



# Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

## Board of Education Meeting Minutes

August 4, 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

### **STAFF PRESENT:**

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

### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Mrs. Laurie Olson	Mr. David Brighton
Ms. Pegge Erkeneff	Ms. Denise Kelly
Ms. Joann Riener	Mr. Jeff Ambrosier
Miss Martine Dikes	Ms. Fran Stetson
Mrs. Patty Sirois	Mr. Clayton Holland

Others present not identified.

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 6:29 p.m. A quorum of Board members; Mr. Castimore, Mrs. Downing, Mrs. Hilts, Ms. Hohl, Mr. Holt, Mr. Navarre, Mrs. Vadla, and Mr. Arness were present.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

At 6:29 p.m., Mrs. Hilts moved the Board go into executive session to discuss subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person, provided the person may request a public discussion. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

### **ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

At 7:02 p.m. Mr. Navarre moved the Board adjourn the executive session. Mr. Holt seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** (7:02:29 PM)

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

### **DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT:** (7:02:52 PM)

Mr. Navarre read the District's mission statement.

**ROLL CALL:***(7:03:24 PM)*

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:***(7:03:48 PM)*

The agenda was approved with the addition of 11c. Approval of Revision of Priority Listing of Six Year Plan, FY 2015-2021.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:***(7:04:26 PM)*

The School Board Minutes of July 7, 2014, were approved as printed.

**AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:***(7:04:41 PM)*

The Board presented a Golden Apple Award to the Central Peninsula Hospital for their work as community partners and with Project SEARCH.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:***(7:13:08 PM)*

Dr. Atwater noted his general information packet memo regarding this year's hiring of certificated staff (including 150 new teachers); he thanked Ms. Riener and the human resources staff for their work to improve hiring processes. He also noted his memo summarizing his decision to use the Gallup Student Poll in October to measure social emotional wellbeing, one of the District's Key Performance Indicators. He received the preliminary Alaska School Performance Index (ASPI) reports; as these are unofficial they cannot be shared but the results are positive. He reported that the annual report will be issued on Wednesday, August 6, and Ms. Erkeneff will mail copies to all Board members.

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SITE COUNCIL AND/OR P.T.A., K.P.A.A., K.P.E.A., K.P.E.S.A, BOROUGH ASSEMBLY:***(7:15:27 PM)*

Mr. David Brighton, KPEA president, stated that he is looking forward to the new school year and to working with the Board.

Mrs. Patty Sirois, KPESA president, discussed the district-wide inservice and other inservices occurring in the near future. She stated that some schools will be in session later in the week and that she and Mr. Brighton will soon begin visiting schools. She announced that KPESA will host booths at the Ninilchik Fair on August 15 and 16, which will include giveaway items and drawings for students. She reported KPESA activities at the Kenai River Festival and asked Mr. Holt to thank his wife, Mrs. Kathy Holt, for her help with the face painting booth. She expressed appreciation for the Golden Apple awarded to Central Peninsula Hospital and for the Project SEARCH program. She discussed the new employee health care contribution amount that has been established for the school year.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT:***(7:21:27 PM)*

Dr. Atwater congratulated Mrs. Laurie Olson, district finance director, for earning the credential of Certified Administrator of School Finance and Operations. He discussed the upcoming trainings posted on the district calendar including the regional districtwide inservice on August 13, beginning at 9:00 a.m. He reported on the submission of a Title IIA grant proposal that if funded, will increase the district's capacity to write assessments and thanked Mr. Sean Dusek and Dr. Christine Ermold for their work on the proposal. He noted that the District's 50th anniversary celebration that will take place on August 14, beginning at 4:00 p.m. at the Kenai Peninsula College and asked the Board to attend. Dr. Atwater announced his resignation from his position as the District's superintendent, effective Dec. 1, 2014.

**QUARTERLY BUDGET  
TRANSFER REPORT:***(7:23:28 PM)*

Dr. Atwater presented the budget transfer report for various schools and departments within the District during the fourth quarter of FY14.

**BOARD REPORTS:***(7:23:55 PM)*

Mrs. Downing reported that the Legislative Committee met earlier in the day and discussed state and federal legislative priorities and the 2015 Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB) Resolutions.

Mrs. Hilts attended the AASB Board of Directors summer meeting at Land's End in Homer, July 18-20, to discuss the coming year's recommended resolutions.

Mr. Navarre reported that he serves as co-chair of the Alaska Stand Alone Gas Pipeline Community Advisory Council, discussed an Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development report given during their last meeting regarding state preparedness for new pipeline development, and recommended the Board invite the Council to give a presentation during a meeting.

Mr. Arness discussed the Kenai Peninsula Borough's plan to demolish portions of the former Nikiski Elementary building, and noted that he and Dr. Atwater had met with borough representatives to discuss the possibility of repurposing the building. He stated that he will speak to the Assembly at their Tuesday, August 5, 2014 meeting to request that the assembly note that, in light of possible upcoming economic development, a new school might be needed in the future.

