

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
148 N. Binkley Street
Soldotna, AK 99669

January 18, 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

Mrs. Sharon Radtke, Assistant Superintendent, Human
Resources

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mrs. Sue Liebner

Ms. Gloryann Bailey

Mr. Ben Eveland

Mr. Ken Tarbox

Mrs. Elaine Larson

Mr. Don Glaze

Mr. Mark Norgren

Mrs. Karen Mahurin

Mrs. Debbie Palm

Mr. Don Oberg

Mrs. Marita Parks

Ms. Reneé Henderson

Mr. Mark Larson

Mrs. Sylvia Reynolds

Ms. Teri Woodward

Mrs. Marlene Byerly

Mrs. Linda Raemaker

Ms. Kelley Smith

Mrs. Sharon Moock

Miss Cassie Smith

Mr. Tim Peterson

Mr. Bob Bellmore

Mrs. Vicki Leach

Ms. Julie Niederhauser

Mr. Rick Matiya

Mrs. Jodene McAuliffe

Mr. Malcom Rooper

Mr. Jim Montgomery

Mr. Jason Wilkins

Ms. Hillary Matthews

Mr. Bob Bauer

Mr. Ben McGarry

Ms. Christina Lagoutaris

Mr. Chad Mello

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. A quorum of Board members, (Mr. Joe Arness, Mrs. Debra Mullins, Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, Dr. Nels Anderson, Mrs. Susan Larned, and Mrs. Sammy Crawford), was in attendance. Ms. Germano arrived at 11:00 a.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 10:01 a.m., Mrs. Mullins 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. Specifically, the executive session was to conduct two student hearings. Mrs. Gross seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 7:35 p.m., Mrs. Mullins moved the executive session be adjourned. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mr. Arness invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Joe Arness Present

Mrs. Debra Mullins Present

Mrs. Susan Larned Present

Ms. Deborah Germano Present

Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross Present

Dr. Nels Anderson Present

Mrs. Sammy Crawford Present

Miss Charise Calvert Absent/Excused

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved as written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of January 4, 1999, were approved as printed.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS: Mr. Arness noted that he had received a petition from Homer High School.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND/OR P.T.A., K.P.A.A., K.P.E.A., K.P.E.S.A.: Mr. Don Glaze, Kenai Peninsula Administrators' Association (KPAA) president, read a letter to the Board from KPAA opposing Board Directive 99-01. The letter stated that while KPAA supports the notion that students should have every opportunity to earn a prescribed number of credits, KPAA cannot support the process by which the directive was created. The letter stated that each community is unique, and each site possesses its own goals and ideals for what is best for students of that area. If sites do not maintain autonomy over issues such as schedules, they are losing an integral part of the decision making process. Mr. Glaze concluded by stating that at this time KPAA does not support Directive 99-01.

SCHOOL REPORTS: Mrs. Sue Liebner, North Star Elementary principal, presented a computer-generated video that included a listing of school goals and examples of how the school is meeting those goals. The video featured students in classrooms and on the playground, local artists teaching students, a band performance, after-school programs, students working in the computer lab, office and custodial staff and many other activities from throughout the school year. Students from Mr. Gennari's class presented a reading theater from a selection titled, "The People Shall Continue."

RECESS: At 8:00 p.m., Mr. Arness called a recess.
RECONVENE AFTER RECESS: At 8:04 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.
AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS: Mr. Arness presented an award of appreciation to Elaine Larson, Sears Elementary music teacher, for being selected as the 1998 Alaska Music Educator of the Year.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Mr. Dahlgren reported that the administrators' meeting was held January 13 and 14, 1999. He also reported that interviews for administrator positions at Sterling, K-Beach and Sears Elementary Schools would be conducted beginning Thursday, January 21 through next Wednesday, January 27, 1999. He noted that principalships have been readvertised for Nikiski and Skyview High Schools due to a small applicant pool.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND SCHOOL-TO-WORK PROGRAMS: Mr. Ben Eveland reported on vocational education enrollment offerings and presented a chart showing a decrease from 250 sections in 1987-88 to less than 150 sections this year. He noted that there was a slight increase in enrollment in classes that were not applied academics.

Mr. Eveland reviewed the graduate follow-up study that was conducted from the class of 1992. He stated that out of 100 graduates, 44 continued on to a four-year degree program with 40% of those students completing their program.

