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# Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

## Board of Education Meeting Minutes

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September 12, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.  
Regular Meeting

Homer High School  
600 E. Fairview, Homer, 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:**

Ms. Pegge Erkeneff	Mr. Michael Wojciak
Mr. Tim Vlasak	Mr. Benny Abraham
Ms. McKibben Jackinsky	Mrs. LaDawn Druce
Mr. Pete Swanson	Mr. Chris Perk
Ms. Kiki Abrahamson	Mr. Stan White

Others present not identified.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

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

**DISTRICT MISSION  
STATEMENT:**

Mrs. Vadla 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	Absent/Excused
Mr. Bill Holt	Present
Mr. Tim Navarre	Present
Mrs. Penny Vadla	Present

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

The agenda was approved with the addition of Consent Agenda Item Number 5, Approval of AASB Outstanding School Board Nomination Application and Number 6, Approval of Board of Directors Nomination Application – Sunni Hilts.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The School Board Minutes of August 8, 2011, were approved as printed.

**SCHOOL REPORT:**

Mr. Benny Abraham, Paul Banks Elementary principal, provided a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the use of technology, goals of building a strong foundation, and assessment information. Ms. Shere Baechler provided information about the special needs preschool program and invited the Board to visit the school. Ms. Wendy Todd provided information about the school's use of the newly-installed Smart Boards.

Mr. Michael Wojciak, Voznesenka School principal, gave a computer generated presentation highlighting Adequate Yearly Progress and school goals, and staff appreciation. Miss Vaselissa Basargin and Miss Neonila Reutov, students, provided school and community highlights including sports, youth court, Battle of the Books, online courses, and the Close Up field trip to Washington DC and New York. Ms. Lisa Nordstrom, resource teacher, provided information on the water safety program, made possible through grant funding, partnerships and community volunteers.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:**

Mrs. Natalia Basargin, Mr. Sergy Serebekov (parent), Miss Polagia Basargin and Miss Pelagia Basargin asked the Board for a teacher to teach Russian at the Razdolna School.

Ms. Kiki Abrahamson, Ms. Joanne Lofgren (parent), Mr. Mike Dye (parent), Ms. Shannon McBride-Warren, Mr. Ben Park, Ms. Erica Marley, Mr. Alan Parks, Ms. Laura Barton, and Ms. Andrea Van Dinther, spoke in favor of the Board's renewal of Fireweed Charter Schools charter.

Miss Cassie Soistman, Miss Tayla Cabana, Miss Ayla Schulz, Miss Valerie Mastolier, Miss Mattea Peters, Mr. John Walsworth (student), Ms. Holly Alston, Ms. Shannon McBride-Warren, Mr. Lucas Bauer, Mr. Chris Perk, Ms. Amber Cabana, and Mr. Lance Williamson (coach), spoke in support of repair or replacement of the Homer High track.

Mr. Stan White spoke to the Board about the poor condition of the Russian village schools at the head of Kachemak Bay.

**RECESS:**

At 8:28 p.m., Mr. Arness called a recess.

**RECONVENE AFTER  
RECESS:**

At 8:33 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND  
PETITIONS:**

Dr. Atwater reported that the District submitted a grant application to the Alaska Energy Authority to pursue funding for an alternative heating source for three Seward schools. He recommended that instead of having one Five-year Plan that serves the whole District, the administration and principals should set a framework under which the schools can set objectives and action plans to meet the District goals. He further recommended that the District use the Baldrige Education Criteria for Performance Excellence as a framework for these goals. He reported that a meeting was held to determine how to spend the Career and Technical Education money that was allocated as part of SB84. He reported that Commissioner Hanley visited schools in the District and during the visit, announced that the state will seek a waiver for the NCLB requirement that all students be proficient by 2014.

