

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
148 N. Binkley Street

Soldotna, AK 99669

May 17, 1999

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

Mr. Joe Arness, President

Mrs. Debra Mullins, Vice President

Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

Ms. Deborah Germano, Treasurer

Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, Member

Dr. Nels Anderson, Member

Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Member

Miss Charise Calvert, Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT:

Mr. John Dahlgren, Superintendent of Schools

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

Mr. Ed McLain, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction

Mrs. Sharon Radtke, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Paul Kubena

Mrs. Marlene Byerly

Ms. Redmond

Mr. Justin George

Mr. Gene Dyson

Ms. Barb Vogel

Mr. Clark Fair

Mr. Bill Radtke

Mr. Pete Sprague

Mr. Tim Peterson

Ms. Terri Woodward

Ms. Karen Mahurin

Mr. Dave Carey

Mr. Dave Spence

Mrs. Vicky Leach

Mr. Michael Lengenfelder

Mr. Michael Audette

Mr. Storm Norman

Mr. Eric Skjold

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. A quorum of School Board members, Mrs. Debra Mullins, Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Mr. Joe Arness, Mrs. Susan Larned, and Dr. Anderson, were in attendance. Ms. Germano arrived at 11:15 a.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 10:01 a.m., Mrs. Mullins moved that 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. Specifically, the executive session was to conduct student expulsion hearings. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Arness left at 7:30 p.m.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 7:30 p.m., Ms. Germano moved the executive session be adjourned. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

ROLL CALL:

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Mr. Joe Arness | Present/Returned at 8:30 p.m. |
| Mrs. Debra Mullins | Present |
| Mrs. Susan Larned | Present |
| Ms. Deborah Germano | Present |
| Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross | Absent/Excused |
| Dr. Nels Anderson | Present |
| Mrs. Sammy Crawford | Present |
| Miss Charise Calvert | Absent/Excused |

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved with revisions to Items 10a.(1), 10a.(2) and 10a.(5). It was noted that additional information was included for Item 10l. Item 10j was deleted and Item 10m. was moved to be considered after 10f.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of May 3, 1999, were approved as printed.

SCHOOL REPORTS: Mr. Paul Kubena, Ninilchik Elementary/High School principal, introduced Mr. Michael Audette, music teacher, and his fifth and sixth grade students. The students sang "It's Saturday."

Mr. Kubena provided a brief history of Ninilchik Elementary/High School and noted that it is now one of the most modern and updated facilities. He stated that the reconstruction of the school has provided a state-of-the-art Mac/Dell Computer Lab, a professional quality sound recording studio, a new library with over 7,000 new volumes, and eleven new classrooms fully equipped with new furniture, televisions, satellite links, telephones and computers. He stated that the school has a thriving music program with strong elementary/high school jazz and pep bands. He stated that the vocational education program has produced outstanding graduates. Mr. Kubena announced that the girl's basketball team has won two state championships. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as the principal of Ninilchik Elementary/High School for the past six years.

Mr. Eric Skjold, business education teacher, concluded the presentation with a short video featuring students participating in classroom and extracurricular activities. The video also gave a tour of the reconstructed section of the school.

COMMUNICATIONS AND
PETITIONS:

Mr. Dahlgren reported that he had received a letter from Mr. Drathman, Assembly President, listing the members of the Technology Working Group. He reminded the Board that Mrs. Crawford and Ms. Germano would represent the Board. He stated that a meeting date would be set this week.

COMMUNICATIONS AND
PETITIONS (Continued):

Mr. Dahlgren stated that he received an announcement from the National Science Foundation that Miss Anne Pfitzner had received the 1998 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. He stated that Miss Pfitzner will receive \$7,500 to be used at her discretion for Soldotna Elementary School and students.

