
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes

September 13, 2004 – 7:30 p.m.
Regular Meeting

Borough Administration Building
148 N. Binkley, Soldotna, Alaska

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: Ms. Deborah Germano, President
Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Vice President
Dr. Nels Anderson, Clerk
Mrs. Margaret Gilman, Treasurer
Mrs. Debra Mullins
Ms. Sandra Wassilie
Mrs. Debbie Brown
Mr. Marty Anderson
Mrs. Sunni Hilts
Mr. Patrick Tilbury, Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Donna Peterson, Superintendent of Schools
Mrs. Melody Douglas, Chief Financial Officer
Mr. Sam Stewart, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Guy Fisher, Assistant Superintendent

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Tim Peterson	Mrs. Norma Holmgaard
Mr. Erling Hofseth	Mrs. Paula Christensen
Miss Jenni Dillon	Mrs. LaDawn Druce
Mr. Glenn Haupt	Ms. Cathy Carrow
Mr. Jim White	Dr. Roy Anderson

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Germano called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.
(7:01:11PM)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Ms. Germano invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.
(7:01:14 PM)

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Patrick Tilbury	Present
Dr. Nels Anderson	Present
Mr. Marty Anderson	Present
Mrs. Debbie Brown	Present
Mrs. Sammy Crawford	Present
Mrs. Margaret Gilman	Present
Mrs. Sunni Hilts	Present
Mrs. Debra Mullins	Present
Ms. Sandra Wassilie	Present
Ms. Deborah Germano	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved with an addition to the consent agenda, 10a (9), Request For Approval Of Leave Of Absence.
(7:02:20 PM)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mrs. Brown requested her Board comments be entered verbatim in the July 12, 2004 minutes and that a question mark be included at the end of the sentence that begins with, "You're really...what's gonna happen is a plan...".
(7:02:55 PM)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
(continued)

The minutes of July 12, 2004 were approved with Mrs. Brown's revision.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:
(7:06:24 PM)

Mr. Scott Walden, Kenai, Alaska expressed displeasure and confusion with the shuffling of students and teachers at Sears Elementary.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:
(7:11:41 PM)

Dr. Peterson noted that copies of the administration work plans were included in the Board information packet and requested that any questions be directed to the individual responsible for the task. Dr. Peterson reported there were several usual and customary correspondence items from the state and letters from the Alaska Army National Guard requesting two District employees be released for deployment.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SITE COUNCIL AND/OR P.T.A., K.P.A.A., K.P.E.A., K.P.E.S.A, BOROUGH ASSEMBLY:
(7:13:00 PM)

Ms. Cathy Carrow, KPEA President, reported she attended the National Education Association Annual Meeting in Washington D.C. She announced that KPEA is working on a program called Great Public Schools For Every Child which celebrates the triumphs that public schools have provided for communities. She invited the School Board to an open house to be held at the KPEA and KPESA offices in Soldotna on September 22.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:
(7:16:00 PM)

Dr. Peterson announced that the Districtwide Student Council Meeting will be held on September 20; the Administrator Meeting will be held on September 16 at Solid Rock and the topic will be Safe and Orderly Schools; and the Site Council and Parent Training will be held on September 29 at the Kenai River Center. She urged the Board to read the book titled, "The Primal Teen". She reminded those present to vote on October 5. She asked for Board appointments to the KPSAA Executive Board, the Physical Education Committee, the Career Technical Education Committee, and the Budget Review Committee. She reported that she has been visiting schools and that the administration has been in two-thirds of the District classrooms. She noted that currently the enrollment is above projection.

FINANCIAL REPORT:
(7:19:05 PM)

Mrs. Douglas presented the financial report of the District for the period ending July 31, 2004.

BOARD REPORTS:
(7:19:45 PM)

Mrs. Sammy Crawford reported that she attended the Policy Review Committee meeting with Ms. Wassilie and Mrs. Mullins and noted that the review process has been very helpful and that the session went well.

