

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

148 N. Binkley Street
Soldotna, AK 99669

April 17, 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. Wayne Young	Mr. Gene Dyson
Miss Bobby Sue McMullen	Mrs. Debbie Stewart
Miss Sonja Ash	Mr. Sam Stewart
Mr. Richard Hawkins	Ms. Dee Gaddis
Mr. Paul Kubena	Mr. Dave Carey
Mrs. Sue Biggs	Mrs. Vicky Leach
Mr. Chuck Boll	Mr. Jim Legner
Mrs. Robin Williams	Mrs. Darolyn Brown
Mrs. Norma Holmgaard	Mrs. Sylvia Reynolds
Mrs. Lynn Dusek	Mr. Pete Sprague
Mr. Sean Dusek	Mr. Roy Shapley
Mr. Justin George	Mrs. Shana Loshbaugh
Ms. Barb Vogel	Ms. Kathy Godek
Mr. Mick Wykis	Ms. Trena Richardson
Mrs. Carolyn Cannava	Mrs. Sharon Mook
Mrs. Sue Liebner	Mr. Mark Norgren
Mr. Don Glaze	Mrs. Beth Martin
Mrs. Patti Glaze	Mr. Tim Peterson
Mrs. Tina Stamer	Dr. Kathy Schwartz
Mr. Brad Nyquist	Mr. Sam Strange

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

Ms. Germano called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

ROLL CALL:

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

- APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved with the removal of item Number 10a.(3), Adoption of AR 0420, School-Based Management/Site Councils.
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of March 27, 2000, were approved as printed.
- SCHOOL REPORTS: Mr. Paul Kubena, Sterling Elementary principal, introduced Mrs. Sue Biggs, music teacher, who directed several students in two songs. One song was performed with hand bells.
- Mr. Kubena stated that the school has an enrollment of 271 students with 12 regular education staff members. He stated that the interior of the school has been newly painted and that new playground equipment and soccer goals will be installed this summer. He reported that the school took a partnership role in the sponsorship of the Head Start Program. He announced that Sterling Elementary is one of 12 schools districtwide involved in a reading intervention pilot program and noted that the program has been successful. He noted that of last year's twelve project sites, only 22% of kindergarten students were identified as having the phoneme segmentation skills needed to become successful readers and that Sterling Elementary had only 6% of the students. He stated that the District's pilot schools have increased this number to 53% on average and that Sterling School has surpassed the District average to 57%. Mr. Kubena reported that this year's older (second and third grade) struggling readers are showing growth on the order of double and triple their initial fall reading assessment scores as documented on timed CBM tests. He stated that the Reading Intervention strategy has yielded remarkable results in improving reading skill levels of struggling readers.
- Mr. Kubena reported that the school has activated a student council whose membership serves the school's needs by providing school spirit, creating after-school activities, raising money, and coordinating community service involvement. He reported that with money provided by the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program, the school has started a conflict resolution program to assist students with resolving disputes in a peaceful manner. He reported that the school has also initiated a social skills program titled, Stop and Think, where student behavior issues are proactively circumvented through systematic training of specific social skills. He stated that the program includes monthly schoolwide celebrations of student achievement. He reported that the teachers are including art in the teaching of language arts, and they are planning a districtwide workshop to be held at Sterling Elementary School by Dr. Kathy Schwartz. He thanked Skyview High School staff members Diane Silva, Terry Zopf, Greg Zorbas and Betty Miller who, in partnership with Sterling Elementary, offered the Adopt-a-Reader Program, conducted theatrical performances, and organized a hands-on health fair.
- RECESS: At 7:55 p.m., Ms. Germano called a recess.
- RECONVENE AFTER RECESS: At 7:59 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.
- ACTION Dr. Anderson moved the Board suspend the rules for the purpose of changing the agenda. Mrs. Larned seconded.
- Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Germano moved item 7a., Awards and Presentations, forward on the agenda, ahead of item 3., Public Presentations.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Board members presented golden apple awards to Lynn Dusek, first grade teacher, Redoubt Elementary; Patricia Glaze, Title I tutor, North Star Elementary; Brad Nyquist, eighth grade teacher, Kenai Middle School; and Wayne Young, principal/teacher, Port Graham Elementary/High. The Board also presented an award of appreciation to Sylvia Reynolds, Soldotna High School principal, for being selected as the 2000 Alaska Secondary School Administrators' Association Principal of the Year.

Mr. Chuck Boll, Laidlaw Transit Soldotna Terminal Manager, and Steve Kalmes, National Association for Pupil Transportation Board Member, presented Ms. Wanema Arndt, Laidlaw Bus Driver, with the Bluebird Heroism Award for assisting during a one-car automobile accident that occurred along her bus route.

