

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

148 N. Binkley Street
Soldotna, AK 99669

January 22, 2001

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

Ms. Deborah Germano, President
Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Vice President
Mrs. Debra Mullins, Clerk
Mr. Joe Arness, Treasurer
Dr. Nels Anderson, Member
Mrs. Sandra Wassilie, Member
Mr. Al Poindexter, Member
Miss Sara Hart, Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT:

Dr. Donna Peterson, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Patrick Hickey, Assistant Superintendent, Operations and Business Management
Dr. Ed McLain, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction
Mr. Todd Syverson, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Mick Wykis	Mr. Peter Larson
Ms. Barbara Ralston	Mrs. Vidya Oftedal
Mrs. Kris Green	Mrs. Margaret Gilman
Mrs. Elaine Larson	Mr. Charlie Stevens
Dr. Gary Whiteley	Mr. Rick Matiya
Mr. Jim White	Mr. Tim Peterson
Mrs. Karen Mahurin	Mr. Buck George
Mrs. Barb George	Mrs. Penny Vadla
Mrs. Shana Loshbaugh	Mr. Chuck Chavka
Ms. Nicole Shelden	

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

Ms. Germano called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

Oath of Office:

The Oath of Office was administered to newly selected interim School Board member Sandra Wassilie by notary public Sally Tachick.

ROLL CALL:

Ms. Deborah Germano	Present
Mrs. Sammy Crawford	Present
Mrs. Debra Mullins	Absent/ Excused
Mr. Joe Arness	Present
Dr. Nels Anderson	Present
Mrs. Sandra Wassilie	Present
Mr. Al Poindexter	Present
Miss Sara Hart	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The agenda was approved as written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The School Board Minutes of January 8, 2001, were approved as printed.

SCHOOL REPORTS:

Mr. Wykis, Sears Elementary principal, distributed a written report that included school demographic information, the school mission statement and staff list, the school goals, and information regarding integrating language arts, music, movement, art and drama. Mr. Wykis emphasized the importance of parent volunteers. Mrs. Carol Ann Barum, PTA member, reported that the PTA raises money to pay for the Artists-in-the School and Reading is Fundamental programs. She reported that the PTA sponsors a back-to-school barbeque and an ice cream social, which provides an opportunity for parents to meet the school staff. Mr. Wykis reported that the school offers a volunteer training session and this year trained over 90 volunteers.

Mr. Wykis stated that the school goals include a close examination of reading and reading assessments and stressed that successful reading skills are extremely important at the lower elementary grade levels. He noted that Sears Elementary is piloting the Bangor Assessment of Reading and has developed a strong math assessment program.

Mrs. Larson, Mrs. Sheldon, and Mrs. Green presented information regarding the development of a sample activity that was subsequently performed by students. The students played musical instruments and sang the words to the book, *A Time for Bed*, which is part of a larger unit on night and day. The teachers explained that the activity was an example of integration that meets the standards of the language arts and fine arts curriculum and includes other disciplines as well.

RECESS:

At 7:56 p.m., Ms. Germano called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:

At 7:59 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

HEARING OF DELEGATIONS:

Mrs. Ginger Steffy, Kenai Peninsula College campus director, and Dr. Peter Larson explained that the Jump Start Program allows high school seniors to take classes at the college for \$20 per credit. Ms. Steffy explained that funding from the Kenai Peninsula Borough pays the balance of the students' tuition. She noted that high school seniors can take up to six credits which are offered before school and after school, and the program presently includes over 250 students districtwide. Mrs. Steffy noted that students take courses to increase their election options, take courses that are not available at their own high school or take general education classes and complete their first year of college while still in high school. She distributed a report with information on courses offered and number of high school students in each course.

Dr. Larson compared the statistical data between schools and noted that students usually participate in the Jump Start Program if it receives the support of the school staff. He added that the college is interested in expanding the program with the use of District videoconferencing equipment.

Dr. Anderson stated that he supported the Jump Start Program. He asked if there are classes that do not have prerequisites and are available to all students. Ms. Steffy responded that some courses require the students to take placement exams and that all requests must have the permission of the high school principal or counselor.

Mrs. Crawford asked Mrs. Steffy to comment on the age mix within the various classes. Mrs. Steffy replied that once students get over their uneasiness, the difference in age makes it a good mix.

HEARING OF DELEGATIONS

(continued):

Dr. Anderson asked if the college could offer a videoconference class during the school day. Mrs. Steffy responded that it would be possible, especially since it is difficult to convince instructors to travel great distances to teach a class. She noted that through the use of videoconferencing equipment, instructors could be available to more students on the Peninsula.

Mr. Poindexter asked how soon a videoconference course would be available. Ms. Steffy responded that a course could be offered next year if more than two high schools are connected and an instructor is located who has had time to prepare for a video course.

Dr. Peterson reported that videoconference classes cost under \$13,000. She stated that the District will be seeking corporate sponsorship to help pay for the classes.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS: Dr. Peterson announced that she received a letter from Frances Norman, Port Graham Site Based Committee facilitator, regarding the water situation in Port Graham.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS: The Board presented certificates of appreciation to Chuck Chavka, Redoubt Elementary teacher, and to Penny Vadla, Ninilchik Elementary/High teacher, for being chosen as 1999-2000 British Petroleum Teachers of Excellence.

Ms. Germano announced that the Board purchased a recognition plaque for former Board member, Mike Chenault, which will be hand delivered next month.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Peterson reported that she continues to have positive communication with legislators. She reminded the Board of the upcoming Media Training scheduled for February 13 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Solid Rock Bible Camp. Dr. Peterson thanked District employees who recently volunteered their time to assist the Seldovia basketball team who were stranded in Soldotna after their activity van was stolen.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: Mr. Hickey presented the financial report of the District for the periods ending November 30, 2000, and December 31, 2000.

