



Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

September 12, 2016 – 6:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting

Homer High School
600 E. Fairview Ave., Homer, 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

STAFF PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Dr. Christine Ermold	Ms. Kari Dendurent
Mr. Tim Vlasak	Mr. Michael Wojciak
Ms. Pegge Erkeneff	Mr. Tim Whip
Mrs. Julie Cisco	Mr. Dave Brighton
Mr. Doug Hayman	Mrs. Patty Sirois
Mr. Pete Swanson	Mr. Conrad Woodhead
Mr. Douglas Waclawski	

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT:

Mr. Castimore 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 (<i>Telephonically</i>)
Mrs. Penny Vadla	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mrs. Downing moved that the Board add to the agenda, action item 10d. Approval of AASB Resolutions and change the original item 10d. to 10e. Board Member Resignation and Declaration of Vacancy. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

The amended agenda, including a revision to item 10a. (1) 2016-2017 New Teacher Contracts, was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Holt moved the Board approve the meeting minutes of August 8, 2016, and September 1, 2016, as printed. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Motion approved unanimously.

SCHOOL REPORTS:

McNeil Canyon Elementary principal, Mr. Pete Swanson offered a comparison of the present day McNeil Canyon school and the school in 2005. He introduced Ms. Kendall Dellasperanza and the student council representatives, who presented a PowerPoint highlighting the school's programs, activities and events, and goals.

Ms. Kari Dendurent, Homer Middle School principal, thanked the area elementary schools for their work preparing students for Homer Middle School. She presented a PowerPoint noting the school's mission statement, goals, professional development, programs, student engagement activities, and course offerings. She introduced Ms. Amy Johnson and the school band who performed "Infernal Galop" from the opera "Orpheus and the Underworld" by Offenbach, arr. Osfabb. Mr. Kyle Schneider led choir students in a performance of "America the Beautiful."

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Ms. Tara Schmidt and Ms. Rachael Romberg of South Peninsula Haven House discussed the Alaska Safe Children's Act and social emotion learning and thanked the board for their support. Ms. Romberg thanked the Homer schools for their support of the Haven House program.

Mr. Mark Marette discussed his concerns regarding the building of new Kachemak-Selo School.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

Mr. Dusek discussed several General Information packet items including the budget timeline and calendar, the South Peninsula transportation meetings, and current student enrollment. He stated the District and the employee associations have reached tentative agreements and, after ratification by the members, the contracts will be presented to the Board for action. He noted the letter from the State of Alaska regarding the transfer of the Kachemak Selo new school project that was included in the board agenda memo. He explained that the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) will be delayed again this year due to unresolved PERS and TRS liability issues. He stated that Wednesday, September 14 is the school year's first early release date.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND
PETITIONS:**
(Continued)

He stated that the district-wide student council meeting will be held on Thursday, September 15 at Soldotna High School. He noted that the regional cross country running meet will be held at Tsalteshi Trails on September 24. He announced that "Walk to school day" is September 27, the next administrator meeting is on September 28 and the next board meeting is on October 3.

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE,
SITE COUNCIL AND/OR
AUTHORIZED STUDENT
SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS,
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, discussed her concerns over staff morale and stated that she would like the District to improve. She thanked teachers for supporting the classified staff during the employee contract negotiations specifically regarding the \$750.00 payment. She wished Mrs. Downing well and thanked her for her service.

Mr. David Brighton, KPEA president, responded to Mrs. Sirois comment regarding the certified staff's support of the \$750.00 payment. He discussed the negotiations process and stated he is pleased that tentative agreements have been reached. He expressed concerns over health care costs. He reported that Mrs. Sirois and he will visit schools to share the agreements' details with employees. He thanked Board for their service.

