



## Board of Education Meeting February 2, 2026

### Meeting Minutes-Draft

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District  
148 N. Binkley St., Soldotna, AK 99669

Meeting Location:  
Betty J. Glick Assembly Chambers  
144 N. Binkley Street  
Soldotna Alaska

Zoom ID: 708 024 188 <https://zoom.us/j/708024188>

#### 1. Opening Activities

##### A. Call to Order

President Tauriainen called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

##### B. Pledge of Allegiance/National Anthem/Alaska Flag Song

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

##### C. District Mission Statement

Ms. Truesdell read the district mission statement.

##### D. Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Board Member Cizek

Board Member Daugharty

Board Member Douthit

Board Member MacRae

Board Member Truesdell

Board Member Vadla

Board Member VanBuskirk

Board Member Waddell (attended virtually)

Board President Tauriainen

Student Representative: Miss Shania Weathers

A quorum was established.

Others Present were:

Superintendent Holland

Assistant Superintendent Dendurent

Finance Director Voivedich

Elementary & Secondary Education Director Graham

Student Support Services Director Kelly

##### E. Approval of Agenda

**MOTION:** Move to approve the February 2, 2026 Regular Business Meeting agenda as presented.

Motion by Sarah Douthit, second by Kelley Cizek.

Final Resolution: **Motion Carried**

Yes: Kelley Cizek, Tim Daugharty, Sarah Douthit, Dianne MacRae, Jason Tauriainen, Patti Truesdell, Penny Vadla, Mica VanBuskirk, Ash-Lee Waddell

## **2. Awards and Presentations**

### **A. Awards and Presentations**

There were none this evening.

## **3. School Reports**

### **A. Hope School and Cooper Landing School, Ms. Cindy McKibben**

Principal Cindy McKibben first provided the Hope School Report with the assistance of a student Kodi Airth.

Board Members that offered comments and appreciated the report:

Miss Weathers

Ms. Vadla

Ms. Douthit

Ms. Truesdell

President Tauriainen

Principal Cindy McKibben also presented the Cooper Landing School Report with Teacher Kristine Route and showed a video put together by the students.

Board Members that offered comments and appreciated the report:

Ms. Vadla

Miss Weathers

Ms. Truesdell

Ms. Douthit

President Tauriainen

## **4. Student Board Representative Report**

### **A. Student Board Representative Report**

Board Student Representative, Miss Shania Weathers, provided the Student Representative Report.

## **5. Student Presentations/Comments (Any topic)**

### **A. Student Presentations/Comments (Any topic)**

President Tauriainen called for student presentations and comments on any topic.

Students who offered comments:

Piper Bloom and Soldotna High School Student Council Members

William Elam

Briarr Oden

Reagan Beeson

Ryan Culbertson

Somi Clendaniel, Seward Student Body President

Axel Larock

Cai Turner

Jonas Moseman

Abigail Schilling

Kirra DesErmia

Leah Stutchinson

Lyla deCastro

Seeing and hearing no further requests for comment from students, President Tauriainen closed student presentations and comments.

President Tauriainen called a brief at ease at 7:14 p.m.

President Tauriainen reconvened the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

## **6. Public Presentations/Comments (Items not on the agenda)**

### **A. Public Presentations/Comments (Items not on the agenda.)**

President Tauriainen called for public presentations and comments on items not on the agenda:

Members of the public who provided comments were:

Paul Marks

Kate Veh

Ben Bohart read a letter for a student.

Seeing and hearing no further requests to comment President Tauriainen closed public comments.

## **7. Hearing of Delegations**

### **A. Hearing of Delegations**

There were none this evening.

## **8. Communications and Petitions**

### **A. Mr. Holland**

Superintendent Holland deferred his time to speak until the Superintendent's Report.

**9. Representatives selected by the following: Advisory Committees, Site Councils and/or Authorized Student Support Organizations, K.P.A.A., K.P.E.A., K.P.E.S.A., Borough Assembly**

**A. Speakers**

President Tauriainen called for comments from representatives from the listed organizations.

