

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Seward High School

Seward, AK 99664

October 5, 1998

Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President

Mr. Joe Arness, Vice President

Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

Mrs. Debra Mullins, Treasurer

SCHOOL BOARD
MEMBERS:

Dr. Nels Anderson, Member

Ms. Deborah Germano, Member

Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Member

Miss Charise Calvert, Student Representative

Mr. John Dahlgren, Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Patrick Hickey, Assistant Superintendent, Operations and
Business Management

STAFF PRESENT:

Mr. Ed McLain, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction

Mrs. Sharon Radtke, Assistant Superintendent, Human
Resources

Mr. Ralph Steeves

Mrs. Sandy Taylor

Mrs. Debbie Palm

Mr. Malcolm Fleming

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Gene Palm

Mr. Bob Boyle

Mr. David Dieckgraeff

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A quorum of School Board members, Mr. Arness, Dr. Anderson, Mrs. Mullins, Mrs. Crawford and Mrs. Larned were in attendance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 9:01 a.m., Mrs. Larned moved the Board go into executive session to discuss subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person, provided the person may request a public discussion. Mrs. Crawford seconded. Specifically, the executive session was to conduct two expulsion hearings.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion carried unanimously.
At 11:00 a.m., Mrs. Larned moved the executive session be adjourned. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

RECESS: Motion carried unanimously.
At 11:00 a.m., Mr. Arness called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS: At 7:31 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session. Mrs. Gross welcomed Miss Charise Calvert, Soldotna High School student, as the newly elected School Board Student Representative.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mrs. Gross invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross	Present
Mr. Joe Arness	Present/Left at 1:00 p.m.
Mrs. Susan Larned	Present
Dr. Nels Anderson	Present
Mrs. Sammy Crawford	Present
Ms. Deborah Germano	Absent/Excused
Mrs. Debra Mullins	Present
Miss Charise Calvert	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved as written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of September 14, 1998, were approved with a correction to page 11, Mrs. Crawford stated that she does support binding arbitration.

SCHOOL REPORTS:

Mr. Ralph Steeves, principal/teacher, Moose Pass Elementary, thanked the Board for stopping at Moose Pass Elementary School on their way to Seward. He stated that Moose Pass is still a community where parents send their children to school well-prepared and ready to learn. He stated that as of September 30 he has not had any referrals to the principal's office for student interactions or drug, alcohol or tobacco use. He stated that Moose Pass Elementary is a multigraded school that uses cross-curricular presentations, thematic units and technology throughout the curriculum. He stated that for the past five years, student-led parent conferences and student portfolios have been used to assess student progress. He reported that Moose Pass students are involved in a wide variety of cocurricular activities and that he is pleased with last year's level test results in all areas and grades.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. Steeves introduced Moose Pass Elementary students who performed, "Sleeping with the Seals." He stated that the play was presented during the grand opening of the Sea Life Center.

Mrs. Sandra Taylor, Soldotna Aurora Borealis parent, referred to a letter from Patrick Hickey to Larry Semmens concerning a meeting to address the issue of Aurora Borealis Charter School's request to occupy the Kenai Elementary building. She asked when the date to conduct a walk-through could be scheduled. She asked for some clarification about the purpose of the meeting.

Mr. Hickey responded that the meeting will involve representatives from the Aurora Borealis Charter School. He stated that the purpose of the review will be to determine the cost estimates for occupancy of the Kenai Elementary Building. He stated that he will schedule the meeting as soon as possible and that Mr Semmens would have an answer this coming week on what the schedule will be.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS
(Continued):

Mrs. Taylor asked whether the District was moving in the direction of allowing the Aurora Borealis Charter school to move into the Kenai Elementary building.

Mr. Hickey explained that the purpose of the meeting between Borough Maintenance, District administration and representatives of the Aurora Borealis Charter School is to complete a more thorough and comprehensive analysis of the Kenai Elementary building and provide a more exact cost of repairs and renovation. He stated that the decision whether the Aurora Borealis Charter School may move into the Kenai Elementary Building will remain a Board decision.

Mrs. Kimberly VanAntwerp, Soldotna Aurora Borealis parent, asked the Board to consider the request of the Aurora Borealis Charter School to move to the Kenai Elementary Building. She stated that a move to a larger, more comfortable facility will attract more students who would normally attend private school or continue home school.

