Kenai Peninsula Borough School District
Board of Education Meeting Minutes

September 8, 2015 – 6:00 p.m. | Homer High School
Regular Meeting | 600 E. Fairview Ave., Homer, 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

STAFF PRESENT:
Mr. Sean Dusek, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. John O'Brien, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Dave Jones, Assistant Superintendent

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mrs. Julie Cisco	Mr. Tim Whip
Ms. Pegge Erkeneff	Mr. Mike Wojciak
Ms. Joann Riener	Mr. Pete Swanson
Mr. Jeff Ambrosier	Mr. David Brighton
Mr. Christopher Brown	Mrs. Patty Sirois
Mr. Tim Vlasak	Mr. Rod Hilts
Representative Paul Seaton	Ms. Laurel Hilts

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Mrs. Hilts called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mrs. Hilts invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Marty Anderson	Present
Mr. Joe Arness	Absent/Excused
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	Absent/Excused

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved with a revision to 10a. (1) 2015-16 New Teacher Contracts.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of August 3, 2015, were approved as printed.

SCHOOL REPORT:

Mr. Christopher Brown, Homer Flex School administrator, introduced students Miss Jesse Hiller, Miss Jenna Kilcher and Miss Sierra Wylde, and school mental health counselor, Ms. Augusta Lind. Mr. Brown recognized the school staff members in the audience. The presenting team shared a student produced video and a PowerPoint that highlighted the school's strengths, sense of community, student recruitment procedures, school culture, programs, garden, community involvement and mental health program. In conclusion, Mr. Brown stated that Homer Flex is a strong, positive school.

Mr. Jeff Ambrosier, Ninilchik School principal, introduced teacher, Mr. Mike Tozzo and student council members, Miss Naomi Hess, and Miss Tatiana Cooper. The students discussed the school's mission statement, programs and student successes. Mr. Ambrosier described challenges that make Ninilchik School unique, including a high transient population. Miss Hess explained the school's Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) program and Jump Start program use. Miss Cooper highlighted the value of Project Grad and the Ninilchik Traditional Council. Mr. Tozzo, student council advisor, coach and teacher discussed school athletics which include homeschool students. Mr. Ambrosier promoted the school reading program which utilizes 90 minutes of uninterrupted time. He shared the school's college scholarship totals for the past two years. Mr. Ambrosier expressed his pride in the school staff for their longevity and commitment.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Ms. Heidi Adams, Chapman School parent group president, discussed recent school improvements and thanked the Board, the site council and the principal for their work in helping address these needs.

Representative Paul Seaton discussed upcoming legislative challenges. He noted two upcoming town hall meetings, one in Ninilchik on September 10 from 6-8 p.m. and one in Homer on September 11 from 7-9 p.m., and invited the Board members to attend. He encouraged the Board to be active in the discussion on the use of longitudinal databases, either individually or through the Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB). He welcomed the Board to contact him to discuss any issue that would help improve education on the Peninsula.

HEARING OF DELEGATIONS:

Mobilizing For Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) representatives, Ms. Anna Meredith and Ms. Racheal Romberg, explained Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) and the services and programs provided for students through MAPP.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

Mr. Dusek reported that the State approved the district's FY16 budget and thanked Mr. Jones and Mrs. Olson for their work. He stated that the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) will be presented at the October 5 board meeting.

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, apologized for missing the August board meeting. She expressed appreciation for the school reports and the Caring for the Kenai program. She reported that the associations participated in the Kenai River Festival, Ninilchik State Fair and Industry Appreciation Day and stated that their booths were well received. She reported on her recent school site visits to Razdolna, Voznesenka and Kachemak-Selo schools. She discussed staffing issues and requested that the staffing formulas be reviewed and updated. She stated that she is hopeful that the upcoming mediation will resolve negotiation issues. She noted that her granddaughter is 10 months old and walking.

Mr. David Brighton, KPEA president, thanked the Board for their proactive work on the budget and encouraged the public to contact legislators regarding the effects of cuts to the education budget. He thanked Representative Seaton for attending the meeting and speaking.

Mr. Pete Swanson, KPAA president, noted the challenge for Mr. Brown to present a school report during his first year as the Homer Flex administrator. He thanked the Board for giving schools the opportunity to present during board meetings. He encouraged Board members to visit schools and welcomed them to McNeil Canyon Elementary at any time. He thanked the Board for their service.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Dusek reported that the school year started well. He stated that enrollment is down almost 100 students, the numbers will be watched and funding adjusted as needed. He noted the ALICE emergency guidelines for parents and guardians memo in the general information packet. He reported on his recent meetings with state legislators to discuss the state fiscal situation. He informed that the Student in Transition Program service numbers are up 34% from this time last year. He announced three upcoming Key Communicators meetings; the first at Seward Middle School on September 9, second at Soldotna High School on September 22 and third at Homer High School on September 28. He noted that mediation is scheduled for September 21 and 22. He stated that the next administrator meeting will be held on September 23 at the Challenger Learning Center. He invited the Board to attend the Project SEARCH event on September 24 at the Challenger Learning Center. He informed the Board that he will attend the Alaska Superintendents Association meeting on September 24-26 in King Salmon, AK. He congratulated Mr. and Mrs. Joe Arness on their recent marriage.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

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

BOARD REPORTS:

Mrs. Downing reported that the Legislative Committee met earlier in the day to plan for the legislative session and upcoming challenges.

