



# Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes

February 1, 2016 – 6:00 p.m.  
Regular Meeting

Borough Administration Building  
148 N. Binkley, Soldotna, Alaska

**SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:**

Mr. Joe Arness, President  
Mr. Bill Holt, Vice President  
Mrs. Penny Vadla, Clerk  
Mr. Tim Navarre, Treasurer  
Mr. Marty Anderson  
Mr. Dan Castimore  
Mrs. Liz Downing  
Ms. Lynn Hohl  
Mr. John Kelly  
Mr. Brian Dusek, Student Representative

**STAFF PRESENT:**

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Ms. Pegge Erkeneff	Mr. John Kelly
Mrs. Robin Dahlman	Mrs. Patty Sirois
Ms. Crista Cady	Mr. David Brighton
Mr. Todd Syverson	Mrs. LaDawn Druce
Mrs. Lana Syverson	Mr. Brent Johnson
Ms. Tamra Wear	Mrs. Sara Moore

Others present not identified.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Mr. Arness invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**DISTRICT MISSION  
STATEMENT:**

Mr. Holt 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
Ms. Lynn Hohl	Present
Mr. Bill Holt	Present
Mr. Tim Navarre	Present
Mrs. Penny Vadla	Present
Mr. Brian Dusek	Present

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON  
DISTRICT 9 BOARD  
CANDIDATES:**

No comments were offered.

**SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER SELECTION:**

Mrs. Vanessa Mattingly, District 9 Board member candidate, withdrew her application on February 1, 2016. At 4:30 p.m., the Board interviewed Mr. John Kelly to fill the District 9 vacancy created by Mrs. Sunni Hilts' resignation.

Mrs. Downing moved that Mr. Kelly be selected to fill the District 9 board vacancy. Mr. Holt seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

**OATH OF OFFICE:**

Mrs. Debbie Tressler, notary public, administered the Oath of Office to newly elected School Board member, Mr. John Kelly.

Mr. Kelly was seated and joined the meeting at 6:04 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

The agenda was approved with revisions to the board policy work session, 10a. (1) Committee Appointments and the addition of 10c. Marijuana Regulations.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The School Board Minutes of January 11, 2016, were approved as printed.

**SCHOOL REPORT:**

Kaleidoscope School of Arts and Science (KSAS) student, Mr. Silas Thibodeau, introduced the evening's program and school principal, Mrs. Robin Dahlman. Mrs. Dahlman discussed the school's vision and "twelve unique features" which are included in the school's charter. She introduced Ms. Cristy Cady and a group of kindergarteners who sang "Come and Follow Me" and "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star." Mrs. Dahlman invited the Board members to participate in their choice of a science, music or dance lesson led by 5th grade students. After the simultaneous lessons, Mrs. Dahlman thanked Ms. Cady and the students for leading the lessons and the Board for participating.

**RECESS:**

At 6:25 p.m., Mr. Arness recessed the meeting.

**RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:**

At 6:30 the Board reconvened in regular session.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:**

Mrs. LaDawn Druce said that it is reasonable to expect quality schools, that quality education includes a low pupil teacher ratio, and discussed the value of school counselors. She pointed out Mrs. Natalie Kant in the audience, the 2014 Alaska School Counselor Of The Year, and stated that school counselors are essential personnel. She discussed the current negotiations and stated that the KPEA offer is reasonable. She stated that she will talk to state legislators to ask that they use the Permanent Fund Dividend in some meaningful way to help balance the state budget deficit.

Ms. Robin Zinszer thanked the Board for participating in the KSAS presentation. She thanked the Board for their support of arts in education and encouraged their continued support.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:**

*(Continued)*

Mr. Joe Rizzo spoke regarding the contract negotiations and stated that the process needs to move forward and the contract settled.

Regarding the contract negotiations, Mrs. Tracy Silta encouraged the Board to consider the proposal for the Public Education Health Trust and, at least a two year contract instead of a one year option.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:**

Mr. Dusek reported that the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) will release a Request for Proposal (RFP) to replace the Alaska Measures of Progress (AMP) test and hopes the District will be involved in the process. He stated that the State Board of Education is accepting comments on repealing the regulation requiring the use of student learning data in the teacher evaluation process. He noted the success of the District's Effective Instruction Committee and stated that he will encourage the state to use the District's model in order to improve instruction. He received an update from Commissioner Hanley regarding DEED's plans for meeting the demands of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) which includes an advisory committee of 30-45 Alaskans. Mr. Dusek is advocating for a strong representation from the KPBSD. The U.S. Department of Education notified Mr. Dusek that three KPBSD students are eligible for the Presidential Scholarship; he will announce the names once the students have been informed. He noted his general information packet memo that proclaims February 1-5, 2016, as KPBSD School Counselor's Week and thanked all school counselors for their work. He announced that the Board will hold a budget work session and Key Communicator Collaboration at Challenger Learning Center of Alaska in Kenai on February 2 beginning at 9:00 a.m.

