



# Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

## Board of Education Meeting Minutes

December 1, 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:**

Mr. Sean Dusek, Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Dave Jones, Assistant Superintendent

### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Ms. Joann Riener	Mr. Todd Syverson
Ms. Pegge Erkeneff	Mr. James Harris
Mr. John O'Brien	Mr. Vernel Schneider
Mr. Alan Fields	Mr. David Brighton
Miss Martine Dikes	Ms. Akcinia Kulikov
Mrs. Patty Sirois	Mr. Brent Johnson
Mrs. Chris Green	Mrs. Freddie Billingslea

Others present not identified.

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

At 5:32 p.m., Mr. Arness called the meeting to order. All school board members were present, comprising a quorum of the Board.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

At 5:32 p.m., Mrs. Vadla moved the Board go into executive session to discuss matters, the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the Borough. Specifically, the Board met to discuss contract negotiations. Mr. Castimore seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Due to a possible conflict of interest, Mr. Holt did not participate in the executive session.

### **ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

At 7:00 p.m. Mrs. Downing moved the Board adjourn the executive session. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

### **CALL TO ORDER:** (7:00:58 PM)

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

**NATIONAL ANTHEM:**  
(7:01:06 PM)

The Soldotna High School saxophone quartet performed *The Star-Spangled Banner*.

**DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT:**  
(7:03:15 PM)

Mrs. Hilts read the District's mission statement.

**ROLL CALL:**  
(7:03:30 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	Present
Mrs. Penny Vadla	Present
Miss Maria Kulikov	Present

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**  
(7:03:57 PM)

The agenda was approved as written.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**  
(7:04:19 PM)

The School Board Minutes of November 3, 2014, were approved as printed.

**SCHOOL REPORT:**  
(7:04:40 PM)

Mr. Todd Syverson, Soldotna High School principal, reported that the school is experiencing a very busy and exciting time that includes work on accreditation, school consolidation, developing professional learning communities (PLCs), and student growth maps. He shared two handouts with the Board: a pamphlet on the school's media center and information regarding interventions that were developed to assist with the school consolidation efforts. He discussed the media center's extended hours and the various opportunities afforded students taking advantage of the center. He stated that the consolidation has been successful for three reasons: community support, the Skyview and SoHi blended staff efforts, and the students' commitment and work. He informed the Board that, later in the school year, he will provide an update on the consolidation that will include more data. He introduced Mr. James Harris who further discussed the school's recent accreditation and the staff efforts involved for the process. He presented a video highlighting district communications, school board policies, staff training and evaluations, student government, the school improvement plan, and school programs and classes. Mr. Vernel Schneider introduced six choir students who concluded the school report by singing, *O Come All Ye Faithful* and *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:**  
(7:21:02 PM)

Ms. Akcinia Kulilov, Voznesenka School parent, discussed parent concerns including the possibility that the school could be closed and asked the Board members to attend the school's Site Council meeting on December 11 at 3:30 p.m. to discuss the situation.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND  
PETITIONS:**

*(7:25:06 PM)*

Mr. Dusek announced that three additional district schools (Chapman Elementary, Kaleidoscope School of Arts and Sciences, and Moose Pass School) have earned "Reward School" status from the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) signifying that they are three of the highest performing schools in the state and bringing the District total to 11 reward schools. He reported that the Alaska Native Engineering Program Academy (ANSEP) went well and thanked Mr. Tim Vlasak, the chaperones, (especially teacher Mr. David Patat) for their work and assistance with the program. He discussed Dr. Atwater's letter to the State of Alaska regarding funding for a new school at Kachemak-Selo.

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

*(7:27:06 PM)*

Mr. David Brighton, KPEA president, congratulated Chapman Elementary, Kaleidoscope School of Arts and Sciences, and Moose Pass School for earning reward school status. He reported that NEA Alaska will send several District teachers to a one day "Train the Trainer" event with DEED, in Anchorage, regarding the teacher evaluation process and the Alaska Measures of Progress (AMP) assessment (date to be set). He stated that he hopes the unions and administration can work together during negotiations.