Mr. Eveland briefly explained the Rotational Vocational Program Improvement Grant program that uses Carl Perkins federal funds to provide \$20,000 grants to three of the nine eligible District high schools on a rotating basis.

Mr. Eveland reported that the School-to-Careers Advisory Committee has established and implemented a vocational program review system, initiated a vocational service award program and assisted in the review of the revised District vocational education curriculum.

Mr. Eveland reported that several instructors were given the opportunity to be treated as employees of local businesses, including Unocal, The Peninsula Clarion, Kenai Peninsula Borough Department of Transportation and Zubeck Construction. The instructors worked as summer interns with their businesses clearing roadways, putting up signs, maintaining computers and performing environmental studies, laboratory distillations and engineering drawings and calculations.

Mr. Eveland introduced Ms. Katrina Adamson, Central Peninsula work-based learning aid. He explained that work-based learning aides are located in the Seward, Central and South Peninsula areas to arrange job shadows, provide speakers from a variety of occupational fields, provide occupational aptitude testing for students and provide work experience sites for students.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION
AND SCHOOL-TO-WORK
PROGRAMS (Continued):

Ms. Germano thanked Mr. Eveland for his work and for sharing the vocational education update.

Mrs. Crawford asked what percentage of high school students are participating in the work coop program. Mr. Eveland referred to the packet of information distributed during his report.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Mr. Hickey presented the financial report of the District for the period ending November 30, 1998, and December 31, 1998.

BUDGET TRANSFER
REPORT:

Mr. Hickey reported on budget transfers Numbers 37 through 164 for various schools and departments within the District.

BOARD REPORTS:

Mr. Arness announced that there will be a meeting on February 1 with the Superintendent Search Committee (composed of Board members and association representatives) to develop a rating scale for use while reviewing candidate applications. He announced that interviews will be conducted on February 24 and 25, 1999.

CONSENT AGENDA:

One item was presented on the Consent Agenda, a 1998-99 Teacher Appointment.

TEACHER APPOINTMENT:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a teaching appointment for the 1998-99 school year for Nancy Boyle, English (temporary), Seward High.

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Item Number 1. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Student Expulsion #1:

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

"This matter was heard before the Board on January 18, 1999. Neither the student nor the student's parents were present. Marlene Byerly, Skyview High School principal, and John Dahlgren, Superintendent, were present and recommended expulsion of the student for being in possession and under the influence of marijuana on school grounds, in violation of Board Policy 5131.6(a).

Student Expulsion #1
(Continued):

The evidence presented showed that on December 16, 1998, the school secretary reported that a student checking back in from lunch smelled strongly of marijuana. Investigation revealed that this student, along with six other students, had left campus that day during the lunch break in the same vehicle, and that marijuana smoking had occurred in that vehicle. Although all of the students agreed that the driver did not smoke any marijuana, accounts differed as to which students had smoked marijuana. Some students advised the principal that JM had smoked marijuana. JM denied smoking the marijuana. However, JM failed a school-administered Rapid Eye Exam (REE), and refused to submit to a urinalysis ("UA") when requested to do so by the principal. JM told the principal that the UA would have been positive. JM has a previous drug policy violation that occurred during the 1997 school year. Based on the evidence submitted at the hearing, the Board concludes the student violated Board policy 5131.6 and accordingly has exhibited behavior of a serious nature which is inimical to the welfare, safety or morals of other students, and that expulsion for the remainder of the school year is warranted. JM is therefore expelled from the School District for the remainder of the 1998-1999 school year. JM shall not go on school grounds during the period of expulsion for any reason, nor shall he attend any school event or function whatsoever." Mrs. Mullins seconded.

VOTE:

YES - Anderson, Crawford, Gross,
Larned, Mullins, Arness

ABSTAIN - Germano

Student Expulsion #2:

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

ACTION

"This matter was heard before the Board on January 18, 1999. The student, the student's mother, and three adult friends of the student's family were present. Marlene Byerly, Skyview High School principal, and John Dahlgren, Superintendent, were present and recommended expulsion of the student for being in possession and under the influence of marijuana on school grounds, in violation of Board Policy 5131.6(a).