The following representatives offered comments:

Susanna Litwiniak, KPESA President

Erin Pearce, KPEA Vice President

Seeing and hearing no further requests to comments from the listed organizations President Tauriainen closed Speakers comments.

**10. Superintendent's Report**

**A. Mr. Holland Revised**

Superintendent Holland provided the Superintendent's report.

President Tauriainen offered Kaylee Berhart and Shelby Beal, Tulen Charter School APC Members a chance to speak for 5 minutes as they were missed during Agenda Item 9A.

Superintendent Holland addressed their testimony.

**11. Reports**

**A. December Finance Reports 2026-2-2 Revised**

President Tauriainen called for the Finance Reports.

Finance Director Voivedich provided the December Finance Reports.

President Tauriainen called for any Board questions or comments.

There were none offered.

**B. Board Reports**

Ms. Vadla attended the AASB Board of Directors Sustainability meeting, and a KPC hall reopening.

Mr. Daugharty attended a West Homer PTA meeting, a Paul banks site council meeting, several district union negotiation meetings, a surprise assembly at Homer High, KPEA negotiations, a statewide education advocates meeting via zoom, and a West Homer site council meeting.

Ms. Vanbuskirk attended a city council meeting and provided a school board report, wrote an article featured in the local newspaper, and attended a Cooper Landing site council meeting.

Ms. Waddell attended an AI advisory team meeting, and met with numerous individuals regarding the budget and consolidation and attended PTA meetings in the Homer area.

Ms. Truesdell volunteered for lunch shifts at the food bank.

Mr. Tauriainen met with the Mayor and Superintendent Holland, and attended the rubber chicken tournament at Skyview Middle school.

**C. Committee Reports**

Member Douthit, chair of the finance committee, provided the February 2, 2026 finance committee meeting report.

**D. Board Work Session Report**

President Tauriainen reported that the Board held work session for the following and gave a brief summary:

Staffing Formula

Aurora Borealis Charter School Amendment Application

Bond Package Update

School Consolidation Update

Board Policy Review

Assessment Report

Board Discussion

President Tauriainen reported that all members present at the business meeting this evening attended the work sessions.

**12. Consent Agenda**

**A. Approval of Consent Agenda**

President Tauriainen read all items on the consent agenda this evening.

B. 2025-26 Long-Term Substitute Teacher Contract(s)

C. 2025-26 New Teacher Contract(s)

D. 2025-26 Temporary Retired Teacher Contract(s)

E. 2026-27 Tentative Administrator Contract(s)

F. 2026-27 Tentative Non-Tenure Teacher Contract(s)

G. 2026-27 Tentative Non-Tenure Teacher Contract(s) and Tenure

H. January 12, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes

I. January 12, 2026 Business Meeting Minutes

President Tauriainen called for public comment on the consent agenda items.

There were no comments offered.

President Tauriainen closed public comments for the consent agenda items.

**MOTION:** Move to approve Consent Agenda items 12 B-I.

Motion by Penny Vadla, second by Patti Truesdell.

Final Resolution: **Motion Carried**

Yes: Kelley Cizek, Tim Daugharty, Sarah Douthit, Dianne MacRae, Jason Tauriainen, Patti Truesdell, Penny Vadla, Mica VanBuskirk, Ash-Lee Waddell

Student Representative, Miss Weathers, Advisory Vote: Yes

### **13. Action Items**

A. 2026-27 Tentative Tenure Teacher Contract(s)

President Tauriainen called for public comment on the 2026-27 Tentative Tenure Teacher Contract(s) action item.

There were none offered.

President Tauriainen closed public comment on the action item.

**MOTION:** Move to approve the 2026-27 Tentative Tenure Teacher Contract(s)

Motion by Patti Truesdell, second by Penny Vadla.

President Tauriainen called for Board comments on the 2026-27 Tentative Tenure Teacher Contract(s).

Board Members that offered comments were:

Member Vadla

Seeing and hearing no further Board request to comment President Tauriainen passed the gavel to Vice President Daugharty.

