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# Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

## Board of Education Meeting Minutes

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May 2, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.  
Regular Meeting

Seward High School  
2100 Swetmann, Seward, 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

### OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Wayne Young	Mr. Trevan Walker
Mr. Jason Bickling	Mr. David Kingsland
Ms. Sue McClure	Mrs. Doris Cannon
Mrs. Norma Holmgaard	Mrs. Margie Warner
Mrs. LaDawn Druce	Mr. Tim Peterson
Ms. Stephanie Presley	Ms. Jill Simpson
Ms. Martha Fleming	Mr. Rod Hilts
Ms. Jan Howell	

Others present not identified.

### CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

### DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT:

Mrs. Crawford read the District's mission statement.

### ROLL CALL:

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 Julie Rang	Present

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The agenda was approved including a revision to Number 10a.(3), Approval of Tentative Nontenure Teacher Contracts, 2011-12.

### NATIONAL ANTHEM:

Mr. Arness invited the Seward High School choir to sing the *National Anthem* and the *Alaska Flag Song*, under the Direction of Mr. Kyle Schneider.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The School Board Minutes of April 4, 2011, were approved as printed.

**SCHOOL REPORT:**

Mr. David Kingsland, Seward Elementary principal, announced that twice the school has received the Alaska Performance Incentive Award and was recently recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School. He credited the school's success to the great teachers on staff. Ms. Augusta Lind presented the after-school improv students who shared two skits titled, *Hunting the Whatsit* and *What is in the Food*. Mr. Kyle Schneider, music teacher, directed the fourth grade students in singing *Paradise*. Mr. Kingsland provided two video clips highlighting arts and culture, geography, music, the Artist in Residency Program, technology, field trips, science projects and the school facility and playground.

**HEARING OF DELEGATIONS:**

Ms. Stephanie Presley, Prevention Coordinator and Ms. Jill Simpson, Prevention Director at Seaview Community Services, provided information on Seward Prevention Coalition history and goals. Ms. Simpson explained that the Coalition has applied for a 3-year grant to promote healthy communities. Ms. Presley explained that survey data will be used to meet community needs and fill gaps in services.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:**

Ms. Jan Howell, Seward Elementary kindergarten teacher, announced that she and Ms. Marylynn Barnwell have been involved with a teacher training opportunity provided by the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Alaska Geographic, Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance and other organizations for teachers from Seward to Nome to create service-based, place-based learning projects for students.

Ms. Marylynn Barnwell, Seward Elementary teacher, encouraged the Board to support the i-Trec Project. She reported that the project connects children to learning and to becoming environmental stewards.

Mr. Mike Cooney, Moose Pass Elementary resident, asked the Board's help to increase the school staff by one more teacher.

Ms. Heather Lindquist, Moose Pass Elementary parent, provided a copy of each enrollment commitment letter from the parents of each student. She asked the Board to fund a second teacher for the school to accommodate the upcoming nine-grade spread of students.

Ms. Katie Turnbull, Seward Elementary teacher, announced that she is retiring at the end of the year and thanked the Board and administration for the many opportunities provided by the District.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND  
PETITIONS:**

Dr. Atwater invited the Board to the District goal setting meeting on Wednesday, May 4. He announced that the distribution of student activity travel money and the equipment fund money has been decided and a memo outlining the allocations was provided. He reported that Borough Assembly Member Bill Smith requested that the Borough Mayor convene a Health Care Working Group and has invited the superintendent and another District representative to be a member of the group. He announced that the Construction Career Day was held at the Soldotna Sports Center which included more than 200 students. He announced that on June 1 and 2 principals and teachers will meet to analyze test data and plan for the next year.

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

Mrs. Margie Warner, KPESA president, announced that graduation ceremonies will begin soon. She reported that she attended the NEA-Alaska Leadership Academy in April. She acknowledged Teacher Appreciation Day, Professional Appreciation Day, and Nurse Appreciation Day. She announced that Mrs. Betty Miller was selected as the State of Alaska School Nurse of the Year.

