

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Seward High School
Seward, Alaska 99664

October 2, 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 Sara Hart, Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Donna Peterson, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Ed McLain, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction
Mr. Todd Syverson, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Tim Peterson Mrs. Karen Mahurin
Mr. Dave Diekgraeff Mr. Malcolm Fleming
Mr. Dick Harrell Ms. Karen Lechner
Mr. Jerry Dixon Ms. Cindy Ecklund
Mr. Dave DeRuwe

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Germano called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Ms. Germano invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Germano welcomed Miss Sara Hart, Soldotna High School student, to the School Board as the student representative.

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 Present
Mr. Mike Chenault Present
Miss Sara Hart Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved as written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of September 11, 2000, were approved as printed.

SCHOOL REPORTS: Ms. Germano announced that Mr. Malcolm Fleming conducted a School Board tour of the Spring Creek Prison at 3:00 p.m.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. Malcolm Fleming, Seward Middle/High School principal, apologized for the showing of an R-rated movie titled, *The Last of the Mohicans*. He explained that the movie was shown as a follow-up to the reading of the book. He stated that the District policy is clear about not showing R-rated movies and that last week he informed the school staff that they may not show R-rated movies. He stated that none of the students were forced to watch the movie, and they were told about it ahead of time. He expressed concern about the policy and the movie rating system. He stated that movies do not have to be reviewed and that it is done on a voluntary system. He suggested that the Board consider reviewing the policy regarding movies and videos. He expressed concern about movies such as *Shindler's List* and *Glory Come Through* that have been sent directly to the school by various companies and organizations. He stated that there are a variety of movies that may or may not have educational value, and as a principal, he must decide whether students may watch them. He apologized to the Seward community and stated that the school will not be showing R- or X-rated movies to students.

Mr. Jerry Dixon, QUEST teacher, announced that the M.R. Robinson Foundation has renewed their grant, which totaled approximately \$60,000 over the past three years. He stated that he hopes to bring 600 students and QUEST teachers to the SeaLife Center using the grant money. He reported that during the last four years, the grant money has paid for 2,000 students from 19 schools to visit the Center. He invited the Board to visit the SeaLife Center and noted that his students would provide a tour. He announced that his students are working on a sea lion articulation project and a mural project and that each year the projects are visited by 120,000 people.

Mr. Dave DeRuwe, parent and Seward Site Council member, asked whether the Board received an e-mail from him last spring concerning the reasons Seward residents feel left out. He stated that he did not receive a response from the Board. Ms. Germano stated that she remembered receiving the message.

Mr. Dick Harrell, parent, thanked Mr. Fleming for talking about the R-rated movie issue. He stated that he supports the District policy prohibiting the showing of R-rated movies. He explained that the Classification and Rating Administration voluntarily rates movies. He stated that he appreciates Mr. Fleming's assurance that R-rated movies will no longer be shown at the school. He added that he hopes the District does not change its policy.

Mr. Dave Diekgraeff, parent, thanked Mrs. Gross for her many years of service. He stated that Mrs. Gross has spent a lot of her personal time to serve on the Board and that the people of Seward appreciate her work.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS: Dr. Peterson announced that she received two communications: a resolution to be discussed at the AASB Annual Conference regarding teacher tenure and a letter from the Liberty Council regarding prayer in school.

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

Ms. Cindy Ecklund, Seward Site Council, announced that four candidates are running for two site council seats during the upcoming election. She announced that the Seward Site-Based Council meets the second Thursday of each month from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Seward Elementary School library. She stated that parents and school staff are positively reporting on the new elementary principal. She stated that this year's Site Council goal is community involvement, and the Council is brainstorming ideas to bring the community into Seward classrooms. She announced that Site Council topics are fund raising, hiring a part-time teacher, and reviewing benchmark tests. She stated that the Council would use Quality Schools Initiative grant money to prepare sophomores and juniors to pass the High School Qualifying Exam. Ms. Ecklund stated that the Council would continue to discuss middle school facility options and provide feedback to the Board. She announced that equity among junior high sports is an issue mentioned by Seward area parents. She stated that there is an inequity regarding team selection among junior high soccer teams.

