

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

148 N. Binkley Street

Soldotna, AK 99669

August 5, 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  
Mr. Todd Syverson, Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Rick Matiya	Ms. Terri Woodward
Mrs. Paula Christensen	Mr. Tim Peterson
Mr. Roy Anderson	Mr. Tim Sandahl
Mr. Jim White	Miss Leah Sandahl
Mrs. Lynn Hohl	Mrs. Lynne Sandahl
Ms. Jenni Dillon	Mr. Joey Sandahl
Mrs. Lassie Nelson	Mrs. Jackie Ansotegui
Mr. Dave Dieckgraeff	Mrs. Lynn Hohl

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

Dr. Anderson called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. A quorum of School Board members, Dr. Anderson, Ms. Germano, Mrs. Mullins, Mr. Arness, and Mrs. Crawford were in attendance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 5:01 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 and finances. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 7:34 p.m., Mrs. Crawford moved the executive session be adjourned. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

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	Present
Mrs. Debra Mullins	Present
Mrs. Margaret Gilman	Absent/Excused
Mr. Al Poindexter	Absent/Excused

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The agenda was approved with a revision to Item 11a.(4), Resignations.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The School Board Minutes of July 1, 2002, were approved as printed.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS: Dr. Peterson reported that she received a positive letter from the Boys and Girls Club regarding the relationship with the District.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SITE COUNCIL, AND/OR P.T.A., K.P.A.A., K.P.E.A., K.P.E.S.A.: Mr. Dave Dieckgraeff, Seward Site Council Vice President, asked what would happen if the question of a new Seward Middle School goes to the voters and it does not pass. He stated that the Site Council has asked to keep the old middle school to house students while a new facility is being built. He stated that it is not logical to add on to the existing school because of the poor condition of the facility. He stated that the Site Council would like to keep the current classroom square footage but understands that a good architect can design a better building with less space. He stated that the Site Council would like to keep the high school and middle school together because many facilities are shared such as the kitchen and auditorium.

Todd Syverson stated that the administration's advice is to support the Seward Site Council recommendations (included in the packet) and added that it is an action item on the agenda. Mr. Syverson noted that there are some studies that still need to be done.

Ms. Germano suggested that the Seward Middle discussion be held when it comes up on the agenda.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS: The Board presented a Golden Apple award to Mrs. Lynne Sandahl, Human Resources Analyst, for her service to the District.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Peterson reported that school registration information is available on the District website. She reported that the District recently received its first truancy conviction. She stated that there are 19 building projects under construction this summer. She reported that the Curriculum Department has purchased the Integrated Literacy Social Studies materials for Grades K-3 and noted that 5,900 social studies textbooks have been purchased and distributed to schools for Grades 4-6. She noted that accompanying training for the new curriculum will occur during the 2002-2003 school year. She noted that the Administrator Retreat is August 6-8, the Districtwide PTA/PTO/PTSA Representative Meeting is August 26, and the Districtwide Site Council Representative meeting is August 27. She reported that during the summer, the Human Resources Department has hired 18 new-to-position administrators, rehired 24 certificated staff persons, hired 58 additional certified staff persons, and hired 49 support staff persons.

Financial Report: Mrs. Douglas presented the financial report of the District for the period ending June 30, 2002. She noted that the report was preliminary and that a final report will be presented in October or November 2002.

Mrs. Douglas explained that the June 30 Financial Report includes all transactions through July 17 and added that she is waiting for data from the Borough for in-kind transactions for maintenance activity.

BOARD REPORTS: Mrs. Crawford reported that the Board held a conversation prior to the meeting regarding the selection of student representatives to serve on the Board. She reported that a suggestion was made to mentor the student representative with a Board member and that the student be placed between two Board members during the meeting. She reported that the Board would also like to mentor new Board members. She said that the Board would like to conduct a one-on-one worksession with new Board members and the student representative to go through a packet. She stated that the Board also wanted to make sure that the student representative had the dates for the AASB Annual Conference. She stated that the Board would like the District student government conference to conduct a workshop on the use of the student government folder on FirstClass, a workshop on

parliamentary procedure, and offer a round table discussion with students from various schools regarding issues that are important to students. Mrs. Crawford stated that she would email the suggestions to Ms. Ellen Halseth, 2002-2003 Student Government Conference Coordinator.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Hazardous Bus Route Resolutions, New Teacher Assignments, Nontenure Teacher Appointments, Resignation, and Request for Leave of Absence – Support.

**Hazardous Bus Route Resolutions:**

Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve hazardous bus routes for North Star, Nikiski, Seward, Redoubt, Soldotna, Sears, Mt. View, West Homer, Paul Banks, and K-Beach elementary schools for the 2002-2003 school year.