Several students received awards for their artwork, which was on display at the Capitol Building in Juneau and later in the Borough Assembly Room.

Miss Melinda Haring recognized Heleena Hanson and Norton Dablemont, Skyview High School students, for being outstanding students.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. Chuck Boll, Laidlaw Transit Branch Manager, presented a \$500 check to the District to be used for a student scholarship. He requested that the scholarship be awarded to a graduating senior from Susan B. English School and noted that the District administration and school principal may select the recipient. He thanked the Board and the District for entrusting Laidlaw Transit to carry students from Moose Pass to Seldovia and many points in between.

Mike Hutchison, Skyview High School parent, provided a brief history concerning the Alaska Association of School Activities' (AASA) decision to allow large and small schools to choose between offering a fall or spring wrestling season. He stated that he disagreed with Dr. Peterson's decision to conduct the wrestling season in the fall. He explained that he and other parents disagreed with the fall wrestling season because it overlaps the football season by three weeks, the competition level decreases, and it is unfair to the sport and its participants. He stated that Region III of 4A schools have a long history of being one of the strongest regions in the state as well as being named one of the top 20 in the nation, and the decision for a fall schedule will divide the region and limit opportunities for participants. He commented that KPSAA previously voted 5 to 3 to offer wrestling in the spring, and he asked the Board to overturn Dr. Peterson's decision and allow wrestling to be held in the spring.

Ms. Germano asked the audience not to repeat what an earlier speaker had said so that everyone who wished to address the Board would have a chance.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS (continued): Mr. Dave Carey, Skyview High teacher/coach, explained that wrestlers travel to others schools, sleep on the floor of classrooms to compete in tournaments in the hope of earning college recognition. He stated that if the school is to have strong competition, it must have strong wrestling teams. He stated that limiting Skyview High's wrestling competition to Homer, Ninilchik, Seward, Nikiski, Soldotna and Kenai area schools would not promote growth. He stated that competing with teams from Southeast Alaska would deplete the activity budget in one weekend. He asked the Board to consider allowing Skyview to participate in tournaments with Anchorage, Fairbanks and Matanuska-Susitna schools and not limit them to Kenai Peninsula schools. He stated that the Skyview Booster Club is raising money to send the wrestling team and a coach to Nevada the weekend after the spring season state tournament. He added that if the wrestling team is not allowed to compete during the spring wrestling season, then they cannot send a team to Nevada.

Ms. Elizabeth Howard, Soldotna High parent, stated that by moving wrestling to the fall season, the bar for competition would be lowered as well as make it too difficult for small schools to compete. She stated that the District has an outstanding wrestling program because of the quality of coaching on the Peninsula, and she complimented wrestling coach, Neldon Gardner. She stated that by competing in wrestling, students are recognized for possible college scholarships. She stated that if the wrestling season is held in the fall, the students will pay the price. She asked the Board to reconsider the superintendent's decision and change the wrestling season to the spring.

Mr. Travis Bass, Soldotna High junior, stated that his goal is to be a state champion and added that he wants to wrestle in 4A competition. He reported that throughout the nation many high schools wrestle in the spring. He stated that he does not want to wrestle the same people repeatedly. Mr. Bass stated that wrestlers improve when they are part of a large team and experience a stronger level of competition. He stated that the 4A/3A Regions are the toughest and have produced many state champions. He stated that if the decision to wrestle smaller schools stands, he and other students will move to Anchorage to wrestle in the 4A division.

Mrs. Becky West, parent, stated that her son's goal is to be a state wrestling champion and win a scholarship. She stated that Dr. Peterson told a group of parents that the wrestling decision was not a money issue. She stated that she has not heard a good reason for the decision to wrestle in the fall and was disappointed to find out that Dr. Peterson had submitted her decision prior to last week's parent meeting and before the deadline. She asked the Board to find out why she submitted her decision before hearing parental input.