Mrs. Mullins announced that Ms. Debra Ingram delivered a letter to the Board.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Mrs. Mullins presented awards of appreciation to Terri Woodward, Skyview High School; Dave Carey, Skyview High School; Clark Fair, Skyview High School; William Radtke, Kenai Middle School; and Sharon Radtke, Human Resources, for their outstanding service to education and the District.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Dahlgren reminded the Board that graduation ceremonies begin on May 19, 1999.

Certified Diploma Report:

Mr. Ed McLain presented the Certified Diploma Steering Committee Annual Report. He thanked Donna Peterson for leading the Remediation Pilot Task Force, Mick Wykis for leading the Interim Grade Level Indicators Task Force, and Don Boehmer for leading the Reading Intervention Pilots Task Force. He called the Board's attention to a summary of the Committee's major accomplishments for the year. He reported that there are twenty-two remediation pilot programs in Grades 4 through 12 throughout the District. He explained that teachers and administrators applied for the remediation grants, and they are now in the process of submitting a final report. He stated that the final reports will be evaluated this summer and that decisions for next year will be made based on these evaluations. He commended Donna Peterson and Dorothy Gray for offering their support, guidance and evaluation. He reported that Mick Wykis and the Assessment Department are flagging students who fall below their grade level so that if intervention is necessary it can be accomplished early.

Mr. McLain reviewed the proposed activities for next year, which include intervention in Grades K-3 and Remediation in Grades 4-12. He stated that he will bring the recommendations back for approval at the June 7 School Board meeting.

Ms. Germano asked whether there would be requirements and clear guidelines regarding student retention. Mr. McLain stated that the policy on student retention was revised last year and is being closely followed. He added that the hope is to catch and remediate the situation before retention is considered.

Certified Diploma Report (Continued):

Ms. Germano stated that retention is based on grades and asked what will be done for students who struggle but earn passing grades. Mr. McLain stated that he visited a school where half of the students being considered for retention were at or above the minimum cut-off. He stated that those students had difficulties with other aspects of school success. He stated that he would like to review information related to standards-based grading to address the question of what to do when students are performing adequately by meeting academic standards, but not meeting expectations in other areas such as behavior or attendance.

Mrs. Crawford asked when the District could expect to see results in the way students learn and approach school. Mr. McLain replied that according to comments made by parents and staff, some results are already being noticed. He noted that the secondary special education program is reviewing strategies to provide special education students with the ability to read and write and have a vocational skill within a four-year period. He stated that the special education staff has been meeting individually with parents of special education children to develop a plan to help the students achieve a certified diploma.

Ms. Germano asked what accommodations would be made for high school students who are already well prepared for the high school exam. Mr. McLain stated that the District has given attention to the high-end students but the challenge will be on how to allocate the resources to do justice to the varied demands and expectations. He reported that one idea is to offer distance learning specialty courses for students who are high achievers. He stated that he would like to start a task force to work on the merit badge portion of the certified diploma.

Ms. Germano asked if a directive has been given to schools to address the reading issue in the different areas of the curriculum. Mr. McLain stated that when the money was secured for additional elementary teachers, principals were asked to provide a plan outlining how the additional staff was going to help advance reading instruction and achievement.

Financial Report:

Mr. Hickey presented the financial report of the District for the period ending April 30, 1999.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Unpaid Leave of Absence Request/ Certified, Unpaid Leave of Absence Requests/Support, Substitute Teacher Contract, New Teacher Assignments/1999-2000, Resignations, Tentative Non-Tenure Teacher Assignments, and Early Graduation.

Unpaid Leave of Absence Request/
Certified:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve one-year, unpaid leaves of absence for the 1999-2000 school year for Abby Smola, counselor, Soldotna High and Michelle Robbins, social studies, Homer Middle.

Unpaid Leave of Absence Requests/
Support:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve one-year, unpaid leaves of absence for the 1999-2000 school year for Becky Norman, bilingual instructor, Port Graham Elementary/High and Elena Chernishoff, bilingual instructor/tutor, Voznesenka Elementary/High.