CONSENT AGENDA:
(7:21:14 PM)

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Budget Transfer, Nontenured Teaching Assignments, New Teacher Assignments, Resignations, Request for Leave of Absence – Support, Administrator Appointment, Nontenure Teacher for Tenure, Name Change for Homer Aquatic Center, and Request for Military Leave of Absence – Certified.

Ms. Gail Moore, Quest Teacher, K-Beach and Soldotna Elementary, asked why the money in Budget Transfer Number 33 is no longer needed.

CONSENT AGENDA:

(continued)

MOTION

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 9 as amended. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Mrs. Gilman requested that Numbers 1, 6 and 9 be removed from the Consent Agenda.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda Numbers 2 through 5, 7 and 8 carried unanimously.

Mrs. Gilman asked Mrs. Douglas to explain what the \$30,000 on Budget Transfer Number 33 was originally intended for and why it was in six different accounts. Mrs. Douglas explained that the budget transfer was required because of the method used to roll the budget forward on an annual basis. She further explained that the budget is automatically rolled forward into the next fiscal year and if money is in a category that is no longer needed, the funds are moved into another category.

Mrs. Gilman asked how the money was discovered. Mrs. Douglas explained that it was discovered through a routine departmental review by an administrator.

Mrs. Brown asked why the Project GRAD categories were no longer needed. Mrs. Douglas explained that start up money was originally needed for Project GRAD during the FY04 school year and since the District has fulfilled that obligation the money is not required for FY05.

MOTION

Mrs. Gilman moved the Board approve an amendment to Number 10a(1) to replace the word "unanticipated" in the recommendation with the word "staffing". Mrs. Brown seconded the motion.

Mrs. Gilman explained the reason for the amendment is to assist with future staffing needs for the additional 300 students.

Mrs. Mullins asked for a response from the administration. Mrs. Douglas stated that although the administration respectfully recognizes the concern for staffing needs, the FY05 budget has no money set aside for unexpected needs such as equipment replacement, etc.

Ms. Wassilie asked if the increase of 300 students would mean additional funds from the state. Mrs. Douglas replied the District would receive additional funding and it will be up to the Board on how the funds are allocated. She added there are issues that need to be considered which include increased PERS, TRS costs, increased insurance costs, and utility costs. Ms. Germano stated that there is some money in the reserve account. She expressed concern that with the increase in enrollment that the Board does what is best for students because they can't wait. Ms. Germano clarified that the money remaining in the contingency account after \$392,000 was transferred to unallocated was considered a reserve account.

CONSENT AGENDA:
(continued)

Mrs. Brown stated that during the June 7 Board meeting the administration was asked to bring back a plan on how the unallocated funds were going to be used. She stated that the information came to the Board in a different form which could be the reason why questions are being asked. She stated that there was clarity from Ms. Germano's motion at the June 7 meeting that the administration would bring back a plan outlining how the money will be used.

Ms. Germano stated that it was not her recollection to ask the administration to bring back a plan but rather the Board agreed that the administration would report how they allocated the funds with the direction of providing staffing assistance for high schools, middle schools and small schools and ensuring their programmatic needs were being met.

VOTE ON GILMAN AMENDMENT TO 10a.(1)

Advisory Vote: YES

YES – Hilts, Brown, Crawford, Gilman, Germano

NO – M. Anderson, Wassilie, N. Anderson, Mullins

Amendment carried.

Ms. Germano asked if all the high schools should be included in the Tech Plan. Mr. White stated that Nikiski and Homer High School were not upgraded this past summer. He added there were 500 to 800 computers the first year of the Tech Plan and this summer there were only 350 to place. He reported that schools that were not upgraded this summer will be upgraded next summer.

