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# Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

## Board of Education Meeting Minutes

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April 2, 2012 – 7:00 p.m.  
Regular Meeting

Borough Administration Building  
148 N. Binkley, Soldotna, Alaska

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**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:**

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Mrs. Laurie Olson	Mr. Tim Vlasak
Mrs. Margaret Gilman	Mrs. Christine Ermold
Mr. Loren Reese	Mr. Vaughn Dosko
Mrs. Carolyn Hitzler	Mr. Bob Ermold
Mr. Dan Beck	Ms. Jordana Engebretsen
Mr. John O'Brien	Mr. Charlie Pierce
Mrs. Margie Warner	Mrs. Doris Cannon
Mr. Doug Cannon	Mrs. Lana Syverson
Mr. Todd Syverson	Mr. John Pothast
Mrs. LaDawn Druce	Mr. Tim Peterson
Mrs. Patty Rich	Mr. Dennis Tidwell
Mr. Logan Tuttle	Mrs. Gretchen Graeff
Mrs. Terri Tidwell	

Others present not identified.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 1:53 p.m. A quorum of School Board members, Mrs. Crawford, Mrs. Downing, Mr. Navarre, Mrs. Hilts, Mr. Holt, Ms. Hohl, Mrs. Vadla and Mr. Arness were present.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

At 1:53 p.m., Mrs. Downing 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, tactics, and the superintendent's contract. Ms. Hohl seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Due to a conflict of interest, Mr. Holt and Mrs. Crawford joined the executive session at 2:30 p.m.

**ADJOURN EXECUTIVE  
SESSION:**

At 2:46 p.m., Mrs. Hilts moved the executive session be adjourned.  
Mr. Holt seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

At 2:46 p.m., the Board recessed the meeting to conduct  
worksessions.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

(7:00:10 PM)

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

(7:00:24 PM)

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

**DISTRICT MISSION  
STATEMENT:**

(7:00:52 PM)

Ms. Hohl read the District's mission statement.

**ROLL CALL:**

(7:01:15 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 Annaleah Ernst	Present

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

(7:01:48 PM)

The agenda was approved including revisions to 11a. (9) Approval  
of New Administrator Contracts 2012-13 and 11d. Approval of  
FY12 Budget Revision.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

(7:02:39 PM)

The School Board Minutes of March 5, 2012, were approved as  
printed.

**AWARDS AND  
PRESENTATIONS:**

(7:02:56 PM)

The Board presented a Golden Apple Award to Mrs. Lana Syverson,  
teacher, for her service to the students at Soldotna High School.

**SCHOOL REPORT:**

(7:06:08 PM)

Mr. Vaughn Dosko, Kenai Middle School, introduced Mrs. Margaret  
Gilman, teacher, and Mr. Dan Beck, assistant principal.  
Alternatingly, they gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting  
student enrollment, international students, transition and  
orientation assistance from elementary school into the middle  
school, parent orientation and open house, Welcoming All Kids  
(WAK) orientation, and the visually impaired program.  
Ms. Jordana Engebretsen, visually impaired teacher, introduced  
Ms. Peggy Jones, Mr. John Clare, and Miss Maria Maes, student.  
She stated that only two students in the district can read Braille.  
She demonstrated the Job Access With Speech (JAWS) screen  
reading software. Miss Maes concluded the presentation by  
singing *Welcome Home*.

(7:23:29 PM)

Mr. Loren Reese, Kenai Alternative School principal, gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the admission process, student demographics, academic schedule, Healthy Choices/Healthy Changes grant activities, the community supported breakfast program, Thanksgiving Day Feast, community mentoring program, educational moose hunt, student recognition programs, pre-school program and graduation history. Mr. Eddie Snyder, Miss Tatiana Edelben, and Miss Janae Brooks testified in support of the Kenai Alternative High School.

**RECESS:**

(7:33:54 PM)

At 7:33 p.m., Mr. Arness called a recess.