**New Teacher Assignments:**

Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve teacher assignments for the 2002-2003 school year for Andrea Cacek, art/photography teacher, Kenai Central High School; Sheila A. Murray, special education/resource teacher, Kenai Central High School; Denise M. Romans, (temporary) Title I math specialist, Nikiski Elementary; David J. Brown, special education resource teacher, Nikiski Middle/High; Richard F. Bremicker, Grades K-4, Port Graham Elem/High; Corey Cook, activities director/photo teacher, Skyview High School; Emily Sims, home economics teacher, Skyview High School; Stephanie Zuniga, (temporary) Spanish teacher, Skyview High School; Christine M. Casiano, (temporary) primary teacher, Soldotna Elementary; Kathleen Holt, (temporary) Title I reading teacher, Soldotna Elementary; Linda B. Frink, math/language arts (.50 FTE temporary/.10 FTE permanent), Soldotna High School; Donald Torres, Grades 3-6 teacher, Tebughna School; and Ingrid K. McKinstry, (temporary) Title I teacher, West Homer Elementary.

**TENTATIVE Nontenure Teacher Appointments:**

Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve tentative nontenure teaching assignments for Sandra L. Hudson, social studies/physical education, Homer Middle; Holly Kiel, (temporary) Title V reading teacher, Kenai Middle; Matthew S. Widaman, vocational education, Skyview High.

**ResignationS:**

Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve resignations (effective immediately) for Tammy Vollom-Matturro, music, Tustumena Elementary; Todd Phillips, science, Homer High School; and Phil Biggs, Specialist, Technology.

**Request for Leave of Absence – Support:**

Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve an unpaid leave of absence request for Robin Traxinger, custodian, North Star Elementary.

**ACTION**

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 5. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**School Incentive Program:**

Mrs. Douglas recommended the approval of establishing a School Incentive Fund effective for FY03 by designating \$20,682 of FY02 fund balance for this purpose.

**ACTION**

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve the establishment of a School Incentive Fund. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Ms. Germano asked why the Board would not restrict the fund to equipment purchases.

Mrs. Douglas responded that there may be instances where the fund would pay for equipment repairs or educational services.

Mr. Syverson stated that a school may wish to purchase additional textbooks or pay for a new course offering not included in the curriculum adoption. He suggested the Board leave some flexibility at the building level for the use of the fund.

Ms. Germano asked whether the Board could limit the use of the fund to curriculum-related purchases. Dr. Peterson suggested that the administration monitor its use carefully and grant the requests individually.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### Support for New Seward Middle School Facility:

Mr. Syverson recommended that the School Board formally support the building of a new middle school in Seward.

He stated that the entire process to replace or remodel Seward Middle School will take about 18 months and noted that the District is at step 1. He stated that he just received the report regarding the feasibility of remodeling the school and/or building a new facility. He stated that the costs are relatively similar except that a remodel of the existing facility may put the District in the same situation within 10 years whereas a new facility would have a much longer life span. He stated that an 18-month study would be conducted and a request would be made to Mr. Spence to put the new facility request on the state priority list.

Mrs. Lynn Hohl, Seward PTSA Vice President, urged the Board to support the Seward Middle School facility recommendation.

Ms. Terri Woodward, Skyview High School, asked the Board to solicit input from teachers and support staff prior to the construction of a new Seward facility.

Mr. Dave Dieckgraeff stated that the community will need direction from the School Board if the question of a new Seward Middle School goes before voters. He stated that the Seward Site Council will need to help get information to the voters and encourage them to vote.

#### ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve the recommendation to support the construction of a new middle school in Seward.

Mr. Arness asked whether costs for a new Seward Middle School would be split 70/30 with the state.

Mr. Syverson stated that the Borough would have to decide whether to fund the 30% portion of the cost of a new facility. He stated that a new Seward Middle School would qualify for the capital improvement list.

Ms. Germano asked whether the Seward Middle School renovation project was on the capital improvement list. Mr. Syverson stated that roof repair and other maintenance was included.

Ms. Germano stated that the current state list allows a 70/30 split cost of new construction but anything added to the list is 60/40.

Mr. Syverson stated that he will research the information and report back to the Board.

Ms. Germano thanked the Seward people for attending the meeting. She explained that the Board conducted a worksession regarding the Seward Middle School prior to the presentation to the Seward community. She stated that the Board understands the project

and is glad that the community supports the concept of a new facility.

Dr. Anderson stated that the decision about how the construction will occur and whether the old facility can be used while a new facility is being constructed is yet to be determined.

Dr. Peterson stated that the public may question why a new facility is being built in a time of declining enrollment. She stated that the selling points are: 1) that there is not a lot of difference in cost between renovation and new construction, 2) the lifespan of a new facility is longer than renovation would provide, 3) the state will assist with the funding, and 4) the building does not meet code and something has to be done.