Mr. Gene Palm, Aurora Borealis teacher, thanked the Board for listening to the school's concerns. He asked the Board to take a hard look at alternatives and help them try to find something to work rather than feeling an obligation to look. He stated that the emphasis is on the student's learning environment and that what is good for Aurora Borealis Charter School is good for the District. He stated that students who wouldn't normally register with the District are a part of the Aurora Borealis Charter School.

Mrs. Gross explained that the question is whether or not Kenai Elementary is suitable for students and if not, how much money will it take to make it usable.

Mrs. Debbie Palm, Soldotna Aurora Borealis parent, stated that she is eager for a move to a more comfortable facility. She stated that she realizes there are obstacles standing in the way of the move but that the staff and parents are willing to work through them.

Mrs. Gross reiterated that student safety and suitability must be considered before students from Aurora Borealis Charter School could move into the Kenai Elementary building.

Mr. Paul Prebys, Seward Elementary speech/language teacher, read a letter shared earlier with the Board during an informal community meeting. He stated that there has been a steady decline in services to students because of reductions in budget, increasing number of ill-prepared students, increasing academic demands, lack of respect for teachers, and cumbersome state and federal mandates. He stated that every elementary school should have a full-time school counselor and nurse, staff to coordinate local social programs, an acceptable pupil-teacher ratio, teacher aides and collaboration time. He asked the Board and District administration to do everything they can to let the state and federal governments know that if mandates are to be passed on to the state, then appropriate funding should support those mandates to make the process as efficient as possible.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS
(Continued):

COMMUNICATIONS AND
PETITIONS:

Mr. Dahlgren announced that he received letters and cooperative agreements from Mr. Carl Knudson, superintendent of Galena City School District, and Dr. Patrick Doyle, superintendent of Copper River School District, listing students from the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District enrolled in their correspondence programs. Mr. Dahlgren stated that he responded via letter to each superintendent and included a revised cooperative agreement from the District. He stated that the agreement includes a list of 636 students enrolled in the Galena City School District and 32 students enrolled in the Copper River School District. He reported that 18 part-time District students are enrolled in either of the two correspondence programs.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AND/OR P.T.A., K.P.A.A., K.
P.E.A., K.P.E.S.A.:

David Dieckgraeff, Seward area PTA representative, reported on various school maintenance projects and thanked the Board for their support. He asked the Board to consider an addition to the Seward High School to accommodate more locker room space, fencing for the newly seeded grass and a new scoreboard. He reported that there are two seats open for the Seward area site council and that elections will be held October 6, 1998. He announced that the site council meets at 7:00 p.m. at Seward Elementary on the second Thursday of each month, and he invited the Board to attend. Mr. Dieckgraeff reported that elementary student test scores are up over last year. He asked the Board to consider funding elementary school counselors and more nursing time.

SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT:

Mr. Dahlgren congratulated Mario Bird for placing first in the 1A, 2A, 3A individual boys' cross-country championships and Seward High School girls' cross-country team for placing first in the team event on Saturday, October 3.

SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT (Continued):

Mr. Dahlgren announced that in response to the recent measles outbreak, the District will follow the November 16 deadline established by the Anchorage and Mat-Su School Districts to have all students inoculated with the second measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine. Mr. Dahlgren reported that the District will provide clinics for those students and staff requiring a second MMR inoculation on October 9 from 3-6 p. m. at Mt. View Elementary and on Saturday, October 10 from 10-2 p.m. at K-Beach Elementary. He added that clinics are also planned for the Seward and Homer areas. Mr. Dahlgren reported that all K-3 students have received two MMR inoculations and that the focus will be grades 4-12 where there are approximately 4-5,000 students who need the second MMR inoculation, have allergic reactions or have religious

exemptions to vaccines.

BOARD REPORTS:

Mrs. Crawford reported that she attended the AASB Boardmanship Academy on September 19-20. She stated that the group heard from Dr. Holloway, commissioner of education, regarding the Quality School Initiative, learned about SB36, funding formulas and school law.

Mrs. Larned reported that she attended a meeting with representatives from the Governor's Children's Cabinet which included representatives from various community agencies, cities and the borough. She stated that the people in attendance were interested in spending money on children's issues in a more proactive stance rather than waiting for problems to occur.

Dr. Anderson stated that the current recommendation regarding measles is that adults should not get a second MMR vaccine unless they come in direct contact with a confirmed case of the disease. He stated that students who have allergic reactions or an objection to receiving vaccinations should stay out of school for two full-life cycles of the virus (22-24 days) after the last measles case is reported.