**RECONVENE AFTER**

**RECESS:**

(7:41:39 PM)

At 7:41:39 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:**

(7:42:18 PM)

Mr. David Kimura, First Student bus driver, expressed concern for bus safety and traffic safety. He asked the Board and administration to make the public aware of school busses on Peninsula roads. He stated that many unsafe drivers are using cell phones while driving.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND**

**PETITIONS:**

(7:49:16 PM)

Dr. Atwater noted that the capital projects list is included in the general information packet. He reported that Borough Ordinance 2011-1978 includes the relocation of two portables, one each to West Homer Elementary for Fireweed Academy's use and Razdolna School. He noted that Razdolna School will have 12 kindergarten students for the 2012-2013 school year. He announced that the Board will have a joint worksession with the Borough Assembly on May 1.

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

(7:50:27 PM)

Mrs. Warner, KPESA, congratulated Mrs. Syverson for being awarded a Golden Apple. She commended Kenai Middle School and Kenai Alternative for the school reports. She reported that she traveled to Juneau and while there, she visited with Representative Chenault and Senator Wagoner regarding funding for public education. She urged those present to send an email to Kenai Peninsula legislators asking them to support funding for public education. She stated that the Association is hopeful that progress will be made in negotiations later in the month.

Mrs. Druce, KPEA president, with the assistance of Mr. Dan Kaasa, explained that teachers were asked to write down on a paper plate "what is on their plate" this school year, including the number of activities and hours. She brought examples of the plates that were submitted and added that the different demands on teachers are more than normal. She noted BP Teachers of Excellence have been selected (Melissa Cloud, Shellie Worsfold, Sean Campbell, Pat Nolden). She congratulated Mrs. Syverson for being selected to receive a Golden Apple Award. She recognized the effort by support staff and teachers for their assistance in directing the Soldotna High School play, *Sherlock Holmes and the Portal of 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:**

*(continued)*

She recognized the Kenai Alternative School staff for helping her son earn enough credits to graduate. She reported that she testified against the legislative bill regarding school vouchers. She noted that SB 182, the transportation bill, moved out of senate to house. She encouraged the Board to look at SB 121 regarding the return to the Alaska Retirement System to a defined benefit system for Tier 3 and 4 employees. She noted that student testing begins April 3.

Mr. Pothast, KPAA president, reported that administrators reviewed the proposed five-year plan at the March 28 administrator meeting. He thanked the Board for their commitment to programmatic staffing. He reported that he has been working with principals throughout the nation and it has made him appreciate the KPBSD's small class sizes. He encouraged the Board to continue keeping sizes low.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT:**

*(8:04:45 PM)*

Dr. Atwater asked for a Board worksession during the week of April 16 to review the proposed draft of the District's mission statement and vision statement. He announced that standards-based assessments begin April 3 and noted that student test results will be tied to the primary teacher. He reported that a meeting will be held on April 3 to discuss the school facility situation at Kachemak Selo. He reported that Soldotna area principals met to explore ways to reconfigure Soldotna schools and noted that Soldotna Middle School may add sixth grade. He stated that he will bring a recommendation to the Board at the May meeting regarding transportation. He thanked those that have testified before state legislators, and Mr. Jones and Mrs. Crawford for their work with legislators. He expressed condolences to the family of a Nikiski student who was recently killed in a car accident.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

*(8:08:30 PM)*

Mr. Jones presented District financial reports for the period ending February 29, 2012.

**BOARD REPORTS:**

*(8:09:42 PM)*

Mrs. Downing reported that she attended the AASB Legislative Fly-in in Juneau. She reviewed the session topics including digital learning, outdoor education, and current legislation. She reported that she, along with Mrs. Vadla, Mrs. Hilts and Mrs. Crawford, shared district successes with 21 legislators and staff from the governor's office.

Mrs. Crawford reported that she attended the AASB Legislative Fly-in and while there, chaired the scholarship committee. She noted that the group selected 10 students to receive a \$1,200 scholarship including a KCHS student. She reported that she attended the AASB Board meeting as well as met with legislators.