Substitute Teacher Contract:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve 19-day substitute teaching contracts for Debbie Dover, kindergarten, K-Beach Elementary; Wendi Dutcher, math, Skyview High; and Terri Hoffman, Grade 2, Redoubt Elementary.

New Teacher Assignments/1999-2000:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve 1999-2000 teacher assignments for Robert Barnwell, Grades 3/4, Seward Elementary; Deborah Jacobson, science/health, Soldotna Middle; and Dean Vincent, primary grades, K-Beach Elementary.

Resignations:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve the resignation of L. Tiel Smith, Grade 4, Redoubt Elementary; Randy Hunt, business education/ photography, Homer High; Holly Morris, Spanish, Homer High; Brenda Howe, math, Seward Middle/High; and Ric Ingels, science, Homer High.

Tentative Non-Tenure Teacher
Assignments:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve tentative non-tenure teacher assignments for the 1999-2000 school year for Susan Howard, K-2, Port Graham Elementary/High and Kevin Harding, special education/resource, Kenai Alternative/ Kenai Central High.

Early Graduation:

Mr. McLain recommended the Board approve an early graduation request from a Soldotna High School student to graduate, at the end of the first semester, 1999-2000.

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve Consent Agenda items Numbers 1 through 7. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Student Expulsion Number 1:

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve the following “The Decision of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District in the Matter of Expulsion of HC.

ACTION

PROCEEDINGS: This matter was heard by the Board on May 17, 1999.

Student Expulsion Number 1 (Continued):

FINDINGS: The evidence showed that on April 22, 1999, the student was thought to be intoxicated while in a classroom before the school day began. The vice-principal, Mr. Wilbanks, took the student to the nurse’s office for questions, where it became apparent from the student’s behavior and the strong smell of alcohol that the student had consumed a significant amount of alcohol. Mr. Wilbanks first contacted the student’s uncle, then the state troopers. A Breathalyzer test showed .156 percent alcohol. A subsequent search of the student’s locker revealed cigarettes, a knife, a bottle of alcohol, and a marijuana pipe. Evidence also showed that the student was previously suspended from November 16 through December 15, 1998, for marijuana use.

CONCLUSIONS: The second offense use of marijuana and/or alcohol, combined with possession of the above-described items in violation of Board policy 5131.6, is behavior inimical to the welfare, safety, and morals of other students.

ACTION:

1. The period of suspension currently imposed upon the student shall be extended to the end of school in order to enable the student to complete his school work for the present semester and school year. During this period of suspension, the student is restricted from attending any school activities on any school grounds in the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District except as necessary to obtain his course work. The student shall coordinate his homework through his counselor, Mr. Rich Redmond.

2. The student shall be expelled for a one-year period commencing with the first day of school in August 1999 and ending with the last day of summer break of August 2000. The student may apply for early readmission for the semester beginning in January 2000 upon completion of one of the following two alternatives:

(a) The student may apply for limited early readmission in August 1999 for the purpose of attending the Alternative To Out of School Suspension Program ("ATOSS"), and may then apply for early readmission to regular school programs in January 2000 if he satisfactorily completes the fall 1999 semester at ATOSS.

or

Student Expulsion Number 1 (Continued):

(b) The student may apply for limited early readmission in August 1999 for District correspondence courses of study. Upon successful completion of three credits in a District correspondence course of study developed by school administration and counselors, and proof of completion of a substance abuse assessment and program the student may apply for readmission to regular school programs in January 2000.

In either case, early readmission shall be dependent upon continued compliance with the following:

3. The student shall not be involved in any alcohol or substance abuse. The student shall submit to random, chain-of-custody, broad spectrum urine analyses or breathalyzer tests, at the guardian's expense, for the entire one-year expulsion period.

4. Any evidence of alcohol or substance abuse or violation of District policy on drugs and alcohol will result in reinstatement of the one year expulsion."

