

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

148 N. Binkley Street  
Soldotna, AK 99669

April 16, 2001

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

Ms. Deborah Germano, President  
Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Vice President  
Mrs. Debra Mullins, Clerk  
Mr. Joe Arness, Treasurer  
Dr. Nels Anderson, Member  
Mrs. Sandra Wassilie, Member  
Mr. Al Poindexter, Member  
Miss Sara Hart, Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT:

Dr. Donna Peterson, Superintendent of Schools  
Mrs. Melody Douglas, Director, Finance  
Dr. Ed McLain, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction  
Mr. Todd Syverson, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mrs. Carolyn Cannava	Mrs. Patty Rich
Mrs. Yvonne Emery	Mr. Jim White
Mrs. Rosie Reeder	Ms. Theresa Brown
Mr. Bob VanDerWege	Mrs. Kathy Thompson
Mrs. Emily Nicholson	Mrs. Rosie Reeder
Miss Rose Buchman	Mr. Tim Peterson
Miss Alex Demas	Mrs. Jane Stein
Mr. Marvin Norman	Mr. Rick Matiya
Mrs. Shana Loshbaugh	Mr. Phil Biggs
Miss Mary Fischer	Dr. Gary Whiteley
Mayor Dave Carey	Mr. Mark Leal
Mrs. Kelly Vasilie	Ms. Marti Shirley
Ms. Jane Kiech	Ms. Cindy Hurst
Ms. Tracy Irwin	Miss Kate Keating

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

Ms. Germano called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Ms. Germano invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Ms. Deborah Germano	Present
Mrs. Sammy Crawford	Present
Mrs. Debra Mullins	Present
Mr. Joe Arness	Present
Dr. Nels Anderson	Present
Mrs. Sandra Wassilie	Present
Mr. Al Poindexter	Present
Miss Sara Hart	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The agenda was approved with the addition of Item 10c., Approval of Administrator Appointment, and revisions to Items 10a.(3), Approval of Resignations and 10a.(5), Approval of Leave of Absence Request – Support.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The School Board Minutes of April 2, 2001, were approved with the correction of the spelling of Ms. Lori Evans on pages 244 and 245, the correction of the spelling of Mrs. Daniela Martian on page 248 and the addition of the sentence, “Mr. Poindexter seconded.” at the end of the sixth paragraph on page 247.

## INTRODUCTIONS:

Dr. Peterson introduced Miss Alex Demas, Nanwalek High student; Mr. Marvin Norman, Port Graham High student; Miss Rose Buchman, Susan B. English High student; and Mr. Wayne Young, chaperone and principal/teacher from Port Graham Elementary/High. She noted that the students were participating in a two-day Borough Assembly-sponsored government experience.

## SCHOOL REPORTS:

Ms. Carolyn Cannava, Soldotna Elementary principal, provided a brief history of the school. She noted that the 2000-2001 school goal is to focus on comprehensive literacy for each student. She announced that the Title I Program assists at-risk students in Grades K-2 after school, and the grant-funded Read 180 Program assists at-risk students in Grades 4-6 before school. She reported that the After the Bell Program provides after-school tutoring and fun activities for students, and the Foster Grandparent Program provides a caring senior citizen who works one-to-one with students in reading. Mrs. Patty Rich, custodian, told the Board of her involvement with students in the area of reading.

Ms. Marti Shirley, PTA president, reported on PTA activities such as providing books for the summer remedial program, sponsoring the Bingo for Books evening, providing money to support the schoolwide reading program, and sponsoring the annual book fair. She commended the entire school staff for being extremely dedicated to students.

Ms. Jane Kiech, teacher, stated that children learn by playing and hands-on activities. She stated that structured periods of the day when the teachers read, write and provide hands-on activities are balanced by a choice time when students can play, explore and practice what they have learned. She displayed and explained a seed planting project that was followed by student journal entries. She stated that providing early learning experiences and time to explore through play is like planting the seed for learning to read and write. Ms. Cindy Hurst, teacher, reported that the kindergarten teachers use modeled and shared reading. She reported that the kindergarten curricula requires that the life cycle of plants and the effects of pollution on the environment be taught. She stated that the planting activity may feel like play to the students but it is purposeful play.

