

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

April 21, 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: Dr. Walter Bromenschenkel, Superintendent
Mr. John Dahlgren, Associate Superintendent, Planning,
Operations and Technology
Mr. Thomas Thorpe, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Mark Norgren Mr. Dan Gensel
Ms. Sylvia Reynolds Mr. Al Howard
Mrs. Cyndi Romberg Mr. Mick Wykis
Mrs. Erin Lockwood Mr. Hal Smalley
Mrs. Karen Mahurin Mrs. Joanne Lillevik
Mrs. Robin Nyce Mr. Don Heckert
Mr. and Mrs. Dan Green Mr. Clark Whitney
Ms. Pam Furlong Mr. Robert Bird
Mrs. Diane Borgman Mrs. Vickie Leach
Mrs. Anne Bayes Mrs. Barbara Dahl
Mrs. Angela McKinney Mr. Sam Bushon
Mrs. Karen Kester Mr. Rich Redmond
Mrs. Margaret Seelye Mrs. Shana Loshbaugh
Mr. Daniel Hakkinen Mr. Dennis Dunn
Mr. Todd Syverson Dr. Richard McCartin
Mr. Mike Wiley Mr. Andrew Carmichael
Mrs. Patty Sirois Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Mrs. Gross called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mrs. Gross invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance. Ruben Boudreaux, representing Soldotna High, sang the National Anthem.

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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The School Board Minutes of April 7, 1997, were approved as written.

SOLDOTNA HIGH SCHOOL
REPORT:

Ms. Sylvia Reynolds, Principal of Soldotna High School, staff members, and students reported on goals and activities at their school. The Swing Choir performed two numbers, and Terry Thompson read her winning Voice of Democracy speech. Students who managed the Peninsula Sports Center concession stand served refreshments.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Ms. Diane Grieben, retiring Homer Flex School teacher, told the Board that this alternative school needs a principal/teacher who will be responsible for that school only and be part of the dialog with the district. She suggested savings could be made if the Homer Intermediate School facility would house their school, and a new, lesser salaried teacher be hired. She noted many more students could be served in a new facility with reorganized administration.

Mrs. Anne Bayes, Anchor Point parent, expressed concern that Chapman Elementary School would be losing staff next year. She asked that the Board consider a review of the staffing formula for this type of school, and that the Board find a way to add the full-time teacher to their staff.

Mr. Alan Boraas, Skyview ski team coach, told the Board he represented a large contingent of skiers, staff and parents. He commented he has developed a model program which includes academic excellence, is gender equitable, operates on sportsmanship, participation and excellence, is a lifelong athletic activity and is an Alaskan sport. He asked that the Board not cut cross country skiing and cross-country running from the junior high curriculum.

Mrs. Denise Kneebold, Soldotna parent, urged the Board not to cut cross-country running and cross-country skiing for students. She noted these are endurance sports requiring student self-discipline and obligation. She noted if the program is eliminated at the middle school level, it would be killing the high school program because there would be no preparation at the middle school level.

Mrs. Susan Bailey, Homer parent, told the Board she opposes the reduction of staff at McNeil Canyon Elementary School. She noted staff reductions are drastic on small schools as class sizes increase. She also noted that entering Russian students require a large amount of a teacher's time when

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS
(continued):

they enter school; thus other students are not given the attention they need. She felt that due to the small size of the school, McNeil Canyon Elementary School has taken a disproportionate proportion of cuts in the past, and asked the Board to consider these issues.

Mrs. Barbara Dahl, Chapman Elementary PTA President, stated parents were disappointed to learn of the staffing reduction to their school for next year. She questioned how the staffing calculations for Chapman Elementary were made this year. She also commented that in reviewing next year's budget it appears elementary schools will lose teachers and high schools gain teachers.

Mr. Al Poindexter, Anchor Point parent, asked the Board to review the Chapman Elementary staffing formula. He noted the school would be losing its music teacher. When students enter Homer High School without music instruction they are ineligible to participate in the high school band. He also felt Anchor Point students would lose out on physical education time, computer time, etc.

Ms. Cindy Gertson, Homer Flex School student, felt that if the school had a principal/teacher, they would have more access to the high school for sports and other activities. She felt this was important to students.

