

---

# Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes

---

August 8, 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

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Mrs. Doris Cannon  
Mr. Doug Cannon  
Mr. Adam Reimer  
Mrs. Carly Reimer  
Mrs. Laurie Olson  
Ms. Pegge Erkeneff  
Mrs. LaDawn Druce  
Mr. Tim Peterson  
Mr. Todd Syverson  
Mr. Jim White

Others present not identified.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mrs. Downing called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.  
(7:00:17 PM)

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mrs. Downing invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.  
(7:00:29 PM)

**DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT:** Ms. Hohl read the District's mission statement.  
(7:00:55 PM)

**ROLL CALL:** Mr. Joe Arness Absent/Excused  
(7:01:23 PM) Mr. Marty Anderson Present  
Mrs. Sammy Crawford Present  
Mrs. Liz Downing Present  
Mrs. Sunni Hilts Present  
Ms. Lynn Hohl Present  
Mr. Bill Holt Present  
Mr. Tim Navarre Present  
Mrs. Penny Vadla Present

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** The agenda was approved as written.  
(7:01:58 PM)

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The School Board Minutes of July 11, 2011, were approved as presented.  
(7:02:125 PM)

**HEARING OF DELEGATIONS:**  
(7:03:38 PM)

Mr. Adam Reimer and Mrs. Carly Reimer gave a multi media presentation detailing services provided to students and the community by the Tsalteshi Trails Association.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:**  
(7:17:29 PM)

Dr. Atwater reported that the proposed AASB resolutions have been shared with the Board and the administration is in the process of reviewing them and will provide comments for the September Board packet. He reported that legislative funding support for the Poppy Lane paved walkway is being pursued by the Kenai Peninsula College, the Alaska Christian College and the District to provide safety for student pedestrians along Poppy Lane. He reported that the Board will be receiving information regarding the Homer High School track repair which will become a legislative priority. He announced that the District was notified that 2011-2012 legal fees will increase by 14% percent. He announced that Friday, August 12, the State of Alaska will release the Adequate Yearly Progress status for each public school in Alaska.

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SITE COUNCIL AND/OR P.T.A., K.P.A.A., K.P.E.A., K.P.E.S.A, BOROUGH ASSEMBLY:**  
(7:20:27 PM)

Mrs. Druce, KPEA president, announced that the new teacher lunch was held earlier in the day. She reported that she recently attended the 2011 NEA Annual Meeting and Representative Assembly in Chicago and added that the group voted to endorse President Obama for the 2012 presidential election. She noted that the group had concerns with education policy under Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. She reported that the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) continues to be set aside. She reported that other topics of interest were teacher evaluation and student performance and the \$10 increase in dues nationally to assist states that are in crisis. She reported that speakers of interest were Vice President Joe Biden and Dr. David Lowery, who spoke at the Civil Liberties Luncheon. She urged those present to visit YouTube and read Matt Damon's remarks in favor of public education and teachers. She urged those present to attend the Borough Mayor Candidates forum on Wednesday, August 17, at Frosos beginning at 4:00 p.m. She announced that school building visits will begin August 25 and that she volunteered for the Skyview Invite on August 27.

Mrs. Warner, KPESA president, announced that she returned to work on Monday, August 1. She reported that support staff was receiving training in the new PowerSchool software.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**  
(7:29:08PM)

Dr. Atwater presented the 2010-2011 Superintendent's Annual Report and thanked Ms. Jenny Neyman for her assistance. He reported that he recently attended the annual Summer Superintendent's Meeting in Juneau held by the Department of Education and Early Development. He noted that the District will be audited by Teacher's Retirement System (TRS) and Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) staff as well as the annual financial audit. He reported that summer maintenance work is ongoing and that Russian village schools start on August 15 while other schools begin on August 23. He thanked District staff for their work in preparing for the new school year.

**QUARTERLY BUDGET  
REPORT:**

*(7:32:39PM)*

**BOARD REPORTS:**

*(7:33:15 PM)*

Mr. Jones reported on budget transfer Numbers 955 through 1661 for various schools and departments within the District.

