Kenai Peninsula Borough School District
Board of Education Meeting Minutes

November 1, 2010 – 7:00 p.m. | Borough Administration Building
Regular Meeting | 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:

Mr. John Pothast	Mrs. Sharon Moock
Mrs. Sue Biggs	Mrs. Sheila-Margaret Pothast
Mr. Clayton Holland	Mr. Todd Syverson
Mrs. Lynne Dusek	Mrs. Margie Warner
Mr. Stuart Laurion	Mrs. LaDawn Druce
Ms. Lisa Callahan	Mr. Doug Cannon
Ms. Cathy Rolph	Mrs. Doris Cannon
Mrs. Tamara Johns	Ms. Jane Gabler
Mr. Dan Kaasa	Mr. John Mohorcich
Mr. Jeff Moore	Mrs. Laura Mohorcich
Mr. Dante' Petri	Mr. Tim Peterson

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:
(7:00:02 PM)
Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:
(7:00:40 PM)
Mr. Arness invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT:
(7:01:06 PM)
Miss Rang read the District's mission statement.

ROLL CALL:
(7:01:33 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	Present
Mrs. Penny Vadla	Present
Miss Julie Rang	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:
(7:02:10 PM)

The agenda was approved with the addition of Item 2c., a memorial statement to be read during Awards and Presentations.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
(7:02:42 PM)

The School Board Minutes of October 18, 2010, were approved as printed.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:
(7:03:00 PM)

The Board presented Golden Apple awards to Tamara Johns, Soldotna High School volunteer and Dan Kaasa, Assistive Technology Specialist, for their service to the District.

Mr. Navarre read a memorial statement written for Takoda Zimmerman, student, written by the staff at the Nikiski North Star School.

SCHOOL REPORT:
(7:12:40 PM)

Mr. John Pothast, Redoubt Elementary School principal, introduced prekindergarten students, who sang a song and played accompanying percussion instruments, directed by Ms. Tara Rosin, teacher. Mr. Jeff Moore directed the sixth grade band students in a song titled, *Dueling Dragons*. Mr. Pothast gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the Spanish program, Soldotna High School mentor program, school goals, use of SmartBoards, and the Book Club/News Club, and ended his presentation with a poem titled, *Famous*, by Naomi Shihab Nye.

RECESS:
(7:28:51 PM)

At 7:28 p.m., Mr. Arness called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:
(7:32:38 PM)

At 7:32 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:
(7:33:27 PM)

Dr. Atwater announced that Financial Aide Night will be held on November 2 at the Soldotna Sports Center, the Budget Development Committee meeting will be held on November 10 in the Borough Administration Building, and the Administrator Meeting will be held on November 17 at the Challenger Learning Center. He noted that the Communications Report was included in the Board General Information packet. He reported that two Nanwalek students are participating in the Voyage to Excellence Program which is being held in Anchorage and paid for by funds from the Chugachmiut Regional Native Corporation.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SITE COUNCIL AND/OR P.T.A., K.P.A.A., K.P.E.A., K.P.E.S.A, BOROUGH ASSEMBLY:
(7:34:52 PM)

Mrs. Druce, KPEA President, reported that she attended the NEA-Alaska Fall Event Conference and reported on two sessions (Professional Teaching Practices Commission and Education Reform). She noted that Mr. Kaasa was co-trainer for a session titled Special Education and the Law. She reminded those present that November 2 is national election day and that KPEA is encouraging members to vote YES on Ballot Proposition 2. She recommended Jon Stewart's advice given in a speech during the Rally to Restore Sanity and/or Fear. She asked those present to make an effort to stay positive about District schools and public education. She expressed appreciation for comments made by Board members during the curriculum audit worksession. She

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)

announced that November 14-20 is National Education Week and encouraged those present to spend time in local schools. She announced that the State School Board meeting will be held December 2 in Anchorage and that the proposed changes to teacher certification (4AAC12.405(a)) will likely be on the agenda for final review. She explained the reasons why the proposed changes will be detrimental to teachers who want to take professional development courses or cross-curricular courses and encouraged Board members to provide comment to the state board.