Mrs. Mullins reported that she also attended the AASB Boardmanship Academy and that the group spent a lot of time discussing the ramifications of SB36 and the impact of the new funding in each district throughout the state. She stated that the deputy commissioner of education has been spending a considerable amount of time solving problems created by the new formulas. She suggested that it is time to start talking to the legislators about the ramifications of SB36.

BOARD REPORTS
(Continued):

Mrs. Gross announced that she is currently involved in the Alaska School Activities Association (ASAA) meeting in Anchorage. She reported that ASAA is proposing that a permanent fund be established through a fee charged to each District and that the earnings would be used to pay for student travel to state competitions. She stated that, unfortunately, ASAA is suggesting that the money be used twenty-five years in the future and the concern expressed was that athletics will look totally different twenty-five years from now. She stated that she doubted that students or districts would pay money now to be used in twenty-five years.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Budget Transfer, Primary Sponsor of Gaming Permits, 1998-99 Teacher Assignments and an Early Graduation Request.

Budget Transfer:

Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve budget transfer Number 37 for \$20,000 to the District Media Center to purchase media for districtwide use.

Mrs. Crawford asked what the money will be used to purchase. Mr. Dahlgren explained that when money is allocated for new textbooks a portion is sent to the Media Center to purchase resources to support the newly adopted curriculum.

Primary Sponsor of Gaming Permits:

By memorandum, Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve Primary and Alternative Members in Charge for the following schools applying for gaming permits for the 1998-99 school year: Mary Downs and Fred Deussing, Chapman School; Cynthia Farrens and Keith Gebhardt, Homer High; Sam Stewart and Hank Overturf, Kenai Central High; Glen Szymoniak and Laura Sheldon, McNeil Canyon Elementary; Ralph Steeves and Melanie Schilling, Moose Pass Elementary; Darolyn Brown and Jim Dawson, Mt. View Elementary; Maurice Glenn and Pauline Demas, Nanwalek Elem/High; Lassie M. Nelson and Robert Bellmore, Nikiski Middle/High; Carlton Kuhns and Dunia Martushev, Nikolaevsk Elementary/High; Paul Kubena and Janet Clark, Ninilchik Elementary/High; Kim Schaeffer and Michelle McGlasson, North Star Elementary; Wayne A. Young and Olga Fomin, Port Graham Elementary; Marilyn Kowalski-Eaton and Malcolm Fleming, Seward Junior/Senior High; Marlene Byerly and Dawn Conn, Skyview High; Sylvia Reynolds and Daniel Gensel, Soldotna High; Steve Jones and Sandy Geagel, Susan B. English Elementary/High; Lisa Stroh and Lea Shields, Tustumena Elementary; Roderick M. Ladd, Jr. and Jean Calhoun, West Homer Elementary.

1998-99 Teacher Assignments:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve 1998-99 teacher assignments for Katherine Schwartz, districtwide art specialist and Margaret Brewster, library, Homer High.

Early Graduation Request:

Mr. McLain recommended the Board approve an early graduation request for a Homer High School student to graduate at the end of the first semester of the 1998-99 school year. The student plans to ski competitively and hopes to qualify for the Alaska Junior Olympic team during the second semester of her senior year.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 4. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Student Expulsion Number 1: Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve the following: "The Decision of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District in the Matter of Expulsion of WB.

ACTION

This matter was heard before the board on October 5, 1998. Neither the student nor the parents were present, although the administration advised that the student's mother had called that morning to state that she may not be able to attend the hearing. Mark Norgren, Assistant Principal for Soldotna High School, and Ed McLain, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, were present and recommended expulsion of the student for a second violation of Board Policy 5131.6, being under the influence of alcohol at a school sponsored event, on school grounds.

The evidence presented showed that on September 11, 1998 at approximately 10:00 p.m. WB was in attendance at the school bonfire. Upon being questioned by the Soldotna police in attendance, WB freely admitted to being under the influence of alcohol and was generally cooperative. WB was escorted to the school office by the police officer and the assistant principal, and was given a breathalyzer test which showed a positive BAC of .166. The assistant principal immediately contacted WB's mother who was unable to come to the school. WB was sent home with a police officer. An informal hearing was held the following Monday morning, September 14, 1998, by the assistant principal, with WB and WB's mother in attendance. At that hearing WB did not dispute the above facts, and evidence was presented at that hearing and to the board which showed WB had previously been suspended for violating former school district policy 007.12, concerning the use of a controlled substance on school grounds.

