

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

148 N. Binkley Street
Soldotna, AK 99669

October 16, 2000

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

Ms. Deborah Germano, President
Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Vice President
Mrs. Debra Mullins, Clerk
Mr. Joe Arness, Treasurer
Dr. Nels Anderson, Member
Mr. Mike Chenault, 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:

Mrs. Susan Larned	Mr. Buck George
Mr. Bill Larned	Mr. Tim Peterson
Ms. Barb Vogel	Mrs. Linda Raemaker
Mr. Wayne Young	Mrs. Nelma Cole
Mr. John Christensen	Mrs. Shana Loshbaugh
Mr. Jim White	Mrs. Mary Bailey
Mrs. Holly Klier	Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross
Mr. Patrick Klier	

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

Ms. Germano called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

Notary Public Sally Tachick administered the Oath of Office to newly elected School Board members Mr. Al Poindexter and Mr. Joe Arness.

ROLL CALL:

Ms. Deborah Germano	Present
Mrs. Debra Mullins	Present
Mrs. Sammy Crawford	Present
Dr. Nels Anderson	Present
Mr. Mike Chenault	Present
Mr. Joe Arness	Present
Mr. Al Poindexter	Present
Miss Sara Hart	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The agenda was approved with a revision. Awards and Presentations were moved ahead of Item 2., School Reports.

REORGANIZATION OF BOARD:

Ms. Germano announced that a reorganization of the Board was in order.

ACTION Mrs. Crawford nominated Ms. Germano as president of the Board. Dr. Anderson requested that nominations for president be closed. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

REORGANIZATION OF BOARD (Continued): ACTION Mrs. Mullins nominated Mrs. Crawford as vice president of the Board. Mrs. Mullins requested that nominations for vice president be closed. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ACTION Dr. Anderson nominated Mrs. Mullins as clerk of the Board. Mrs. Crawford requested that nominations for clerk be closed. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ACTION Dr. Anderson nominated Mr. Arness as treasurer of the Board. Mrs. Crawford requested that nominations for treasurer be closed. Mr. Chenault seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ESTABLISH MEETING TIME, DATE AND PLACE: ACTION Mrs. Mullins moved the Board set its meeting time, date and place for 7:30 p.m. on the first and third Monday of each month at the Borough Administration Building, Soldotna (unless otherwise noted) and that two meetings be scheduled in Homer and Seward in the fall and spring. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of October 2, 2000, were approved as printed.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS: The Board presented golden apple awards to John Christensen, Soldotna Middle School teacher, and to Holly Klier, Soldotna Middle School head secretary, for their service and dedication.

The Board presented gifts of appreciation to Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross and Mrs. Susan Larned for their years of Board service.

SCHOOL REPORTS:

Mr. Wayne Young, Port Graham Elementary/High School principal, reported that Port Graham is an Aleut community of approximately 185 people with 29 students enrolled in a K-10 school. He stated that the challenge this year is teaching in multi-grade classrooms with only three teachers (one less staff person than last year). He reported that the Site Council goal for the 2000-2001 school year is to focus on the areas of math, reading and language arts. He noted that Port Graham Elementary/High has two classroom aides funded by Title I, Special Education, Bilingual Education and Title IX and they rotate around the classroom providing services and individualized help to students.

Mr. Young commented on the overwhelming support for the school by the Port Graham community. He reported that the community health person administers the Here's Looking At You Program provided by a \$5,000 state grant for K-6 students. He stated that the local Village Police Safety Officers and the state troopers support the DARE Program for elementary students, which has been successful. He reported that five different outside agencies provide much needed counseling and intervention services to students and parents. Mr. Young reported that one of the real strengths this year is the continuity in staff and that the atmosphere at the school is more relaxed. He noted that there is a noticeable change in the students and that this is the best school year he has had. He reported that the school is participating in a one-year grant through Lightspan, which is a technology-based supplemental program to reinforce school curriculum and a tool that students can use to get involved with education at home with parent support. He reported that whenever possible, he releases school staff for additional training, especially in the area of technology because he feels that with limited resources, it is a good investment. Mr. Young concluded by thanking the Board for their support.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Ms. Cathy Carrow, teacher, announced that the Kenai Peninsula Education Association is sponsoring a legislative forum on Friday, October 20, at the Soldotna Elks Club. She stated that the Association feels it is important that the membership have an opportunity to meet with the candidates and hear their ideas on educational issues. She invited Board Members, administration, parents and the public to attend. She stated that the forum will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will host candidates from Senate District E and House District 7, 8 and 9. She added that following the forum there will be an opportunity to interact informally with the candidates, hors d'oeuvres will be served, and the band, Baked Alaska, will perform for dancing.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

