

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
148 N. Binkley Street

Soldotna, AK 99669

February 7, 2000

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

Ms. Deborah Germano, President

Mrs. Debra Mullins, Vice President

Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Treasurer

Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, Member

Dr. Nels Anderson, Member

Mr. Mike Chenault, Member

Miss Melinda Haring, Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT:

Dr. Donna Peterson, Superintendent of Schools

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

Mr. Todd Syverson, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Tim Peterson

Mrs. Debbie White

Ms. Barb Vogel

Mr. Jim White

Dr. Gary Whiteley

Mrs. Patty Campbell

Ms. Norma Holmgaard

Mr. Pete Sprague

Mr. Sam Stewart

Dr. Lisa Stroh

Mrs. Debbie Stewart

Mrs. Shana Loshbaugh

Mr. Justin George

Mrs. Sue Liebner

Mr. Don Glaves

Ms. Terri Woodward

Mr. Dave Spence

Mr. Gordon Griffin

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

Ms. Germano called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. A quorum of School Board members, Mrs. Gross, Mrs. Larned, Mrs. Mullins, Mrs. Crawford and Ms. Germano were in attendance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 3:31 p.m., Mrs. Larned moved the Board go into executive session to discuss subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person, provided the person may request a public discussion. Specifically, the executive session was to conduct a student expulsion hearing. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 7:31 p.m., Mrs. Mullins moved the executive session be adjourned. Mrs. Gross seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Ms. Germano invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Ms. Deborah Germano	Present
Mrs. Debra Mullins	Present
Mrs. Susan Larned	Present
Mrs. Sammy Crawford	Present
Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross	Present
Dr. Nels Anderson	Absent/Excused
Mr. Mike Chenault	Present
Miss Melinda Haring	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The agenda was approved with the addition of Resolution 99-00-9 and a revision of item Number 10a.(2), Long-Term Substitute Teacher Contract.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The School Board Minutes of January 17, 2000, were approved as printed.

SCHOOL REPORTS:

Dr. Lisa Stroh, Tustumena Elementary principal, reported that the school goal was to concentrate on math computation and that the staff has tried hard to become data-driven, assess students and problem solve the best way to meet the needs of all students. She stated that the school has two Title I Program tutors and also offers accelerated reading and math programs. She stated that the school received a grant to purchase books for a level book room, which provides sets of books teachers can use for students at a specific reading level. She reported that the school received a state grant for ten staff members to complete a two-year reading endorsement program. She reported that approximately 46 students are participating in an intramural ski program sponsored by Dave Michael, teacher. She noted that the PTO has supported the ski program with equipment and fund raising. She stated that parents ski with their children and community members groom the trails. Dr. Stroh reported that one-percent of the money spent on the new school addition was designated for art and that a committee selected two Alaskan artists to create art projects for the school. She stated that four, 3-dimensional ceramic tiles, several ceramic windowsill coverings and a mural were recently completed and installed. Dr. Stroh reported that during the past week the students have displayed their concern for Rod Boyce, the lost dog musher, by wearing orange ribbons. She stated that she and the students were relieved that the musher, was found alive and well. Ms. Shelly Worsfold, teacher, introduced her 3rd grade students who read acrostic poetry they had written. Dr. Stroh invited the Board to visit Tustumena Elementary School.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

Dr. Peterson reported that she received a letter from the Homer Charter School regarding a decrease in enrollment from 26 to 20 students. She noted that the students either left the area or transferred to another school. She noted that a copy of the letter sent to Homer High School parents regarding the principal hiring process was included in the Board information packet. She reported that she received a copy of a letter sent to Mr. Carlton Kuhns thanking him for the use of the school as a command center while conducting a search and rescue in the Nikolaevsk area. She reported that she received a thank-you letter from the Voznesenka PAC for removing the "frontier schools" label from their school.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Ms. Germano paid special recognition to Mr. Jim White, Data Processing Director, for his outstanding service and dedication to the District.

Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Peterson reported that Mr. McLain is working four hours per day. She noted that the District was awarded a school-to-work Career Pathways grant for \$75,000 and is aggressively pursuing other grants. She announced that Department of Education and Early Development Commissioner, Rick Cross, will be on the Kenai Peninsula to talk to District personnel about the Quality Schools Initiative. She noted that the Technology Work Group meeting was rescheduled for February 10, at 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and that the joint budget worksession with the Assembly has been rescheduled for February 29.

Lease Report:

Mr. Hickey announced that the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly transferred the Kenai Elementary building to the District and subsequently entered into a five-year lease agreement with the Boys and Girls Club for administrative space. He noted that spaces available for Club activity programs will be used in compliance with BP and AR 1330.

