



Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes

October 20, 2014 – 7:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting

Borough Administration Building
148 N. Binkley, Soldotna, Alaska

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: Mr. Joe Arness, President
Mrs. Sunni Hilts, Vice President
Mrs. Penny Vadla, Clerk
Mr. Dan Castimore, Treasurer
Mr. Marty Anderson
Mrs. Liz Downing
Ms. Lynn Hohl
Mr. Bill Holt
Mr. Tim Navarre
Miss Maria Kulikov, Student Representative

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mrs. Laurie Olson	Mr. Sarge Truesdell
Ms. Pegge Erkeneff	Mrs. Kim Smith
Mr. John Harro	Mrs. Patty Sirois
Mr. Clayton Holland	Mr. David Brighton
Mr. Jeff Ambrosier	Mr. Stan Welles
Ms. Joann Riener	Mrs. Nikki Welles
Mrs. Julie Cisco	Miss Martine Dikes
Mr. Tim Vlasak	Mrs. Natalie Kant
Mr. Brent Johnson	Mr. Tony Graham
Ms. Akcinia Kulikov	Mr. Joel Burns
Mr. Blaine Gilman	Mrs. Sheila-Margaret Pothast
Mrs. Natalie Kohler	

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 6:59 p.m.
(6:59:02 PM)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mr. Arness invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.
(6:59:27 PM)

OATH OF OFFICE: The Oath of Office was administered to newly elected School Board members Mrs. Penny Vadla, Mr. Bill Holt and Mr. Joe Arness, by notary public, Mrs. Debbie Tressler.
(6:59:50 PM)

DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT: Mrs. Downing read the District's mission statement.
(7:01:39 PM)

ROLL CALL:

(7:01:56 PM)

Mr. Marty Anderson	Present
Mr. Joe Arness	Present
Mr. Dan Castimore	Present
Mrs. Liz Downing	Present
Mrs. Sunni Hilts	Present
Ms. Lynn Hohl	Present
Mr. Bill Holt	Present
Mr. Tim Navarre	Absent/Excused
Mrs. Penny Vadla	Present
Miss Maria Kulikov	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

(7:02:21 PM)

The agenda was approved with a revision to Item 10d. 2015 State and Federal Legislative Priorities and a revision to the meeting order moving Item 3a. School Reports to follow 1f. Approval of Agenda.

The Board failed to approve an addition to the agenda of a resolution regarding drug-free schools.

VOTE:

ADVISORY VOTE: Yes

YES – Mr. Anderson, Mrs. Hilts, Mr. Arness

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

SCHOOL REPORT:

(7:06:38 PM)

Mr. Sarge Truesdell, principal of Skyview Middle School, introduced Mr. Jeff Moore and the school drumline, who performed various percussion pieces. Mr. Truesdell discussed the drumline program and its student designed t-shirts. He introduced Mrs. Pothast and her Spanish students who presented the Board with a gift of tortilla chips and salsa. He then discussed the Soldotna area school reconfiguration and thanked the school’s staff, the Borough Maintenance Department and Mr. Scott Griebel for their extra work during the process. He noted various school programs and invited the school board to visit the school for a tour. He introduced Mr. John Harro and a group of student council members who shared a video highlighting the school’s 5 star Alaska School Performance Index (ASPI) rating; test scores, technology, various programs including PE (with Cross Fit and swimming), welding; fine arts, Spanish, yearbook, “Project Lead the Way”, Science, remediation, and student council. Mr. Truesdell thanked the group of staff and students that worked to produce the video.

RECESS:

(7:22:08 PM)

At 7:22 p.m. Mr. Arness called a recess.

At 7:27 p.m. the Board reconvened in regular session.

REORGANIZATION OF BOARD:

(7:27:26 PM)

Mr. Arness announced that a reorganization of the Board was in order.

MOTION:

Mr. Holt moved that the Board re-elect Mr. Joe Arness as president. Mrs. Vadla seconded. Nominations for president were closed.

Motion carried unanimously.