Mr. Navarre and Mrs. Vadla spoke in favor of Mr. Arness speaking to the Assembly as a Board representative.

Ms. Hohl stated that she requires additional information before supporting that Mr. Arness represent a Board opinion to the Assembly.

**MOTION:**

Mr. Navarre moved that the Board direct Mr. Arness and Dr. Atwater to attend the August 5, 2014 Borough Assembly meeting and present to the Assembly the District's stance on the demolition of the former Nikiski Elementary School building; specifically that, although the building is no longer useable as an elementary school, in light of projected peninsula economic development, there is the possibility of a need in the future for another elementary school for the Nikiski area. Mrs. Hilts seconded.

**VOTE:**

YES – Mrs. Hilts, Mr. Navarre, Mrs. Vadla

NO – Mr. Castimore, Mrs. Downing, Ms. Hohl, Mr. Holt, Mr. Arness

Motion failed.

**BOARD WORKSESSION  
REPORT:**

(7:46:35 PM)

Mr. Arness reported that the Board held worksessions regarding Board Policy, School Climate and Connectedness, Initiatives, 2015 State and Federal Legislative Priorities, and 2014 AASB Core Resolutions. All members present at the meeting attended the worksessions, except Mr. Navarre and Mr. Holt.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

(7:46:59 PM)

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Pay Schedule for Substitutes and other Temporary Employees 2014-2015, Resignations, 2014-15 New Teacher Contracts, and Leave of Absence Request/Support.

**PAY SCHEDULE FOR  
SUBSTITUTES AND OTHER  
TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES  
2014-2015:**

By memorandum, Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve the proposed pay schedule for substitutes and other temporary employees for the 2014-2015 school year.

**RESIGNATIONS:**

By memorandum, Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve resignations from Justin Carr, Language Arts/Social Studies Teacher, Kenai Central High School and Steve Fischer Vocational Education Teacher, Kenai Central High School, both effective at the end of the 2013-14 school year.

**2014-2015 NEW TEACHER  
CONTRACTS:**

By memorandum, Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve new teacher contracts for Kelly Burch, Special Education Intensive Needs Teacher; Amelia Dallen, Music – Vocal and Instrumental; Hannah Dolphin, Intermediate Grade Teacher; Ken Ellenberg, Intermediate Grade Teacher; Julie Gottfried, Primary Grade Teacher; Eric Hanneman, Elementary Grade Teacher; Tressa Hidden Friend, Speech Language, Holly Hoke, School Psychologist; Callie Martin, Primary Grade Teacher; Simon Nissen, Vocal Music Teacher; Samantha Puglia, Music – Vocal and Instrumental; Whitney Roesch, Intermediate Grade Teacher; Belinda Stevens, School Psychologist; and Hannah Snow, 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE  
REQUEST/SUPPORT:**

By memorandum, Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a leave of absence request for Kevin Zimmerman, Custodian I, Ninilchik School, effective the 2014-15 school year.

**CONSENT AGENDA:***(Continued)*

Mrs. Patty Sirois spoke in favor of the increase in pay for substitutes and temporary employees.

**MOTION:**

Mrs. Downing moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 4. Mrs. Hilts seconded.

Mrs. Downing removed number 11a. (2) Resignations.

Ms. Hohl removed number 11a. (1) Pay Schedule for Substitutes and other Temporary Employees 2014-2015.

Motion carried unanimously for numbers 3 and 4.

A motion by Ms. Hohl to postpone until the September meeting number 11a. (1) Pay Schedule for Substitutes and other Temporary Employees 2014-2015, failed for lack of a second.

VOTE for 11a (1):

YES – Mr. Castimore, Mrs. Downing, Ms. Hohl, Mr. Holt, Mr. Navarre, Mrs. Vadla, Mr. Arness

NO – Mrs. Hilts,

Motion carried.

**MOTION:**

Mrs. Downing moved the Board amend 11a. (2) Resignations to add Dr. Steve Atwater, superintendent, district office, effective December 1, 2014. Ms. Hohl seconded.

**MOTION:**

Mr. Navarre moved the Board amend the amendment to create agenda item 11a. (2)[A] Approval of Superintendent Resignation. Mr. Holt seconded.

Amended amendment carried unanimously.

Downing amendment carried unanimously.

Motion carried unanimously for number 11a. (2).

**POLICY REVISIONS:***(8:01:31 PM)*

By memorandum, Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve revisions to BP 1114 Communication Using Electronic Media – NEW, BP 5127 Graduation Ceremonies and Activities, BP 6146.1 High School Graduation Requirements, BP and AR 6146.3 High School Graduation Qualifying Exam – DELETE, BP 6146.51 Differential Requirements for Individuals with Exceptional Needs, BP 6146.8 Diplomas, BP 6164.5 Intervention/Assistance Teams, and AR 0510 School District Report Card.