Mrs. Mullins asked the Seward community to educate the rest of the Peninsula communities regarding the need for a new middle school. She stated that the information that the Board received regarding the condition of the Seward Middle School, which included photographs, is important for the public to know before they vote. She stated the Board needs help from the Seward community.

Ms. Lynn Hohl asked to have a list of open houses at each of the Peninsula schools. She noted that the Borough Assembly is introducing the request for a new Seward Middle School facility at the August 6 meeting.

Mrs. Crawford suggested that Mrs. Hohl check the District website for a list of open houses.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### Health Insurance Allocation:

Mr. Syverson and Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board waive the requirement for employees to reimburse the District \$137,760 for remaining health care costs. Mrs. Douglas explained that health care costs were extremely high for the month of June and caused the District to exceed the amount in the reserve account. The additional amount needed from each District employee was \$120 for FY02. She added that actual health care costs came in at \$644 instead of \$606. She reported that since the District was considerably under the amount needed, the Health Care Committee set the FY03 copay amount at \$650. She stated that the Health Care Committee requested that the Board relieve the employees of the reimbursement on a one-time basis. She stated that the administration requests the Board approve the waiver.

Ms. Terri Woodward, Skyview high Head Custodian, stated that \$180 will be taken from the first paycheck of each support staff person and \$193 will be taken from certificated staff if the waiver is not approved. She stated that there are a lot of part-time employees who barely make ends meet between pay periods. She asked the Board to approve the recommendation.

#### ACTION

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve the health insurance allocation. Mr. Arness seconded.

Mrs. Crawford asked whether the health care costs were unusually high. Mrs. Douglas stated that health care costs have increased and are seeing the trend nationally. She stated that the rising health care costs are a serious issue.

Mr. Arness stated that he will support the waiver request on a one-time basis as a goodwill gesture.

Ms. Germano expressed her support for the one-time request and added that she does not

want the District to bail out the cost of health care each year.

Motion carried unanimously.

Revisions to BP 6146.1, High School Graduation Requirements:

Dr. Whiteley recommended revisions to BP 6146.1, High School Graduation Requirements, to delete obsolete language speaking to credit requirements for the graduating class of 2000-2001.

ACTION

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve revisions to BP 6146.1, High School Graduation Requirements. Ms. Germano seconded.

Mrs. Crawford commented that there was no reference in the policy of the High School Qualifying Exam.

Dr. Whiteley stated that the exam is not required until 2004

Motion carried unanimously.

Montessori Charter Amendment:

Dr. Whiteley recommended the Board amend language in the Soldotna Montessori Charter. The proposed language states that a teacher must either hold or be eligible for an Alaska Type A certificate and a Montessori certification or commit to earning Montessori certification through correspondence and intensive summer study within one year.

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve the Montessori Charter amendment. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Administrator Appointment:

Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve the appointment of Richard E. Sander, as principal of Chapman Elementary.

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve the appointment of Richard E. Sander, as principal of Chapman Elementary. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Mrs. Crawford stated that she is very happy for Mr. Sander but noted that will be a loss to the students since he will be leaving the classroom. She noted that he is one of two nationally certified teachers in the District.

Ms. Germano stated that while she shares Mrs. Crawford's sentiments she is excited for Mr. Sander and added that, as principal, he will have an impact on even more students.

Motion carried unanimously.

FIRST READING OF POLICY REVISIONS:

The Board heard a first reading of BP 3530, Risk Management.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/ COMMENTS:

Mr. Dave Dieckgraeff thanked the Board for approving the recommendation for a new Seward Middle School. He asked the Board to let the Site Council know if there is something they need to do.

Dr. Anderson thanked the Seward Site Council and community for their participation.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mr. Arness noted that the Seward project is on the 2004 capital improvement list. He stated that he hopes that news of the health insurance reimbursement waiver is made

known throughout the District. He stated that it felt good to approve the request.

Mrs. Crawford thanked Mr. Stewart and Mrs. Christensen for ordering the social studies curriculum materials. She thanked Mr. Matiya for arranging a few minutes to meet with the Kenai Peninsula Process Industries Consortium and school counselors at the job-alike meeting on August 14.

Ms. Mullins thanked Mrs. Sandahl and added that it has been a pleasure to sit with her during the negotiations sessions. She reminded those present that school will be starting soon and added that she is excited and has spoken to others who are also excited. She stated that she has a positive attitude and is looking forward to what the new year holds.

Dr. Anderson thanked the Seward people for attending the meeting.

ADJOURN:

At 8:26 p.m., Mrs. Mullins moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dr. Nels Anderson, President

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Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Clerk

The Minutes of August 5, 2002,  
were approved on August 19, 2002  
as written.