Vice President Daugharty recognized President Tauriainen.

President Tauriainen declared a conflict of interest on the action item as his spouse is on the list of contracts to be approved.

Vice President Daugharty ruled that President Tauriainen does have a conflict of interest and should abstain from the vote on the item.

Seeing and hearing no further Board requests to comment Vice President Daugharty closed Board comments.

**MOTION:** Move to approve the 2026-27 Tentative Tenure Teacher Contract(s)

Motion by Patti Truesdell, second by Penny Vadla.

**FINAL RESOLUTION:** Motion Carried

Yes: Kelley Cizek, Tim Daugharty, Sarah Douthit, Dianne MacRae, Patti Truesdell, Penny Vadla, Mica VanBuskirk, Ash-Lee Waddell

Abstain: Jason Tauriainen

Student Representative, Miss Weathers, Advisory Vote: Yes

Vice President Daugharty passed the gavel back to President Tauriainen after his conflict of interest had been resolved.

B. Aurora Borealis Charter School Amendment Application REVISED

President Tauriainen called for public comment on the Aurora Borealis Charter School Amendment Application action item.

Members of the public that offered comment on the action item:

Bill Severson

Shelby Oden

Member Waddell called point of order during Shelby Oden's testimony.

President Tauriainen recognized Member Waddell's point of order and read the Board's policy and procedures regarding defamatory remarks.

President Tauriainen called for further public comment on the Aurora Borealis Charter School Amendment Application action item.

Members of the public that offered comment:

Richard Derkevorkian

Darren Henry

Gabe Chystler

Savannah Culbertson

Mitch Miller

Jamie Miller

Francisco Vega

Mariah Nalas

Seeing and hearing no further public requests to comment, President Tauriainen closed public comment on the action item.

President Tauriainen called a brief at ease at 8:47 p.m.

President Tauriainen reconvened the meeting at 8:51 p.m.

President Tauriainen recognized Ms. Waddell.

**MOTION:** Move to refer the Aurora Borealis Charter School Amendment Application to the Charter School Committee with instructions to return it to the next regular business meeting with the complete policy, statutory, and regularity prerequisites sufficient for board action.

Motion by Ash-Lee Waddell, second by Penny Vadla.

President Tauriainen called for Board comments on the motion to refer the Aurora Borealis Charter School Amendment Application to the Charter School Committee that's on the floor.

Board members that offered comments:

Ms. Cizek in opposition.

Ms. Vadla in support.

Ms. Truesdell in opposition.

Ms. MacRae in opposition.

Ms. Waddell in support.

Ms. Vanbuskirk in opposition.

Superintendent Holland provided clarification on the revised application presented on the agenda this evening.

Assistant Superintendent Dendurent provided clarification on the revised application presented on the agenda this evening.

President Tauriainen in opposition.

Seeing and hearing no further Board requests to comment President Tauriainen closed Board comments and called for a roll call vote.

**MOTION:** Move to refer the Aurora Borealis Charter School Amendment Application to the Charter School Committee with instructions to return it to the next regular business meeting with the complete policy, statutory, and regularity prerequisites sufficient for board action.

Motion by Ash-Lee Waddell, second by Penny Vadla.

**Final Resolution: Motion Failed**

Yes: Penny Vadla, Ash-Lee Waddell

No: Kelley Cizek, Tim Daugharty, Sarah Douthit, Dianne MacRae, Jason Tauriainen, Patti Truesdell, Mica VanBuskirk

**MOTION:** Move to approve the Aurora Borealis Charter School Amendment Application.

Motion by Kelley Cizek, second by Patti Truesdell.

President Tauriainen called for Board comments on the motion on the floor to approve the Aurora Borealis Charter School Amendment Application.

There were no further Board comments offered.

Seeing and hearing no further Board requests to comment President Tauriainen closed Board comments and called for a roll call vote.

**MOTION:** Move to approve the Aurora Borealis Charter School Amendment Application.

Motion by Kelley Cizek, second by Patti Truesdell.

