

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
Seward High School Auditorium  
Seward, Alaska 99664

May 5, 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  
Mrs. Sharon Radtke, Executive Director, Personnel  
Mr. Richard Swarner, Executive Director, Business Management

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Hal Smalley	Mr. Lawrence Colston
Mrs. Karen Mahurin	Ms. Terri Woodward
Mr. Robert Boyle	Mrs. Shirlene Andrus
Mr. Wally Williams	Mr. Don Oberg
Mr. Malcolm Fleming	Mrs. Shana Loshbaugh
Mrs. Connie Jung	Mr. Ron Drathman
Mr. Drew Scalzi	Mr. Mike Wiley
Mr. Dave Dieckgraeff	Mr. Pat Dye
Mr. Eric Fry	Mrs. Mayme Ohnemus
Mrs. Mary Warren	Mrs. Sharon Inman
Mrs. Liesl Davenport-Wheeler	Mr. Roger Kane
Mr. James Bartman	Mr. Seth Adams
Mrs. Angela McKinney	Mrs. Barbara Dahl
Others present not identified.	

CALL TO ORDER:

Mrs. Gross called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mrs. Gross invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance. The Seward High School Choir sang the National Anthem for the Board and audience.

ROLL CALL:

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The agenda was approved as printed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The School Board Minutes of April 21, 1997, were approved with corrections.

SEWARD JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL  
REPORT:

Mr. Malcolm Fleming, Principal of Seward High School, reported on student events and activities occurring at his school. Teacher James Bartman and Seth Adams, senior, presented an informational web page on the Kenai Fjords National Park developed by Seward High School students. The web page project was funded through a grant from the National Parks Service.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mrs. Barbara Dahl, Chapman Elementary PTA Chairperson, requested the Board reinstate the teaching position eliminated at their school for the 1997-98 school year. She felt the students at the Chapman School deserved better, and she called the Board's attention to their policy manual and its goal for student learning. From the definition outlined in the policy, she felt the Board was not following its goals. She was especially concerned that elimination of the special teacher for music would be particularly devastating for this small school.

Ms. Jennifer Carr, Seward Elementary teacher, presented a letter on behalf of the school staff. She expressed concern on the elimination of 3.25 classroom teachers and specialists. She noted these staff reductions had been made based on low projected enrollment figures for their school. She questioned what the Board would do if enrollment was higher than projected next year and the funds from the unallocated funds had already been spent for extracurricular activities. She urged the Board to think academically first in their allocation of funding.

Ms. Liesl Davenport-Wheeler, Seward Jr/Sr High School band and choir teacher, expressed concern that the Seward Elementary School music teacher would be placed in a regular classroom next year. She spoke to the need for a specialist to teach this subject. She called attention to the importance of music in the development of spatial reasoning for higher thinking in mathematics and science. She presented the Board with printed materials related to research on the importance of music in intellectual development.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS  
(continued):

Mrs. Donna Wottlin, Seward parent, spoke in support of the current music program at Seward Elementary School. She noted her children, now in high school, had received excellent music instruction there and have gone on to participate in honor band. She was fearful once the music program was eliminated it would not be reinstated and students would not receive this necessary program to round out their education. She urged the Board to consider the Seward Elementary School music program situation.

Mr. Dennis Wheeler, soccer coach, told the Board he hoped they had an opportunity to view the soccer game taking place when they came to Seward High School earlier in the day. He also called the Board's attention to a sexual harassment incident at Seward Elementary School and questioned whether student due process had been followed. Mrs. Gross told the speaker he was out of order and this would be investigated administratively.

Mr. Jerry Dixon, Seward Elementary QUEST teacher, told the Board he received the Christa McAuliffe Fellowship and it was his hope to bring the district's technology director, Phil Biggs, and the Sea Life Center director together to bring electronic communications to the schools. Additionally, he spoke to the concern of large classroom sizes at Seward Elementary which would result from the decrease in staff at that school next year. He complimented Mr. Sayan, Seward music teacher, for his work with the students.

Mr. Duane Christensen, Anchor Point parent, told the Board his three children attended Chapman School and he had made major musical instrument purchases last year. He noted he made the purchases on the assumption that the school board would continue the program. He stated since this did not appear possible he will present the school board with a bill for \$900 for the musical instruments. He noted his fourth grade student was in seventh grade band. He requested the Board reinstate the music program at Chapman because he felt music was important for all students.