Mrs. Larned seconded.

VOTE:

YES - Anderson, Crawford, Larned, Mullins, Arness

ABSTAIN - Germano

Motion carried.

Student Expulsion Number 2:

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve the following "The Decision of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District in the Matter of Expulsion of MR.

ACTION

PROCEEDINGS: This matter was heard by the Board on May 17, 1999.

Student Expulsion Number 2 (Continued):

FINDINGS: The evidence showed that on April 22, 1999, the student was suspected of consuming alcohol by a staff member. Mr. Wilbanks and Mrs. Byerly confronted the student and detected a distinct aroma of alcohol. Mr. Wilbanks contacted the state troopers and the mother. The student admitted to consuming alcohol at the bus stop that morning. A Breathalyzer test resulted in .03 percent alcohol, and a search of the locker revealed no other material in violation of school policy. The student expressed remorse for his actions. Evidence also showed that this was a second violation of the School District's Board policy 5131.6, alcohol and other drugs; the earlier violation occurred in 1997 for possession of alcohol on school grounds.

CONCLUSIONS: The second offense violation of Board Policy 5131.6, prohibiting the use of alcohol and other drugs, is behavior inimical to the welfare, safety, and morals of other students.

ACTION:

1. The period of suspension currently imposed upon the student shall be extended to the end of school in order to enable the student to complete his school work for the present semester and school year. During this period of suspension, the student is restricted from attending any school activities on any school grounds in the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District except as necessary to obtain his course work. The student shall coordinate his homework through his counselor.

2. The student shall be expelled for one year commencing with the first day of school in August 1999 and ending with the last day of summer break of August 2000, subject to the following:

(a) The student may apply for early readmission for the semester beginning in August 1999 if the student provides proof that he has completed 40 hours of community service. Such early readmission will be contingent upon continued compliance with items 3 and 4 below.

or

Student Expulsion Number 2 (Continued):

(b) The student may apply for limited early readmission in August 1999 for the purpose of attending the Alternative To Out of School Suspension Program ("ATOSS"), and may then apply for early readmission to regular school programs in January 2000 if he satisfactorily completes the fall 1999 semester at ATOSS. Such early readmission will be contingent upon continued compliance with items 3 and 4 below.

3. The student shall not be involved in any further alcohol or substance abuse. The student shall submit to random, chain-of-custody, broad spectrum urine analyses or breathalyzer tests, at his parent's expense, during his enrollment at ATOSS if applicable and during the entire term of his early readmission to school.

4. Any evidence of alcohol or substance abuse or violation of District policy on drugs and alcohol will result in reinstatement of the one-year expulsion."

Mrs. Mullins seconded.

VOTE:

YES - Anderson, Crawford, Larned, Mullins, Arness

ABSTAIN - Germano

Motion carried.

Student Expulsion Number 3:

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve the following "The Decision of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District in the Matter of Expulsion of JM.

ACTION

PROCEEDINGS: This matter was heard by the Board on May 17, 1999.

FINDINGS: J.M. is an eighth grader at Nikiski Middle School. On April 16, 1999, a student informed the school counselor Greta Cox that J.M. may be in possession of something illegal. Greta Cox questioned J.M.; Don Glaze, Assistant Principal, and Mr. Riddall, Activities Director, searched JM. They found a can inside his pants, which contained a cigarette, ZigZag paper, and a bud of marijuana as tested by Trooper Fowler. Trooper Fowler read J.M. his rights, placed him under arrest, and released him into his mother's custody. This is J.M.'s third violation of the KPBSD drug and alcohol policy.

Student Expulsion Number 3 (Continued): **CONCLUSIONS:** Board policy 5131.6(a) requires the administration recommend expulsion for a second drug-related offense. This was J.M.'s third violation. Possession of drugs in school is conduct inimical to the welfare, safety, and morals of other students and persons at the school.

