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# Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

## Board of Education Meeting Minutes

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February 3, 2014 – 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  
Mr. Dan Castimore  
Mrs. Sunni Hilts  
Mr. Bill Holt  
Mr. Tim Navarre  
Mr. Evan Boyer, Student Representative

### STAFF PRESENT:

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

### OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Tim Vlasak	Mrs. Margaret Gilman
Ms. Pegge Erkeneff	Mr. Clayton Holland
Ms. Joann Riener	Ms. Julie Cisco
Ms. Debbie Harris	Ms. Martine Dikes
Mr. Joel Burns	Mrs. Elise Boyer
Mr. Gary Hale	Mr. Matt Fischer
Mr. Eric Soderquist	Mrs. Patty Sirois
Ms. Carolyn Cannava	Dr. Nels Anderson
Mr. John O'Brien	Mr. Brent Johnson

Others present not identified.

### CALL TO ORDER:

(7:00:07 PM)

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

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

(7:00:26 PM)

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

### DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT:

(7:00:52 PM)

Mr. Navarre read the District's mission statement.

### ROLL CALL:

(7:01:14 PM)

Mr. Joe Arness, President	Present
Mrs. Liz Downing, Vice President	Present
Mrs. Penny Vadla, Clerk	Absent/Excused
Ms. Lynn Hohl, Treasurer	Present
Mr. Marty Anderson	Absent/Excused
Mr. Dan Castimore	Present
Mrs. Sunni Hilts	Absent/Excused
Mr. Bill Holt	Present
Mr. Tim Navarre	Present
Mr. Evan Boyer	Present

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

(7:02:02 PM)

The agenda was approved with a revision to 10a. (1) Approval of Six-Year Plan, FY 2015-2020.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

(7:02:39 PM)

The School Board Minutes of January 13, 2014, were approved as revised.

**AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:**

(7:03:31 PM)

Mrs. Margaret Gilman, Nikiski North Star Elementary School principal, introduced students: Mr. Kyler Howell, Miss Alisia Elias, Mr. Gabriel Cole, Mr. Josh Martin, and Mr. Braydon Whiteside. Mr. Whiteside read a statement regarding school board appreciation and the students presented each board member with a gift of student artwork and an apple (symbolic of the District's Golden Apple Award) in celebration of February as School Board Appreciation month.

**SCHOOL REPORT:**

(7:11:55 PM)

Using Microsoft's Lync technology, Mr. Tim Whip, Razdolna School principal/teacher, presented a video tour of the school facility, beginning in the elementary grade building. He discussed the school's population and growth then introduced student, Miss Zoya Basargin, who requested a full time Russian language teacher for the school. Several of the school's teachers took turns leading the tour through the elementary classrooms, and highlighted the school programs, student artwork, and technology. The tour continued at the high school building where the teachers discussed the high school students; programs offered; the community, families, and culture; and the library. Mr. Whip thanked the Board for their work and invited them to visit the school.

(7:30:10 PM)

Using Microsoft's Lync technology, Mr. Andy Rothenberger, Kachemak-Selo School principal, stated that approximately 40 students and parents were in attendance at the school for the presentation. He introduced the kindergarten through third grade students who performed four songs/poems, in Russian, entitled *Our School*, *Snowfall*, *The Fire*, and *Lullaby Lullaby*. Mr. Rothenberger shared a Prezi highlighting the school's 100% graduation rate; Russian and English language programs; village and parent support; village culture; school programs (including sewing, agriculture, construction, business/fishing, marine safety, welding, family management, and healthcare) and shared data regarding students' post graduate paths. He thanked the Board for their support of the school and expressed appreciation for the school's parents and community.

Mr. Vlasak thanked the Board for their support in allowing the schools to report via Lync. He thanked Mr. Eric Soderquist and Mr. Casey Olson for their assistance in setting up the presentations.

At 7:45 p.m., Mr. Arness called a recess.

At 7:53 Mr. Arness reconvened the meeting.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:**

(7:53:55 PM)

Dr. Nels Anderson spoke in support of the Skyview High School pool as a community resource and requested that the Board explore options to keep the pool in operation.

