



# Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes

May 4, 2015 – 6:00 p.m.  
Regular Meeting

Seward High School  
2100 Swetmann, Seward, 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. Jason Bickling
Mrs. Julie Cisco	Mr. David Kingsland
Mr. John O'Brien	Mr. David Brighton
Ms. Pegge Erkeneff	Mrs. Patty Sirois
Mr. Trevan Walker	Mr. David Kalugin

Others present not identified.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

At 5:02 p.m. Mr. Arness called the meeting to order. A quorum of the School Board was present: Mr. Arness, Mrs. Downing, Mrs. Hilts, Ms. Hohl, Mr. Holt, Mr. Navarre and Mrs. Vadla.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

At 5:02 p.m. Mr. Navarre 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. Vadla seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Castimore joined the meeting at 5:06 p.m.

**ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

At 6:02 p.m. Mr. Holt moved the Board adjourn the executive session. Ms. Hohl seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

**NATIONAL ANTHEM:**

Aurora Borealis Charter School student, Miss Katie Delker, sang *The National Anthem*.

**DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT:**

Ms. Hohl read the District's mission statement.

**ROLL CALL:**

Mr. Marty Anderson	Absent/Excused
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 with a revision to item 11a. (5) Approval of Long Term Substitute Teacher Contract.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The School Board Minutes of April 6, 2015, were approved as printed.

**AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:**

The Board presented a Golden Apple Award to Mr. David Kalugin for his service to Kachemak-Selo School, its students and the District.

**SCHOOL REPORT:**

Aurora Borealis Charter School administrator, Mr. Larry Nauta, briefly discussed the school's programs and successes, including two 1st place finishers in the state Future Problem Solving competition. He introduced the school's 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade choral students who, led by music teacher Mr. John Uponen, performed the songs *Barbara Ann* and *Lollipop*. Mr. Nauta honored Mr. Uponen who is retiring after 32 years of service to the District.

**RECESS:**

At 6:19 p.m. Mr. Arness recessed the meeting.

**RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:**

At 6:22 p.m. Mr. Arness reconvened the meeting.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:**

Mrs. Maya Moriarty spoke regarding proposed swimming pool usage fee increases and the effects an increase would have on the local swim club.

Ms. Sarah Spanos thanked Mr. Jason Bickling for his service as Seward Middle School principal.

Mrs. Erin Knotek requested that a banner honoring her son, Mr. Miles Knotek, as the 2011-2012 Gatorade Alaska Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year, be placed back on display at Seward High School permanently.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:**

Mr. Dusek announced that this week we celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week, Student Nutrition Services Appreciation Week and Nurse Appreciation Day (May 6). He reminded the Board to thank these staff groups for their work. He stated that the Board will hold an all-day work session on June 2 at the Soldotna High School 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, thanked Aurora Borealis Charter School for their presentation. She congratulated Mr. David Kalugin on his Golden Apple Award. She expressed her condolences to the Susan B. English School employee whose husband recently passed away. She congratulated Ms. Sandra Geagel on her retirement. She noted the importance of swim clubs and school pools. She commented on the first reading of BP 5141.21 Administering Medication and stated that school secretaries administer medications in a school nurse absence and requested that certified staff be assigned to perform these duties instead. She thanked teachers and student nutrition employees in recognition of their appreciation week.

Mr. David Brighton, KPEA president, thanked the Board for their recent and ongoing work with legislature. He reported that he recently travelled to Juneau to speak with legislators and expressed appreciation for the coordination of efforts between the unions and district administration. He noted that Mr. Tim Vlasak stated that the Alaska Measures of Progress (AMP) testing went well. He thanked all teachers for their work. He congratulated this year's five BP Teachers of Excellence.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT:**

Mr. Dusek congratulated this year's BP Teachers of Excellence and stated that this year's five winners are a great example of the District's quality staff and instruction. He congratulated Miss Tiffany Lopez from Nikiski High School and Miss Malia Acovak from Seward High School who have both been awarded the Gates Millennium Scholarship which will pay for 10 years of college. He discussed his Early Release Days memo in the general information packet and stated that the 2015-16 dates will be brought forward for approval at the June meeting. Mr. Dusek announced that Mr. John Pothast has been selected to serve as the director of secondary education. He stated that the position of principal for Redoubt Elementary is now open, the community meeting will be held on May 5 and the interviews are scheduled for May 14. He reported that he will present a quarterly update to the Borough Assembly at their evening meeting on May 5. He discussed the upcoming graduation week and stated that he will attend the ceremonies for Kenai Central High, Soldotna High (where his daughter will graduate) and Seward High schools. He recognized retiree Ms. Sandra Geagel, Susan B. English secretary, and thanked her for her many years of service to the District. He also congratulated Mr. Tim Sandahl, Kenai Middle School teacher, on his upcoming retirement and noted that, for the first time since the 1960's, there will not be a Sandahl family member employed by the District.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

Mr. Jones presented the financial report of the District for the period ending March 31, 2015.

