

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

148 N. Binkley Street

Soldotna, AK 99669

July 1, 2002

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

Dr. Nels Anderson, President
Ms. Deborah Germano, Vice President
Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Clerk
Mr. Joe Arness, Treasurer
Mrs. Debra Mullins, Member
Mrs. Margaret Gilman, Member
Mr. Al Poindexter, Member

STAFF PRESENT:

Dr. Donna Peterson, Superintendent of Schools
Mrs. Melody Douglas, Chief Financial Officer
Dr. Gary Whiteley, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Tim Peterson	Mr. Jeff Sinz
Mrs. Paula Christensen	Mrs. Kimb Remsen
Mr. Sam Stewart	Katie VanDerWege
Dr. Roy Anderson	Bethany Thornton
Mrs. Nan Spooner	Mr. Dave Thornton
Mr. Bob VanDerWege	Mrs. Sue Thornton
Mrs. Carol VanDerWege	Ms. Jenni Dillon
Miss Angel Hollers	Mrs. Noel Collins
Mr. Mick Wykis	

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

Dr. Anderson called the meeting to order at 5:49 p.m. A quorum of School Board members, Dr. Anderson, Ms. Germano, Mrs. Mullins, Mrs. Gilman, Mrs. Crawford and Mr. Poindexter were in attendance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 5:50 p.m. Mrs. Mullins 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. Specifically, the executive session was to discuss negotiations tactics and strategies. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 6:05 p.m., Mrs. Mullins moved the executive session be adjourned. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

RECESS

At 6:06 p.m., Dr. Anderson called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:

At 7:33 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Dr. Anderson invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Dr. Nels Anderson	Present
Ms. Deborah Germano	Present
Mrs. Sammy Crawford	Present
Mr. Joe Arness	Absent/Excused
Mrs. Debra Mullins	Present
Mrs. Margaret Gilman	Present
Mr. Al Poindexter	Present

- APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** The agenda was approved with the deletion of Item 11d., Approval of Revisions to BP 6146.1, High School Graduation Requirements, and the removal of Item 11a.(2), Approval of Laidlaw Activity Bus Proposal, from the Consent Agenda.
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The revised School Board Minutes of June 3, 2002, were approved as printed.
- COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:** Dr. Peterson reported that she has received the usual communications from NEA regarding negotiations and other ongoing matters. She stated that she has received the usual correspondence from the state soliciting public comments regarding various proposed regulations.
- AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:** The Board presented Spirit of Youth Awards to Miss Carrie Collins, Miss Bethany Thornton, Miss Angel Hollers, and Miss Katie VanDerWege. Miss Caelin Kubena and Miss Crystal Dionne were also recipients but were not present.
- The Board presented Golden Apple awards to Mr. Jeff Sinz, Kenai Peninsula Borough Finance Director, and Mrs. Kimb Remsen, Sears Elementary volunteer and substitute, for their service to the District.
- SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Dr. Peterson reported that the Administration will decide on the next steps for the Seward Middle School replacement based on the code review information that was received in June. She stated that the District will balance the need to move quickly with the need for deliberate planning to provide accurate information to voters. She stated that the Administration will follow the District Planning Guide and will inform the Board on each step. She reported that the Long Range Plan information that was shared at the June 4 retreat is available on the District website at http://www.kpbsd.k12.ak.us/plan/02_03.htm. She commended Mrs. Jackie Ansotegui for posting an accurate record of the Long Range Plan accomplishments. She reported that the District website has received 1.5 million visitors.
- Site Council Report:** Dr. Peterson presented site council reports from each school. She explained that schools are required to submit an end-of-the-year report reflecting site council activities throughout the year as well as a copy of their monthly minutes. She added that the report will be shared with school principals and with the site council chairperson during the August 27 meeting.
- Lease Agreements Report:** Dr. Peterson presented a report of current lease agreements between the District and After the Bell, Boys & Girls Club, City of Soldotna, City of Homer, City of Seward, Village of Kachemak Selo, North Peninsula Recreation Service Area, Village of Razdolna, Henderlong Enterprises, and the Village of Voznesenka.
- Financial Report:** Mrs. Douglas presented the financial report of the District for the period ending May 31, 2002.
- Mrs. Crawford asked about social studies materials funding. Mrs. Douglas explained that FY03 money allocated by the legislature for curriculum purchases and a small portion from the FY02 budget will pay for the social studies materials. Mrs. Douglas noted that the books have been ordered and are expected to arrive before the start of school.
- Budget Transfer Report:** Mrs. Douglas reported on budget transfers Numbers 230 through 962 for various schools and departments within the District.