Mrs. Crawford reported that the Policy Review Committee reviewed several policies. She announced that she attended the AASB Summer Board of Directors meeting in Eagle River and that the group reviewed all of the proposed resolutions.

Ms. Hohl reported that the Reapportionment Committee met on May 16 and held three more meetings before traveling to Homer, Seward, Sterling and Kenai to conduct community meetings. She announced that Ordinance 2011-25 was passed by the Borough Assembly that included the committee's final report on reapportionment, conceptual maps and the choice of a 9 single member district or an 11 single member district.

Mrs. Downing reported that she was invited by Coach Steyer, Homer High School cross-country running coach, to attend a public meeting to discuss the condition of the Homer track and options for replacement. She noted that the track is 25 years old and is in such poor condition that competitions cannot be held on it.

**BOARD WORKSESSION  
REPORT:**

*(7:35:38 PM)*

Mrs. Downing reported that the Board conducted worksessions regarding the financial update, Policy Manual revisions, the curriculum development process, the Budget Development Committee, Performance Based Curriculum, and the superintendent and School Board evaluation documents.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

*(7:37:53 PM)*

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Pay Schedule for Substitutes and other Temporary Employees; Student Nutrition Services Meal Price Increase; New Teacher Contracts; Nontenure Teacher Contract; Resignation; Request for Leave of Absence-Certified; Revisions to AR 5131.1, Bus Conduct; AR 5144, Discipline Guide; AR 6153, School-Sponsored Trips; and Budget Transfers.

**PAY SCHEDULE:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve the proposed pay schedule for substitutes and other temporary employees for the 2011-2012 school year.

**SNS MEAL PRICE INCREASE:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve Student Nutrition Services meal prices for K-6 students to be increased from \$2.75 to \$2.85, the paid meal price for 8-12 students be increased from \$3.25 to \$3.35 and that adult school lunch pricing be increased from \$4.00 to \$4.25 for the 2011-2012 school year.

**NEW TEACHER CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve teacher contracts for Belinda M. Stevens, school psychologist, district-wide, Central Peninsula; Connie L. Courmier, K-12 intervention specialist, districtwide, curriculum; Denyse Hurst, science teacher, district-wide, distance education; Joseph A. Pazar, intermediate grade teacher, K-Beach Elementary; Margee Starr, intermediate teacher, K-Beach Elementary; Lisa E. Schramek, art/technology

**CONSENT AGENDA:**  
(continued)

applications teacher, Kenai Middle; Rafael J. Curiel, intermediate grade teacher, Nanwalek School; Geoffrey K. Clark, music teacher, vocal and instrumental, Nikiski Middle/High; Christine M. Snow, school counselor, Nikiski Middle/High; Adrienne J. Bostic, temporary, mentor teacher, Nikiski North Star Elementary; Jennifer Olson, primary grade teacher, Paul Banks Elementary; Kyle McFall, language arts teacher, Skyview High; Gary R. Wertz, school counselor, Skyview High; James B. Harris, permanent .50 FTE/temporary .50 FTE language arts teacher/credit recovery teacher, Soldotna High; and Monica Chi, special education intensive needs teacher, West Homer Elementary.

**NONTENURE TEACHER CONTRACT:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a nontenure teacher contract for Michelle Green, primary grade teacher, Nikiski North Star.

**RESIGNATION:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a resignation from Sandra Lewis, art teacher, Kenai Central High School.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE-CERTIFIED:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve an unpaid leave of absence for Ben Stephens, Grade 4, West Homer Elementary, effective for the 2011-12 school year.

**POLICY MANUAL REVISIONS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve the proposed revisions to AR 5131.1, Bus Conduct; AR 5144, Discipline Guide; and AR 6153, School-Sponsored Trips.

**BUDGET TRANSFERS**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a budget transfer request in the amount of \$98,099 to purchase a delivery truck for the warehouse and a budget transfer for \$414,188 to adjust reserve for incurred but not reported health care expenses (IBNR).

**MOTION**

Mr. Navarre moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 8. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Mrs. Vadla removed Number 7, Approval of Revisions to AR 5131.1, Bus Conduct; AR 5144, Discipline Guide; and AR 6153, School-Sponsored Trips.

