



# Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes

November 7, 2016 – 6:00 p.m.  
Regular Meeting

Borough Administration Building  
148 N. Binkley, Soldotna, Alaska

**SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:**

Mr. Joe Arness, President  
Mrs. Penny Vadla, Vice President  
Mr. Bill Holt, Clerk  
Mr. Zen Kelly, Treasurer  
Mr. Marty Anderson  
Mr. Dan Castimore  
Ms. Lynn Hohl  
Mr. Mike Illg  
Mr. Tim Navarre  
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. Patty Sirois  |
| Dr. Christine Ermold | Mr. David Brighton |
| Mr. Tim Vlasak       | Ms. Mo Sanders     |
| Mr. Clayton Holland  | Mrs. Terri Carter  |
| Mrs. Julie Cisco     | Miss Martine Dikes |

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.

**OATH OF OFFICE:**

Mrs. Debbie Tressler, notary public, administered the Oath of Office to newly elected School Board members Mr. Dan Castimore, Ms. Lynn Hohl and Mr. Zen Kelly.

**DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT:**

Mrs. Vadla read the District's mission statement.

**ROLL CALL:**

|                    |                                   |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Mr. Marty Anderson | Present ( <i>Telephonically</i> ) |
| Mr. Joe Arness     | Present                           |
| Mr. Dan Castimore  | Present                           |
| Ms. Lynn Hohl      | Present                           |
| Mr. Bill Holt      | Present ( <i>Telephonically</i> ) |
| Mr. Mike Illg      | Present                           |
| Mr. Zen Kelly      | Present                           |
| Mr. Tim Navarre    | Absent/Excused                    |
| Mrs. Penny Vadla   | Present                           |
| Mr. Brian Dusek    | Present                           |

**REORGANIZATION OF BOARD:**

Mr. Arness called for a reorganization of the Board.

**PRESIDENT:**

Mrs. Vadla nominated Mr. Arness for president. Mr. Castimore nominated Mr. Navarre for president. Ms. Hohl nominated Mr. Holt. Mr. Holt declined. Nominations for president were closed. The Board voted by secret ballot. Participating telephonically, Mr. Anderson and Mr. Holt voted via email messages to Mrs. Tressler.

Mr. Arness was elected president.

**VICE PRESIDENT:**

Ms. Hohl nominated Mrs. Vadla for vice president. Mr. Kelly nominated Mr. Holt for vice president. Nominations for vice president were closed. The Board voted by secret ballot. Participating telephonically, Mr. Anderson and Mr. Holt voted via email messages to Mrs. Tressler.

Mrs. Vadla was elected vice president.

**CLERK:**

Ms. Hohl nominated Mr. Holt for clerk.

With no further nominations, Mr. Holt was elected clerk.

**TREASURER:**

Mr. Illg nominated Mr. Kelly for treasurer. Mr. Anderson nominated Ms. Hohl for treasurer. Ms. Hohl declined. Nominations for treasurer were closed.

With no further nominations, Mr. Kelly was elected treasurer.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The School Board Minutes of November 7, 2016, were approved as printed.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

Mr. Arness opened a public hearing regarding the renewal applications for Soldotna Montessori, Fireweed Academy and Aurora Borealis charter schools. No comments were offered.

**SCHOOL REPORT:**

Ms. Mo Sanders, Soldotna Montessori principal, described the school and then introduced a group of students who described the school's garden and orchard program. The students wrote their own presentations and explained how the garden and orchard were planned, built, planted, and harvested.

**RECESS:**

At 6:33 p.m. Mr. Arness recessed the meeting.

**RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:**

At 6:39 p.m. Mr. Arness reconvened the meeting.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:**

Brother Tom Patmor discussed his idea to encourage the National Football League to hold summer training camps on the Kenai Peninsula.

**HEARING OF DELEGATIONS:**

KPBSD Student Voice representatives, Mr. Brian Dusek, Miss Hannah Delker and Mr. Jackson Blackwell, discussed the purpose of and work done by the group. Mr. Blackwell explained that the group consists of student leaders from around the district which meet monthly to discuss events and ideas. Miss Delker stated that they also discuss District Golden Stories such as Seward High School holding their prom on a boat. She explained that collaborative projects and fundraisers will be the group's focus this year. Mr. Blackwell highlighted various events that the students participated in last school year. Mr. Brian Dusek stressed their desire to collaborate districtwide.

Mrs. Natalie Kant and Mrs. Margaret Griffin described the Recognized American School Counselor Association Model Program (RAMP), its purpose, and applications submitted to obtain the program's recognition for Skyview Middle and Soldotna High schools.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:**

Mr. Dusek discussed a resolution presented at the Alaska Association of Student Governments (AASG) Conference developed by KPBSD students regarding the fiscal crisis. From the General Information Packet, he highlighted the Health Plan update, Mr. Conrad Woodhead's Native Education update and Ms. Mo Sanders' resignation, thanking her for her service to the District. He wished Governor Walker a speedy recovery from his prostate cancer. He reported on the upcoming events: November 9, Title VI meeting; November 10-13, Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB) Annual Conference; November 15, BoardDocs training; November 15, Key Communicator meeting at KCHS for Kenai and Nikiski areas; November 16, Support Employee Appreciation Day; November 16, Administrator meeting; December 5, Board meeting; and December 6, Board work session.