Amended motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Gilman asked administration if there was an increase in salary by changing the employee in Item Number 10a.(6) from the Bilingual Specialist to the Program Manager. Mr. Stewart stated the increase would be minimal and insignificant. Mrs. Gilman asked for purpose of the change. Mr. Stewart explained that the change allows the Program Manager to have supervisory duties over the Bilingual Aides.

Motion to approve Item 10a.(6) carried unanimously.

Mrs. Gilman announced to those present that Item 10a.(9) includes a deployment letter from the Alaska Army National Guard to release two District teachers who will be sent to Iraq. She stated that she felt the School Board should recognize the two gentlemen for the amazing sacrifice they are making and for the incredible learning experience they will provide for the students upon their return. Mrs. Gilman noted that every teacher is important in the District but these two, in particular, really add to the spirit of their school and are tremendous assets to the students in their schools. She wished Mr. Zimmerman and Mr. Felchle well as they embark on their assignment.

CONSENT AGENDA:
(continued)

Dr. Peterson explained that federal law governs military service situations and added that the District is attempting to honor the wishes of the two individuals involved, their families and school administrators. Dr. Peterson added the District is working to assure there is no significant loss in their pay and benefits. Ms. Germano noted that that is not a requirement of the federal government and thanked the administration for ensuring that the deployed employees are taken care of.

Motion to approve Item 10a (9) carried unanimously.

AASB CORE RESOLUTIONS:
(7:45:46 PM)

Ms. Germano explained that recommendations from the Board for the AASB resolutions would be forwarded to AASB.

MOTION

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve of the AASB Core Resolutions as recommended by the AASB Board of Directors (referred to chart). Mrs. Mullins seconded.

MOTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board remove Item 1.2, Opposing Mandated School Consolidation. Mrs. Brown seconded.

Dr. Anderson stated the School Board has consistently opposed this resolution in the past.

Mrs. Gilman thought the Board should vote against continuing the opposition of mandated school consolidation because it is the financial responsibility of the State of Alaska to not have 53 school districts. She added that if the individual school districts do not consolidate voluntarily then the state should intervene.

Ms. Wassilie stated she would vote against the motion as she believes in local control. She added that there is movement from the schools to begin consolidation.

Mrs. Crawford clarified that a YES vote will oppose the item for inclusion in the AASB resolutions.

VOTE ON ITEM AASB RESOLUTION 1.2

Advisory: YES

NO – Mullins, M. Anderson, Wassilie

YES – Crawford, Brown, N. Anderson, Gilman, Hilts, Germano

Motion carried.

MOTION

Dr. Anderson moved to remove Item 1.3, Opposition to Mandated Borough Formation. Mrs. Brown seconded.

AASB CORE RESOLUTIONS:
(continued)

Mrs. Brown stated this has been a topic of discussion in previous legislative sessions and she believes it would be in the best interest of this Borough if other Boroughs were making similar effort regardless of their economic standing. She explained that Borough formation must begin somewhere and typically progress, and when operating as a Borough there are numerous opportunities for improved economic reality. Mrs. Brown stated that her understanding of the issue is that it would be in the best interest of our District if we have mandatory borough formation across the state.

Ms. Wassilie reiterated that she believes these efforts should come from the local level and is aware the Local Boundary Commission is considering areas where it is feasible to form boroughs. She added that there are many sections of the state that do not have the means to form a borough.

Mrs. Mullins stated that the Local Boundary Commission has worked on the issue of mandated borough formation and upon review she has decided that she does not want to force people to form a borough for taxation purposes and to add another layer of government that they do not want. She stated that there are other ways to have state residents contribute their fair share and noted it is a legislative issue.

Dr. Anderson stated that former legislator, John Torgerson, has reviewed the mandated borough issue and feels there are significant economic resources that could be utilized. He added that he does not know of anyone who would vote to be taxed, so he predicted that there will be a fight against mandating any type of borough formation. He added that he does not object to the absence of borough formation in areas where resources are limited. He stated that where there are resources, boroughs should be formed and should pay their fair share and added that he will continue to oppose the resolution.

