Kenai Peninsula Borough School District
Board of Education Meeting Minutes

May 5, 2014 – 7:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting

Seward High School
2100 Swetmann, Seward, 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

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Jason Bickling	Mr. Marc Swanson
Mr. David Kingsland	Mr. Trevan Walker
Ms. Joann Riener	Mr. John O'Brien
Ms. Pegge Erkeneff	Mr. Clayton Holland
Mrs. Patty Sirois	Ms. Kim Reierson
Ms. Carol Thomassen	Ms. Mica VanBuskirk
Ms. Amy Hankins	Ms. Mary Tougas

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: Mr. Holt read the District's mission statement.

ROLL CALL:

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved with the revision to move Number 5. Hearing of Delegations to immediately follow Number 3. School Presentations.

SCHOOL REPORTS:

Mr. David Kingsland, Seward Elementary School principal, reported on the school's enrollment and demographics; test scores and Alaska School Performance Indicators (ASPI) four star rating; various programs; sports and activities; and the student leadership team. Mr. Kingsland introduced student, Miss Madilyn Moore, Masonic Award winner and president of the 2014 School Leadership Team (SLT). Miss Moore reported on the SLT make-up, purpose, and work throughout the school year. Mr. Kingsland then introduced kindergarten teacher, Ms. Jennifer Haugh, who discussed the Schoolyard Habitat Program. Ms. Haugh explained that this program is funded through grants, including one from the Department of Fish and Wildlife, and in-kind donations. She noted program projects completed and those planned, and stated that she and Mr. Jason Aigeldinger are the grant administrators. Mr. Kingsland continued by discussing the school's "place based" education program which provides opportunities for students to work in and with the community. He shared a Photo Story of Seward Elementary students working on such projects. He noted that certain trees shown in the Photo Story have now been replaced with native tree varieties.

Moose Pass School principal, Mr. Jason Bickling, presented a PowerPoint highlighting the school's achievements; parent and community support and volunteer work; test scores; High Progress school rating by the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED); and "salmon in the schools" program; and online library use and learning. He discussed the community's outdoor and active lifestyle; the school's athletic programs including downhill skiing at Alyeska; the benefits of being a small school, theatre performances, and Lego Robotics. He shared videos of student award and recognition winning works, and of the school's students singing a song entitled "*The Ocean Song."*

HEARING OF DELEGATIONS:

Mr. Marc Swanson, Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area, discussed the purpose of the organization and its formation. He explained the development of a secondary education curriculum and a series of elementary educational DVD episodes that focus on the history of the eastern Kenai Peninsula. He stated that the secondary curriculum is currently in Kenai schools and the elementary education DVD's will be distributed soon, all without cost. He shared a DVD episode on the subject of Seward's Mount Marathon. He expressed his vision of the value of these instructional resources for District students.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Ms. Mary Tougas discussed her family's experience and history in the Seward schools. She discussed her child's experience as a swimmer and the swim program's importance. She noted the lack of an observation area at the Seward Pool and stated that she wanted the Board to know of the need, the options for a solution, and that this addition would be appreciated by the swim programs.

Ms. Amy Hankins stated that she supports Ms. Tougas' request for an observation area for the swimming pool. She asked the Board to consider a four day school week or extending to a year round school calendar. She requested that the early release dates be placed on Fridays instead of on Wednesdays.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

Dr. Atwater noted four items in the general information packet. First, his memo stating that he does not recommend that the District accept outside funds for the Skyview pool. Second, Mr. Dusek's survey results for the early release dates and the 2014-15 schedule for these days, which includes two Fridays. Third, he noted his memo summarizing the outreach by the Citizens for the Educational Advancement of Alaska's Children (CEAAC) and stated that, if the Board is interested, he will arrange for more information or a meeting with the executive director. Finally, he pointed to the list of support staff resignations, acknowledged the extensiveness of the list and experience represented. He expressed appreciation for Mrs. Terri Tidwell and thanked her, and all of the support staff resigning, for their service to the District.

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

Ms. Mica VanBuskirk, Seward Site Based Council, stated that the Site Council approved a resolution in April regarding the Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) .5 increase and that the Council is concerned about the increase. She reported that the Council is working on recognizing and developing business partnerships and opportunities in the area. She stated that they are discussing the possibility of an honors diploma for Seward students. She announced that the Council updated their bylaws this year.