HEARING OF DELEGATIONS:

Mrs. Margaret Ringer, McNeil Canyon Community Council parent group representative, expressed concern related to reduced staffing of a half-time specialist and a half-time teacher next year. They were concerned that classes would become larger and they would lose a physical education teacher and librarian. She noted parents are needed to assist teachers and raise funds for the school. She presented a petition to the Board, signed by approximately 100 residents, requesting the school board reconsider cutting another full-time teacher position.

Mr. Don Heckert, Homer Flex School representative, told the Board about the successful Job Training Program at their school. He noted the JTPA Program has generated \$500,000 to the school over the past five years, and has funded 12 student training programs on a matching basis with private industry this past year. In addition, they have run a private SAVE Program for students who are unable to attend regular school. He also recommended that the Board consider a principal/teacher for the alternative school as recommended by the Alternative Study Committee. He felt

HEARING OF DELEGATIONS
(continued):

this person could give the school the needed attention and leadership it deserves. It was his feeling there is a student base which a principal/teacher could assist in seeking an educational program and enrollment in the school.

RECESS:

At 8:32 p.m., Mrs. Gross called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:

At 8:48 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

COMMUNICATIONS AND
PETITIONS:

Mrs. Gross acknowledged receipt of a letter from Ms. Renee Henderson requesting the Board to consider additional money on the technology bond for the auditoriums and their equipment. She also noted receipt of letters from students participating in hockey.

CHAPMAN ELEMENTARY PTA:

Mrs. Angela McKinney, Chapman Elementary PTA representative, commented the projected enrollment for next year is 245 students, an increase of one student, yet staffing has been reduced. She noted the teacher is the music instructor and teaches 7-8 grade electives. She noted this reduction would not allow students entering Homer High School from Chapman School to be eligible for band at the high school. Also, electives for 7th and 8th grades would be eliminated. She noted several scenarios for the 7th and 8th grades have been developed; however, none appear satisfactory to provide an adequate educational program for students.

McNEIL CANYON ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVES:

Mrs. Ellen Valleroy, Homer parent, asked the Board to reconsider the full-time proposed cut in staffing at McNeil Canyon Elementary School. She noted that the projected enrollment was for 12 less students which she did not feel constituted a full-time cut. She also requested that the Board support the Educational Endowment which would help educational funding in the future.

Mrs. Ann Oberlitner, Homer parent, told the Board she felt the reduction of a full-time teaching position at McNeil Canyon School would have profound effects upon students at that school. She requested a half-time position be reinstated next year. She also noted teachers have taken on heavier teaching loads in recent years and volunteers assist wherever possible. She observed that a growing population of Russian speaking students take more teacher time.

McNEIL CANYON ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVES
(continued):

Mrs. Robin Warren, Homer parent, commented that McNeil Canyon teachers are very dedicated teachers, particularly the kindergarten teacher who works beyond her time allocation. She noted that Russian speaking students require additional teacher time where other students are not receiving teacher attention. She requested a half-time teacher position be reinstated at McNeil Canyon School.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Bromenschenkel extended congratulations to state championship wrestling teams, a volleyball championship team, and individual wrestling champions. He noted this spoke well for the activities program, parents, students, and coaches working together.

He apprised the Board of the Education Endowment which could fund future educational funding. He noted a coalition is being formed by the Governor's Office to include the Association of Alaska School Boards, State PTA, Alaska Association of School Administrators, and NEA-Alaska to work on the Education Endowment. He felt it was significant that these groups were working together. He noted approximately 27,000 signatures would be needed to get this item on the ballot for voter approval. The funding would be from the Permanent Fund, and, as interest grows on the endowment, revenues would be available for educational funding. Dr. Bromenschenkel will head the project for the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District with principals receiving information on Wednesday, April 23.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Dr. Bromenschenkel presented the financial report of the district for the period ending March 31, 1997.

BUDGET TRANSFERS REPORT:

Dr. Bromenschenkel reported on budget transfers #302 through #438 for various schools and departments in the district.