Mrs. Patty Sirois, K.P.E.S.A. president, welcomed Mr. Dusek as superintendent. She stated that she is looking forward to working together on negotiations. She noted the possibility of adverse weather conditions over the next few days and the effects that bad weather could have on schools and student safety. She discussed the recent hiring of 10 support staff and the difficulty in filling some of the open positions. She congratulated Mr. Tim Navarre for his recent appointment to Governor Walker's transition team. She asked the Board to approve the support staff leave of absence request on the agenda and noted that the employee's leave will assist him in his efforts to become a teacher. She noted that Mrs. Hilts performed well while sitting in for Mr. Arness at the November 3, 2014 board meeting. She shared a personal story about Mr. Todd Syverson and noted that, as he is retiring, this evening was his final school presentation to the Board. She noted the retirements of Mr. John Harro and Mrs. Michelle Gabriel.

Mr. Brent Johnson, Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly, stated that Mr. Blaine Gilman will replace him as the Assembly's school board representative but that he plans to continue attending as many meetings as possible.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT:**

*(7:36:53 PM)*

Mr. Dusek thanked Seward teacher, Ms. Leigh Ray for her "Hour of Code" award and stated that more information will be available during a media event in Seward on December 8, 2014. He noted the certified employee resignations on the agenda, especially Mr. John Harro and Mr. Lee Young, and thanked them for their service to the District. He acknowledged the support staff resignations and specifically thanked Mrs. Michelle Gabriel of Soldotna Elementary for her service. He reported that the District completed the initial round of Key Communicator meetings (one each in Seward, Homer, and Skyview Middle School), noted that the turnout was weak and that he will tentatively plan the next round for February. He announced that the Board will hold a worksession on Tuesday, December 2 beginning at 8:30 a.m. regardless of the weather. He stated that the next quarterly update to the Borough Assembly will be on December 9 during the evening meeting and he will provide a general district update and discuss the budget. He noted that the Holiday Break will be from December 19, 2014 to January 5, 2015 for most schools. He said his first day as superintendent went well, thanked the Board for their confidence in him and stated that he is looking forward to working with them.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

*(7:40:14 PM)*

Mr. Jones presented the financial report of the District for the period ending October 31, 2014.

**FIVE-YEAR PUPIL  
ENROLLMENT  
PROJECTIONS:**

*(7:41:11 PM)*

Mr. Jones presented the Five-Year Enrollment Projections (FY15 - FY19) which record that the FY15 preliminary enrollment reported to the State of Alaska for the 20-day count was 8,835.725.

**BOARD REPORTS:**

*(7:45:44 PM)*

Mrs. Downing attended the Key Communicators meeting at Homer Middle School on November 18 and stated that she hopes the group will be active during the legislative session. She attended the Legislative Committee meeting earlier in the day where they discussed the Key Communicators possible assistance with the legislature, the committee's structure, preparations for the upcoming legislative session, Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB) Resolutions, and state and federal legislative priorities. She attended the AASB Annual Conference held November 6-9, 2014.

Mr. Holt attended the Kenai Peninsula School Activities Association (KPSAA) executive board meeting on November 13. He attended the Calendar Committee Meeting on October 4.

Ms. Hohl attended the Key Communicators meeting in Seward on November 24. She attended the AASB Annual Conference including the Resolutions Committee meeting.

Mrs. Vadla attended the AASB Annual Conference, including the Resolutions Committee meeting, and discussed sessions she attended while there.

**BOARD REPORTS:***(Continued)*

Mrs. Hilts attended the AASB Annual Conference including the Large District Forum meeting. She stated that Key Communicators will be valuable for speaking to legislators in Juneau. She attended the Susan B. English School Site Council meeting. She discussed the recent fire in the school shop building and noted that the quick response by a community member helped save the building from total loss.

Miss Kulikov attended the AASB Youth Leadership Institute where they discussed the possibility of student representatives, throughout the state, meeting in order to network.

Mr. Arness attended the Key Communicators meeting at Skyview High School on November 20 and noted the value and importance of the meeting.

