
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

Board of Education Special Meeting Minutes

November 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. 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	Mr. Scott Handley
Mr. Tim Peterson	Mr. Hilts
Mr. Dave Spence	Mr. Mike Peterson
Mrs. Marilyn Johnson	Ms. Bonnie Pierce
Ms. Pegge Erkeneff	Ms. Jenny Andersen
Mrs. Christine Ermold	Mrs. Margie Warner

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

(7:01:11 PM)

Mr. Arness explained that the regularly scheduled November 7 meeting was cancelled and that a special meeting was called to transact the November business. He called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

(7:01:19 PM)

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

DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT:

(7:01:44 PM)

Mrs. Vadla read the District's mission statement.

ROLL CALL:

(7:02:14 PM)

Mr. Joe Arness	Present
Mr. Marty Anderson	Absent/Excused
Mrs. Sammy Crawford	Present
Mrs. Liz Downing	Present
Mrs. Sunni Hilts	Present
Ms. Lynn Hohl	Present
Mr. Bill Holt	Present
Mr. Tim Navarre	Absent/Excused
Mrs. Penny Vadla	Present
Miss Annaleah Ernst	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

(7:02:52 PM)

The agenda was approved as written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

(7:03:19 PM)

The School Board Minutes of October 17, 2011, were approved as printed.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:

(7:03:45 PM)

Mr. Mike Petersen, Executive Director of Project GRAD Kenai Peninsula, noted that the Wal-Mart manager was unable to attend the meeting due to an emergency. He explained that Wal-Mart awarded \$25,000.00 to Project GRAD's summer institute. The seven Project GRAD schools are: Nanwalek, Ninilchik, Nikolaevsk, Port Graham, Razdolna, Tebughna and Voznesenka. He displayed an appreciation banner that will be given to Wal-Mart.

SCHOOL REPORT:

(7:05:47 PM)

Mrs. Marilyn Johnson, principal/teacher of Tebughna School gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting information about the village of Tyonek. She introduced Ms. Bonnie Pierce who explained how the Tebughna name came about. Mural painting was shown to represent segments of Tyonek's community; it's past, its future, and their spirit. She introduced the school staff, provided school enrollment and class size configurations, and assessment information. She introduced Ms. Jenny Andersen, Instructional Coach for Project GRAD who discussed the goals and activities of Project GRAD and distributed "Chief Cards" to school board members. Mrs. Johnson reported on the survival camp, moose camp hunting trip, environmental camp, school sleep over, achievement celebration, and student assembly activities.

(7:26:33 PM)

Mr. Scott Handley, principal of Nanwalek School, gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the school's vision including their belief in the necessity of bilingual education, community and Project GRAD partnerships, parent-teacher conference participation rate, annual book fairs, writing workshops, creation of a cultural yearbook, vocational education class public service project, community elder luncheons, community literacy program, business partnerships (Rotary International and Chugach School District) and the reinstitution of physical education classes. A video clip demonstrated the language development of a deaf student through sign language and interactions with fellow students. Mr. Handley presented Dr. Atwater and the Board with the community book titled, *Our Changing Sea*.

RECESS:

(7:57:20 PM)

At 7:57 p.m., Mr. Arness called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER**RECESS:**

(8:02:15 PM)

At 8:02 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

(8:02:16 PM)

Mr. Mike Peterson, Executive Director for Project GRAD, thanked the District administration for supporting the Project GRAD program. He reported that Project GRAD recently completed an application for Gear Up grant monies in partnership with the District, KPC, and the Kachemak Bay Campus. He announced that the grant was awarded for five schools in the amount of \$128,000 over six years.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

(8:03:33 PM)

Dr. Atwater reported Title I funding was reduced by approximately \$150,000 from the projected amount and Title II-A was reduced by approximately \$15,200. He explained that the changes were in response to the reduction of federal funding across the country. He announced that he received a copy of the Borough preliminary list of major maintenance and construction priorities (districtwide asphalt repairs, the Homer High School track, security cameras, school windows, and districtwide lockers) and noted that the District items are very low on the list and are not likely to be funded. He reported that April 20 has been designated as the makeup school day for Nikiski North Star Elementary.

