

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Seward High School

Seward, AK 99669

May 1, 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. Ed McLain, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Steve Smith	Ms. Lyn Hohl
Mrs. Melody Douglas	Ms. Mary McDonald
Mr. Robert Boyle	Ms. Ann Whitmore-Painter
Mr. Ralph Steeves	Mr. Tom Tougas
Mr. Malcolm Fleming	Ms. Claire Musgrove
Ms. Celiene Turner	Mr. Dave DeRuwe
Mr. Dick Aerol	Ms. Lisa Rininger
Ms. Sandy Wassilie	Ms. Madeline Walker
Ms. Rose Hetrick	Mr. Dennis Swiderski
Ms. Sharon Ganser	Ms. Kim Hierson
Ms. Patty Price	Ms. Patty Linville
Ms. Cindy Ecklund	Ms. Paula Shaeffermeyer

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	Present
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	Absent/Excused

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The agenda was approved with revisions to item Number 10a.(2), Resignations, and Mr. Steve Smith's name was removed from the revised memorandum.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

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

SCHOOL REPORTS:

Mr. Steve Smith, Cooper Landing Elementary principal/teacher, reported that the K-8 grade school has 39 students, a principal/teacher, two regular education teachers, and a part-time special services teacher. He reported that the school uses a multiage approach, which emphasizes learning through class projects that are relevant to the community. He presented several collages containing pictures of student projects during the past year. He reported that the school publications include a magazine called, *Our Point of View*, pamphlets which profile the local flora and fauna, and approximately 150 books written and illustrated by students. He stated that recently, Grade 3-5 students authored and posted a website that includes historical data of Cooper Landing, profiles school staff and information about many of the school's programs. Mr. Smith reported that an ASTF grant provided funds to publish a book entitled, *Wild Alaskan Plants of the Kenai Peninsula*, which was written by Grade 6-8 students. He reported that the school also celebrates learning through the annual Christmas Program, Battle of the Books competition, science expositions, and the millennium museum. He commended the parents and community members for their whole-hearted support of the school. He noted that the members of the Dall Homemakers organization read to students, listen to students read out loud and raise money for school needs. He reported that Cooper Landing Elementary students typically perform very well on the CAT/5 and District standardized assessment measures. He announced that 6 out of 10 seventh and eighth grade students qualified for the Johns Hopkins youth talent search. He stated that next year students will work on a project focusing on the K'beq and Hchan'yut historical archaeological sites located near the Russian River Camp Ground funded by a \$10,000 grant awarded by the Toyota Tapestry Foundation to Mrs. Sotelo, teacher.

Mrs. Larned asked whether the book *Wild Alaskan Plants of the Kenai Peninsula* was published to raise money.

Mr. Smith responded that the money generated from the book sales will cover the costs of publishing more books and that the books will be available at the Princess Lodge, The Shrew's Nest and in Soldotna area stores. Ms. Germano suggested that the Peninsula chamber offices sell the books.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Ms. Mary McDonald, Moose Pass parent, stated that she is distressed about the Seward High school class schedule. She stated that she has students who are planning to attend college and is unhappy about the elimination of advanced placement classes. She stated that she is considering moving from the area to provide a high school education for her children. She stated that she doesn't understand the discrepancy between Seward High and other high schools in the District.

Ms. Germano replied that the staffing formula is applied equally to all schools and cited Nikiski High School as another 7-12 high school that has been impacted by the change in staffing formula. Ms. McDonald suggested that the formula be reviewed because the discrepancy gets larger each year.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS (continued): Mr. Dan Walker, Seward Middle School teacher and parent. He stated that he was glad to see so many parents in attendance who are concerned about special education. He stated that the special education program has been whittled away until teachers are finding themselves trying to “juggle chainsaws”, which is not an effective task. He stated that one element of best practices is the idea that educators take a few topics and work with them in depth. He suggested that the District apply best practice when looking at reduced budgets by doing a few things very well. He told the Board that if they ask teachers to do everything it will be done poorly, not because they are incompetent but because they have limits of energy, ability and time.

Ms. Ann Whitmore-Painter, Lawing parent, stated that based on the options available, she does not want to send her children to Seward High and may consider moving or home schooling. She stated that she does not want to leave the area but there is nothing to motivate students to attend school. She stated she would like to see something done to encourage students to stay in school.