**BOARD WORKSESSION  
REPORT:***(7:53:07 PM)*

Mr. Arness reported that the Board held worksessions regarding Board Policy, Positive Behavior Intervention Support, District-wide School Calendars, Class Size Report, and Projected Enrollment, followed by an executive session. Mr. Arness was absent for the first two worksessions. Mr. Anderson did not attend any of the sessions. All other board members were present.

**CONSENT AGENDA:***(7:53:46 PM)*

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of FY17 and FY18 District Calendars, Leave of Absence/Support, Resignations, and Board Member Committee Appointments.

**FY17 AND FY18 DISTRICT  
CALENDARS:**

Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve the proposed FY17 and FY18 Districtwide Calendars.

**LEAVE OF  
ABSENCE/SUPPORT:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a leave of absence for Derek Ratliff, Instructional Aide, Aurora Borealis Charter School, effective January 12, 2015 to April 10, 2015.

**RESIGNATIONS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve resignations from John Harro, Business Education Teacher, Skyview Middle School; Nancy Lafferty, 1st-2nd Grade Teacher, Kaleidoscope Charter School; Laura McIndoe, Special Education Teacher, Skyview Middle School; Patricia Moreth, 3rd Grade Teacher, West Homer Elementary School; and Robert Young, Principal, Connections Program; all effective the end of the 2014-15 school year; and Karma Sherk, Special Education Intensive Needs Teacher, Nikiski North Star Elementary School, effective the end of the 2013-14 school year (LOA 2014-15 school year).

**COMMITTEE  
APPOINTMENTS:**

Mr. Arness recommended the Board approve a list of Board members to various Board and district-level committees.

**MOTION:**

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

Mrs. Downing removed Item 11a (4) Board Member Committee Appointments.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

*(Continued)*

Motion carried unanimously for Items 1-3.

**MOTION:**

Mrs. Downing moved the Board revise the Legislative Committee appointments by removing Mr. Holt and adding Mrs. Hilts. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**MOTION:**

Ms. Hohl moved the Board appoint Mr. Castimore as chairperson of the Board Policy Committee, add the District Administrator Evaluation Committee to the appointment list and appoint Mr. Navarre and Ms. Hohl to the Administrator Evaluation Committee. Mr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**MOTION:**

Mr. Castimore moved the Board appoint him to the Career & Technical Advisory Committee. Mr. Holt seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion carried unanimously for Item 11a. (4) as revised.

**POLICY REVISION:**

*(8:00:33 PM)*

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve revisions to BB 9320 Meeting Time and BP 5142.3 Restraint and Seclusion.

Mr. Castimore moved the Board approve revisions to BB 9320 Meeting Time and BP 5142.3 Restraint and Seclusion. Mr. Navarre seconded.

Mrs. Hilts requested the Board divide the question between BB 9320 Meeting Time and BP 5142.3 Restraint and Seclusion.

VOTE ON BB 9320 Meeting Time

Advisory: Yes

YES: Downing, Hohl, Holt, Navarre

NO: Anderson, Castimore, Hilts, Vadla, Arness

Motion failed.

Motion carried unanimously for BP 5142.3 Restraint and Seclusion.

**FIRST READING OF POLICY  
REVISIONS:**  
(8:08:47 PM)

The Board heard a first reading of BP 3471 Equipment Reserve Fund, BP 3344 Remote Site Living Expenses, and AR 6146.1 High School Graduation Requirements.

**MOTION:**

Mrs. Downing moved the Board remove AR 6146.1 High School Graduation Requirements from consideration at the next board meeting and remand it to the Policy Committee. Mr. Holt seconded.

VOTE ON DOWNING MOTION TO REMAND:

Advisory: Abstain

YES: Anderson, Castimore, Downing, Holt, Vadla

NO: Hilts, Hohl, Navarre, Arness

Motion carried.

**MOTION:**

Mr. Castimore moved the Board reconsider the Downing Motion To Remand. Mr. Holt seconded.

VOTE TO RECONSIDER:

Advisory: Yes

YES: Anderson, Castimore, Downing, Hilts, Hohl, Holt, Navarre, Vadla, Arness

NO:

Motion carried unanimously.