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

(8:05:07 PM)

Mrs. Margie Warner, KPESA president, recognized the effort by NEA-Alaska, KPEA and KPESA to elect Mr. Mike Navarre as the new Borough Mayor. Mrs. Warner reported that Mrs. Druce presented the new teacher evaluation and standards strand at the NEA-Alaska Fall Event held October 21-23. She reported that KPEA and KPESA hosted a Tier III TRS seminar on the defined contribution retirement plan on October 29. She stated that she and Mrs. Druce are excited about the new automated sub-finder system. She reported that Mrs. Druce will attend the NEA National Council for Accreditation Teacher Education Board of Examiner's Training.

Mrs. Christine Ermold, KPAA secretary, congratulated the School Board for being recognized as AASB's School Board of the Year. She announced that the first set of report cards have successfully been published using Power School. She reported that principals are ensuring that staff is trained on the iSAFE Program so that students can also be trained. She reported that parent/teacher conferences have been held for the first quarter with support from parents and community. She expressed appreciation for the positive impact of programmatic staffing and asked the Board to continue funding and support of the program.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

(8:08:52 PM)

Dr. Atwater reported that revisions to BP 0210, Goals for Student Learning, are available for public comment. He thanked Mr. Michael Crawford, Mrs. Jamie Meyers and Ms. Michelle Thomason for their work in getting iSAFE curriculum on the website. He announced that there are nine early-entrance students in kindergarten this year. He complimented the Board for being selected as AASB's Board of the Year. He expressed appreciation for the School Board's efforts in working through the Homer track repair issue.

BUDGET DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT:

(8:10:16 PM)

Mr. Jones reported that the Budget Development Committee meeting was held on October 26. He explained that the budget process was reviewed, as well as what the FY13 budget might look like including increased costs for health benefits, salaries and benefits. He stated that, without additional revenue, the District is facing significant cuts. Committee members were asked for further input. Mr. Arness noted that Board members were not present at the Budget Development Committee meeting and asked that in the future, Board members notify him if they are unable to attend their assigned committee meetings.

BOARD REPORTS:*(8:14:27 PM)*

Mrs. Vadla reported that she and Mrs. Crawford met with Mr. Syverson and a UAA Coordinator about a presentation for the Aspiring Principals group regarding school board and administrative relations.

Mrs. Crawford reported that she attended the Association of Alaska School Boards Annual Conference. She reported that she and Mr. Tim Peterson presented the District's teacher evaluation system. She acknowledged Mrs. Tachick for her work on the Outstanding Board Nomination Form. She congratulated Mrs. Hilts for being voted as secretary-elect of the AASB. She congratulated Mrs. Downing for her recognition by the NSBA.

Mrs. Hilts reported that she also attended AASB Annual Conference and reported the benefit of getting together with other school boards. She commented on the number of youth and student representatives that were present at the conference and commended Miss Ernst and the District's Native Youth Leaders for speaking out. She expressed appreciation for Dr. Atwater's recent visit to Susan B. English School.

Miss Ernst reported that she attended the AASB Annual Conference and Youth Leadership Institute, and noted that it was an interesting event, and she participated in interesting conversations.

Mrs. Downing and Ms. Hohl reported that they also attended the AASB Annual Conference.

**BOARD WORKSESSION
REPORT:***(8:22:47 PM)*

Mr. Arness reported the Board held a policy committee meeting as well as a policy revisions worksession, charter school charter review, student concussion information, District Health Manual procedures regarding head lice, school district facility maintenance worksession, and the five-year plan next steps. He noted that all Board members currently in attendance also attended the worksessions.

CONSENT AGENDA:*(8:23:32 PM)*

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of New Teacher Contracts; Resignations and Budget Transfers.