Mrs. Vadla reported that she attended the AASB Legislative Fly-In, and reviewed the sessions offered, including the Alaska Environmental Literacy Plan (AKELP), and digital learning. She reported that the group met with legislators. She thanked Ms. Erkeneff for creating the District Facts flyer and the FY13 Legislative Funding Brief flyer.

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

Mrs. Hilts reported that she attended the AASB Legislative Fly-in and appreciated networking with board members from other districts. She reported that legislators frequently challenged the Board for asking for money for education when the Districts were already receiving money for PERS and TRS. She reported that the Legislative Finance Committee asked 8 school boards to testify. She reported that she attended the Policy Review Committee and that the group reviewed 4 policies and administrative regulations, including suspension and expulsion, evaluation of instructional programs as well as some minor housekeeping.

Mr. Holt reported that he attended the Communications Committee meeting and added that the group discussed ways to improve local communications.

Mr. Navarre reported that he attended the March 28 Administrator Meeting. He encouraged those present to look at the recent surveys and noted that the facilitators did a good job.

**BOARD WORKSESSION  
REPORT:***(8:21:58 PM)*

Mr. Arness reported that the Board conducted worksessions on technology, special education and curriculum. He reported that there was a Communications Committee meeting and a Policy Committee meeting. He added that the Board held a conference call with legislators to discuss education legislation. All were present except Mr. Arness and Mr. Anderson.

**CONSENT AGENDA:***(8:22:30 PM)*

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of 2012-2013 Tentative Board Meeting Dates; Tentative Nontenured Teacher Contracts 2012-13; Contract and Tenure for Nontenured Teachers 2012-13; HSGQE Waiver Request Number 2012-011; HSGQE Waiver Request Number 2012-012; HSGQE Waiver Request Number 2012-013; Budget Transfers; Resignations; New Administrator Contracts 2012-13; HSGQE Waiver Request Number 2012-014; Revisions to AR 5144.1, Suspension and Expulsion and AR 5144.11, Due Process; and Change in Configuration of Title I Schools.

**2012-2013 TENTATIVE  
BOARD MEETING DATES:**

Dr. Atwater recommended the Board approve a tentative meeting schedule for Board meetings for the 2012-2013 school year.

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

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve tentative nontenured teacher contracts for the 2012-13 school year for Heidi Berg, teacher/special education, Nikiski North Star Elementary School; Joshua Brantley, teacher/special education, Soldotna Middle School; Cheryl Brown, teacher/special education, Soldotna High School; Casey Davis, school psychologist, Homer Middle School; Jordana Engebretsen, teacher/special education, Kenai Middle School; Callie Hruby, teacher/special education, Mountain View Elementary School; Deana Kahn, school psychologist, Soldotna Elementary; Barbara Larrivee, teacher/special education, West Homer Elementary School; Margaret Lourigan, teacher/special education, Ninilchik School; Lindsey May, teacher/special

**TENTATIVE NONTENURED  
TEACHER CONTRACTS 2012-  
13: (continued)**

education, Mountain View Elementary; Amanda Miller, teacher/special education, Fireweed Academy; Mary Montgomery, teacher/special education and teacher/regular, Susan B English School; Bethany Nyboer, teacher/special education, Sterling; Megan Onishi, speech therapist, Mountain View; Matthew Paulus, teacher/special education, Nikiski Middle/High; Sonya Selanoff, teacher/regular, Nanwalek Elem/High; Belinda Stevens, school psychologist, Mountain View; Monica Stockburger, teacher/special education, West Homer Elem; Sarah Swaney, teacher/special education, Soldotna Elementary; Maretta Taylor, teacher/regular, Port Graham; Robert Thompson, teacher/special education, Voznesenka; and Trina Uvaas, school psychologist, Homer High.

**CONTRACT AND TENURE  
FOR NONTENURED  
TEACHERS 2012-13:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve teacher contracts and tenure for the 2012-13 school year for Kelli Creglow, teacher/special education, Soldotna Elementary School; Gwenn Dailey-Gee, teacher/special education, Homer Middle School; Tina Gilman, teacher/special education, Soldotna Elementary School; Christy Gomez, teacher/regular, Tebughna School; Peter Gundunas, teacher/special education, Skyview High School; Heather Hooper, teacher/regular, Nikiski North Star Elementary School; Garrett McMullen, teacher/special education, Tebughna School; and Amy Sundheim, school psychologist, West Homer Elementary School.