Ms. Germano stated this District is impacted greatly by REAs who do not make a contribution. She stated that this issue will probably continue to be held up in the legislature. She clarified that the legislature does have the authority to tax property owners within unorganized areas. Ms. Germano added that if the legislature actually taxed unorganized borough property owners they would find that they would be better served to have local government and local control.

Ms. Germano clarified that a YES vote opposes mandated borough formation and a NO vote supports it.

VOTE ON AASB Resolution 1.3

Advisory: YES

NO – Mullins, Hilts, Wassilie, Germano

YES – Crawford, Brown, N. Anderson, M. Anderson, Gilman

Motion carried.

AASB CORE RESOLUTIONS:

(continued)

MOTION

Mrs. Gilman moved the Board approve the removal of Item 1.4.
Ms. Wassilie seconded.

Mrs. Gilman stated that the ASB Resolution recommends deleting opposition to unrestricted and unfunded non-public school and part-time student access to public school activity programs. She added that she has tremendous concern over state law that allows any student access to public schools if they are not enrolled in the District. Mrs. Gilman stated that, in her opinion, in order to take advantage of school benefits one should be a student in that school.

Mrs. Brown stated she would support the AASB recommendation to delete the item in its entirety. She stated that non-public school and part-time students participate in a lot of activities that are taking place in Borough-owned buildings and added that some of the activities are not funded entirely by the School District and therefore, students may be justified in participating in certain activities.

Dr. Anderson stated that it is the District's responsibility to educate every student on the Peninsula as little and as much as they want to participate. He said he will continue to have that attitude because regulations already exist which mandate student access. He added that the student access issue is almost a moot point but if not, he would oppose the idea of restricting student access to District programs.

Ms. Wassilie stated she would also oppose the motion because any way to get students into the public school system should be encouraged.

Mrs. Gilman expressed concern with the supervision of part-time students while participating in public school activities.

Ms. Germano clarified that a YES vote will continue the AASB recommendation and a NO vote would mean to delete the resolution.

VOTE ON AASB RESOLUTION 1.4

Advisory: NO

NO – N. Anderson, Hilts, M. Anderson, Brown, Wassilie, Crawford, Mullins, Germano

YES – Gilman

Motion failed.

MOTION

Mrs. Gilman moved to approve AASB recommendation to Resolution 2.5., Education Funding Formula Rewrite. Mrs. Brown seconded.

MOTION

Mrs. Gilman moved the Board amend AASB Resolution 2.5 by removing the last sentence of the first paragraph under "Rationale". Dr. Anderson seconded.

AASB CORE RESOLUTIONS:
(continued)

Mrs. Gilman stated the reason she would like to delete the sentence is because it negates the whole purpose of asking for an Education Foundation Formula Rewrite and added that asking the state to hold some Districts harmless is contradictory. She added that during the last twenty years when the foundation formula harmed the District no one asked to hold KPBSD harmless.

Mrs. Mullins asked why, if the District were harmed over the past 20 years, the District would want to allow harm to another district and its students. Dr. Anderson stated that although the Board does not want to harm other students, the formula should be fair.

Ms. Germano stated that the amended language is under the "Rationale" paragraph and suggested that in order to address the issue, the entire first paragraph should be eliminated because that sentence is really in reference to the previous statement of the cost factor that was submitted in 2002. She noted that the cost factor puts the Mat-Su district at .99 and asked how a district receives less money than the Anchorage district; and suggested that the whole paragraph be deleted.

MOTION

Mrs. Gilman moved the Board approve an amendment to the amendment to eliminate the entire paragraph. Mrs. Brown seconded.

Mrs. Brown suggested an explanation for the paragraph deletion be provided to AASB. Mrs. Gilman added that she supports the deletion of the entire "Rationale" paragraph and would forward the message to the AASB Resolutions Committee that the District would like to urge the legislature to provide adequate, sustainable funding to meet District needs when it next reopens the education funding formula. She stated that the Resolutions Committee will have a discussion about the rationale.