Motion carried unanimously for Numbers 1 through 6 and 8.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Vadla moved the Board approve an amendment to change the language to read "Personal parental/guardian notification. Detention, community service and 1 to 45 day suspension as appropriate." in the hazing section of AR 5144, Discipline Guide. Mr. Anderson seconded.

Amendment carried unanimously for Number 7.

Amended motion carried unanimously.

**SCHOOL BOARD IMMEDIATE  
FAMILY MEMBER:**  
(7:58:52 PM)

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve the employment of Mr. Michael Crawford, immediate family member to Mrs. Sammy Crawford, School Board Member, pending permission by the Commissioner of Education.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Hilts moved the Board approve the employment of Mr. Michael Crawford, immediate family member to Mrs. Sammy Crawford, School Board Member, pending permission by the Commissioner of Education. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

**VOTE:**

YES – Holt, Hohl, Anderson, Downing, Navarre, Hilts, Vadla  
ABSTAIN – Crawford

Motion carried.

Vice President Downing explained that the abstention was due to a personal conflict.

**FIRST READING OF POLICY  
REVISIONS:**  
(8:01:13 PM)

The Board heard a first reading of proposed revisions to BP 1321, Solicitation of Funds; BP 5124, Communication with Parents/Guardians; BP 5131.6, Alcohol and Other Drugs; and BP and AR 5131.7, Weapons and Dangerous Instruments.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**  
(8:02:03 PM)

Mr. Holt thanked Mr. and Mrs. Reimer for the Tsalteshi Trails presentation.

Mrs. Vadla thanked Mr. and Mrs. Reimer for the Tsalteshi Trails presentation and Mr. Holt for his work on the trails. She thanked Mr. Dusek for the School Climate and Connectedness survey results. She thanked Mrs. Cannon for providing the curriculum revision cycle. She expressed appreciation for the 2011-2012 Annual Report and thanked Ms. Neyman and those who worked on it. She expressed appreciation for the direction of the superintendent and board member evaluations and administrator evaluations.

Mrs. Crawford thanked Dr. Atwater and others involved with the 2010-2011 Annual Report. She thanked the Tsalteshi Trails Association for the information on their work with District students.

Mrs. Hilts welcomed Ms. Pegge Erkeneff as the District's new communication specialist. She stated that the superintendent's Annual Report is excellent. She predicted that the District will have some difficult challenges this school year and encouraged those present to work together and do the best they can. She advised the Tsalteshi Trails Association to count the number of trail users in order to qualify for grants. She recounted a story about starting a ski program in Seldovia by purchasing the equipment and selling it to the students. She stated that she would like the Board to support them.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

*(continued)*

Mr. Anderson thanked the administration for the 2010-2011 Annual Report. He expressed appreciation for the paperless Board packet. He thanked the Policy Review Committee.

Mr. Navarre commended the administration for a comprehensive 2010-2011 Annual Report. He suggested that copies be sent to the legislative delegation. He expressed appreciation for the cover letter template used for each item in the Board packet. He welcomed Ms. Pegge Erkeneff to the District staff. He reported that he stopped by new teacher orientation. He invited the Board to attend Industry Appreciation Days at the Kenai park strip on August 27.

Ms. Hohl was pleased that the Board will send a thank you letter to Ms. Sandra Lewis and suggested that a similar letter be sent to Ms. Katie Turnbull and Ms. Cindy Capra. She reported that she attended the Alaska PTA summer board meeting and two Alaska Public School Land Trust stakeholder meetings. She expressed appreciation for the 2010-2011 Annual Report. She requested that the administration review all school tracks and develop a plan for repair or replacement.

Mrs. Downing welcomed Ms. Pegge Erkeneff to the District. She stated that her son will start high school. She stated that she is pleased with the direction that the District is headed and noted that a lot of thought is going into how the District does business and how it can be more efficient, effective and caring.

Mrs. Vadla thanked the superintendent for including teachers and graduates in the annual report.

**ADJOURN:**

*8:17:24 PM)*

At 8:17 p.m., Mrs. Downing adjourned the meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Mrs. Liz Downing, Vice President

---

Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Clerk

The Minutes of August 8,  
have not been approved as of  
August 25, 2011.