**HSGQE WAIVER REQUEST  
NUMBER 2012-011:**

Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2012-011.

**HSGQE WAIVER REQUEST  
NUMBER 2012-012:**

Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2012-012.

**HSGQE WAIVER REQUEST  
NUMBER 2012-013:**

Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2012-013.

**BUDGET TRANSFERS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve budget transfers Numbers 917, 940, 941 and 958 to move curriculum budgets to the schools.

**RESIGNATIONS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve resignations, effective at the end of the 2011-12 school year, for Charles Crain, science/math teacher, Nanwalek School; Gary Blount Math, teacher, Spring Creek School; Geoffrey Clark, music teacher, Nikiski Middle/High School; Janet Van Driessche, special education resource teacher, Seward Middle School; Jeffrey Wolf, math/Spanish, Seward High School; John Wensley, 4th grade teacher, Mt. View Elementary School; Justine Reese, science/language arts/credit recovery, Nikiski Middle/High School; Mary Alice Blount, science teacher, Spring Creek School; Megan O'Neill, math interventionist, Kenai Middle School; Misty Crain, language arts/social studies, Nanwalek School; Rosemary Pilatti, music teacher, Nikiski North Star Elementary; Patricia Kane, language arts/geography teacher, Secondary Education/Student Activities; and Thomas Hougum, music teacher, K-Beach Elementary School.

**NEW ADMINISTRATOR  
CONTRACTS 2012-13:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve administrator contracts for the 2012-2013 school year for Michelle Thomason, Professional Development Coordinator, District Office, and Nancy Kleine, principal/teacher, Nanwalek School.

**HSGQE WAIVER REQUEST  
NUMBER 2012-014:**

Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2012-014.

**POLICY MANUAL REVISIONS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve revisions to AR 5144.1, Suspension and Expulsion and AR 5144.11, Due Process.

**CHANGE IN CONFIGURATION  
OF TITLE I SCHOOLS**

Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve changes in school configuration for Kenai Alternative, Nikolaevsk School, Port Graham School and Razdolna School, which will allow them to offer pre-kindergarten for special education students.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 12. Mr. Holt seconded.

Mrs. Vadla removed Numbers 11a.(1), Approval of 2012-2013 Tentative Board Meeting Dates and 11a.(8), Approval of Resignations.

Motion carried unanimously for Numbers 2 through 7 and 9 through 12.

Motion carried unanimously for Number 1.

Motion carried unanimously for Number 8.

**FY13 BUDGET:**  
(8:28:57 PM)

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a General Fund FY13 Budget of \$143,007,644, with budgeted revenue from all sources of \$140,526,201 and use of fund balance of \$2,481,143.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve a General Fund FY13 Budget of \$143,007,644. Mrs. Downing seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**POLICY MANUAL REVISIONS:**  
(8:32:11 PM)

Dr. Atwater recommended the Board approve proposed revisions to BP 0210, Vision for Student Learning.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve proposed revisions to BP 0210, Vision for Student Learning. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**FY12 BUDGET REVISION:**  
(8:33:23 PM)

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a revision to the F12 General Fund revenue budget of \$139,930,278, plus the \$316,822 increase in state revenue, less the decreased use of fund balance for a total revised FY12 Revenue budget of \$138,913,091.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Vadla moved the Board approve a total revised FY12 General Fund revenue budget of \$138,913,091.

Motion carried unanimously.

**SUPPORT BOROUGH  
ORDINANCE 2012-08:**  
(8:38:05 PM)

Dr. Atwater recommended the Board approve a recommendation to Support Borough Ordinance 2012-08, An Ordinance Amending The Borough Code To Revise Assembly And School Board District Boundaries And Providing For Truncation Of The Term For Assembly Seat Number 2, Kenai.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve the recommendation to Support Borough Ordinance 2012-08. Ms. Hohl seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**  
(8:40:48 PM)

Mr. Holt expressed appreciation for a statement, "it is not the label but the needs of the kids that we are dealing with", which was made by Mr. Holland during the special education update. He expressed appreciation for the school presentations.

