Kenai Peninsula Borough School District
Board of Education Meeting Minutes

April 4, 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
Mrs. Julie Cisco
Mr. Tim Vlasak
Dr. Christine Ermold
Mrs. Laurie Olson
Mr. Vaughn Dosko
Mr. Conrad Woodhead
Mr. Michael Sellers
Mrs. Teri Diamond
Mrs. Colette Thompson
Mr. Blaine Gilman
Mrs. Margaret Gilman
Mrs. Patty Sirois
Mr. Dave Brighton
Mr. Wayne Ogle

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: Mrs. Downing read the District's mission statement.

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Marty Anderson	Present
Mr. Joe Arness	Present
Mr. Dan Castimore	Present
Mrs. Liz Downing	Present
Ms. Lynn Hohl	Present
Mr. Bill Holt	Present
Mr. John Kelly	Present
Mr. Tim Navarre	Present
Mrs. Penny Vadla	Present
Mr. Brian Dusek	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved with a revision to 10a. (5) Approval of Leave of Absence Request/Certified.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of March 7, 2016, were approved as printed.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS: The Board presented Ms. Amy Hankins with the Golden Apple Award for her service to the District.

The Board presented Magpye's Pizzeria with the Golden Apple Award for its generosity and service to the District.

The Board presented Mr. David Thomas with the Golden Apple Award for his service to the District.

Mr. Thomas and a group of Kenai Middle School Math Counts students presented a demonstration of the Math Counts competition.

SCHOOL REPORTS: Nikolaevsk School principal, Mr. Michael Sellers, with the assistance of Mr. John Jones, student, presented a PowerPoint highlighting the school's location and history, student demographics, philosophy, school programs, assessment data, five star ASPI rating and other awards including the Title 1 National Distinguished School Award. Mr. Jones discussed student successes after graduation from Nikolaevsk School. He noted the school's extra-curricular activities and sports accomplishments.

Mrs. Teri Diamond, Soldotna Elementary principal, presented the Board with a school brochure. She introduced Ms. Becky Nelson and three students who presented a PowerPoint explaining the school's Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) program. Ms. Nelson displayed catapults that the students built through the STEM program. Mr. Tor Dahl, music teacher, presented a group of Soldotna Elementary and Soldotna Montessori choir students who performed the songs "Reach" and "Turn the World Around."

RECESS: At 7:02 p.m. Mr. Arness recessed the meeting.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS: At 7:10 Mr. Arness reconvened the meeting.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Miss Brennus DeGross, Sterling Elementary student, expressed displeasure regarding a teacher that was not retained at the school. Miss DeGross' mother expressed a desire to read a statement from her daughter regarding a personnel issue.

Mr. Arness stated that a board meeting is not the appropriate venue for her statement. He noted that the complaint might be brought before the Board in the future and speaking at the meeting would negate that opportunity for the family.

Ms. Debbie Cary spoke against Alaska Senate Bills 207 and 209 regarding the Teacher Retirement System (TRS) and the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) contributions and she stressed the value of educating children.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

Mr. Dusek reported that the Alaska Measures of Progress (AMP) test has been suspended permanently by the Commissioner of Education and will not be administered this school year. The Commissioner will work with the U.S. Department of Education to determine what went wrong with the testing. He stated that he is a member of a work group that will meet Wednesday, April 6 to develop a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a new assessment program for next year. He noted the general information packet letter from the McNeil Canyon Community Council regarding transportation and said he will respond to the Council to inform them of the District's plans to hold community meetings in the area to discuss options. He discussed the success of the Alaska Shield exercise on March 31, provided by the Borough.

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, stated that she does not feel that the Board is hearing her. She stated that the union has offered another proposal for employee contract negotiations and expressed her desire that the Board develop a fair offer during their April 5 meeting. She asked the Board to monitor equipment purchases to assure their necessity. She noted the Math Counts presentation math question regarding student scores and suggested it spoke to smaller class sizes.