Ms. Kelly Cooper, Homer area Borough Assembly member, thanked Mrs. Downing for her service. She thanked the District for their collaborative work with the Borough Assembly. She expressed appreciation for McNeil Canyon School and Mr. Swanson. She discussed the state's economic status and the current budget deficit. She noted two items on the October ballot: the senior exemption and the sales tax cap and encouraged the public to contact her or any Assembly member for accurate information.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT:**

Mr. Dusek reported that Seward High School junior, Miss Ashley Guernsey, has been selected to serve as an aide for Senator Lisa Murkowski and noted that this is the second year in a row that a district student has been selected for this position. He announced that the 2015-2016 graduation rate is approximately 83% and thanked school staff and the district leadership for their work. He referenced an article in *The Homer Tribune* regarding Coach Josh Fraley and expressed appreciation for Mr. Fraley's efforts and attitude. He announced that seven district teachers were selected to participate in the state Teacher Leadership Development Program including two that will serve on the planning committee. He stated that Governor Walker's veto effecting the base student allocation (BSA) did not pass due to a technical issue; this means additional funding for the district. He invited the Board to participate in the Autism Walk/Run at Tsalteshi Trails on September 17 at 10:00 a.m. The District released a staffing review survey, in collaboration with Hanover Research, in order to collect feedback from staff and stakeholders. Mr. Dusek is working with Habitat for Humanity on a potential partnership to allow for housing to be built on the recently transferred Kenai lots. He said that the Susan B. English shop will be ready for occupancy in late September or early October. He spoke to Seward Chamber of Commerce on October 2.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT:**
(Continued)

He wrote a letter to the local newspapers regarding suicide prevention and awareness. On Friday, he met with the Tebughna Foundation where the Foundation's leader expressed appreciation for Mr. Dusek's caring for Tebughna School. He commented on a letter in The Anchorage Dispatch News entitled "KPBSD has their priorities straight." As the organization's president, he will lead the Alaska Superintendents Association's fall conference in Palmer on September 21-24. He is scheduled to speak at Soldotna Chamber of Commerce luncheon on September 27. He thanked Mrs. Downing for hard work, leadership and for always putting students first.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Mr. Jones presented the financial report of the District for the period ending August 31, 2016.

BOARD REPORTS:

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

Mr. Castimore reported that the Policy Review Committee met earlier in the day and discussed the agenda items.

Mrs. Vadla reported that the Communications Committee met earlier in the day and discussed the agenda items.

**BOARD WORK SESSION
REPORT:**

Mr. Arness reported that the Board held work sessions entitled AASB Resolutions and State and Federal Legislative Priorities, Board Governance Handbook, Board Goal #2, Kachemak-Selo Project Transfer, Legislative Update, Representative Paul Seaton, and Review of Curricular Materials and Credentials Related to Human Reproduction or Sexual Matters.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of 2016-17 New Teacher Contract(s), Resignations, and Budget Transfers.

**2016-17 NEW TEACHER
CONTRACTS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve 2016-17 New Teacher Contract(s) for Tyler Krekling, GR K-12 Physical Education; GR 5-12 Health; Shane Lopez, GR 7-12 Social Studies; Katie Nimcheski, GR 6-12 English; GR 6-12 Speech; Marybeth Ottesen, GR K-6 Elementary Education; Michael Potter, GR K-8 Elementary Education; Laura Selden, GR K-6 Elementary Education; and Robert Stitt, GR K-8 Elementary Education.

RESIGNATIONS:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve the resignation of Davis Lowery, Special Education Resource Teacher, Kenai Central High School, effective August 31, 2016.

BUDGET TRANSFERS:

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve budget transfer 12 to move student activity travel funds to the school locations.

CONSENT AGENDA:
(Continued)

MOTION: Mr. Holt moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 3. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**CURRICULAR MATERIALS
AND CREDENTIALS:**

Mr. O'Brien recommended the Board approve the credentials of a list of KPBSD school nurses and partner organization guest presenters and a list of Core Programs and Supplemental Health Materials related to human reproduction and sexual education content matters.

Ms. Connie Akers requested the Board reevaluate the curriculum to include all viewpoints.

Ms. Anna Meredith stated that Kachemak Bay Family Planning Clinic and Planned Parenthood are different organizations.

MOTION: Mrs. Vadla moved the Board approve the credentials of a list of KPBSD school nurses and partner organization guest presenters and a list of Core Programs and Supplemental Health Materials related to human reproduction and sexual education content matters. Mrs. Downing seconded.

VOTE:

YES –Castimore, Downing, Hohl, Holt, Kelly, Navarre, Vadla, Arness
NO – Anderson

Motion carried.

**KACHEMAK-SELO PROJECT
TRANSFER:**

Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve to request that the Kenai Peninsula Borough assume responsibility for the Kachemak Selo School Building project.

