

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Borough Administration Building
Soldotna, Alaska 99669

April 7, 1997

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President
Mr. Joe Arness, Vice President
Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk
Dr. Nels Anderson, Treasurer
Mrs. Joyce Fischer, Member
Mrs. Deborah Germano, Member
Mrs. Debra Mullins, Member
Miss Megan Corazza, Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT: Mr. John Dahlgren, Associate Superintendent, Planning,
Operations, and Technology
Mr. Thomas Thorpe, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction
Mrs. Sharon Radtke, Executive Director, Personnel
Mr. Richard Swarner, Executive Director, Business Management

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Alan Boraas
Mr. Dan Gensel
Mr. Ben Ellis
Ms. Judy Leichliter
Mrs. Ann Kendall
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bird
Dr. Richard Bower
Mrs. Shana Loshbaugh
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Fiala
Mr. John Kistler
Ms. Carolyn Cannava
Mrs. Melody Douglas
Mrs. Gwen Gjovig
Mrs. Karen Kester
Mrs. Debra Horne
Mr. Wally Williams
Ms. Trena Richardson
Mr. Andrew Carmichael
Mr. Douglas Emmerich
Miss Elizabeth Hammond
Miss Shana Hall
Mr. Rik Bucy
Mr. Daniel Hakkinen
Mr. Rick Matiya
Mr. and Mrs. Dan Green
Mrs. Pam Lazenby
Mr. Dennis Dunn
Mrs. Ludy Link
Mr. Ross Kendall
Mr. John Andrews
Mrs. Cindy Romberg
Miss Ramona Beeker
Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Mrs. Gross called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mrs. Gross invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross Present
Mr. Joe Arness Present
Mrs. Susan Larned Present
Dr. Nels Anderson Present
Mrs. Joyce Fischer Present
Mrs. Deborah Germano Present
Mrs. Debra Mullins Present
Miss Megan Corazza Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved as printed.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The School Board Minutes of March 17, 1997, were approved as written.

NIKISKI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
REPORT:

Ms. Trena Richardson, Principal of Nikiski Elementary School, told the Board the Nikiski staff is caring and committed to student education. She reported on the school's goals related to improvement of instruction and technology. Staff members Douglas Emmerich, Judy Leichliter, and Ann Kendall introduced students who presented creative reports and a group recitation prepared for their classes.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. Jan Hansen, President of the SoHi Booster Club, requested the Board gather a cost analysis of all sports activities in the district before they make the decision to eliminate the hockey program. It was the organization's feeling that all activities should be reduced in a similar manner and not one or two programs singled out for elimination. He also questioned the manner in which the KPSAA survey was conducted, particularly in schools where hockey is not provided, but still had a vote against the activity.

Mr. Robert Bird, Nikiski High School Head Coach, told the Board Nikiski, Kenai, Soldotna, and Skyview High Schools were united in their opposition to the elimination of hockey in the district. He noted Seward had no hockey program, yet had an influential vote on the KPSAA survey. He reported over 600 students on the Peninsula play hockey, and he cautioned elimination of the sports activity could result in teen inactivity of these students. He noted citizenship and sportsmanship are evident in the hockey program and many hockey players are honor roll students.

Mr. Dean Glick, Coach for KPHA, told the Board that published statistics indicate that students who participate in extracurricular activities hold a 3.0 GPA, have a 3% discipline referral rate and a .5% drop out rate. He questioned why hockey was singled out for elimination and, instead, there should be across the board cuts in extracurricular activities. He also questioned the manner in which the survey was conducted where some schools do not provide hockey programs. It was his opinion elimination of hockey is a step backwards for the district.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS
(continued):

Miss Christine Romberg, Soldotna High School student, told the Board she has played hockey all four years of high school and the sport has provided her the opportunity to go to college where such activities are important. She noted hockey is a lifetime activity and gives the players confidence, rewards, and goals to reach. She felt younger players should have the same opportunities that have been made possible to her.

Mr. Alden Ford, Nikiski student, told the Board hockey is more than a sports activity. It involves citizenship and participation, particularly when players were required to clean the rink before the sport begins. In addition, players must learn speed, agility, strategy, team participation, and they are not the usual stereotype of hockey. He commented that as long as the activity is in the school he would participate.