Miss Kelly Lapinski, Seward High School Soccer Club spokesperson, requested that soccer become a recognized sport in the district. She stated if soccer became a recognized sport they would have regular field practice space instead of the patch of space near the school, would have regular competition, and would receive school letters of recognition.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**  
(continued):

Mr. Lawrence Colston, KPEA President-elect, told the Board NEA had chartered a course for being "Better". He noted one of the "Better" was Karen Mahurin, KPESA President, who has been recognized at the National Support Person of the Year. He also noted students deserve "Better" and the people who serve the students deserve "Better". He noted the unions signed a contract with the school board for payment of health care costs and \$650. He called attention to Board action where they had taken the health care benefits from that account and put it in the general fund. He stated the employees who serve the students deserve "Better".

**CHAPMAN ELEMENTARY PTA:**

Mrs. Angela McKinney, Chapman Elementary PTA and School Based Decision Making Council representative, told the Board that music is very important to student development. She noted parents were concerned about losing one teacher position next year despite the projection of one additional student. She expressed frustration that the school was categorized as an elementary school even though the junior high students are at the school. She questioned when answers would be available for the parents, teachers and community members.

KPESA:

Mrs. Karen Mahurin, KPESA President, read a letter to the Board in response to their letter from Dr. Bromenschenkel regarding the 1997-98 negotiated \$650 payment and their health insurance premium. KPESA's response was that they would not agree to unauthorized payroll deductions of \$113 per month per employee in the guise of a health insurance premium co-payment. She further noted that in accordance with the negotiated agreement the health insurance committee shall determine and control benefits and cost-saving measures for all district employees covered by the program and that for 1996-98 school years, the district contribution for each employee shall be \$395 per month. Any budgeted funds remaining in the health insurance account at the end of the fiscal year shall be placed in an insurance reserve account to be used to offset further insurance increases. During the 1996-97 and 1997-98 school years each employee will be given \$650 payable in a separate check during the month of November. She noted KPESA told the Board in January they were willing to meet with them to work out a Memorandum of Agreement regarding possible health insurance co-payments, and if the Board wishes to discuss the \$650 negotiated payment, they will need to write a formal letter to the union requesting negotiations be re-opened on that one topic alone.

KPEA:

Mr. Hal Smalley, KPEA President, spoke to the issue of the Board's request related to health insurance and the \$650 payment. He outlined the negotiations process whereby the \$650 would be paid to employees and this may come from the unused portions of the health revenues account. He noted the language was established by the arbitrator and the unions accepted this in good faith. He noted as per the negotiated agreement the district is required to make a \$650 payment to employees and provide a health insurance program for employees at the rate of \$395 per employee per month. He felt that reducing the health benefit fund by removing the \$650 payment per employee, in addition to removing another figure which the district calculated for the proposed shortfall, is unconscionable. He stated the unions should have been invited to attend the last meeting where this issue was discussed and he suggested the Board had made an Open Meetings Act violation. He noted morale is low among employees and urged the Board to keep their bargaining word related to the \$650 payment and health insurance coverage.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Mrs. Gross presented a Plaque of Appreciation to the Dall Homemakers of Cooper Landing for their dedicated support of the Cooper Landing School and other community projects. Nine members of the club were in the attendance at the meeting to accept the award. Mrs. Gross acknowledged that this was the true Alaskan spirit by helping their community.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Bromenschenkel called the Board's attention to their information packets related to items on the agenda. He also noted a communication had been received notifying the district that Bay View Charter School will be the recipient of a \$118,850 grant and Aurora Borealis Charter School will receive a \$100,850 grant award.