Mrs. LaDawn Druce, KPEA president, urged the Board to approve the nontenure and tenure teacher contracts. She announced that KPEA has changed their logo and has added the words "Educating our children - supporting our community". She stated that the Association would like the community and borough members to recognize that KPBSD is the largest employer of the Peninsula and that teachers support their community in a variety of ways. She announced that on April 22 she was part the NEA-Alaska Committee on Evaluation and Compensation and recognized KPBSD for leading the way with the recently-approved teacher evaluation system. She announced that on April 14 she took Assembly Member Linda Murphy on a tour of the five Soldotna area schools and during the Seward Assembly meeting she encouraged all Assembly members to do the same. She stated that Seward area Assembly Member Sue McClure is very involved in Seward schools but not all Assembly members are involved and yet they vote on decisions affecting schools. She stated that at the May 3 Assembly meeting she will encourage Assembly Members to visit the schools in their areas. She announced that she has been elected for another two-year term as KPEA president and that dues will increase slightly in order to support the full-time release president position. She announced that May 3 is Teacher Appreciation Day and thanked District teachers for their service.

Ms. Julie Lindquist, Seward Schools Site Based Council Chairperson, thanked the Board for coming to Seward and for their service.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT:**

Dr. Atwater announced that the District will again participate in the USDA Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Program for a total of \$200,000 at 12 schools. He reported that the student transportation contract has not yet been reached but that negotiations continue. He reported that the Communication Survey results have been reported to the Communications Committee members and that the return was not as high as hoped for. He reported that the communication specialist position is vacant and has been advertised. He reported that state funding has not been decided but if CSSB 84 is signed by the governor, approximately \$800,000 will be available for career and technical education for five years. He thanked teachers for their hard work and recognized that May 1 begins Teacher Appreciation Week.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

On behalf of Mr. Jones, Dr. Atwater presented the District financial report for the period ending March 31, 2011.

**BOARD REPORTS:**

Mrs. Downing reported that she attended the NSBA Annual Conference in San Francisco, California and noted that it was better than the one held three years ago in Orlando. She stated that there were a lot of good small session speakers who provided helpful information about technology in education and the latest in artificial reality. She reported on individualized education plans and Science Technology Education Arts and Math (STEAM) education. She announced that she will attend the Wellness Committee meeting on May 3.

Ms. Hohl reported that she attended the Moose Pass Site Council Committee meeting, the Seward School Site Council meeting and the Principal Evaluation Committee meeting. She reported that she attended the Alaska Construction Career Day.

Mrs. Vadla reported that she attended the Skyview vice principal interviews and was impressed with the quality of the candidates and equally impressed with the final selection. She served on the City of Soldotna Scholarship Committee.

**BOARD WORKSESSION  
REPORT:**

Mr. Arness reported that the Board held a student expulsion hearing before traveling to Seward. He reported that the worksessions included the Frameworks Administrator Evaluation, air quality, Native Youth Leaders and the proposed revised Superintendent and Board Self-Evaluation documents. He announced that the Board will use the new evaluation instruments and discuss them at the planning retreat. He reported that the Board directed him to send a letter to the Borough Assembly asking to be involved with the reapportionment of the borough seats.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of New Administrator Contracts, 2011-12; Nontenure Teachers for Tenure, 2011-12; Tentative Nontenure Teacher Contracts, 2011-12; Resignations; High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2011-19; Name Change for Kenai Youth Facility School; Long-Term Substitute Contracts; and New Teacher Contract.

**NEW ADMINISTRATOR  
CONTRACTS, 2011-12:**

Dr. Atwater recommended the Board approve administrator contracts for the 2011-2012 school year for Denise L. Kelly, Program Coordinator, Pupil Services; and Michael L. Hanson, Assistant Principal, Mountain View Elementary.