**POLICY REVISIONS:***(Continued)***MOTION:**

Mr. Holt moved the Board approve BP 1114 Communication Using Electronic Media – NEW, BP 5127 Graduation Ceremonies and Activities, BP 6146.1 High School Graduation Requirements, BP and AR 6146.3 High School Graduation Qualifying Exam – DELETE, BP 6146.51 Differential Requirements for Individuals with Exceptional Needs, BP 6146.8 Diplomas, BP 6164.5 Intervention/Assistance Teams, and AR 0510 School District Report Card. Ms. Hohl seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**SIX YEAR PLAN REVISION:***(8:02:57 PM)*

Dr. Atwater recommended the Board approve a revision to the FY 2015-2021 Six Year Plan so that its number one priority is the construction of a new school at Kachemak Selo

Mrs. Vadla moved the Board approve a revision to the FY 2015-2021 Six Year Plan so that its number one priority is the construction of a new school at Kachemak Selo. Mrs. Downing seconded.

**MOTION:**

VOTE: *(Corrected 10/20/14)*

YES – Mrs. Downing, Mrs. Hilts, Ms. Hohl, Mr. Navarre, Mrs. Vadla

NO – Mr. Castimore, Mr. Holt, Mr. Arness

Motion carried.

**BOARD COMMENTS:***(8:07:41 PM)*

Mr. Holt apologized for missing the afternoon's worksessions and expressed appreciation for substitute and temporary employee pay increases. He thanked Dr. Atwater for his work and leadership and wished him well in his future.

Mrs. Vadla congratulated Central Peninsula Hospital on their work with Project SEARCH. She commended Mrs. Laurie Olson for earning the credential of Certified Administrator of School Finance and Operations. She reminded the public that the District's 50th anniversary celebration will take place on August 14. She thanked Mr. Sean Dusek for his reports at the afternoon's worksessions.

Mr. Castimore wished Dr. Atwater well in his new profession.

Mrs. Hilts congratulated Mrs. Laurie Olson for earning the credential of Certified Administrator of School Finance and Operations. She commented on the timing of Dr. Atwater's resignations and expressed appreciation for his leadership and wished him well in his new profession.

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

Ms. Hohl encouraged the public to vote and noted that absentee voting opened today. She attended Seward Community Library's celebration for a new public art piece in the library garden. She expressed her wish for Seward to have a Project SEARCH program in cooperation with Providence. She noted that she will miss the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration but suggested that the anniversary be celebrated for the entire year. She congratulated Mrs. Laurie Olson for earning the credential of Certified Administrator of School Finance and Operations. She stated that she would like for the Board to discuss the bed tax proposition. She encouraged district employees to contact the human resources department if they are having difficulty finding a substitute when needed in order to determine the effectiveness of the new substitute and temporary employee wages. She thanked Mr. Dusek for his work on initiatives. She stated that she will miss working with Dr. Atwater but noted that his new position with the University of Alaska will benefit students throughout the state.

Mr. Navarre thanked the Board for approving the Six Year Plan revision and discussed the funding process for the Kachemak-Selo school. He noted that he will miss the October and November meetings. He expressed appreciation for Dr. Atwater's work for the District and stated that he hopes he will attend the December 1, 2014 meeting for a final farewell. He discussed the bed tax proposition and the Legislative Committee's monitoring of the proposal. He congratulated Mrs. Laurie Olson for earning the credential of Certified Administrator of School Finance and Operations. He congratulated Central Peninsula Hospital for their Golden Apple award and thanked them for their work with the Safe Kids program.

Mrs. Downing reported that on Friday, August 1, she visited the newly completed track and field at Homer High and commented on the value of the improvements. She recommended the public vote early and noted that election day, August 19, is the first day of school. She congratulated Mrs. Laurie Olson for earning the credential of Certified Administrator of School Finance and Operations. She thanked Mrs. Hilts for her hospitality while Mrs. Downing and her husband visited Seldovia. She stated that she is looking forward to the new school year but, due to travels, will miss the district-wide inservice and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

Mr. Arness reminded the Board of their meeting at 9:00 a.m. at Kenai Peninsula College in the Steffy Building. He noted that the Board's quickness of action on Dr. Atwater's resignation was only in order to facilitate district business.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:***(8:23:43 PM)*

At 8:23 p.m., Mr. Navarre moved the Board go into executive session to discuss subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person, provided the person may request a public discussion. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURN EXECUTIVE  
SESSION:**

At 9:04 p.m. Mrs. Downing moved the Board adjourn the executive session. Mrs. Hilts seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURN:**

At 9:04 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 August 4, 2014,  
have been approved as of  
September 8, 2014.  
(Corrected 10/20/14)