Dr. Peterson replied that there is nothing she can say that will help the audience. She explained that there were three choices to make: split the wrestling season, have all schools wrestle in the fall, or have all schools wrestle in the spring. She responded that she was quoted out of context regarding her comment to the parents and that she told them that it was not totally a money issue. She added that she has provided her rationale for the decision. She stated that she submitted her wrestling decision on March 27; and at any point prior to April 15, the decision could be changed, but she did not rescind her decision.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS (continued): Mr. Sam Stewart, KCHS principal and Region III president, stated that because of the current situation, Region III has taken proactive steps towards dealing with a split wrestling season. He reported that the fall wrestling season will have four qualifying tournaments to qualify for a state tournament. He noted that two of those tournaments will be predominantly for Region III teams. He stated that one group will include Homer, Soldotna, Nikiski, Anchorage Christian, Grace Christian, Glenallen, Kenny Lake, Ninilchik and Seldovia. He stated that the other group will be Kenai, Skyview, Seward, Houston, Valdez, Cordova, Tok and Nenana. He stated that each qualifying tournament will submit six seeds, which will expand to a 24-man, 32-place bracket. Mr. Stewart reported that approximately seventy schools will wrestle in the fall and fourteen schools will wrestle in the spring. He stated that Anchorage Christian Schools has invited 55 different teams to one of their invitational tournaments. He noted that there are a lot of opportunities for wrestling tournaments. He stated that Region III is looking for a solution to the split-wrestling season but has not found a compromise that everyone can live with. He reported that Kenai Central High plans to submit a proposal to host the state tournament for the fall season.

Dr. Peterson stated that the wrestling decision should not have been left to the superintendent to make, and above that, it should not be a Board decision.

Dr. Anderson stated that the Board is in a no-win situation regarding wrestling and that it is an administrative decision. He stated that it is not the Board's business to interfere with the internal operations of the School District. He explained that it is the Board's job to approve the budget, hire and fire the superintendent, and establish policy. He corrected an earlier comment by clarifying that all District sports do not compete with major schools and cited football as an example. He reported that during next year's football season the District will compete with fewer schools than wrestling. He reported that District football teams will no longer play Anchorage, Fairbanks or Matanuska-Susitna schools. He also clarified that if the Board had accepted KPSAA's original recommendation for cocurricular activity cuts, then wrestling, hockey, and swimming would have been eliminated. He stated that KPSAA's decision was a split vote of 5 to 3. He stated that Dr. Peterson was asked to make a decision and added that he will support the superintendent in her decision whether he agrees with her or not. He reiterated that it is not the Board's place to interfere with an administrative decision, and he added that Dr. Peterson has done a fine job.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS: Dr. Peterson stated that she received letters from the Department of Environmental Conservation thanking staff members at three school sites for being courteous and helpful during their health and safety inspections, from Central Emergency Services thanking staff members at five school sites for their assistance in correcting numerous minor problem areas, and from Aurora Borealis Charter School requesting to increase their enrollment by one class per year over the next five years.

Mr. Hickey explained that the Aurora Borealis Charter School is requesting permission to grow, and they anticipate as many as 10 new students for next year. Dr. Peterson suggested that the administration schedule a worksession.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS
(continued):

Ms. Germano reported that the Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB) is soliciting applications for next year's QS2. Ms. Germano explained that AASB is looking for an application and three-year commitment to develop a strategic plan. Dr. Peterson stated that she guessed the solicitation is in conjunction with what is happening at the Department of Education and Early Development. She stated that AASB is offering a comprehensive school improvement service, and it is not meant to be a clearinghouse for Districts that want to "shotgun" something through. She noted that she was asked to be a presentor. She stated that the District can participate but there is a dollar commitment. Ms. Germano stated that in her conversation with Dr. Peterson about the service, she did not think it was something that the District should consider and she noted that April 17 is the deadline to submit the application.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Peterson reported that the Borough Assembly will take action on the District FY01 budget and the technology plan. She announced that the Nikiski Reconfiguration Committee will meet on April 27 to prepare input for the Board. She stated that the Downsizing Committee has been renamed the Committee for Operational Efficiency and that the next meeting will be May 30. She announced that former District superintendent, Dale Sandahl, will facilitate a task force, which has been created to review the delivery of student activities in the District. She reported that meetings will be held April 20, April 27 and May 4 at Central Office. She reported that she attended a heartwarming presentation made to the Nikolaevsk School and community by the Borough Assembly of a history book containing old records and pictures of the founding of the village. She reminded the public that the next School Board meeting will be held in Seward at the Seward High School. Dr. Peterson announced that Terri Carter's Grade 5/6 class at K-Beach Elementary is currently featured in "Time for Kids" and the students are recognized as heroes of the planet. She announced that Melinda Haring has been named as one of the recipients of the June Nelson Memorial Scholarship award for \$1,000.

Ms. Germano appointed Dr. Anderson and Mr. Chenault to be the Board representatives on the Student Activities Task Force Committee. Dr. Anderson asked to have some preliminary information before the Committee meets.

SAFE SCHOOLS REPORT:

Dr. Peterson reported on specific training and collaboration related to critical incident preparedness, safety, emergency management, and law enforcement information occurring within the District.