REORGANIZATION OF BOARD:

(Continued)

MOTION: Ms. Hohl nominated Mrs. Hilts for vice president of the Board. Mrs. Vadla seconded. Mr. Holt nominated Mrs. Downing for vice president of the Board. Mrs. Vadla seconded. Nominations for vice president were closed. Mr. Arness instructed the Board members to vote using secret ballots. Mrs. Tressler counted the ballots.

Mrs. Hilts was selected as vice president.

MOTION: Mr. Holt nominated Mrs. Vadla for clerk of the Board. Ms. Hohl seconded. Nominations for clerk were closed.

Mrs. Vadla was selected as clerk.

MOTION: Mrs. Hilts nominated Mr. Castimore as treasurer of the Board. Ms. Hohl seconded. Mrs. Vadla nominated Ms. Hohl as treasurer of the Board. Ms. Hohl declined the nomination. Nominations for treasurer were closed.

Mr. Castimore was selected as treasurer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

(7:31:44 PM)

The School Board Minutes of September 8, 2014, were approved as printed.

Ms. Hohl moved the Board revise the previously adopted minutes of August 4, 2014 to correct the vote on the Approval of the Six Year Plan Revision to indicate that Mr. Holt voted “no” and Ms. Hohl voted “yes.” Mr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

(7:33:02 PM)

Ms. Akcinia Kulikov, Voznesenka parent, spoke to request bussing for the school’s students, including students that do not live in the attendance area. She presented Mr. Arness with letters from parents and community members addressing this request.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

(7:36:28 PM)

Dr. Atwater noted a borough ordinance accepting and appropriating \$150,000 from the City of Soldotna for the completion of the Soldotna High School track and field project, and thanked the City of Soldotna for their assistance. He reported on the release of a deed restriction on a parcel of land containing the former Homer Intermediate School, the City of Homer’s plan to construct a public safety building on the site, and noted that this new facility will not cause issues for the District. He announced that the District received a federal grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration for Homer Flex and Kenai Alternative schools which will help the schools build a more coordinated and integrated mental health program.

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

(7:39:33 PM)

Mr. David Brighton, KPEA president, discussed recent school visits and conversations with staff. He reported on the NEA Alaska Annual Fall Event, district employee attendance, and the sessions that were held.

**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)

Mrs. Patty Sirois, KPESA president, announced that she is a new grandmother. She discussed recent school site visits and discussions with members and other staff. She discussed the loss of custodial staff hours at Skyview Middle School and the extra time support staff are working in order to complete their job assignment.

Mr. Jeff Ambrosier, KPAA president, discussed the importance of the administrator calibration program and the completion of TeachScope certification/recertification as part of the evaluation process. He reported that a group of District administrators are currently attending the State Principal's Conference.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT:**

(7:49:19 PM)

Dr. Atwater noted that Friday, October 17, marked the end of the first quarter, stated that it was a very busy time and commended all District staff for their hard work. He reported that the number of students in transition (students that are homeless) is currently 36% higher than this time last year. He announced that the 20 day enrollment count, which determines state funding, ends this week and that our current enrollment number is above projection. He noted District schools that are well over projection and those that are well under and discussed possible reasons for the variances. He reported that the District is forming a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Think Tank, developed by Mr. Clayton Holland and his staff, which will include employees from different geographic regions. He stated that the District also has working FASD parent groups, one in the central peninsula area and one being developed in the Homer area. He reported that the District has developed a new suicide risk assessment which will be implemented after school principals are trained in November. He thanked Ms. Angie Nelson and Mrs. Sara Moore for work on this project. He congratulated parents, coaches, and students for the sports and activities successes during the first quarter; and specifically noted Miss Allie Ostrander, Cross Country state champion, Homer High School Girls Cross Country team state champions, and Soldotna High School Football team state champions.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

(7:54:42 PM)

Mr. Jones presented the financial report of the District for the period ending September 30, 2014.

**QUARTERLY BUDGET
TRANSFER REPORT:**

(7:55:38 PM)

Mr. Dave Jones reported on budget transfers Numbers 2 through 205 for various schools and departments within the District.

