Kenai Peninsula Borough School District
Board of Education Meeting Minutes

June 6, 2011 – 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

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

OTHERS PRESENT:
Mr. Hal Smalley
Logan Tuttle
Mrs. Laurie Olson
Mr. John Pothast
Mr. Dave Spence
Mr. Tim Peterson
Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:
(7:00:53 PM)
Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:
(7:01:11 PM)
Mr. Arness invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT:
(7:01:37 PM)
Mr. Holt read the District's mission statement.

ROLL CALL:
(7:02:08 PM)

Mr. Joe Arness	Present
Mr. Marty Anderson	Present
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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:
(7:02:39 PM)
The agenda was approved as written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
(7:03:02 PM)
The School Board Minutes of May 2, 2011, were approved as printed.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:
(7:03:56 PM)

Dr. Atwater reported that the District has now received 100% in compliance with special education audit. He thanked Mrs. Walsworth for the health report and noted that the District continues to struggle to staff the schools with nurses. He noted that the District is 100% in compliance with stated required immunizations and TB testing. He thanked Ms. King for preparing the homeless student report and expressed disappointment that the number of homeless students is on the rise.

Mr. Arness reported that he received a letter from Love INC of the Kenai Peninsula, describing the local program that accommodates 40-50 children at a time.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SITE COUNCIL AND/OR P.T.A., K.P.A.A., K.P.E.A., K.P.E.S.A, BOROUGH ASSEMBLY:
(7:06:02 PM)

Mr. Smalley, Borough Assembly Member, reported that on June 7 at 1:00 p.m. the Finance Committee will begin budget deliberations prior to the 7:00 p.m. business meeting. He invited those present to attend the meeting since the Borough's FY12 budget will be available for amendments and approval.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:
(7:07:04 PM)

Dr. Atwater reported that according to the unofficial results of the state Standards Based Assessments the District has improved slightly and commended the good work by teachers and students. He announced that PowerSchool was selected as the new student information system. He reported that the District will receive less federal money next school year and may not be able to fund summer school during the summer of 2012. He announced that the District graduated 580 students throughout District high schools.

LEASE AGREEMENTS:
(7:09:01 PM)

Mr. Jones reviewed the report of leases and agreements for the 2011-2012 school year.

FINANCIAL REPORT:
(7:09:58 PM)

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

QUARTERLY BUDGET REPORT:
(7:10:35 PM)

Mr. Jones reported on budget transfers Numbers 511 through 954 for various schools and departments within the District.

BOARD REPORTS:
(7:11:37 PM)

Mrs. Downing reported that she attended the Homer High School Scholarship Awards Ceremony and was impressed by the amount of scholarship money Homer students receive. She reported that she attended Homer Flex and Homer High graduation ceremonies and especially appreciated the formal ceremony at Homer High of presenting the students to the Board for acceptance.

Mrs. Vadla reported that she attended the BP Teachers of Excellence Ceremony and expressed appreciation to BP for recognizing District teachers. She reported that she attended graduation ceremonies at Soldotna High and Ninilchik High.

BOARD REPORTS:
(continued)

Mr. Navarre reported that he attended the BP Teachers of Excellence Ceremony. He reported that he attended graduation ceremonies at Kenai Alternative and Kenai Central High. He reported that he attended the NSBA Annual Conference and noted that the conference was very helpful. He suggested that the state Association consider the same positive approach to Board service training.

Mrs. Hilts reported that she attended the BP Teachers of Excellence Ceremony. She reported that she attended graduation ceremonies at Susan B. English School (for eighth grade promotion to high school), Nanwalek, Port Graham, and Voznesenka. She credited Project GRAD for the success of many of the small school graduating students.