Mrs. Karen Mahurin, KPESA president, thanked the Central Office staff for visiting Sears Elementary this week. She asked the Board to consider joining with the Associations to educate the public and legislators about the financial situation in the District schools. She recounted a story in which she invited a legislator who asked to receive the school newsletter to visit the school and see what is going on. She also told of a situation concerning a school secretary who cannot get her work done because of the demands of student transportation, nursing and school activities. She stated that employees are being asked to take on more responsibility and are being called on to make decisions on the spur-of-the-moment, which may not be the most prudent. She asked the Board to work together during the legislative session as well as to tell the public that more money is being spent per person in Alaskan prisons than is being spent on educating students. Mrs. Mahurin thanked Mrs. Gross for her ten years of dedication to students, the community, and employees. She stated that she personally respects the work Mrs. Gross has done and her commitment, caring, sincerity, and honesty.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:

The Board presented a golden apple award to Karen Lechner, Seward High School Kitchen Manager, for her service and dedication to the District.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Peterson reported that Mr. Hickey is attending the Association of School Business Officials meeting. She announced that she and Ms. Germano attended the state-mandated District Long-range Planning meeting in Anchorage. Dr. Peterson announced that she attended the Alaska Distance Education Technology Consortium meeting and that the group is making considerable progress. She reported that the lawsuit, Logan versus Laidlaw, resulted in a hung jury but the District was not found liable or negligent. She reported that she attended the District student council conference at Soldotna High and that Sara Hart was chosen as the Board Student Representative. She stated that last weekend she attended the Governor's Education Summit, which reviewed benchmark test results, and that 46 school districts throughout the state were represented.

BOARD REPORTS:

Mrs. Larned noted that she attended the Vocational Advisory Committee planning meeting on September 25. She stated that the Committee will divide the year into 5 different time periods with a theme for each. She stated that the year will begin with process industries followed by health and safety. She stated that through grant money, the Committee was able to hire a coordinator who will work in Kindergarten through Grade 12 throughout the District. She stated that the coordinator will help promote each theme through job shadowing, coordination between various companies, and speakers. She stated that the Committee also discussed the benefits of the Carl Perkins grant money. She explained that every three years big schools receive \$20,000 and small and middle schools receive \$5,000. She noted that this is the second rotation of distributing the grant money in this manner and that vocational educational teachers have told her that it has been wonderful to get the second year so they can add to the program or rebuild what has been lost. She announced that during the next couple of weeks, she will visit the government classes at Soldotna High School.

Mrs. Mullins stated that she attended the Kenai Peninsula Student Activities Association (KPSAA) meeting. She stated that the Association discussed roles and responsibilities between themselves and the School Board. She requested a worksession with KPSAA and the Board of Education on October 16 to establish better communication.

Dr. Anderson stated that he and Mr. Chenault will attend the Student Activities Task Force meeting on November 2. He stated that he and Mr. Chenault will need clear direction from the Board and have budget decisions made prior to the meeting.

Mrs. Gross reported that she attended the Education Summit and added that it was interesting to review the data and to spend six hours disaggregating the information provided by the state. She stated that she is looking forward to the results from District schools. She reported that the School Designator Committee held a teleconference and that there will be a two-day meeting at the end of October. She stated that more than likely the recommendation will be that when designating each school the Committee will look at student academic growth.

