

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes

October 17, 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. Penny Vadla, Clerk
Ms. Lynn Hohl, Treasurer
Mr. Marty Anderson
Mrs. Sammy Crawford
Mrs. Sunni Hilts
Mr. Bill Holt
Mr. Tim Navarre
Miss Annaleah Ernst, Student Representative

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Tim Vlasak Mrs. Patty Rich
Mr. Tim Peterson Mrs. Christine Ermold
Mrs. Laurie Olson Mr. Tommy Gossard
Mrs. Gretchen Graeff Mr. Joe Cannava
Mrs. Janelle Wilson Mrs. Carolyn Cannava
Mrs. LaDawn Druce Mr. Bill Tappan
Mrs. Margaret Gilman

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
(7:00:17 PM)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mr. Arness invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.
(7:00:33 PM)

OATH OF OFFICE: The Oath of Office was administered to newly elected School Board members Mr. Joe Arness and Mrs. Penny Vadla, by notary public, Mrs. Sally Tachick.
(7:01:03 PM)

DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT: Mr. Arness read the District’s mission statement.
(7:03:25 PM)

ROLL CALL: Mr. Joe Arness Present
(7:03:46 PM) Mr. Marty Anderson Present
Mrs. Sammy Crawford Absent/Excused
Mrs. Liz Downing Present
Mrs. Sunni Hilts Present
Ms. Lynn Hohl Present
Mr. Bill Holt Absent/Excused
Mr. Tim Navarre Present/Arrived at 7:17 p.m.
Mrs. Penny Vadla Present
Miss Annaleah Ernst Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

(7:04:44 PM)

The agenda was approved with the addition of Item Number 10a.(9) Approval of November 7 Board Meeting Date Change to November 14, and Item 10d. Approval of Sending a Letter to the Borough Assembly and Administration Regarding Medium Maintenance Projects.

REORGANIZATION OF BOARD:

(7:06:52 PM)

Mr. Arness announced that a reorganization of the Board was in order.

MOTION

Mr. Anderson nominated Mr. Arness for president of the Board. Ms. Hohl seconded. Nominations for president were closed

Mr. Arness was selected as president.

MOTION

Mrs. Hilts nominated Mr. Marty Anderson for vice president of the Board. Mrs. Vadla nominated Mrs. Liz Downing for vice president of the Board. Nominations for vice president were closed. Mr. Arness instructed the Board members to vote using secret ballots. Mrs. Tachick counted the ballots.

Mrs. Downing was selected as vice president.

MOTION

Mrs. Downing nominated Mrs. Penny Vadla for clerk of the Board. Nominations for clerk were closed.

Mrs. Vadla was selected as clerk.

MOTION

Mrs. Hilts nominated Ms. Hohl as treasurer of the Board. Nominations for treasurer were closed.

Ms. Hohl was selected as treasurer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

(7:11:46 PM)

The School Board Minutes of September 12, 2011 were approved with a correction.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:

(7:12:34 PM)

Mr. Joe Cannava, Deputy Director of the Peninsula Community Health Services of Alaska and Mr. Bill Tappan, Board President, presented the District with the 2011 Collaborator Award.

SCHOOL REPORT:

(7:20:06 PM)

Dr. Christine Ermold, Cooper Landing School principal, introduced Mr. Gossard, teacher. Miss Clara LaRock and Miss Linnaea Gossard, students, assisted with the computer presentation highlighting technology, staff, students, and community and school events.

RECESS:

(7:30:51 PM)

At 7:30 p.m., Mr. Arness called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:

(7:37:07 PM)

At 7:37 p.m. the Board reconvened in regular session.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:
(7:37:18 PM)

Mr. Nelson Ooka, Seward Middle parent, asked the Board to develop a policy requiring the school administration to notify parents when their student is failing a class. He asked for an apology for the lack of communication from the school.

Mrs. Janelle Wilson and Ms. Autumn Johnson, parents, asked the Board to change the District health services procedure regarding lice from a “no live bug” policy to a “no nit” policy.