Mr. Navarre reported on his trip to the borough's sister city, Nikita, Japan noting that he was there as a representative of the Board but paid his own expenses and thanked the board for the opportunity.

BOARD WORK SESSION REPORT:

Mrs. Hilts reported that the Board held work sessions entitled Mobilizing For Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP), Annual Assessment Report, AASB Resolutions and State and Federal Legislative Priorities, Communications Update and Budget Update. The Board discussed AASB Nominations, School Board Development and the possibility of a school board blog. All members present at the meeting, attended the work sessions.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were approval of 2015-16 New Teacher Contracts, Resignation and Administration's Recommendation Regarding Resignation.

2015-16 NEW TEACHER CONTRACTS:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve 2015-16 New Teacher Contracts for Kara Able, Math Teacher (.40 FTE); Diana Huzieff, Special Education Intensive Needs Teacher; Andrew Carlson, Special Education Resource Teacher; Steven Fink, Robotics/Technology Instructor (.25 FTE); Anne Mann, Generalist Teacher; Paul Marks, Language Arts Teacher; Deborah Pollock, Interventionist/Facilitator Gifted Teacher (.80 FTE); Jessica Smith, Special Education Resource Teacher; and Stacy Tronnier, Intermediate Grade Teacher.

RESIGNATION:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve the resignation of Jim White, Director of Information Services, effective December 31, 2015.

ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION REGARDING RESIGNATION:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve the administration's recommendation that the resignation of Robert Thompson, Special Education Teacher, Voznesenka School, effective August 17, 2015, not be approved.

MOTION:

Mr. Navarre moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 3. Mrs. Downing seconded.

Mr. Castimore removed #2 Resignation.

Motion carried unanimously for items 1 and 3.

Motion carried unanimously for item 2.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mr. Anderson thanked Ninilchik and Homer Flex schools for their presentations. He stated he is excited about his upcoming fifth term as a board member and discussed his 12 years of service stating they have been rewarding. He is looking forward to taking on the current challenges.

Ms. Hohl noted audience members, Mr. Kyle Schneider and former Seward resident, Ms. Augusta Lind. She expressed appreciation for the Homer Flex and Ninilchik school reports. She thanked the Homer culinary arts students for dinner. As a Seward PSTA member, she attended the three Seward school open houses.

BOARD COMMENTS:
Continued

Mr. Holt reported on the the August 2nd Tsalteshi Invitational Cross Country Race (formerly the Skyview Invitational) which included 29 schools and a community race. He thanked Mr. Dusek and the Soldotna High School staff for their assistance with the race.

Mrs. Downing stated that she is happy to meet in Homer. She attended the Homer Flex School breakfast earlier in the day. She also visited Paul Banks Elementary and Homer Middle Schools. She noted the great start to the school year.

Mr. Castimore stated he was glad to be in Homer, where he lived for five years, and noted a new steak house in town. He thanked administration, and all others involved, for their work on the ALICE training, the new school safety program.

Mr. Navarre thanked Ninilchik and Homer Flex schools for their presentations. He thanked Mr. Brown for the tour of Homer Flex and expressed appreciation for their program and opportunities for students. He thanked the Homer culinary arts students for dinner. He thanked Mr. Waclawski and Homer High for their hospitality. He thanked Mr. Jim White for his service to the district. He thanked Mrs. Hilts for filling in for Mr. Arness. He congratulated Mr. & Mrs. Arness on their marriage.

Mrs. Hilts thanked the Homer culinary arts students for the Mexican dinner. She stated that representatives from the Ninilchik Traditional Council and the Seldovia Village Tribes joined the Board for dinner. She expressed appreciation for the resources provided to the District by these entities. She noted that Mr. Conrad Woodhead, Chapman principal, attended the dinner and discussed the progress and direction of the Title VII program. She thanked the Board for allowing her to be a task master during the day. She wished safe travel to those driving home.

ADJOURN:

At 7:20 p.m., Mrs. Hilts adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mrs. Sunni Hilts, Vice President

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Mr. Dan Castimore, Treasurer

Approved 10-15-2015

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