



# Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes

4/6/2015 – 6:00 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:**

Mrs. Laurie Olson	Mr. Duke Hardcastle
Ms. Pegge Erkeneff	Miss Amber Nicholson
Mrs. Julie Cisco	Mr. Isaiah Metcalf
Mr. Tim Vlasak	Miss Linnaea Gossard
Mr. Loren Reese	Mrs. LaDawn Druce
Mrs. Michael Hanson	Mrs. Patty Sirois
Mr. Tom Gossard	Mr. David Brighton
Mr. Jeff Ambrosier	Miss Martine Dikes
Mr. Kevin Harding	Mr. Wade Marcuson

Others present not identified.

**CALL TO ORDER:** At 5:00 p.m., Mr. Arness called the meeting to order. A quorum of the School Board was present: Mr. Arness, Mr. Castimore, Mrs. Downing, Mrs. Hilts, Ms. Hohl, Mr. Holt, Mr. Navarre and Mrs. Vadla. Mr. Anderson was absent.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** At 5:00 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. Mrs. Hilts seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

At 5:07 p.m., Mr. Anderson joined the executive session.

**ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:** At 6:02 p.m. Mrs. Hilts moved the Board adjourn the executive session. Mr. Navarre seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

At 6:02 p.m., the Board continued in regular session.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mr. Arness invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT:** Mr. Navarre read the District's mission statement.

<b>ROLL CALL:</b>	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	Absent/Excused

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** The agenda was approved as written.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The School Board Minutes of March 2, 2015 and March 3, 2015, were approved as printed.

**SCHOOL REPORTS:** Mr. Loren Reese, principal of Kenai Alternative School (KAHS), introduced staff members, Mr. Wade Marcuson and Mr. Kevin Harding and students, Mr. Duke Hardcastle, Miss Amber Nicholson, and Mr. Isaiah Metcalf. Mr. Reese, Mr. Harding and Mr. Marcuson presented a PowerPoint highlighting the school's enrollment procedures, programs, daily schedule, academic coursework, student demographics, student activities, community volunteers, student recognition programs, and graduation history and rate (40 students will graduate this school year). Mr. Hardcastle, Mr. Metcalf, and Miss Nicholson discussed their successes as KAHS students and the difference that the school has made in each of their lives. Mr. Reese closed by thanking the Board for the opportunity to offer their presentation.

Mrs. Michael Hanson, principal of Cooper Landing School, Mr. Tom Gossard, teacher, and Miss Linnaea Gossard, student, offered a Prezzi that highlighted the school's online classes offered through Polycom technology, the use of iPads, programs and special classes, the school's mission, staff, students, extra-curricular activities and field trips, greenhouse and garden, student performances, community pride, and assemblies. Miss Gossard presented the Board with copies of a Cooper Landing Area Hiking Trails information sheet and a Russian River Ski Trail Guide, both developed with assistance from Cooper Landing School students and staff.

Miss Kulikov joined the meeting at 6:27 p.m.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:**

Ms. Judy Gonsalves, Ms. Sue Brass (in a statement read by Ms. Katie Bynagle), Ms. Katie Bynagle, Mr. Dylan Hooper, Ms. Darcy Mueller, Ms. Seanna Gunn, and Ms. Barbara Larrivee, spoke regarding the current contract negotiations and requested the District bargaining team participate in good faith bargaining.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:**

Mr. Dusek discussed recent legislation effecting education including Senate Bill 89-Parent’s Rights, Attendance and Education and House Bill 72-Operating Budget, stated that the District does not support either of these bills and encouraged the public to view the District’s legislative page for current information. He stated that Borough Mayor Mike Navarre will travel to Juneau to advocate for the Borough and the District. He announced that the Fine Arts and World Language Curriculum Committee will hold their first meeting on April 14 at 9:00 a.m. at the Kenai Public Library.

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

Mrs. Patty Sirois, K.P.E.S.A. president, expressed appreciation for the continuation of the fresh fruit and vegetable program through the Student Nutrition Program. She encouraged the community to engage with the legislature for education funding. She thanked the staff members in the audience for attending the meeting and for speaking to the Board regarding negotiations.

Mr. David Brighton, KPEA president, read a letter from Mrs. Rebecca Paul regarding contract negotiations. He discussed the budget shortfalls and thanked the Board for their work. He requested that the Board approve the non-tenured teacher contracts on the evening’s agenda.