**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. LaDawn Druce, KPEA president, reported that she spoke with Commissioner Hanley during his visit to the District about the newly adopted teacher evaluation system. She reported that she has visited 12 schools to date. She announced that the State Board of Education and Early Development are taking public comment on the proposed regulations that would set the high school courses for eligibility for the Alaska performance scholarship beginning with this year's freshman class of 2015. She reported that KPEA held a Borough Mayoral Candidate Forum on August 17 and afterward the PACE Committee decided to endorse Mike Navarre for Borough Mayor. She asked those present to vote yes on Proposition One (repeal the grocery tax). She noted that the Board will be asked to approve resignations from Sohail Marey and Gregory Weissenberg and that they will be greatly missed. She expressed appreciation for Representative Seaton's attendance at the Board meeting and for listening to the public testimony.

Representative Paul Seaton stated that he was impressed with the public testimony supporting the improvement of education. He reported that he is working with AT & T to use donated iPhones (with the communication chips removed) in a classroom pilot project geared to increase learning for all students. He stated that he supports the requests for repair or replacement of the Homer High track and improved facilities for the Russian schools at the head of Kachemak Bay.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT:**

Dr. Atwater reported that school enrollment is below projection by 223 students. He announced that the District did not make Adequate Yearly Progress but remained at Level 1. He reported that the District administration has begun the FY13 budget development process.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS:**

Mr. Jones presented financial reports of the District for the periods ending July 31 and August 31, 2011.

**BOARD REPORTS:**

Mrs. Downing reported that she met with Save the Track representatives. She reported that she accompanied Dr. Atwater and Commissioner Hanley to West Homer Elementary and Homer Middle, Fireweed, and KPC Kachemak Bay campus.

Mr. Holt reported that he attended the Career Technology Education funding meeting and noted that there was good representation at the meeting with 32 suggestions on the use of the money.

Mrs. Crawford reported that she and Mrs. Vadla are working on the Outstanding School Board Award nomination packet and asked Board members to send her a list of their involvement in local, statewide and national education-related activities. She reported that she and Mr. Holt visited West Homer Elementary and Fireweed Charter School.

Mrs. Vadla reported that she assisted with the Soldotna High student registration. She reported that she, along with other Board members, attended the August 17 Districtwide Inservice to hear the keynote speaker work on the FY12 Board Goals. She reported that she and Mrs. Crawford have been working on the Outstanding School Board Award nomination packet. She reported that she attended the Charter School Oversight Committee meeting. She reported that she visited Ninilchik Elementary/High School and added that their track badly needs repair. She reported that she attended the Communications Committee meeting along with Mr. Holt, and Dr. Atwater and added that the group worked on four key messages for the District and Ms. Erkeneff provided information on Communications Survey results.

**BOARD WORKSESSION REPORT:**

Mr. Arness reported that the Board conducted worksessions prior to the business meeting regarding reading and language arts curriculum; assessment report; proposed state and federal legislative priorities; and AASB Resolutions. He noted that the Communications Committee and Charter School Oversight Committee met prior to the worksessions.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Performance Based Curriculum; High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2012-01; Resignations; New Teacher Contracts; AASB Outstanding School Board Nomination; and AASB Board Of Directors (Sunni Hilts).

**PERFORMANCE BASED CURRICULUM:**

Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve the proposed K-6 Performance Based Writing Curriculum, 7-12 Performance Based Technology Curriculum Revision, and 7-12 Performance Based Math Curriculum.

**HSGQE:** Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approved High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2012-01.

**RESIGNATIONS:** Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve resignations from Noell A. Boyer, Social Studies, Kenai Central High School (effective September 15, 2011); Sohail H. Marey, Physical Education, Soldotna High School (effective at the end of 2011-12 school year); and Gregory Weissenberg, World History/Russian, Soldotna High School (effective at the end of 2011-12 school year).