Mr. Tom Tougas, Seward parent, stated that the goal of education should be the constant improvement of the gifts and talents of each student. He stated that the state has the resources with the state savings and the Borough reserve account, yet the District is reducing classes by 25% next year. He asked what could be more important to Alaska than the education of its children. He stated that stepping backwards should not be acceptable. He stated that the Borough blames the state, the teacher’s union and school administration; the governor blames the Legislature; the Legislature blames the Borough and the greed of the voters. He stated that people need to stop the blame and focus collectively on achieving continuous improvement in students’ education. He stated that what is happening now is best described as the “dumbing down of Alaska.” He asked what good it does to give uneducated students another \$50 in their permanent fund dividend check if they cannot read and solve math problems.

Mr. Wayne Clark, Seward Middle/High teacher, praised the middle school concept and noted that over the last four years he has noticed that ninth grade students are better prepared, more organized, and able to work in groups. He stated that he has noticed a decrease in violence and tension in the classroom. He stated that the middle school program creates a positive and productive working atmosphere at the high school level, and he asked the Board to consider continuing the middle school concept.

Ms. Claire Musgrove, Seward High health teacher, expressed her concern for continuing the quality of the health education program. She asked the Board to support the values of a high quality health education program in the District. She stated that her health programs include Postponing Sexual Involvement, Teens Against Tobacco Use, and Rare-T (AIDS education). She stated that 22 students have been trained as teen teachers in the health programs and have plans to continue teaching for the next three years. She stated that teen teachers also teach at the elementary school and their message is highly accepted. She stated that she would like to see health education training programs continued. She stated that next year’s budget cuts will cause the health curriculum to be reduced and the health education programs to be eliminated. She asked the Board to take action in supporting health education at Seward High.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS (continued): Mr. Dave DeRuwe, Seward Site Council member and parent, asked what the School Board is going to do about the budget reductions and how the Board will work "outside of the lines." He stated when he asked these questions last year Mrs. Gross's response was, "our hands are tied," and the response of other Board members was, "there is nothing we can do." He stated that he is not happy with a School Board that gives those answers. He stated that as the public's elected representatives, the School Board ought to be doing more.

Ms. Lisa Rininger, Seward parent, commended the middle school concept and asked the Board to consider creative scheduling so it can be continued.

Ms. Madelyn Walker, Seward parent, commented that there is a feeling of inequity within the District in the area of pupil-teacher ratios. She stated that when formulas are applied to different sized groups they become disproportionately different, and she cited the impact of the loss of three teachers in a large school versus the loss of three teachers in a small school.

Mr. Dennis Swiderski, Seward parent, stated that a big consideration in moving from Anchorage to Seward was the adequacy of the school. He stated that he wanted his children in a school that would emphasize excellence and where they would thrive. He stated that he was very happy during the first few years of living in Seward but is now concerned about the effects of the budget cuts. He stated he is very concerned with what is happening in the School District and asked the Board if they are doing as much as they could. He reported that there are more upset parents who did not attend the Board meeting but, if necessary, they will become more assertive. He stated that the community will try to elect a Seward area candidate for the School Board. He noted that he has lived many places and has seen the effect of excellent schools and what they can do in the lives of children.

Ms. Kim Reiersen, Seward parent, stated that she has noticed inequities between Seward High and other District high schools. She stated that she is concerned with the budget cuts and reductions of teachers. She stated that the school is not just cutting art and physical education but are cutting core classes and classes that are necessary to prepare students for college. She stated that with the budget reductions, Seward High School will lose 25% of their teacher time for a good portion of the students, and middle school students will either come to school an hour later or be released an hour earlier.

Ms. Germano asked Dr. Peterson about students coming to school later and leaving earlier. Dr. Peterson stated that the administration met with Mr. Fleming last week and reviewed scheduling options. She noted that Mr. Fleming was going to meet with the Seward Site Council to discuss the options.