Mr. Jeff Ambrosier, KPAA president, discussed current budget shortfalls and stated that KPAA has confidence in the District administration and Board. He discussed current work with TeachScape, collaboration and calibration to improve the teacher evaluation process. He expressed appreciation for the hiring of Mr. Dusek, superintendent and Mr. O’Brien, assistant superintendent. He stated that, although we all would like increased pay, he is pleased to be a part of KPBSD.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:**

Mr. Dusek recognized Miss Kulikov for her recent Young Woman of Distinction award. He reported that, for the first time, the Seldovia boys’ basketball team won the state championship. He announced that 6<sup>th</sup> grade Kenai Middle School student, Mr. Sorin Sorenson, placed second at the state Spelling Bee. He discussed the Wellness Survey Results and the Innovations Update in the General Information packet. He expressed appreciation for this month’s certified and support retirees and thanked them for their service to district and its students.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

Mr. Jones presented the financial report of the District for the period ending February 28, 2015.

**BOARD REPORTS:**

Mrs. Downing attended the Paul Banks Elementary Site Council meeting on Tuesday, March 31, 2105 where they discussed current legislation. She attended the Homer Rotary luncheon on March 24 where Mr. Dusk presented an update on the District. She reported that the Legislative Committee met earlier in the day to discuss education funding. She encouraged parents, business leaders and community members to contact legislators regarding education funding cuts.

Mrs. Hilts reported that she attended the National School Board Association (NSBA) Annual Conference on March 21-24, 2015 and discussed sessions she attended and the opportunity she had to see where school districts across the nation stand. She attended the Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB) Legislative Fly-In on March 28-31, 2015 in Juneau where they hired Mr. Norm Wooten as the new executive director, conducted AASB business and then spoke with legislators. She encouraged parents, business leaders and community members to contact legislators regarding education funding cuts.

Mrs. Vadla attended the AASB Legislative Fly-In on March 28-31, 2015 in Juneau. While there, she testified to the Senate Finance Committee. She encouraged parents, business leaders and community members to contact legislators regarding education funding cuts.

Ms. Hohl attended the NSBA Annual Conference on March 21-24, 2015 in Nashville and discussed the sessions she attended.

**BOARD WORKSESSION REPORT:**

Mr. Arness reported that the Board held worksessions regarding Instructional Materials Review, Board Policy and the FY16 Budget and an executive session regarding negotiations. All members present at the meeting, attended the worksessions.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were approval of 2015-2016 Tentative School Board Meeting Dates, 2014-15 New Teacher Contract, 2015-16 New Administrator Contract(s), 2015-16 Tentative Non-Tenured Teacher Contract(s) and Tenure, 2015-16 Tentative Non-Tenured Contract(s), 2015-16 New Teacher Contract(s), 2015-16 Leave of Absence Request/Certified, Recension of Leave of Absence Request/Certified and Resignations.

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve 2015-2016 Tentative School Board Meeting Dates, 2014-15 New Teacher Contract, 2015-16 New Administrator Contract(s), 2015-16 Tentative Non-Tenured Teacher Contract(s) and Tenure, 2015-16 Tentative Non-Tenured Contract(s), 2015-16 New Teacher Contract(s), 2015-16 Leave of Absence Request/Certified, Recension of Leave of Absence Request/Certified and Resignations.

**2015-16 TENTATIVE BOARD MEETING DATES:**

Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve a tentative meeting schedule for Board meetings for the 2015-16 school year.

**2014-15 NEW TEACHER CONTRACT:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a 2014-15 New Teacher Contract for Janae Van Slyke, Primary Grade Teacher, Sterling Elementary School for the 2014-15 school year.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

*(Continued)*

**2015-16 NEW ADMINISTRATOR CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve new administrator contracts for Richard Breske, Principal/Teacher, Tebughna School and Jill DuFloth, Assistant Principal, Skyview Middle School.

**2015-16 TENTATIVE NON-TENURED TEACHER CONTRACTS AND TENURE:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a list of Tentative Non-Tenured Teacher Contracts and Tenure for the 2015-16 school year. <http://www.kpbsd.k12.ak.us/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=33242>

**2015-16 TENTATIVE NON-TENURED TEACHER CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a list of 2015-16 Non-Tenured Teacher Contracts for the 2015-16 school year. <http://www.kpbsd.k12.ak.us/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=33243>

**2015-16 NEW TEACHER CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve 2015-16 New Teacher Contracts for Dennis Diviney, Special Education Resource Teacher, Skyview Middle School; James Doering, Special Education Resource Teacher, Nanwalek School; Devin Michel, Elementary Multi-Grade Teacher, Port Graham School; and Colby Way, Multi-Grade Upper Elementary/Secondary Generalist Teacher, Port Graham School.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTS/CERTIFIED:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve unpaid leave of absence requests for Michelle Green, Nikiski North Star Elementary School; Maygen Lotscher, Homer High School, and Lori Young, Tustumena Elementary School, for the 2015-16 school year.

