

---

# Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

## Board of Education Meeting Minutes

---

March 5, 2012 – 7:00 p.m.  
Regular Meeting

Borough Administration Building  
148 N. Binkley, Soldotna, Alaska

**SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:**

Mr. Joe Arness, President  
Mrs. Liz Downing, Vice President  
Mrs. Penny Vadla, Clerk  
Ms. Lynn Hohl, Treasurer  
Mr. Marty Anderson  
Mrs. Sammy Crawford  
Mrs. Sunni Hilts  
Mr. Bill Holt  
Mr. Tim Navarre  
Miss Annaleah Ernst, Student Representative

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Mr. Sean Dusek, Assistant Superintendent  
Mr. Dave Jones, Assistant Superintendent

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Ms. Renée Henderson	Ms. Gretchen Graeff
Mr. Alan Fields	Mr. Rod Hilts
Mr. Lee Young	Mrs. McKibben Jackinsky
Mr. Riley Justis	Mr. Logan Tuttle
Mr. John O'Brien	Mrs. Margie Warner
Ms. Pegge Erkeneff	Mrs. Laurie Olson
Mrs. LaDawn Druce	Ms. Cathy Carrow

Others present not identified.

**CALL TO ORDER:**  
( PM)

Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 1:45 p.m. A quorum of School Board members, Mrs. Crawford, Mrs. Downing, Mrs. Hilts, Mr. Holt, Ms. Hohl, Mr. Anderson and Mr. Arness were in attendance. Mr. Navarre arrived at approximately 1:50 p.m.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

At 1:46 p.m., Mr. Anderson moved the Board go into executive session to discuss matters, the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the Borough. Specifically, the executive session was to discuss negotiations strategies and tactics. Ms. Hohl seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

At 2:54 p.m., Mrs. Crawford moved the executive session be adjourned. Ms. Hohl seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

At 2:55 p.m., the Board recessed the meeting to conduct worksessions.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

At 5:03 p.m., Mrs. Crawford moved the Board go into executive session to discuss matters, the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the Borough. Specifically, the executive session was to discuss negotiations strategies and tactics. Mrs. Hilts seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

At 5:43 p.m., Mrs. Hilts moved the executive session be adjourned. Mr. Holt seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

At 5:44 p.m., the Board recessed the meeting until 7:00 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

(7:00:01 PM)

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

**NATIONAL ANTHEM:**

(7:00:13 PM)

Miss Josie Jones and Miss Alley Jones, KCHS students, sang *The Star Bangled Banner*.

**DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT:**

(7:02:04 PM)

Mrs. Crawford read the District's mission statement.

**ROLL CALL:**

(7:02:29 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	Absent/Excused
Miss Annaleah Ernst	Present

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

(7:03:04 PM)

The agenda was approved including revisions to Numbers 11a.(1), 2012-13 Tentative Tenure Teacher Contracts; 11a(2), Leave of Absence Request-Certified; and 11a(3), Resignations.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

(7:03:41 PM)

The School Board Minutes of February 6, 2012, were approved with a correction.

**SCHOOL REPORT:**

(7:04:18 PM)

Mr. Alan Fields, Kenai Central High principal, provided a PowerPoint presentation highlighting student demographics, school staff, vision statement, job shadow program, Classroom Without Walls partnership with Skyview High, Caring for the Kenai, Modular Egress Training Simulator (METS - an underwater helicopter crash simulator) operated by Challenger Learning Center, world languages program, and music program. The choir students concluded the report by singing *The Road Home*.

**SCHOOL REPORT:**

*(continued)*  
*(7:19:19 PM)*

Mr. Lee Young, Connections Homeschool Program principal, introduced Ms. Nancy Kleine and Mr. Riley Justis, who provided a brief history of the home school program and how it benefits students, parents and the community. Mr. Justis gave a computer-generated presentation highlighting assessment information in reading, writing, and math. Ms. Kleine provided a YouTube video highlighting several student testimonials in support of the Connections Homeschool Program. Mr. Young concluded by stating that the Connections Program offers benefits for many different types of students.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:**

*(7:45:51 PM)*

On behalf of Dr. Atwater, Mr. Dusek announced that the state has approved the Tech Plan and he thanked Mr. White for his work on the plan. He announced that the next step in the Five Year Plan revision includes a full-day session Wednesday, March 28 at 8:30 a.m. at the Challenger Learning Center. He invited the Board to attend and noted that the group will set the vision and mission statements using the staff and community survey results. He reported that the District received notice from state that the NCLB funds will be reduced by \$20,000 from the original projection so the total funds are now at \$3.12 million.