Mr. Alan Boraas, Skyview Cross Country Ski Coach, spoke in opposition to the cuts in cross country skiing and cross country running. He noted these programs were life long sports, are gender equal, are notorious for promoting good sportsmanship and high academic standards, and are truly Alaskan sports. He also noted the sports designated for cuts were northern sports.

Mr. Nate Kiel, Kenai Central High School teacher, stated there is high interest for skating in Kenai with 30 organizations supporting a new rink there. He stated as a high school student hockey gave him self-confidence and the incentive for success in school and well as becoming a good player. After high school he coached at the high school level and went on to college to become an educator. He stated as an educator he daily sees the benefits of extracurricular activities in students.

Judge Charles Cranston told the Board he has observed the positive effects of extracurricular activities on the community's youth. He noted delinquent youths are sometimes ordered to participate in extracurricular activities, often hockey, where energy is put to good use. He felt the activities listed for reduction should be allowed to stand on their own and with the support of the students, booster clubs, and community they will succeed. He urged the Board to have a broad perspective and make the activities available to the students so they will have something to do.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS
(continued):

Mr. Jack Tika, KPHA Vice President, spoke in support of the high school hockey program. He told the Board KPHA is a volunteer program where players begin at age 5 and it is a feeder program to high school hockey. He asked that the high school program not be cut.

An unidentified middle school coach told the Board she was impressed with parent involvement in building the Skyview High ski trails. She also noted competition is friendly and not between schools but individuals. She urged that the program not be reduced.

Mr. Bill Keller, parent, told the Board his family moved to Soldotna from Fairbanks and he was impressed with the community togetherness particularly in the hockey family. He stated his children set goals for academic standards in order to participate on the hockey team. He urged the hockey program not be eliminated.

Mr. Wayne Floyd, Nikiski parent, told the Board that sports participation help focus children's minds on fair play, good citizenship, and values. He urged the Board to be proactive rather than reactive to inappropriate teen interactions. He asked the Board to review the financial situation and make it prorated across the board so all students have an opportunity to participate.

Mr. Nathan Conn, Skyview senior, told the Board that hockey involves work ethic, discipline and dedication. He stated players must practice early and on weekends, and it was an integrated team effort.

Miss Anna Train, Soldotna Middle School eighth grade student, stated she is on the school's ski team. She commented the team works hard, but also has fun together. She stated it is a healthy, co-ed sports activity which the students enjoy. She requested this sports activity not be cut.

RECESS:

At 8:30 p.m., Mrs. Gross called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:

At 8:40 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

- HEARING OF DELEGATIONS: Mr. Ben Ellis, Executive Director for the Kenai River Fishermen's Association, introduced Rik Bucy, who told the Board funds from the Kenai River Classic are used for educational support, habitat protection and research. Dr. Richard Bower, retired educator and Board of Fisheries member, commented that receiving relevant and appropriate information was important to students. They presented 30
- HEARING OF DELEGATIONS (continued): copies of the book Swimmer to Ms. Terri Carter, first grade teacher at Kalifornsky Beach Elementary School, for use in her classroom.
- COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS: Mrs. Gross acknowledged receipt of a letter from Mr. Jan Hansen related to the hockey program.
- AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS: Mrs. Gross, with the assistance of Mrs. Gwen Gjovig, presented a Plaque of Appreciation to Emily and Frank Fiala for their generous volunteer work in the local schools and community.
- REVISED ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL STUDY REPORT: Mr. Thorpe presented the revised alternative school study report. The Board had previously reviewed this document in a prior worksession. The model program addressed nineteen questions prepared by Dr. Bromenschenkel related to the topic.
- CHARTER SCHOOL COSTS: Mr. Swarner presented a report by Dr. Bromenschenkel related to finalized charter school costs. Costs for the charter schools less increased foundation revenues, reduced staffing and supply allocations from existing schools resulted in the charter schools costing \$227,759, which is \$27,759 above the \$200,000 budgeted for them. The additional \$27,759 has been reduced from the district equipment account.
- Board members Anderson and Arness felt the calculations were incomplete since the local effort was not included in the amount. Mr. Swarner responded the borough appropriation was not to be included in those calculations. In response to a question from Mrs. Germano related to impacted schools, Mr. Swarner responded that .5 teachers were eliminated from Seward Elementary, West Homer Elementary, Soldotna Middle, and Soldotna Elementary to make adjustments for the charter school enrollments.
- CO-CURRICULAR REPORT: Mr. Dahlgren reported the school board charged the KPSAA Board to develop recommendations to reduce the districtwide co-curricular budget by \$100,000. KPSAA surveyed school site councils on these reductions and the itemized lists were for high school hockey, \$55,099; high school assistant coaches for cross country running, \$8,065; high school assistant coaches for cross country skiing, \$7,207; middle school cross country running, \$8,896; middle school cross country skiing, \$2,694; 24 elementary intramural stipends, \$10,046; and state travel, \$7,993. He noted schools and booster clubs in larger high schools raise \$25,000-\$50,000 to support their teams and it was the feeling of KPSAA that
- CO-CURRICULAR REPORT (continued): parents and the community cannot be asked for more funding. He stated no money from the operational budget is spent for equipment, officials fees, supplies, uniforms, etc. The allocated funds are for coaches stipends and travel only. A listing of the survey results were provided for Board information. He noted the Board will need to take action on the report at a later date, but \$100,000 has been reduced from the 1997-98 budget.

