
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

February 21, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting

Borough Administration Building
148 N. Binkley, Soldotna, Alaska

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

Mr. Joe Arness, President
Mrs. Liz Downing, Vice President
Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Clerk
Mrs. Sunni Hilts, Treasurer
Mr. Marty Anderson
Ms. Lynn Hohl
Mr. Bill Holt
Mr. Tim Navarre
Mrs. Penny Vadla
Miss Julie Rang, Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT:

Dr. Steve Atwater, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Sean Dusek, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Dave Jones, Assistant Superintendent

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mrs. Melissa Linton	Mr. Jason Daniels
Mrs. Margie Warner	Mr. John O'Brien
Mrs. Beth Kellie	Dr. Donna Peterson
Mrs. Robin Bennett	Mrs. Mary Kennedy
Mr. Doug Cannon	Mrs. Doris Cannon
Mrs. Sharon Moock	Mr. Tim Peterson

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

(7:00:38 PM)

Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

(7:00:54 PM)

Mr. Arness invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT:

(7:01:20 PM)

Mrs. Crawford read the District's mission statement.

ROLL CALL:

(7:01:47 PM)

Mr. Joe Arness	Present
Mr. Marty Anderson	Absent/Excused
Mrs. Sammy Crawford	Present
Mrs. Liz Downing	Absent/Excused
Mrs. Sunni Hilts	Present
Ms. Lynn Hohl	Present
Mr. Bill Holt	Present
Mr. Tim Navarre	Present/Arrived at 7:03 p.m.
Mrs. Penny Vadla	Absent/Excused
Miss Julie Rang	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

(7:02:28 PM)

The agenda was approved with a revision to Number 10a.(5) Approval of Administrator Contracts.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
(7:03:08 PM)

The School Board Minutes of February 7, 2011, were approved with a correction.

Mr. Navarre arrived.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:
(7:03:36 PM)

The Board presented a Golden Apple Award to Ms. Robin Bennett for her volunteer service to Nikiski Middle/High School.

SCHOOL REPORT:
(7:07:48 PM)

Mrs. Melissa Linton, K-Beach Elementary principal, reported that her personal goal this year was to “increase student achievement by being responsive to individual student needs through structured collaborative practices districtwide in our richly diverse communities.” She noted that to achieve that goal, time has been set aside during the school day to allow staff collaboration. She introduced staff members Ms. Misty McCown, Mr. Daniels, Mrs. McCoy and Mrs. Bates who assisted three students (Miss Emma Mullet, Miss Grace Wahl and Mr. Zach Hanson) as they presented photo stories on magnets, summarizing, Dena’ina cultural activities including dance, the many uses of moose meat and their bones, and spruce trees.

RECESS
(7:24:05 PM)

At 7:24 p.m. Mr. Arness called a recess

RECONVENE
(7:28:26 PM)

At 7:28 p.m. the Board reconvened in regular session

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:
(7:28:47PM)

Mr. Arness noted that the Board received an appreciation poster decorated with candy in honor of Board Appreciation Month. He thanked Mrs. Mook and the Soldotna Middle School staff.

Dr. Atwater reported that the District Finance Department will receive the Meritorious Budget Award from the Association of School Business Officials International and he thanked and congratulated Mr. Jones, Mrs. Olson and the Finance Department. He announced that the state mentoring project for principals will continue next year. He reported that school was closed on January 3 at Kenai Alternative and Aurora Borealis and that the make-up day will be May 25. He announced that 21 District schools are participating in the School Climate and Connectedness Survey and the remaining schools will take the Youth Risk Behavior Survey on March 8.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SITE COUNCIL AND/OR P.T.A., K.P.A.A., K.P.E.A., K.P.E.S.A, BOROUGH ASSEMBLY:
(7:31:08 PM)

Mrs. Margie Warner, KPESA president, noted that concerns are being expressed by the members regarding increases to the health care co-pay amount and added that an effort is being made to better communicate the reasons for the increase. She announced that she is leaving February 22 to travel to Washington D.C.

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

(continued)

Mrs. Druce, KPEA president, announced that March 2 is Read Across America and asked Board members to read at schools throughout the District. She reported that she will be in Washington D.C., to participate in a discussion with other educators and U.S. Senators about the reauthorization of ESEA. She expressed appreciation for the administration's recommendation to the Board during the FY12 budget discussion. She stated that she supports the tenure contracts before the Board for approval. She shared her ideas regarding support for the rescission of the seasonal grocery tax. She thanked the Board for their service to KPBSD students.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT:**

(7:36:35 PM)

Dr. Atwater reported that principal interviews will be held for Chapman Elementary on February 22, Voznesenka School on February 23 and Ninilchik Elementary/High on February 25. He announced that Greg Zorbas, teacher at Kenai Central High School; Gregory Weissenberg, teacher at Soldotna High School; and Rob Sparks, teacher at Skyview High School; will be recognized at the Alaska Society for Education in Technology Conference for the Classroom Without Walls Project and will each receive \$10,000 for equipment and \$9,000 to use for themselves and other teachers to attend the conference and for summer training. He reported that he attended the AASA National Conference on Education and will provide a written report. He announced that Miss Angela Ramponi, Soldotna High student, was selected as a National Merit Finalist.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

(7:38:09 PM)

Mr. Jones presented the financial report of the District for the period ending January 31, 2011.

BOARD REPORTS:

(7:39:53 PM)

Ms. Hohl reported that she attended the Seward Schools Site Council meeting.