Mrs. Warner, KPESA president, reported that school visits continue and that she is receiving positive feedback from staff. She reminded those present to vote on November 2. She reported that she attended the NEA-Alaska Fall Event and that she assisted with the Train the Treasurer's training. She reported that she attended the statewide budget committee meeting and will attend the NEA-Alaska Board of Directors for Region III.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:
(7:45:24 PM)

Dr. Atwater reported that Student Nutrition meetings were held in Homer, Kenai, and Seward and thanked Mr. Jones and Mr. Hamburg for their work and to those who attended. He reported that the college fair was held on October 22 at Kenai Central High with the participation of over 400 students and 48 college recruiters. He reported that the Borough Honor Choir clinic and concert was hosted by Soldotna High School and praised the students and music teachers. He expressed condolences to teachers Troy and Linda Zimmerman for the loss of their son, Takoda.

CLASS SIZE REPORT:
(7:47:12 PM)

Mr. Sean Dusek presented the 2010-2011 Class Size Enrollment Report that included the number of sections for each school, a class size comparison by year, a comparison of pupil-teacher ratios and an average annual class size for core classes.

BOARD REPORTS:
(7:47:54 PM)

Mrs. Vadla reported that in September she visited Ninilchik School, and on October 24 she attended the 100-year Celebration and while there she gave out longevity pins to 2 staff members. She reported that on October 11 she attended the Skyview High Site Council meeting.

Mrs. Crawford reported that she attended the Policy Review Committee meeting and noted that several policies were reviewed which will be brought to the Board. She reported that she represented the School Board by serving on the Teacher of the Year Selection Committee and that the announcement will be made at the AASB Annual Conference.

Mrs. Vadla reported that she attended the Communication Committee meeting, that the group reviewed communication documents to date, discussed the District's membership in National Public School Relations Association and participation in the communications survey, and internal and external communication goals. She thanked Ms. Reisig for her hard work.

BOARD REPORTS:
(continued)

Mr. Holt reported that he attended the Communication Committee meeting and the Calendar Committee meeting. He reported that the calendar has already been set for 2011-2012 and that a survey will be taken of students, parents, and staff to decide whether inservice days and parent-teacher conferences should be moved to the beginning of the week on the 2012-2013 calendar.

Ms. Hohl reported that she attended the Federal Programs Advisory Committee meeting on October 19 and thanked staff for their work. She attended the nutrition and wellness meeting in Seward and thanked Mr. Hamburg, Mr. Jones and Ms. Reisig for coordinating the event in all three communities (Homer, Seward and Kenai). She reported that she attended a presentation by the Forest Service that encourages teachers to use the national historic Iditarod trail to create collaborative learning opportunities throughout the state. She attended the Seward PTSA meeting.

Mrs. Downing reported that she attended the nutrition meeting in Homer and noted that a group from Paul Banks Elementary has been working on promoting good student nutrition. She hopes to see a rejuvenation of the Wellness Committee. She commended Mr. Hamburg and Ms. Buchanan for doing an outstanding job on the Student Nutrition Services presentation to the group.

Mr. Arness reported that he attended the nutrition meeting in Kenai.

BOARD WORKSESSION REPORT:
(7:57:22 PM)

Mr. Arness reported that the Board conducted work sessions regarding AASB Annual Conference Discussion; Policy Manual revisions; Curriculum Audit next steps; Class Size information; Career and Technical Education Curriculum; and Student Drug Testing Task Force information. He noted that the Policy Review Committee and the Communications Committee met prior to the work sessions. All were present except Mr. Anderson.

CONSENT AGENDA:
(7:58:01 PM)

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

NEW TEACHER CONTRACTS:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve new teacher contracts for the 2010-2011 school year for Amanda Miller, .40FTE special education/resource teacher/.35FTE elementary teacher, Fireweed Academy; Cathy B. Walker, Grade 2-3 teacher, Kachemak Selo School; Kaki L. Tauriainen, (temporary), .50 FTE computer and technology education teacher/librarian, Nikiski North Star Elementary; and Mandi Young, (temporary) .50FTE parent liaison/.50 FTE pre-kindergarten teacher, Soldotna Elementary.

RESIGNATION:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve resignations from Cheryl Emerson, special education/resource, Kenai Middle School; and John Szajkowski, science, Voznesenka School, effective at the end of the 2010-11 school year.

NONTENURE TEACHER CONTRACT:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a nontenure teacher contract for the 2010-2011 school year for Anna J. Widman, art teacher, Nikiski Middle/High.