- BOARD REPORTS: Mrs. Larned announced the art curriculum is complete and will be presented to the Board next month.
- Mrs. Fischer reported the Awards Committee met and have more deserving awards to make in the future, in addition to the one made at the meeting tonight.
- RECESS: At 9:30 p.m., Mrs. Gross called a recess.
- RECONVENE AFTER RECESS: At 9:44 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.
- CONSENT AGENDA: Items presented on the Consent Agenda included Approval of Gaming Permit, Leave of Absence Request/Certified, Resignation, 19-Day Substitute Contract, Extended Field Trip Request, and Furniture and Equipment List.
- GAMING PERMIT: Mr. Swarner recommended the Board change the Primary Member and Alternate Member in Charge for the Tustumena Elementary School to Lisa Stroh and Ethel Riley respectively, effective April 7, 1997.
- LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST/
CERTIFIED: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve an unpaid leave of absence for the 1997-98 school year for Laura Sievert, Spanish, Kenai Central High.
- RESIGNATION: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve the resignation of Marina Gantz, Russian, Skyview High, effective the end of the 1996-97 school year.
- 19-DAY SUBSTITUTE TEACHER
CONTRACT: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a contract for 19-day substitute teacher Sharon Thompson, QUEST, Chapman Elementary.
- EXTENDED FIELD TRIP REQUEST: Mr. Thorpe recommended the Board approve an extended field trip request for seven Soldotna High School students to attend the DECA Career Development Conference, April 30- May 3, 1997, in Anaheim, California.
- FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT
LIST: Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve the purchase of furniture and equipment in the amount of \$58,556.52 for West Homer Elementary School.
- ACTION Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve the Consent Agenda items #1 through #6. Mrs. Fischer seconded.
- Motion carried unanimously.
- 1997-98 BUDGET: Mr. Swarner presented the 1997-98 budget for approval. He noted it was a balanced budget and he presented a listing of items which had been previously cut from the budget.
- ACTION Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the 1997-98 budget in the amount of 82,032,622 in revenues and expenditures.
- Mr. Arness inquired about the amount for the local effort for the charter schools in revenues and increase to the account #530 for the same amount. Mr. Swarner responded the amount would be \$49,525.

ACTION Mr. Arness moved to amend the motion to include an additional \$49,525 for the charter schools. Mrs. Germano seconded.

Amendment carried unanimously.

ACTION Mr. Arness moved to amend the motion to add \$179,340 revenues for the district correspondence and expense function 4180 account #530. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Amendment carried unanimously.

ACTION Dr. Anderson moved to amend the motion to add \$41,248 which is 23% for local effort for the district correspondence program. Mr. Arness seconded.

Mr. Dahlgren cautioned the Board in adjusting the borough appropriation. He stated these funds are speculative, and the board could find itself lacking in the additional students.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

YES - Anderson, Fischer, Mullins,
NO - Arness, Germano, Larned, Gross
Advisory Vote - YES

Amendment failed.