**BOARD WORKSESSION
REPORT:**

(7:40:16 PM)

Mr. Arness reported that the Board held a discussion with U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski, regarding an update of federal legislation. He further reported that the Board held a worksession on Performance Based Reading Curriculum and the FY12 Budget and held a Discussion on state legislation. All members who were in attendance at the Board meeting were also at the worksessions.

CONSENT AGENDA:

(7:40:43 PM)

Items on the Consent Agenda were Approval of 2011-12 Tentative Tenure Teacher Contracts; Resignations; High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2011-12; High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2011-13; and New Administrator Contract.

**2011-12 TENTATIVE TENURE
TEACHER CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a list of tentative tenure teacher contracts for the 2011-12 school year.

RESIGNATIONS:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve resignations from Stan P. White, Russian teacher, Voznesenka School; Susan M. Ledger, Grade 3, West Homer Elementary; and Virginia Diane McBee, kindergarten, K-Beach Elementary.

HSGQE: Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2011-12.

HSGQE: Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2011-13.

NEW ADMINISTRATOR CONTRACTS: Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve an administrator contract for Monica R. Hinders as regional administrator of Spring Creek/Hope School. The administration reassigned Sargeant Truesdell as principal of Soldotna Middle, Norma Holmgaard as principal of Mt. View Elementary and Teri Diamond as principal of Soldotna Elementary.

Mrs. Susan Wells, Kenai resident, expressed that she had concerns regarding the appointment for the Mt. View Elementary principal appointee.

MOTION Mr. Navarre moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 4. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION Mr. Navarre moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Number 5. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Mr. Arness clarified that only one name is submitted for approval and that the other names were reassignments and were listed for information only.

Motion carried unanimously.

PERFORMANCE BASED READING CURRICULUM: Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve the newly developed Elementary Performance Based Reading Curriculum.
(7:49:31 PM)

MOTION Mr. Holt moved the Board approve the newly developed Elementary Performance Based Reading Curriculum. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/ COMMENTS: Sharon Moock, KPAA principal, Soldotna Middle School, stated that the principal hiring process conducted at Soldotna Middle School was flawless and that parents and site council members were involved.
(7:51:10 PM)

BOARD COMMENTS: Mrs. Hilts reported that the girls' and boys' basketball teams at Susan B. English School, Nanwalek School and Port Graham School combined to make one team which allowed students at each school to play. She stated the communities were proud because basketball skills improved, friendships were solidified, and passing grades kept them eligible.
(7:53:54 PM)

BOARD COMMENTS:*(continued)*

Mr. Holt thanked Mrs. Linton and the K-Beach Elementary staff and students for the school report. He thanked Soldotna Middle School staff for the candy gram in honor of Board Appreciation Month. He stated that during the past weekend he served as the chief of course for the Borough ski championship meet and the Region III Championship meet and noted that the trails association grant manager attended the meet and was impressed about the sportsmanship. He congratulated the Homer High boys' team who won the Region III Championships and the Soldotna High School girls' team who won the Region III Championships. He noted that Soldotna High School students Miss Bree Mucha and Mr. Lucas Michael were the Region III champions.

Mrs. Crawford thanked Mrs. Robin Bennett for her volunteerism. She thanked Mrs. Linton for the K-Beach Elementary report. She expressed appreciation for the federal legislative update from Senator Murkowski. She expressed appreciation for the FY12 budget and legislation worksessions. She thanked Soldotna Middle School staff for the candy gram and cards. She urged those present to see the local production of Peter Pan.

Mr. Navarre thanked Mrs. Linton for the K-Beach Elementary report. He thanked Mrs. Moock for the candy gram. He announced that he will see Peter Pan. He clarified his questions regarding the principal hiring process. He expressed appreciation for the introduction to Mr. Truesdell, newly assigned principal to Soldotna Middle School.

Ms. Hohl reported that she attended the state PTA Legislative Fly-in in Juneau and noted that Mrs. Jenny Hammond, Nikiski parent; Mr. Al McCarty, Seward resident; Ms. Martha Fleming, Seward High; and Miss Madalyn Campbell, Seward High student, also attended. She stated that there has been no change in funding legislation and noted that the two PTA priorities were the public school lands trust and the statewide parent engagement plan. She thanked Mrs. Linton for the K-Beach Elementary School report and was especially excited about the staff collaboration time and appreciated the photo stories. She announced that she will not be able to attend the Seward community budget meeting, participate in Read Across America, or attend the joint Borough Assembly and School Board FY12 Budget worksession since she will be out of state. She expressed appreciation for Mrs. Bennett's volunteerism. She suggested the Board Policy Review Committee review the administrator and teacher hiring process for consistency.

Miss Rang, thanked Senator Murkowski for speaking to the Board. She congratulated Mrs. Bennett for being selected to receive a Golden Apple Award. She thanked Mrs. Linton for the K-Beach Elementary School report. She thanked those responsible for restoring the use of the Kenai High School gym after flooding damaged it in December.

BOARD COMMENTS:

(continued)

Mr. Arness thanked Mrs. Linton for the K-Beach Elementary School report and thanked Mrs. Moock for the candy gram in honor of Board Appreciation Month.

ADJOURN:

(8:07:26 PM)

At 8:07 p.m., Mr. Navarre moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Joe Arness, President

Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Clerk

The Minutes of February 21, 2011,
were approved on February 23, 2011
with a correction