Mr. Holt reported that he attended graduation ceremonies at Skyview High, Nikolaevsk and River City Academy and compared the differences between the ceremonies. He reported that he attended the last Skyview Site Council and that the group discussed the PowerSchool student information system. He reported that he attended the Calendar Committee meeting and urged the Board to approve the proposed calendars on the agenda. He reported that he attended the BP Teachers of Excellence Ceremony. He reported that he attended the KPSAA Executive Board meeting and that the group discussed an extension to the volleyball season and the parent representative appointment to the KPSAA Board. He urged the Board to approve the proposed changes to the handbook.

Mrs. Crawford reported that she attended graduation ceremonies at Ninilchik High, Soldotna High and Skyview. She reported that she attended the kindergarten program at Mt. View Elementary. She reported that the Policy Review Committee discussed service animals, recruitment, selection of hiring of site level administrators, and site council changes.

Ms. Hohl reported that she attended graduation ceremonies at Seward High, Hope, Spring Creek, and Connections. She reported that she participated in the District Elementary Math Bowl. She reported that she attended the recently-held Borough Reapportionment Committee meeting and added that the group will consider the idea of an eleven-member assembly and school board. She added that the next meeting will be in Homer and that the Committee will review the proposed changes during public meetings. She reported that she participated in the national affiliate school board webinar regarding the value of local control and school boards and community engagement strategies.

Mr. Anderson reported that he attended the NSBA Annual Conference and reviewed the sessions he attended regarding math and federal funding. He reported that a reduction in federal funding will affect Career and Technical Education programs. He reported that locally, the TechPrep Program will only have enough funds to finish the school year.

BOARD WORKSESSION REPORT:
(7:26:47 PM)

Mr. Arness reported that the Policy Review Committee met at 2:15 p.m. followed by Board worksessions regarding proposed Policy Manual revisions, the Economic Significance Report, the transportation contract, fund balance, proposed changes to BP 0210, Goals for Student Learning, and school year calendars for 2012-2013 and 2013-2014. All members were present for all worksessions.

CONSENT AGENDA:
(7:27:32 PM)

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Nontenured Teacher Contracts; New Teacher Contracts; Resignations; Recommendation for Tenure; KPSAA Recommended Student Handbook Revisions; School Year 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 Calendars; Budget Transfer; New Administrator Contracts; and Long-term Substitute Contract.

NONTENURED TEACHER CONTRACTS:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve non-tenured teacher contracts for the 2011-12 school year for Mary Simondsen, elementary interventionist teacher/6th-8th grade teacher, Chapman School; Michelle Thomason, (temporary) instructional/technology coach, Curriculum; Lisa Schmitter, (temporary) school counselor, Mountain View; Tammy L. Taylor, kindergarten/2nd grade, Nikolaevsk School; Justin Hostetter, (temporary) Title I, Redoubt Elementary; and Amanda Adams, (temporary) instructional/technology coach, Seward Area Schools.

NEW TEACHER CONTRACTS:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve new teacher contracts and tentative assignments for the 2011-2012 school year for Jennifer S. Riddall, 5th grade teacher, Aurora Borealis Charter School; Mary R. Meconi, (permanent .50 FTE/temporary .50 FTE) intermediate grade teacher, Tebughna School; Darcy L. Marcou, primary grade teacher, K-Beach Elementary; Meredith L. McCullough, language arts/social studies teacher, Kenai Central High; John Marquez, physical education/health teacher, Kenai Central High; Amy N. Balsinger, special education resource teacher, Kenai Middle School; Charles M. Crain, science/math teacher, Nanwalek School; Misty L. Crain, language arts/social studies teacher, Nanwalek School; Jacob J. Doth, science teacher, Nikiski Middle/High School; Jake H. Eveland, .50 FTE interventionist teacher, Nikiski Middle/High; Liviu M. Rizea, math/science teacher, Razdolna School; Jenna K. Fabian, (permanent .50 FTE/temporary .50 FTE) interventionist/Title I teacher, Seward Elementary; Leigh E. Ray, primary grade teacher, Seward Elementary; Holly L. Davis, second grade teacher, Soldotna Elementary; Elizabeth A. Edwards, intermediate grade teacher, Soldotna Elementary; Stephanie A. Dennis Blair, language arts teacher, Soldotna Middle School; Brian D. Dandliker, vocational education teacher, Soldotna Middle School; and Isaiah P. White, Russian teacher, Voznesenka School and Kachemak-Selo School.