MOTION: Mr. Kelly moved the Board direct the administration to request that the Kenai Peninsula Borough assume responsibility for the Kachemak-Selo New K-12 School Construction project to include working with the Alaska Department of Education on completion and funding of the project. The Board requests that the relationship outlined in AS14.14.060 relative to board/assembly roles, be respected for this project. The Board also wants to clarify that it has made no findings nor recommendations regarding the local funding component of this proposal. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

VOTE:

YES – Anderson, Downing, Hohl, Holt, Kelly, Navarre, Vadla, Arness
NO – Castimore

Motion carried.

AASB RESOLUTIONS:

MOTION:

Mrs. Downing moved the Board approve forwarding the resolution 1.8 changing Compulsory Attendance Age to Compulsory K-12 Enrollment and Completion as discussed earlier today. Mrs. Vadla seconded

At 7:31 p.m., Mr. Arness passed the gavel to Mr. Holt in order to speak to the motion. At 7:32 p.m. Mr. Holt returned the gavel.

VOTE:

YES – Anderson, Castimore, Downing, Hohl, Holt, Kelly, Navarre, Vadla

NO – Arness

Motion carried.

**BOARD MEMBER
RESIGNATION AND
DECLARATION OF VACANCY:**

Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve the resignation of Mrs. Elizabeth Downing, District 8 board member, and announce a vacancy for the position.

MOTION:

Ms. Hohl moved the Board approve the resignation of Mrs. Elizabeth Downing, District 8 board member, and announce a vacancy for the position. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

On behalf of the Board, Mrs. Vadla presented Mrs. Downing with a gift in appreciation for her service to the Board.

**FIRST READING OF POLICY
REVISIONS:**

The Board heard a first reading of BP 3515.8 Alcohol Variance Requests.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/
COMMENTS:**

Mr. Tim Whip spoke in support of the new school for Kachemak-Selo. He noted the Alaska Dispatch article regarding the football program at Voznesenka, Razdolna and Kachemak-Selo Schools.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mr. Anderson commented on the need to work together as a team to face upcoming challenges and provide the education students deserve. He noted that when Mrs. Vadla joined the Board 1978, he was a high school freshman.

Ms. Hohl expressed appreciation for the school reports from McNeil Canyon Elementary and Homer Middle Schools. She stated that Miss Rachel Tougas served as an intern for Senator Murkowski in the 2013-14 school year. She missed Mr. Dusek's Seward Chamber of Commerce presentation because she was with her granddaughter. She expressed appreciation for Mr. Dusek's article. She told Mrs. Downing that she would miss her.

Mr. Kelly congratulated and thanked Mrs. Downing for her service as the Homer board member. He encouraged Homer and Anchor Point residents to attend the transportation meeting on Monday, September 19 in Homer at 6:00 p.m. He noted that parents have the right to review the sexual education and reproduction curriculum and opt out of the program.

BOARD COMMENTS:

(Continued)

Mr. Castimore expressed appreciation for the Homer Rec Room. He is interested in how the District will use the additional funds from the reversal of the governor's veto. He discussed the state's current fiscal situation noting expected future funding cuts. He thanked Mrs. Downing for her service.

Mrs. Vadla thanked Mrs. Linton, and the work session presenters for their work preparing the materials. She expressed appreciation for Representative Seaton's legislative update and encouraged people to be involved in state events. She thanked Mrs. Cooper for attending the meeting and for her work. She thanked Mr. Swanson and Ms. Dendurent for their presentations. She announced she has a new grand dog.

Mr. Holt announced he has two new grandchildren. He thanked Mrs. Downing for her service.

Mr. Navarre thanked Mrs. Downing for her service, friendship and counsel over the years.

Mrs. Downing expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve eleven years on the Board. She expressed appreciation for KPBSD as one of the best districts in Alaska and the country. She discussed what good education looks like and encouraged continued growth and improvement. She encouraged District 8 residents to consider applying for the board seat. She thanked the board and administration for their work for students.

Mr. Arness stated that he will be absent for the October 3 meeting. He thanked Mrs. Downing for her dedication and commitment. He thanked Homer for their hospitality. He expressed dissatisfaction for Mrs. Sirois' report and offered to meet with her outside of a board meeting.

ADJOURN:

At 8:01p.m., Mr. Arness adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Joe Arness, President

Mrs. Penny Vadla, Clerk

Approved 10-3-16

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