**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 the weather and road conditions. She and Mr. Brighton attended a National Education Association (NEA) conference on impact student driving and stated she would like to share the information with Mr. Brian Dusek and the Student Voice group. She noted that community use of school buildings does require extra work for the custodial staff. She explained the difference between a substitute employee and a temporary employee. She stated that the Health Care Committee took action at their last meeting to save the plan a significant amount of money. She expressed appreciation for the Soldotna Montessori food pantry. She complemented Mr. Brian Dusek and the Student Voice group for their presentation.

Mr. David Brighton, KPEA president, encouraged the Board to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreements on the evening's agenda. He invited the Board to attend a KPEA sponsored community meeting on November 17 at the Soldotna Regional Sports Center regarding changes required by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT:**

Mr. Dusek commended Tebughna School on their work to improve student attendance. He discussed the Mind-A-Amazes competition, with almost 200 students participating, and thanked District staff for their work on the program. He announced that the All State Music Festival will be held at West High School in Anchorage on November 19. He congratulated Soldotna High School for their football state championship. He discussed the success of Project SEARCH and former students that are currently working in the community as a result of the program. He announced that KPBSD has two of the three Alaska Teacher of the Year finalists: Ms. Stephanie Cronin and Mr. James Harris and stated that the winner will be announced in early December. He discussed the recent National Education Association (NEA) Alaska ECET2 effective teaching practices conference and stated that nine district teachers attended. He said that Mr. Trevan Walker, Seward High School principal, will represent the District at this year's American Cancer Society's Polar Bear Jump Off and Mr. Dusek will share a link for those staff and board members that wish to sponsor him. He noted that Tuesday is Election Day and encouraged everyone to vote. He discussed an upcoming series of Health Care Plan meetings held in order to review the two plan options available for staff members. He reported that the Board's Governance Handbook (set for revision in January) has been shared with two southeast Alaska school districts who have revised it and are using it. He will attend the Future of Learning Symposium on November 9, the AASB Annual Conference November 10-13, and the KPEA ESSA community meeting on November 17.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

Mr. Jones presented the financial report of the District for the period ending September 30, 2016.

**QUARTERLY BUDGET  
REPORT:**

Mr. Jones presented the quarterly budget report for the first quarter of FY17.

**BOARD REPORTS:**

Mr. Anderson reported that he attended the 21 Days of Kindness assembly at Sterling Elementary.

On October 4, Mrs. Vadla met with Mrs. Kant at Skyview Middle School to review the school's RAMP application. She visited Mt. View Elementary on October 25 and received a school tour from Mr. Karl Kircher, principal. She attended the Key Communicator meeting on November 1 and plans to attend the next one on November 15.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

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

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

Ms. Hohl reported that the Charter School 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 Charter School Applications, Board Policy, 2017 State and Federal Legislative Priorities, and FY18 Budget. All members physically present at the meeting, attended the work sessions.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of 2016-17 New Teacher Contracts, Long-Term Substitute Contracts, Leave of Absence Extension Request/Support, Resignations, and AR 6146.5 Special Services Grading and Graduation Guidelines.

**2016-2017 NEW TEACHER  
CONTRACT:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a 2016-2017 new teacher contract for Teresa Lynne Green, GR K-12 Special Education.

**LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE  
TEACHER CONTRACT(S):**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve long-term substitute teacher contracts for Donna Bartman, Soldotna High School; Gerald Byrne, Kenai Central High School; Maria Calhoun, Soldotna High School; Beatrice Klaich, Nikolaevsk School and Jon Lillevik, Kenai Central High School.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE  
EXTENSION  
REQUEST/SUPPORT:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve a Leave of Absence Extension Request for Jason Tauriainen, Custodian I, Nikiski Middle/High School, effective November 1, 2016 to November 5, 2016.

**RESIGNATIONS:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve resignations from Rosemary Bird, Music/Keyboarding/Home Economics Teacher, Kenai Middle School; Katie Blossom, Kindergarten Teacher, Tustumena Elementary School; Carol Boehmler, Grade 4 Teacher, Sterling Elementary School; Daniel Calhoun, Math Teacher, Homer Middle School; David Fischer, Math/Science Teacher, Kenai Middle School; Paul Johnson, Vocational Education Teacher, Nikiski Middle/High School; Bill Noomah, Grade 5 Teacher, McNeil Canyon Elementary School; Linda Raemaeker, Social Studies Teacher, Soldotna High School; Kenneth Roser, Physical Education/Health Teacher, Kenai Middle School; Robert Shively, Distance Education Teacher, Distance Education; and Terri Zopf-Schoessler, Drama/Language Arts Teacher, Soldotna High School; all effective the end of the 2016-17 school year and Elaine Alvey, Grade 4/5 Teacher, Soldotna Elementary School, effective November 11, 2016; and Laurie Olson, Director of Finance, District Office, effective December 31, 2016.