**FINAL RESOLUTION: Motion Carried**

Yes: Kelley Cizek, Tim Daugharty, Sarah Douthit, Dianne MacRae, Jason Tauriainen, Patti Truesdell, Mica VanBuskirk

No: Penny Vadla, Ash-Lee Waddell

President Tauriainen made some final comments on the action item after it passed this evening.

President Tauriainen called a brief at ease at 9:10 p.m.

President Tauriainen reconvened the meeting at 9:16 p.m.

**14. First Reading of Policy Revisions**

A. Exhibit 9322 Order of Business

The Board was provided a first reading of Exhibit 9322 Order of Business. President Tauriainen called for public comment on Exhibit 9322 Order of Business. There were none offered.

President Tauriainen called for any Board comments on Exhibit 9322 Order of Business. There were none offered.

The exhibit and the revisions were moved to a second reading and action at the March meeting.

**15. Public Presentations/Comments**

A. Public Presentations/Comments Any Topic

President Tauriainen called for public comment on any topic.

Members of the public who offered comments:

Susanna Litwiniak

Benjamin Bohart

Winter Marshall-Allen

President Tauriainen addressed Winter Marshall-Allen's testimony.

Seeing and hearing no further requests for public comment, President Tauriainen closed public comments.

## **16. Board Comments**

### **A. Board Comments**

Ms. Douthit appreciated those still in attendance at the meeting. She reminisced of her first months as a new member and encouraged all Board members to ask questions and appreciated her fellow Board members. She appreciated the passing of the Aurora Borealis Amendment Application this evening. She appreciated the student testimony this evening and the school reports. Ms. Vadla appreciated the student testimony this evening. She appreciated the work sessions this afternoon, in particular the Bond Package update from the Mayor. She appreciated coordinator Kelly King. She appreciated the school reports this evening. She expressed the importance of respect of one another regardless of how one votes.

Mr. Daugharty appreciated the student testimony this evening. He also reminded everyone about the Kenai choir event tomorrow. He expressed some discouragement regarding some of the decorum of the meeting. He noted the importance of focusing on the development of the budget in particular pool operations, borough funding, school consolidations, union negotiations, and PTR discussions. He encouraged the public to advise the Board as stakeholders throughout the process.

Ms. MacRae appreciated the passing of the Aurora Borealis Charter School amendment application. She appreciated Benjamin Bohart's testimony this evening.

Ms. Vanbuskirk appreciated the passing of the Aurora Borealis Charter School amendment application this evening. She appreciated Ms. Waddell's research on the application. She noted that difficult decisions are ahead while the district is facing a budget deficit once again this year. She expressed the importance of focusing on student outcomes. She also wanted to recognize the differences between some of the regions within the district in particular the staffing. She appreciated the student testimony this evening.

Ms. Cizek appreciated the difficult conversations the Board has had regarding the budget and the work sessions towards that effort this afternoon. She appreciated the contracts that moved forward this evening as it is earlier in the year. She appreciated the school reports this evening.

Ms. Waddell offered no comments this evening.

Ms. Truesdell appreciated the meeting this evening. She appreciated coordinator Kelly King. She appreciated the passing of the Aurora Borealis Charter School amendment application. She recognized and offered condolences to the Soldotna High School community. She appreciated the schools in the district. She appreciated the Board members.

President Tauriainen expressed he is doing his best to be fair while navigating maintaining proper meeting decorum and procedures. He appreciated everyone's time and work throughout the day today. He also noted the difficult decisions the Board will face when developing and balancing the budget this year. He noted the cost shift from the state to the local contributions and encouraged the public to advocate to the state legislator about the cost shift as it has had a significant impact on the District's funding. He expressed the importance of continuing to focus on student outcomes. He appreciated everyone who attended the meeting.

## **17. Executive Session**

### **A. Executive Session if needed**

There were none this evening.

## **18. Adjourn**

### **A. Adjourn meeting**

Seeing that business was complete, President Tauriainen adjourned the meeting at 9:46 p.m.