

---

# Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

## Board of Education Meeting Minutes

---

August 5, 2013 – 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

**STAFF PRESENT:**

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Ms. Jane Smith	Ms. Pegge Erkeneff
Mrs. Barbara Dilley	Mr. John Pothast
Ms. Joann Riener	Ms. Elizabeth Wilson
Mrs. Patty Sirois	Mr. Eric Soderquist
Mr. Neil Denny	Ms. Toni King
Ms. Fran Stetson	Ms. Martine Dikes
Mr. Jim White	Mr. Jordan Chilson
Mrs. Laura Mohorcich	Mr. Ted Notter
Miss Sarah Mohorcich	Mr. David Henson
Mr. Dustin Boeshart	Mr. Will Burnett
Ms. Sara Hardan	Mr. Mike Crawford
Mrs. Laurie Olson	Mr. Tim Vlasak

Others present not identified.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

(7:00:03 PM)

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

(7:00:35 PM)

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

**DISTRICT MISSION  
STATEMENT:**

(7:00:59 PM)

Mr. Anderson read the District's mission statement.

**ROLL CALL:**

(7:01:14 PM)

Mr. Joe Arness	Present
Mr. Marty Anderson	Present
Mrs. Sammy Crawford	Present
Mrs. Liz Downing	Present
Mrs. Sunni Hilts	Present
Ms. Lynn Hohl	Absent/Excused
Mr. Bill Holt	Absent/Excused
Mr. Tim Navarre	Present
Mrs. Penny Vadla	Present

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:***(7:01:36 PM)*

The agenda was approved with the addition of Number 2a. Golden Apple Award, Mr. Eric Soderquist.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:***(7:02:13 PM)*

The School Board Minutes of July 1, 2013, were approved as printed.

**AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:***(7:02:30 PM)*

The Board presented a Golden Apple Award to Ms. Elizabeth Wilson, volunteer coordinator at Central Peninsula Hospital, for her work in the student volunteer program and Project SEARCH.

The Board presented a Golden Apple Award to Mr. Eric Soderquist, Information Services Programmer/Analyst, for his service to the District.

**RECESS:***(7:15:00 PM)*

Mr. Arness recessed the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

At 7:20 p.m. Mr. Arness reconvened the meeting.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:***(7:23:00 PM)*

Dr. Atwater announced that the Central Peninsula Hospital is now a preferred provider for the District's health care plan, that this will reduce health care costs by 7-25%, and thanked Mayor Navarre for his work to bring about this change. He reported that, after a recent audit, the State renewed the District's Certificate of Preventative Maintenance and Facility Management and thanked Mr. Dave Tressler and his staff for their good work. He reported that the State recently conducted a comprehensive review of the District's federal programs, that the District scored satisfactory in 95% of the requirement areas, and the remaining 5% scored just under satisfactory. He noted several Borough ordinances, posted in the Board's general information packet, that will be reviewed by the Borough Assembly at their August 6, 2013, meeting. He announced the Senate Finance Subcommittee on Education invited the District to a meeting on August 21, 2013, (convened by Senator Dunleavy) to present a history and projection of District finances in order to help plan for future education funding needs.

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SITE COUNCIL AND/OR P.T.A., K.P.A.A., K.P.E.A., K.P.E.S.A, BOROUGH ASSEMBLY:***(7:24:42 PM)*

Mr. Neil Denny, K.P.E.A president, introduced himself and spoke regarding challenges for the upcoming school year including the Soldotna schools reconfiguration, the new teacher evaluation system, the new star schools rating, and school safety and building security. His noted that his personal goal is to work with the District to reduce student truancy with programs such as the Power Hour Program at Ninilchik School. He is looking forward to the coming school year.

Mrs. Patty Sirois, K.P.E.S.A president, introduced herself and spoke regarding the importance of the District support staff. She requested additional training opportunities for support employees. She stated that Mr. Denny and she met earlier in the day with Ms. Joann Riener, Human Resources Director, for a working lunch and stated that she is looking forward to the upcoming year with two new union presidents and a new Human Resources Director.

**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)*

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT:**

*(7:31:53 PM)*

Mr. John Pothast, K.P.A.A. past-president, spoke on behalf of Mr. Trevan Walker, K.P.A.A. president. He expressed appreciation for the recent administrator meetings, the upcoming school year, and the District leadership, especially Dr. Atwater, Mr. Dusek, and Mr. Jones.