Mrs. Patty Sirois, KPESA president, stated that she visited schools before attending the meeting. She stated that she has heard positive information regarding the Seward reconfiguration. She discussed the Soldotna reconfiguration process, staffing changes, and the process of the physical move and the wages offered to current employees. She reported that three members attended the NEA-Alaska Spring Leadership Academy and discussed the trainings provided. She discussed agenda item Number 10a. (7) Leave of Absence/Support and stated that she did not request a leave of absence, but requested Association leave, and asked the Board to carefully examine the request document.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Atwater announced that the Leadership Team Academy will be held on May 28 and 29, at Kenai Central High School and invited Board members to attend. He noted that this year's hiring is almost complete and thanked Ms. Joann Riener and her staff for their work on improving hiring processes. He reported on the District's work on a new American Productivity and Quality Center (APQC) project involving the review of and improvements to staffing. He thanked the Seward Site Council for their dedicated work on behalf of the Seward schools and students and for their willingness to engage in school and District affairs.

BOARD REPORTS:

Mr. Holt reported he attended the final Skyview High School Site Council meeting and expressed appreciation for the Council's work and attitude towards the school reconfiguration.

Mrs. Vadla reported that she served as a time keeper for the Future Problem Solving Competition and expressed appreciation for the students' work. She stated that she attended the BP Teachers of Excellence Awards and congratulated the nominees and BP Teacher of the Year, Ms. "Debbie" Veeck.

BOARD REPORTS:
(Continued)

Mrs. Downing corrected Mrs. Vadla, noting that Ms. Barbara Veeck is the BP Teacher of the Year (not Debbie) and expressed appreciation for the celebration.

Mr. Navarre reported that he attended the BP Teachers of Excellence Awards, and expressed appreciation for BP's continued support of teachers. He attended the Mt. View principal and assistant principal interviews.

Ms. Hohl congratulated Ms. Terri McKnight, BP Teachers of Excellence nominee from Seward.

BOARD WORKSESSION REPORT:

Mr. Arness reported that the Board held worksessions prior to the formal business meeting on Board Policy, Balto School Update, Kenai Peninsula School Activities Association (KPSAA) Revisions, and College and Career Ready. All members currently at the meeting attended the worksessions.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Budget Transfers, High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2014-13, High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2014-14, Resignations, 2014-15 New Teacher Contracts, 2013-14 Long Term Substitute Contracts, Leave of Absence Request/Support, and Leave of Absence Request/Certified.

BUDGET TRANSFERS:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve budget transfer 892 in the amount of $89,826 to adjust salary and benefit account budgets for Fireweed Academy Charter School.

HSGQE:

Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2014-13.

HSGQE:

Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver Request Number 2014-14.

RESIGNATIONS:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve resignations from Christina Beahm, Music Teacher, Nikiski North Star Elementary School; James Beeson, Assistant Principal, Kenai Central High School; Susan Biggs, Music Teacher, Redoubt Elementary School; Casey Davis, School Psychologist, Homer Middle School; Holly Jones, School Counselor, Nikiski Middle/High School; Sami King, Physical Education/Heath/Athletic Director, Seward High School; Heidi Renner, Physical Education/Health Teacher, Kaleidoscope Charter; all effective the end of the 2013-14 school year, and Sheryl Sotelo, 6th Grade Teacher (LOA), McNeil Canyon Elementary School; effective April 23, 2014.

NEW TEACHER CONTRACTS:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve new teacher contracts for the 2014-15 school year for Richard Bierer, Jennifer Derks-Andersen, Katherine Hamre, Samantha Johnson, Barbara Larrivee, Heather Lindquist, Deborah Pollock, Jasmine Woodhead, Cindy Worley, Darren Zibell, and Nikki Zibell.

CONSENT AGENDA:
(Continued)

LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE TEACHER CONTRACTS:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve long-term substitute teacher contracts for Laura Beck, Seward Elementary School; Marion Parrish, Kenai Central High School/Soldotna High School; Alice Porter, Tebughna School; and Jasmine Woodhead, Chapman School.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTS/SUPPORT:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve leave of absence requests for Angie Motoyama, Custodian I, Hope School, effective April 21, 2014 to October 31, 2014; and Patricia Sirois, Administrative Secretary II, Student Nutrition Services, effective the 2014-15 school year.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST/CERTIFIED:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a leave of absence for David Brighton, Special Education Resource Teacher/Generalist Teacher, Tebughna School, effective the 2014-15 school year.