**QUARTERLY BUDGET  
TRANSFER REPORT:**

Mr. Jones presented the budget transfer report for the third quarter of FY15.

**BOARD REPORTS:**

Mr. Navarre reported that he attended the BP Teachers of Excellence awards and congratulated the five recipients.

Mrs. Vadla reported that she attended the April 16 Caring for the Kenai presentations and commented on the quality of student projects. On April 7 she attended the Jr. Achievement Day at K-Beach Elementary School. On April 25 she was present for the Caring for the Kenai banquet honoring the 12 finalists. She attended the BP Teachers of Excellence dinner on April 28 and congratulated the winners. Earlier in the day, she toured the Seward AVTEC building with Mr. Ben Eveland and expressed appreciation for the programs offered there. She stated that she had missed a couple of meetings recently due to illness.

Mrs. Downing reported that the Legislative Committee met earlier in the day, on April 14 and April 28, to discuss the changing status of education funding. She attended the BP Teachers of Excellence dinner on April 28. She presented the awards at the Borough Math Meet at Homer Middle School on April 22.

Mrs. Hilts reported that she telephonically attended a Project GRAD board meeting where they recommended Ms. Jane Beck to serve as the new director.

Mr. Holt attended the Fine Arts and World Language Curriculum Committee meeting on April 14.

**BOARD WORKSESSION REPORT:**

Mr. Arness reported that the Board held work sessions entitled Board Policy, Textbook Replacement, Career and Technical Education Update, Kenai Peninsula School Activities Association (KPSAA) Handbook Revisions and FY16 Budget Update and an executive session regarding negotiations. All members present at the meeting, attended the work sessions.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were approval of College and Career Ready Assessment Waiver 2014-15 01, Leave of Absence Request/Support, Leave of Absence Request/Certified, 2015-16 New Teacher Contract(s), Long Term Substitute Teacher Contract and Resignations.

**CCRA WAIVER:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve College and Career Ready Assessment Waiver 2014-15 01.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST/SUPPORT:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a leave of absence for Laura Rhyner, Pupil Services Technology Specialist, District Office - Pupil Services, effective September 1, 2015 to August 31, 2016.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST/CERTIFIED:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a leave of absence for Rose Armstrong, 2nd Grade Teacher, Nikiski North Star Elementary School, effective the 2015-16 school year.

**2015-16 NEW TEACHER CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve 2015-16 New Teacher Contracts for Daniel Bowen, Primary Grade Teacher; Sonya Childs, School Psychologist; Monica Glen, Speech Language Pathologist; Maryjane Hadaway, Special Education Resource Teacher; Ashley Hanson, Intermediate Grade Teacher; Emily Kornelis, Speech Language Pathologist; and Krystalynn Scott, Math Teacher.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

*(Continued)*

**LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE  
TEACHER CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve long-term substitute teacher contracts for Clayton Beck, Redoubt Elementary School; Judy Cox, Mountain View Elementary School; Megan Hardy, Redoubt Elementary School; AnnMarie Rudstrom, Sterling Elementary School; and Bernadette Wensley, Mountain View Elementary School.

**RESIGNATIONS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve resignations from Kyle Cater, Language Arts Teacher, Kenai Central High School; Michael Gullett, Generalist Teacher, Tebughna School; Katherine Hamre, Primary Grade Teacher, Mountain View Elementary School; Shilo McManus, Special Education Behavior Teacher, Mountain View Elementary School; Tim Sandahl, 7<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts/Digital Story Teacher, Kenai Middle School; Tiffany Tillman, First Grade Teacher, Sterling Elementary School; Mayme Troutman, Science Teacher, Kenai Middle School; and Anna White, 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade Teacher, Kachemak-Selo School, all effective the end of the 2014-15 school year.

**MOTION:**

Mr. Holt moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 6. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**POLICY REVISION:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve BP 3515 School Safety and Security, BP 3541.1 School Related Trips, BP 4131 Staff Development, BP 4117.6 Non-Retention and AR 6161.4 Acceptable Use Policy/Internet Safety and AR 2121 Superintendent's Contract.