BOARD REPORTS:

Ms. Germano reported that she joined Dr. Peterson and Mrs. Tachick for a one-day workshop regarding open meetings in Alaska. She stated that it was nice that all three were able to attend so that open meeting issues, as they relate to the District, could be discussed.

BOARD REPORTS (continued):

Dr. Anderson reported that he and Mr. Spence met with the Seward Site Council to discuss the code review of Seward Middle School. He stated that the Site Council has scheduled a meeting for July 11 to meet with the Seward community regarding plans for the school. He stated that he feels that the community is leaning towards requesting a new school facility. He noted that in order to gain square footage, the Anchorage School District has transferred portions of school facilities (such as pools and auditoriums) to the municipality. The Seward community feels that if the middle school is demolished and replaced by a new facility there will be a shortage of classroom space for art and other courses that require larger rooms because the pool and theater will be included in the square footage allocation.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of 2002-2003 Annual Agenda Guideline, Laidlaw Activity Bus Proposal (removed from Consent Agenda), Budget Transfers, Long Term Substitute Teacher Contract, New Teacher Assignments, Leave of Absence Requests – Certified, Leave of Absence Request – Support, Resignations, Nontenure Teachers for Tenure, and Tentative Nontenure Teacher Assignments

2002-2003 Annual Agenda Guideline:

Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve the 2002-2003 Annual Agenda. The Annual Agenda consists of dates on which routine items as well as worksessions and reports relating to Board goals are presented to the School Board.

Budget Transfers:

Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve budget transfers Numbers 731 for \$51,063 to help pay salaries to implement the Technology Plan; 735 for \$74,561 to pay for 100MB Ethernet switches; 741 for \$21,956 to pay for Year 2.5 laptop computers; 756 for \$40,111 to pay for Year 3 printers; 895 for \$62,000 to pay for summer school teacher salaries; 896 for \$45,000 to pay for student textbooks and materials for curriculum implementation; 926 which includes various transactions exceeding \$10,000 to adjust utility budgets (electricity, water and sewer, fuel for heating and garbage) based on actual year-to-date utility costs; 945, which includes \$10,051 for May bus contractor costs in the Homer/Anchor Point area and \$27,898 for May bus contractor costs in the Kenai/Soldotna area; 946 for \$12,271 to pay part of the salary for a Special Services bus aide/monitor on the Seward bus routes; 922 for \$36,500 to pay for legal consultation services incurred for grievances and labor relations; 952 for a total of \$95,738 to adjust telephone budgets within the district based on actual year-to-date telephone costs by location; 957 and 960 each for transactions exceeding \$10,000 to adjust substitute salary accounts for employees who are on extended leave due to extenuating circumstances such as maternity leave, workers compensation leave and family medical leave and for temporary salaries for vacant positions; and 958 for \$18,298 to pay for substitute costs.

Long-Term Substitute Teacher Contract:

By memorandum, Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve a long-term substitute teacher contract for Irene Hegwer, language arts, Soldotna Middle School.

New Teacher Assignments:

By memorandum, Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve teacher assignments for the 2002-2003 school year for Laura MacDonald, .50 FTE Grades K-

2 (temporary), Cooper Landing; Jennifer Tyler, Grade 5 (temporary), K-Beach Elementary; Janice J. Waldron, Grades 3-5 (temporary), Ninilchik Elementary/High; Galen J. Brantley, social studies/photo, Soldotna High; Janne K. Lillestol, special education/resource, Soldotna High; Cindy L. Bedingfield, special education resource/secondary generalist, Susan B. English Elementary/High; Suzanne E. Haines, QUEST/librarian, West Homer Elementary; George Johnson, social studies/language arts (temporary), Kenai Central High; RaeEllen Kurzendoefer, middle school generalist (temporary), Nikiski Middle/High; Timothy J. McFarland, music (temporary), Ninilchik Elementary/High; Lisa Osborne, Grade 6, Soldotna Elementary; and Jeffrey W. Moore, music, Soldotna Middle.