**RECENSION OF LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST/CERTIFIED:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve the recension of an unpaid leave of absence request for Kevin Harding, Kenai Alternative High School, effective the 2015-16 school year.

**RESIGNATIONS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve resignations from Ann Agosti-Hackett, Razdolna School; Esther Ashment, Homer High School; Robert Bird, Nikiski Middle/High School; Tracy Brown, Soldotna High School; Tiffany Carter, Skyview Middle School; Michael Chase, Tustumena Elementary School and Sterling Elementary School; John Clare, Soldotna Prep School; Heather Corbett, Soldotna High School; Lori Ford, McNeil Canyon Elementary School; Amy Frapp, Soldotna Elementary School; Kimberly Hoover, Ninilchik School; Sarah Jones, Soldotna High School; Deana Kahn, Soldotna Elementary School; Vidya Oftedal, Skyview Middle School; Whitney Roesch, Sterling Elementary School; Logan Schulz, Seward High School; Kelly Sheffer, Homer Middle School; Benjamin Stephens, Soldotna Elementary School; and Francesca Stetson, Pupil Services; all effective the end of the 2014-15 school year.

**MOTION:**

Mr. Anderson moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 9. Mr. Holt seconded.

Mr. Anderson removed number 11a. (1) 2015-2016 Tentative School Board Meeting Dates.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**  
(Continued)

Mrs. Downing removed 11a. (5) 2015-16 Tentative Non-Tenured Teacher Contracts.

Mrs. Vadla removed 11a. (3) 2015-16 New Administrator Contracts and 11a. (9) Resignations.

Motion carried unanimously for items 2, 4, 6, 7 and 8.

**MOTION:**

Mr. Anderson moved the Board amend the meeting schedule to change the August 4, 2015 board meeting to August 3, 2015. Mr. Navarre seconded.

**MOTION:**

Ms. Hohl moved the Board amend the motion to add that Board work sessions will be held quarterly. Mr. Holt seconded.

Amendment carried unanimously.

Amended amendment carried unanimously.

Amended motion carried unanimously.

Motion carried unanimously for item 5.

Motion carried unanimously for item 3.

Motion carried unanimously for item 9.

**FY15 BUDGET REVISION:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a revision to the FY15 Budget to account for decreases in state funding due to the changes in Final ADM report received from the State and the decreased use of fund balance due to Charter Schools additional allowable funding for rent and in-kind services.

Mr. Navarre moved the Board approve a revision to the FY15 Budget as presented. Mr. Holt seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**FY16 BUDGET:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve the FY16 Budget.

Mr. Holt moved the Board approve the FY16 Budget as presented. Mr. Navarre seconded.

**FY16 BUDGET:**  
(Continued)

Mr. Castimore moved the Board postpone the item to a special meeting on April 20, 2015. Ms. Hohl seconded.

VOTE on Motion to Postpone:

ADVISORY VOTE: Abstain

YES – Anderson, Castimore, Hohl

NO – Downing, Hilts, Holt, Navarre, Vadla, Arness

Motion failed.

VOTE:

ADVISORY VOTE: Abstain

YES – Anderson, Castimore, Downing, Hilts, Holt, Navarre, Vadla, Arness

NO – Hohl

Motion carried.

**RECONSIDERATION OF  
INSTRUCTIONAL  
MATERIALS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve the Instructional Review Committee's recommendation to keep in use the social studies textbook by Prentice Hall entitled *America History of Our Nation*, and to direct the curriculum department to issue a guiding addendum to teachers using the resource.

Mrs. Hilts moved the Board approve the Instructional Review Committee's recommendation to keep in use the social studies textbook by Prentice Hall entitled *America History of Our Nation*, and to direct the curriculum department to issue a guiding addendum to teachers using the resource. Mr. Holt seconded.

Mr. Castimore moved the Board amend the motion to approve the findings of the Reconsideration of Instructional Materials Committee but to ask the Administration to investigate alternatives which would take the textbook out of the District as soon as possible. Mrs. Hilts seconded.

VOTE ON Castimore Amendment:

ADVISORY VOTE: Yes

YES – Castimore, Downing, Hilts, Hohl, Holt

NO – Anderson, Navarre, Vadla, Arness

Amendment carried.

A motion by Ms. Hohl to append a notice to the inside cover of the textbook stating that biases and inaccuracies have been found in the book, failed for lack of a second.

