

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
148 N. Binkley Street

Soldotna, AK 99669

September 14, 1998

Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President

Mr. Joe Arness, Vice President

Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

SCHOOL BOARD
MEMBERS:

Mrs. Debra Mullins, Treasurer

Dr. Nels Anderson, Member

Ms. Deborah Germano, Member

Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Member

Mr. John Dahlgren, Superintendent of Schools

STAFF PRESENT:

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

Mrs. Sharon Radtke, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

Mrs. Lana Syverson

Mrs. Dawn Bowman

Mrs. Gretchen Becker

Mr. Bill Syverson

Miss Catherine Becker

Mrs. Debbie Palm

Mrs. Christensen

Mrs. Ruth Brown

Mrs. Devon Zeyer

Mrs. Marita Parks

Mrs. Shirley Zobeck

Mr. Rick Taylor

Mr. Paul Zobeck

Mrs. Sandra Taylor

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. John Steckel

Mr. Todd Syverson

Mr. Justin George

Mrs. Mary Jackson

Mrs. Karen Mahurin

Mrs. Robin Nyce

Ms. Barb Vogel

Mr. George Nyce

Mrs. Tish Hallett

Miss Kylie Zeyer

Ms. Melody Douglas

Ms. Tracy Davis

Mr. Gary Jackson

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mrs. Gross called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

PLEDGE OF
ALLEGIANCE:

Mrs. Gross invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross

Present

Mr. Joe Arness

Absent/Excused

Mrs. Susan Larned

Present

ROLL CALL:

Dr. Nels Anderson

Present

Mrs. Sammy Crawford

Present

Ms. Deborah Germano

Absent/Excused

Mrs. Debra Mullins

Present

APPROVAL OF
AGENDA:

The agenda was approved with the deletion of Item 4a. Hearing of Delegations and the addition of Item 10e. Approval of Memorandum of Agreement/KPEA.

APPROVAL OF
MINUTES:

The School Board Minutes of August 17, 1998, were approved as printed.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mrs. Marcia Kinney, Chapman Elementary School parent, told the Board that last year her son was diagnosed as an insulin-dependent diabetic. Mrs. Kinney expressed concern for the nursing time allocated to Chapman Elementary School and asked the Board to consider providing a full time nurse. She explained that the school secretary who substitutes for the nurse is not medically trained to perform diabetic management of a student. She stated that the District is putting her son's health and safety in jeopardy and depriving him of his right to an equal and fair education by not providing adequate nursing services.

Mrs. Gretchen Becker, Soldotna Middle School parent, expressed her disappointment over Kenai Peninsula Student Activities Association's (KPSAA) recent change to the basketball and volleyball programs. She reported that the number of weeks for intramural and interscholastic play were changed to six and four respectively. She stated that, in addition, if a school has more than one team, each team will be evenly balanced by skill level as approved by the principal. She stated that this change is inconsistent with the General Team Selection policy section as written in the current Cocurricular Handbook. She stated that the only school affected by the change is Soldotna Middle School, and that it prevents the school from putting their most competitive athletes together on one team during the four weeks of interscholastic play. Mrs. Becker stated she took offense over a quote during the KPSAA meeting when a KPSAA board member stated, "The important thing about dividing teams is balance, can't have a 'jock' team at one school." She stated that serious student athletes should be provided an opportunity to play at a competitive level higher than intramurals. Mrs. Becker requested that KPSAA meetings be held during a time when the public could attend.

Miss Catherine Becker, Soldotna Middle School 8th grade student, asked that selections for basketball and volleyball be left to the coaches, regardless of the amount of teams at each school.

Mr. John Steckel, retired teacher, stated that he had coached at Soldotna Middle School for 20 years, and during that time there has been a variety of team configurations and that track is the only sport the school dominated. He related a story of when the basketball team played the Chapman Elementary team and won by 50 points. He stated that he suspects the recent KPSAA changes are an attempt to reduce the strength of the Soldotna Middle School basketball team. He stated that records from the last 20 years show Soldotna Middle School has not dominated any sport other than track and field.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS
(Continued):

Miss Samantha Penner, Soldotna Middle School 8th grade student, voiced her opposition to recent changes in team selection and length of season for basketball and volleyball. She stated that the changes reduce the coaching and training time for competition teams, thereby lowering standards and creating mediocre teams. She asked whether standards would be lowered for requirements to make an A, or qualify for first chair in band, upper math or honors English. She stated that students who achieve a higher skill level should not have those skills diminished by balancing competitive teams.