Ms. Laura McIndoe spoke in support of the Skyview High School pool as a student and community resource and requested that the Board explore options to keep the pool in operation.

Ms. Carolyn Cannava spoke in support of the Skyview High School pool as a student and community resource, suggested swimming be added as a part of the middle school curriculum, and requested that the Board explore options to keep the pool in operation.

Mr. Luke Baumer spoke in support of the Skyview High School pool, discussed the pool's usage and programs offered, and requested that the Board explore options to keep the pool in operation.

Mr. Matt Fischer spoke in support of the Skyview High School pool, discussed adding swimming education to the middle school curriculum, and requested that the Board explore options to keep the pool in operation.

Ms. Peggy Larson spoke in support of the Skyview High School pool as a community resource, and requested that the Board explore options to keep the pool in operation.

Miss Jessica Jackson spoke in support of the Skyview High School pool as a student and community resource, discussed adding swimming education to middle school curriculum, and requested that the Board explore options to keep the pool in operation.

Ms. Nancy Henning spoke in support of the Skyview High School pool as a community resource, and requested that the Board explore options to keep the pool in operation.

Mr. Paul Kupferschmid spoke in support of the Skyview High School pool as a community resource, and requested that the Board explore options to keep the pool in operation.

Ms. Jennifer Lancaster-Jackson spoke in support of the Skyview High School pool as a community resource, discussed adding swimming education to middle school curriculum, and requested that the Board explore options to keep the pool in operation.

Ms. Theresa Lusby spoke in support of the Skyview High School pool as a community resource, and requested that the Board explore options to keep the pool in operation.

Mr. Scott Wertz spoke in support of the Skyview High School pool, the value of learning to swim at a young age, and requested that the Board explore options to keep the pool in operation.

Ms. Mary Ellen Summer spoke in support of the Skyview High School pool as a community resource, and requested that the Board explore options to keep the pool in operation.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:***(Continued)*

Mr. Jessie James spoke in support of the Skyview High School pool as a community resource, and requested that the Board explore options to keep the pool in operation.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:***(8:33:11 PM)*

Dr. Atwater announced that the State of Alaska has selected Assessment and Achievement Institute of Kansas to develop the new statewide student test. He reported that two District students, Mr. John Walsworth (Homer High School) and Miss Juliet Bramante, (Soldotna High School) have been selected as Presidential Scholars by the United States Department of Education. He discussed his memo in the general information packet regarding the funding of a National Science Foundation Grant which will benefit students from Nikiski and Seward through the UA Upward Bound Program. He stated that two letters, also in the general information packet, that were sent to the Valdez school board and newspaper were well received and appreciated.

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SITE COUNCIL AND/OR P.T.A., K.P.A.A., K.P.E.A., K.P.E.S.A, BOROUGH ASSEMBLY:***(8:34:41 PM)*

Mrs. Patty Sirois, K.P.E.S.A president, thanked the Board for their work and noted that February is School Board Appreciation month. She reported that she attended the N.E.A. Alaska Delegate Assembly, noted other District staff that attended and topics discussed there. She expressed appreciation for the presentations from Razdolna and Kachemak Selo schools and discussed her recent visits to the facilities. She stated that the Razdolna School secretary's son was recently injured, that a fund has been set up to assist the family, and those interested may contact her for more information.

Mr. Matt Fischer, on behalf of K.P.E.A., discussed Senate Bill 90 regarding health care, the Hay Report, and the District's health care plan. He urged the Board to advise against the Hay Group recommendations, and asked that the Board direct District administration to work with the associations in order to allow employees to opt out of the employee health care plan.

Mr. Brent Johnson, Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly, noted the comments made during Public Presentations regarding the Skyview High School pool. He expressed appreciation for the Razdolna and Kachemak Selo school reports.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:***(8:48:45 PM)*

Dr. Atwater announced that it is National School Counseling Week and asked the Board to join him in thanking the District's 16 counselors for their work. He reported that Project GRAD received a \$25,000 grant from the Chugach Alaska Corporation to assist Port Graham and Nanwalek students that are served by the program. He thanked community members for their comments, both by email and during the evening's meeting, regarding the Skyview High School pool. He discussed the large amount of public attention given to the small percentage of the District's budget which the pool represents, versus the attention given to the larger percentage of budget cuts including teachers, and other activities. He announced that Governor Parnell proclaimed February as School Board Appreciation month and thanked the Board for their work for and governance of the District.