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

*(7:46:58 PM)*

Mrs. LaDawn Druce, KPEA president, highlighted education-related comments made by Senator Begich who was addressing the Alaska Legislature (importance of early childhood education; focus on science, technology, engineering and math [STEM] and the addition of art [STEAM], elimination of NCLB; continued focus on career and technical education). She announced that she will attend the Legislative Town Hall meeting on Thursday, March 8 that will include Representative Chenault and Representative Olson. She stated that she will talk about increasing school funding in the base student allocation. She rejected the idea that public schools are failing, especially in the KPBSD. She thanked the Board in advance for approving the list of tenure teacher contracts. She reported that Mark Fraud, Seward Elementary teacher, was elected as the Region III representative on the NEA Board of Directors, and Rick Frederic, Kenai Central High teacher, was chosen to attend the National Representative Assembly. She announced that she was elected to serve as the NEA-Alaska vice president.

Mrs. Margie Warner, KPESA president, thanked Mr. Fields and the KCHS choir, and the Connections staff for the school reports. She reported that she attended the NEA Resolutions Committee meeting in Washington DC. She reminded those present that it is the last week of the third quarter of school; Inservice Day on Friday, March 9 and Spring Break begins the following week.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT:***(7:53:15 PM)*

On behalf of Dr. Atwater, Mr. Dusek reported that Commissioner Hanley announced that the state would seek a waiver from No Child Left Behind mandates. He announced that Mr. Douglas Hayman was offered a Letter of Intent for the Tustumena Elementary principal position. He reported that interviews for the Nanwalek School principal/teacher position and the Professional Development Coordinator position will take place after Spring Break. He explained that the last day of school before Spring Break for the majority of District students will be March 8 since March 9 is a teacher inservice/work day. He noted that students at the four Russian Old Believer communities as well as Nanwalek School and Port Graham School, will have Spring Break April 16-20. He announced that more than 90 fourth, fifth and sixth grade students participated in the Borough forensics competition on Saturday, March 3. He congratulated the Kenai boys' basketball team for finishing third in Northern Lights Conference, Nikolaevsk School girls' basketball team for finishing second in the Peninsula Conference, the Soldotna High girls' basketball team for finishing second in the Northern Lights Conference, and the Seward girls' basketball team for finishing first in the South Central Conference. He congratulated Mrs. Druce for being elected as the NEA-Alaska vice president.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:***(7:55:35 PM)*

Mr. Jones presented the financial report of the District for the period ending January 31, 2012.

**BOARD REPORTS:***(7:56:43 PM)*

Mrs. Downing reported that she attended the south peninsula budget hearing followed by the transportation meeting. She reported that she was asked to judge the West Homer Elementary Writer's Fair. She announced that West Homer Elementary was nominated for selection as a Blue Ribbon School.

Mrs. Hilts reported that she attended the Homer area budget hearing and transportation meeting.

Miss Ernst reported that she attended the Association of Alaska School Board (AASB) Legislative Fly-in in Juneau and reviewed the schedule of events. She reported that she participated in the appointments with legislators and was a guest page for the House of Representatives.

Mrs. Crawford reported that she attended the central peninsula budget hearing. She reported that she has been sending letters to the House Finance Committee members regarding SB 171 and plans to testify at the Kenai Legislative Information Office. She reported that she participated in Read Across America Day by reading at K-Beach Elementary, Redoubt Elementary and Mt. View Elementary.

**BOARD REPORTS:***(continued)*

Mr. Anderson reported that he attended the AASB Legislative Fly-in and added that during the meetings with state legislators he talked about rising fuel costs and forward funding. He stated that he was also in Juneau as a member of the Alaska Workforce Investment Board to lobby for funding for Tech Prep, local hire, and ways to provide a seamless education plan for students going from high school to the work force.

Ms. Hohl stated she visited KCHS to listen to the Borough mass choir rehearsal. She reported that she attended the AASB Legislative Fly-In and noted that Ms. Teresa Kiffmeyer and a couple of Native Youth Leadership students also attended. She reported that the School Board delegation shared copies of the District's Career and Technical Education (CITE) Plan with legislators. She reported that she met with the Sealaska Corporation operator of the biomass heating system at the administrative office in Juneau, and added that Seward's project is on the list.