Mr. Rick Taylor, Aurora Borealis Charter School parent, told the Board that parents of their school share many common goals for their students. He reported that representatives from Aurora Borealis Charter School attended a charter school workshop in Portland, Oregon this summer. He stated that people from many different kinds of charter schools were in attendance, and a common complaint among the schools was securing adequate housing. He stated that the use of the Kenai Elementary School would be a vast improvement over their current facility and asked the Board what steps would be necessary to occupy the building.

Dr. Anderson asked what renovation would be required for Aurora Borealis Charter School to occupy the Kenai Elementary building. Mr. Hickey replied that approximately \$80,000 in upgrades would be required to meet the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). He stated that a chair lift would have to be installed for handicapped students, and fire code and asbestos issues would have to be addressed. Mr. Hickey stated that asbestos abatement could be extremely costly. He reported that, although he was unsure of the exact cost of renovation, estimates have been received as high as \$2 million.

Mr. Taylor stated that the school faces some of the same problems in their current facility. He stated that the Aurora Borealis Charter school staff and parents have not received any insurmountable reasons why they cannot occupy the Kenai Elementary building and would like to have a discussion with the Board regarding each issue.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS
(Continued):

Mrs. Sandy Taylor, Aurora Borealis Charter School parent, referred to e-mail messages sent to Board members expressing concerns regarding school housing. Mrs. Taylor reported that the school pays \$75,000 in rent in their current facility. She stated that the money could be put to better use by renovating Kenai Elementary. She stated that a larger facility would allow the school to offer single grade levels for each teacher. She stated that the Academic Policy Committee wrote a letter requesting the single level wing. She asked why Kenai Alternative High School was allowed to move into the Kenai Elementary School single level wing with no renovations and Aurora Borealis was not, even though they have more students. She asked the Board for a sound and logical response to their letter of request.

Mr. Paul Zobeck, Soldotna Middle School parent, stated he believes that the recent KPSAA ruling designed to balance cocurricular teams was developed specifically to force Soldotna Middle School to require an equal amount of 7th grade and 8th grade students on each team. Mr. Zobeck stated that the new ruling is clearly discriminatory since Soldotna Middle is the only school with two teams participating in basketball and volleyball. He stated that the make-up of each team should be a site decision. Representatives from Soldotna Middle School contacted KPSAA and requested that a group of student athletes be present while the new ruling was being discussed, but was conveniently overlooked. Mr. Zobeck commented that the author of the new ruling is a middle school basketball coach whose team will not be affected by the ruling which constitutes a conflict of interest. Mr. Zobeck noted that the "get Soldotna" rule was designed to keep Soldotna from stacking their team and dominating the league ruining the balance that KPSAA seeks. He stated that records indicate that in the past five years Soldotna Middle has had two teams participate in girls' basketball, boys' basketball, and volleyball and out of 30 teams participating, only one boys' basketball and one volleyball championship has occurred. Mr. Zobeck stated that the new rule is unnecessary and mean-spirited, and asked the Board to rescind KPSAA's discriminatory "get Soldotna" rule.

Mrs. Debbie Palm, Aurora Borealis parent, stated that the current school facility is inadequate to accommodate continued growth. She asked the Board to assist the Aurora Borealis Charter School in their desire to move to the Kenai Elementary building.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS
(Continued):

Miss Kylie Zeyer, Soldotna Middle School 8th grade student, told the Board that this school year is the last opportunity for the current basketball team to play together before they are split up between two high schools.

Miss Jamie Beaver, Soldotna Middle School 8th grade student, stated that if an athlete is going to improve their skills they will need competition. She stated that once student athletes are in high school and college they will be up against much tougher competition. She stated that if the Soldotna Middle School teams are split up they will not be able to compete.

Mr. Mike Dunn, Aurora Borealis parent, commended the teachers for doing an admirable job under substandard teaching conditions. He stated that the consensus of school parents believe that a move to the Kenai Elementary building would be highly beneficial to the overall success of Aurora Borealis Charter School. He stated that parents and staff are willing to do whatever is necessary to accomplish such a move, but have not been given any substantial reasons from the District administration to deny their request. He stated that if there is resistance or lack of accommodation due to personal agendas or simple politics, a disservice will be done to students at Aurora Borealis Charter School. He asked the Board for their understanding and assistance in moving forward with their request to move into the Kenai Elementary building.