**BOARD POLICY:**

Mr. Jones recommended the Board approve AR 6146.5 Special Services Grading and Graduation Guidelines.

**MOTION:**

Mrs. Vadla moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 5. Ms. Hohl seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES:**

Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve the list of proposed 2017 State and Federal Legislative Priorities as revised.

**MOTION:**

Ms. Hohl moved the Board approve the 2017 State and Federal Legislative Priorities as revised. Mr. Castimore seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**FY 16-18 KPEA COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT:**

Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve the FY 16-18 Kenai Peninsula Education Association Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Mr. Illg declared a possible conflict of interest as his wife is a district employee. Mr. Arness stated that the Board had previously obtained a legal opinion on this issue and that a conflict does not exist.

Mrs. Vadla moved the Board approve the FY 16-18 Kenai Peninsula Education Association Collective Bargaining Agreement. Mr. Illg seconded.

**VOTE:**

ADVISORY VOTE: Yes

YES – Anderson, Hohl, Holt, Illg, Kelly, Vadla, Arness

NO – Castimore

Motion carried.

**FY 16-18 KPESA COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT:**

Mr. Dusek recommended the Board approve the FY 16-18 Kenai Peninsula Education Support Association Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Mrs. Vadla moved the Board approve the FY 16-18 Kenai Peninsula Education Support Association Collective Bargaining Agreement. Ms. Hohl seconded.

**VOTE:**

ADVISORY VOTE: Yes

YES – Anderson, Hohl, Holt, Illg, Kelly, Vadla, Arness

NO – Castimore

Motion carried.

**FIRST READING OF POLICY REVISIONS:**

The Board heard a first reading of BP 3470 Fund Balance, BP 6187 Charter Schools, BP 6146.1 High School Graduation, and BP 6146.8 Diplomas.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/ COMMENTS:**

Ms. Debbie Carey discussed the budget process and requested that information be made easier to locate. She shared her views on Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) versus cutting programs, especially in small schools. She expressed appreciation for the Student Voice idea for a districtwide senior prom.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

Ms. Hohl apologized for any offensive comment she may have made regarding how school custodian duties are effected by building user groups and clarified the intent of her statement. She thanked Mrs. Sirois for the explanation of the difference between temporary and substitute employees. She expressed appreciation for Daylight Savings Time but not Standard Time. She expressed appreciation for the Teacher of the Year finalists and hopes Mrs. Cronin is selected. She would like to hear how Mr. Dusek convinced Mr. Walker to participate in the Polar Bear Jump Off. She stated that she will serve as a member of the AASB Awards Committee on Wednesday, November 9. She congratulated Mr. Holt on his new granddaughter and stated she recently returned from visiting some of her grandchildren.

Mr. Kelly encouraged everyone to vote on Tuesday.

Mr. Illg is looking forward to attending the AASB Annual Conference. He expressed appreciation for the Soldotna Montessori Charter School mini pantry. He congratulated the newly elected Board officers. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mrs. Vadla congratulated the Teacher of the Year nominees and hopes Mr. Harris is selected. She encouraged everyone to vote on Tuesday. She thanked the Board for electing her to serve as the vice president. She will attend the AASB Resolutions Committee meeting at the AASB Annual Conference but will miss part of it due to another commitment. She wished everyone a good holiday.

Mr. Dusek would like to see Mr. Harris selected as the Teacher of the Year. He was not able to attend the Key Communicator meeting but hopes to attend future meetings. He congratulated the Soldotna High School football team for their state championship. He noted the retirements of Ms. Zopf-Schoessler and Mrs. Raemaeker. He expressed appreciation for the Soldotna Montessori Charter School presentation. He is looking forward to voting for the first time on Tuesday. He is also looking forward to attending the AASB Annual Conference.

Mr. Arness reminded the Board to attend the BoardDocs training on December 15. He highlighted Mr. Dusek's article published in the Board and Administrator publication. He shared a story about his grandson and announced that he is expecting another grandchild.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

At 7:52 p.m., Mrs. Vadla 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. Mr. Kelly seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURN EXECUTIVE  
SESSION:**

At 8:54 p.m., Ms. Hohl moved the Board adjourn the executive session. Mrs. Vadla seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURN:**

At 8:54 p.m., Mr. Arness adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mr. Joe Arness, President

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Mr. Bill Holt, Clerk

**DRAFT**

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