Mr. David Brighton, KPEA president, apologized for missing the March Board meeting. He thanked the board for their work. He spoke against Senate Bills 207 and 209. He stated that the association has presented the District a new offer and encouraged the Board to accept it.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Dusek congratulated the Homer High School girls' basketball team for their performance at the state competition. He congratulated Mr. Camron Wyatt, Homer High School teacher, for his selection as the Skills USA state teacher of the year and noted his retirement. He discussed his work day of Friday, April 1 when he personally delivered BP Teachers of Excellence awards to this year's District winners. He congratulated the five finalists: Patricia Truesdell, Hope School; Nickole Lyon, Seward Elementary; James Knoebel, Soldotna High; Darilynn Caston, Redoubt Elementary; and Sharon Hopkins, Tustumena Elementary. He expressed appreciation for the Paul Banks Art Show. He noted the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) conference to be held in Anchorage later in the week to work on developing the state's plan, requested feedback from the Board and noted that there will be a work session in May to further discuss the plan. He thanked Ms. Teri Diamond for her service as an administrator and noted that she is taking a one year leave of absence. He announced that the District will hold a community meeting at Soldotna Elementary on Tuesday, April 5 at 4:00 to discuss the hiring of Ms. Diamond's replacement. He discussed current legislation and letters that the District has sent in support or opposition of various bills, especially legislation concerning PERS and TRS contributions. He asked the Board to testify on Thursday's hearings. He encouraged the Board to attend the borough-wide Visual Feast Art Show at Kenai Arts Center on April 7.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Mr. Jones presented the financial report of the District for the period ending February 29, 2016.

BOARD REPORTS: Mrs. Downing reported on Mr. Kelly's and her attendance to the Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB) Legislative Fly In on March 19-22, 2016, in Juneau. She stated that Mr. Kelly and she visited with 20 legislators and discussed the current session status. She reported that the Legislative Committee met earlier in the day and discussed their agenda items.

BOARD WORK SESSION REPORT: Mr. Arness reported that the Board held work sessions entitled Board Policy, Voznesenka Lease Update, New Copier Contract, Native Partnerships Update, Kenai Peninsula Native Youth Leaders, Early Release Dates, FY17 Budget, and the Fireweed Academy school report. All members present at the meeting, attended the work sessions.

CONSENT AGENDA: Items presented on the Consent Agenda were approval of 2016-17 Tentative School Board Meeting Dates, 2016-17 New Administrator Contracts, Resignations, 2015-16 New Teacher Contracts, Leave of Absence Request/Certified, Leave of Absence Request/Support, 2015-16 Long-term Substitute Contracts, AR 6146.1 High School Graduation Requirements and Budget Transfers.

2016-17 TENTATIVE BOARD MEETING DATES: Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve a tentative meeting schedule for Board meetings for the 2016-17 school year.

2016-17 NEW ADMINISTRATOR CONTRACTS: Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve new administrator contracts for Pamela Potter, Principal/Teacher, Tebughna School and Eric Waltenbaugh, Principal, West Homer Elementary School.

RESIGNATIONS: Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve resignations from Robert Baskin, Language Arts Teacher, Kenai Central High School; Melanie Beverly, Primary Grade Teacher, K-Beach Elementary School; Louis Bisset, Special Education Resource Teacher, Kenai Central High School; Dennis Diviney, Special Education Resource Teacher, Skyview Middle School; Ronald Halsey, Physical Education Teacher, Sterling & Tustumena Elementary Schools; Carolyn Hitzler, Adapted PE Specialist, District Wide; Courtney Kirkeby, Interventionist/Facilitator Gifted Teacher, Sterling Elementary School; Alex Koplin, Special Education Resource Teacher, Razdolna School; Andrea Lind, School Mental Health Counselor, Homer-Flex School; Meggean Bos-Marquez, Home Economics Teacher, Soldotna High School; John Marquez, Physical Education & Health Teacher, Kenai Central High School; Pamela O'Brien, Intermediate Grade Teacher, Soldotna Montessori Charter School; Wanda Reams, Interventionist Teacher, Soldotna Elementary School; Eric Skjold, Math Teacher, Soldotna High School, all effective end of the 2015-16 school year; and Joann Riener, Director of Human Resources, District Office, effective April 1, 2016.

2015-16 NEW TEACHER CONTRACT: Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a 2015-16 New Teacher Contract for Kele Bottineau, Welding Teacher (.20 FTE) Second Semester.

CONSENT AGENDA:
(Continued)

LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST/CERTIFIED: Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve an unpaid leave of absence request for Teri Diamond, Principal, Soldotna Elementary School, effective the end of the 2015-16 school year.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST/SUPPORT: Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a leave of absence for Suncha Conner, Food Service Manager I-S, Nikiski North Star Elementary School, effective February 22, 2016 to February 20, 2017.

LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE TEACHER CONTRACT: Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a long-term substitute teacher contract for Wayne Floyd, Redoubt Elementary School.