Mr. Brent Sinnet, Soldotna Middle School parent, voiced his disagreement with the recent motion passed by the KPSAA Board at the March 17, 1998 meeting. He stated that watering down a specific school's most competitive athletic teams, for reasons that are still unclear, hurts that school's teams while providing no discernible benefit to the student athletes at the other middle schools. He urged the Board to return control over the selection of athletic team to the coaches, without restriction.

Ms. Ruth Brown, Aurora Borealis parent, described uncomfortable, crowded, classroom conditions and stated that the school would like to have more room and that their money would be better spent to renovate the Kenai Elementary building. She expressed appreciation for the attention they have already received and hoped the Board will assist in their request to relocate.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS
(Continued):

Mrs. Marita Parks, Aurora Borealis parent, stated that her concern for a larger school facility stems from acting as a substitute nurse. She stated that the classrooms are too small and that students are sitting too close together creating an unhealthy environment. She reported that, because of the small windows and lack of ventilation, the rooms are stuffy and students become drowsy. She added that the gymnasium floor is carpeted and unsafe, and the upper floor does not have running water.

Mr. Bill Syverson, Aurora Borealis teacher, read a letter sent by Mr. Richard Ross, City Manager, City of Kenai endorsing the request by Aurora Borealis Charter School to occupy the Kenai Elementary building.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND
PETITIONS:**

Mr. Dahlgren announced that he received a letter from the commissioner of education approving the request for a curriculum change from Aurora Borealis Charter School, and one from the Aurora Borealis Charter School Academic Policy Committee requesting the use of the Kenai Elementary building to house their students.

Mr. Dahlgren stated that he met with the president of the Aurora Borealis Charter School Academic Policy Committee and explained that the president of the Board of Education and District administration set the agenda for each meeting. He reported that the Kenai Alternative School has relocated to the space previously occupied by People Count to bring the District into compliance with the Department of Education and ADA requirements. Mr. Dahlgren stated that previously the District administration recommended that the Kenai Elementary and Homer Intermediate buildings be returned to the Borough. The Board voted to keep Kenai Elementary and return Homer Intermediate. He stated that the District Administration has not changed their recommendation to return the building since it has outlived its usefulness as a school. He expressed concern that it is not an appropriate place to house students in its present condition. He did not recommend that Board enter into a landlord/tenant relationship with the Kenai Elementary building since the District would be responsible for bringing the building

into compliance for use as a school. Mr. Dahlgren stated that the Board could decide to give the Kenai Elementary building to the City of Kenai to be used as the City chooses.

COMMUNICATIONS AND
PETITIONS (Continued):

Mrs. Gross thanked parents of the Aurora Borealis Charter School for attending the meeting and voicing their opinions. She explained that the administration is hired to advise the Board on decisions that are in the best interest of the District as a whole. She further explained that it is not the Board's prerogative to go against the advice of the administration. She stated that the Board will review the Aurora Borealis Charter School request again and develop a letter explaining whether or not their request can be acted on. Mrs. Gross stated that she personally supports the recommendation of the administration.

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

Mrs. Karen Mahurin, KPEA president, introduced Iona Holloway, NEA Executive Committee, who has served as a paraprofessional in a preschool and high school in Louisiana for 24 years.

Ms. Holloway stated it has always been her dream to visit Alaska. She stated that she has spent her time visiting schools and talking to staff. Ms. Holloway announced that KPEA and KPESA is sponsoring a community workshop focusing on keeping schools a safe place for children. She stated that NEA is deeply committed to the goal of making America schools safer and that schools must be a place of hope, learning, and opportunity. She reported that NEA's Safe School Program is the combined efforts of school employees, parents, law enforcement officers, social service professionals, and concerned citizens in a community working together to make America's schools safe. She stated that student violence is a community problem, that we must look for signs that a child is at-risk, and teach the difference between tattling and telling. Ms. Holloway quoted Ms. Mahurin who said, from an acceptance speech given at the NEA National Convention, "My work at school is most certainly an extension of my heart; it's my heart and soul." She concluded by saying that when communities come together to do their part, beautiful things will happen.