**NONTENURE TEACHERS FOR  
TENURE, 2011-12:**

By memorandum, Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a contract and tenure for Wendi Dutcher, generalist, Connections; Riley Justis, generalist, Connections; Reubin Payne, generalist, Connections; Mark Wackler, generalist, Connections; Dennis Welch, generalist, Connections; Stacy Naden, art .50 FTE, Homer High; Daniel Olson, geography, Homer Middle; Joanna Greene, Grades 4/5, Kachemak-Selo; Robyn Zinszer, kindergarten, Kaleidoscope School; Shana Butler, library .50 FTE, K-Beach Elementary; Cheryl Romatz, interventionist, K-Beach Elementary; Jeff Baker, physical education, Kenai Central; Stacia Rustad, health, Kenai Central; Steve Fischer, vocational education, Kenai Middle; Margaret Gilman, language arts, Kenai Middle; Megan O'Neill, math interventionist, Kenai Middle; Elizabeth Reiter, generalist, Kenai Youth Facility; Kendall Dellasperanza, Grade 4, McNeil Canyon; Maureen Wilkinson, interventionist .50 FTE, McNeil Canyon; Timothy McFarland, music, Mountain View Elementary; Dylan Hooper, credit recovery, Nikiski Middle/High; Paul Johnson, vocational education (.50 FTE permanent/.50 FTE temporary), Nikiski Middle/High; Gary Wiebel Jr., school counselor, Nikiski Middle/High; Shanna Johnson, Grade 4, Nikiski North Star; Tricia Young, Title I teacher, (temporary), Nikiski North Star; Kathryn Baum-Fjelstad, language arts, Ninilchik School; Barbara Denboer, language arts, Ninilchik School; Bryan Hickey, math, Ninilchik School; Melinda Michener, K-2 Title I Teacher (.50 FTE, temporary), Ninilchik School; David Patat, science, Ninilchik School; Brandon Young, primary, Paul Banks Elementary; Ranada Hassemer, interventionist, Redoubt Elementary; Erin Flowers, Grades 3/4, Seward Elementary; Susan Pfeiffenberger, interventionist/Title I, Seward Elementary; Kyle Schneider, music (.80 FTE permanent/.20 FTE temporary), Seward Elementary; Chad Hinders, history, Seward High; Barry Hartman, vocational education, Skyview High; Eric Pomerleau, physical education, Skyview High; Byron Weeks, science, Skyview High; Cindy Schlung, K-2 Title II Teacher, (temporary), Soldotna Elementary; Shaya Straw, Grade 3, Soldotna Elementary; Meggean Bos, home economics, Soldotna High; Dana Edwards, math (.75 FTE permanent/.25 FTE temporary), Soldotna High; Sheilah-Margaret Pothast, Spanish .50 FTE, Soldotna Middle; Amanda Brendtro, interventionist, Sterling; Belinda Smith, Grades 2/3, Sterling; Kurtis Schoenberg, Title I teacher (.75 FTE/.25 FTE Migrant, temporary), Voznesenka; and Jennifer Justis, interventionist .50 FTE, West Homer.

**TENTATIVE NONTENURE  
TEACHER CONTRACTS,  
2011-12:**

By memorandum, Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve nontenure teacher contracts for the 2011-2012 school year for Steve Cothran, distance education, Curriculum and Assessment; Emanuela Meriggi, distance education, Curriculum and Assessment; Heidi Stokes, .50 FTE generalist/.50 FTE Title I teacher, (temporary), Chapman; Christopher Brown, language arts, Homer High; Homer Flex; Connie Akers, library .50 FTE, Homer High; Amy Christianson, band, Homer High; Anna Fisher, social studies, Homer High; Jennifer Booz, science, Homer Middle; Darcy Mueller, language arts, Homer Middle; Erin Neisinger, itinerant counselor, Homer Middle; Zachary Zimny, art, Homer Middle; Patricia Truesdell, K-12 generalist, Hope; Kimberly Fields, Grade 2, Kaleidoscope; Marianne Kasch, Grade 5, Kaleidoscope; Patricia Haywood, Grade 6, K-Beach Elementary; Ryan Miller, math, (temporary), K-Selo; Cathy Walker, Grades 2/3, K-Selo; Douglas Armstrong, science, Kenai Central High; Noell Boyer, social studies, Kenai Central; Melissa Morckel, math, Kenai Central; Lindsey Pender, language arts, Kenai Central; Jonathan Horbacz, math, Kenai Middle; Rochelle Horbacz, math/science, Kenai Middle; Lacey Wisniewski, math/reading .50 FTE, Kenai Middle; Corise Story, kindergarten, McNeil Canyon Elementary; Lenore Swanson, music/physical education/primary, McNeil Canyon Elementary; Jeffrey Clay, K-6, Moose Pass; Renee Christensen, Grade 5, Mountain View Elementary; Nicole Cunningham, Grade 1, Mountain View Elementary; Summer Dallman, Grade 1, Mountain View Elementary; Matthew Epplin, primary, Mountain View Elementary; Tammy Farrell, library .50 FTE, Mountain View Elementary; Kevin Hilton, Grade 1, Mountain View Elementary; Shannon Hoffbeck, Kindergarten, Mountain View Elementary; Cynthia McKibben, Grade 3, Mountain View Elementary; Shawna Vlasak, pre-kindergarten, (temporary), Mountain View Elementary; Jesse Bjorkman, social studies, Nikiski Middle/High; Holly Boyle, reading, Nikiski Middle/High; Laura Niemczyk, high school language arts, Nikiski Middle/High; Justine Reese, credit recovery, Nikiski Middle/High; Anna Widman, art, Nikiski Middle/High; Heather Hooper, Grade 2 .50 FTE, Nikiski North Star Elementary; Rose Kiernan, Grade 2, Nikiski North Star Elementary; Karen Pala, pre-kindergarten, temporary, Nikiski North Star Elementary; Katy Settlemyer, Grade 2 .50 FTE, Nikiski North Star Elementary; Kimberly Trammell, kindergarten, Nikiski North Star Elementary; Vivian Norenberg, .38 FTE Title I/.12 FTE migrant/.50 FTE Title II, (temporary), Nikolaevsk; Sarah Compton, Grades 1-2, Ninilchik Elementary/High; Seanna Gunn, kindergarten, Paul Banks Elementary; Kjersten Syth, physical education, Paul Banks Elementary; Amy Ware, K-2 Title I teacher, (temporary), Paul Banks Elementary; Michelle Fournier, Grades 2/3, (.50 FTE permanent/.50 FTE temporary), Razdolna; Jennifer Keil, generalist, Razdolna; Bethany Andrews, Grade 6, Redoubt Elementary; Stephanie Belger, Grade 1, Redoubt Elementary; Carolyn Farmer, Grade 6, Redoubt Elementary; Kara Schreur, Grade 2, Redoubt Elementary; Carol Hutto, Generalist (temporary), River City Academy; Deanne Pearson, math, River City Academy; Helen Lindemuth, library .50 FTE, Seward Elementary; Bethany