- Leave of Absence Requests – Certified:** By memorandum, Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve unpaid leave of absence requests for the 2002-2003 school year for Marvin D. Tapsfield, Grade 8 Science, Seward Middle and Tracy L. Wimmer, Grade 4, Sterling Elementary.
- Leave of Absence Request – Support:** By memorandum, Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve an unpaid leave of absence request for Yolanda Schrader, Title I Tutor, Sears Elementary (effective August 14, 2002 through November 30, 2002).
- Resignations:** By memorandum, Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve resignations with various effective dates for Jane Boerger, English, Seward High; Sherry Friedersdorff, Grades 3-6, Tebughna Elementary/High; Dave Silva, Connections; Katherine P. Taylor, language arts/QUEST, Seward Middle; Shane Totten, art/photography, Kenai Central High; and Indy Walton, business, Skyview High.
- Nontenure Teachers for Tenure:** By memorandum, Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approved Rachel A. Roemhildt, Teri L. Hoffman, and Virginia A. Bucher, nontenured teachers, for tenure.
- Tentative Nontenure Teacher Assignments:** By memorandum, Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve tentative nontenure teaching assignments for Timothy Whip, (temporary) Online Assessment Trainer, Grants Office; Jill K. Sill, Generalist/Title I (.25 temporary/.5 permanent), Homer Flex; John M. DeVolld, Title I (temporary) reading, Mt. View Elementary; Tanya L. Erwin, Title I reading (temporary), Mt. View Elementary; Jennifer Joy Jones, Title I reading (temporary), Tustumena Elementary; and Linda M. Etwiler, Title I/Migrant (temporary), Voznesenka Elementary.

ACTION Ms. Germano moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 and 3 through 10. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Laidlaw Activity Bus Proposal: By memorandum, Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve a request for permission to participate in a pilot program, allowing Laidlaw to provide transportation services for cocurricular activities at Homer area schools during the 2002-2003 school year. Dr. Anderson noted that prior to the meeting the Board conducted a worksession with Laidlaw to discuss the proposal.

ACTION Mrs. Germano moved the Board approve the Laidlaw activity bus proposal. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Laidlaw Activity Bus Proposal (continued): Mr. Poindexter stated that he appreciates the creativity of Laidlaw and the District to attempt to solve some of the long distance transportation problems. He noted that although District buses are safe, they are not reliable. He stated that he is not

convinced that the proposal is the best way to solve the problem and feels that the District will lose some flexibility. He stated that route buses influence school schedules instead of vice versa and added that the bus company is less flexible than the District. He stated that although Laidlaw buses are warmer they will be more congested. Mr. Poindexter stated that he is not convinced that there will be a cost savings but added that because District buses are falling apart he is willing to try something new for one year.

Ms. Germano stated that she thinks that the Laidlaw proposal is a creative solution and a good one. She expressed appreciation that Laidlaw offered the proposal. She stated that the Board is concerned for the safety of students. She stated that she understands Mr. Poindexter's issues but feels that the proposal ensures student safety. She added that if the District can save money, everyone wins.

Mrs. Gilman thanked Mrs. Spooner and the Laidlaw representatives who attended the worksession. She expressed concern for student safety. She stated that she supports the proposal because she likes the additional insurance that will be provided by Laidlaw. She asked the Board to consider the reasons why students are being transported to the Matanuska-Susitna Valley.

Motion carried unanimously.

Revisions to BP 3440, Inventories:

Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve revisions to BP 3440, Inventories. She explained that the change raises the dollar amount to \$5,000 on all inventory items for depreciation and financial reporting purposes and noted that all items in excess of \$500 will continue to be tracked for insurance purposes.

ACTION

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve revisions to BP 3440, Inventories. Ms. Germano seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Substitute and Temporary Pay Schedule:

Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve the pay schedule for substitutes and temporary employees for the 2002-2003 school year.

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve the pay schedule for substitutes and temporary employees for the 2002-2003 school year.

Mrs. Gilman noted that according to the proposed pay schedule, certified substitutes earn approximately \$12.50 per hour. She noted that bus driver salaries are \$12 per hour. Dr. Peterson noted that the bus driver salaries are based on a contract which by statute must be double the minimum wage. Mrs. Gilman asked whether the District has a problem finding certified substitute teachers. Dr. Peterson stated that there are locations where it is difficult to find certified substitutes. Mrs. Gilman asked whether the District is forced to use non certified substitutes more than certified substitutes. Dr. Peterson responded that she would find out. She noted that many certified substitutes are hired and that the District continues to train substitutes.

Motion carried unanimously.