RESIGNATIONS: Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve resignations from Stacy Naden, .50 FTE art, Homer High School, (effective May 25, 2011); Lindsey Pender, language arts, Kenai Central High, (effective May 25, 2011); Bridgette Reutter, occupational therapist, Nikiski North Star Elementary, (effective June 30, 2011); Vivian Norenberg, Title I, Nikolavesk School, (effective May 27, 2011); Amanda Williams, science, Skyview High School, (effective May 25, 2011); and Jennifer Justis, .50 FTE interventionist, West Homer Elementary, (effective May 25, 2011).

RECOMMENDATION FOR TENURE: Mr. Jones recommended that the Board approve a contract and tenure for the 2011-12 school year for Lila L. Little, kindergarten through 6th Grade, Chapman School; and Ingrid K. McKinstry, interventionist, Homer Middle School.

KPSAA RECOMMENDED STUDENT HANDBOOK REVISIONS: Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve proposed changes to the 2011-2012 Kenai Peninsula School Activities Handbooks which included the appointment of Mr. Jay Griffel to serve as parent representative on the KPSAA Board and to extend the middle school volleyball season by one week.

SCHOOL CALENDARS: Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve the proposed school calendars for 2012-13 and 2013-14.

BUDGET TRANSFER: Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve budget transfer Number 1290 for $265,223, to pay for Speech and Language Therapist Professional/Technical contracted Services; Number 1292 for $135,499 to pay for Districtwide Internet services; Number 1293 for $544,175 to purchase computers for the Districtwide Technology Plan; Number 1291 and 1341 for $150,977 and $165,562 respectively, to support the research about and subsequent purchase of a new Districtwide Student Information System, including additional hardware requirements, software and licensing; Number 1373 for $61,742 to align the budget for Intervention with the Support Services/Instruction function code; Number 1408 for $64,752 to align the budget for Speech and Language Therapist Professional/Technical contracted services with actual expenditures at the school; Number 1305 for $50,238, was the only Equipment Fund transfer over $50,000 that requires board approval.

NEW ADMINISTRATOR CONTRACTS: Dr. Atwater recommended the Board approve administrator contracts for Shane L. Bostic, assistant principal, Nikiski Middle/High School; Johnnie D. Cotton, assistant principal, Skyview High School; and Michael A. Wojciak, principal/teacher, Voznesenka School.

LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE CONTRACT: Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a long-term substitute teacher contract for Leigh Ray, Seward Middle School.

MOTION Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 9. Mr. Holt seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT:
(7:28:34 PM)

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a one-year contract extension with First Student for the provision of transportation services for the 2011-2012 school year.

MOTION

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve a one-year contract extension with First Student for the provision of transportation services for the 2011-2012 school year. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

FY11 BUDGET REVISION:
(7:31:16 PM)

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve an increase in the General Fund revenue of $23,281, for a revised total for FY11 of $132,411,442 and an increase in the General Fund expenditure budget of $23,281, for a revised FY11 total of $132,411,442.

MOTION

Mr. Holt recommended the Board approve an increase in the General Fund revenue of $23,281, for a revised total for FY11 of $132,411,442 and an increase in the General Fund expenditure budget of $23,281, for a revised FY11 total of $132,411,442. Mrs. Downing seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

FIRST READING OF POLICY REVISIONS:
(7:31:50 PM)

The Board heard a first reading of proposed revisions to AR 0410, Non Discrimination in District Programs and Activities; BP 0411, Service Animals; BP 1260, Visits to Schools; BP 3315, Relations with Vendors; BP 4030, Non Discrimination in Employment; BP and AR 5125, Student Records; BP 6145, Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities; BP/AR 6159, Individualized Education Program; BP/AR/E 6161.4, Acceptable Use Policy/Internet Safety Policy; BP 6164.4, Child Find; BP 6174, Bilingual-Bicultural Education/Limited English Proficiency; and BP 6175, Migrant Children Program.