Mr. Fleming reviewed for the Board, the scheduling options being considered, which is an attempt to preserve the middle school concept and high school block scheduling. He stated that they are in a dilemma.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS (continued): Mr. Richard Harrell, Seward parent, stated that he moved to Seward from Eagle River where he felt his children were getting a quality education. He stated that his children do not feel that they are getting the same quality education at Seward High School that they were receiving in Anchorage. He stated that there is no equity in school funding statewide. He stated that he, along with other parents, do not feel the education of their children is adequate to prepare them to meet the demands of employment or college. He stated that the District is losing money because of the reduced enrollment due to the fact that people are moving. He asked the Board to represent the parent in any way necessary to turn the cycle around.

Mr. Malcolm Fleming, Seward High School principal, told the Board that when staffing formulas are applied, Seward High is caught in the middle because there are two schools being housed in one building (a high school and a middle school). He stated that if the schools were separated, they would have only 40 fewer students than Homer Middle School and would qualify for more teachers. He stated that if the staffing formulas were applied to two separate schools, they would be entitled to 4 teachers and an administrator. He reported that one staff supports two schools; and when there are track meets or other events, the teachers attend whether it is a middle school or high school event. He stated that there is a formula applied for staffing the special education program and that Seward Middle/High school is treated as one school, which means they will lose one teacher. He stated that there are not enough teachers to offer all of the classes necessary in a comprehensive high school and in a comprehensive middle school.

Mrs. Mullins asked Mr. Fleming whether he had discussed the scheduling problems with Mrs. Williams at Nikiski Middle/High School since they are facing the same problems. He stated that he has spoken with her.

Ms. Sandy Wassilie, Seward resident, stated that she no longer has children in school, but as a member of the community, she is concerned about the quality of education since it reflects on the quality of the community. She stated that Seward is on the edge of a downward spiral and that people are seriously considering moving. She stated that she is disappointed to see the pupil-teacher ratio increased at the middle school because the middle school concept produces students who know how to behave, how to be organized and how to make the most of their high school experience. She encouraged the Board to use whatever voice they have at the statewide level to ensure that education is adequately funded. She added that there is no reason why Seward or any community should have a second rate school.

Ms. Rose Hetrick, Moose Pass parent, stated that she is concerned about the lack of equal opportunities compared to other schools on the Peninsula. She stated that her daughter spends 10 hours each day away from home but receives only 4.5 hours of instruction. She stated that she is disappointed that the District has to lay off teachers.

Ms. Sharon Stevens-Ganser, Seward parent, stated that the school does not have the money to offer the classes to challenge her children. She stated that she is considering moving or home schooling her children. She stated that it will cost her money to educate her children at home and expressed concern for parents who cannot afford to do that. She stated that parents need to talk to people at the state level to get more funding for education in small communities.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS (continued): Ms. Patti Price, Seward parent, told the Board that public law and IDEA require that special education students be educated. She stated that before moving to Seward she checked out the school system and heard good things; however since moving to Seward she has been disappointed. She stated that she has met a number of parents who have withdrawn their children to home school them. She stated that she supports the middle school concept and would like to see it continue. She spoke in support of health and safety education and noted that in the long run such programs will save the public money in social programs.

Ms. Cindy Ecklund, Seward parent, stated that she cannot afford to home school her children. She stated that she will stay in the community and fight for the best education for her children. She listed several examples of community and parent support for education and asked the Board about their plans. She stated that parents want hope.

Ms. Patty Linville, Seward parent and community librarian, stated that after looking at what was available for her special needs son, she decided to teach him at home. She stated that she does not want to see the school eroded, but home school is an option for parents. She stated that the Seward community needs to encourage some representation and some help for their schools.

Ms. Karla Shaefermeyer, Seward parent, stated that she is concerned for her son who has a choice of three classes next year to prepare him for college. She suggested that Seward Middle/High School become a satellite school or be considered part of another school so they could receive the proper pupil-teacher ratio. She stated that other schools in the District can transport their students to other schools to share classes, but Seward is too far away to do that. She stated that if Seward students don't qualify to attend college, their options are limited. She stated that her children do not like correspondence study because it is a difficult way to learn. She stated that if students become discouraged and quit high school, it is very hard to return. She asked the Board to help find some way for Seward High School to allow students to take classes from other schools through technology. She stated that she is afraid her daughter will not qualify to attend the college of her choice because she did not have an adequate education.