ACTION: J.M. shall be expelled from the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District for the 1999-2000 school year. J.M. shall be allowed to return to school at the beginning of the second semester (January 17, 2000) provided the following conditions are met:

1. Completion of the District's Alternative To Out of School Suspension (ATOSS) program in the fall 1999 semester.
2. Successful completion of the District sponsored "Parent to Parent Class" by J.M.'s parent(s). If certificate of completion has been received, this requirement is satisfied.
3. J.M. must enroll in, at parent(s) expense, an active assessment and substance abuse program approved by the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District and that evidence be presented that he is participating in the program.

4. J.M. must submit to random, chain-of-custody, broad spectrum urine analyses testing at parent(s) expense during the period of expulsion through the 1999-2000 school year.

5. J.M. must perform a minimum of forty (40) documented hours of community service.

6. A meeting be held with J.M. and his parents prior to his reentry.

It is further recommended that failure to meet all of the conditions listed above will result in J.M.'s expulsion being extended through the remainder of the 1999-2000 school year."

Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Student Expulsion Number 4:

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve the following "The Decision of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District in the Matter of Expulsion of BE.

ACTION

PROCEEDINGS: This matter was heard by the Board on May 17, 1999.

Student Expulsion Number 4 (Continued): **FINDINGS:** The evidence showed that B.E., an eleventh grader at Kenai Central High School, on April 14, 1999, poked a tack into the back of a student as he walked by that student in the hallway. The victim student reported the incident to the office and was treated by the nurse. The puncture wound was apparent on the student's back. B.E. admitted to sticking the tack in the student's back. B.E. was involved in two other incidents this school year, which have resulted in injury. On September 9, 1998, B.E. threw a back pack at a student on the bus, which resulted in the student having to wear a neck brace. B.E. was suspended. On February 9, 1999, B.E. was suspended pending a manifestation hearing for fighting in the cafeteria wherein the other student received facial bruises. B.E. has had a serious history of insubordination, using profanity, and other inappropriate behavior. He has not taken responsibility for this conduct, and B.E. is a special-education student. A manifestation hearing was held on April 23, 1999, and it was determined that there was no relationship between B.E.'s behavior and his disability.

CONCLUSIONS: B.E. has violated AR 5144.1 by his continued willful disobedience and open and persistent defiance of reasonable school authority. His repeated violent conduct has injured other students and is harmful to the welfare and safety of other students.

ACTION: B.E. is permanently expelled but may apply for early readmission for the spring 2000 semester upon completion of an anger management program and a counselor's statement recommending readmission. The IEP team will meet to determine what services may be appropriate to provide B.E. during the expulsion."

Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Student Expulsion Number 5:

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve the following "The Decision of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District in the Matter of Expulsion of EB.

ACTION

PROCEEDINGS: This matter was heard by the Board on May 17, 1999.

Student Expulsion Number 5 (Continued): **CONCLUSIONS:** E.B. violated KPBSD Policy 5131.7(C) by possessing explosive materials on school grounds and has made several recent threats of violence which are inimical to the welfare and safety of other students.

ACTION: E.B. is suspended for the remainder of the 1999 spring semester. E.B. is expelled for the 1999-2000 school year. The IEP team will meet to determine what services may be appropriate to provide E.B. during the expulsion. E.B. may apply for early readmission at the fall 1999 semester any time after completing the following:

1. A mental health assessment by a qualified counselor or psychologist, which determines that E.B. is not a hazard to himself or others.
2. Completion of 40 hours of community service.

Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Student Expulsion Number 6:

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve the following "The Decision of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District in the Matter of Expulsion of MS.

ACTION

PROCEEDINGS: This matter was heard by the Board on May 17, 1999.