BOARD REPORT:

Mrs. Gross reported she and Mr. Dahlgren attended the AASB Legislative Fly-In last week. She commented they spoke with the district's legislative delegation, but it did not appear additional funding for education would be forthcoming this year. She noted that discussion related to the Education Endowment was more hopeful for future funding.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were: Approval of Furniture and Equipment List, Leave of Absence Requests/ Support, Resignations, Substitute Teacher Contracts, and Extended Field Trip Request.

FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT
LIST:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve purchase of furniture and equipment for West Homer Elementary in the amount of \$37,819.35.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTS/
SUPPORT:

By memorandum, Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve unpaid leave of absence requests for Janet Hudson, Custodian, Kenai Middle/North Star Elementary School, effective the 1997-98 school year; and Paula Cripe, Special Education Assistant, Seward Elementary, effective the remainder of the 1996-97 school year.

RESIGNATIONS:

By memorandum, Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve resignations effective the end of the 1996-97 school year for Jahna Pollock, Special Education/Resource, Skyview High; and Beth Rice, Language Arts, Soldotna Middle.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER
CONTRACTS:

By memorandum, Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve contracts for 19-day substitute teachers Greg Zorbas, Vocational Education, Skyview High; and Anne Moen, Counselor, Skyview High.

EXTENDED FIELD TRIP REQUEST:

Mr. Thorpe recommended the Board approve an extended field trip request for two Homer High School students to attend the Illinois Institute of Technology International Bridge Building Contest in Chicago, Illinois, May 1-4, 1997.

ACTION

VOTE:

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

NO - Fischer

Advisory Vote - YES

Motion carried.

RECONSIDERATION OF
ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL STUDY
RECOMMENDATION:

Mr. Arness moved the Board reconsider their action on the Alternative School Study Recommendation. Mrs. Larned seconded.

ACTION

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Arness noted the Board had received additional information on this topic. Dr. Anderson commented he felt the Board should have further discussion on the topic.

ACTION

Mrs. Fischer moved the Board postpone action and hold a worksession on this at the next meeting. Dr. Anderson seconded.

RECONSIDERATION OF
ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL STUDY
RECOMMENDATION:

VOTE TO POSTPONE:

ACTION (continued)

YES - Anderson, Fischer, Germano, Larned, Gross

NO - Arness, Mullins

Advisory Vote - YES

Motion to postpone carried.

CALVERT CORRESPONDENCE
PROGRAM:

Mr. Thorpe recommended the Board approve the use of the Calvert Correspondence Program in the district. It was proposed that the Calvert K-8 Correspondence Program be adopted as a pilot study for the 1997-98 and 1998-99 school year and be reviewed in the Spring of 1999, that students must be enrolled in the program prior to the October student enrollment count, and that students must remain enrolled in the program for the entire school year and participate in regular districtwide assessment.

ACTION

Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve the Calvert Correspondence Program. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Miss Corazza inquired whether a student could take two years of classes in one year through the Calvert Program. Dr. Bromenschenkel responded the Calvert Program is a rigid program with testing as students progress. He noted rules of the Calvert Program would be followed by the district.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved to amend the motion to include in Item B, "will be closed on October 1."; with the addition of, "Exceptions may be allowed with administrative approval."; and Item C, "The program will be presented as is with no additions by the district without school board approval." Mrs. Germano seconded.

Amendment carried unanimously.

Amended motion carried unanimously.

REVISED SCIENCE CURRICULUM:

Mr. Thorpe recommended the Board approve the science curriculum as reviewed in the worksession with the school board on April 7. The revised curriculum reflects current practices in the field of science and is developed on a standards based format.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve the science curriculum. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT
PROJECTS LISTS/

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve a listing of 12 capital projects in the total amount of \$1.5 million to be forwarded to the Borough Assembly for funding in their FY 98 budget. The projects were for Seward High School pool renovation design phase, Redoubt Elementary bus turnaround, KCHS reroofing, Soldotna High reroofing, Kenai Central High recarpeting, Area-wide basketball backboard safety straps, Homer High pool pump replacement, Soldotna Elementary heaters replacement, Paul Banks Elementary recarpeting, Seward High School playfield construction, Redoubt Elementary playfield construction, and Kenai Central High chemical lab remodel.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the capital projects list. Mrs. Germano seconded.

