



Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes

September 8, 2014 – 7:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting

Homer High School
600 E. Fairview Ave., Homer, 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. Eric Pederson	Mrs. Laurie Olson
Mr. Douglas Waclawski	Mr. Dave Brighton
Ms. Pegge Erkeneff	Mrs. Patty Sirois
Mr. John O'Brien	Ms. Beth Miller
Mrs. Julie Cisco	Mr. Ray Marshall
Ms. Joann Riener	Mr. Kyle Schneider
Mr. Mako Haggerty	Mr. Jeff Ambrosier
Mr. Brent Johnson	Mr. Conrad Woodhead

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 3:39 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 3:39 p.m., Ms. Hohl 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. Specifically, the board met to discuss the superintendent vacancy. Mr. Navarre seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 5:35 p.m. Mrs. Hilts moved the Board adjourn the executive session. Mrs. Downing seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

RECESS:

At 5:35 p.m., Mr. Arness called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:

At 7:03 p.m. the Board reconvened in regular session.

NATIONAL ANTHEM:

The Homer High School Swing Choir sang “*The National Anthem.*”

DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT:

Mrs. Hilts 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
Mr. Evan Boyer	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mr. Castimore moved the Board remove item 11c. Approval of AASB Core Resolutions from the agenda. Ms. Hohl seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Navarre moved the Board add to the agenda 11c. Approval of Interim Superintendent. Mrs. Downing seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Arness added to the agenda 11d. Approval of Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB) Board of Directors nomination.

The agenda was approved with the removal of 11c. Approval of AASB Core Resolutions and the addition of 11c. Approval of Interim Superintendent and 11d. Approval of Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB) Board of Directors nomination.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The School Board Minutes of August 4, 2014, were approved as printed.

SCHOOL REPORTS:

Mr. Eric Pederson, Paul Banks Elementary School principal, presented a computer presentation highlighting the school’s student population, programs (including special education and Title I), extensive parental involvement, PTA, staff, collaboration and teamwork. He noted the larger size of this year’s kindergarten class and discussed the innovative work done to accommodate this change including classroom reconfiguration. Mr. Pederson introduced Mrs. Tina Moore, music teacher, Mr. Dustin Searle, school custodian, and a group of Paul Banks students. As Mrs. Moore conducted and “Mr. Dustin” accompanied on the trumpet, the students sang, “*You’re a Grand Old Flag*” and “*The Kachemak Rag.*” The students presented the board with gift bags containing a school brochure and a bag of nuts, including peanuts, the school mascot.

SCHOOL REPORTS:

(Continued)

Mr. Douglas Waclawski, Homer High School principal, presented a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the school's test scores (noting that Homer High School consistently scores among the highest of schools in the state), graduation rate, school communications including social media, and high success indicators (modeled after the district's Key Performance Indicators and Montgomery County Schools in Alabama). He introduced the student council president, Miss Maggie LaRue, who discussed school spirit and climate, and presented a video constructed by production art class student, Mr. Clem Tillion, illustrating the things that Homer High students like about their school. Mr. Kyle Schneider, choir director, introduced and discussed the swing choir and stated that the group was selected as a command performance at the Alaska School Activities Association (AASA) state music festival last school year. The swing choir performed, "Fa una canzona" by Orazio Vecchi and "O occhi manza mia" by Orlando di Lasso.

RECESS:

At 7:37 p.m., Mr. Arness called a recess.

**RECONVENE AFTER
RECESS:**

At 7:42 p.m. the Board reconvened in regular session.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mrs. Heidi Adams, Chapman School parent, discussed the need for upgrading, maintenance, and renovation of the Chapman School facility.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND
PETITIONS:**

Dr. Atwater noted his report in the general information packet, on chronic absences; stated that several schools have over 30% of students absent more than 17 days per year and that he will work with the Board and school principals to discuss ways to decrease these absences. He discussed the summary of the two grants received by the District over the summer, also in the general information packet, stated that these grants will be beneficial to the district and thanked the teams that worked on the proposals. He stated that the District received the official Alaska School Performance Indicators (ASPI) report, that the Board will receive a thorough report in October, and noted the district's improvements.