MOTION

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

Motion carried unanimously.

POLICY MANUAL REVISIONS:
(7:58:45 PM)

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve revisions to BP and AR 3471, Equipment Reserve.

MOTION

Mr. Navarre moved the Board approve proposed revisions to BP and AR 3471, Equipment Reserve. Mrs. Downing seconded.

MOTION

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board amend the language in AR 3471 to delete the word "revenue" in the first sentence of the second paragraph and to add the word "interest income" after the word "District's" in addition to the proposed changes. Mr. Navarre seconded.

Amendment carried unanimously.

Amended motion carried unanimously.

(8:03:01 PM)

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve revisions to BP 3350, Payroll, and AR 3350, Payroll – IRS Retirement Plans.

MOTION

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve revisions to BP 3350, Payroll, and AR 3350, Payroll – IRS Retirement Plans. Mrs. Hilts seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION 10-11-3:
(8:05:44 PM)

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve Resolution 10-11-3, Allowing Adoption and Amendment of Kenai Peninsula Borough School District 457(b) Retirement Plan.

MOTION

Mrs. Hilts recommended the Board approve Resolution 10-11-3, Allowing Adoption and Amendment of Kenai Peninsula Borough School District 457(b) Retirement Plan. Mr. Holt seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

FIRST READING OF POLICY REVISIONS:
(8:07:48 PM)

The Board conducted a first reading of the adoption of BP 3515.7, Restrictions on Sex Offenders on Campus (new policy).

BOARD COMMENTS:
(8:09:52 PM)

Mr. Holt expressed appreciation for the Redoubt Elementary School report and for the Drug Testing Task Force Conversation.

BOARD COMMENTS:
(continued)

Mrs. Vadla thanked the administration for the worksession information and discussion including the curriculum audit update, the class size information, and the vocational curriculum. She thanked Ms. Andrena Stone, attorney for Jermain, Dunnagan and Owens, for the student drug testing information. She thanked Mr. Pothast for the Redoubt Elementary School report.

Mrs. Crawford expressed appreciation for the Redoubt Elementary School presentation. She thanked Mr. Dusek for the class size report. She stated that she is pleased with the direction of the Board regarding the curriculum audit. She requested an excused absence for the December 6 meeting.

Ms. Hohl expressed appreciation for the Redoubt Elementary School report. She thanked Dr. Atwater for the litigation status report. She reported that she briefly observed a classroom without walls, held at the Kenai Convention and Visitors Center and taught by a Russian/history teacher linked live with two other District schools. She reported that she attended the Seward Halloween Carnival, sponsored by the Seward Seahawk Athletic Boosters and the Seward Parks and Recreation Department.

Mrs. Downing stated that she was impressed by the good work by the District administration in schools and communities to support students. She reminded those present to vote.

Mr. Navarre encouraged those present to vote on November 2. He requested an excused absence for December 6. He encouraged those present to visit the Challenger Learning Center's new addition of an interactive globe called the magic planet.

Mrs. Hilts thanked the students and staff for the Redoubt Elementary School report and for collaboration with Soldotna Middle School. She stated that she was struck by the enormity of the curriculum audit implementation process. She stated that implementation will take a lot of effort, a lot of dedication and commitment, more personnel, and that it will be a long-term job.

Miss Rang reported that she participated in the 2010 regional swimming and diving championships and noted that the girl's teams placed: second for Homer High, fourth for Kenai Central High, sixth for Seward High School and seventh for Soldotna High School. She announced that the boy's teams placed: second for Homer High, third for Seward High School, fourth for Soldotna High School, fifth for Kenai Central High. She congratulated Winter Heaven, Kenai Central High, for breaking four regional records.

Mr. Arness asked about 20-day count, specifically Cooper Landing Elementary. Mr. Jones reported that Cooper Landing made it through the count period with 10 students. Mr. Jones added that overall the District enrollment came in a little under the projection and that the intensive needs students count was higher than expected and that further information will be available in December.

ADJOURN:
(8:23:38 PM)

At 8:23 p.m., Mr. Arness adjourned the meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mr. Joe Arness, President

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Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Clerk

The Minutes of November 1, 2010,
were approved on November 15, 2010
with corrections.