Ms. Germano reported that she attended the Education Summit and that she enjoyed reviewing the data the state provided and hearing the presentation on disaggregating the data. She stated that she looks forward to seeing how the data will be used at the schools. She reported that she attended the state-mandated Long-range Planning mentoring meeting. She stated that while she sees the need for long-range planning, she wished the state would realize that the time should have been spent in their districts and not at meetings in Anchorage. She reported that she attended a Youth Court mock trial for Russian visitors. She reported that a presentation was made regarding a student who had been tried and sentenced for shoplifting and was required to produce a brochure on shoplifting. She stated that the brochure titled, *What Kids Need to Know about Shoplifting*, and that Fred Meyer is considering publishing it.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Primary Sponsor of Gaming Permits, Leave of Absence Request-Support, New Teacher Assignment, Long-Term Substitute Teacher Contract, and Early Graduation Requests.

Primary Sponsor of Gaming Permits:

Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve a list of primary and alternative members in charge of gaming for those schools applying for gaming permits for 2000-2001.

Leave of Absence Request-Support: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve an unpaid leave of absence effective October 1, 2000, and continuing through August 7, 2001, for Guyline Rogers, custodian I, West Homer Elementary.

New Teacher Assignment: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve a teacher assignment for the 2000-2001 school year for Laura Bruck, English, Susan B. English School.

Long-Term Substitute Teacher Contract: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve a long-term substitute teaching contract for Mary Bailey, speech therapist, Sears Elementary, and for Cindy Weeks, science/health, Soldotna Middle.

Early Graduation Requests: Dr. Ed McLain recommended the Board approve early graduation requests from a Homer High School student and a Nikiski Middle/High School student.

ACTION Mr. Mike Chenault moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 5. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Student Expulsion Number 1:
ACTION Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve the following: "Decision of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School Board In the Matter of Expulsion of the Student KK. Based on the evidence presented the Board concurs with and affirms the findings and decision of the superintendent. Possessing a firearm on school premises violates Board policy KPBSD 5131.7(a) and Alaska Statute 14.03.160, and is conduct which is inimical to the welfare and safety of other students. Board policy and Alaska statutes require expulsion for at least one year for such conduct, except that the superintendent may modify that time period in certain cases. The superintendent has modified the one-year period to forty-five days. KK is accordingly expelled from this school district for a period of forty-five days, provided that he may be readmitted forty-five days from September 13, 2000 only if he first completes the following conditions:

1. The principal will prepare a behavior contract, which will be signed by the parents and the student. This contract will include provisions for maximum penalties for any further infractions in the school year, with no reduction for mitigating circumstances.
2. The student will complete a literature review and term paper, as outlined by the principal, on the origin of the law regarding firearms on school property.
3. The student will perform 100 hours of community service during the period of expulsion. The principal will preapprove the community service projects.

KK may not go on school grounds during the period of expulsion for any reason, nor may he attend any school event or function whatsoever." Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Student Expulsion Number 1 (continued): VOTE:

YES – Anderson, Chenault, Crawford, Larned, Mullins, Germano

ABSTAIN – Gross

Motion carried.

Student Expulsion Number 2:
ACTION

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve the following: "Decision of the Kenai Peninsula School Board in the Matter of the Expulsion of H.C. Board policy 5131.6 (a) requires the administration to recommend expulsion for a second drug or alcohol-related offense. This was H.C.'s third violation of Board policy on a drug-related offense. This behavior is inimical to the welfare and safety of other pupils. As such, H.C. is permanently expelled for violation of KPBSD policy 5131.6, Alcohol and Other Drugs. H.C. shall be allowed to enroll in the Connections Home-School program immediately. H.C. may apply for readmission for the 2001 school year. Readmission is subject to approval by the KPBSD superintendent. During the expulsion, H.C. is restricted from physically attending any KPBSD school and school activities, being on school grounds, and from participation in school related or supervised activities on or off school grounds unless specifically required by his Connections program with approval from the Connections and involved building administrator." Mrs. Crawford corrected the decision to say that H.C. may apply for readmission for the 2001 school year. Dr. Anderson seconded.

VOTE:

YES – Anderson, Chenault, Crawford, Larned, Mullins, Germano

ABSTAIN – Gross

Motion carried.