Student Expulsion #2
(Continued):

The evidence presented showed that on December 16, 1998, the school secretary reported that a student checking back in from lunch smelled strongly of marijuana. Investigation revealed that this student, along with six other students, had left campus that day during the lunch break in the same vehicle, and that marijuana smoking had occurred in that vehicle. TS stated that he had needed to go to town to get gloves and had asked a fellow student for a ride. That student agreed, and there were seven students in the vehicle. However, when they left the school grounds the vehicle turned right, away from Soldotna. A pipe of marijuana was passed forward from the back of the vehicle by other students, and during the investigation some of the students told the principal that TS had been one of those who smoked the marijuana. The principal stated that those students would not be named because they had received threats about testifying. TS denied smoking, and stated that the students may have thought he smoked some because he had held the pipe for roughly five seconds on a couple of occasions before passing it on, and because he had smoked it in the past. TS admitted considering having some but stated he had decided against having any. The evidence also showed that TS failed one of the five tests included in a school-administered Rapid Eye exam ("REE"), that the teacher administering the test obtained verification from the school nurse regarding that reading, that TS uses an asthma inhaler and had been injured two weeks earlier in a bad snow boarding accident. TS submitted to a urinalysis ("UA") some time between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. the next day. The UA results were negative. However the principal was advised by the organization administering the UA that a negative result for marijuana is likely when the test

is administered within one day of consumption. Evidence showed that the test was administered between 2 and 4 p.m. the next day. TS had one previous drug policy violation that occurred during the 1996-1997 school year.

The Board finds that the evidence is insufficient to establish that TS violated substance abuse policy 5131.6. Although the Board recognizes that the administration was constrained in proving this case due to threats against witnesses, there was not sufficient corroborating evidence to support a finding by the Board that this student violated the Board policy. The REE was inconclusive and the UA was negative. That the student momentarily held the pipe while off-campus in these circumstances deserves punishment, but is not sufficient to support expulsion. Accordingly, the Board concludes that expulsion is unwarranted." Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

PUPIL TRANSPORTATION CONTRACTS:

Mr. Hickey recommended that the Board approve student transportation contracts for a seven-year period to Laidlaw Transit for Service Areas I, II, III and IV. He noted that approving the contracts will not bring the District into alignment with the state's large district contracts but will align the District with the next possible cycle. He commented that the state is trying to encourage larger transportation contractors to enter the state and submit bids.

Mrs. Germano asked whether the routes could be split out and bid separately if the District should decide to provide their own transportation at a later date. Mr. Hickey stated that he believed some opportunities exist to terminate a portion of the contract, but there would be financial penalties to do so. He stated that financially and administratively he did not recommend the District take on any additional routes.

ACTION

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve contracts for a seven-year period to Laidlaw Transit for Service Areas I, II, III and IV. Ms. Germano seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

KENAI ELEMENTARY
FACILITY PLAN:

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved to instruct the District administration to enter into discussions with the Kenai Peninsula Borough administration with the expressed intent of housing the Alternative School, the Aurora Borealis School and the Boys and Girls Club in the building now known as the old Kenai Elementary. Suggestions as to the course of action should be reported to the Board by March 15 for Board action, if possible. Ms. Germano seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Sandra Taylor, Aurora Borealis parent, expressed her appreciation for the Board's consideration of the Kenai Elementary building issue. She stated that she had information regarding a grant to apply for \$100 million dollars that could be used to improve the Kenai Elementary building for use by students.

KENAI ELEMENTARY
FACILITY PLAN (Continued):

Mrs. Suzanne Little, director of the Boys and Girls Club, extended thanks on behalf of the club for allowing the forum to present their concerns. She stated that the club is most interested in cooperating to best serve children in the Central Peninsula area. She added that the club feels very strongly that they do not lose control over the use of the facility and that control is extremely critical to club operations. She stated that she is looking forward to working with John Dahlgren and Mayor Navarre on developing a solution that will serve all interested groups and children.

Mrs. Jodene McAuliffe stated that her husband coaches a Boys and Girls Club basketball team, and her children attend Aurora Borealis Charter School and strongly support both organizations. She stated that the families at Aurora Borealis are interested in sharing the space at the Kenai Elementary building.

Ms. Julie Niederhauser stated that her son is on the waiting list for Aurora Borealis School, and she was pleased that the school might be housed in a larger facility. She urged the Board members to support the move to the Kenai Elementary building.

Mr. Malcom Rooper, vice president of programs and basketball coach for the Boys and Girls Club, expressed concern about the use of the gymnasium. He stated that it is very difficult to schedule practice time at the local elementary schools and that he was worried that sharing the gymnasium with another organization would cut into the basketball schedule.

Motion carried unanimously.

