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KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

KPBSD School Board receives 2011 Outstanding School Board of the Year Award

Soldotna, November 7, 2011—The Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB) bestows the KPBSD school board with the “2011 Outstanding School Board of the Year” award for their contributions to the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District.

The award was announced during the 58th annual AASB conference in Anchorage, November 3–6, 2011, with more than 400 people in attendance. Fifty-three school districts serve the great state of Alaska, and competition this year included very engaged school boards from Kodiak, Sitka, and Bristol Bay, among others.

Superintendent Dr. Steve Atwater was present at the award presentation and said,

“I am thrilled that our board is being recognized in this way, it was great to see them receive this in front of school board members from across the state. Their dedication to the students of the Kenai is unwavering—they deserve this accolade.”

Five criteria are necessary to receive Outstanding Alaska School Board of the Year. The KPBSD school board demonstrates excellence in:

1. Community Engagement
2. Level of AASB/UAF Boardmanship Academy
3. Demonstrated evidence of leadership as measured against AASB School Board Standards
4. Participation in State and National Activities
5. Evidence of growth in student achievement

Nine elected members serve on the KPBSD school board, together with one high school student representative: Joe Arness, President; Liz Downing, Vice President; Penny Vadla, Clerk; Lynn Hohl, Treasurer; Marty Anderson; Sammy Crawford; Sunni Hilts; Bill Holt; Tim Navarre; and Annaleah Ernst, Student representative.

“This recognition that our District is, in fact, a leader in education as measured by academic progress compared with other Districts is not so much an endorsement of the Board itself, but instead recognizes the strides which our District has made over the past few years.” – Joe Arness, President

“It was such an honor for our board to receive recognition from the Association. Listening to our board and district accomplishments during the presentations, I was struck by the realization that this was an effort truly shared with all past board members, administrators, teachers, staff, students, and families who have contributed over the years to make this such a wonderful school district.” – Liz Downing, Vice-President

Liz Downing, school board vice-president, was awarded the 2011 “National Distinguished Board Member” by the National School Boards Association (NSBA) during the AASB conference. Ten Alaskans receive this honor each year.