- TITLE IX INTEREST SURVEY: Mr. Dahlgren presented results of the Title IX Gender Equity Survey conducted of district students in April. Results of the survey indicated the district is not dramatically out of compliance with legal requirements for Title IX. In addition to currently offered activities, students showed interest in soccer, gymnastics and softball programs for the under-represented gender. The KPSAA Board recommended that boys and girls soccer programs be included as a varsity sport at the high school level starting with the 1997-98 school year in accordance with the Alaska School Activity Association rules and regulations, and at no cost to the school district. This will be presented for school board approval at a future meeting.
- STRATEGIC PLANNING ANNUAL UPDATE SUMMARY: Mr. Dahlgren presented a summary of the April 19 Annual Strategic Planning Update Meeting. The Strategic Planning Committee reviewed the ten strategies of the district and their recommendations will be forwarded to the school board for consideration during their June 7 goal setting session.
- RECESS: At 8:53 p.m., Mrs. Gross called a recess.
- RECONVENE: At 9:05 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.
- CONSENT AGENDA: Items presented on the Consent Agenda were: Approval of Extended Field Trip Requests, Leave of Absence Requests/Certified, and Furniture and Equipment List.
- EXTENDED FIELD TRIP REQUESTS: Mr. Thorpe recommended the Board approve extended field trip requests for 17 KPBSD students to attend the International Future Problem Solving Conference in Ann Arbor, MI, June 10-17, 1997; and for 30-35 Soldotna Middle School students to participate in the Lakeland Tours Program, March 22-27, 1998 in Washington, D.C.
- LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTS/CERTIFIED: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve unpaid leave of absence requests for the 1997-98 school year for Anne Kendall, Grade 5, Nikiski Elementary; and for Lori Manion, Mathematics, Nikiski Jr/Sr High.
- FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT LIST: Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve the purchase of furniture and equipment for the West Homer Elementary School in the amount of \$16,474.19.
- ACTION Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items #1 through #3. Dr. Anderson seconded.  
Motion carried unanimously.
- RECONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL RECOMMENDATIONS: Mrs. Larned moved the Board reconsider the Alternative School Recommendations. Mrs. Germano seconded  
ACTION: Motion carried unanimously.

ACTION

Mrs. Germano moved to amend the motion to delete Item D, and recommend the Homer Flex School continue as a store front program with a head teacher. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Amendment carried unanimously.

Amended motion carried unanimously.

RECONSIDERATION OF FY 98  
CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION  
PROJECTS:  
ACTION

Mrs. Larned moved the Board reconsider the FY 98 capital construction projects. Mr. Arness seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Arness noted a letter had been received from Mayor Navarre requesting additional funding for playground equipment. Mr. Dahlgren commented the risk manager and maintenance personnel evaluated playground equipment throughout the district. The Mayor requested \$214,000 be added to the district's capital construction list for the purchase of replacement playground equipment.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved to postpone the motion until the May 19 meeting. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Mr. Arness requested additional information be supplied on the areawide playground equipment.

Motion to postpone carried unanimously.

CO-CURRICULAR HANDBOOK  
CHANGES:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended changes to the high school co-curricular handbooks for the 1997-98 school year. The changes dealt with student eligibility, adult and family fee increases, a new calendar date for eligibility check aligned with the school calendar, and a first assistant coach for cross-country running and skiing.

ACTION

Mrs. Germano moved the Board approve the co-curriculum handbook changes. Mrs. Larned seconded.

ACTION

Mrs. Germano moved to amend the motion to reduce the third assistant coach for football. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Mrs. Germano stated she felt additional coaching could be covered by parent volunteers.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

YES - Germano, Larned

NO - Anderson, Arness, Mullins, Gross

Amendment failed.

Mrs. Germano stated she was concerned that the academic programs were being reduced while extracurricular programs have grown. She also expressed concern on the budget amount for the programs and asked that the KPSAA Board consider this when making their recommendations.

CO-CURRICULAR HANDBOOK  
CHANGES (continued):

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION:

YES - Anderson, Arness, Larned, Mullins, Gross

NO - Germano

Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE  
APPOINTMENT/1997-98

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve the appointment of Mr. Sam Stewart as Principal of Kenai Central High School for the 1997-98 school year.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve the appointment of Sam Stewart as the Principal of Kenai Central High. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

RELOCATION OF PORTABLE  
CLASSROOMS:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the relocation of portable classrooms to Skyview High School (1), Warehouse (1), Kenai Middle School (1), and Voznesenka (1) for the next school year. The portable classrooms will be transferred from Homer Intermediate School (2) and Ninilchik Elem/High School (2).

ACTION

Mrs. Germano moved the Board approve the relocation of portable classrooms. Mr. Arness seconded.