Board Directive 99-01/High School Credits:

Mr. Dahlgren stated that Directive Number 99-01 was presented at Board request. The directive states, "Each high school shall provide their students the opportunity to earn seven (7) credits within the regular school day each year. Exemptions from this directive may be granted by the Board in exceptional circumstances. The Board strongly suggests that the Central Peninsula high schools coordinate their schedules to allow students from other schools the option of participating in the unique or outstanding programs that each school offers."

RECESS:

At 8:30 p.m., Mr. Arness called a recess.

RECONVENE after recess:

At 8:44 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

Board Directive 99-01/High School Credits (Continued):

Mrs. Sylvia Reynolds, principal of Soldotna High School, invited the school site council president, PTSA president, student council president, and Mrs. Sharon Moock (teacher) to come forward to speak to Directive 99-01. Miss Katy Howard, student body president, read a resolution from the student body supporting the decisions made by the site-based decision making council and PTSA regarding scheduling, staffing and promoting the general welfare of the student body and staff. The resolution opposes any Board directive that does not incorporate the views and philosophy of the Soldotna High student body, PTSA, site-based council and administrative staff.

Mr. Stogsdill, chairman of the Soldotna High School site-based decision making council, referred Board members to a letter opposing Board Directive 99-01 that was included in the Board information packet. He stated that twice during the last four years the site-based decision making council has conducted an extensive study of school scheduling. He stated that parents, teachers, students and administrators who are skilled in scheduling accomplished the effort. He stated that many elements were considered during the study, including assessment results and student achievement data; and in both cases, no scheduling change was warranted. He stated that the Soldotna High School community feels that they are meeting the needs of their students with the current scheduling configuration. He stated that the site-based decision making team unanimously believes that Directive 99-01 is not in the best interest of students. He asked the Board not to fix something that is not broken. He asked the Board to include input from those who will be impacted by the directive if it is to be considered further.

Board Directive 99-01/High School Credits (Continued):

Mrs. Sharon Moock, Soldotna High School teacher, expressed concern that requiring seven courses will dilute the courses presently offered. She stated that adding another class to a six-period day would reduce all classes by 10 minutes for a total of six weeks of classroom time over the course of a year. She stated that it is already extremely difficult to teach everything that the District curriculum requires within the regular school year. She stated that in order to deliver a quality education to her students, she must spend ten hours at school. She stated that each evening she reads and prepares for the next day or corrects papers for about two hours and spends four to five hours each Sunday, along with six or seven other teachers, preparing for the next week. She said that by adding another class to her instructional load, which currently includes three different subjects and 120 students, she will not be able to deliver the same quality of education. Mrs. Moock listed the many other school activities she sponsors or assists with along with taking two college classes. She stated that she will need additional time to prepare for another class and does not feel that she has any more time to give. She stated that she does not understand why the Board would make such a change without consulting those who would be affected. She asked the Board to listen carefully tonight and make their decision accordingly.

Mr. Roger Liebner, president of the Soldotna High School PTA, stated that the Soldotna High PTA does not support Board Directive 99-01 for the reasons expressed by Mr. Stogsdill and Mrs. Moock. He asked the Board not to support the proposed directive.

Mrs. Sylvia Reynolds, Soldotna High School principal, reviewed the responsibilities of the Board of Education and the responsibilities of site-based councils. She quoted from the Alaska Schools Initiative for Quality Schools, Administrator's Section 10d., which states that administrators facilitate parents and families as partners in education and that performances that reflect this practice include involving parents and communities in meaningful ways in school or program decision making. She stated that if Directive 99-01 were implemented, it would equal six weeks less contact time between staff and students over the course of one year. She stated that the Board has asked schools to focus on the decline in math scores and that less contact time will not facilitate that goal. She stated that many students already feel overwhelmed with their current schedules, homework load and extra curricular activities and that less contact time will only add to their sense of deluge. She stated that Soldotna High

Board Directive 99-01/High School Credits (Continued):

School does not have the internal resources to pay for Board directives that are not funded. She stated that this year the District lost 700 students to correspondence programs, and discussions should go into the possible ramifications that the proposed directive would have on continued declining enrollment. She stated that a directive of this magnitude will not be received well without ample notification and time for public comment and suggestion. She stated that as an educator committed to her profession, her credibility and usefulness, as well as the mission of the school site council, has largely been ignored.