BOARD POLICY: Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve AR 6146.1 High School Graduation Requirements.

BUDGET TRANSFERS: Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve budget transfer 269 for Kaleidoscope School of Arts and Science, totaling $84,382, to adjust salary and benefit account budgets for actual employees hired at the school this year.

MOTION: Mr. Navarre moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 9. Mr. Holt seconded.

Mrs. Downing removed item 10a. (1) 2016-2017 Tentative School Board Meeting Dates.

Motion carried unanimously for items 2-9.

Mrs. Downing moved that the Board change the August meeting from August 1 to August 8, 2016. Ms. Hohl seconded.

Motion carried unanimously, as amended, for item 1.

POLICY REVISION: Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve Board Bylaw 9320 Meetings.

MOTION: Mr. Castimore moved the Board approve a revision to Board Bylaw 9320 Meetings. Ms. Hohl seconded.

Mrs. Vadla noted a spelling error in the memo.

Ms. Hohl noted a wording error in the memo. It should read “More than three members constitute a meeting of the Board….” instead of “Three members constitute meeting of the Board…” [sic]

Motion carried unanimously.

FY16 BUDGET REVISION: Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a revision to the FY16 Budget to account for increases in state funding and the decreased use of fund balance due to the changes in Final ADM report received from the State.

MOTION: Mrs. Downing moved the Board approve a revision to the FY16 Budget as presented. Mr. Holt seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

FY17 BUDGET: Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve the FY17 Budget as presented.

RECESS: At 8:08 p.m. Mr. Arness recessed the meeting.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS: At 8:15 p.m. Mr. Arness reconvened the meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING: Mr. Arness opened a public hearing regarding the FY17 Budget.

Ms. Debbie Cary asked what would happen to the FY17 Budget if the state passes SB 207 and 209 regarding PERS and TRS contributions and when the public would be informed. She asked if the 13.5 employee position reinstatement will remain.

With no further comments, Mr. Arness closed the public hearing.

MOTION: Mrs. Vadla moved the Board approve the FY17 Budget as presented. Mr. Holt seconded.

MOTION: Mr. Castimore moved the Board amend, by substitution, item 10d. with the FY17 Preliminary Budget as proposed in section 9b. of the agenda for the March 7, 2016 Board of Education meeting. Ms. Hohl seconded.

VOTE ON Castimore Amendment:

ADVISORY VOTE: No
YES – Castimore, Hohl
NO – Anderson, Downing, Holt, Kelly, Navarre, Vadla, Arness

Amendment failed.

MOTION: Ms. Hohl moved the Board approve an amendment to reference the FY17 Preliminary Budget document and to note that the "Recommended" column on page 4 of the Board memo revises that budget in regards to expenditures and income. Mr. Castimore seconded.

Amendment carried unanimously.

FY17 BUDGET:
(Continued)

MOTION: Mr. Castimore moved the Board approve an amendment to the budget to increase charter school rents for FY17 by 2% and reallocate the funds to pre-kindergarten programs districtwide. Ms. Hohl seconded.

VOTE ON Castimore amendment:

ADVISORY VOTE: No
YES – Castimore
NO – Anderson, Downing, Hohl, Holt, Kelly, Navarre, Vadla, Arness

Amendment failed.

MOTION: Mr. Castimore moved the Board approve an amendment to remove $76,340 from the budget that is currently designated to provide for health insurance for board members and to reappropriate $25,000 of this to conduct a termination study to remove board members from the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) and to reappropriate the remaining funds to the equipment fund. Ms. Hohl seconded.

VOTE ON Castimore amendment:

ADVISORY VOTE: No
YES – Castimore
NO – Anderson, Downing, Hohl, Holt, Kelly, Navarre, Vadla, Arness

Amendment failed.

VOTE ON 10d. FY17 Budget:

ADVISORY VOTE: Yes
YES – Anderson, Downing, Hohl, Holt, Kelly, Navarre, Vadla, Arness
NO – Castimore

Amended motion carried for 10d. FY17 Budget.

2016-17 TENTATIVE NON-TENURED TEACHER CONTRACTS: Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a list of 2016-17 Tentative Non-Tenured Teacher Contracts.
http://www.kpbsd.k12.ak.us/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=35771

MOTION: Mr. Navarre moved the Board approve a list of 2016-17 Tentative Non-Tenured Teacher Contracts. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

2016-17 TENTATIVE NON-TENURED TEACHER CONTRACTS AND TENURE:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a list of 2016-17 Tentative Non-Tenured Teacher Contracts and Tenure.
http://www.kpbsd.k12.ak.us/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=35772

Ms. Tamara Nelson questioned why teachers under investigation would be granted tenure. She questioned why the Board would approve non-tenured teacher contracts and tenure when the budget is still under debate and not complete.

