
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

Board of Education Meeting News In Brief

December 5, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.
Dr. Steve Atwater, Superintendent

Borough Administration Building - 148 N. Binkley
Soldotna, Alaska

WORKSESSION REPORT: The Board held two student expulsion hearings and a hearing regarding three District charter school reauthorizations. The Board held worksession on the tobacco violation pilot program, the graduate survey results, student obesity study data and the Six-Year Plan and School Construction Needs.

SCHOOL REPORT: Ms. Sheryl Hingley, Susan B. English Elementary/High School principal, gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the school theme (“success is your only option”), the school goal to improve writing and math skills, City of Seldovia statistics and information, school assessment information, staffing information (support and certified), course offerings, cocurricular activities, lessons using 21st Century Skills, and community involvement. She provided a video clip describing the two-week Workforce Development Academy titled, Ultimate Careers, which was held in May 2010.

Ms. Lisa Callahan, Nikiski North Star Elementary principal, stated that the school’s philosophy is, “kids are worth everything it takes”. She reported that the school is a Title 1 school with 378 students in grades pre-kindergarten through Grade 5. She gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting assessment information, parent involvement, the school goal to increase student learning in reading and writing, the Nikiski Clubhouse, the Character Counts Program, hands-on science exploration, and 21st Century learners skills. She introduced Mrs. Sherry Matson, 5th grade teacher, and students, Garrett Ellis and Jaylen Uhls, who explained and demonstrated a social studies project created with Animoto, a web-based software.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS: The Board presented a gift of appreciation to Mrs. Tachick for her assistance in preparing the AASB School Board of the Year nomination packet.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT: Dr. Atwater reported that the new Career Tech Plan is near completion and will be shared in January 2012. He announced that the School Climate and Connectedness Survey will be conducted at large high schools throughout the District. He noted that the public comment period regarding proposed changes to BP 0210 has closed and that 204 people viewed the policy and only 9 provided comments. He reported that the administration is working on the FY13 budget and that a staffing correction will be included. He announced that the lice issue among District students is diminishing. He thanked Mrs. Vadla for her recent assistance in securing lodging over the weekend for visiting Seward students.

FIVE-YEAR PUPIL ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS: Mr. Jones presented the Five-Year Enrollment Projections (2012-13 through 2016-17) that reflects 8,871 students for FY13.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Mr. Jones presented the financial report of the District for the period ending October 31, 2011.

SIX-YEAR PLAN AND SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION NEEDS: The Board unanimously approved the proposed Six-Year Plan and list of major maintenance and capital improvement projects for FY13 through 2019.

POLICY MANUAL REVISIONS: The Board unanimously approved revisions to AR 4111, Recruitment and Selection, and AR 6161.4, Acceptable Use Policy/Internet Safety Policy.

LANGUAGE ARTS CURRICULUM REVISION: The Board unanimously approved the proposed revised Language Arts Curriculum.

RESIGNATIONS: The Board unanimously approved resignations from Catherine Kibling, special education resource teacher, Mountain View Elementary (effective December 16, 2011) and Taj Smith, special education resource teacher, Soldotna Montessori (effective November 21, 2011).

LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE TEACHER CONTRACTS: The Board unanimously approved long-term substitute teacher contracts for Wanda R. Brenner, Mountain View Elementary and Kaci Tauriainen, Nikiski North Star Elementary.

RECOMMENDATION TO OPEN NEGOTIATIONS WITH KPEA AND KPESA: The Board unanimously approved an administrative recommendation directing the District to prepare to open negotiations with Kenai Peninsula Education Association and Kenai Peninsula Education Support Association no later than February 15, 2012.

BOARD MEMBER COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS: The Board unanimously approved a list of Board members to various District-level committees. The Board unanimously approved an amendment replacing Liz Downing with Lynn Hohl on the Charter School Committee and replacing Lynn Hohl with Liz Downing on the Communications Committee.

RESOLUTION 11-12-2: The Board unanimously approved Resolution 11-12-2, Support of a Paved Lighted Path Along Poppy Lane.

HSGQE WAIVER: The Board unanimously approved High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2012-005.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST-SUPPORT: The Board unanimously approved a leave of absence for Martha Hughes, school nurse, Nikiski Middle/High School (effective January 1, 2012 through January 1, 2013).

FIREWEED ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL REAPPLICATION: The Board unanimously approved the Fireweed Academy Charter School reapplication.

AURORA BOREALIS CHARTER SCHOOL REAPPLICATION: The Board unanimously approved the Aurora Borealis Charter School reapplication.

SOLDOTNA MONTESSORI CHARTER SCHOOL REAPPLICATION: The Board unanimously approved the Soldotna Montessori Charter School reapplication.

FY12 BUDGET REVISION: The Board unanimously approved a change in the current FY12 expenditure budget total of \$138,142,615, to a total of \$139,930,278.

STUDENT EXPULSION NUMBER 2011-12-001: The Board approved the expulsion of the student who was the subject of the expulsion hearing held on December 5, 2011 at 9:30 a.m.

STUDENT EXPULSION NUMBER 2011-12-002: The Board unanimously approved the expulsion of the student who was the subject of the expulsion hearing held on December 5, 2011 at 11:00 a.m.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: The Board unanimously approved the creation a Committee of the Board – a Legislative Committee based on BB 9130, Committees of The Board.

FIRST READING OF POLICY REVISIONS: The Board heard a first reading of revisions to BP 0530, Criteria for Closing Schools, and BP 6145.2, Interscholastic Competition.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: The next regularly scheduled School Board Meeting is Monday, January 9, 2012, 7:00 p.m., Borough Administration Building, Soldotna, Alaska.

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