BUDGET TRANSFER REPORT: Mr. Hickey reported on budget transfers Numbers 43 through 157 for various schools and departments within the District.

Mr. Poindexter asked why there were so many transfers in the Special Education Department. Mr. Hickey explained that money is placed in the control of the Special Services Department and then transferred to various schools based upon their need.

BOARD REPORTS: Mr. Poindexter reported that he attended a vocational education meeting in Seward with Dr. McLain. He noted that there is an effort to involve high school students in the Alaska Vocational Technical Center. He reported that the Certified Nursing program is under way. He suggested that the Board review recent developments in the area of postsecondary vocational education. Dr. McLain thanked Mr. Poindexter for attending the Health Task Force meeting with him and explained that during the meeting they discussed the possibility of integrating some of their personnel with District instructional programming.

BOARD REPORTS (continued): Mrs. Crawford reported that she will attend the Technology Work Group's presentation to the Borough Assembly and the Recognition Committee meeting on Tuesday, January 23. She stated that she is looking forward to the upcoming Long Range Planning sessions. She announced that she has been asked to judge the Academic Decathlon and the Forensics Meet.

Ms. Germano announced that Mr. Poindexter, Mrs. Crawford and Dr. Anderson will represent the Board at the Long Range Planning session. She announced that Mrs. Wassilie and Mr. Poindexter will represent the Board on the Budget Review Committee, and Mr. Arness will replace Mr. Chenault on the Student Activities Task Force.

CONSENT AGENDA: One item was presented on the Consent Agenda: Approval of Resignation.

RESIGNATION: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve a resignation from Cathleen Brothen, Correspondence Program, effective at the end of the 2000-2001 school year.

ACTION Mr. Arness moved the Board approve Consent Agenda item Number 1.
Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

POLICY REVISIONS: Dr. McLain recommended the Board approve revisions to Board policies 4119.23, 4219.23, and 4319.23, Unauthorized Release of Confidential Information. He stated that the revision adds a phrase to include individual test results in the records not subject to public disclosure, adds legal citations to legislation and regulations passed which relate to the state testing and assessment program, and brings the policy into compliance with state law and regulations related to the handling of confidential information.

ACTION Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve Item 10b. Mr. Arness seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. McLain recommended the Board approve the adoption of BP 5137, Positive School Climate. He explained that the policy endorses positive steps to discourage campus disturbances and channel students' energies into constructive actions. He noted that BP 5137 reflects Board goals from last year as well as this year and will be followed by more specific Board policies and regulations in the future.

ACTION Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the adoption of BP 5137, Positive School Climate. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Mr. Arness asked whether language for BP 5137 came from an AASB example policy. Dr. McLain stated that with some minor modifications, the language used in BP 5137 was taken from AASB recommended policy.

Mrs. Wassilie confirmed with Dr. McLain that further policies will address the steps schools can take to ensure a positive school climate and reduce violence.

Motion carried unanimously.

POLICY REVISIONS (continued): Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve revisions to BP 6146, Graduation Requirements and Standards of Proficiency. She explained that the changes will align instructional practice with state standards and requirements.

ACTION Mr. Arness moved the Board approve revisions to BP 6146, Graduation Requirements and Standards of Proficiency. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Dr. Anderson clarified that students who are in the eighth grade in the 2003-2004 school year, must pass the High School Qualifying Exam.

Mr. Arness asked whether the certified diploma will be the only diploma offered by the District and if so, will it be clear to the public. Dr. Peterson stated that the District will take additional steps to make sure that it is clear.

Dr. Peterson explained that the class of 2003-2004 eighth grade students would be the first group required to pass the social studies test prior to high school graduation and that many of the testing decisions have not been made yet.

Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mrs. Mahurin, KPESA president, asked whether diplomas would be issued to students at Kenai Alternative High School under new policy BP 6146. Dr. Peterson replied that KAHS students will receive District diplomas and the revision to BP 6146 will not negatively affect them.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Miss Hart complimented Sears Elementary students and staff for their report.

Mr. Arness commented that Mrs. Larned would have thoroughly enjoyed the Sears Elementary musical presentation while Mr. Poindexter was trying to figure out how to have the woodshop class make the instruments.

Mrs. Crawford welcomed Mrs. Wassilie to the Board. She stated that she enjoyed the Sears Elementary presentation. She commented that it is wonderful that the District has such excellent teachers.

Dr. Anderson welcomed Mrs. Wassilie to the Board.

Mrs. Wassilie reported that she visited Moose Pass Elementary School and enjoyed the sense of community at the school. She reported that she attended the Seward Site Based Council meeting and a Seward Community meeting (including the police chief, a state trooper, the mental health and alcoholism coordinator, two Seward Site Based Council representatives and other community leaders). She stated that the group is looking for ways to support the local schools, promote a positive school climate and provide meaningful intervention with at-risk students. She thanked the Board for appointing her as a member.

Ms. Germano stated that she appreciated the Sears Elementary presentation and was impressed with how patient and well behaved the students were prior to their presentation. She announced that she will not be here for the Long Range Planning Sessions.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 8:47 p.m., Mr. Arness moved the Board go into executive session to discuss matters which by law, municipal charter, or ordinance are required to be confidential. Specifically the executive session was to discuss student litigation. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 9:01 p.m., Mrs. Crawford moved the executive session be adjourned. Mr. Arness seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN: At 9:02 p.m., Mr. Arness moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Deborah Germano, President

Mrs. Debra Mullins, Clerk

The Minutes of January 22, 2001,
were approved on February 5, 2001
as written.