NEW TEACHER CONTRACTS:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve new teacher contracts for Christopher Etzwiler, (temporary) .50 FTE interventionist teacher, Homer High School; and Kendra Rupp, speech language pathologist, Central Peninsula Area.

RESIGNATIONS:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve resignations, effective at the end of 2011-12 school year, from James Barkman, math/science teacher, Soldotna High School; Laura B. Beck, generalist teacher/librarian, Connections Program/Seward Middle School; Nancy Courtright, 4th grade teacher, Soldotna Elementary School; Robert J. Dimick, physical education teacher, Mt. View Elementary School; Richard Frederic, biology/anatomy and physiology teacher, Kenai Central High School; Ann Ghicadus, kindergarten teacher, Seward Elementary School; David L. Knudsen, 4th grade teacher, Kaleidoscope School of Arts and Science; Mary Kay Knudsen, elementary teacher, Kaleidoscope School of Arts and Science; Suzanne C. Martin, kindergarten teacher, Sterling Elementary School; and Lora L. T. Sterling, kindergarten teacher, Sterling Elementary School.

BUDGET TRANSFERS:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a budget transfer request from Soldotna Montessori Charter School to align their current year budget with the expected expenditures for salaries, benefits and contracted services.

MOTION

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 3, Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

BOARD COMMENTS:

(8:25:11 PM)

Mr. Holt expressed appreciation for school reports and thanked Mr. Handley and Mrs. Johnson. He expressed special appreciation for the segment regarding the deaf student.

Mrs. Crawford thanked administrators at Nanwalek School and Tebughna School for their presentations.

Ms. Hohl reported that she attended the joint Kenai-Soldotna Chamber of Commerce luncheon meeting featuring the mayoral candidates. She attended the Seward Schools Site-Based Decision-Making Sign meeting. She assisted with the Seward High School's PTA salmon dinner. She stated that the parent-teacher conferences were well received. She attended the Seward luncheon with the Health and Social Services Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault representative, Linda Haven. She attended the Alaska PTA Legislative Issues Conference in which the statewide legislative priorities were set. She reported that she acted as sub-chair at the AASB Resolutions Committee meeting.

Miss Ernst thanked the administrators at Nanwalek School and Tebughna School for their presentations. She especially appreciated the Tebughna mural and the Nanwalek sign language instruction.

BOARD COMMENTS:*(continued)*

Mrs. Vadla thanked Dr. Atwater for the revision of the five year plan. She reported that she also attended the AASB Annual Conference which was titled, Relevance, Relationships and Results. She reported that she received technology assistance from the Apple representative. She reported that the group watched *Rachel's Challenge*, a film regarding the Columbine incident. She reported that she enjoyed a session on community partnerships.

Mrs. Hilts stated that she was touched by the film, *Rachel's Challenge* and its affect on schools and people. She mentioned the dangerous storm hitting northwest Alaska, the UAA athlete that is reported missing and the grieving community of St. Mary's. She reminded those present that Friday, November 11 is Veteran's Day and encouraged those present to thank a veteran for their service.

Mrs. Downing reported that the Borough Assembly pulled their support for the Homer High track repair. She stated that she is optimistic that renovations will be done. She expressed concern for the possible serious budget deficit as mentioned by Mr. Jones. She encouraged the Board to carefully review the budget and consider possible options. She apologized for not attending the budget committee meeting and requested e-mail reminders in the future. She stated that she is excited that the models for the KPC Kenai River Campus student housing and career technical center will be available for viewing on November 9. She thanked the AASB Board and Mrs. Crawford for recommending that she receive the NSBA Distinguished Board Member Award.

Mr. Arness noted that it was a good weekend at AASB Annual Conference. He requested Board members speak to him about committee assignments.

ADJOURN:*(8:38:10 PM)*

At 8:38 p.m. Mr. Arness moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Arness, President

Mrs. Vadla, Clerk

The Minutes of November 8, 2011,
were approved on December 5, 2011
as written.