MOTION:

Mr. Holt moved the Board approve a list of 2016-17 Tentative Non-Tenured Teacher Contracts and Tenure. Mr. Navarre seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

COPIER CONTRACT:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve the purchase 106 new copiers from Konica Minolta at a cost of $435,844, and that a five year maintenance contract be entered into with Konica Minolta at a cost of $101,716 through the WSCA-NASPO State of Alaska's Copier Bid.

MOTION:

Mrs. Vadla moved the Board approve the purchase of 106 new copiers from Konica Minolta at a cost of $435,844, and that a five year maintenance contract be entered into with Konica Minolta at a cost of $101,716 through the WSCA-NASPO State of Alaska's Copier Bid. Mr. Holt seconded.

VOTE ON 10g. Copier Contract:

ADVISORY VOTE: Yes
YES – Anderson, Castimore, Holt, Kelly, Navarre, Vadla, Arness
NO – Downing, Hohl

Motion carried.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/ COMMENTS:

Ms. Frosia Polushkin spoke regarding the lease for the Voznesenka School building, asked the Board to settle the water cost issue and allow the school to remain open and to consider additions, such as a library, to the school program.

Ms. Zina Reutov, Ms. Varvara Martishev, Mr. Joseph Samolive, and Ms. Angie Polushkin spoke regarding the lease for the Voznesenka School building and asked the Board to settle the water cost issue and allow the school to remain open.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Ms. Hohl noted the variety in, and expressed appreciation for, the school reports and the student presentation during the Golden Apple awards. She attended Representative Mike Chenault's Town Hall Meeting in Seward on March 26, 2016. She will attend the Career and Technical Education Committee meeting on April 7. She will attend the district art show for the first time since 2003. She will try to attend the Soldotna Elementary principal vacancy meeting on April 5. She noted that there are two BP Teachers of Excellence finalists from the eastern peninsula and stated she believes this is a first. She expressed appreciation for Ms. Joann Riener and stated she will miss working with her.

BOARD COMMENTS:
(Continued)

Mr. Kelly expressed appreciation for attending the AASB Legislative Fly In with Mrs. Downing, for the opportunity to collaborate with other board members from around the state and to meet with state legislators. He thanked Mr. Dusek for attending the Paul Banks Elementary art show and encouraged other board members to attend next year. He thanked the Voznesenka residents for their comments and support of their school and its importance to their community.

Mrs. Downing attended the Paul Banks Elementary art show. She presented Mrs. Jean Calhoun's Golden Apple award to her at West Homer Elementary on March 31.

Mrs. Vadla expressed appreciation for the KPNYL presentation. She thanked Mr. Woodhead for his work with the native partnerships. She stated that the Ninilchik boys' basketball team placed first in the state competition. She noted the difficulty of the current budget process and thanked Ms. Debbie Cary and the employee association representatives for speaking. She expressed that the Board's first priority is students and the Board does listen. She encouraged the public to talk to their legislators in support of education. She thanked the audience for their attendance.

Mr. Navarre invited the public to attend the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly meeting on April 5 where they will consider a resolution to recognize the ten year anniversary of the Arctic Winter Games, followed by a reception at the Soldotna Regional Sports Center. He thanked the audience for their attendance.

Mr. Holt thanked the Voznesenka residents for their attendance and comments.

Mr. Dusek congratulated the Golden Apple award winners. He expressed appreciation for the school reports. He attended the Paul Banks Elementary art show. He reported that he will hold another Student Leadership Advisory Council meeting in the coming week following his attendance at the Alaska Association of Student Government state meeting in Kodiak. He will give a report to the Board at the May meeting. He expressed appreciation for Mrs. Bos-Marquez, whose resignation was approved during the meeting. He congratulated the BP Teachers of Excellence finalists.

Mr. Arness announced that the Board will meet again at 9:00 a.m. on April 5, in the superintendent's office, for an executive session.

ADJOURN: At 9:34 p.m., Mr. Arness adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mr. Joe Arness, President

_____
Mrs. Penny Vadla, Clerk

Approved 5-2-16

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