BOARD COMMENTS:
(7:34:55 PM)

Mr. Holt reported that he participated in the District Elementary Math Bowl along with teammates Ms. Hohl and Dr. Atwater. He reported that the Soldotna Montessori team won the competition and later three students congratulated him for a good job.

Mrs. Crawford thanked the District administration for the reports on the economic impact of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District, the nursing and health report, the homeless student report, the report on student discipline, and the technology standards report. She added that the reports were timely and will be helpful during the June 7 Board planning session. She announced that she has just returned from attending the 70th wedding anniversary celebration for her father and mother-in-law. She reported that the Board spoke briefly about the three-minute limit for Board comments and stated that she is not in favor of changing the time limit.

BOARD COMMENTS:
(continued)

Mr. Anderson reported that he attended his daughter's eighth grade graduation to high school. He apologized for not being able to attend any high school graduation ceremonies since he was scheduled to be out of town for two weeks. He noted that Sharon Moock, Soldotna Middle School principal, is retiring and wished her farewell and commended her for doing a great job.

Ms. Hohl reported that she attended the congressional delegation Federal Grant Symposium in Anchorage and hopes to encourage Seward PTSA to apply for federal arts grants in order to provide art education in District rural schools using local artists. She reported that she attended the Prevention Coalition meeting and added that the group is working on their new strategic plan.

Mrs. Vadla thanked Dr. Atwater for providing the economic study. She thanked the administration for the PowerSchool software program information and explanation and was pleased to hear about the training. She expressed appreciation for upcoming teacher training and for the reports for District staff who attend conferences and trainings. She thanked Mr. Dusek for the Technology Standards information. She complimented the Nanwalek School for the Fireweed publication.

Mrs. Hilts noted that the first edition of Fireweed was published approximately 35 years ago. She stated that legislators were notably quiet during the regular session and urged those present to think about what can be done before another legislative session begins. She stated that children should be the top priority of the State of Alaska. She noted that the Board should do a better job of reminding legislators of how important the children of Alaska are. She expressed appreciation for the reports shared with the Board and explained that they will be the foundation for the June 7 Board planning session.

Mr. Navarre stated that he was out of town for the Elementary Math Bowl or otherwise he might have participated. He reported that the Administrator Evaluation Committee completed its work and will bring a recommendation to the Board for approval at the July 11 Board meeting. He thanked Dr. Atwater for the economic significance report, and was especially pleased that the study was free since the information was compiled by a University of Alaska college student who took it on as a project. He announced that he will attend the June 7 Borough Assembly meeting. He suggested that a committee study the information contained in the economics report. He noted that it will be beneficial for the voters to know that sales tax goes directly to KPBSD schools.

BOARD COMMENTS:
(continued)

Mrs. Downing reported that she attended Homer Middle School's eighth grade promotion ceremony and added that Dr. Gee, Homer High principal, addressed the group. She stated that her written report from the NSBA Annual Conference is in the Board's June 6 information packet. She stated that she is extremely pleased that the economic impact study has been completed. She stated that the voters and the public at-large do not fully understand the impact that such a large employer has on the communities of the Kenai Peninsula. She expressed appreciation for the technology curriculum. She reported that she attended the Federal Grant Symposium and the Wellness Committee on May 3, in which the group reviewed survey responses and work on various wellness issues. She added that the group will meet again in September.

Mr. Arness announced the birth of 6 pound 6 ounce Jasmine Rose Arness on June 5. He reminded Board members of the June 7 planning session at the Soldotna High School library at 8:30 a.m. He stated that a thank you letter will be written to Mrs. Ischi for her service on the KPSAA Board.

ADJOURN:
(7:51:41 PM)

At 7:51 p.m., Mr. Arness adjourned the School Board 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 June 6, 2011 were approved on June 21, 2011 as written.