FINDINGS: The evidence showed that on Tuesday, May 10, 1999, the student was on the campus of Soldotna Elementary and stated that he was going to make a bomb to blow up the elementary school. The student was found to be in possession of explosive powder from three model rocket engines, which he had placed in a plastic bottle. He stated that he would ignite the bottle contents using straw or grass. The student advised the Board that he had no lighter or matches at the time, and that he never intended to actually cause an explosion. Evidence also showed that on April 28, 1999, the student had made a written entry at school threatening to blow up a teacher's truck. The administration had concluded that the student was not serious in that previous threat. An informal hearing was conducted Wednesday, May 11, 1999, in which the student was suspended with a recommendation to the School Board for expulsion.

CONCLUSIONS: The student violated Board Policy 5131.7 by possessing a dangerous instrument in the form of explosive materials on school grounds. Violation of this Board policy is inimical to the welfare, safety, and morals of other students.

ACTION: M.S. is suspended for the remainder of the 1999 spring semester. M.S. is expelled for the 1999-2000 school year. M.S. may apply for early readmission at the fall 1999 semester any time after completing the following:

1. A mental health assessment by a qualified counselor or psychologist, which determines that M.S. is not a hazard to himself or others.

2. Completion of 40 hours of community service."

Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Elementary School Report
Recommendations:

Mr. McLain recommended the Board approve a list of ten recommendations derived from the Elementary School Report.

Elementary School Report
Recommendations (Continued):

Dr. Anderson asked how the recommendations will be followed up. Mr. McLain stated that a number of sites are preparing safety and climate improvement plans for next year.

Mr. Arness requested that, in the future, the Board be allowed to discuss recommendations that are compiled from worksessions. Mr. Dahlgren suggested that the Board discuss the recommendations during the Board goal setting session.

ACTION

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve the Elementary School Report recommendations as outlined. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Food Service Equipment Purchase:

Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve the lease/purchase of updated food service equipment in the amount of \$153,954. He noted that the price does not include shipping and travel expenses. He stated that the District will pay for the equipment through a six-year lease.

Mrs. Mahurin asked whether the food service lease/purchase proposal was discussed during the budget worksessions. She asked where the money would come from to pay for it.

Mr. Hickey stated that the acquisition of the equipment came up after the budget process. He stated that \$44,000 in fund transfer will be used to cover any shortfall in the food services budget. He added that Michael Lingenfelder has saved equipment money from the food services budget in preparation for making the first lease payment.

Mrs. Mahurin asked whether there will be a reduction in hours or numbers of employees currently working in the food service department. Mr. Hickey stated that there have not been any discussions concerning a change in the employment status of any food service employees as a result of the lease purchase of equipment. Mrs. Mahurin stated that there is a lot of concern among food service employees that there is a plan to reduce hours and do some restructuring. Mr. Hickey stated that he was not aware of any significant reduction of any food service employee's time as a result of the purchase of the new equipment.

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve the food service equipment purchase. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Ms. Germano asked whether the new software will include the purchase of breakfast items. Mr. Hickey stated that the system is capable of accommodating a breakfast program if it becomes an option.

Food Service Equipment Purchase
(Continued):

Motion carried unanimously.

Fund Transfers:

Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve a budget transfer for \$28,178.95 to cover costs for the development of on-line course materials for the Connections program.

Ms. Germano asked what the computer equipment will be used for. Mr. Hickey explained that employees will use the equipment during the summer to prepare coursework for Connections students.

Ms. Germano asked whether there was already curriculum available rather than creating it. Mr. McLain explained that the District will use a combination of created materials and courses already available. He cited an example of the use of the University of Nebraska materials. He stated that the University offers a variety of courses but has some gaps. Mr. Dahlgren stated that part of the task would be to put the courses into units that parents could access and student progress could be tracked. He stated that the District will expect students on the Peninsula to meet the curricular standards of the parent as well as the District and state.

Ms. Germano asked what will happen to the equipment once the materials and curriculum have been developed. Mr. McLain stated that the computers will go with the teachers who will be teaching the courses.