Ms. Tracy Irwin, first grade teacher, used examples of student writing to demonstrate a lesson regarding spring. She reported that she read aloud multiple books about spring and asked the students to list their ideas, write sentences and illustrate the sentences. She stated that the students used a performance assessment to guide their way through the project. She reported on another project requiring higher order thinking skills to answer the question, "How would I make the world a beautiful place?" She read from a seven year old's perspective of what he would do to make the world a more beautiful place.

Mrs. Kelly Vasilie, first grade teacher, stated that one way she promotes literacy in the classroom is by tying literature into weekly projects. She explained that she used the Iditarod Dog Sled Race as a literacy experience. She explained that through a writing project the students learned about punctuation. She displayed dog faces drawn by students using crayon pastels to complete the fine arts portion of the Iditarod project. She added that the students downloaded information from the Internet about the Iditarod dog mushers and wrote letters to them. She added that students become very involved in their literacy-based activities when they realistically relate to what is happening in the community.

- SCHOOL REPORTS (continued):** Miss Kate Keating, student teacher for Mrs. Sherry Baktuit, gave a computer-generated presentation regarding the incorporation of technology into literacy. She stated that she used a web trip to increase literacy because it meets Alaska's language arts content standards as well as national and District technology goals.
- Mrs. Yvonne Emery directed six students in a song titled, "I Believe in Me." At the conclusion of the song, the students introduced themselves and told the Board what they wanted to be when they grow up.
- Mrs. Crawford asked how many students were enrolled at Soldotna Elementary. Mrs. Cannava replied that the student population often changes but is currently at 358 students.
- RECESS:** At 8:00 p.m., Ms. Germano called a recess.
- RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:** At 8:05 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.
- COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:** Dr. Peterson reported that the District has been chosen for the third year as one of the 15 percent of the school districts in the nation that are "What Parents Want in a School District." She noted that the front cover of the spring 2001 Northwest Regional Education Lab publication features a picture of Mr. Larry Nauta, Aurora Borealis Charter School administrator.
- AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:** The Board presented a golden apple to Mr. Phil Biggs, technology director, for his contribution to the advancement of technology in the District.
- Mr. Arness recognized Mayor Dave Carey who was recently elected to fill the City of Soldotna mayoral vacancy.
- SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Dr. Peterson announced that Mr. Hickey is traveling to Juneau to testify on legislation regarding bond reimbursement. She noted that Mrs. Douglas was replacing Mr. Hickey at the Board meeting. She announced that the next Joint Technology Work Group meeting will be April 30 at 10:00 a.m. in the Borough Administration building. She noted that Seward Elementary's "Flat Stanley" will be included in the space shuttle scheduled to launch on Thursday, April 19.
- FINANCIAL REPORT** Mrs. Douglas presented the financial report of the District for the periods ending March 31, 2001.
- BUDGET TRANSFERS:** Mrs. Douglas reported on third quarter budget transfers Numbers 140 through 315 for various schools and departments within the District.
- Mrs. Crawford asked whether the number of transfers was normal for this time of year. Mrs. Douglas replied that the number of transfers was normal and that the next report will be even larger.
- BOARD REPORTS:** Mr. Poindexter reported that he attended the Business Education Symposium in Anchorage with a team from the District that included a counselor, Dr. Ed McLain, Mr. Ben Eveland, Mr. Sam Stewart and others. He said they worked as a team to develop a plan to engage the District in more business partnerships. He reported that Dr. McLain delegated most of the assignments to Mr. Stewart and Dr. Whiteley. He added that he would like the Board to conduct an in-depth discussion regarding vocational education.