Ms. Germano clarified that the vote on the amendment to the amendment deletes the first paragraph under "Rationale" in AASB Resolution 2.5.

Amendment carried unanimously

Amended motion carried unanimously.

MOTION

Mrs. Brown moved the Board consider AASB Resolution 2.6, Financial Support to Achieve Statewide Strategies. Mrs. Hilts seconded the motion.

MOTION

Mrs. Brown moved the Board amend AASB Resolution 2.6 to delete the reference to Universities in the first paragraph and to delete Item Number 3. Mrs. Gilman seconded.

Mrs. Brown stated that the AASB has no business becoming involved in issues relating to the University of Alaska. She stated that the District would be better served if lobbying efforts were not involved with University of Alaska issues. She added that it would be helpful if all references to the Universities be stricken from the document.

AASB CORE RESOLUTIONS:
(continued)

Mr. Tilbury clarified that the intent of the amendment means that the AASB should not support enhancement in teachers so they can better educate their students.

Mrs. Brown stated that she believes that the AASB should limit their lobbying efforts to kindergarten through 12. She added that it is separated in the Constitution and so it should be separated in AASB.

Mrs. Crawford expressed opposition to the amendment because the desire is to realize the potential of a standards-based educational system focused on increasing student achievement. She added, District teachers receive training through the University, so enhanced teacher preparation and professional development is needed.

Mrs. Mullins stated that she also opposes the amendment because the District works with the University and other organizations in the area of professional development which helps students succeed. She stated that the issue is about partnerships and does not want to oppose partnerships.

Mrs. Brown stated that it is becoming more evident that kindergarten through 12 grade education is in competition for funding with the Universities and although there is a lot of partnering that exists, support can be achieved in different ways other than using AASB Resolutions as a lobbying tool for funding.

Ms. Wassilie stated that there might be competition for state dollars to some degree but not with the University. She added that the University needs district students.

Ms. Germano clarified that a YES vote will delete the reference to University and Item Number 3 from AASB Resolution 2.6 and a NO vote will leave the Resolution as it is.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT TO AASB RESOLUTION 2.6

Advisory: NO

NO – N. Anderson, Hilts, Mullins, M. Anderson, Crawford, Wassilie, Germano

YES – Gilman, Brown,

Amendment failed.

RECESS:
(8:23:36 PM)

At 8:23 p.m. Ms. Germano called a recess.

RECONVENE:
(8:31:06 PM)

At 8:31 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

VOTE ON AASB RESOLUTION 2.6

Advisory: YES

NO – Brown

YES – Crawford, Gilman, Mullins, Dr. Anderson, Wassilie, Hilts, M. Anderson, Germano

AASB CORE RESOLUTIONS:

(continued)

Motion carried.

MOTION

Mrs. Gilman moved to approve the AASB recommendation to continue. Mr. Anderson seconded.

Mrs. Gilman moved the Board amend the AASB recommendation from “delete” to “continue”. Mrs. Hilts seconded.

Mrs. Gilman stated there’s an inherent contradiction in the intensive needs language that in order to qualify as an intensive needs student, the disabilities must be such that a student would require a full-time aide. She stated that the amount of money the state provides for those students does not cover the cost of the aide or other services the students may require. Mrs. Gilman stated this issue must be addressed and not deleted.

Ms. Germano pointed out the item is actually combined under 2.5 in the third paragraph so this was more a clarification by the Association. Mrs. Gilman stated that she agreed with the deletion.

Mrs. Gilman withdrew the amendment to Resolution 2.7 with approval from the second.

Ms. Germano clarified that the motion is to delete 2.7 as recommended by the Association.

Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION

Mrs. Brown moved the Board approve AASB recommendation to delete Resolution 2.13, Opposing Proposed School Funding Formula Change (Allowing 45% of Basic Need). Dr. Anderson seconded.

Ms. Germano clarified that the recommendation from the AASB was to delete Resolution 2.13. Mrs. Douglas stated she reviewed the language in the Resolution and explained that it refers to either the lesser of 4 mills or 45% so the recommendation to delete is appropriate because the issue to eliminate the 45% is a non-issue.

Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION

Mrs. Hilts moved the Board approve the AASB recommendation for Resolution 2.21, Funding for School District-Operated Regional Boarding Home Programs. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

MOTION

Mrs. Hilts moved the Board amend the AASB recommendation and to delete Resolution 2.21. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

AASB CORE RESOLUTIONS:
(continued)

Mrs. Hilts explained that boarding home and regional boarding school are referenced in the resolution and are not the same. She stated that she feels it supports the type of program that is offered in Nenana that starts out by itself then relies on the state for funding, thereby diluting the funding available to everybody else. She stated that the idea of a regional boarding school is a good one and added that she supports the development of such schools but that they need to be carefully thought out by those with experience.

Ms. Germano stated that she thought the intent of the Resolution was to not allow any school district to operate a regional boarding school but instead to fund them adequately so they can afford to house students. Mrs. Hilts stated that school districts do not understand what is involved in order to operate a boarding school. She stated that she supports the development of more regional boarding schools but that they need to be more carefully thought out by people who are aware of what is involved. Ms. Germano suggested a revision to the language rather than eliminating the Resolution.

Mrs. Brown states she would vote against the amendment to delete because she believes the item needs work. Mrs. Hilts reiterated that she approves of an expanded boarding school program but noted that the recommendation requires different wording. Ms. Germano suggested the second sentence of Resolution 2.21 be eliminated.

MOTION

Mrs. Hilts moved the Board approve an amendment to eliminate the second sentence of Resolution 2.21. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION 2.21

Advisory: YES

NO - Brown

YES - Gilman, Dr. Anderson, Crawford, M. Anderson, Mullins, Hilts, Wassilie, Germano

Amendment carried.

Mrs. Brown stated that she voted NO because she believes that districts need to have local input with the exception of those districts who do not have a Borough government.

Mrs. Hilts withdrew the amendment to delete Resolution 2.21.

VOTE ON AMENDED RESOLUTION 2.21

Advisory: YES

NO - Brown

YES - Wassilie, M. Anderson, Gilman, Hilts, Mullins, Dr. Anderson, Crawford, Germano

AASB CORE RESOLUTIONS:
(continued)

Mrs. Brown stated that she will vote no because AASB should not be involved in issues that are addressed in Resolutions 2.6, 2.15, 2.18 and other resolutions. She added there will be numerous comments made before the document is ultimately passed by the Association of Alaska School Boards and added that sometimes AASB gets off track and involved in things they shouldn't be.

VOTE ON AASB 2004 CORE RESOLUTIONS AS AMENDED

Advisory: YES

NO – Brown

YES – Wassilie, Crawford, Hilts, Gilman, N. Anderson, Mullins, M. Anderson, Germano

Amended motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF AASB
NOMINATION:**

(8:54:08 PM)

MOTION

Mrs. Hilts moved the Board approve the nomination of Mrs. Sammy Crawford to the Association of Alaska School Boards Board of Directors. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/
COMMENTS:**

(8:56:10 PM)

Mrs. Carrow, KPEA President, expressed disappointment that during the last round of negotiations the Teacher's Association brought forward a proposal to change Negotiated Item 346, Paid Military Leave, which was denied.

Susan Matthews, K-Beach parent and Site Council Member, stated she was excited to hear about the increase in enrollment and noted that K-Beach is "bursting at the seams" and expressed hope that assistance with the large classrooms will be forthcoming.