Mr. Navarre reported that he attended the AASB Legislative Fly-in. He thanked the representatives and senators and their staff for meeting with the Board. He reported that the Senate Education Committee members met with the entire fly-in group. He stressed the importance of meeting with legislators since the problems are different throughout the state. He thanked Commissioner Hanley for meeting with him and Ms. Hohl.

**BOARD WORKSESSION  
REPORT:***(8:09:47 PM)*

Mr. Arness reported that the Board held worksessions regarding proposed revisions to the Policy Manual Revisions, the FY13 Budget, and student transportation. The Board cancelled a conference call with Kenai Peninsula legislators. He noted that all Board members were present except Mrs. Vadla.

**CONSENT AGENDA:***(8:10:23 PM)*

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of 2012-13 Tentative Tenure Teacher Contracts; Leave of Absence Request-Certified; Resignations; Long-term Substitute Contract; Budget Transfer; High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2012-009; High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2012-010; and Recommendation to Accept the Alaska Statewide Mentor Project Urban Growth Opportunity Subaward.

**2012-13 TENTATIVE TENURE  
TEACHER CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a list of tentative tenure teacher contracts for the 2012-13 school year.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE  
REQUEST-CERTIFIED:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve unpaid leave of absence requests effective for the 2012-13 school year from Saundra Hudson, social studies teacher, Homer Middle and Timothy Winters, math/science teacher, Susan B. English Elementary/High.

**RESIGNATIONS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve resignations effective at the end of the 2011-12 school year from Benjamin Caswell, school psychologist, Seward Elementary; Christine Crum, Grade 6th – 8th teacher, Chapman Elementary; Colleen Sinnott, special education intensive needs teacher, Tustumena Elementary; Judith Eckert, special education resource teacher, Tustumena Elementary; Justin Hostetter, Title I teacher, Redoubt Elementary; Kriste Simonson, school psychologist, Homer High; Scott Handley, principal/teacher, Nanwalek School; and Susan Wheeler, language arts/math/history, Skyview High School. The Board unanimously approved a resignation, effective February 29, 2012, from Jeana Hayes, math teacher, Soldotna Middle.

**LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE CONTRACT:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a long-term substitute contract for John Christensen, Soldotna Middle.

**BUDGET TRANSFER:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve budget transfers Number 705 for \$92,472 to adjust salary and benefit budgets for the Extended School Year (ESY) Summer School Program held by Pupil Services during summer 2011; Number 712 for \$56,516 to adjust salary and benefit accounts for the anticipated substitute and temporary employees needed during testing at the school locations during the year; and Number 850 for \$340,000 to purchase additional language arts curriculum materials.

**HSGQE:**

Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2012-009.

**HSGQE:**

Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2012-010.

**ALASKA STATEWIDE  
MENTOR PROJECT URBAN  
GROWTH OPPORTUNITY  
SUBAWARD:****MOTION**

By memorandum, Dr. Atwater recommended the Board accept the five-year Alaska Statewide Mentor Project Urban Growth Opportunity Subaward in the total amount of \$1,120,387.56.

Mrs. Downing moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 8. Mr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**POLICY MANUAL REVISIONS:**  
(8:11:43 PM)

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve revisions to BP 6020, Parent Involvement.

**MOTION**

Mr. Holt moved the Board approve revisions to BP 6020, Parent Involvement. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**SEWARD LAND EXCHANGE  
RECOMMENDATION:**

*(8:12:17 PM)*

**MOTION**

By memorandum, Dr. Atwater recommended the Board support the Borough's proposed land exchange with the City of Seward.

Ms. Hohl recommended the Board support the Borough's proposed land exchange with the City of Seward. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

**MOTION**

Ms. Hohl recommended the Board approve an amendment to encourage the city and borough to consider the January 23 Seward Schools Site Council recommendations regarding the proposed land exchange as they draft the final exchange agreement or in an additional document. Mr. Anderson seconded.

**VOTE ON HOHL AMENDMENT:**

Advisory Vote – ABSTAIN

YES – Anderson, Hohl

NO – Downing, Holt, Hilts, Crawford, Navarre, Arness

Amendment failed.

Motion carried unanimously.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST:**

*(8:26:05 PM)*

Mr. Arness recommended the Board allow Mr. Bill Holt and Mrs. Sammy Crawford to participate fully in the steps leading up to the deliberations regarding the final collective bargaining agreement but not allow them to vote on the final document.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Downing moved the Board allow Mr. Bill Holt and Mrs. Sammy Crawford to participate fully in the steps leading up to the deliberations regarding the final collective bargaining agreement but not allow them to vote on the final document. Mr. Anderson seconded.