**BOARD REPORTS:***(8:50:58 PM)*

Mrs. Downing reported that she attended the Key Communicator Meet and Greet at Homer Middle School on January 30, 2014. She reported that the Legislative Committee met on January 27, to discuss the Governor's Omnibus bill and met, again, earlier in the day to discuss current legislative bills and to prepare for the Association of Alaska School Board's Legislative Fly-in on February 8-11, 2014.

Mr. Castimore reported that he attended the Kaleidoscope School of Arts and Science ten year anniversary celebration.

Ms. Hohl reported that, along with Mr. Arness and Mrs. Downing, she participated in the large district teleconference on January 30, 2014 regarding legislative issues.

**BOARD WORKSESSION  
REPORT:***(8:52:57 PM)*

Mr. Arness reported that the Board held worksessions regarding the FY15 Budget, Curriculum Revision Processes, Key Performance Indicators, the Hay Report, and Education Legislation (a conference call with Kenai Peninsula legislators).

**CONSENT AGENDA:***(8:53:23 PM)*

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Six-Year Plan, FY 2015-2020; 2014-2015 District Organizational Chart; 2014-15 Tentative Administrator Contracts; 2014-15 Tentative Tenure Teacher Contracts; 2014-15 Tentative Non-Tenured Teacher Contracts and Tenure; 2014-15 Tentative Non-Tenured Teacher Contracts; Resignations; and High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2014-08.

**SIX-YEAR PLAN  
FY 2015-2020:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve the proposed Six-Year Plan for FY 2015-2020.

**2014-2015 DISTRICT  
ORGANIZATIONAL CHART:**

Dr. Atwater recommended the Board approve the 2014-2015 District organizational chart that identifies the lines of primary responsibility and relationships between administrative positions.

**2014-2015 TENTATIVE  
ADMINISTRATOR  
CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a list of tentative administrator contracts for the 2014-2015 school year.

**2014-2015 TENTATIVE  
TENURED TEACHER  
CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a list of tentative tenure teacher contracts for the 2014-2015 school year.

**2014-2015 TENTATIVE  
NON-TENURED TEACHER  
CONTRACTS AND TENURE:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve tentative non-tenured teacher contracts and tenure for Isaiah White, Teacher/Regular, Voznesenka School; and Justin Zank, Teacher/Regular, Voznesenka School.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

*(Continued)*

**2014-2015 TENTATIVE  
NON-TENURED TEACHER  
CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve tentative non-tenured teacher contracts for Sally Ash, Teacher/Regular (.50 FTE), Nanwalek School; Penny Bearden, Teacher/Regular, Nanwalek School; David Brighton, Teacher/Special Education, Tebughna School; Tracy Brown, School Psychologist, Mountain View Elementary School; Glendon Fraser, Teacher/Regular, Nanwalek School; Jamie Hughes, Teacher/Regular, Port Graham School; Ellen Kenna, Speech/Language Pathologist, Nikiski North Star Elementary School; Emily Kornelis, Speech/Language Pathologist, Soldotna High School; Margaret Leahy, Speech/Language Pathologist, Seward Elementary School; Nicole McKenney, Teacher/Regular, Kachemak Selo School; Krista Parrett, Teacher/Regular, Nikolaevsk School; Effimia Reutov, Teacher/Regular, Razdolna School; Kara Schreur, Teacher/Regular, Nanwalek School; Susan Stempel, Speech/Language Pathologist, Paul Banks Elementary School; Erin Thomson, Teacher/Regular, Kachemak Selo School; Josh Tone, Teacher/Regular, Port Graham School; Anna Veach, Speech/Language Pathologist, Mountain View Elementary School; and Anna White, Teacher/Regular, Kachemak Selo School.