## BOARD REPORTS (continued):

Mrs. Mullins reported that she attended the Space Allocation Committee meeting and distributed a copy of the minutes from the previous meeting. She noted that the Kenai Courthouse building may be added back to the list of facilities under consideration. She stated that the discussions have included the use of lease space until the Borough Administration building can be remodeled. She noted that the committee may not complete the final report until May 15. She stated that the next meeting will be held in two weeks and will hopefully have information regarding lease sites as well as building sites. Mrs. Mullins thanked the Board for the opportunity to attend the National School Board Association Conference. She reported that she felt that it was a worthwhile trip and that speakers for the conference included Madelyn Albright, John Glenn and Peter Yarrow (from the musical group Peter, Paul and Mary). She reported that Mr. Yarrow spoke about his movement to help children understand themselves and his promotion of a project called "Don't Laugh at Me." She noted that the project includes a compact disk, a videotape and a guide, which allows teachers to incorporate the project into their district curriculum. She stated that the curriculum is designed to help youth recognize that everyone has been teased or made fun of. She referred the Board to the Internet site [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) to download the music and words for "Don't Laugh at Me." She read the words to the song and stated that she was very impressed with Mr. Yarrow's project. She encouraged the District administration to visit the Internet site [www.dontlaugh.org](http://www.dontlaugh.org) when it becomes available. Mrs. Mullins reported that she also attended sectionals on parliamentary procedures and high stakes testing.

Mrs. Wassilie reported that she attended the Title IX Parent Advisory Committee meeting at Soldotna Elementary. She noted that committee members and tutors throughout the District attended to hear Andrew Angaiak speak about the Upward Bound Program, which includes a six-week program held at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks. She noted that two District schools offer the Upward Bound program onsite and added that the program targets students who are not doing well in school but have potential. She reported that the Title IX Committee members were interested in the District pursuing the program for other schools in the District. She thanked Dr. Whiteley for inviting Mr. Angaiak.

Dr. Anderson reported that he received a request from the District to sponsor a student who is participating in the mentor program and is interested in molecular biology.

Mrs. Crawford reported that she is chairing the local advisory committee to the Job Center. She noted that Mr. Syverson will be the committee's guest speaker on April 19, and he will talk about issues in employment for the District. She stated that she will visit Aurora Borealis School in the near future and will attend the Recognition Committee meeting on April 17.

Mr. Arness reported that he attended the Outsource Task Force Committee meeting and noted that a recommendation will be presented at the next Board meeting. He noted that the committee work is complete.

## CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of 00-01-11 Resolution (East End Road Extension), Budget Transfer Number 332, Resignations, Leave of Absence Requests – Certified, Leave of Absence Request – Support, 00-01-12 Resolution (Increased Education Funding) and Long Range Plan.

Resolution 00-01-11 (East End Road Extension):

Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve Resolution 00-01-11 in support of a paved extension to East End Road.

- Budget Transfer Number 332: Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve budget transfer Number 332, which transfers \$10,000 to cover increased food costs for the Homer High regional kitchen.
- Resignations: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve resignations effective the end of the 2000-2001 school year for Jeffrey Smith, special education/resource, West Homer Elementary; Sharon Fraley, special education/resource, Seward Elementary; Nancy Boehmer, special education/resource, Redoubt Elementary; Jill Singleton, generalist, Tebughna School; Steve Ratzlaff, generalist, Kenai Alternative School; and Laura Bruck, English, Susan B. English Elementary/High.
- Leave of Absence Requests – Certified: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve unpaid leave of absence requests for the 2001-02 school year for Stephanie Kind, language arts, Kenai Central High; and Jacqueline Bock, special education/preschool, Sears Elementary.
- Leave of Absence Request – Support: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve a one-year unpaid leave of absence for the 2001-2002 school year for Faith Hays, cashier, Tustumena Elementary and Gail Thomas, nurse, Homer Area.
- Resolution 00-01-12 (Increased Education Funding): Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve Resolution 00-01-12 in support of increased funding for education.
- Long Range Plan: Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve the Long Range Plan, which includes a mission statement, guiding principles and goals for the next five years.
- Mr. Poindexter requested the removal of Item 10a.(7), Approval of Long Range Plan.
- ACTION Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 6. Mr. Arness seconded.
- Motion carried unanimously.
- ACTION Mr. Poindexter moved the Board approve Item 10a.(7), Long Range Plan. Mr. Arness seconded.
- ACTION Mr. Poindexter moved the Board amend the Long Range Plan to add Item 5, “immerse career technical student organizations in appropriate vocational programs,” under Goal 1, Action Step 6. The amendment was lost for lack of a second.
- VOTE:
- YES – Anderson, Arness, Crawford, Mullins, Wassilie, Germano  
NO – Poindexter  
Advisory Vote – YES
- Approval of Student Expulsion: Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve the one-year expulsion of a Skyview High School student for violating Alaska Statute, AS 14.03.160, and Board Policy 5131.7, Weapons and Dangerous Instruments. She noted that the parents chose not to address the Board in a formal hearing.
- Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the one-year expulsion of a Skyview High School student. Mrs. Crawford seconded.
- Approval of Student Expulsion (continued): Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATOR  
APPOINTMENT:

Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve the appointment of Mr. Bradley Drake as principal/teacher of Tebughna School.

Mrs. Wassilie moved the Board approve the appointment of Mr. Bradley Drake as principal/teacher of Tebughna School. Mr. Poindexter seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

FIRST READING OF POLICY  
REVISIONS:

The Board heard a first reading of BP 4111.2, 4211.2 and 4311.2, Legal Status Requirement; BP 4115, Evaluation/Supervision; BP 4119.12, Harassment; and BP 4300, Management and Supervisory Personnel: Definitions.

Mr. Arness asked whether the District wanted the statement found in the last sentence of BP 4119.12 that removes a person's right to meet his/her accuser. Mr. Syverson stated that in cases of harassment it is the District's obligation to conduct an investigation and the burden of proof lies with the District to resolve the problem. He noted that attorneys from Jermain, Dunnagan and Owen have reviewed the policy and that the language originated from AASB. Mr. Arness cited examples of situations where confronting one's accuser might be the only resolution to a problem.

Dr. McLain recounted a similar situation with student harassment. He stated that the interpretation from the attorney was that the language in the policy does not take away the right of a person to meet his/her accuser.

Mr. Syverson explained that the reason the policy was being recommended is because employee policies do not have a harassment clause. He added that the language is similar to the student harassment policy.

Mr. Arness asked the administration for a clarification at the next meeting and added that he does not want to remove the person's ability to meet his/her accuser.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mrs. Mullins stated that the "Don't Laugh at Me" program became profound because two student shootings occurred while she was in San Diego. She stated that students who are bullied tend to be bullies in the future and react with violence. She stated that students should be taught not to bully. She stated that she would like the District to research programs designed to curb violence, and she added that schools should be a safe place for students. She asked the administration to view the "Don't Laugh at Me" website and revisit with the Board later.

Mrs. Wassilie commented on the Sterling Elementary Falcon newsletter for the lead article regarding bullying and what the school is doing about it. She stated that letting children know it is not acceptable is a step in the right direction. She commended Sterling Elementary for a good article on bullying. She stated that she was invited to Nikiski High School to judge a debate meet and added that she learned a lot from the experience. She stated that she was pleased to see students involved in debate competitions because such activity helps the development of good thinking and communication skills. She stated that she was impressed with the students who competed.

BOARD COMMENTS (continued):

Dr. Anderson stated that he is thrilled with the diversity and unanimity of the School Board members. He told Mr. Poindexter that he is pleased that he is an advocate for vocational education, is willing to listen to his ideas and will try to incorporate Mr. Poindexter's concerns.

Mrs. Crawford thanked Mr. Biggs for his hard work for the District in the area of technology. She stated that she enjoyed the Soldotna Elementary School report. She credited good teachers for the debate team at Nikiski High School.

Ms. Germano thanked Board members for their involvement with activities both in the District and in the various Peninsula communities. She thanked the administration and staff in the audience for their hard work for the District.

Miss Hart stated that the Soldotna Elementary report was excellent and noted that she was impressed by the students who sang. She stated that she was delighted that Seward Elementary's "Flat Stanley" was traveling into space on the shuttle.

Ms. Germano asked Board members to review the graduation sign-up sheet.

ADJOURN: At 8:55 p.m., Mr. Arness moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned.  
Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Ms. Deborah Germano, President

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Mrs. Debra Mullins, Clerk

The Minutes of April 16, 2001,  
were approved on May 7, 2001  
with corrections.