Dr. Anderson questioned whether the projects were part of the budget as in-kind services. Mr. Dahlgren stated the listing is for capital projects and separate from any in-kind services. He clarified this was not part of the maintenance budget. Mr. Dahlgren further explained projects for Seward and the needed safety straps for basketball backboards. Dr. Anderson commented he would like to explore the possibility that the Borough Assembly fund outside the cap rather than funding for total construction projects. Mr. Dahlgren commented there would be only \$150,000-\$200,000 left for funding outside the cap. Miss Corazza questioned whether the Ninilchik parking lot had been considered. Mr. Dahlgren responded this was being reviewed with construction of the new wing.

VOTE:

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

Motion carried.

CO-CURRICULAR BUDGET CUTS
AND REDUCTIONS:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve recommendations from the KPSAA Board to reduce the co-curricular budget by \$100,000 by reducing the following programs: eliminate high school hockey (\$55,099), reduce high school cross country running (\$8,065), reduce high school cross-country skiing (\$7,207), eliminate middle school cross-country running (\$8,8896), eliminate middle school cross-country skiing (\$2,694), reduce elementary intramural stipends (\$10,046), and reduce state travel (\$7,993).

CO-CURRICULAR BUDGET CUTS
AND REDUCTIONS (continued):

Ms. Cyndi Romberg, representative for a group of hockey parents and boosters, addressed the Board on their concerns related to eliminating the hockey program. She called attention to inaccuracies in the survey conducted by the KPSAA Board. She noted some SBDM committees did not reflect the recommendations of the staff and, likewise, were not submitted as recorded by the committee. She suggested there be an across the board cut and those programs with support will stand on their own. Additionally, she noted that USA Hockey and High School Federation rules prohibit play between teams of the two different governing bodies so KPHA could not outsource hockey. She commented that other sports maintenance is not included in the sports activity budget but under the borough maintenance budget; thus, true costs for other sports activities are not reported accurately. She felt parents were willing to pay increased fees if necessary, and would make choices to continue playing hockey. Additionally, she noted there were ways to reduce costs such as consolidating playing fields, practice fields, swimming programs, etc. Lastly, she stated the issue was not about saving any particular sport, but was that of saving kids and giving them as many ways as possible to participate in generally agreed upon co-curricular activities. She felt the Board should not arbitrarily decide which kids were worth it and which are not by eliminating activities. She used a comparison of students with like attributes but different interests in sports activities, and inquired why one should be favored over another because of sports activity preferences.

Mr. Robert Bird, Nikiski hockey coach, told the Board if they cut hockey they would build long-lasting resentment and distrust. He stated parents feel resentment when favorites are played. He cited examples of programs and geographic locations where funding is made and where resentment could result if hockey is cut. He felt all sports and geographic locations should equally share the burden.

Mrs. Robin Nyce, Kenai Parent, asked the Board to make a decision on what is best for kids. She noted that involvement in extracurricular activities is important to round out each student, and she spoke in support of middle school cross-country skiing and running which directly affect her children. She felt these were very cost effective and life long activities and that all children should be allowed these opportunities. She predicted soccer will gain importance in the future.

CO-CURRICULAR BUDGET CUTS
AND REDUCTIONS (continued):

Miss Anna Floyd, Nikiski Middle School student, told the Board if middle school activities are cut, it would affect the feeder programs to the high school. She stated some of the results will be lower grades, increased drug abuse, and unhappy students. She noted that in cross-country running and skiing all students are part of the team and no students are left. She also noted these activities are inexpensive and help build self-esteem of students. She suggested that all sports be cut equally and funds be made up by the booster clubs.

Mrs. Margaret Seelye, Homer parent, spoke to the issue of cutting assistant coaches, and felt this was inequitable in view of the number of participants. She felt it would only be fair if all activities were cut across the board. She requested the school board act responsibly on numbers of students interested in sports and not on seniority of activities.