Dr. Peterson replied that the administrative staff has been working extremely hard to find different ways to deliver a quality education to all student. She stated that the Administration will review the special education staffing formula. She noted that next year Seward Elementary first grade classes will have an 18:1 pupil-teacher ratio rather than 24:1. She stated that during the Superintendent's Report she will talk about the use of technology to deliver educational programs to students. She noted that the District is working with the Legislature and Borough to resolve the problem of funding for education.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS: Dr. Peterson reported that she received two letters: one from the Department of Health and Social Services reporting that after a recent review of immunizations records, the District is in 100% compliant at eight schools; and one from the Department of Education congratulating the District on the first administration of the benchmark and high school qualifying exams.

Ms. Germano reported that she received a copy of a letter from Homer Electric Association responding to a request from Representative Phillips for older model computers for the Homer Senior Center. Ms. Germano reported that Homer Electric Association has agreed to donate four new computers to the Center to be used by seniors with technical assistance from local high school students.

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

Ms. Lynn Hohl, Alaska State PTA Region IV Reflections Chair, explained that the National PTA Reflections Program is an arts recognition and achievement program for students in preschool through Grade 12. She reported that North Star Elementary, Nikiski Elementary and Seward Middle/High participated in the regional program. She announced that five two-dimensional arts pieces, three original musical compositions, four literature pieces and five photography pieces were chosen from the District as regional finalists and forwarded to the state competition. She reported that the state judges chose two District entries to be forwarded to the national competition: a watercolor painting by Tatiana Butler, North Star Elementary and a musical composition by Andrea Knopik from Seward Middle/High which were forwarded to the national competition. She announced that Miss Knopik's percussion composition received a national award of merit.

Ms. Cindy Ecklund, Site-Based Council President, reported that the Seward Site Council reviewed the proposed site council policies, held discussions and conducted several presentations regarding multiage classrooms, and assisted with the interviewing and hiring process for the Seward Elementary principal. She stated that there were a large number of people who attended the Council meetings concerning budget cuts, staffing cuts and scheduling. She stated that the Site Council appreciates the biannual Board meetings in Seward. She stated that the Council is actively searching for someone to apply for a seat for the next School Board election.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Mrs. Larned presented a golden apple award to Celiene Turner, Moose Pass Elementary custodian, for her outstanding service to the District.

The Board also presented an award of appreciation to Ralph Steeves, Moose Pass principal, for being selected as the Alaska Association of Elementary School Principals' 1999 Principal/Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Steeves, stated that he is a third generation educator and has been immersed in public education for his entire life. He stated that politics and education have gone hand-in-hand since the beginning, and it has never been more so than it is today. He told those present that the community must become more political. He stated that over the past 25 years, he has seen the teachers' ability and right to maintain control over classrooms reduced to a mere illusion and that funding for school districts and planning for a budget is best described as speculation. He stated that people who choose to become educators do so by sheer will and dedication. He told the Board that technology is about to change education in a way that many cannot imagine and that local control will continue to erode. He urged parents, teachers, administrators and school board members to remember that when making decisions and choices while performing their duties to err in favor of children.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Peterson reported that Mr. Syverson is at a job fair recruiting candidates for specialized positions that are difficult to fill. She reported that 185 high school students were honored at the academic recognition night for receiving a 4.0 grade point average throughout the year. She noted that 12 of those students had earned a 4.0 average for all four years of high school. Dr. Peterson reported that the Caring For the Kenai competition was recently held with the final banquet held on April 28. She announced that the District received the Employer Support of Guard and Reserve Award from the National Guard. She announced that Seward High School received a \$21,000 grant from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development to pay for specialized remediation programs for students who do not meet the benchmark cutoff. Dr. Peterson reported that she will participate in a statewide task force that will submit to Senator Stevens a long-term distance education and technology plan to enhance and expand distance education opportunities for all Alaskans. She reported that in cooperation with the Sea Life Center and GCI Cable Network, Seward Elementary will soon have a live broadcast of the Chiswell sea lion rookery located in Resurrection Bay. She reported that the District provided a live webcast of the Soldotna High School spring band concert and that 75 people joined online from outside the District.