Based on the evidence submitted at the hearing, the board concludes WB violated the District's substance abuse policy 5131.6 on September 11, 1998, that WB has exhibited behavior of a serious nature which is inimical to the welfare, safety or morals of other students, and that expulsion is warranted. These factors make it necessary to remove this student from the school by expulsion for the remainder of the 1998-99 school year, except that the student may apply for early readmission at the beginning of the second semester upon the following conditions: (1) Proof of completion of a substance abuse assessment as outlined by the Alternative to Out-of-School Suspension program ("ATOSS") procedures; (2) a clean, broad spectrum, state certified, chain-of-custody urinalysis provided within ten days of readmittance; and (3) WB agrees in writing to submit to monthly random broad spectrum, state certified,

Student Expulsion Number 1
(Continued):

chain of custody urinalysis tests during the 1998-99 school year as a condition of such early readmission. All urinalysis tests shall be at the student's expense. Any positive monthly urinalysis test, showing use of alcohol or illicit substances, shall result in an immediate suspension and recommendation for expulsion. WB may also apply immediately for readmission for District correspondence. Except as necessary for such readmission, WB shall not go on school grounds during the period of expulsion for any reason, nor shall WB attend any school event or function whatsoever." Dr. Anderson seconded.

VOTE:

YES - Anderson, Crawford, Larned, Mullins

ABSTAIN - Gross

Motion carried.

Student Expulsion Number 2:

ACTION

Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve the following: "The Decision of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District in the Matter of Expulsion of JD.

This matter came before the school board on October 5, 1998. The student was present via teleconference. Ed Mclain, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, Sam Stewart, Principal, Kenai Central High School, and Roy Anderson, Special Services Coordinator were present. Board members present were Joe Arness, Dr. Nels Anderson, Lorraine Crawford, Debra Mullins, and Susan Larned.

Student Expulsion Number 2
(Continued):

The evidence showed that on September 8, 1998 Principal Stewart was contacted that bullets were seen in the hallway in the special education area and a black backpack. Upon contacting Holly Zwink, a special education teacher, she reported that she believed JD was in possession of such a backpack. When asked about the bullets, JD admitted he had them and stated they were to make jewelry. Mr. Stewart asked to check the backpack and JD allowed him to check a pocket which contained books, but JD refused to let him search other parts of backpack. Mr. Stewart neither confiscated the backpack nor detained JD, however, the police were called. JD exited the school premisses and began running and Principal Stewart called to alert the Junior High School that a student was running in that direction with a possible weapon. The police arrived and found JD in possession of a .38 caliber weapon. JD was taken to Wildwood Pretrial facility where he

was still in custody on the date of this hearing. The administration noted that JD had been previously expelled from school in California.

JD is an 18 year old special education student. On September 8 an invitation to an IEP meeting, NOPA (Notice of Proposed Action) and rights statement were sent to JD at Wildwood. The notice informed JD that an IEP meeting would be held on September 22, 1998 at 2:30 to consider placement to an alternative education setting and to determine if a relationship existed between the behavioral event (bringing a weapon to school) and his disability. On September 10, 1998 the special education resource teacher and Special Services Coordinator, met with JD at Wildwood. They gave JD a copy of the NOPA and a statement of his rights and explained to him that he had certain rights as a special education student. JD informed them that he did not want to deal with this while at Wildwood. They explained to JD that the purpose of the IEP meeting was to determine if there was a relationship between his disability and his conduct in bringing a weapon and ammunition to school. JD agreed to attend an IEP meeting on September 14, 1998. This meeting was held and attended by the principal, special education resource teacher, general education teacher, school psychologist, Special Services Coordinator, and JD. JD stated he did not want to be in special education. It was explained that this would result in JD's exit from special education. JD continued to state he did not want to be in special education, at which time the IEP meeting ended.

Based on the evidence presented, the board finds permanent expulsion is required. Possessing a firearm and ammunition on school premises is conduct which is inimical to the welfare and safety of other students. The conduct violates board policy KPBSD 5131.7(a) and AS 14.03.160. Board policy requires expulsion for at least one year for such conduct. The board further finds that JD was uncooperative in presenting his case at the hearing and repeatedly requested that he receive no further contact from the school district. The board further finds that the administration followed the correct process in holding an IEP meeting in attempting to determine whether there was a connection between the student's conduct and disability, and that the student voluntarily refused special education services and was appropriately exited from that program prior to proceeding with the expulsion recommendation to the school board." Dr. Anderson seconded.