HEARING OF DELEGATIONS:
(8:58:15 PM)

Mr. Neil Denney, Ninilchik High School teacher and senior class advisor, and six students (Miss Kaygen Anderson, Miss Brianna Hodge, Miss Amber Mahoney, Mr. Dakota Peterson, Mr. Anthony Shell, and Miss Tiaya Waggoner) from the Focus on Learning group explained their proposal to improve student involvement in the curriculum, and improve student attendance.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND
PETITIONS:**
(8:12:54 PM)

Dr. Atwater announced that October 21 is the end of the first quarter and that the teachers will have a workday/in-service day. He announced that the District has three schools that are at Level II or higher for not achieving Adequate Yearly Progress (Port Graham School, Tebughna School, and Mt. View Elementary). He noted that extra funds will be provided by the state to support the three schools. He added that Port Graham will use the funds for intervention support, Mt. View Elementary will use the funds for after school support and Tebughna will use the funds for a District coach to help with language arts. He stated that he submitted comments to the commissioner on the proposed Alaska performance scholarship regulations. He reported that the District partnered with the Alaska Division of Public Health to assess the prevalence of overweight and obesity among students in the Homer geographic area. He reported that Governor Parnell has announced that the FY13 budget will not include an increase in the base student allocation. He reported that he accepted an invitation to serve on the Sea Life Center Board.

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

Mrs. LaDawn Druce, KPEA president, announced that she has visited 26 schools. She reported that in addition to planning curriculum, teachers are grappling with additional trainings and new software, especially those in the primary grades and special education. She announced that Dr. Atwater is visiting with teachers after school throughout the District. She reported that she attended the Teacher Enrichment Pathway meeting and the NEA-Alaska fall event. She stated that she co-presented at the NEA-Alaska Fall Event with Christy Levings regarding teacher evaluation and assessments. She noted that four District teachers will attend the Fall Event and that Dr. Atwater will attend the dinner featuring keynote speaker, Diane Ravich. She stated that she was pleased that the Board reviewed BP 0210. She invited the Board to attend the KPEA-sponsored Tier III TRS Retirement Forum on October 29 at the Kenai River Center at 10:00 a.m. She expressed appreciation for the legislative priority on increased and forward funding. She expressed disappointment for Governor Parnell’s recommendation not to increase funding for education.

**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)

She reminded those present that the Borough Mayor runoff election will be held October 25 and that early voting is now available.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT:**

(8:23:25 PM)

Dr. Atwater announced that Spring Creek High will close and the youth offender program will move to Anchorage in July 2012. He announced that the Homer High track was closed by Borough Risk Management due to the poor condition of the track. He reported that the graduate survey, including graduates from 2001 and 2010, has been completed and the results will be presented at a worksession on November 14. He reported that he has been visiting with school staffs. He congratulated the Nikiski High and Kenai Central High football teams for each winning their respective state championships. He also recognized the Homer football team for an outstanding season.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

(8:27:00 PM)

Mr. Jones presented the financial report of the District for the period ending September 30, 2011.

**QUARTERLY BUDGET
TRANSFER REPORT:**

(8:27:57 PM)

Mr. Jones reported on budget transfers Numbers 4 through 292 for various schools and departments within the District.

BOARD REPORTS:

(8:29:06 PM)

Mrs. Vadla reported that she attended the Language Arts Curriculum Committee meeting for high school level and Mrs. Crawford attended the meeting for the elementary level. She thanked Mrs. Cannon and the teachers who were involved for their hard work. She reported that she worked with Mrs. Crawford on the Outstanding School Board Award nomination packet and attended the Charter School Oversight Committee.

Mrs. Downing reported that she attended the Wellness Committee meeting on September 13 and noted that a survey was distributed and that the group will meet again in the spring. She reported that she missed the Project GRAD meeting but noted that the agenda included Upward Bound funding. She reported that she attended the Policy Review Committee meeting and that the group reviewed criteria for closing schools, transfer of funds, recruitment and selection, interscholastic competition, the acceptable use policy and internet safety policy.

Ms. Hohl reported that she attended the Seward Site Council and Parent Group Training, the Cooper Landing meeting organized by Mayor Carey, and the Seward PTSA meeting.

Mr. Navarre reported that he attended the Districtwide Student Council Meeting.