BOARD REPORTS:

Mrs. Mullins reported that she and Mrs. Gross attended the AASB Legislative Fly-In in Juneau. She stated that the purpose of the trip was to recoup the \$19 million, originally appropriated to fund education but now reallocated to the general fund because of declining enrollment. She stated that at this time the money has not been restored, and she urged those present to send emails and public opinion messages to let the Legislature know that school districts need the additional funding. She stated that she feels the Legislature is waiting for the results of the high school qualifying exam before they revise the funding formula. She stated that the test results will not be available until September which puts districts in a "catch 22" situation because the money is needed now. She stated that because of inadequate funding, school programs are slowly decaying on the Peninsula. She stated that she feels one of the problems is that the District manages its money and educational programs very well but other districts do not, and therefore, the Peninsula is penalized. She asked for the public's assistance to make the Legislature aware of the situation on the Peninsula, and she pointed out that the District is not like Anchorage or the "bush" but is a combination of everything in between, from Russian villages to native villages and small schools. She stated that the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District has been used as a model throughout the state, but this will not be the case any longer. She stated that legislators see Board members as an elected body and not as parents. She told those present that it is not too late to express their opinions to the Legislature and that there are still some powerful people in the Legislature who need to get the word.

Dr. Anderson reported that he and Mr. Chenault attended the Student Activities Task Force and stated that there is a chance the Assembly will agree to fund activities outside the cap. He noted that if the Assembly decides to fund student activities outside of the cap, it would free some money to be put back into classrooms. He stated that there will be another Task Force meeting on Thursday, May 4. Mr. Chenault stated that the Committee is working together to hopefully find a solution.

Ms. Germano reported that the Student Activities Task Force is comprised of two School Board members, two Borough Assembly members, two Borough administrative staff members, two District administrative staff members and two secondary principals.

- CONSENT AGENDA:** Items presented on the Consent Agenda were AR 0420, School-Based Management/Site Councils; Resignations; Budget Transfer No. 453; New teacher Assignment 2000-2001; Leave of Absence Request–Support; and Long-Term Substitute Teacher.
- AR 0420, School-Based Management/Site Councils:** Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve AR 0420, School-Based Management/Site Councils, which was recommended in response to the following Board goal: revisit and clarify roles, relationships, and expectations for site councils.
- Resignations:** By memorandum, Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve resignations from Roderick Ladd, principal, West Homer Elementary (effective the end of the 2000-2001 school year); Lillian Seapy, business education, Soldotna High (effective the end of the 1999-2000 school year); and Scott O’Tremba, principal, Homer Middle (effective the end of the 1999-2000 school year).
- Budget Transfer NUMBER 453:** Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve budget transfer Number 453 for \$16,180 to cover substitute costs for an employee on an approved extended medical leave.
- New teacher Assignment 2000-2001:** By memorandum, Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve teaching appointments for the 2000-2001 school year for Clayton Holland, special education/severe and resource, Kenai Middle and Kenai Central High and for Erika Gustafson, generalist, Bartlett Elementary/High.
- Leave of Absence Request–Support:** By memorandum, Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve an unpaid leave of absence request from Teresa Calhoun, special education aide, Paul Banks Elementary (effective the 2000-2001 school year) and from Jackie Haeg, supply buyer, warehouse (effective May 15, 2000, through May 15, 2001).
- Long-Term Substitute Teacher:** By memorandum, Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve a 19-day substitute teaching contract for Reubin Payne, Grade 4, Redoubt Elementary.
- ACTION** Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 6. Mrs. Larned seconded.
- Motion carried unanimously.
- Tentative nontenure Teacher Assignments 2000–2001:** Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve a list of tentative nontenure teacher assignments beginning the 2000-2001 school year.
- ACTION** Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve a list of tentative nontenure teacher assignments beginning the 2000-2001 school year. Mrs. Crawford seconded.
- Motion carried unanimously.
- Nontenured Teachers for Tenure 2000–2001:** Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve a list of nontenure teachers for tenure beginning the 2000-2001 school year.
- ACTION** Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve a list of nontenure teachers for tenure beginning the 2000-2001 school year. Mrs. Mullins seconded.
- Nontenured Teachers for Tenure 2000–2001 (continued):** **VOTE:**
- YES – Anderson, Chenault, Crawford, Larned, Mullins
NO – Germano

Motion carried.

Administrator Appointments:

Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve the appointment of Gregg Wilbanks as principal of Chapman Elementary and Fred Colvin as principal/teacher of Bartlett Elementary/High.