Dr. Peterson stated that last week the question was asked about the District's plans to address school violence. She referred the Board to the Safe Schools Report and the five points concerning the issue.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Mr. Hickey presented the financial report of the District for the period ending March 31, 2000. He noted that the District has received a final estimation on how the state's foundation payments will continue through the end of the year and he does not anticipate any problems.

Ms. Germano asked Mr. Hickey for the latest information on transportation legislation. Mr. Hickey stated that the legislation was considered on the senate floor and was voted down. He stated that some of the sponsors of the bill voted against it because it had gathered too many amendments.

FINANCIAL REPORT (continued):

Ms. Germano asked the administration for a brief description of grant monies awarded to the District. She asked how the OASIS grant money is used. Mr. Hickey responded that it is a collaborative grant funded by the state to address the legislature's goal of finding commonality in accounting and reporting of school district data throughout the state. He noted that all districts are submitting their enrollment data in standard format. He stated that the money was awarded to the Association of School Business Officials who contracted the work with subject matter experts.

BUDGET TRANSFER REPORT:

Mr. Hickey reported on budget transfers Numbers 68 through 94 for various schools and departments within the District.

Ms. Germano asked about the transfer of a \$1. Patrick explained that in the rules of accounting there are instances when the transfer of \$1 is necessary and that it costs more than that to transfer the \$1.

Ms. Germano asked about the purchase of an IMac. Mr. Hickey explained that even though the District adopted the shift to a PC-based environment, it is understood that there may be independent and significant applications, such as video editing applications, for which the IMac would be a better-suited computer. He assured the Board that the District will not acquire Apple products without review by the Technology Committee to guarantee that any diversion from the stated goals is warranted.

BOARD REPORTS:

Mrs. Crawford stated that she recently attended the National School Board convention and that it was very inspiring. She reported that she spent four days attending as many workshops as possible, and she met with other school board members from throughout the nation. She stated that she chaperoned a Soldotna High student during a 4-day trip to Juneau to learn about government. She reported that they stayed with Senator Torgerson and that the student learned a lot about government. She reported that she moderated a panel of experts representing a variety of careers, including Dr. Peterson who represented education.

Mrs. Larned reported that she attended the Downsizing Committee and reconfirmed that there will be no school closures. She stated that it was interesting to learn that the District would not save money by closing schools. She stated that she attended the School-to-Careers Advisory Committee meeting on April 12. She reported that the Committee discussed plans for next year, grant money, and legislation that, if passed, would authorize the hiring of a statewide vocational education director. She stated that there is concern that budget cuts will affect vocational education course offerings. She announced that James Bowers, Homer Flex student, is the Vocational Education Student of the Month.

Ms. Germano asked how budget cuts would affect vocational education.

Mrs. Larned explained that the CNA class will be affected with the reduction of high school nursing hours. Mr. Syverson explained that the staffing formula was changed in schools with 7-12 grades, which resulted in cuts mostly to middle schools. He noted that staffing reductions to Skyview High School resulted from declining enrollment.

BOARD REPORTS (continued):

Ms. Germano reported that she and Mrs. Gross met Mr. Keffer, Homer High principal. She distributed a packet of information from Mrs. Gross from the National School Board Association convention. Ms. Germano noted that Mrs. Gross and Mrs. Mullins are currently in Juneau attending the AASB Legislative Fly-In.