BOARD COMMENTS:

(9:00:00 PM)

Mrs. Brown expressed her appreciation for being allowed to change her comments to verbatim in the July 12, 2004 minutes and to Mrs. Mullins for her assistance. She expressed frustration at the process involved and stated that it was uncomfortable and embarrassing as well as time consuming and noted that she had to call on fellow Board Member Mrs. Mullins for council. Mrs. Brown stated that the families in District 7 and throughout the Borough who have children in school want to have small class sizes. She stated that parents expect the Board to respond to their wishes which has been ongoing for a number of years (possibly 10 years). She stated that she believes that the Board has not done their job which is the reason she became interested in running for the School Board. Mrs. Brown read the first sentence in the first paragraph under local control of governments in the AASB Mission Statement, "public education is the responsibility of the states and of the local school boards created thereunder. This system of local school board governance is one of the purest examples of democracy in action today in that school boards are accountable for public education by the public they serve as locally elected representatives." She stated that the Board is struggling and noted that if there is \$30,000 that was found in the Project GRAD account that can not be used to fund the District's priority, then the Board

BOARD COMMENTS:
(continued)

is not doing their job. She stated that she is speaking collectively and is not pointing fingers but the Board needs to be responsible and give direction to the administration. Mrs. Brown stated that the Board needs to do a better job of giving direction and added that she will volunteer for the Budget Review Committee.

Dr. Anderson stated that he represents all students in the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District and not just those residing in his district.

Mr. Anderson stated that it was nice to see all the children going back in school this year and was happy to see how pro-active the principal was in his child's school. He thanked the School Board members for being a partner and for making the KPBSD the best district. He also thanked administration for their work and patience and the public for lobbying the legislature to adequately fund the District. Mr. Anderson reminded those present that the District needs to continue working on developing a consistent funding plan.

Ms. Wassilie reiterated Mr. Anderson's comment regarding a consistent funding plan and added the Board needs to be very careful about using terms such as competition for state dollars because it is often necessary to partner with other agencies such as the University of Alaska. Ms. Wassilie added if it were not for the services provided by the University or health care organizations, the School District would have to provide them which would take money away from classrooms. She added that work must continue in order to obtain additional state money for services that benefit children. Ms. Wassilie noted that this meeting will be Mr. Tilbury's last and wished him good luck in the future.

Mr. Tilbury stated that he has learned a lot by being the student representative on the School Board and thanked everyone for the opportunity to participate. He noted that his senior year is going to be very busy and that another student should have the opportunity to learn as much as he did.

Mrs. Gilman said that the start of school was very successful for her children. She reported that she visited Sears Elementary and Kenai Alternative High and observed that every classroom she visited had students who were attentive, on task, and actively engaged in the learning process with their instructors. She reported that the class sizes at Sears Elementary are ideal and expressed disappointment that the school was going to lose a teacher. She explained that Sears Elementary lost a teacher because the student enrollment at Redoubt Elementary is high. Mrs. Gilman stated that she would like class size issues resolved before the tenth day of school. She stated that she does not feel that it is the right decision on the part of the District to fix the problem at Redoubt Elementary at the expense of the children at Sears Elementary. Mrs. Gilman stated that the District is 300 students above projection and noted that the additional students will generate additional funding to help with District finances. She reported that moving a Sears Elementary teacher to Redoubt Elementary will impact 5 classrooms. She stated that two of the

BOARD COMMENTS:
(continued)

affected classrooms are multi-age classrooms which were specifically chosen by the parents because they agree with the multi-age concept. She reported that Sears Elementary qualifies for Title 1 money because of transient issues and consistency issues are of importance to that school and added that the District needs to do whatever is necessary to be as consistent as possible. She reported that the first grade class at Sears Elementary has students who have behavioral issues to the point that they need a full-time shadow in order to attend school. She stated that it is not realistic to expect a teacher who has taught first grade for 15 years to adjust to the kindergarten curriculum in one weekend. She stated that the shuffling of teachers is not the right thing to do for kids. She stated that the Board should start thinking about how the District can best educate students and then figure out a way to pay for it. She suggested the District use the \$30,000 plus \$30,000 from somewhere else in the budget to pay for an additional teacher and keep from impacting five classrooms. Mrs. Gilman stated that she assumes that the administration will be bringing a request to the Board for additional staff to accommodate the 300 additional students.