AWARDS AND
PRESENTATIONS:

Mrs. Gross presented awards of appreciation to Jacquie Imle, principal, Sears Elementary; Tish Hallett, science teacher, Soldotna Middle School and Robin Nyce, school nurse, Soldotna Elementary Soldotna, for outstanding service to education and the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT:**

Mr. Dahlgren presented the Superintendent's Annual Report for the 1997-98 school year. The report highlights staff achievements, reports on various programs throughout the District and progress made on the strategic plan and Board goals.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT (Continued):**

Mr. Dahlgren announced that the next administrator meeting will be September 23 and 24, 1998.

Mr. Dahlgren provided clarification and history relating to KPSAA's decision to balance basketball and volleyball teams at the middle school level. He stated that during the time his youngest daughter was an 8th grade student at Soldotna Middle School she did not have a positive experience in basketball. He explained that the two 7th grade girls' basketball teams were combined into one, and instead of dividing all of the girls into two equal teams, 8th grade girls were selected for one team and the other team was comprised of only 7th grade girls. He stated that because a tremendous amount of pressure is placed on student athletes by having one competitive team, they do not have a pleasurable experience.

Mr. Dahlgren presented a listing of worksessions and reports to be presented at future Board meetings from November 16, 1998 through May 17, 1999.

**FISCAL YEAR 1999
BUDGET REPORT:**

Mr. Hickey presented a report reflecting budget accounts that were changed as a result of recent budget adjustments approved by the Borough Assembly.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Mr. Hickey presented the financial report of the District for the period ending August 31, 1998.

BOARD REPORTS:

Mrs. Larned reported she attended a School to Careers Advisory Committee meeting, and explained that Carl Perkins' money will be given to Homer, Soldotna and Ninilchik High Schools as a vocational program improvement grant. She further explained that every three years the \$20,000 grant money will rotate between nine schools. She announced that a Vocational Student of the Month will continue to be selected. She announced that she had a copy of last year's mini grant awards and information on vocational classes that have been added and dropped, and the graduate follow-up study of the class of 1992 for interested Board members.

Mrs. Gross announced that she had 50 copies of a free book to give away titled, *Helping kids Succeed Alaskan Style*, which is a joint publication by the Association of Alaskan School Boards (AASB) and the Department of Health and Social Services Maternal Child and Health Bureau. She commented that she felt the book was a wonderful resource for everyone in the community to help children succeed. She noted that the book is an Alaskan version of the ASSET model.

Mrs. Gross announced that she will attend an AASB Board of Directors meeting later this week.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Resignations, Tentative Non-Tenure Teacher Assignments, Teacher Assignments, Leave of Absence Request 1999-2000/Certified, and Leave of Absence Requests 1998-99/Support.

Resignations:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve resignations effective August 1998, from Jenifer Cameron, art specialist, districtwide and Suzie Stafford-Hawker, special education/resource, Seward Middle/Sr. High School.

Tentative Non-Tenure Teacher Assignments:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve tentative non-tenure teacher assignments for the 1998-99 school year for Willa de Sousa, art (half-time), Chapman Elementary; Barbara Spence, special education/resource, Kenai Middle; Janet VanDriessche, special education/resource (temporary), Seward Middle/Sr. High; and Jill Showman, high school generalist, Nanwalek Elementary/High.

Teacher Assignments:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve 1998-99 teacher assignments for Michael Ashwell, chemistry/physics, Kenai Central High; Michael Audette, music, Ninilchik School; Susan Biggs, music, Sterling Elementary; Karen Bornheimer, Grades K-2 (temporary), Susan B. English Elementary/High; Elaine Chalup, Grades 5/6, Voznesenka School; Donna Rae Faulkner, science (half-time), Homer High; Reid Kornstad, math (full-time), Nikiski Middle/Sr. High; David Martian, Grade 6, North Star Elementary; Theodore Riddall, athletic director, Nikiski Middle/Sr. High, Katherine Serge, English/social studies (half time) Voznesenka School; Debra Womack, special education/resource (temporary), Redoubt Elementary; and Mariah Wolf, middle school/counselor, Susan B. English School.

Leave of Absence Request 1999-2000/Certified:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve an unpaid leave of absence request for the 1999-2000 school year for Miriam McKay, choir, Skyview High.

and Leave of Absence Requests
1998-99/Support:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve unpaid leave of absence requests for Katie Carmody, head custodian, Sears Elementary, for the remainder of 1998-99; Rochelle Hanson, school secretary I/special education aide, Port Graham Elementary High, for the 1998-99 school year; Jerry Hanson, custodian, Port Graham Elementary/High, for the 1998-99 school year; and Efrocia Polushkin, special education aide, Voznesenka School, effective until January 1999.