**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, congratulated Mr. Kelly on his election to the School Board. She thanked Mrs. Druce and Mrs. Silta for their comments. She expressed appreciation for Mrs. Dahlman and the KSAS presentation. She stated that support staff are essential personnel and she will question any suggested support staff cuts and the process used to determine the cuts. She discussed the length of time spent on the contract negotiations as compared to the time spent on the Voznesenka School lease agreement.

Mr. David Brighton, KPEA president, expressed appreciation for school counselors and wished them a happy School Counselor's week. He thanked the Board for their work. He discussed the uncertainties of the state budget and the District's FY17 preliminary budget. He asked the Board to direct administration to spend more of the District's fund balance in order to maintain programs and not increase class sizes. He noted budgeted certified salaries and asked the District to accept the Association's proposal.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT:**

Mr. Dusek announced that February is School Board Appreciation Month and thanked the Board for their work. In light of School Counselor Week he expressed appreciation for the impact counselors have on students. He stated that the AMP results, postponed at the December work session, are in the general information packet. He announced that the Alaska Society for Technology in Education (ASTE) selected Mr. Casey Olson as this year's School Technology Person of the Year. ASTE also selected a District administrator as the Administrator of the Year but the name has not yet been made public. He noted the resignations of several long time employees on the meeting's resignation list and specifically thanked Mrs. LaDawn Druce, Mrs. Sara Moore and Mrs. Lana Syverson.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

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

**BOARD REPORTS:**

Ms. Hohl attended the Effective Instruction Committee meeting on January 28, 2016.

Mrs. Downing reported that the Legislative Committee met earlier in the day and discussed its agenda items.

Mrs. Vadla attended the Effective Instruction Committee meeting on January 28, 2016.

**BOARD WORK SESSION  
REPORT:**

Mr. Arness reported that the Board held work sessions entitled Legislative Committee, Policy Review Committee, Board Policy, Voznesenka Lease Agreement, Legislative Issues Update, and Marijuana Regulations and held board candidate interviews. All members present at the meeting were in attendance.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were approval of Board Committee Appointments, Resignations, Six-Year Plan FY 2017-2022, 2016-17 District Organizational Chart, 2016-17 Tentative Administrator Contracts, 2016-17 Tentative Tenure Teacher Contracts, 2016-17 Tentative Non-Tenured Teacher Contracts and Tenure, and 2016-17 Tentative Non-Tenured Teacher Contracts.

**COMMITTEE  
APPOINTMENTS:**

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

**RESIGNATIONS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve resignations from Donna Austin, Kindergarten Teacher, Chapman School; Linda Brady, Special Education Resource Teacher, Chapman School; Richard Breske, Principal/Teacher, Tebughna School; Susan Crane, Special Education Resource Teacher, Mountain View Elementary School; LaDawn Druce, Counselor, Kenai Alternative School; Rene' Gervais, Art Teacher, Soldotna High School; Walter Kloepfer, Special Education Resource Teacher, Homer High School; Raymond Marshall, Principal, West Homer Elementary School; Sara Moore, District Career Counselor, Kenai Central High School; Lana Syverson, Social Studies Teacher, Soldotna High School and Kelly Vasilie, Kindergarten Teacher, Soldotna Elementary School all effective end of the 2015-16 school year.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

*(Continued)*

**SIX-YEAR PLAN  
FY 2017-2022:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve the proposed Six-Year Plan for FY 2017-2022.

**2016-2017 DISTRICT  
ORGANIZATIONAL CHART:**

Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve the 2016-2017 District organizational chart as presented.

**2016-2017 TENTATIVE  
ADMINISTRATOR  
CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a list of tentative administrator contracts for the 2016-2017 school year.  
<http://www.kpbsd.k12.ak.us/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?pid=35304>

**2016-2017 TENTATIVE  
TENURE TEACHER  
CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a list of tentative tenure teacher contracts for the 2016-2017 school year.  
<http://www.kpbsd.k12.ak.us/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?pid=35305>

**2016-2017 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 2016-2017 school year.  
<http://www.kpbsd.k12.ak.us/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?pid=35306>

**2016-2017 TENTATIVE  
NON-TENURED TEACHER  
CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve tentative non-tenured teacher contracts for the 2016-2017 school year.  
<http://www.kpbsd.k12.ak.us/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?pid=35307>

**MOTION:**

Mrs. Downing moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 8. Mr. Holt seconded.

Mrs. Downing removed item 1 Board Committee Appointments.

Mr. Castimore removed item 3 Six-Year Plan FY 2017-2022.

Motion carried unanimously for items 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8.

Motion carried unanimously for item 1.

VOTE ON 10a. (3) Six Year Plan:

ADVISORY VOTE: Yes

YES –Downing, Kelly, Holt, Navarre, Vadla, Arness

NO – Castimore, Hohl

Motion carried.