BOARD REPORTS:

(continued)

Mrs. Hilts reported that she attended the Policy Review Committee meeting and the Charter School Oversight Committee. She noted that the Charter School Committee reviewed state requirements for special education and the lottery. She noted it was verified that that the District Charter Schools do a good job accepting special needs children. She noted that the group granted Fireweed Academy some additional space through the use of a portable to expand their enrollment. She stated that the group developed a definition for “siblings” in the Charter School lottery or when accepting new students.

BOARD WORKSESSION REPORT:

(8:34:49 PM)

Mr. Arness reported that the Board conducted worksessions on charter school and policy committee, 0210 goals for student learning, student transportation, CAFR, and Board reorganization. He noted that all members currently in attendance also attended the worksessions.

CONSENT AGENDA:

(8:35:39 PM)

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Resolution 11-12-1, Primary Sponsor of Gaming Permits; Student Representative to the Board; New Teacher Contracts; Contract and Tenure for Non-Tenured Teacher; Long-term Substitute Teacher Contracts; and High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Numbers 2012-02, 2012-03 and 2012-04.

RESOLUTION 11-12-1:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve Resolution 11-12-1, listing the primary and alternate members in charge of gaming for those schools applying for gaming permits for 2012.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE BOARD:

Dr. Atwater recommended the Board approve the appointment of Miss Annaleah Ernst, a Nikiski Middle/High School student, as the student representative to the Board of Education.

NEW TEACHER CONTRACTS:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve new teacher contracts for the 2011-2012 school year for Heidi Berg, special education intensive needs teacher, Nikiski North Star Elementary; Justin Derks, generalist – teacher/advisor, Connections Program; Jordana Engebretsen, special education visually impaired teacher, Kenai Middle; Tiffany Gray, temporary 1st grade teacher, Sterling Elementary; Callie Hruby, special education resource teacher, Nikiski Middle/High; Thor Jones, intermediate grade teacher, Nikiski North Star Elementary; Jon Kulhanek, .50 FTE, primary grade teacher, Fireweed Academy; Emily Mayberry, temporary 1st grade teacher, Nikiski North Star Elementary; Margo McKay, social studies teacher, Kenai Central High; John Morton, art teacher, Kenai Central High; Taj Smith, special education resource teacher, Soldotna Montessori; and Elizabeth Wallin, 3rd grade teacher, Mountain View Elementary.

CONTRACT AND TENURE FOR NON-TENURED TEACHER:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a contract and tenure for Rhonda Neill, speech language pathologist.

LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE TEACHER CONTRACTS:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve long-term substitute teacher contracts for Brenda Dolma, Homer High School and Gerald Byrne, Kenai Central High School.

HSGQE: By memorandum, Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2012-02.

HSGQE: By memorandum, Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2012-03.

HSGQE: By memorandum, Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2012-04.

NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING DATE CHANGE: Mr. Arnese recommended the Board change the November 7 Board meeting to November 14.

MOTION

Mr. Navarre moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 9. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT:

(8:37:34 PM)

MOTION

Mr. Jones recommended the Board accept the FY11 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).

Mrs. Downing moved the Board accept the FY11 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). Mrs. Hilts seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES:

(8:39:05 PM)

MOTION

Dr. Atwater recommended the Board approve a list of proposed FY12 federal and state legislative priorities.

Mrs. Vadla moved the Board approve the list of proposed FY12 federal and state legislative priorities. Mr. Navarre seconded.

MOTION

Mr. Navarre moved the Board approve an amendment to the state priority list by inserting the words “adequate transportation systems” after the word “programs” in the first sentence of the second paragraph. Mrs. Hilts seconded.

Amendment carried unanimously.

MOTION

Mr. Navarre moved the Board approve an amendment to the state priority list by adding the words “which was recently condemned and can no longer be used” at the end of the last sentence of the fourth paragraph. Mrs. Downing seconded.

Amendment carried unanimously.

Amended motion carried unanimously.