ACTION Dr. Anderson moved to amend the motion to take \$712,941 from account #0371 and transfer it to account #0530 from wellness expenses to unallocated other expenses. Mr. Arness seconded.

1997-98 BUDGET (cont.): VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

YES - Anderson, Arness, Germano, Larned, Gross
NO - Fischer, Mullins
Advisory Vote - YES

Amendment carried.

ACTION Mr. Arness moved to amend the motion to move \$15,000 from the unallocated account #510 to the curriculum/staff development account #450 for textbooks. Mrs. Germano seconded.

Amendment carried unanimously.

RECESS: At 10:24 p.m., Mrs. Gross called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS: At 10:32 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

ACTION Mrs. Germano moved to amend the motion that Kenai Alternative and Homer Flex Schools be assigned their own categories as in prior years. Mr. Arness seconded.

Amendment carried unanimously.

Mrs. Germano requested that in the future the Board hold a worksession prior to approval of the budget. Mr. Swarner clarified that the budget as amended during the meeting would be a total budget of \$82,261,487.

VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION:

YES - Anderson, Arness, Larned, Mullins, Gross
NO - Fischer, Germano
Advisory Vote - NO

Amended motion carried.

ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS STUDY
RECOMMENDATIONS:

Mr. Thorpe presented seven recommendations from the Alternative School Study Committee related to alternative schools in the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District. The recommendations included board adoption of the model for current programs to transition into the future as time and resources allow, that the alternative programs be included as part of the current districtwide technology plan and future technology referendum efforts, and that the Seward alternative program continue as an in-house program through Seward High School. Additional recommendations were that the Homer Flex school continue as a store front program

ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS STUDY
RECOMMENDATIONS (cont.):

under the direction of the Homer High School principal and/or the Homer High School assistant principal, that the staff for the Kenai Alternative School be expanded to include a total staff of 1 FTE teaching principal, 1 FTE certified teacher and 1 FTE secretary/aide position, that a partnership steering committee be established to act in the capacity of site council guidance, and recommendations from the Alternative School Study Committee be considered in the future as the program model develops over the next two years.

Mr. Peter Burchell, Principal of the Mat-Su Alternative School, spoke to the Board on the success of the alternative program in his school district. His school is a separate facility, a former auto dealership, which serves 175 students, and has a waiting list of students. He reported the school has operated on a \$4.9 million budget over the past three years at a \$300,000 total cost to the Mat-Su School District. The major portion of their funding is from grants and other funding programs available. In addition, they work with sixty-one community agencies. He noted it is important to provide vocational skills, job skills, work ethics, and academic skills to prepare the students for advanced education or the work world. He urged the Board to consider expanding the Kenai Alternative School program and work with the community in providing the necessary education for these students.

Dr. Anderson commented the Board is wrestling with a financial problem, while interested in a way to serve this group of students. Mr. Burchell responded that money is available, however, a talented individual will need to be hired to find the necessary resources.

Mrs. Germano questioned whether different parenting support groups worked well for the school. Mr. Burchell responded they have a couple of organizations which coordinate child care/parenting programs and this works well for them. Mr. Burchell responded to questions related to age groups served, different funding sources, vocational programs offered, and administration of the program. He extended an invitation to the Board and administration to visit his school whenever possible.

ACTION Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve the Alternative Schools Study Recommendations. Dr. Anderson seconded.

ACTION Mrs. Germano moved to amend the motion to hire two half-time support people to assist in moving forward with the programs. Motion died for lack of a second.

ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS (cont.): Mr. Arness further questioned the number of students who could be accommodated at the former Kenai Elementary School. Mr. Thorpe commented approximately one hundred students could be accommodated. He also noted he felt an administrator could be in charge of both the alternative school and other similar programs. Mrs. Germano commented she felt part of the staff should be moved to the Homer Flex School to accommodate its program. Mr. Thorpe responded it would take a Peter Burchell-type of individual to make such a program work, but he felt there was need for this in the Central Peninsula area and that it would pay for itself. Mrs. Germano felt there was a chance for the Homer program to grow, however, there was not staff available to take care of the program.