VOTE ON DOWNING MOTION TO REMAND:

Advisory: No

YES: Vadla

NO: Anderson, Castimore, Downing Hilts, Hohl, Holt, Navarre, Arness

Motion failed.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/  
COMMENTS:**  
(8:17:18 PM)

Mr. Brighton added to his previous report regarding the one day "Train the Trainer" event and stated that the third topic to be taught will be the new state standards.

Ms. Akcinia Kulikov discussed her experience while chaperoning her daughter, Miss Maria Kulikov, at the AASB Youth Leadership Institute. Ms. Kulikov stated that she won a prize at the conference that will enable her to sponsor one student's attendance to next year's institute and that she would like to see more District students participate.

**BOARD COMMENTS:***(8:19:59 PM)*

Mr. Anderson discussed current economics, including decreased oil prices, and encouraged the Board and public to strongly consider the issues that will affect budgeting and school funding.

Ms. Hohl discussed a special education teacher's communication to the Board regarding adolescents and school start times and expressed a desire for the Board to be able to impact this issue. She welcomed Mr. Dusek as superintendent. She thanked Mr. Syverson for his service to the District and expressed appreciation for his school's presentation. She stated that, next month, she would like to bring a resolution before the Board in support of the AVTEC program. She reported that she attended the Alaska State PTA Legislative Issues Conference and the Great Alaska Schools meeting with the Anchorage School District superintendent and administrators. She commented that Miss Kulikov and her mother served the Board, District and their communities well at the AASB Youth Leadership Institute. She encouraged those in attendance to drive safely.

Mr. Holt commented that there are various ways to measure student progress, including teacher evaluations, the AMP assessment, and state standards. He expressed appreciation for the students' musical performances during the meeting, noted that this type of success is not measured in the traditional way, and stated that a rich curriculum that includes activities, such as music, is vital.

Mrs. Downing expressed appreciation for the Soldotna High School presentation and student performances. She discussed her son's recent common application process for college entrance, expressed appreciation for the quality of education that her son has received at KPBSD and thanked those that contributed.

Mr. Castimore reported that he attended the AASB Annual Conference held November 6-9, 2014 and will attend the AASB Winter Boardmanship in December. He thanked the Board for their patience with his motion for reconsideration during the meeting.

Mrs. Vadla congratulated Mr. Derek Ratcliff for his leave of absence and wished him well in his endeavor to be a teacher. She thanked Mr. Kevin Downs and Ms. Angie Nelson for the worksession on Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS). She thanked Mr. Dusek for listening to her concerns regarding class size. She supported Mr. Holt's comment regarding arts in schools and stated that, in the future, AMP will include a measure for arts. She expressed appreciation for Mr. Schneider and his students' performance. She shared the proverb, "One kind word can warm three winter months" and added "One kind word or action...." She wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Mr. Navarre noted that it was the first day for Mr. Dusek, Governor Walker and Lieutenant Governor Mallott and congratulated all three on their new positions. He supported Mr. Anderson's comments on the economy, stated that Alaska is still a wealthy state and that working together will help find a long term solution for education funding. He stated that he is looking forward to working with the new state legislature and administration. He welcomed Miss Kulikov. He wished everyone Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



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

Mrs. Hilts noted that it is a momentous day for Alaska as the first day for the new governor and lieutenant governor. She expressed appreciation for some of the governor's appointments. She commented that the state legislature views Alaska as a poor state. She expressed a hope that employee contract negotiations will go smoothly, for the benefit of everyone. She wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. She thanked Mr. Dusek for his willingness to serve as both superintendent and assistant superintendent.

Miss Kulikov expressed appreciation for the school musical performances. She commented on the issues that her mother spoke to earlier in the meeting regarding Voznesenka School. She encouraged the Board and administration to attend the Voznesenka Site Council meeting on December 11. She encouraged those in attendance to drive safely. She wished Mr. Dusek good luck as superintendent. She wished everyone Merry Christmas or Happy Winter Break and Happy New Year.

Mrs. Vadla expressed appreciation for Ms. Kulikov's desire to encourage increased student attendance at the AASB Youth Leadership Institute next year.

Mr. Arness noted that the Board will hold a worksession December 2 at 8:30.

**ADJOURN:***(8:35:49 PM)*

At 8:35 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

BOE Approved 1/12/15