**TENTATIVE NONTENURE  
TEACHER CONTRACTS,  
2011-12:**  
(continued)

Waggoner, art, Seward High; Jeffrey Wolf, math/Spanish, Seward High; Wesley Andrews, school counselor, Skyview High; Laura Fourtner, school counselor, Skyview High; Krista Heldenbrand, language arts, Skyview High; Jesse Settlemyer, language arts, Skyview High; Amanda Williams, science, Skyview High; Eric Dahl, intermediate, Soldotna elementary; Aaron Lohmeyer, music, (.85 FTE permanent/.15 FTE temporary), Soldotna Elementary; Bristol Whitmore, Spanish, Soldotna High; Jeffrey Vincent, science, Soldotna Middle; Thomas Cavanaugh, Grade 6, Sterling Elementary; Cynthia Ussing, intermediate, Sterling Elementary; JoEllen Fowler, interventionist (.50 FTE permanent/.50 FTE temporary) Title I teacher, Tustumena Elementary; Christina Granger, pre-kindergarten .50 FTE (temporary), Tustumena Elementary; Judith Michaels, resource, Tustumena Elementary; Amanda Painter, Grade 2, Tustumena Elementary; and Amy Sundheim, school psychologist, West Homer Elementary.

**RESIGNATIONS:**

By memorandum, Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve resignations, effective at the end of the 2010-2011 school year, from Joy Hagen, Grade 5, Aurora Borealis; R. Lee Moore, Latin, Aurora Borealis; Ed Sotelo, Mentor, Instruction; Linda I. Young, Grade 2, K-Beach Elementary; Greta Cox, counselor, Kenai Central High; Charles Seater, math, Kenai Central High; Sarah Kantrud, Grades 2/3, Mt. View Elementary; Jeremy McKibben, Title I, Mt. View Elementary; Mim McKay, music, Nikiski Middle/High; Jessica Sobey, language arts, Nikiski Middle/High; Kathy Eller, interventionist, Paul Banks Elementary; Michael Redell, credit recovery, Soldotna High; Sarah Swaney, intensive needs, Soldotna High; Linda Vroman, Title I, Sterling Elementary; and Christie A. Cook, intermediate, Tebughna School.

**HSGQE:**

Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2011-19.

**NAME CHANGE FOR KENAI  
YOUTH FACILITY SCHOOL:**

By memorandum, Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a recommendation to change the name of the Kenai Youth Facility School to "Marathon School".

**LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE  
CONTRACTS:**

By memorandum, Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve long-term substitute contracts for Adam Meyers, Nikiski North Star Elementary; and Carmen Oelkers, Nikiski North Star Elementary.

**NEW TEACHER CONTRACT:**

By memorandum, Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a teacher contract for Hannah N. Toporek, English Language Learner (ELL) specialist, districtwide/itinerant.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**  
**MOTION**

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

Mrs. Vadla removed Number 6.

Motion carried unanimously for Numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, and 8.

Motion carried unanimously for Number 6.

**POLICY MANUAL REVISION:**

By memorandum, Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve revisions to BP 3470, Fund Balance.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve revisions to BP 3470, Fund Balance. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

**STUDENT EXPULSION:**  
**MOTION**

Mrs. Downing moved the Board approve the expulsion of the student who was the subject of the expulsion hearing held on May 2, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

VOTE:

YES – Holt, Hohl, Crawford, Downing, Vadla, Arness  
ABSTAIN – Hilts

Motion carried.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/  
COMMENTS:**

Ms. Laura Beck, Seward Connections Program teacher, reported that she participated in the Technology Academy sponsored by KPBSD. She explained that the Academy allowed teachers all over the District to get together through the use of Illuminate software to learn about new classroom technology tools.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

Mr. Arness presented a plaque and gift certificate in appreciation to Miss Julie Rang for her service as the student representative on the Board.

Mrs. Vadla stated that it has been a pleasure to have Miss Rang serve on the Board. She thanked Ms. Woodward and Ms. Carmody for the air quality report and the students who provided the Native Youth Leaders report. She shared a letter from Ms. Geri Litzenberger, Kaleidoscope Charter School parent, regarding the school's recycling program. She congratulated teachers who were selected as BP Teachers of Excellence. She attended a service learning luncheon at the Kenai Peninsula College where District teachers were honored for their involvement in service learning. She reported that she heard Alaska State Senator Mark Begich speak at the college. She thanked Mr. Kingsland for the school report.

Mr. Holt thanked Miss Rang for her service. He expressed appreciation for the place-based education presentation and support for activities that get students outside. He thanked Mrs. Lindquist for the tour of the new Seward disc golf course.



**BOARD COMMENTS:***(continued)*

Mrs. Hilts thanked the student Travel Club for the delightful dinner prior to the Board meeting. She congratulated Seward Elementary for the honors they have received and continue to receive. She expressed appreciation for Miss Rang's representation of the student population.

Mrs. Crawford thanked Miss Rang for her service on the Board. She thanked the Seward community for the warm welcome. She thanked Mrs. Lindquist for the tour of the Seward disc golf course. She thanked Mr. Kingsland for the Seward Elementary School presentation. She thanked District teachers for all they do for students.

Mrs. Downing thanked Miss Rang for her service on the Board. She expressed appreciation for the Seward Elementary School presentation. She announced that high school graduation ceremonies will be held soon. She encouraged District teachers to enjoy the last few weeks of school and thanked them for their service.

Ms. Hohl thanked Seward City Mayor Dunham, Vice Mayor Bardarson and Assembly Member McClure for joining the Board for dinner. She thanked Mr. Schneider and the high school choir for singing the *National Anthem* and the *Alaska Flag Song*. She expressed appreciation for the Seward Elementary School presentation. She thanked the representatives from Seaview and the Prevention Coalition for their presentation and their work in the Seward community. She reported that she attended the Alaska PTA Parents As Leaders Conference, the PTA Statewide Convention, and the NYO Regional Competition. She expressed appreciation for the i-Trec information. She reported that she attended the Assembly meeting held in Seward. She thanked Miss Rang for her service on the Board. She congratulated Mrs. Turnbull for being selected as a BP Teacher of Excellence.

Miss Rang thanked the Board members for the student representative experience and noted that it has been an honor to serve. She thanked the students and staff of Seward Elementary and Seward High for the presentations and performances. She encouraged District students to keep moving forward even though the school year is coming to an end.

Mr. Arness thanked Miss Rang for her service and wished her the best in her future plans. He thanked the community of Seward for hosting the meeting. He thanked those who provided presentations and information for the Board.

**ADJOURN:**

At 8:37 p.m., Mr. Arness adjourned the Board meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mr. Joe Arness, President

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Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Clerk

The Minutes of May 2, 2011,  
were approved on June 6, 2011  
as written.