Board Reports:

Miss Haring reported that she recently participated in the DARE Program at Mt. View Elementary School.

Mrs. Crawford announced that she is continuing her participation in the Language Arts Curriculum Committee and that the Committee will be hearing another presentation on materials. She reported that she attended an Employee Recognition Program Committee meeting and added that she will attend the Technology Work Group meeting on Thursday, February 10.

Mrs. Gross announced that she attended the National School Board Association Convention and Leadership Training and Federal Relations Network in Washington, D.C. She noted that some of the issues that the NSBA is working on at the national level are regulations under the IDEA program regarding the expulsion of students that have an IEP, money for students with disabilities and the renewal of the elementary/secondary education act which includes Title I. She reported that school vouchers are going to continue to be an issue and that the NSBA is not in support of the concept. She stated that she visited with Senator Murkowski and Senator Stevens.

Mrs. Mullins reported that she attended the Nikiski High forensic debates and had the opportunity to judge one of the debates. She reported that one of the debates centered on increasing student achievement through the use of uniforms. She stated that she was impressed to see school activities other than sports.

Ms. Germano reported that she attended Battle of the Books competitions at Chapman Elementary and West Homer Elementary Schools.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were 1999-2000 New Teacher Appointments; Long-Term Substitute Teacher Contract; FY01 Increased Food Service Prices; FY01 Community Use of Auditorium Price Increase; and Resignation and Resolution 99-00-9, Support of Online Services.

1999-2000 New Teacher Appointments:

Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve teaching appointments for the 1999-2000 school year for Lois Andrews, (temporary) QUEST, Homer Middle; Renee Merkes, (temporary), math, Kenai Central High; and Rachel Roehmildt, (temporary), generalist, Hope School.

- Long-Term Substitute Teacher Contract: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve a 19-day substitute teaching contract for Johnna DeGray, science, Nikiski Middle/High; Paula Standefer, Grade 5, K-Beach Elementary; and Cindy Hurst, kindergarten, Sterling Elementary.
- FY01 Increased Food Service Prices: Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve a \$0.05 increase in the price of FY01 school lunches.
- FY01 Community Use of Auditorium Price Increase: Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve revisions to AR 1330 which would increase the fees to Category II and Category III users of District auditoriums.
- Resignation: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve the resignation of Audrey Alfson, language arts, Nikiski Middle/High (effective the end of the 1999-2000 school year).
- RESOLUTION 99-00-9: Miss Haring, student representative, recommended the Board approve Resolution 99-00-9 encouraging funding support by the Alaska Legislature for the Magazine, Newspapers and More online resource included in the University of Alaska capital budget request.
- ACTION Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve Consent Agenda items Numbers 1 through 6. Mrs. Larned seconded.
- Mrs. Crawford requested the Board remove item Number 10a.(4), FY01 Community Use of Auditorium Price Increase.
- Motion carried unanimously.
- ACTION Mrs. Crawford moved the Board table action of item Number 10a.(4), FY01 Community Use of Auditorium Price Increase. Mrs. Gross seconded.
- Motion carried unanimously.

Student Expulsion:

Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve the following: "Board Policy 5131.6(a) requires the administration to recommend expulsion for a second drug or alcohol-related offense. This was D.L.'s second violation of Board policy on a drug-related offense in less than a year. This behavior is inimical to the welfare and safety of other pupils. As such, D.L. is expelled for one calendar year for violation of KPBSD policy 5131.6(a), Alcohol and Other Drugs—Selling Offering for Sale, Distributing. D.L. shall be allowed to apply for early readmission in the fall of school year 2000-2001 upon compliance with the following conditions:

ACTION

1. Thorough drug and alcohol assessment with completion of the recommended treatment program.
2. Thorough psychological evaluation with a statement from the doctor that D.L. is not a threat to himself or others.
3. Agreement to not abuse drugs or alcohol during the term of his expulsion. Compliance will be monitored through random broad spectrum, state certified, chain-of-custody urinalysis drug testing to be paid for by D. L.'s parents.
4. 100 hours of community service.
5. If D.L. should fail to comply with any of the conditions listed above, he should face the entire one-year expulsion." Mrs. Mullins seconded.

VOTE:

YES – Crawford, Gross, Larned, Mullins, Germano

ABSTAIN – Chenault

Motion carried.

Language Arts Curriculum:

Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve the language arts curriculum with the understanding that it is a framework document with work still to be completed in the area of honors classes and assessment.

Language Arts Curriculum (Continued):

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve the language arts curriculum. Mrs. Larned seconded.

ACTION

Ms. Germano asked how many people were involved in reviewing the curriculum books. Dr. Whiteley stated that approximately 20 teachers along with several principals will review materials from Scholastic and McGraw-Hill 2001.