Student Expulsion Number 3:
ACTION

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve the following: "Decision of the Kenai Peninsula School Board in the Matter of the Expulsion of D.V. Board policy 5131.6 (a) requires the administration to recommend expulsion for a second drug or alcohol-related offense. This was D.V.'s second violation of Board policy on a drug-related offense. This behavior is inimical to the welfare and safety of other students. As such, D.V. is expelled for one calendar year, until the start of the fall semester 2001, for violation of KPBSD policy 5131.6, Alcohol and Other Drugs. D.V. shall be allowed to apply for early readmission on January 20, 2001, upon compliance with the following conditions:

1. D.V. enrolls in four courses through the KPBSD Connections program with readmission at the superintendent's discretion if he does not pass the four courses.
2. D.V. agrees to submit to and pay for random urinalysis tests during the remainder of the 2000/2001 school year at the administration's discretion. The presence of any drug or alcohol in any one of these drug tests would lead to D.V.'s immediate expulsion for the remainder of the school year.

Student Expulsion Number 3 (continued):

3. During the expulsion, D.V. is restricted from physically attending any KPBSD school and school activities, being on school grounds, and from participation in school related or supervised activities on or off school grounds unless specifically required by his Connections program with approval from the Connections and involved building administrator.

4. It is recommended that the administration work with the parents and student to provide counseling and attendance at KPBSD ATOSS program while completing the Connections courses." Dr. Anderson seconded.

VOTE:

YES – Anderson, Chenault, Crawford, Larned, Mullins, Germano

ABSTAIN – Gross

Motion carried.

Board Bylaw adoption:

Dr. Peterson recommended the Board adopt BB 9400, Board Self-Evaluation. She explained that as a part of the task of updating the Policy Manual, the proposed bylaw closely reflects the AASB model.

ACTION

Mrs. Gross moved the Board adopt BB 9400, Board Self-Evaluation, as presented. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Nomination for AASB School Board Member of the Year:

Dr. Peterson recommended that the Board submit Mari-Anne Gross as their nominee for the AASB School Board Member of the Year award.

ACTION

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve the submission of Mari-Anne Gross as the District's nominee for the AASB School Board Member of the Year award. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Nomination for AASB School Board of the Year:

Dr. Peterson recommended that the Board submit the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education as a nominee for the AASB School Board of the Year award.

ACTION

Mrs. Gross moved the Board approve the submission of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education as the nominee for the AASB School Board of the Year award.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Syverson reported that on Thursday, September 28, he chaperoned 60 Redoubt Elementary sixth grade students on a field trip to the SeaLife Center, Exit Glacier and the Seward Museum. He thanked the Seward Community for their hospitality during their stay.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Dr. Anderson concurred with Mrs. Mahurin's statements regarding the extreme amount of work that District employees are expected to do because of budget reductions. He stated that he has made some unpopular decisions to reduce the District budget and is facing another \$2 million in reductions for next year. He stated that he doesn't know where to take the money. He stated that the Student Activities Task Force is a method to hopefully fund activities outside of the regular school budget process. He stated that he doubted that it will be successful. He explained that \$1.5 million of last year's budget deficit was deferred to this year because the Board could not find places to reduce the budget.

Mr. Chenault agreed with Dr. Anderson's comments. He welcomed Miss Hart to the School Board and added that she will be a good addition as a student representative. He thanked Mr. Fleming for the tour of the Spring Creek Prison Youth Offender Program.

Mrs. Larned thanked those present for attending. She stated that the Board had an interesting worksession with the Seward community to discuss school facility plans. She added that she would like to hear more of the community's ideas. She noted that the tour of the Spring Creek Prison Youth Offender Program was hard to describe. She added that it gives hope that the public realizes the educational needs of the student inmates and is pleased that the District can provide it. She welcomed Miss Hart and said good bye to Mrs. Gross.