Dr. Anderson asked what the response has been towards the Connections Program. Mr. McLain replied that as of two weeks ago fifty-eight students have signed up.

Ms. Germano asked how staff costs would be covered. Mr. Dahlgren stated that staff costs will come from the existing Correspondence Study budget this year or next year's budget. He reminded the Board that the Correspondence budget was increased by 100 students to accommodate the Connections Program.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve a budget transfer for \$28,178.95 to cover costs for the development of on-line course materials for the Connections program. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Major Maintenance/Capital Improvement
Projects List:**

Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve a list of capital improvement projects in the total amount of \$1,600,640.

**Major Maintenance/Capital Improvement
Projects List (Continued):**

Mrs. Mullins asked whether there was any consideration for the construction of a fence around the Seward Middle/High School track. Mr. Hickey stated that there have not been any discussions regarding a fence but the vandals who damaged the track have been caught and restitution is being sought.

Mr. Arness asked why the slides are being removed from the elementary school playgrounds. Mr. Hickey stated that the slides are being replaced with equipment that meets new child safety standards. He added that some of the older versions of slides were causing entrapment problems for small children. Mr. Dahlgren stated that there is a considerable amount of litigation regarding playground accidents.

Mr. Arness asked whether the capital improvement list was the place to address the Nikiski reconfiguration costs. Mr. Hickey stated that it was but that it was not included.

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve a list of capital improvement projects in the total amount of \$1,600,640. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

New Administrator Appointments/1999-2000:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve the appointment of Gary Whitely, director, Curriculum/Staff Development and Todd Syverson, assistant superintendent, Human Resources.

ACTION

Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve the appointment of Gary Whitely, director, Curriculum/Staff Development and Todd Syverson, assistant superintendent, Human Resources. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Ms. Debra Ingram, Soldotna High School parent, stated that she was told that there may not be a qualified teacher to handle special education classes next year. Mrs. Radtke responded that the resource teacher recently resigned and that the District transferred a severe education teacher to fill the vacancy. She stated that the severe education vacancy has been filled and that there is a fairly good pool of special education teachers.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mrs. Crawford stated that with six expulsions it was a long and difficult day. She extended her thanks to the Ninilchik School staff for their report. She congratulated Miss Pfitzner and the employees who received awards. She expressed concern regarding the number of retiring teachers and the loss to the District.

BOARD COMMENTS (Continued):

Ms. Germano thanked the Ninilchik staff for their school report. She congratulated Anne Pfitzner for her award. She stated that the retirement ceremony that was held at Skyview was enjoyable. She expressed her concern that the District continue to place qualified teachers in positions. She stated that she continues to receive phone calls concerning the way staff is being shuffled. She stated that she hoped that there is a follow-up process to make sure that principals are placing teachers in appropriate positions.

Mrs. Larned stated that she was pleased to hear that two new art projects will be coming to Tustumena Elementary School as a result of the one percent art requirement. She extended congratulations to the honorees and thanked the retirees for their many years of service.

Dr. Anderson concurred with Mrs. Crawford's comments regarding the brain drain of hard-to-replace teachers. He asked the administration for a percentage of students who have taken and passed the test for the exemption from the tri-science course. He also requested to take the test himself.

Mr. McLain stated the he will be taking the high school qualifying exam.

Mr. Arness suggested that the Board members take the high school qualifying exam and the teacher's Praxis I test.

Mr. Arness stated that the Board would conduct their self-evaluation prior to the June 7 Board meeting.

Mr. Arness asked for the concurrence of the Board to reply to a letter from Travis Riley asking why the District does not celebrate Martin Luther King day.

Mr. Arness stated that he will be traveling to Hope Elementary/High to visit with the site council.

ADJOURN: At 9:35 p.m., Mrs. Mullins moved
the School Board Meeting be
adjourned. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Joe Arness, President

Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

The Minutes of May 17, 1999,
were approved June 7, 1999
as written.