Dr. Atwater reported that the Superintendent's Annual Report is complete, has been given to the Board, and will be distributed in local newspapers. He thanked Ms. Erkeneff for her work and asked the Board to consider and suggest alternative format options for future reports. He announced the State of Alaska has implemented a star system to designate school quality, the rating is 1 to 5 stars (5 being the highest), that preliminary reports show that 77% of KPBSD schools have been rated as 4 or 5 stars, and the final rating will be available at the September 9, 2013 Board worksession. He reported that the opening administrator meetings went well and discussed topics covered during those meetings. He stated that school starts on Thursday, August 8, at three village schools, on Monday, August 19, for Port Graham and Nanwalek schools, and on Tuesday, August 20 for other District schools. He announced that the District regional inservices will be held on Wednesday, August 14, at Kenai, Nikiski, Soldotna, Seward, and Homer high schools, and invited Board members to attend. He thanked Mrs. Laurie Wood for her work for the District's Human Resource Department.

**QUARTERLY BUDGET  
TRANSFER REPORT:**

*(7:35:08 PM)*

Mr. Jones reported on budget transfer numbers 1011 through 1584 for various schools and departments within the District.

**BOARD REPORTS:**

*(7:37:47 PM)*

Mrs. Downing reported that the Legislative Committee met earlier in the day to review the Association of Alaska School Boards (A.A.S.B.) proposed resolutions, that the committee divided the resolutions between the three members to review in detail, and they have their recommendations available for the Board's review at the September Board meeting.

Mrs. Crawford reported that she attended the A.A.S.B. July summer meeting in Fairbanks, as a member of their board of directors, and discussed topics covered at the meeting including the A.A.S.B. Resolutions. She announced that the 60<sup>th</sup> A.A.S.B. Annual Conference will be held November 7-10, 2013, at the Anchorage Hilton with the theme "Honor the Past, Embrace the Future." She noted that the A.A.S.B. outstanding school board of the year award has been renamed the "Carl Rose Governance Award." She announced an A.A.S.B. board of directors opening for the Kenai Peninsula with nominations from the KPBSD Board due to A.A.S.B. by October 15.

**BOARD REPORTS:***(Continued)*

Mrs. Vadla reported that she attended the Communications Committee meeting earlier in the day where they discussed the new District logo, the committee's focus for the school year including employee communications, key communicators, the superintendent's annual report, and the school messenger system. She expressed appreciation for Ms. Erkeneff's work on the superintendent's annual report.

Mrs. Hilts reported that she attended the Board Policy Committee meeting earlier in the day where they discussed health examinations, the growth screening opt out form, the Alaska Performance Scholarship, co-curricular activities including a new policy for out of district students, concussions in student athletics and activities, and a new policy on student restraint and seclusion. She reported she attended the A.A.S.B. July summer meeting in Fairbanks with Mrs. Crawford and discussed the work done at that meeting. She stated that A.A.S.B. now has new leadership and the transition has gone smoothly.

**BOARD WORKSESSION  
REPORT:***(7:45:49 PM)*

Mr. Arness reported that the Board Legislative, Policy, and Communications Committees met and the Board held worksessions prior to the formal business meeting regarding Board Policy, Soldotna Schools Reconfiguration, Security and School Safety Fund Expenditures, and AASB Core Resolutions. He stated that all Board members attending the meeting attended the worksessions.

**CONSENT AGENDA:***(7:46:17 PM)*

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Pay Schedule for Substitutes and other Temporary Employees 2013-2014, 2013-2014 New Teacher Contracts, 2013-2014 Non-Tenure Teacher Contracts, 2013-2014 Resignations, High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2013-08, and Leave of Absence Request/Support.

**PAY SCHEDULE FOR  
SUBSTITUTES AND OTHER  
TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES  
2013-2014:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve the proposed pay schedule for substitutes and other temporary employees for the 2013-2014 school year.

**2013-2014 NEW TEACHER  
CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve teacher contracts for Sally Ash, Bilingual Sugt'stun Teacher (.50 FTE), Nanwalek School; Penny Bearden, Science/Math Teacher, Nanwalek School; Evan Block, Special Education Resource Teacher, Kenai Central High School; Kyle Cater, Language Arts Teacher, Kenai Central High School; Kristie Cotroneo, Primary Grade Teacher, Redoubt Elementary School; Krystal Duval, Kindergarten Teacher, Sterling Elementary School; Jacqueline Engels, Primary Grade Teacher, Redoubt Elementary School; Amy Frapp, Interventionist Teacher, Soldotna Elementary School; Emily Kenagy, Business Education/Computer Science Teacher, Soldotna High School; Walter Klopfer, Special Education Resource Teacher (Cross Categorical), Homer High School; Samantha Lamphier, Primary Grade Teacher, Redoubt Elementary School; David Lefton, Special Education Resource Teacher/Elementary Education Teacher, Fireweed Academy; *(Continued next page)*