BOARD REPORTS:

(7:56:10 PM)

Mrs. Downing reported that she attended the Homer area budget meeting on October 9, 2014 and noted that it was well attended. She reported that the Legislative Committee met earlier in the day for a final review of the state and federal legislative priorities, to prepare for upcoming legislator conversations, and to discuss Board members that will attend the Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB) meeting and participate in the AASB Resolutions Committee.

Mrs. Hilts reported that she attended the October 9 budget meeting in Seldovia, noted that it was well attended and expressed appreciation for the format of the meeting (i.e. district-wide via Lync).

BOARD REPORTS:*(Continued)*

Mr. Holt reported that he attended the October Career and Technical Education Advisory Committee meeting where they discussed the distribution of Carl Perkins funds and teacher requests for funding. In September, he attended the Kenai Peninsula School Activities Association (KPSAA) meeting where they welcomed the new parent representative from Ninilchik and discussed the inclusion of 6th grade students in middle school activities.

Mr. Castimore attended the October 9 budget meeting at K-Beach Elementary, and noted that it was well attended and successful.

Mrs. Vadla reported that she attended the morning session of the district-wide student council meeting on September 23, and commented on the student reports, including Miss Kulikov's.

BOARD WORKSESSION REPORT:*(7:59:55 PM)*

Mr. Arness reported that the Board held worksessions regarding Board Policy, State and Federal Legislative Priorities, Innovative Practices: Blended Learning & Digital Learning Initiative, and FY14 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. He noted that the Annual Assessment Report worksession was rescheduled for the October 21 worksession. All members present at the meeting, attended the worksessions.

CONSENT AGENDA:*(8:00:31 PM)*

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Resolution 14-15-2, Primary Sponsor of Gaming Permits, Student Representative to the Board, Resignations, Long Term Substitutes/Certified, 2014-15 New Teacher Contract(s) and AR 3311 Bids.

RESOLUTION 14-15-2:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve Resolution 4-15-2, listing the primary and alternate members in charge of gaming for those schools applying for gaming permits for 2015.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE BOARD:

Dr. Atwater recommended the Board approve the appointment of Miss Maria Kulikov, a Voznesenka School student, as the student representative to the Board of Education.

RESIGNATIONS:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve resignations from Vernel Schneider, Music Teacher, Soldotna High School; Julie Stephens, 5th – 6th Grade Teacher, Kaleidoscope Charter School; and Karen Wessel, Principal/Teacher, Homer Flex High School; all effective at the end of the 2014-15 school year.

LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTES/CERTIFIED:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a long-term substitute contract for Kellie Bolin, West Homer Elementary School.

NEW TEACHER CONTRACTS:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve new teacher contracts for the 2014-2015 school year for Rebecca Cole, Primary Grade Teacher; Rachel Grossl, Independent Opportunity Instructor (.40 FTE); and Wanda Reams, Interventionist Teacher.

POLICY REVISIONS:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve AR 3311 Bids.

MOTION:

Ms. Hohl moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 6. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

CONSENT AGENDA:

(Continued)

Mr. Castimore removed Item 10a. (1) Approval of Resolution 14-15-2, Primary Sponsor of Gaming Permits.

Motion carried unanimously for items 10a (2) – (6).

Motion carried unanimously for items 10a. (1).

POLICY REVISIONS:

(8:02:58 PM)

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve BP 3311 Bids.

MOTION:

Mr. Anderson moved the Board approve BP 3311 Bids. Mr. Holt seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE
COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL
FINANCIAL REPORT:**

(8:03:52 PM)

Mr. Jones recommended the Board accept the FY14 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).

MOTION:

Mr. Holt moved the Board accept the FY14 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**STATE AND FEDERAL
LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES:**

(8:04:28 PM)

Dr. Atwater recommended the Board approve the list of proposed 2015 State and Federal Legislative Priorities as revised.

Mrs. Downing moved the Board approve the list of proposed 2015 State and Federal Legislative Priorities. Ms. Hohl seconded.

MOTION:

Motion carried unanimously.