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

Mr. Jeff Ambrosier, Kenai Peninsula Administrators Association (KPAA) president and Ninilchik School principal, reported that 37 principals and assistant principals have expressed interest in applying for career development grants this school year. He stated that Mr. John O'Brien reported that District student enrollments at Kenai Peninsula College (KPC) have doubled this year with the inclusion of high school juniors in the JumpStart program. He stated JumpStart student tuition costs are \$55 per credit hour.

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K.P.E.S.A, BOROUGH
ASSEMBLY:**

(Continued)

Mrs. Patty Sirois, KPESA president, expressed appreciation for the Homer area and community. She discussed the district's recent ALICE training and thanked the District for providing the training to employees. She reported on recent KPESA activities including the Ninilchik Fair, the Industry Appreciation Day picnic, and school site visits. She stated that employees from all locations have expressed, to her, concerns over staffing issues. She expressed appreciation for the Paul Banks Elementary presentation and Homer High School's 98% graduation rate and clean facilities.

Mr. Dave Brighton, KPEA president, reported on his recent school site visits and discussed the new teacher evaluation system, the pilot program and the District's leadership role. He expressed appreciation for Homer High School and district schools in general.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT:**

Dr. Atwater noted the general information packet memo regarding the annual assessment report, stated that the report will be more thoroughly reviewed in October, and highlighted the improved percentage of district students eligible for the Alaska Performance Scholarship. He reported that currently, 183 junior and senior high school students are participating in the Kenai Peninsula College JumpStart program, an increase from 68 students at this same time last year. He announced that eight informal, professional development sessions, covering various programs and topics, will be offered to teachers on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and thanked Dr. Christine Ermold and the professional development staff for providing these training opportunities. He commented that the start of school went well and thanked district custodians and borough maintenance staff for their work to have the facilities ready. He apologized to Chapman School for the school's incomplete projects and stated that the district will work to improve the situation.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Mr. Jones presented the financial reports of the District for the periods ending July 31, 2014 and August 31, 2014.

BOARD REPORTS:

Mrs. Downing reported that the Legislative Committee met earlier in the day to discuss the state and federal legislative priorities which will be further discussed during the Thursday, September 11, worksession. She stated that she will attend the September 9, Health Curriculum meeting.

Mrs. Valda reported that she attended the 50 year anniversary celebration for the district, borough and Kenai Community College and expressed appreciation for the event. She visited Ninilchik and Chapman Schools earlier in the day and noted the need for facility improvements at Chapman School.

**BOARD WORKSESSION
REPORT:**

Mr. Arness reported that the Board held worksessions regarding Board Policy, AASB Resolutions, Innovation Report, and Charter School In-kind Services and Rent. All members present at the meeting, attended the worksessions.

CONSENT AGENDA: Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Resignation(s), 2014-15 New Teacher Contract(s), 2014-15 Tentative Non-Tenured Teacher Contract(s), and Budget Transfers.

RESIGNATIONS: Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve resignations from Daniel Bohrsen, Secondary Education Department, and Todd Syverson, Soldotna High School, both effective at the end of the 2014-15 school year.

NEW TEACHER CONTRACTS: Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve new teacher contracts for the 2014-2015 school year for Robert Baskin, Language Arts Teacher; Dawn Grimm, Elementary K-5 Teacher (.50 FTE); Catherine Kibling, Mentor Teacher; Terry Pitman, Introduction to Automotive Instructor (.20 FTE), 1st semester; Kristin Romberg, Primary Grade Teacher; George Skraba Reising, Math/Science Teacher; Jacob Songer, Math Teacher; and Betsy Vanek, Interventionist Teacher (.50 FTE).

2014-2015 TENTATIVE NON-TENURED TEACHER CONTRACT: Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a Tentative Non-Tenured Teacher Contract for Anne Buckbee, Teacher/Regular.

BUDGET TRANSFERS: Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve budget transfer #14, in the amount of \$200,000 to move student activity travel funds to the school locations and #114 in the amount of \$50,000 to move FY14 carryover funds to the Instructional Supplies budget for use during the FY15 school year for Aurora Borealis Charter School.