**2013-2014 NEW TEACHER  
CONTRACTS:**

*(Continued)*

Shannon Lemcke, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher, K-Beach Elementary School; Nicole McKenney, Language Arts/Social Studies Teacher, Kachemak Selo School; Shilo McManus, Special Education Behavior Teacher, Mt. View Elementary School; Michael Reid, Special Education Behavior Teacher, Mt. View Elementary School; Kendra Remsen, Credit Recovery Teacher (.50 FTE), Homer High School; Susan Stempel, Speech Language Pathologist, Paul Banks Elementary School; Sadie Updike, Special Education Resource Teacher, Nikiski North Star Elementary School; Anna Veach, Speech Language Pathologist, Central Peninsula Area; Rebecca Walker, Intermediate Grade Teacher, Mt. View Elementary School; Amy White Baxter, Primary Grade Teacher, Mt. View Elementary School; and Sierra Whitehill, Science/Math Teacher, Ninilchik School.

**2013-2014 NON-TENURE  
TEACHER CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve tentative non-tenured teacher contracts for Michelle Barrows, Teacher/Special Education, Nikiski Middle/High School; Jacob Eveland, Teacher/Regular, Redoubt Elementary School; Erin Thomson, Teacher/Regular, Kachemak Selo School; and Gary Wertz, Guidance Counselor, Districtwide.

**2013-2014 RESIGNATIONS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a resignation from Michael Boyle, Vocational Education, Kenai Central High School effective at the end of the 2012-2013 school year.

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION  
QUALIFYING EXAM WAIVER  
REQUEST NUMBER 2013-08:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2013-08.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE  
REQUEST/SUPPORT:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a leave of absence request for Lisa Dehlbom, Secretary II, Soldotna Montessori Charter School effective August 21, 2013 to May 29, 2014.

**MOTION:**

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 6. Mr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**POLICY REVISIONS:**

*(7:47:21 PM)*

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve revisions to BP and AR 5040 Student Nutrition and Wellness and BP 3541.1 School Related Trips.

**MOTION:**

Mrs. Vadla moved the Board approve revisions to BP and AR 5040 Student Nutrition and Wellness and BP 3541.1 School Related Trips. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**BOARD COMMENTS:***(7:48:55 PM)*

Mrs. Vadla thanked Mr. Dave Jones and Mr. Dave Tressler for the information they provided to the Board and for their work on security and school safety. She welcomed Mr. Neil Denny and Mrs. Patty Sirois. She congratulated Mr. Eric Soderquist and Ms. Elizabeth Wilson, Golden Apple Award recipients. She expressed appreciation for the evening's dinner, dinner conversations, and guests including Mr. Nate Crabtree, K-Beach Elementary principal.

Mrs. Hilts expressed appreciation for the evening's dinner and conversations with the new administrator guests. She expressed appreciation for the support shown at the meeting to the Golden Apple Award recipients. She welcomed Mr. Denny and Mrs. Sirois.

Mrs. Downing reported that during a recent trip she met with Senator Mark Begich and Senator Lisa Murkowski's education staffs to share local concerns. She stated that she also met with representatives of the International Society for Technology in Education where they discussed E-rate 2.0 proposed changes and encouraged the public to remain informed. She stated that she spent three days at the Upside Down Organization and discussed the presentations held there by Mr. Frank Cross. She expressed appreciation for the superintendent's annual report and thanked Ms. Erkeneff for her work on the publication. She welcomed Mr. Denny, Mrs. Sirois, and Ms. Riener.

Mrs. Crawford expressed appreciation for the day's worksessions, and the superintendent's annual report. She congratulated Mr. Eric Soderquist and Ms. Elizabeth Wilson, Golden Apple Award recipients, and thanked them for their work. She stated that this is her last board meeting in Soldotna and she will attend her final board meeting in Homer on September 9, 2013.

Mr. Anderson welcomed Mr. Denny and Mrs. Sirois. He commented on the need for a comprehensive school security program that includes all facets and not just doors and locks.

Mr. Arness welcomed Mr. Denny and Mrs. Sirois. He announced that Kenai Central High School will hold a rededication of their renovated track and field on August 17, 2013, stated that he was a member of the school's first football team, that he will attend to represent the Board, and encouraged the public and Board to also attend.

**ADJOURN:**  
(7:56:16 PM)

At 7:56 p.m., Mr. Arness adjourned the School Board Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Mr. Joe Arness, President

---

Mrs. Penny Vadla, Clerk

The Minutes of August 5, 2013,  
have been approved as of  
September 9, 2013.