Mr. Bob Bellmore, Nikiski Middle/High School principal, reported that the school community has been reviewing the topic of school schedules for the past year and a half. He stated that the school previously operated a seven-period day but moved away from that schedule because it was not meeting their school's student's needs. He stated that the school is now considering a block schedule. He stated that he would not address the pros and cons of school scheduling but rather the process by which the directive was made. He referred to several letters to the Board from himself, the Nikiski site-based decision making council, PTSA, faculty, and student body, all opposing the directive. Mr. Bellmore highlighted a portion of the Alaska Schools Initiative for Quality Schools, Item 14, which states that partnerships and collaboration are established between the school, parents, families, businesses and other community members. He reminded the Board that schools were empowered a few years ago to establish site councils that would be represented by the previously mentioned groups and that this effort has been successful. He asked the Board not to support Board Directive 99-01.

Mr. Jim Montgomery, Kenai Central High School site-based council member, read a letter submitted by the president of the council. The letter stated that the KCHS site-based council strongly opposes directives that undermine local control. The letter stated that after three years of intensive research, the council has made scheduling decisions. Classes are offered before and after the school day. The council feels qualified to make those decisions without Board interference. The council supports the belief that decisions relating to issues such as schedules are best left to the local councils since they are most familiar with what works best for their students and community. He stated that the council strongly opposes Directive 99-01.

Board Directive 99-01/High School Credits (Continued):

Mr. Jason Wilkins, Skyview High School student body president, read a letter which was included in the Board information packet. The letter stated that the Skyview site-based council has studied all possible course schedules and has determined that the present schedule is the best one for the students. He stated that students at Skyview High School want to maintain the ability to have input on their academic program and that the best approach is through site-based councils.

Ms. Christina Lagoutaris, parent, stated that she did not believe that Directive 99-01 would be beneficial to Skyview High School. She did not want to see the scheduling changed because the current schedule meets the needs of both her children. She stated that student athletes enjoy the flexibility of the Skyview High School schedule and are able to participate in more community activities. She stated that site-based councils help make decisions that are unique to each school.

Mr. Ben McGarry, Skyview High School student body vice president and PTSA student representative, he stated that Skyview High School supports site-based councils and views the recent Board scheduling mandate as a violation of a decision that should be left to the individual school. He stated that each school should reserve the right to make its own decisions. He presented a petition signed by more than 150 students opposed to Directive 99-01.

Mr. Ronnie Kier, Skyview High School site-based council member, reported that the council unanimously passed a motion supporting their right and commitment to a site-based curriculum. He read an excerpt from the Site-Based Decision making booklet distributed by the administration. He stated that scheduling is a right that the council takes seriously and would like to continue.

Mr. Chad Mello, Skyview High School junior, described his homework load and stated that by adding an additional class, it will take away weeks of time necessary to learn the material of the current six classes. He asked the Board to take another look at the possible consequences. He stated that by adding another class, students and teachers will lose valuable learning time from each class, forcing those affected to cram the information rather than becoming familiar with the material and learning it.

Board Directive 99-01/High School Credits (Continued):

Ms. Hillary Matthews, Skyview High School teacher, stated that she should be at home planning the next semester's classes but felt it was important enough to attend tonight's meeting. She asked the Board why the site-councils were established if they were not going to be allowed to make decisions that affect their schools. She told the Board that parents, teachers, students and administrators have spent many hours studying different schedules and that Skyview High has configured the type of schedule that works best for the students. She stated that many students would have a hard time keeping up their grades with seven periods. She asked the Board not to change what already works for the vast majority of students in order to accommodate the wishes of a small minority who have other options available to them.

Mr. Bob Bauer, Skyview site-based council member, stated that the Board wants students to take advantage of the unique programs offered at other schools, but doing so by micro managing the class schedules takes away from the autonomy that allows each school to be unique. He asked the audience to stand for a show of those who are against the Board Directive 99-01.

Mr. Sam Stewart, Kenai Central High School principal, stated that one of the first issues he addressed with the site-based council at his school was scheduling. He stated that they laid out a plan to research and weigh the pros and cons of a variety of schedules. He stated that the council surveyed parents, students and faculty, reviewed test results from schools on alternative schedules considered greater opportunity versus greater academic load and student stress. He stated that based on that information, they decided upon a schedule that works. He stated that by supporting Directive 99-01, the Board is invalidating the efforts of the KCHS site council. He asked the Board to consider carefully the ramifications of the proposed action when making their final decision.

Ms. Germano asked Mr. Stewart about the input solicited when an issue is brought forth for site-based council consideration. Mr. Stewart stated that when an important topic such as student scheduling is being considered by his site-based council, it is discussed at PTSA and faculty meetings and surveys are taken from students and parents.