- CONSENT AGENDA:** Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Revisions to AR 5141.21, Administering Medication; Budget Transfer Number 382; Resignations; Long-Term Substitute Contracts; Leave of Absence-Certified; Leave of Absence-Support and Medical Leave of Absence – Certified.
- AR 5141.21, Administering Medication:** By memorandum, Mr. McLain recommended the Board approve a revision to AR5141.21, Administering Medication, to correct a management and responsibility problem involving student possession of medication while on the school campus.
- Budget Transfer:** Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve budget transfer Number 382 for \$17,500 to adjust for a chart of account change effective, July 1, 1999, which was subsequent to adoption of the FY00 pupil transportation fund budget.
- Resignations:** Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve resignations from Rebecca Hunter, pool director, Kenai Central High; Juventino "Sonny" Morin, Spanish, Homer High; and Deborah Langford, Grade 3, Redoubt Elementary.
- Long-Term Substitute Contracts:** Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve a 19-day substitute teaching contract for Don McKeon, special education/resource, Seward Middle/High; and Tanya Erwin, kindergarten, Soldotna Elementary.
- Leave of Absence – Certified:** Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve an unpaid leave of absence request for the 2000-2001 school year for Johana Idzerda, Grades 7-12, Voznesenka Elementary; Margaret Gilman, QUEST, Mt. View Elementary; and Susan Wells, Grade 6, Kenai Middle.
- Leave of Absence – Support:** Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve an unpaid leave of absence request for the 2000-2001 school year for Chob Labnongsang, custodian I, Nikiski Middle/High.
- Medical Leave of Absence – Certified:** Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve an unpaid medical leave of absence request for the 1999-2000 school year for Margaret Gilman, QUEST, Mt. View Elementary.
- ACTION** Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve Consent Agenda items Numbers 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8. Mrs. Crawford seconded.
- Motion carried unanimously.
- ADMINISTRATOR ASSIGNMENT:** Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve the appointment of David Kingsland as principal of Seward Elementary.
- ACTION** Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve the appointment of David Kingsland as principal of Seward Elementary. Mrs. Larned seconded.
- Motion carried unanimously.
- PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:** Ms. Germano recognized Mr. Wayne Young, Port Graham Elementary/High principal; Bobbi Sue McMullen, Port Graham Elementary/High student; Sonja Ash, Nanwalek Elementary/High student; and Richard Hawkins, Bartlett Elementary/High School student who are participating in a student leadership trip sponsored by the Borough. She thanked Mr. Young for chaperoning the students.

Mrs. Vicky Leach, parent, member of several site councils, expressed her concern over the staff reductions at Soldotna Middle School. She noted that she is considering home schooling her son. She stated that it bothered her to hear that the District was trying to recoup money by offering the Connections Program for home school students. She asked the Board to revisit the philosophy of the Connections Program. Mrs. Leach stated that her first response to the District's Student Activity Task Force was that it is KPSAA's job and that the Task Force was created because the administration did not like KPSAA's recommendations. She suggested that the School Board do away with the KPSAA Board if they are not going to use their recommendations. She stated that she would rather cut programs than patch them together and water down the programs. She stated that it would be better to have a whole program than what is offered now. Mrs. Leach expressed concern over the new Technology Plan. She commented that it is a step in the wrong direction and that the District is choosing computers over teachers. She told the Board that her daughter was inspired by Mrs. Crawford, who was a teacher at the time, and that a computer program could not do that.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mr. Chenault reported that he attended the mass dance program at Soldotna High School and the mass band program at Soldotna Middle School and commented on how well the students performed. He thanked the parents who voiced their opinions at the Board meeting.

Mrs. Larned stated that she appreciated the Sterling Elementary presentation and especially enjoyed the children's performance. She stated that she is happy to see the paintings on the wall of the Assembly Room. She congratulated the award winners and thanked those present for attending.

Dr. Anderson explained that computers are not being purchased over teachers and that the Technology Plan will cost the District \$.10 on the dollar because of outside-the-cap assistance from the Borough Assembly and the E-rate money from the federal government. He stated that in the long run the Technology Plan will save the District an incredible amount of money and that eventually the District will have to move from the Borough mainframe system. He complimented Mr. Hickey and others who have made the Technology Plan cost plan. Dr. Anderson reported that the District is looking at the option of not providing any money for extracurricular activities next year. He stated that the Board is tired of cutting money and taking teachers out of the classrooms. He expressed his concern for the future of advanced placement (AP) classes and stated that he would like to see concerned parents asking why the Board does not insist that all students take AP classes. He noted that it has been shown that AP classes prepare students for their future more than other classes, even if they don't take the exam.

Mrs. Crawford stated that she appreciated the public comments and agreed that good teachers and good coaches are important. She stated that the Board does their best to meet the needs of everyone. She commented that it has been a very difficult year and that budget cuts have been difficult to make. She congratulated Melinda Haring and Sylvia Reynolds.

BOARD COMMENTS (continued):

Ms. Germano echoed previous comments by other Board members, particularly Dr. Anderson's about course offerings. She stated that she shares Mrs. Leach's concerns regarding middle schools and that it is hard to watch. She recognized and extended her appreciation to those who received awards. Ms. Germano reported that she attended the KPSAA meeting at which the wrestling season decision was voted on and that much of the information presented tonight was not presented at the KPSAA meeting. She stated that Dr. Peterson was asked to make a decision with the information that she was given, and KPSAA made a decision based on the discussion that they had but which did not include issues that were heard at the evening's Board meeting. She stated that she supports the superintendent's decision. She thanked those present for coming to the meeting.

ADJOURN: At 9:41 p.m., Mrs. Larned moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Deborah Germano, President

Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

The Minutes of April 17, 2000,
were approved as on May 1, 2000
as written.