Mrs. Vadla congratulated the Soldotna High Skills USA winners and the newly elected officers. She congratulated Gunnar Romatz and Leigh Anne Hood, for being selected to receive Elks scholarships. She thanked Mr. Jones for helping her with the budget. She thanked Ms. Erkeneff for her work. She expressed appreciation to Miss Maria Maes for her singing. She thanked the school principal and staff for the reports. She thanked the KPEA, KPESA, and KPAA representatives for the comments. She thanked Mrs. Cannon for the curriculum update and those that provided the technology update.

Mrs. Crawford suggested that the strategic planning session meet and connect by polycam for Board members who live outside of the central peninsula area. She asked for a discussion about Common Core Standards, which were recently adopted by the Anchorage School District as well as 47 states throughout the nation. She reported that the worksessions on technology, special education and curriculum were exceptional. She congratulated Mrs. Syverson for being selected to receive a Golden Apple Award. She thanked Mr. Dosko and Mr. Reece for the school reports.

Mrs. Hilts stated that she would participate in the recommended April worksession. She thanked and commended the worksession presenters. She commended Mrs. Gilman for working towards an administrative certificate. She stated that the District has exceptional people working for students and appreciates their enthusiasm.



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

Ms. Hohl stated that she will leave the state on April 13 and is unsure whether she can participate in an April worksession. She was glad to meet Mrs. Syverson. She stated that she attended a community tsunami preparedness event in Newport, Oregon and offered to share the school all-event emergency response flip chart with the District. She was excited that Mrs. Gilman is enrolled in the principal intern program. She commended Kenai Middle School and Kenai Alternative High School staff for the reports. She responded to Mr. Kimura's comments and encouraged schools to remind drivers about bus safety. She expressed appreciation for teachers and the time they dedicate to District students. She stated she was encouraged to see ADA compliance study on the list of capital projects and requested that the Board be updated as the study progresses. She expressed appreciation for Mr. Pothast's comments regarding low class sizes. She encouraged the District to apply for a Quality Schools/Quality Students grant.

Mr. Navarre thanked Kenai Middle School and Kenai Alternative High School staff for reports. He expressed concern that the Homer transportation recommendation would be considered at the May meeting, which will be held in Seward. He congratulated Mrs. Syverson for receiving the Golden Apple Award. He stated that he enjoyed the Soldotna High School play and commended the student actors.

Mr. Arness suggested April 16 as the date for the Board strategic plan worksession.

Miss Ernst congratulated Mrs. Syverson for receiving the Golden Apple Award. She commended Kenai Middle School and Kenai Alternative School staff for the reports. She credited the Kenai Alternative staff for helping Nikiski Middle/High start a mini alternative school-within-a-school. She thanked the three students who spoke in support of the Kenai Alternative School. She thanked Mr. Kumira for sharing his bussing concerns. She congratulated Lincoln Johnson and Trey Zimmerman for participating in wrestling at the Arctic Winter games. She noted that Team Alaska earned a silver medal overall and Lincoln placed first and Trey placed second. She thanked the technology staff for the worksession and for addressing an internet search issue. She stated she would like the District to explore ways to better retain music staff. She said good-bye to Ms. Reese who has resigned from Nikiski Middle/High.

Mrs. Downing stated that she was impressed with the Kenai Middle School transition program. She stated that it is her seventh year on the Board and in that time, many things have been accomplished. She stated that the April 16 date is fine for a Board worksession.

Mr. Arness thanked Mr. Dosko and Mr. Reese for providing the school reports. He announced that the special Board worksession will be held on April 16. He added that the time and location will be forthcoming.

**ADJOURN:**  
(9:06:55 PM)

At 9:06 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. Penny Vadla, Clerk

The Minutes of April 2, 2012,  
were approved as of  
May 7, 2012 as written.