Ms. Germano stated that she would like to see honors classes recommended in the larger District high schools or that they request a waiver.

Motion carried unanimously.

AR 5144, Elementary and Secondary Discipline Guides:

Dr. Peterson recommended the Board table action on AR 5144, Elementary and Secondary Discipline Guides until a worksession can be held to discuss the regulation in more detail.

ACTION

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board table action on AR 5144, Elementary and Secondary Discipline Guides. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Seward Bus Route Bus Purchase:

Mr. Hickey recommended the District purchase two new buses for the Seward fleet. He explained that this purchase will be Phase II of a plan to replace aging units in the Seward operation and that the expenditures are expected to be reimbursed at 100% with EED appropriations through the Pupil Transportation fund.

ACTION

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve the Seward bus route purchase. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Soldotna Middle School Addition Project Postponement:

Mr. Hickey recommended the Board direct him to ask the Borough to leave the appropriation for the schematic design of an addition to Soldotna Middle School in abeyance until some more appropriate future date.

Mr. Pete Sprague, Borough Assembly member, stated that during his campaign for assembly, the community asked for assistance with the overcrowding situation at the Soldotna Middle School. He asked whether Soldotna Middle School will still be overcrowded with the declining enrollments and, if so, what could be done about it. He stated he is concerned that if the proposed property tax cap is passed, the District will be limited with any new construction. He asked the Board to consider a planning process to address the overcrowding situation.

Soldotna Middle School Addition Project
Postponement (Continued):

Mr. Hickey stated that the District has been considering consolidation opportunities. He speculated that with the settlement of the Kasayulie case and the infusion of a large amount of capital for major maintenance and building projects destined for rural Alaska, the rest of the state, excluding Anchorage and Fairbanks, will be left with \$60-\$90 million. He added that that amount of money would not be enough to place the District on the state capital project list. He stated that the voters could approve a bond issue for construction of a new facility. He noted that in response to the declining enrollment, the District recently adjusted the pupil/teacher ratio at the middle school level which means that there will be fewer classroom teachers and could free up some of the portables.

Mr. Sprague reiterated that there is a lot of community concern for the overcrowding situation at Soldotna Middle School and he would like to assist in a plan to resolve the situation. Mr. Hickey stated that the suggestion is to reconfigure the school boundaries.

Ms. Germano assured Mr. Sprague that the Board will keep him informed when the reconfiguration of schools and boundaries is being considered.

ACTION

Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve the Soldotna Middle School addition project postponement. Mrs. Gross seconded.

Mrs. Crawford urged the administration to continue discussions about reconfiguration or boundary changes at Soldotna Middle School and added that it is the most crowded school on the Peninsula.

Motion carried unanimously.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Miss Haring commented that the new District website looks good.

Mrs. Gross reported that she watched a hockey game between Soldotna High and Skyview High. She added that she visited the new ice rink in Kenai.

Mr. Chenault thanked Assembly members, Chris Moss and Pete Sprague, for attending the Board meeting and worksession. He thanked the students and staff at Tustumena Elementary for their report. He commended Dr. Peterson for being presented with the Community Service award by the Nikiski Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. Germano thanked the Tustumena staff and students for their presentation and added that she appreciated their support for the lost dog musher. She stated that she was glad to hear that Mr. McLain is back at work. She extended congratulations on the receipt of the Career Pathways grant money. She requested that the Board meet with Mr. Cross during his visit to the District.

Mrs. Larned thanked Dr. Stroh for the Tustumena Elementary report and commented that the committee made a good choice on the school art projects. She stated that the Board is having a difficult time balancing the FY01 budget and urged those present to attend the upcoming budget hearings and provide their input. She noted that she is hosting a foreign exchange student and has been attending quite a few school activities.

BOARD COMMENTS (Continued):

Mrs. Crawford acknowledged the death of former District Special Education Director, Kris Rogers. She thanked Dr. Stroh for the Tustumena Elementary School report. She congratulated Mr. Jim White on the recognition of his exceptional service to the District.

Ms. Germano thanked the Tustumena Elementary staff, students and parents for the school report. She commented that it has been a rough couple of weeks with regards to budget reductions, poor weather and the loss of a student at Homer High. She asked those present to attend the upcoming budget hearings and provide feedback and ideas.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 8:33 p.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 discuss the reorganization of the District administration. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 9:50 p.m., Mr. Chenault moved the executive session be adjourned. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN:

At 9:51 p.m., Mrs. Mullins moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned.
Mr. Chenault seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Deborah Germano, President

Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

The Minutes of February 7, 2000,
were approved on February 21, 2000,
as written.