Mrs. Mullins said that she was disturbed by the tour of the prison because she realized that the inmates were serving sentences as a result of poor choices they had made, and she noted that earlier the Board held three expulsion hearings for students who had also made poor choices. She stated that she appreciates the principals and teachers who are willing to work with the youth offenders. She stated that she would like to work with the Associations and invite legislators to visit the schools to see what actually takes place and what is asked of District employees. She suggested that the Board and Associations promote a tour of the schools in each community to see the good things that are happening. She welcomed Miss Hart as the Board's student representative and encouraged her to voice her ideas and comments. She reminded those present to vote Tuesday, October 3. Mrs. Mullins thanked Mrs. Gross for her service on the Board and expressed her appreciation for Mrs. Gross's leadership at the local and national level.

Miss Hart stated that she appreciated the comments made by Mr. Fleming regarding R-rated movies. She stated that she has seen the movies Mr. Fleming mentioned and did not appreciate seeing them in school even if they provided historical information in conjunction with a lesson.

Mrs. Crawford thanked those present for attending the worksession and Board meeting. She thanked Mr. Fleming for the visit to Spring Creek Prison and noted that it was interesting to talk to the inmates about their future. She congratulated Ms. Lechner for the golden apple award. She thanked Mr. Dixon for reporting on the grants that he received and the SeaLife Center. She stated that it has been wonderful to work with Mrs. Gross and noted that the Board will miss her. She welcomed Miss Hart. She thanked Dr. Peterson and Ms. Germano for attending the Education Summit over the weekend.

BOARD COMMENTS (continued):

Mrs. Gross stated that Seward is a special place for her. She said that she keeps hoping that Seward will elect a Board member. She thanked Mr. Fleming and noted that she has enjoyed working with him. She stated that she appreciates the education of the Spring Creek Prison inmates and for the additional work involved for Mr. Fleming as the administrator. She thanked Mrs. Mahurin for the kind words and agreed with her comments regarding working together to educate the legislature. She reported that she has served on the School Board for 10 years and the Homer PAC for 6 years and added that they have been rich years, important years, and worthwhile years. She stated that she will miss everyone and thanked the public for the privilege of representating the Kenai Peninsula on the Board. She stated that she is proud to say she is from the Kenai Peninsula. She stated that she appreciates the Board members and all District employees. She welcomed Miss Hart to the Board.

Ms. Germano stated that she will miss Mrs. Gross's companionship while traveling back and forth to Homer, and noted that her history and wisdom have been valuable. Ms. Germano stated that she would like to meet with the Associations early in December to talk about educational concerns and strategies for the upcoming legislative session. She stated that the District must begin working together to make a change. She reported that Shirley Gribble, teacher, spoke positively about her sixth grade class visit to Seward. She stated that she hopes the Board will receive assistance from the Borough Assembly for student activities and added that she has been wondering how the tax cap will affect that decision. She cautioned the Student Activities Task Force group that \$1.2 million is not enough money to fund activities; and if the Borough Assembly is considering funding student activities, then all activities need to be included, not just athletics. She noted that the Spring Creek Prison visit was interesting and noted that the day began with three student expulsions. She stated that if the Board doesn't make changes for troubled students, they could end up in the Youth Offender Program.

Dr. Peterson announced that a group has been commissioned by the state to provide advice to the legislature on policies regarding vocational education. She reported that the group released the first draft at the Education Summit. Ms. Germano added that the draft information is available on the state Web site.

Ms. Germano welcomed Miss Hart to the Board. She noted that the Board nominated themselves as AASB Board of the Year but added that they can always improve. She stated that she will try to be better at communicating this year. She thanked the Seward community for their input and hospitality. She stated that the Board looks forward to hearing the community's ideas regarding school facilities.

ADJOURN: At 8:45 p.m., Mrs. Mullins moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Deborah Germano, President

Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

The Minutes of October 2, 2000,
were approved on October 16, 2000,
as written.