ACTION Mrs. Germano moved to amend the motion to take .5 aide position from Kenai and put it in Homer. Motion died for a lack of a second.

Mrs. Fischer expressed concern regarding expansion of the program and taking a chance on getting grants for the programs. She was of the opinion that there were a lot of assumptions on receiving grants to make the program financially supporting for the number of projected students. Mrs. Gross stated it was the feeling of the committee that there is a commitment to hire a person to seek grants and attract these students to the school. In this way, the program would grow. Dr. Anderson expressed concern on the funding, but felt there shouldn't be disposable kids in the district. Mrs. Germano felt approval of the motion was saying some kids are more important than others.

VOTE:

YES - Anderson, Arness, Larned, Mullins, Gross

NO - Fischer, Germano

Advisory Vote - YES

Motion carried.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT/
KPEA/SALARY SCHEDULE: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a Memorandum of Agreement with KPEA clarifying Article 115, Initial Placement on the Salary Schedule where persons are required to have a Master's Degree because of state certification. These individuals shall be allowed to use the Master's Degree and credits for initial placement. This group of people would include psychologists and speech pathologists who, at this time, are not eligible for Alaska certification without proof of completion of the Master's Degree.

ACTION Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve the Memorandum of Agreement as outlined. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT/
KPEA/HEALTH INSURANCE CO-
PAYMENTS:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a Memorandum of Agreement with KPEA where certified employees will begin co-payments for health insurance beginning in March, 1997. The terms are the same as those previously approved for other employee groups.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the Memorandum of Agreement with KPEA for Health Insurance Co-Payments. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT/
KPAA/R-FACTOR CHANGE:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a Memorandum of Agreement with KPAA changing the date from August 1 to November 15 for administrators to notify the district of their intent to retire.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the Memorandum of Agreement with KPAA to change the R-factor date. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

1997-98 MEETING DATES:

Mr. Dahlgren presented a listing of school board, administrator, and miscellaneous meeting dates for the 1997-98 school year.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the 1997-98 meeting dates. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Dr. Anderson questioned the number of administrator meetings and their value. Mr. Dahlgren responded the meetings are informative to administrators and include valuable in-service training. Dr. Anderson also questioned whether the meetings could be conducted via teleconferences. Mrs. Germano agreed to the possibility of teleconferencing. Mr. Arness reminded the members the motion was to set the dates not to discuss the validity of the meetings.

1997-98 MEETING DATES
(continued):

VOTE:

YES - Anderson, Arness, Fischer, Larned, Mullins, Gross

NO - Germano

Advisory Vote - ABSTAIN

Motion carried.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. John Kistler, parent, stated he had followed the board's budget process for the past fourteen years, attended over 300 meetings, and this was probably the last one since his last child will be graduating this year. He urged other parents to attend school board meetings to listen and speak out on educational issues.

Mr. Dan Green, Soldotna parent, told the Board he was a hockey parent and his children were involved in other activities as well. He suggested the Board raise the fees across the board on all activities and it was his feeling that parents would not object to this. Since travel has been eliminated from the budget parents could help with these funds. He noted parents were caught by surprise with the recommendation to eliminate some activities and not fully prepared to respond to the issue. Mr. Dahlgren responded the Board will consider the KPSAA recommendation's at their April 21 meeting and the KPSAA general membership meeting will be held on April 23, where by-law changes will be considered. No other public comments to KPSAA will be heard unless the school board directs such action.

Mrs. Karen Kester, Nikiski resident, told the Board she felt the KPSAA survey was flawed because it was first given to administrators who then passed it on to coaches, and only the coaches who were present voted. If all football coaches were present and only one hockey coach was present, the score as tallied as such. The results were then given to the site based council with the direction of how the programming had been selected. No booster clubs were notified and could not present information to the site councils. She noted there would be no room for the hockey players in other activities if the program is eliminated. She requested that other alternative be researched to keep the hockey program operating. She suggested that one swimming pool could be closed to provide funds for the hockey program.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS
(continued):

Mr. Bert Fosse, told the Board that the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District provides all the life sports that are important for all ages, with the exceptions of football and wrestling. He felt part of the problem was with parents who have not contacted Juneau to change the funding cap. Additionally, he added that communities need to work together to build facilities which will serve the various sports activities and save on expenditures rather than separate and individual facilities for each school.