Board Directive 99-01/High School Credits (Continued):

Mr. Ken Tarbox, Skyview High School parent, stated that when he makes an important decision he considers three criteria: fairness, greater good, and the pros and cons of the issue. He stated that the Board has failed in all three areas when he looks at the process by which the directive was developed. He commented that he is both elated and saddened by the show of people present: elated that site-councils are working and saddened because there seems to be a power struggle. He stated that parents want site councils to make decisions at the school level and not be directed from the top down. Mr. Tarbox suggested that the Board table the directive indefinitely or vote it down.

Mr. Justin Thompson, Soldotna High School student, stated that he was against Directive 99-01. He stated that the directive would not affect him since he will be a senior next year but will impact underclassmen. He stated that student athletes would struggle to keep up their grades. He stated that when a seven-period day was offered before, grades were much lower. He asked the Board to consider how the directive will affect sophomores and freshmen.

Mrs. Sandy Taylor, parent, stated that Directive 99-01 undermines those who volunteer their time to serve on site councils. She stated that site-based councils were given the responsibility to make decisions for their schools, but the Board is not listening to them. She cautioned the Board that they could potentially lose quality parent volunteers and their students as a result of the proposed directive.

Ms. Sandra Miller, Soldotna High teacher, reported that the emphasis of the new math curriculum is on increasing the amount of material, knowledge and skills that math students are to learn. She stated that this year is a very difficult year for math students. She said she spends every possible minute with students until about 5 p.m. and does not usually leave school until 7 p.m. She reported that her students are trying very hard to master the new curriculum. She told the Board that if instructional time is cut by six weeks, she could not imagine how difficult it would be to teach students what they need to know from the math curriculum. She stated that several years ago Soldotna High School operated a seven-period schedule, but it was not meeting the needs of the students. She stated that she could cover 50% more information in a six-period day.

Board Directive 99-01/High School Credits (Continued):

Mr. Rich Patton, Homer High School principal, stated that his faculty studied the issue of scheduling a couple of years ago and they decided to develop a six-period schedule. He stated that he would share a summary of their findings.

Mrs. Marlene Byerly, Skyview High School principal, stated that student scheduling affects instructional practices, programs, environment, culture, discipline and resources. She stated that scheduling is the most important task that a school is charged with since it has a direct impact on student learning. She stated that she has read Dr. Cannady's book on block scheduling, spent a week attending an ASCD professional development conference on restructuring and school scheduling and spent another week attending the Third Annual National Conference on Restructuring Secondary High Schools. She stated that there is not one single answer to meet the needs of all high school students and high schools. She stated that the school community needs to be involved in making decisions about their school schedule. She stated that she has asked her school community two times if they would like to investigate other schedules, and 87% of the families stated that they liked the current schedule. She told the Board that Skyview's current schedule works well for the school and asked them not to change it. She stated that no schedule is so right that it would offset the damage done by eliminating the autonomy of site-based councils and local parents.

Mrs. Vicki Leach, parent, stated that everything she has read says that parent involvement makes good schools. She stated that one of the reasons she lives here is because of the school system. She told the Board that moving all of the high schools to one set schedule would not do anyone any good. She stated that she has a strong faith that the Board will vote against the proposed directive. She told the Board that she doesn't know how the proposed directive got this far but that some steps were missed.

Board Directive 99-01/High School Credits (Continued):

Miss Cassie Smith, Soldotna High School student athlete and National Honor Society member, stated that she is enrolled in the early-bird Spanish class, has had to drop two advanced placement classes and did not take honors English because she could not keep up with the schedule.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve Board Directive 99-01. Ms. Germano seconded.

Dr. Anderson stated that he was the Board member responsible for Directive 99-01. He stated that he appreciated the public testimony and agreed that the idea of trying to pass the proposed directive without further discussion from site councils was a mistake.

Dr. Anderson explained that a year ago the Board requested an evaluation of the implementation of a common schedule between the high schools in an effort to cut costs and use teachers and facilities more efficiently. He stated that a block schedule would allow vocational education students to attend other facilities and take advantage of another school's course offerings. He stated that another reason to consider a seventh period was that there are a large number of students who are taking correspondence courses, particularly health courses, because they cannot fit the courses they want into their six-period schedule. Dr. Anderson stated that there are also a large number of electives that are being ignored because students are taking academic classes and don't have time to take a woodshop or music class. He further explained that last year the Board increased the high school pupil-teacher ratio by a half, which reduced teaching staff. He stated that the Board received letters from Nikiski and Kenai Central High Schools requesting that the Board not implement the new graduation requirements because they felt they were going to have to cut too many classes. He noted that the Board was fortunate to add back those teachers this year; however, they will probably be cut next year too.