Miss Ailis Vann, Soldotna Middle School student, stated she was a member of the school cross-country ski team and that cross-country skiing and running keep students healthy and active in after school activities. She noted in this activity she is competing against herself, not other individuals. She noted if the activity is cut at the middle school level, she would be disappointed if unable to compete at the high school level.

Miss Katie Lockwood, Soldotna Middle School student participating in cross-country running and skiing programs, told the Board her skills have grown on the team from encouragement of the coaches, parents and other team members. She noted these activities are gender equal, activities to make new friends, and develop camaraderie with other schools.

Mr. Wayne Floyd, Nikiski, stated he is a parent volunteer and these activities are one of the few that involve families in all aspects of the sport. He noted he is amazed at the camaraderie between schools and the spirit of helping each other and other teams. He noted it is important to have these activities because it encourages all students, not limiting students like team sports do.

CO-CURRICULAR BUDGET CUTS
AND REDUCTIONS (continued):

Mr. Al Poindexter, Anchor Point parent, told the Board he coached for over twenty years, and there was a noticeable increase in team participation when junior high programs were instituted. He encouraged that these activities not be eliminated where students can use their skills. He suggested the Board consider other options such as holding competitions on weekends, thus saving money for substitutes and possibly travel. He felt sports activities would stand on their own where interest exists.

Mr. Nate Lockwood, Skyview High School student, commented the middle school ski program prepares students for the high school program. He stated the sport is equal among boys and girls, is a good opportunity to make friends and all members are important to the team. He also noted that in addition to team sportsmanship, where differences are appreciated, it also develops into a lifelong activity.

Miss Patricia Fellman, Skyview student involved in cross- country skiing, spoke on the need for assistant coaches who are valued in helping a large number of students to participate. She noted that no students are eliminated from the program, thus the need for the assistant coaches as well as volunteers to help. She felt the middle school program was a great help for students' training and deciding on activities which are of interest to them.

Miss Lindsay Holden, Skyview student, stated she was a member of the ski team and it is an activity she really enjoyed. She commented that younger students are looking forward to this activity when they reach the middle school level, but would be disappointed if it is not available.

Mr. Quincy Bird, Nikiski 8th grade student, commented he has always looked forward to playing high school hockey. He added he and his friends are disappointed they might not get the opportunity to play on a high school hockey team and unable to compete on a college hockey team later.

Mr. Clark Whitney, Soldotna Middle School cross-country running and skiing coach, told the Board 30 to 50 students participate in these activities, where no students are eliminated. He noted these sports are cost effective with no equipment purchased by the district and no playing field expenses required. These sports are supported by volunteers, and are healthy, life long activities. He stated that the message should not be that the most cost effective sports are cut.

CO-CURRICULAR BUDGET CUTS
AND REDUCTIONS (continued):

Mr. Jay Hakkinen, Skyview High School graduate, told the Board he is training for the Olympic Team, and was concerned that the excellent trails at Skyview High School might suffer from elimination of cross-country running and skiing. He noted the public, as well as schools, use the Skyview trails which are valued at \$1 million while at no cost to the borough. He was of the opinion the cuts would affect the public as well as schools.

Mr. Brian Gabriel, Kenai Middle School student, stated that high school hockey has been a family tradition, with his grandfather being a hockey coach and his father a hockey player. He noted he has looked forward to playing high school hockey which has now become a tradition, and he would not want to see this lost. He also commented on the important skills achieved in the sport.

Miss Sarah Lamb, Skyview student, spoke on the importance of participation in cross-country activities at the junior high level in determining which sports students will select in high school. She noted this experience is necessary and builds skills and confidence in the students. She felt a different attitude exists in students in these activities towards other students and their teams.

Mrs. Dorothy Denison, Soldotna parent, commented she was pleased to hear comments from Skyview students speaking about helping other students regardless of their ability. She stated she is the parent of a developmentally delayed student, who is unable to participate in a team sport like basketball. She noted the ski team accepted him as one of the players and he is part of the team. She noted his participation started at the middle school level and really saved him at that level. The transition to the high school has been smooth which she attributes to the junior high school ski team.