**POLICY REVISION:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve BP 3540 Transportation, BP 5112.2 Exclusions from Attendance, AR 4111 Recruitment and AR 5144.11 Due Process.

Mr. Castimore moved the Board approve BP 3540 Transportation, BP 5112.2 Exclusions from Attendance, AR 4111 Recruitment and AR 5144.11 Due Process. Mr. Navarre seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**MARIJUANA REGULATIONS:**

Ms. Hohl moved that the board president submit a letter to the Borough Assembly indicating the KPBSD School Board supports the Marijuana Task Force recommendation: 21.XX.040 – Permit conditions. A.1. as proposed. This section requires that marijuana establishments shall not be located within one thousand feet of any school and includes a description of how that distance is to be measured. Additionally, the school board encourages and appreciates assembly efforts to consider the impact on youth when approving borough marijuana land use regulations. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/  
COMMENTS:**

Mrs. Natalie Kant discussed her recent trip to Washington D.C. to accept her 2014 Alaska School Counselor of the Year award. Through the American School Counseling Association (ASCA), Mrs. Kant and school principal, Sarge Truesdell, are working to become the first school in the state of Alaska to obtain the Recognized ASCA Model Program (RAMP) national certification. She thanked the Board for their work and expressed appreciation for the District.

Ms. Tamra Wear discussed the skills needed to be a teacher or support staff in a school and expressed appreciation for quality of work done by district employees. She encouraged the Board to settle the contract negotiations.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

Ms. Hohl congratulated Mr. Olson and the unnamed administrator for their ASTE awards. She congratulated Mrs. Kant on her selection as the 2014 Alaska School Counselor of the Year. She attended the Seaview Community Services Board meeting, the Seward PTSA meeting, and facilitated the Alaska PTA Region Five Reflections selection of region finalists. She attended a wonderful performance of the Seward Collective Music at Seward High School. The Collective is supported by a stipend due to the lack of a high school music program. Ms. Hohl stated that she is a member of Children's Lands Alliance Protecting Schools Lands (CAPSL), which is currently involved in a lawsuit asking the state to reconstitute the public school land trust. She disclosed that, while in Juneau for the Legislative Fly-In on February 5-9, she may have a conflict surrounding a newly proposed bill regarding the public school land trust permanent fund.

Mrs. Downing reiterated some of the requests made by the public during the meeting and discussed the current budget situation. She stated that the Board supports District staff, takes the Associations' proposals seriously and asked for ideas on how to be more efficient and how to support the staff and students.

Mr. Castimore expressed appreciation for KSAS for presentation and noted his daughter attends the school. He expressed appreciation for the relationship between the District and its charter schools.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

*(Continued)*

Mrs. Vadla congratulated Mr. Olson on his ASTE award. She welcomed Mr. Kelly to the Board. She thanked Mrs. Dahlman and the KSAS music department for their presentation. She congratulated the retirees and stated she will miss them. She thanked those in the audience for attending. She discussed the need to maintain quality education in the KPBSD and stated she will do all she can to ensure its continuation.

Mr. Navarre welcomed Mr. Kelly to the Board. He thanked those in the audience for attending and participating. He expressed appreciation for the KSAS presentation. He congratulated Mr. Olson and the unnamed administrator for their ASTE awards.

Mr. Holt expressed appreciation for the KSAS presentation and the freedom of exploration in the program. He attended the Borealis Quartet guitar concert where the music group discussed their work in district schools and Mr. Holt thanked the group for their work with students.

Mr. Kelly stated that his wife is a kindergarten teacher at Paul Banks Elementary School. He stated that he is honored to be chosen as board member and is looking forward to working with district staff and the Board.

Mr. Arness stated that, even though she is a District employee, Mr. Kelly's wife will not present a conflict of interest as regards the ongoing contract negotiations.

Mr. Dusek congratulated Mr. Kelly on his selection to the Board. He wished happy School Counselor's Week to the counselors. He congratulated Mrs. Kant on her award and noted the nice photo on the District website. He stated that he is looking forward to tomorrow's Key Communicator Collaboration. He will attend the AASB Youth Advocacy Institute February 5-9. He expressed appreciation for the KSAS presentation. He congratulated the retirees, especially Mrs. Syverson.

Mr. Arness welcomed Mr. Kelly to the Board. He expressed appreciation for the KSAS presentation. He expressed frustration at the lack of ability to settle contract negotiations and stated that he looks forward to a resolution.

Mr. Arness announced that the Board would next hold an executive session and after its conclusion, there would be no further business conducted except to adjourn the meeting.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

At 7:31 p.m., Mr. Holt 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. The executive session was held to discuss contract negotiations. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURN EXECUTIVE  
SESSION:**

At 9:52 p.m., Mr. Navarre moved the Board adjourn the executive session. Ms. Hohl seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURN:**

At 9:52 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 3-7-16**

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