Board Directive 99-01/High School Credits (Continued):

Dr. Anderson stated that increasing the number of periods also allows schools to offer 20% more classes and increases class scheduling options. He stated that by offering a seven-period schedule, two sections of a specific class could be offered thereby providing another opportunity to take the class. He stated that there are also some concerns regarding the subject requirements necessary to qualify for a certified diploma.

Dr. Anderson explained that right now when students arrive at the high school after failing every class in junior high, the teachers are expected to prepare them for graduation.

Dr. Anderson stated that he anticipates that districts will require students to meet certain requirements before they are allowed to take high school classes. He suggested that students might be forced to take remedial classes without high school

credit until they get caught up and then take classes for credit towards graduation. He stated that he realizes these ideas are off in the future, but they are the reasons for the Board directive.

Dr. Anderson stated that he felt that if the seven-period issue was going to be considered this year, it had to be brought up so that it could be adequately discussed among the schools and given to the principals in a timely fashion. He suggested that the Board suspend the rules and postpone action on the proposed directive for two months to allow further consideration and public comment.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board suspend the rules.
Ms. Germano seconded.

VOTE:

YES - Anderson, Germano, Gross, Larned, Mullins

NO - Crawford, Arness

Motion carried.

ACTioN

Dr. Anderson moved the Board postpone action on Board Directive 99-01 until March 15, 1999. Ms. Germano seconded.

VOTE:

YES - Anderson, Germano, Gross, Larned, Mullins

NO - Crawford, Arness

Motion carried.

Girls' Wrestling as a KPSAA Activity:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve an amendment to the Kenai Peninsula Student Activities Association (KPSAA) bylaws that will allow middle school girls to participate in the wrestling program.

Girls' Wrestling as a KPSAA Activity (Continued):

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve an amendment to the KPSAA bylaws allowing middle school girls to participate in wrestling. Mrs. Larned seconded.

ACTION

Motion carried unanimously.

FIRST READING OF POLICY REVISIONS: The Board heard a first reading of BP 3310.1, Equipment Fund Transfer. Mr. Hickey explained that the proposed policy provides language that governs the use of the equipment reserve fund.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Mrs. Sharon Moock asked to speak to the Board as a concerned community member. She stated that she was astounded at what she saw happen at tonight's meeting. She stated that the date the Board chose to consider the proposed directive is the end of the third quarter, and this date is not convenient for teachers, administrators or students. She reminded the Board that site councils from five high schools have testified that they have studied the scheduling issue and they don't want it changed. She stated that she does not understand why the Board did not act on what the school communities were asking them to do. She stated that she hoped postponing the action was not a "thin veil" and asked what additional information was needed. She stated that she suspected that Mr. Dahlgren also opposed the proposed directive.

Mr. Chad Mellow, Soldotna High School student, stated that he would not be able to attend the March 15 meeting. He reminded the Board that they were elected as public servants and not rulers. He asked the Board to consider the public views that were expressed when they decide in the future to postpone against the wishes of the majority.

Miss Cassie Smith, Soldotna High School student, told the Board that the scheduling issue does not directly affect them, and she did not understand why the Board would pass such a directive.

Mr. Justin Thompson, Soldotna High School student, stated that he will not be able to attend the March 15 meeting to voice his opinion of the proposed directive. He stated that he agreed with Mrs. Moock's comments. He asked the Board to reconsider their decision to postpone and to vote against the directive.

Mr. Sam King, Soldotna High School student, pointed out that although there are some people who do support the proposed directive, they chose not to come and obviously did not care enough to speak to it.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS
(Continued):

Mr. Dahlgren stated that he believed in local autonomy and that schools should be able to make certain decisions at the local level.

Mrs. Taylor pointed out that money has already been spent by the site-based councils to study the same issue and recommended the Board take that into consideration.

Ms. Kelley Smith, Soldotna High School teacher and parent, stated that the opinion of those who testified was unanimous and that March 15 is too late in the school year to bring the proposed directive into effect for the next year.