MOTION: Mrs. Downing moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 4. Mr. Holt seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

CHARTER SCHOOL RENTAL FEES: Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve that Additional Allowable revenue for charter schools be calculated and recognized on an AADM basis and that charges for In-Kind Services and Rent be charged on the AADM basis.

Ms. Hohl moved the Board approve the charter school rental fees as recommended by the administration. Mr. Holt seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT: Mr. Navarre moved the board authorize the board president to offer Mr. Sean Dusek the position of interim superintendent and negotiate the terms of said employment. Ms. Hohl seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**AASB BOARD OF DIRECTORS
NOMINATION:**

Mrs. Hilts submitted a request for approval from the Board for nomination to the Association of Alaska School Boards, Board of Directors.

MOTION:

Mrs. Downing moved the Board approve the nomination of Sunni Hilts to the Association of Alaska School Boards, Board of Directors. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**FIRST READING OF POLICY
REVISIONS:**

The Board heard a first reading of revisions to BP 3311 Bids.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/
COMMENTS:**

Mrs. Elise Boyer welcomed the Board to Homer. She discussed a program at Homer High designed to help students qualify for the Alaska Performance Scholarship, stated that students are able to opt out of the program if desired, and thanked Mr. Waclawski for implementing the process.

Mr. Dave Brighton congratulated Mr. Sean Dusek on being offered the position of interim superintendent.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mr. Holt expressed appreciation for the Homer High Swing Choir performance. He discussed the success of the first Tsalteshi Invitational cross country running (formerly the Skyview Invitational) meet held on August 23, 2014.

Mrs. Vadla thanked the Homer High School culinary arts class for dinner. She thanked Paul Banks Elementary and Mr. Pederson for the artwork, gift bag and presentation. She thanked Mr. Waclawski and the Homer High School students for their presentation. She noted the resignations of Mr. Todd Syverson and Mr. Dan Bohrnsen and thanked both for their many years of service to the District. She thanked Mr. Dusek for his innovation report during the afternoon's worksession.

Mr. Castimore stated that he was pleased to be in Homer for the meeting.

Mrs. Hilts discussed the courtesy and respect of Homer High School students and noted that two female students had assisted her during the day and a male student has assisted her, on a previous day, to carry a heavy bag into the airport.

Ms. Hohl expressed appreciation for Paul Banks Elementary and Homer High School presentations. She stated that she recently helped at the Seward Middle School track meet and stated that she discussed with the board, her desire to include 6th grade students as full participants in middle school sports and hoped to continue this conversation. She thanked the Homer High School culinary arts class for dinner. She expressed appreciation for Mr. Dusek's work as assistant superintendent and expressed confidence in his ability to serve as interim superintendent. She noted the resignations of Mr. Todd Syverson and Mr. Dan Bohrnsen and thanked them for their many years of service to the District. She stated that she would like to visit Chapman Elementary on Tuesday.

BOARD COMMENTS:

(Continued)

Mr. Navarre thanked Homer High School for their hospitality and the culinary arts class for dinner, the swing choir for their performances (recognizing Mr. Evan Boyer as a participant). He thanked Paul Banks Elementary and Mr. Pederson for the artwork, gift bag and presentation. He expressed appreciation for the quality of district staff and for Mr. Dusek's ability to serve as interim superintendent and stated he is looking forward to working with him.

Mrs. Downing stated that she is pleased to be meeting in Homer. She expressed appreciation for the Paul Banks Elementary Peanuts and the Homer High School presentation and performances. She reminded principals and school groups to invite her to their scheduled events. She reminded all in attendance to vote in the October election.

Mr. Boyer stated that he was pleased to attend the board meeting in Homer. He expressed appreciation for the school presentations even though he was a participant with the Swing Choir. He discussed the value of the AASB youth leadership conferences and encouraged more students to attend.

Mr. Arness thanked Homer High School for their hospitality and the culinary arts class for dinner. He thanked the schools for their excellent presentations and Paul Banks Elementary for the gift bags. He announced that the Board will hold a worksession on September 11, from 2:00-5:00 p.m. in the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly Chambers.

ADJOURN:

At 8:23 p.m., Mr. Arness adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Joe Arness, President

Mrs. Penny Vadla, Clerk

The Minutes of September 8, 2014, have been approved as of October 20, 2014.