ACTION

Mr. Chenault moved the Board approve the appointment of Gregg Wilbanks as principal of Chapman Elementary and Fred Colvin as principal/teacher of Bartlett Elementary/High. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

FIRST READING OF POLICY REVISIONS:

The Board heard a first reading of BP 2120, Superintendent of Schools; BP 2121, Superintendent's Contract; BP and E 2122, Superintendent of Schools: Job Description; BP, AR and E 2123, Evaluation of the Superintendent; and BP 0420, School-Based Management/Site Councils.

Dr. Peterson explained that the proposed BP 0420 is the result of "housekeeping" to keep the District in line with the AASB manual.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. Robert Boyle, Seward Elementary principal, thanked the Board and administration for the privilege of working in Seward. He complimented the Seward Elementary staff, student, parents and community and stated that he has enjoyed his tenure with the District.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mr. Chenault thanked Assemblyman Pete Sprague, parents, teachers, and administrators for attending the meeting. He stated that he shared their concerns and feels the same frustrations since he is also the parent of children in District schools. He urged those present to contact their legislators. He noted that the Assembly has been more than gracious in funding support for the District. He reported that he attended the Nikiski Reconfiguration Committee meeting and reported that the Committee will bring a proposal to the Board.

Mrs. Crawford extended her congratulations to Ms. Turner and Mr. Steeves. She stated that she shares the concerns of those who spoke during the meeting and noted that there will be another School Board election in October. She encouraged those present to consider filing for one of the Board seats and noted that the filing period ends in August. She pointed out that the Assembly funds the District to the cap and yet the Legislature has bragged about cutting the budget. She urged those present to tell the legislators to stop cutting the budget.

BOARD COMMENTS (continued):

Mrs. Mullins stated that she does understand the repercussions of the budget reductions at a 7-12 school and commented that her children attended Nikiski Middle/High School. She noted that even though the school did not offer advanced placement classes, her son graduated with high ACT and SAT scores and was accepted at the college of his choice. She stated that she understands the sentiment of those parents who are considering withdrawing their children because Alaska is no longer the land of opportunity. She urged those present to let the Legislature know how they feel about inadequate funding of education in the state. She explained that with the rise in assessments throughout Alaska, the District received less money from the state and the Assembly is not allowed to make up the difference.

Dr. Anderson stated that he hopes parents can see that the Board is working “outside the box” with the progress made towards offering interactive classes and distance delivery classes. He stated that the Board has been dealing with funding problems for several years and assured those present that their comments are not falling on deaf ears. He offered to travel to Seward to talk with the community and noted that this is the first time parents have approached the Board about their concerns regarding academics.

Mrs. Larned agreed with previous Board comments regarding the budget reductions. She congratulated Ms. Turner and Mr. Steeves on their awards. She stated that she appreciated Mr. Smith’s school report and was happy to hear Ms. Hohl’s report on the PTA Reflections Contest winners. She noted that in spite of the budget reductions, the District still has some good programs and congratulated the winners of the Caring for the Kenai and Future Problem Solving competitions.

Ms. Germano thanked Mr. Smith for his school report. She expressed concern over the comments made by parents about the lack of good programs and challenging classes at Seward High School during the last two years and added that she does not feel the Board should be held responsible. She explained that if parents feel that classes at the high school are not challenging then it is a site council concern and not the fault of the Board. She suggested that site councils talk with their building administrators and staff regarding their academic concerns. She stated that she appreciated the parent comments and encouraged them to voice their frustrations to the Legislature. She noted that the Legislature points to the Borough Assembly for the shortfall in education funding and that the circle of blame goes around. She noted that the amount the state of Alaska budgets per student is not adequate and does not compare equally to that of other states. She pointed out that the Kenai Peninsula is also not funded equitably to other Alaskan districts.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 9:20 p.m., Mrs. Mullins moved the Board go into executive session to discuss matters, the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the Borough. Specifically, the executive session was to discuss job reclassifications, expanded educational programs, cocurricular activities and an administrative reconfiguration. Ms. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 9:40 p.m., Mrs. Mullins moved the executive session be adjourned. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Deborah Germano, President

Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

The Minutes of May 1, 2000,
were approved on May 15, 2000
with a correction.