**NEW TEACHER CONTRACTS:** Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve new teacher contracts for Joshua Brantley, (temporary) Special Education behavioral /ED teacher, Districtwide/Central Peninsula area; Megan Onishi, speech language pathologist, Districtwide; Todd Boonstra, K-8th grade teacher, Aurora Borealis Charter School; Matthew Paulus, Special Education resource teacher, Nikiski Middle/High School; Jessica Pena, interventionist teacher, Nikiski North Star Elementary School; Brianna Redfern, (temporary) .50 FTE Title I teacher, Nikiski North Star Elementary School; Denice Spencer, (permanent .50 FTE/temporary .50 FTE) language arts (Grades 6th-12th)/Title I teacher, Port Graham School; and Justin Zank, (temporary) pre-kindergarten teacher/migrant teacher, Voznesenka School.

**AASB OUTSTANDING SCHOOL BOARD:** The Board recommended approval of the submission of the AASB nomination form for Outstanding School Board.

**AASB BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** Mrs. Sunni Hilts recommended the Board approve the submission of her nomination form to serve on the AASB Board of Directors.

**MOTION** Mr. Navarre moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 6. Mrs. Downing seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**POLICY MANUAL REVISIONS:** Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve revisions to BP 1321, Solicitation of Funds; BP 5124, Communication with Parents/Guardians; BP 5131.6, Alcohol and Other Drugs; and BP and AR 5131.7, Weapons and Dangerous Instruments.

**MOTION** Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve revisions to BP 1321, Solicitation of Funds; BP 5124, Communication with Parents/Guardians; BP 5131.6, Alcohol and Other Drugs; and BP and AR 5131.7, Weapons and Dangerous Instruments. Mr. Holt seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**AASB CORE RESOLUTIONS:**

Dr. Atwater recommended the Board approve the proposed administrative recommendations regarding the 2012 AASB Core Resolutions.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve the proposed 2011 AASB Core Resolutions with the list of changes in the KPBSD position worksheet and those submitted by the AASB Board of Directors. Mrs. Downing seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/  
COMMENTS:**

Daria Basargin-Polushkin and Evdokaya Basargin asked the Board for a teacher to teach Russian at the Razdolna School.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

Mrs. Vadla thanked Representative Paul Seaton and Mr. Mike Navarre for their attendance. She thanked Mrs. Cannon for the Language Arts Curriculum presentation and Mr. Vlasak for the assessment report. She thanked the principals who attended and brought students. She expressed appreciation for SMART Boards. She thanked those who provided testimony.

Mrs. Hilts expressed appreciation for those who spoke in support of good education for their students and for the variety of schools within the District.

Mr. Navarre thanked Representative Paul Seaton and Mike Navarre for their attendance. He thanked Mr. Wojciak and Mr. Abraham for their school reports. He stated that he was impressed that the Homer High School principal and vice principal met him at the door and thanked them for their hospitality. He stated that he learned more about the SMART Boards.

Mrs. Downing expressed appreciation for the emphasis on technology at Paul Banks Elementary. She expressed appreciation for the Russian village schools and communities and for the Youth Court. She acknowledged the large number of supporters for the Fireweed Charter renewal. She commended the Save our Track Committee for their dedication and expressed hope that a solution can be found.

Mr. Holt expressed appreciation for the Paul Banks Elementary and Voznesenka School reports. He acknowledged the community and parent support for Fireweed. He agreed that the Homer running track needs repair. He expressed appreciation for the testimony in support of a Russian class at Razdolna. He reported that he attended the joint Soldotna Elementary and Soldotna Montessori Charter School picnic at Soldotna Creek Park. He reported that he volunteered as the Chief of Course during the Skyview Invite Cross Country Race which included approximately 1000 athletes.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

*(continued)*

Mrs. Crawford thanked Mr. Abraham and Mr. Wojciak for the school reports. She thanked Representative Paul Seaton and Mr. Mike Navarre for attending the meeting. She requested an excused absence for the October 17 School Board meeting.

Mr. Arness thanked Homer High for hosting the meeting.

**ADJOURN:**

At 9:14 p.m., Mr. Arness adjourned the School Board Meeting

Respectfully submitted,

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Mr. Joe Arness, President

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Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Clerk

The Minutes of September 12, 2011,  
were approved on October 17, 2011  
with a correction