Mr. Jordan Dehlbom, Skyview student, told the Board that skiing not only provides friendship and self-confidence, but the team is respected throughout the state. He noted players make sure they always clean up after themselves which is respected. He commented they are allowed to stay at places where other teams are not. Coaches teach the importance of attitude and team spirit in the sport.

Miss Marissa Matarrese, Skyview student, commented she has tried out for various activities, but in skiing and running she gained a positive, sportsmanship attitude at the junior high school level. She felt these activities should not be taken away from the younger students.

CO-CURRICULAR BUDGET CUTS
AND REDUCTIONS (continued):

Mr. Galen Holt, Soldotna High student, told the Board he was a member of the school's ski team, and the sport is a growing sport. He expressed concern that if the junior high program would be cut, this would deprive those students of an important lifelong sport.

Mr. David Baxter, Skyview graduate and KPC student, stated he volunteers for the cross-country ski and running teams. He felt the programs were very positive in teaching self-esteem, it includes honorable competition, and is a lifelong sport to teach values to young people.

Miss Stephanie Kind, Ninilchik teacher, told the Board that as a student, she tried out for several sports from which she was cut, but in cross-country skiing she was accepted. She stated she became a state champion through involvement in this sport. She added that at the junior high level self-esteem is very important, and cross-country skiing helps in developing the students and preparing them for this which becomes a lifelong Alaskan sport.

Mr. Jan Hanson, Sterling parent, commented that he had asked the Board at the last meeting to get true costs of sports activities in the district. He noted this had not been discussed, and if true costs for cross-country skiing and cross-country running had been considered, those players, coaches and parents would not need to be in attendance at the meeting. He noted the sacred cows with the round ball and the oblong ball should be considered instead. He reiterated that real costs should be considered before cuts are made. He noted that kids and fairness are the issue.

Mrs. Karen Kester, Nikiski parent, noted that dollars are the issue and she was unsure that Board members had all the information needed. She questioned the practice in the distribution of 30 funds for school activities. She noted that funds raised by booster clubs for hockey are not always used for that specific sport, and, instead, are used to cover deficits in other activities as determined by the school principal. She noted that because she and other parents raise more than adequate funds for hockey, they do it to guarantee a spot in hockey for their children.

Mr. Mario Bird, Nikiski High freshman, stated that feeder programs were needed for the high school programs to succeed. He felt fortunate to have this training, and was aware that younger students look forward to the same training.

CO-CURRICULAR BUDGET CUTS
AND REDUCTIONS (continued):

Mr. Sid Maurer, Kenai Middle School ski coach, told the Board he has worked with the ski program since it began a few years ago and it has grown through the years. He noted that in addition to offering students new opportunities, this program is community based. He noted students gain skills throughout the year as well as gain self-confidence and sportsmanship. He commented the Kenai trail system utilizes the golf course in Kenai, making it community-based. He requested funding for the program be sought elsewhere.

Mrs. Vickie Leach, Soldotna parent, told the Board her children participate in many sports, and she was pleased it was considered co-curricular rather than extra-curricular. She felt it was unnecessary to pit different activities against each other, and the Board needed to consider what was best for the kids. She noted that kids who are busy in activities are not likely to be involved with drugs and alcohol, and if the activities are cut, the alternative schools will probably be filled quickly.

Mr. Bill Holt, Soldotna parent, noted that skiing is a growing activity on the Peninsula. He stated the Skyview trails have continually grown, and the City of Soldotna has approved a trails system because of the interest in the community. Trail systems also exist in Nikiski, Kenai and Homer for community use. He felt cross-country skiing is broad-based which could eventually involve elementary schools. He encouraged that these activities continue.

RECESS:

At 11:00 p.m., Mrs. Gross called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:

At 11:17 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

ACTION

Mrs. Germano moved the Board approve the co-curricular reductions. Mrs. Larned seconded.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved to amend the motion to leave the \$100,000 cut to be in travel only, and request that the Borough Assembly fund the district fully for extracurricular outside the cap. Mrs. Germano seconded.

Dr. Anderson clarified that the cut would be across the board and prorated at both middle and high school levels.