Mrs. Germano questioned why portables were being moved when there is space at other schools such as Kenai Central. Mr. Dahlgren responded that the enrollment was projected to increase within the next two years and any change would entail boundary changes. Dr. Anderson commented there was also space available at Soldotna High. He felt the district needed to return to using the regular boundaries and requested the principals enforce the current policy on boundaries. He commented he did not favor the portable placement at Skyview High School.

VOTE:

YES - Arness, Germano, Larned, Mullins, Gross

NO - Anderson

Motion carried.

NON-TENURE TEACHERS FOR  
TENURE/1997-98:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a listing of 45 non-tenure teachers for tenure for the 1997-98 school year.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the non-tenure teachers for tenure for the 1997-98 school year. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

TENTATIVE NON-TENURE  
TEACHER ASSIGNMENTS/ 1997-98:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a listing of 40 tentative non-tenure teacher assignments for the 1997-98 school year.

ACTION

Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve the tentative non-tenure teacher assignments for the 1997-98 school year. Mrs. Germano seconded.

Mrs. Germano expressed concern that the half-time Chapman School assignment was on the listing, however, this position will not be filled. Mrs. Radtke stated she was waiting for a letter from the school related to this assignment and that there are other available openings for the teacher within the district.

ACTION

Mrs. Germano moved to delete the half-time position at Chapman Elementary School. Motion died for lack of a second.

VOTE:

YES - Anderson, Arness, Larned, Mullins, Gross

NO - Germano

Motion carried.

TECHNOLOGY BOND ISSUE  
REQUEST:

Dr. Bromenschenkel recommended the Board request the Borough Assembly to place a technology referendum on the October 7 ballot in the amount of \$3,731,915. He noted the Board had conducted worksessions on this issue previously and again today prior to the meeting.

Mrs. Patricia Lindville, Seward parent, spoke in support of library automation which is needed at the high school library and which would be part of the technology bond issue. She read a letter from Carol Griswold who wrote in support of the library automation project at the high school.

TECHNOLOGY BOND ISSUE  
REQUEST (continued):

Mrs. Sharon Inman, Seward High School librarian, requested the Board's support of the technology bond issue, and specifically for the library automation project. She noted the elementary school has an automated system, but the high school does not. She gave examples where it would be expeditious for students searching for information. She further noted students could search for materials throughout the district to share information and have access to unique library collections. She noted computer skills are vital as students move on to their future in college or other fields which use these types of systems.

Mr. Mike Wiley, Seward Borough Assembly representative, requested the school board have a well developed plan when requesting the technology referendum. He also addressed the issue of funding outside the cap and whether computer purchases, which are considered equipment, would effect this funding. Dr. Anderson responded the Board sought legal counsel on this and it was determined the Board could do this.

Mr. Lawrence Colston, Seward High computer teacher, stated he was not familiar with the details of the proposal, but noted equipment and software were needed for the delivery of instruction in technology. He noted more equipment was definitely needed.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve authorizing the administration to forward a request to the Borough Assembly to approve a technology bond referendum in the amount of \$3,731,915. Mr. Arness seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

FIRST READING/AR 5113/  
ABSENCES AND EXCUSES:

Mr. Thorpe presented the first reading of revisions to policy AR 5113, Absences and Excuses. The revisions include options other than suspension for truancy violations and require school intervention teams to work with the administrators and parents in an effort to problem solve the truancy issues. A worksession was held on April 7 related to the policy revisions.

Mr. Malcolm Fleming, Principal of Seward High School, spoke in support of the revisions stating this was a step in the right direction.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. Mike Wiley called the Board's attention to two items on their capital projects list; those being the Seward swimming pool which needed attention and construction of the playfield in Seward.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS  
(continued):

Mr. Dave Dieckgraeff asked the Board not to lose track of teaching reading to students. He was appreciative of the Board coming to Seward for the meeting.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mrs. Germano expressed appreciation for audience input on the programs in Seward, especially the music program.

Mrs. Mullins commented she was happy to be in Seward and have an opportunity to talk with the people.

Mrs. Larned thanked the students who sang for the Board and was appreciative of the comments from the teachers and parents related to the Seward Elementary music program.

Mrs. Gross commented she enjoyed her visit to Seward and she appreciated hearing the concerns of the people.

ADJOURN:

At 10:08 p.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

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH  
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
May 5, 1997  
Page 10

The Minutes of May 5, 1997,  
were approved on May 19, 1997,  
as written.