Mrs. Sharon Backhaus, parent, told the Board hockey and extracurricular activities help students to maintain grades which ultimately help in gaining college entrance. She noted that participation in extracurricular activities also rounds out the student's education. She felt her son would not have attended college without playing hockey. She urged the Board not to eliminate hockey from the activity program.

Mr. Andrew Carmichael, Central Peninsula Sports Center Director, told the Board that hockey gives students quality time with their team mates as well developing the life sports activity. He also noted that hockey activities generate a large portion of sales taxes for the local communities and as everyone works together they develop a community family atmosphere. On question from Dr. Anderson related to local contributions, Mr. Carmichael stated the City of Soldotna subsidizes the sports center at \$120,000 annually, the building originally cost \$8 million with state grants, and substantial replacements costs have been made with community investments. He noted by the attendance of community members, there is large community support for the activity.

Mr. Steven Heister, General Manager of Hell Fighters, told the Board that four feeder schools serve the local area, they hire local coaches, and work with students to develop hockey skills. He noted the program offers opportunities for students to develop their skills and sometimes there may be a "diamond in the rough". He noted they were happy to be here.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS
(continued):

Mr. Tom Rayner, Kenai parent, noted that the community is involved in activities on a volunteer basis to keep activities going. He noted this had been sprung on the community and asked that the community be given an opportunity to come with up ideas to retain the activities. Mr. Arness told the audience that KPSAA had no idea who completed the surveys the first time, and a second time the surveys were sent to the site councils. If they were not completed by the site councils, it was a school problem and KPSAA accepted the results as the results from the site councils. He explained that KPSAA had been directed by the school board to reduce \$100,000 from the budget and this was their method of seeking input for reductions.

Mrs. Mary Green, Soldotna parent, told the Board that parents would be willing to pay more for their students to participate in hockey. She also noted it was not fair or ethical that cuts were not made across the board cuts instead of singling out one sport. She noted that her family spends quality time in hockey activities and she was of the feeling that the booster clubs could raise more money to keep hockey going.

Mrs. Ludy Link, Soldotna parent, questioned the method used to prioritize the sports activities. As a teacher, she noted it was difficult to prioritize the listing and they were uncertain how the individual results were tabulated. She stated the staff was uncomfortable about making those choices.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mrs. Fischer commented she was appreciative of the parents who stayed to speak to the Board and noted she has been supportive of co-curricular programs. She noted it would be nice if parents would show similar spirit and enthusiasm for the academic programs as well. She also noted she enjoyed the Nikiski Elementary School Report.

Mrs. Deborah Germano expressed appreciation to all the people who worked through the budget process and the parent participation at the meeting. She also extended congratulations to Michael Hart of Soldotna Middle School who won the State Geography Bee.

Dr. Anderson told the audience that KPSAA did their job as intended. He noted if there was an error in reasoning that it was that fees can't be increased any higher. He noted that parents already spend a great deal of time and money transporting and housing their students for games. He also noted there was merit in consolidating playing fields and areas for sports activities.

BOARD COMMENTS (cont.):

Miss Corazza expressed appreciation to KPSAA for sending the survey to the site councils. She also expressed disappointment with cutting cross country skiing at the middle school level.

Mrs. Mullins commented that she had attended the last administrators meeting and found it very informative and of value to the administrators. She noted the agendas might not look inviting, but neither do some of the school board agendas.

Mrs. Larned stated she was sorry the Homer program was not expanded, but was optimistic that the Kenai Alternative School Program would grow and go in the right direction.

ACTION

Mr. Arness served notice for reconsideration of the Alternative School Program at the next meeting.

Mr. Arness told the audience that the KPSAA Board is a very supportive group of co-curricular activities and they would have liked a different alternative than the one presented.

Mrs. Gross expressed appreciation to the KPSAA Board for their work. She stated the Board did need to make reductions and many ways had been considered to make those reductions. She noted \$6 million has been cut in three years. She also noted that not all parents have money to spend on additional fees for their children.

ADJOURN:

At 12:45 a.m., Mr. Arness moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President

Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

The Minutes of April 17, 1997,
were approved on April 21, 1997,
as written.