CO-CURRICULAR BUDGET CUTS
AND REDUCTIONS:
ACTION (continued)

Mr. Arness spoke in opposition to the amendment. He noted the KPSAA Board had discussed this issue, and although it sounded nice, the only things paid are coaches' stipends and travel. It would be difficult to adjust these. Coaches' stipends cannot be reduced because these amounts are set, and requests have been made previously not to cut travel, otherwise, administrators would become fund raisers. Reductions would reduce travel by 50%, and the travel amount would be borne by the district's five to six high schools. In response to a question from Mrs. Germano related to the number of coaches, Mr. Arness responded that coaches are allocated according to need of safety for students. Miss Corazza felt travel cuts would be better at the middle school rather than high school, and middle school activities could be partial/whole intramurals.

Dr. Anderson suggested that possibly additional money could be requested from the Borough Assembly. Dr. Bromenschenkel commented the Borough Assembly already had the school district budget and request for additional funding outside the cap. He was unsure the Borough Assembly would consider an additional request since their agenda has been set. Mrs. Fischer stated she would abstain from the vote due to a conflict of interest.

VOTE:

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

Amendment failed.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved to amend the motion to transfer \$100,000 from the unallocated equipment into co-curricular activities with those cuts being made in the various travel accounts; and the Board's request to the Borough Assembly be increased to \$1,385,245 to reflect the entire co-curricular program. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Mr. Arness explained this would fund all co-curricular activities including second coaches for running and skiing, and will generate \$60,000 which is currently as a transfer which could be used for the alternative program administrator.

CO-CURRICULAR BUDGET CUTS
AND REDUCTIONS:
ACTION (continued)

Dr. Anderson commented he had problems raiding the equipment account. Mrs. Germano stated she was concerned related to needed teachers, and the Board needed to look at their priorities. Mrs. Mullins asked for an accounting in the unallocated account. Dr. Bromenschenkel noted there would be approximately \$204,000 remaining in the unallocated account and they were getting dangerously close and would be unable to respond to emergency situations. He reminded the Board they could expect requests for additional teachers, equipment, textbooks and other items.

Dr. Anderson requested the Board divide the question. Mr. Arness was in agreement with this for his motion.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved to table the first part of the question. Motion died for lack of a second.

Mrs. Mullins stated she had problems taking money for books and other items for activities, and this is not what the parents, coaches and students were asking. They were asking for a fair spread of money for all activities throughout the district. She did not favor a transfer from the unallocated account, but she had no problem going to the Borough Assembly to fund co-curricular activities. She noted the Juneau Borough does this with a tax designated for this purpose.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT FOR \$100,000 TRANSFER FROM UNALLOCATED:

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

Amendment carried.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT TO REQUEST THE ASSEMBLY FOR \$1,385,345:

Amendment carried unanimously.

Amended motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Bromenschenkel called the Board's attention to the fact that the amended motion included the KPSAA Board recommendations along with amendments.

RECESS:

At 12:01 a.m., Mrs. Gross called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:

At 12:08 a.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

CO-CURRICULAR BUDGET CUTS
AND REDUCTIONS (continued):
ACTION

Mr. Arness served notice for immediate reconsideration. Mrs. Germano seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved to amend the motion to remove the section relating to the proposed reductions and elimination in the co-curricular program as recommended, and section 2 and section 3 added by amendment would become section 1 and section 2. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Amendment carried unanimously.

Reconsidered amended motion carried unanimously.

TECHNOLOGY BOND ISSUE:

Dr. Bromenschenkel recommended the Board authorize the administration to forward a request to the Borough Assembly to approve a technology bond referendum in the amount of \$3,373,915. He reported on the progress of the technology program since 1992 when instructional technology was identified as one of the ten strategies for the school district. If approved by the Borough Assembly, the technology referendum would be placed on the October 7, 1997, ballot for voter consideration. The Board conducted a worksession on the technology bond issue at their April 7, 1997, meeting.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the proposed recommendation to the Borough Assembly for the technology bond issue. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Mr. Arness stated he had commented at the worksession that the public would probably not support this bond issue. He added he had attempted to apprise himself on what the proposal does, but he was uncertain about parts of it. Mrs. Germano questioned whether this could be addressed in May and still be placed on the ballot. Dr. Bromenschenkel responded the Borough Assembly is required to approve a bond referendum 75 days prior to the election, and the calendar is relatively tight. He noted the bond referendum has been reduced since the first discussion on the issue, and a large group of people have considered a plan which was ultimately adopted by the school board. Since then, each school has developed specific school technology plans for their school. It was his belief that students need access to contemporary technology if they expect to have skills to appropriately compete in a job market requiring such skills among every employee. He encouraged the Board to give the public an opportunity to say "yes" or "no" to the issue.