2002-2003 Board of Education Goals:

Dr. Peterson presented two goals and 25 administrative tasks for accomplishment during the 2002-2003 school year as a result of the Board's June 4 planning session. The recommended goals are 1) provide increased accountability for and

communication of student achievement; and 2) recruit and retain students and staff.

ACTION Ms. Germano moved the Board approve the Board of Education goals.
Ms. Crawford seconded.

Ms. Germano clarified that the Board will approve the 2002-2003 goals and not the administrative tasks.

ACTION Ms. Germano moved the Board amend Board Goal 2, subheading Number 5, after the word "employees" add the words "joining, staying, or." Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Amendment carried unanimously.

ACTION Ms. Germano moved the Board amend Board goal Number 2 to add Subheading 6 which would say "Continue to recognize outstanding achievement and contributions by students, staff, and community." Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Amendment carried unanimously.

Ms. Germano reported that the Board conducted a planning session with the District administration on June 4 to plan the Board goals. She stated that the session provided a time for Board discussion and input. She stated that many questions were answered by the administration regarding concerns, visions and goals.

Mrs. Gilman suggested the Board ask site councils if they have any suggestions or input for the Board that could be included in the planning session.

Amended motion carried unanimously.

Administrator Appointments: Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve Joseph Huftel as the Homer High School assistant principal, Tim Peterson as the Human Resources director, Gregory Wilbanks as the Kenai Alternative principal/teacher, Benny T. Abraham as the Paul Banks Elementary principal and Allan Howard as the Soldotna High School assistant principal.

ACTION Ms. Germano moved the Board approve the administrator appointments as presented. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

BOARD COMMENTS: Mr. Poindexter expressed his appreciation for the discussions held during the worksessions prior to the Board meeting. He requested an excused absence for the August 5 Board meeting. He stated that he will be advising and escorting students who qualified to participate in the Canon Envirothon, an international competition. He explained that the students must be experts in soils, forestry, wildlife, aquatics and biodiversity in invasive species. He noted that the 5-day contest will be held in Massachusetts.

BOARD COMMENTS (continued): Mrs. Gilman stated the superintendent's report and the site council descriptions gave her a glimpse of what is going on in the District. She stated that she is nervous about what is going on in some of the schools because, after reading the Site Council reports, it appears that some councils operate in an advisory capacity to the principal and others "rubber stamp" decisions made by the principal. She stated that she is

concerned because, when there is a problem at the school, the Board's response is that the issue should be dealt with by the site council. She stated that she attended a play written and directed by Joe Rizzo, Nikiski Elementary/High teacher, titled "A Substantial Risk." She stated that the play was fantastic and riveting. She stated that it was about Youth Court and included Nikiski High School students. She stated that the District is fortunate to have a playwright on staff.

Mrs. Mullins commented that the all-day Board goal planning session is long and arduous. She stated that there are so many things the Board members want to do but there is not enough time. She thanked Board members for the goal setting process and for the discussions in which ideas were shared without rancor. She stated that the Board presented goals that she feels the administration can accomplish, along with the many other tasks that come up on a day-to-day basis. She stated that she appreciates the work of the administration. She thanked those who received awards. She stated that the Board likes to recognize those who make contributions to children. She welcomed Mr. Tim Peterson to his new position as the Human Resources director.

Mrs. Crawford congratulated Mr. Peterson for his new assignment as the Human Resources director. She congratulated Miss VanDerWege and thanked her for staying to watch the remainder of the Board meeting. She thanked the administration and Dr. Peterson for the site council reports and school goal reports. She noted that the reports gave an in depth view of what is happening in the District. She stated that she also appreciated the worksession on summer school and added that it is exciting to see how well students are doing. She reported that she serves on the Kenai Peninsula Industry Consortium and noted that it is incredible what private industry wants to do to provide courses, equipment and materials to schools. She stated that she will attend the Standard Setting Committee for the High School Qualifying Exam cut scores on August 6-8.

Dr. Anderson stated that he spoke to a parent whose child took algebra as an eighth grade student and received a B in the class but was not granted high school credit since the student was still in middle school. He stated that he discussed the issue with Dr. Whiteley and agreed that the Board should review the policy. He stated that he would like to see the Board grant credit for high school courses that are taken at the middle school level. He stated that he was thrilled the report on reading and math advancements as a result of the summer school program and added that he hopes the District can expand the program.

ADJOURN:

At 8:20 p.m., Mrs. Crawford moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Nels Anderson, President

Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Clerk

The minutes of July 1, 2002,
were approved on August 5, 2002
as written.