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 5. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

ACTION

Motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATOR
RESIGNATIONS:

With great difficulty, Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve resignations, effective June 1999, for John K. Dahlgren, Superintendent of Schools, and Jacquie Imle, principal, Sears Elementary. She stated that it has been a pleasure to work with both administrators and they will be greatly missed. She wished both people the best during their retirement.

Mrs. Sandra Taylor commented that Mr. Dahlgren was her high school principal. She thanked him for working with her during swim team events and extended gratitude for his work and assistance with the charter schools.

Mr. John Steckel wished Mr. Dahlgren and Ms. Jacquie Imle the best during their retirement.

Mrs. Gretchen Becker commented that it is not often a superintendent is seen with a stop watch at a middle school track meet, and extended her appreciation for his personal involvement with students. She stated that it is a pleasure working for Ms. Imle at Sears Elementary, and that the staff and students will miss her.

Ms. Jacquie Imle stated that she has enjoyed working for Mr. Dahlgren, and commented that this past school year has been a pleasure. She added that she has enjoyed her position with the District, but it is time to explore other opportunities.

Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve resignations from John K. Dahlgren and Jacquie Imle, effective June 1999.

Mrs. Mullins seconded.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson stated that in protest of Mr. Dahlgren's resignation, he will vote "no" in the interest of what is best for kids.

Ms. Crawford thanked Mr. Dahlgren and Ms. Imle for their dedicated service to the District.

VOTE:

YES - Crawford, Larned, Mullins, Gross

NO - Anderson

Motion carried.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
FOR PUPIL
TRANSPORTATION:

Mr. Patrick Hickey recommended the Board approve an administrative recommendation to request proposals from transportation companies for a two- or seven-year contract period.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
FOR PUPIL
TRANSPORTATION
(Continued):

Mr. Hickey notified the Board regarding an effort by the Department of Education to consolidate student transportation among the largest districts in the state into one proposal. Mr. Hickey reported that the District transportation contract will soon expire and recommended the District submit a two- or seven-year request for proposal cycle. He stated that he believes a seven-year cycle is in best interest of the District, and then coordinate with the second cycle of the state.

ACTION

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve an administrative recommendation to request proposals from transportation companies for a two- or seven-year contract period. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

AASB RESOLUTIONS:

Mrs. Gross asked the Board to consider the 1998 AASB Belief Statements and Core Resolutions. She explained that they have been reviewed by the AASB Board, and that she has approved them in some form previously.

Mrs. Sandy Taylor asked for an explanation of the AASB Belief Statements and Core Resolutions. Mrs. Gross responded that the resolutions give direction to AASB on a variety of educational issues. She explained that AASB will lobby the legislature in accordance with the resolutions. She noted that the packet will go the AASB Annual Conference for further work and be voted on by the entire body.

Ms. Crawford expressed her objections to the belief statement concerning binding arbitration, and stated that she does support binding arbitration.

Action Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve the AASB Belief Statements and Core Resolutions, with the exception of 1.1, Opposing Mandated School Consolidation; 1.2, Opposition to Mandated Borough Formation. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Anderson spoke against 1.1, Opposing Mandated School Consolidation, stating that consolidation should be considered within reason, if it can save school districts money and still allow local control. He stated that he also objected to resolution 1.2, Opposition to Mandated Borough Formation, because, by creating organized boroughs with REAAs, new tax dollars would be generated to help support rural school systems.

AASB RESOLUTIONS
(Continued):

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve Resolution 1.1, Opposing Mandated School Consolidation. Mrs. Larned seconded.

ACTION

Motion failed.

Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve Resolution 1.2, Opposition to Mandated Borough Formation. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

ACTION

Motion failed.

HEALTH COPAYMENT
MEMORANDUM OF
AGREEMENT/KPEA:

Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve a Memorandum of Agreement between the Kenai Peninsula Education Association and the Board to begin copayments for medical insurance beginning for the 1998-99 school year. Any remaining funds in the KPEA Employee Copay Medical Insurance Account on June 30 of the fiscal year will be reimbursed to participating employees by August 31.

Mrs. Crawford asked when the District discontinued full payment of employee health insurance. Mr. Dahlgren provided a brief history regarding health insurance premium payments leading up to the current copayment arrangement.

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve the KPEA Memorandum of Agreement. Dr. Anderson seconded.