**RESIGNATIONS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve resignations from Justin Derks, Math/Science Teacher, Susan B. English School, effective at the end of the 2013-14 school year; Suzanne McKeon-Brantley, Special Education Intensive Needs Teacher, Soldotna Middle School, effective January 31, 2014; Melinda Michener, Interventionist Teacher/Generalist Teacher, Ninilchik School, effective at the end of the 2013-14 school year; and Sharon Thompson, Special Education Intensive Needs Teacher, Nikiski Middle/High School, effective at the end of the 2013-14 school year.

**HSGQE:**

Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2014-08.

**MOTION:**

Ms. Hohl moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 8. Mr. Navarre seconded.

Mr. Castimore removed Number 1 Six-Year Plan for FY 2015-2020.

Motion carried unanimously for Numbers 2-8.

**MOTION:**

Mr. Castimore moved the Board postpone Number 10a. (1) until the March 3, 2014 regular meeting, in order to allow for a worksession on the plan. Ms. Hohl seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**KALEIDOSCOPE  
REAUTHORIZATION:**  
(8:56:30 PM)

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve the Kaleidoscope School of Arts & Science revised reapplication.

**MOTION:**

Mr. Navarre moved the Board approve the Kaleidoscope School of Arts & Science revised reapplication. Mr. Holt seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**FIRST READING OF POLICY  
REVISIONS:**  
(8:58:46 PM)

The Board heard a first reading of revisions to BP 3541.2 Transportation for Students with Disabilities.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/  
COMMENTS:**  
(8:59:32 PM)

Mrs. LaDawn Druce stated that she attended the evening's testimony at the Kenai Legislative Information Office regarding Senate Joint Resolution 9, proposing amendments to the Constitution of the State of Alaska relating to state aid for education. She stated that she is enjoying working again as a school counselor. She discussed a recent \$20,000 grant award from the National Education Association (N.E.A.) through K.P.E.A., to assist the District's Effective Instruction Committee. She thanked the Board for their work.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**  
(9:03:33 PM)

Mr. Holt thanked those that testified regarding the Skyview High School pool and expressed his hope that a way can be found to keep the pool operational.

Mr. Castimore stated that he is hoping for cooler temperatures and snow. He discussed the opt out option for health care and stated that he will consider completing a Board of Education Request form regarding the topic.

Ms. Hohl greeted Mrs. Druce. She thanked Mrs. Gilman and Nikiski North Star Elementary for the artwork and apples. She discussed the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Coins and suggested the Board award coins to people that have been instrumental in the District's growth. She reported that she attended the Seward P.T.S.A. meeting and will facilitate the regional judging for the Alaska P.T.A. Reflections Program. She stated that she served as a facilitator for the Juvenile Justice Community Action Team table at the Seward Prevention Coalition Town Hall meeting during the previous week.

Mr. Boyer expressed appreciation for Razdolna and Kachemak Selo Schools' presentations. He discussed the evening's public comments regarding the Skyview High School pool and his personal swimming experiences. He stated that he is looking forward to the Association of Alaska School Boards Youth Advocacy Institute on February 8-11, 2014.

**BOARD COMMENTS:***(Continued)*

Mr. Navarre thanked Mrs. Gilman, Ms. Harris, and Nikiski North Star Elementary for their presentation and artwork gifts. He expressed appreciation for Razdolna and Kachemak Selo Schools' presentations and for Mr. Vlasak's work in coordinating them. He stated that he is looking forward to the Association of Alaska School Boards Legislative Fly-In, February 8-11, 2014 and the opportunity to make an impact on legislation. He discussed the Skyview High School pool, stated that the Board should research the issue thoroughly and endeavor to find a way to keep the pool in operation.

Mrs. Downing thanked Mrs. Gilman and her students for the Board Appreciation recognition. She expressed appreciation for Razdolna and Kachemak Selo Schools' presentations. She stated that she is looking forward to the Association of Alaska School Boards Legislative Fly-In, February 8-11, 2014 and the Alaska Society for Technology in Education Conference, February 22-25, 2014.

**ADJOURN:***(9:15:29 PM)*

At 9:15 p.m., Mr. Arness adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mr. Joe Arness, President

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Mrs. Penny Vadla, Clerk

The Minutes of February 3, 2014, have been approved as of March 3, 2014.