MOTION:

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

Mr. Navarre removed Number 7 Approval of Leave of Absence Request/Support and Number 8 Approval of Leave of Absence Request/Certified.

Motion carried unanimously for Numbers 1-6.

Mr. Castimore requested that the Board divide the question, for Number 7, between the two leave of absence requests.

Leave of Absence request for Ms. Angie Motoyama carried unanimously.

MOTION:

Mr. Castimore moved the Board postpone the Leave of Absence request for Mrs. Patty Sirois until the June 2, 2014 Board meeting. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

VOTE ON POSTPONEMENT:

YES – Castimore, Downing, Hilts, Hohl, Holt, Navarre, Vadla
NO – Arness

Motion carried.

VOTE ON NUMBER 8:

YES – Castimore, Downing, Hilts, Holt, Navarre, Arness
NO – Hohl, Vadla,

Motion carried.

SCIENCE CURRICULUM UPDATE: Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve the Science Curriculum update.

MOTION: Mr. Navarre moved the Board approve the Science Curriculum update. Mr. Holt seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM UPDATE: Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve the Social Studies Curriculum update.

MOTION: Mr. Navarre moved the Board approve the Social Studies Curriculum update. Mr. Holt seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM UPDATE: Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve the Physical Education Curriculum update.

MOTION: Mr. Castimore moved the Board approve the Physical Education Curriculum update. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

POLICY REVISIONS: Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve revisions to BP 6187 Charter Schools, BP 3260 Materials Fees, and BP 3000 Concepts and Roles, and AR 3350 Payroll.

MOTION: Mr. Castimore moved the Board approve revisions to BP 6187 Charter Schools, BP 3260 Materials Fees, and BP 3000 Concepts and Roles, and AR 3350 Payroll. Ms. Hohl seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

STRATEGIC PLAN REVISION: Dr. Atwater recommended the Board approve revisions to the District's Strategic Plan.

MOTION: Mrs. Vadla moved the Board approve revisions to the District's Strategic Plan. Mrs. Downing seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

FIRST READING OF POLICY REVISIONS: The Board heard a first reading of revisions to BP 3313 Contracts Leases and Agreements, BP 3314.3 Equipment Purchases, BP 6161.13 Student Fees for Instructional Materials, and BP 3350 Payroll.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mr. Holt thanked Seward Elementary, Moose Pass School and Mr. Swanson for their presentations.

Mr. Castimore expressed appreciation for being in Seward and stated that he will attend the Seward High School graduation.

Ms. Hohl announced that she will not be able to attend the Seward High School graduation. She stated that she will attend the Career and Technical Education meeting later in the week. She thanked Mr. Bickling, Mr. Kingsland and Mr. Swanson for their presentations.

Mrs. Vadla thanked Ms. Judy Odner and her culinary arts students for dinner. She thanked the Seward principals for their work. She thanked Mr. Swanson for his presentation. She expressed appreciation to worksession presenters: Ms. Laurie Hensley, Balto School; and Mr. Dan Bohrnsen and Mrs. Sara Moore, College and Career Ready.

Mrs. Hilts thanked Ms. Judy Odner and her culinary arts students for dinner. She expressed appreciation for the drive to Seward and the spring weather. She expressed appreciation for the worksessions on the Balto School; and College and Career Ready.

Mr. Navarre thanked Seward Elementary, Moose Pass School and Mr. Swanson for their presentations. He thanked Mr. Trevan Walker for his school's hospitality. He thanked Ms. Judy Odner and her culinary arts students for dinner. He stated that he will attend the Seward High School graduation.

Mrs. Downing expressed appreciation for Seward's hospitality. She reported that she attended the Health Curriculum meeting on April 22, 2014 and discussed work done there. She expressed appreciation for the Career and College Ready information and the work done and progress made for students. She announced that she will attend three graduation ceremonies this year.

Ms. Hohl expressed appreciation for Ms. Kim Reierson's work. She encouraged the Board and public to view the student artwork hanging at the National Park Service office.

Mr. Arness thanked Seward High School and Mr. Trevan Walker for their hospitality. He thanked Ms. Judy Odner and her culinary arts students for dinner. He thanked Seward Elementary and Moose Pass School for their reports. He thanked Mr. Swanson for his presentation and stated that he would like to view the remaining DVD's that were created through his program.

ADJOURN: At 8:46 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 May 5, 2014,
have been approved as of
June 2, 2014.