TECHNOLOGY BOND ISSUE:
ACTION (continued)

Mrs. Germano expressed concern that schools would be doing their own plans. She was concerned there were different formats being considered, and the staffs should be better educated on the issue. Additionally, she stated the "What Next" idea needed to be considered. Dr. Anderson stated there was concern about a portion of money going into immediate purchases and saving some for future purchases. He felt there was a problem with different technologies given to elementary and secondary schools with no upgrades in the future. However, he did not want the issue to die because of objections to portions of the technology for elementary schools.

Mr. Arness also noted the charter schools were given library systems, but had no libraries. He felt the Board's credibility was on the line. He also expressed concern about the number of computers in elementary classrooms. He suggested a phase-purchase for computers.

Mrs. Germano stated she was too tired to consider the issue at the late hour.

ACTION

Mrs. Germano moved to postpone the motion until the May 5 meeting and schedule a worksession prior to the meeting on this topic. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion to postpone carried unanimously.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. Burt Fosse thanked the Board for their consideration of the co-curricular activities and he assured the Board they would attend the Borough Assembly meeting the next evening. He pointed out that since other boroughs fund co-curricular activities, it might be time for the school district to consider this. He noted Soldotna High School applied for the hockey tournaments 1998-99-00. This was originally voted down, but there is still the possibility the tournaments could be held in Soldotna. He also told the Board that state wrestling championships were awarded to Skyview High and Nikiski High schools, and individual champions were from Soldotna.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mr. Arness reported that the Nikiski Girls Volleyball Team had a 4.0 GPA average. Also, other teams were congratulated on their academic standings.

BOARD COMMENTS (continued):

Mrs. Larned requested the Board schedule a worksession with the Soldotna High School principal related to successful pilot programs taking place at that school.

She congratulated all sports players who have done so well this year.

ACTION

Mrs. Larned served notice for reconsideration on the capital projects lists at the May 5 meeting.

Mrs. Mullins asked for a clarification on the 30 accounts and why funds are not allowed to be carried over to the next year. Mr. Dahlgren responded each activity has its own 30 account and funds remain there, but gate receipts are placed into one account which can be used for activities which have deficits due to low gate receipts.

Miss Corazza commented she was concerned about the number of students who receive "easy A's". She noted this is indicative by the number of valedictorians in graduating classes. She noted there used to be one, and now there are four or five in some schools. She felt there should be better standards in the classroom.

Dr. Anderson commented he had witnessed a Norman Rockwell painting with democracy in action as different people spoke at the meeting. He was pleased to hear from students, teachers and parents.

He extended congratulations to Neldon Gardner on being the Coach of the Year, and to the Seward Girls' on their championship.

Mrs. Germano expressed concern that schools might be spending their equipment money on technology while the Board is considering a bond referendum for the same purpose. She felt other needed equipment should be purchased from these funds.

Mrs. Fischer announced that while she was attending the meeting tonight she became grandmother of her twelfth grandchild, and, also, as the early morning hours appeared, it became her fortieth wedding anniversary day. Congratulations were extended for both special occasions.

Mrs. Fischer requested an excused absence from the May 5 meeting due to family member graduation ceremonies.

BOARD COMMENTS (continued):

Mrs. Gross noted several school board members would be unable to attend the June 7 goal setting session. She asked that this be discussed at the next meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 12:40 a.m., Mr. Arness 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. Mrs. Germano seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 1:10 a.m., Mr. Arness moved the executive session be adjourned. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN:

At 1:11 a.m., Mrs. Germano moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mr. Arness seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President

Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

The Minutes of April 21, 1997,
were approved on May 5, 1997,
with corrections.