Student Expulsion Number 2
(Continued):

VOTE:

YES - Anderson, Crawford, Larned, Mullins

ABSTAIN - Gross

Motion carried.

Establishment of Replacement
of Equipment Fund:

Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve the creation of a special revenue fund for equipment in the KPBSD Chart of Accounts and designate \$500,000 from the unreserved FY98 general fund balance to start this new special revenue fund. A worksession on this issue was held prior to the Board meeting.

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve the establishment of a special equipment fund for revenue and that \$500,000 be appropriated from the unreserved FY98 general fund balance to establish the fund. Mrs. Larned seconded.

ACTION

Motion carried unanimously.

Administrator Resignations:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve resignations effective in June 1999 from Sharon Radtke, assistant superintendent, Human Resources, Paul Epperson, principal, Sterling Elementary and Bob Bellmore, principal, Nikiski Middle/Sr.

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve resignations from Sharon Radtke, assistant superintendent, Human Resources, Paul Epperson, principal, Sterling Elementary and Bob Bellmore, principal, Nikiski Middle/Sr. Mrs. Larned seconded.

ACTION

Motion carried unanimously.

Budget Preparation Calendar:

Mr. Dahlgren presented a listing of dates to be used as a guideline for preparation of the 1999-2000 School District Budget. He called the Board's attention to a correction of the November 30 Board meeting date to December 7.

Mrs. Gross extended an invitation to the Seward community to participate on the District budget committee.

ACTION

Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve the budget preparation calendar. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Dr. Anderson suggested that the central peninsula area budget meetings be combined.

Motion carried unanimously.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mrs. Mullins expressed her appreciation to come to Seward for the Board meeting and the opportunity to stop at Cooper Landing and Moose Pass Elementary Schools. She also thanked those that attended the informal meeting with the Seward community held prior to the regular meeting. She stated that the Board does appreciate hearing the public's views on educational issues.

Mrs. Larned stated that it was nice to be back to Seward and thanked those members of the Seward community who attended the informal public meeting. Mrs. Larned reported that she visited a classroom at the Aurora Borealis Charter School last week. She concurred with the complaints of the staff and parents on the overcrowded conditions and expressed her appreciation for the work of the staff under adverse conditions. She encouraged those present to continue to talk to legislators since comments from the public carry a lot more weight than from other elected officials.

Dr. Anderson expressed his appreciation for the community members who attended the informal meeting with the Board prior to the regular meeting. Dr. Anderson stated that several Board members received a letter from a Soldotna parent who objected to the required purchase of a calculator for a specific math class. He suggested that when classes require specific, costly materials, parents should be given advance notice prior to registration.

Dr. Anderson explained to those present that Board action Item 10d. established a fund to obtain money outside the cap to assist in the replacement of equipment.

BOARD COMMENTS
(Continued):

Mrs. Crawford extended her gratitude to the Seward community for hosting the Board meeting and to the Moose Pass students for presenting their play. She announced that Mr. Dan Walker has been chosen as a finalist for the Alaska Teacher of the Year. She also congratulated District graduates Miss Joslin Tinker, who placed within the top ten in the Miss America Contest, and Dr. Jerry Hu, who has returned to the area to practice dentistry.

Mrs. Crawford asked whether there were any District teachers who were Nationally Board certified. Mrs. Radtke stated that there may be one and that she has heard of others who are taking the test.

Miss Calvert stated that she has gained a lot of insight into the Board of Education process. She stated that she is looking forward to the upcoming year, learning about the District and providing a student's viewpoint for the Board.

Mrs. Gross stated that she attended the cross-country meet at Skyview High and stated that she was proud of the Seward High School girls' cross-country team for their first place finish. She stated that it was a pleasure to meet in Seward and expressed her frustration that Seward does not have a community member on the Board.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mrs. Larned 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 Board will discuss the superintendent search. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Dr. Anderson moved the executive session be adjourned. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN:

At 9:50 p.m., Mrs. Crawford moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President

Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

The Minutes of October 5, 1998,
were approved on October 19, 1998,
as written.