Mr. Navarre moved the Board approve BP 3515 School Safety and Security, BP 3541.1 School Related Trips, BP 4131 Staff Development, BP 4117.6 Non-Retention and AR 6161.4 Acceptable Use Policy/Internet Safety and AR 2121 Superintendent's Contract. Mr. Holt seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
CONTRACT:**

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

At the April 6, 2015 board meeting, Mr. Anderson moved the Board approve the FY 16-18 Superintendent's Contract as presented. Mr. Holt seconded.

Mr. Tim Cronin spoke in support of approval of the superintendent's contract.

**MOTION:**

Mr. Navarre moved the Board amend the Superintendent's Contract to reflect the current agreement date of May 4, 2015. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Amendment carried unanimously.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
CONTRACT:**

*(Continued)*

VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION:

YES –Castimore, Downing, Hilts, Hohl, Holt, Navarre, Vadla, Arness  
NO – None

Amended motion carried.

**FIRST READING OF POLICY  
REVISIONS:**

The Board heard a first reading of BP 5141.31 Immunizations and BP 5141.21 Administering Medication.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/  
COMMENTS:**

Mrs. Patty Sirois announced that she will serve as KPESA president again next school year and would like assurance that she will be able to return to her position with the District at the completion of her service.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

Ms. Hohl thanked Seward Middle School for the delicious dinner and expressed appreciation for Miss Emily Brockman's presentation. She thanked the Seward Tsunami swim club members and Mrs. Erin Knotek for their comments. She noted that she was unavailable to attend the BP Teachers of Excellence Awards. She stated that, while travelling, she visited the Texas Land Commission and the Idaho Department of Natural Resources where she learned about their school land trusts and funds. She thanked Mr. Jason Bickling for his service to the District. She stated that she attended the University of Alaska Anchorage graduation ceremony on May 3, where she knew seven of the graduates including her nephew and a former Seward High School student.

Mr. Holt stated that he will miss working with Mr. Bickling, especially on the Kenai Peninsula School Activities Association Committee. He recognized Mr. Matt Widaman as the district's BP Teacher of the Year and the new career technical educational specialist/work experience teacher. He stated that Mr. Widaman and he would like to work together to develop Geographic Information Systems (GIS) instruction for the District. He congratulated Mr. John Pothast on his new position as director of secondary education and noted that he previously worked with Mr. Pothast at Skyview High School.

Mrs. Downing thanked Seward for their hospitality and for the good weather. She stated that her son is graduating from high school and that she is looking forward to the graduation ceremonies as it is good to watch the students grow up and move on.

Mr. Castimore stated that Mr. Tim Sandahl was one of his teachers in junior high school.

Mrs. Vadla congratulated Mr. Jason Bickling and Mr. Tim Sandahl on their retirements. She congratulated Mr. John Pothast on his new position. She expressed appreciation for Miss Emily Brockman's powerful speech. She thanked Seward Middle School for the delicious dinner. She thanked Mr. Dusek for the information on the early release days. She congratulated Miss Tiffany Lopez and Miss Malia Acovak on their Gates Millennium Scholarships.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Vadla moved that board member Tim Navarre represent the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District on the Kenai Peninsula Borough’s upcoming visit to their sister city, Akita, Japan, at no cost to the school district. Ms. Hohl seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Navarre thanked Aurora Borealis Charter School for their presentation. He thanked Seward for their hospitality and Seward Middle School for dinner. He stated that Miss Emily Brockman’s presentation was very moving. He noted Mr. Dusek’s approved contract and stated that he is looking forward to continuing to work with him. He expressed appreciation for the CTE work session report. He congratulated Mr. Widaman on his new position.

Mrs. Hilts commented on the wonderful dinner, weather and presentation from Miss Brockman. She expressed appreciation for teachers, nurses and student nutrition employees, especially one of her daughters, the cook at West Homer Elementary School. She greeted another daughter and granddaughter in the audience. She thanked Mr. Kalugin for his service to the District.

Mr. Arness commented on Mr. Sandahl’s resignation and the fact that the District will not have a member of the Sandahl family employed. He especially noted Mrs. Lynne Sandahl’s leaving the District, stated that she is a very special lady with hard to fill shoes and wished her and Mr. Sandahl the best. He thanked Seward for their hospitality.

**ADJOURN:**

At 7:19 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 6-1-2015

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