Mrs. Crawford thanked Mr. Haupt and Mrs. Druce for the Follow the Leader and Homework.com presentation. She reported that Project GRAD has six schools that are hosting village gatherings within the next week. She stated that it is exciting that ninth grade students are making commitments to finish high school and will consider college. Mrs. Crawford reported that she visited Redoubt Elementary last week and was very impressed at how Dr. Peterson conducted classroom visits. Mrs. Crawford stated the workplan information is appreciated. Mrs. Crawford thanked the Board for approving the nomination to the AASB Board. She added that she was impressed with the Board's work on the AASB resolutions.

Mrs. Hilts congratulated Mr. Tilbury on the completion of his service on the School Board. Mrs. Hilts reported that there are four new teachers at Susan B. English Elementary/High School and things are going well. She reported that she attended a cultural lunch at Nanwalek Elementary/High School. Mrs. Hilts asked for donations of cross-country skiing equipment for Razdolna Elementary.

Mrs. Mullins stated that it has been a pleasure to have Mr. Tilbury serve on the School Board and added there are a lot of people statewide looking at him and respecting him for the fine job he did. Mrs. Mullins stated the amount of information in the packet was incredible and added that she hopes the public understands the amount of preparation work by Board members. She added that she appreciates all the information. She reported that it is obvious from her observations during recent school visits that students and staff are excited to be back in school. She reported that she attended the Policy Review Committee meeting and added that it is better to spend the entire day reviewing one section of the manual rather than a few policies before each Board meeting for almost a year. She thanked the leadership team for the opportunity to observe the interaction during the leadership team meeting.

BOARD COMMENTS:
(continued)

Ms. Germano reported that Mrs. Gilman will serve on the KPSAA Executive Board; Mrs. Brown will serve on the Physical Education Curriculum Committee; Ms. Wassilie and Mr. Anderson will serve on the Career and Technical Education Committee; and Mrs. Brown, Mr. Anderson and Mrs. Gilman will serve on the Budget Review Committee. She reported that Mrs. Crawford will attend the Parent Training meeting. Ms. Germano thanked Mr. Tilbury for his service to the Board and asked that he provide assistance to the new representative. Ms. Germano expressed frustration at comments made by Ms. Carrow regarding a proposed memorandum of agreement for military service. She stated that the District did not have a conversation with KPEA regarding employees who are called to military service. She explained that the conversation was about choosing military training time for those who are in the National Guard and added that she is frustrated because it seems the District is being criticized again for not doing something when there was never a conversation about the issue. Ms. Germano thanked Mr. Spence for the quick action to change the name of the Homer Aquatic Center. Ms. Germano stated that she is frustrated because there are 300 more students in the District than was projected which equals an increase in funding to the District. She stated that the Board has always made a priority of having teachers in front of students even though the PTR had to be raised. She stated that it was her understanding that when the Board allocated money last spring it was allocated to fix areas where there were problems, instead of changing the formula. She explained that the Board wants to address PTR issues the best way possible and with 300 additional students it will provide some relief. She apologized to Mrs. Douglas and stated that she does not care about TRS and PERS this week and acknowledged that as a Board member she has a fiduciary responsibility but added that the Board also has an obligation to District students.

ADJOURN:
(9:34:28 PM)

At 9:34 p.m., Mrs. Mullins moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted

Ms. Deborah Germano, President

Dr. Nels Anderson, Clerk

The Minutes of September 13, 2004,
were approved on October 4, 2004
as written.