128,983,838 and a Special Revenue Funds FY11 Budget of \$23,092,231 for a total FY11 Budget for all of funds of \$152,076,069.

**KPSAA RECOMMENDATION REGARDING SOFTBALL, BASEBALL:** The Board unanimously approved acceptance of the outsourced Boys' Baseball and Girls' Softball programs as fully sanctioned district activities with the accompanying coaching stipends and the reinstatement of travel funds for all activities as the budget allows.

**FIREWEED CHARTER SCHOOL REQUESTS:** The Board unanimously approved Fireweed Academy Charter School's request to expand their current 3-6 configuration to include grades K-2, and their request to lease additional space. The Board approved an amendment requiring the design improvements to the facility to be approved by the District Director of Maintenance.

**REVISIONS TO BP 3470, FUND BALANCE:** The Board unanimously approved revisions to BP 3470, Fund Balance Policy.

**NIKISKI SIXTH GRADE RELOCATION:** The Board unanimously approved the reconfiguration of Nikiski Middle/High School to include sixth grade effective in August of 2011.

**ESTABLISHMENT OF STUDENT DRUG TESTING TASK FORCE:** The Board unanimously approved the formation of a task force to review whether it is appropriate for the District to write and then adopt a policy that would guide drug testing of students who participate in co-curricular activities. The nine members of the task force would be appointed by the Board president and superintendent and represent legal, community medical, professional educators

and school Board. The task force would be directed to make a recommendation to the Board at the August 9, 2010 meeting.

**2010-2011 TENTATIVE BOARD MEETING DATES:** The Board approved a tentative meeting schedule for Board meetings for the 2010-2011 school year. The Board approved an amendment to hold the September meeting in Homer and the May meeting in Seward.

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING:** The next regularly scheduled School Board Meeting is Monday, May 3, 2010, 7:00 p.m., **Seward High School, Seward, Alaska.**

\* \* \* \* \*