**CONTRACT AMENDMENT
FOR INTERIM
SUPERINTENDENT:**

(8:05:12 PM)

Dr. Atwater recommended the Board approve a Contract Amendment for the Interim Superintendent.

MOTION:

Mrs. Valda moved the Board approve a Contract Amendment for the Interim Superintendent. Ms. Hohl seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**FIRST READING OF POLICY
REVISIONS:**

(8:06:11 PM)

The Board heard a first reading of BB 9320 Meeting Time.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/
COMMENTS:**

(8:10:08 PM)

Mr. Brent Johnson spoke in support of Bingo as an appropriate fundraiser for schools.

Mr. Jeff Ambrosier discussed the success of a “Spike Fest” held at Ninilchik School the weekend of October 18, and expressed appreciation for the sportsmanship and behavior of district and state students.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/
COMMENTS:**

(Continued)

Mr. Dave Brighton added to his previous report on the NEA Alaska Annual Fall Event, noting a comment made to him by an employee of another school district, regarding the excellent leadership of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District.

Dr. Atwater invited the Board to attend the College and Career Fair at Sports Center on October 21, 2014.

BOARD COMMENTS:

(8:14:29 PM)

Mr. Holt expressed appreciation for the Skyview Middle School presentation, the school's use of the pool and the drumline.

Mrs. Vadla thanked Mr. Rich Bartolowits and Mr. John O'Brien for their presentation on Innovative Practices. She expressed appreciation for the Alaska Construction Academy building projects in their quarterly report. She noted the resignation of Mr. Vernel Schneider and Ms. Karen Wessel and thanked them for their service to the District. She thanked Mrs. Tressler for her service to the Board, congratulated her for completing the Chicago Marathon on October 12, 2014 and presented her with a gift from the Board.

Mr. Castimore noted the resignation of Ms. Julie Stephens and expressed appreciation for her service to the District.

Mrs. Hilts noted the evening's resignations and expressed appreciation for Ms. Karen Wessel's work and that of all the retirees. She discussed the quality of the evening's meeting, the day's worksessions and the presentations given, including the audit report. She welcomed Miss Kulikov to the Board.

Mr. Anderson welcomed Miss Kulikov to the Board. He expressed appreciation for Mr. Truesdell's work and noted that he is a former District student that returned to work as an administrator. He stated that he appreciates the addition of the Affordable Health Care Act statement to the Federal Priorities.

Mrs. Downing expressed appreciation for the Skyview Middle School presentation. She extended compliments to the Finance Department for earning no exceptions on the recent audit. She congratulated the Homer High School Cross Country Running team for their state championship. She welcomed Miss Kulikov to the Board. She expressed appreciation for Ms. Karen Wessel's work and wished her well in retirement. She reported that she met with a University of Southern California representative recruiter on October 19, and encouraged him to consider attending the Kenai Peninsula College and Career Fair.

BOARD COMMENTS:

(Continued)

Ms. Hohl noted that, with the exception of an Oil and Gas Association meeting, she had been traveling out of state to visit a new grandchild and did not attend any meetings as a Board member. She expressed disappointment that the drug-free schools resolution was not presented in a timelier manner for the Board to consider and stated that she believes there is future work to be done, possibly through an AASB resolution. She expressed appreciation for the Distance Learning and Skyview Middle School presentations. She congratulated all district student athletes for their successes. She welcomed Miss Kulikov to the Board. She extended compliments to the Finance Department for earning no exceptions on the recent audit.

Miss Kulikov apologized for misunderstanding the voting process. She expressed appreciation for the Skyview Middle School drumline. She congratulated the Board members that were nominated and elected to officer positions. She expressed appreciation for Ms. Wessel and her assistance as one of her former principals. She congratulated Mrs. Tressler for her marathon completion and thanked her for her assistance. She thanked the Board for welcoming and helping her.

Mr. Arness welcomed another Board year.

ADJOURN:

(8:26:47 PM)

At 8:26 p.m., Mr. Arness adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Joe Arness, President

Mrs. Penny Vadla, Clerk

The Minutes of October 20,
2014 have been approved as of
November 3, 2014.