Mrs. Reynolds stated that Dr. Anderson mentioned that sites have declining budgets and yet they are still trying to offer all things to all students. She told the Board that Mr. Dahlgren has asked the principals to develop a school profile showing what schools will look like in three to five years. She stated that her site council discussed the idea of satellite schools or schools that specialize in certain curriculums. She stated that it takes a cooperative effort at the site to achieve the ownership and buy-in for that type of change and such change will not work as a mandate from the top down. She stated that there are solutions to the issue but asked the Board to be a part of the planning process.

Ms. Audry Alfson, Nikiski Middle/High School teacher and member of the school site council team, expressed her concern about the postponement. She stated that she is proud of her school and felt that it was unfortunate that site-based decision making was being undermined. She stated that Nikiski is a community that is very involved in trying to provide the best education possible for their students. She reminded the Board that Nikiski Middle/High School has an unusual configuration of grade levels, 7-12. She expressed her appreciation to the Board members who voted against the postponement.

Mr. Bob Bellmore, Nikiski Middle High School principal, reported that his school has spent much time planning a block schedule for the next school year. He stated that the decision to postpone action on the proposed directive has put a damper on their plans. He stated that they would continue to move forward under the assumption that they will be given the autonomy to make the decisions that are necessary.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS
(Continued):

Miss Cassie Smith, Soldotna High School student, stated that she should have gone home to do homework but decided to come to the meeting to prevent the Board from giving her more homework next year.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mrs. Larned congratulated Elaine Larson on her award. She thanked the North Star Elementary staff for their presentation and thanked those present for attending tonight's meeting. Mrs. Mullins thanked those present for their comments regarding Directive 99-01. She stated that her children attended Nikiski Middle/High School with both six and seven-period schedules. She stated that she has spoken to a number of parents and teachers regarding the scheduling issue and has heard positive comments about both types of schedules. She stated that she was hoping to hear justifications for which schedule is the best for students. She stated that she had hoped to discuss scheduling with the different parent groups.

ACTION

Mrs. Mullins gave notice of reconsideration for the February 1 School Board meeting for the motion to postpone Item 10f, Approval of Board Directive 99-01. She also requested a worksession to be conducted earlier in the day with the various parent committees to discuss the pros and cons of the scheduling issue.

Mrs. Crawford congratulated Sue Liebner and the North Star Elementary staff for a wonderful presentation and Elaine Larson for her music teacher of the year award. She encouraged the Board to listen to the professionals who are clearly asking to do what they think is best for District schools.

Ms. Germano explained that the reason to postpone was to allow time for input from parents. She told those present that she was offended by the assumption that if the Board doesn't do what the people have directed, they are somehow derelict in their duties. She asked how many parent groups, site councils and staff collectively review newly proposed curriculums.

BOARD COMMENTS

(Continued):

Dr. Anderson stated that the intent of the postponement was to allow people to have the opportunity to think about the proposed directive and possibly reconsider. He stated that it is evident that when the proposed directive is brought back, unless there is some support expressed, it will not be passed and he will also vote against it. He stated that what he hoped for was some cooperation between the Central Peninsula schools rather than viewing themselves as isolated entities. He expressed concern for the vocational education students and explained that the Board was told that the vocational education program had been adjusted for what the District can afford, not what is best for students. He stated that he is extremely upset that, in spite of pleas, the Board has received no response from the school communities regarding the adjustment of school schedules so that the money saved can be used more efficiently. He stated that he would like to offer a better vocational education program for students who wish to pursue a trade.

Mr. Arness stated that he was very involved in establishing site-based decision making councils because he believes in the concept. He stated that he appreciated Mr. Tarbox's comments about being heartened that site councils are working and saddened because members felt they must be present at the meeting because the District was attempting to usurp some of their authority. He stated he felt ashamed to be a member of the Board and felt that a mistake had been made. He stated that he would like to have voted on the issue and supported those who spoke against the proposed directive.

Dr. Anderson stated that he has a great deal of respect for Mr. Arness and feels that he is probably one of the most valuable members of the Board. Dr. Anderson added that he appreciated the other members of the Board as well. He stated that he and Mr. Arness disagree on occasion but he continues to have respect for Mr. Arness's opinions, attitudes and ideas.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board go into executive session to discuss matters, the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the Borough. Specifically, the executive session was to discuss negotiations.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 11:25 p.m., Mrs. Larned moved the executive session be adjourned. Ms. Germano seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN: At 11:26 p.
m.,
Mrs. Larned
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 January 18, 1999,
were approved on February 1, 1999,
as written.