ACTION

Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. Gene Palm, Aurora Borealis Charter School teacher, expressed frustrations over intolerable teaching and learning conditions. He stated that he teaches 20 students in a room too small to set up equipment for demonstrations. Mr. Palm stated that finding a new location will take money to modify the facility to suit the needs of a school. He stated that now that the Charter Schools have been created, they are left alone without any support. He stated that he does not sense an effort to help and that the administration and Board do not understand their predicament. He added that the future of their school is uncertain if another facility is not available. He added that school parents and staff feel as though they are stepchildren, and are tired of being treated that way.

Mr. Dunn asked for assistance in relocating to a facility that is better than their current conditions.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mrs. Crawford expressed her concerns over class sizes in the elementary schools and asked if there were any classes with over 30 pupils per teacher.

BOARD COMMENTS
(Continued):

Mr. Dahlgren reported that the Soldotna Elementary 6th grade classes are at 35 and 36, but that the District is 200 students under projection which equates to \$1.4 million. He stated that he cannot afford to release unallocated money until the budget is balanced. He reported that Mrs. Cannava, principal, Soldotna Elementary, has been asked to hire a substitute to assist the sixth grade teachers by working in small groups. Mr. Dahlgren reviewed enrollment figures districtwide and stated that he does not want to overreact by moving teachers just yet.

Dr. Anderson reported that he voted against Mr. Dahlgren's resignation as a token of his appreciation for fine leadership. He asked the Board and administration to investigate the possibility of using the Kenai Elementary building as a school facility. He asked whether the Kenai Alternative School was required to meet ADA requirements.

Mr. Dahlgren replied that the Kenai Alternative school was relocated in response to a complaint from the Office of Civil Rights. Mr. Dahlgren further responded that The Grace Brethren Church and not the District, is responsible for modifying their building to make it handicapped accessible. He stated that if Aurora Borealis receives a request from a handicapped student, they will have to decide whether to accept that student.

Dr. Anderson stated he heard complaints that the Soldotna Middle School cocurricular teams represented a training facility for School District employees' children rather than equal access for all students. He stated that he supports Mr. Dahlgren's viewpoint concerning balanced teams since it allows more students a chance to participate. Dr. Anderson observed that larger schools will field better teams, and that schools with enrollments over 1,000 have a greater talent pool to choose from, and that Soldotna Middle School is the largest middle school.

Mrs. Mullins suggested that Kenai Alternative High School, with an enrollment of 37 students, move to Kenai Central High School, and allow Aurora Borealis School to move into the Kenai Elementary facility. She asked for a report on the pros and cons of using the Kenai Elementary building as a school.

Mrs. Mullins thanked the Borough Maintenance Department for work at the Kenai Elementary building. She suggested that the KPSAA Board schedule meetings during a time when most of the public can attend.

Mrs. Mullins thanked the Borough Assembly for support by funding the District to the cap.

Mrs. Larned concurred with Dr. Anderson and Mrs. Mullins regarding the Aurora Borealis site problems. She extended congratulations to the evening's honorees. She extended thanks to Karen Mahurin for bringing Ms. Holloway to speak to the Board. She stated that she was saddened to see the art specialist has resigned.

Mrs. Radtke related that after speaking with the art specialist, she felt it was in the District's best interest to accept her resignation. She added that the job was readvertised, interviews were conducted and the job will be offered tomorrow.

Mrs. Gross reported that she visited with Ms. Byerly, principal, Skyview High, who was upset over the delay of graduation requirements for a year. She asked the Board to revisit the changes made to the graduation requirements policy.

Mrs. Gross suggested that the Board allow students to meet one or the other graduation requirements option. She asked the Board to consider the graduation requirements as an item on the next school Board agenda.

After further discussion by Mrs. Gross, Dr. Anderson, and Mr. Dahlgren, it was decided that the Board would meet in a worksession no later than early November to discuss graduation requirements.

BOARD COMMENTS

(Continued):

Mrs. Gross thanked parents and staff from Aurora Borealis for attending the meeting. She explained that the Board must determine whether District facilities are safe for use by students. She stated that the Board depends on the administration to advise them and will listen to their input as well as the Charter School's request.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 9:30 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 District finance and litigation. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 10:40 p.m., Mrs. Mullins moved the executive session be adjourned. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN:

At 10:43 p.m., Mrs. Mullins moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President

Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

The Minutes of September 14, 1998,
were approved on October 5, 1998,
with corrections.