Mr. Arness advised Mr. Holt and Mrs. Crawford not to participate in the discussion or vote on the item.

**VOTE:**

YES – Arness

NO – Hilts, Anderson, Downing, Hohl, Navarre

Motion failed.

**FIRST READING OF POLICY  
REVISIONS:**

*(8:49:32 PM)*

The Board heard a first reading of proposed revisions to BP 0210, Vision for Student Learning.

**BOARD COMMENTS:***(8:50:16 PM)*

Mr. Holt reported that during the February KPSAA meeting the group discussed whether participation in borough championships for cross-country running, skiing, and track should be mandatory. He alerted the Board that making the meets mandatory would require a change to the KPSAA handbook. He reported that he served as course director at the recently held Borough high school ski championship, the high school Region III Championship and the junior high Borough ski championship.

Mrs. Crawford noted that the Tsateshi Trails are in great shape and thanked Mr. Holt for his work. She thanked the Kenai Central High staff and students for the school report. She thanked Mr. Young for the Connections Homeschool report. She invited those present to testify at the Kenai Legislative Information Office on Wednesday, March 7, where the House Finance Committee will take public testimony on the state budget. She urged interested persons to support an increase to the base student allocation and SB171.

Mr. Anderson thanked the Kenai High School staff and students for the presentation. He cautioned against the Board's participation in the METS helicopter crash simulation training because he completed the training in November 2011 and it was not pleasant. He explained that he regretfully voted "no" on the Board President's recommendation regarding the conflict of interest and added that it will be a disadvantage not to have the experience of Mrs. Crawford and Mr. Holt. He suggested that the Board consider forming a Substance Abuse Committee as a subcommittee of the Board. He added that, according to the mission statement, the Board will provide a "safe learning area" and felt that establishing a committee would fulfill that charge.

Ms. Hohl expressed appreciation for the KCHS report, and the Connections Homeschool report. She asked how the Board could be involved in new construction projects. She appreciated the STEAM analogy. She noted that several District students placed in the statewide PTA reflections competition and will provide a written list at a future date.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

*(continued)*

Miss Ernst expressed appreciation for the two school reports. She expressed concern regarding the District's internet block of sensitive topics, restricting research information for students and asked the Board to discuss the topic in a worksession. She reported that the following students/teams competed and placed in the state Drama Debate and Forensics (DDF) competition:

- Seward Team - Reader's Theater
- Miss Shaylee Rizzo and Miss Hannah Halliday - Pantomime
- Miss Lauren Countryman - Solo Acting
- Nikiski High placed in individual events as a team in sweepstakes for the small schools category
- Jacob Mayforth (Homer High) – Original Oration
- Jacob Mayforth and Herman Hannan (Homer High) - Duet Acting
- Adella Sundmark and Theo Noomah (Homer High) - Pantomime

Miss Ernst noted that Homer students performed extremely well and congratulated those who participated in the DDF competition and encouraged District schools to send more teams.

Mrs. Hilts commended Mrs. Henderson for her music teaching skills. She acknowledged that the conflict of interest vote was extremely difficult and added that Mr. Holt and Mrs. Crawford are people of ethics, value, and wisdom.

Mr. Navarre announced that the process is the winner in the conflict of interest matter. He congratulated the Kenai boys' basketball team and the Seward girls' basketball team as well as others that participated in regional competition and qualified to compete in state competition. He stated that the Connections Homeschool Program has done well. He thanked Mr. Fields for the Kenai Central High presentation and noted that forty years ago, Mrs. Henderson was his music teacher. He reported that the METS partnership has been successful and that it assists the pool to operate in the black.

Mrs. Downing agreed with Mrs. Hilts' comments regarding the conflict of interest vote. She stated that she enjoyed the school presentations. She reported that she attended the mass choir event and added that the students were amazing. She thanked the Connections staff for the program and complimented Ms. Nancy Kleine for her work with students. She reported that she attended the ASTE Conference and the leadership summit with Commissioner Handley and that she discussed STEAM versus STEM with the two.

**ADJOURN:**  
(9:10:37 PM)

At 9:10 p.m., Mr. Arness adjourned the School Board Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Mr. Joe Arness, President

---

Mrs. Penny Vadla, Clerk

The Minutes of March 5, 2012  
were approved as on April 2, 2012.  
as written.