A motion by Mr. Navarre that the Board approve an amendment stating that if the Board fails to approve the committee recommendation to continue using the textbook in the curriculum, the effective date for discontinuing the book's use would be next fall, was ruled by the Chair as out of order.

**RECONSIDERATION OF  
INSTRUCTIONAL  
MATERIALS:**

*(Continued)*

Mr. Castimore moved the Board postpone the item until the June 4, 2015 regular board meeting. Mrs. Hilts seconded.

VOTE ON Motion to Postpone:

ADVISORY VOTE: Yes

YES –Castimore, Hilts, Hohl, Navarre

NO – Anderson, Downing, Holt, Vadla, Arness

Motion to postpone failed.

VOTE ON Motion as amended:

ADVISORY VOTE: No

YES – Anderson, Castimore, Downing, Hilts, Holt, Arness

NO – Hohl, Navarre, Vadla

Amended motion carried.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
CONTRACT:**

Mr. Arness recommended the Board approve the FY 16-18 Superintendent's Contract as presented.

Mr. Anderson moved the Board approve the FY 16-18 Superintendent's Contract as presented. Mr. Holt seconded.

Mrs. Downing moved the Board postpone the item until the May 4, 2015 regular board meeting. Mr. Castimore seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**FIRST READING OF POLICY  
REVISIONS:**

The Board heard a first reading of BB 3515 School Safety and Security, BP 3541.1 School Related Trips, BP 4131 Staff Development and BP 4117.6 Non-Retention.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/  
COMMENTS:**

Mrs. LaDawn Druce stated that on Tuesday, March 31, 2015 at the Legislative Information Office, she testified to the Senate Finance Committee regarding education funding cuts including those to pre-kindergarten programs. On Friday, April 3, she phoned Senator Micciche's Juneau office to express her concerns over cuts to the Base Student Allocation (BSA). Tuesday, April 7, she will speak to the Borough Assembly regarding the grocery tax. She stated being involved in school funding is about community and commitment to education. She agreed with Mrs. Vadla that parents, students and community leaders need to be more involved with this issue. She thanked the Board for approving, and the administration for recommending approval of, the non-tenured teacher contracts. She discussed the contract negotiations, good faith bargaining and the need for employees to feel valued and supported. She thanked the Board for their service.

Mr. Dave Brighton thanked the Board for approving the non-tenured teacher contracts and the FY16 Budget. He encouraged parents, business leaders and community members to contact legislators regarding education funding cuts.



**BOARD COMMENTS:**

Mrs. Hilts thanked those present for their attendance and urged them to encourage others to contact state legislators.

Mr. Anderson expressed appreciation for the school presentations. He discussed the value of Kenai Alternative School. He noted that District funding is given by the federal, state and local governments and dictated by laws and discussed the challenges our community faces in budgeting.

Mr. Navarre noted the need to value public education and to offer opportunities to all students. He expressed the need to speak to legislators and request that they do not cut education funding.

Ms. Hohl congratulated Miss Kulikov who will represent the southern peninsula in a national Poetry Slam competition in Atlanta, GA. She expressed appreciation for the work done by the administration to prepare the budget but stated she was not able to approve the budget as presented due to the current legislative situation. She expressed appreciation for the school presentations.

Mrs. Vadla expressed appreciation for the school presentations. She congratulated Susan B. English School for their state basketball championship. She thanked the administration for preparing a balanced budget and explaining the process. She encouraged parents, graduates and past graduates to contact the legislature to support school funding.

Mr. Holt stated that he agreed there are biases in the social studies textbook, *America History of Our Nation*, but believes it is an opportunity for students and teachers to develop critical thinking skills and hold valuable conversations.

Mr. Castimore announced that his daughter, Emma, will enroll in kindergarten in the fall at Kaleidoscope School of Arts and Sciences (KSAS).

Mrs. Downing thanked the teachers and staff that supported her son during his school year and announced that he was recently admitted to the University of Southern California (USC). She thanked those who spoke during the meeting and stated that we are all on the same side.

Miss Kulikov apologized for arriving late and stated that the roads were very slippery. She thanked the teachers that spoke during the meeting, for their comments. She stated that she has spoken to legislators and is not encouraged by what they have said but she feels confident that the District and its students will still succeed.

Mr. Arness thanked Mr. Reese for attending and staying for the entire meeting. He thanked the audience for their attendance.

**ADJOURN:**

At 8:27 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

Approved 5-4-2015

Submitted by Mrs. Debbie Tressler  
Administrative Secretary to the Board of Education