**LETTER TO THE BOROUGH
REGARDING MAINTENANCE
PROJECTS:**

(8:39:05 PM)

Ms. Hohl moved the Board direct School District Board of Education President Joe Arness to write a letter to the Assembly urging them to establish a joint working group with the following charge:

1. Identify maintenance projects in the \$100,000 to \$1,500,000 range;
2. Identify both recurring and non-recurring potential funding sources; and
3. Recommend fund uses and priorities for School Board and Assembly approval.

The letter further urges working group makeup composition of:

1. Three board members
2. Three assembly members
3. Borough maintenance representative
4. School district maintenance representative
5. Two public members (one appointed by the Board and Assembly respectively)

Mrs. Vadla seconded.

VOTE:

Advisory Vote – YES

YES – Hilts, Hohl, Downing, Vadla, Arness

NO – Navarre, Anderson

Motion carried.

BOARD COMMENTS:

(9:00:28 PM)

Mrs. Vadla thanked Dr. Atwater and the administration for revising BP 0210, Goals for Student Learning. She thanked Peninsula Community Health Services of Alaska for the award and commended them for their involvement within District schools. She expressed appreciation for Mr. Ooka's concerns regarding parent notification of failing classes. She stated that she was impressed with the students and Mr. Ambrosier, principal at Ninilchik School. She reported that she has been hearing teacher complaints regarding the amount of required training.

Mrs. Hilts stated that KPBSD is a good school district. She welcomed the newly-elected Board members. She welcomed Miss Ernst as the student representative.

Mr. Navarre apologized for his tardiness to the meeting and for missing some of the worksessions and explained that he was assisting with a fundraiser. He congratulated the Kenai Central High and Nikiski High football teams for winning the respective state championships. He recognized the number of Homer High fans in attendance at the championship game. He asked for an executive session to discuss Mr. Ooka's concerns and to deal with the policy regarding failed classes.

BOARD COMMENTS:

(continued)

Mrs. Downing expressed appreciation for the comments heard over previous weeks from Board members and District administration in support of the Homer High track repair and understands the need for a facility maintenance process. She welcomed Miss Annaleah Ernst as the student representative to the Board. She congratulated Kenai Central High and Nikiski High for winning the state football championships and Homer High for qualifying to play in the state championship game.

Mr. Anderson recognized former Board member, Mrs. Gilman in the audience. He welcomed Miss Ernst as the student representative to the Board. Mr. Anderson stated that the Board should understand and assess whether Board policies have failed and then if so, change the policy.

Ms. Hohl congratulated the football teams and to Miles Knotek, Seward High student, winning the 123a running state championship and the Seward High cross-country running teams for placing third. She reported that she continues to participate in the Alaska Public School Land Trust Coalition meetings and noted that the Kasayulie case was settled. She reported that she spoke before the Seward Rotary International and provided information about the District. She reported that she attended the revenue sharing committee meetings in Hope, Cooper Landing and Moose Pass. She announced that she attended the Seward Prevention Coalition meeting and the Seward Chamber of Commerce meeting. She stated that she is pleased that the District administration will bring forward a policy revision regarding parent notification of failing classes. She welcomed Miss Annaleah Ernst as the student representative to the Board.

Miss Ernst stated that she is looking forward to representing the students of the District as effectively and thoroughly as possible. She commended the seniors at Ninilchik School for taking an interest in their own education. She reported that she serves on the Language Arts Curriculum Committee. She reported that she recently attended the Alaska Association of Student Governments Fall Conference and noted that a resolution was introduced regarding the Homer High School track which was supported by the entire group. She stated that she is in support of establishing a process to help the District complete maintenance projects that have not been funded in the past due to their mid-level size. She thanked those who testified before the Board. She thanked Board members for helping her better understand the responsibilities of the Board.

Ms. Hohl thanked Cooper Landing School students and staff for the report.

Mrs. Vadla thanked the students who gave the Cooper Landing School report using Prezi software.

Mr. Arness congratulated Kenai Central High and Nikiski High football teams for winning the state football championships.

UNAPPROVED

ADJOURN:
(9:20:40 PM)

At 9:20 p.m., Mrs. Arness adjourned the School Board Meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Arness, President

Mrs. Vadla, Clerk

The Minutes of October 17, 2011,
have not been approved as of
October 24, 2011.