Dr. Peterson reported that she received a letters from the Rural Alaska Community Action Program stating that a Head Start Program will be funded for the Sterling community and from AASB with information from the Large District Forum meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Peterson reported that she attended the Annual Superintendents' Conference in Petersburg last week. She reported that the Superintendents' Association, Administrator Association, National Education Association and school boards throughout the state would collectively decide on a singular message to deliver to the legislature. She provided a summary of legislation that the Department of Education and Early Development will introduce during the next session. She noted that many District principals are attending the Annual Principals' Conference in Anchorage where Mrs. Sylvia Reynolds will be recognized as Principal of the Year. She announced that the Technology Work Group will meet on Friday, October 20, at 1:00 p.m.

Annual Audit Report:

Mr. Hickey presented the District 2000 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and Letter to Management and the Federal and State Single Audit Reports from Mikunda, Cottrell and Company. He reported that there were no material findings of any disparity on the part of the District.

Financial Report:

Mr. Hickey presented the financial report of the District for the period ending September 30, 2000.

Budget Transfer Report:

Mr. Hickey reported on budget transfers Numbers 1 through 42 for various schools and departments within the District.

BOARD REPORTS:

Mrs. Crawford reported that she recently attended the statewide Balance of State Workforce Investment Board (BOSWIB) Committee meeting. She announced that BOSWIB is charged with overseeing employment and training services for the state. She stated that group recently met in Cooper Landing for two days. She stated that a local advisory committee meets in Kenai and oversees the Kenai Job Center. She reported that the Committee has been working for a year to achieve a common intake forum for those who are applying for a job, childcare assistance, and work training assistance.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of New Teacher Assignments and Revisions to AR 6146.11, Early Graduation.

New Teacher Assignments:

Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve teacher assignments for the 2000-2001 school year for Tammy Flanders, K/1, Tustumena Elementary; Carol Boehmler, reading, (temporary), K-Beach Elementary; Robert Thompson, Districtwide school psychologist; and Celia Anderson, Districtwide art specialist.

Revisions to AR 6146.11, Early Graduation:

Dr. McLain recommended the Board approve revisions to AR 6146.11, Early Graduation. The revisions no longer require the Board to approve requests for early graduation; instead requests will be forwarded to the assistant superintendent, and if appropriate, approval will be granted by that office.

ACTION

Mr. Chenault moved the Board approve Consent Agenda items Numbers 1 and 2. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Budget Preparation Calendar:

Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve a draft calendar to be used as a guideline for preparation of the 2001-2002 School District budget. He stated that the date for a joint worksession with the Board and Borough Assembly was omitted and can be scheduled later, if necessary.

ACTION

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve the draft version of the 2000-2001 Budget Preparation Calendar. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Mrs. Crawford asked about consolidating some of the public budget hearings. Mr. Hickey responded that although a significant amount of effort goes into the presentations, he felt that it is a valuable investment of time and does not recommend consolidating the hearings.

Mr. Arness asked whether the determination of costs associated with advancement on the salary schedule could be available in November when discussing staffing formulas. Mr. Hickey responded that it is possible to prepare the information earlier than December as long as it is understood that it is a fluid document dependent upon changing staffing figures. Mr. Arness asked Mr. Hickey whether he is comfortable with the "shot gun" approach to estimating salary advancement costs. He stated that he is not comfortable with how close the District projects salary costs. He explained that the administration uses a scattergram to calculate average teacher salaries and then forecasts to the next year's salary table. He added that this is the best way the District currently has to create the estimates.

Ms. Germano suggested Web casting the public budget hearings. Mr. Hickey agreed that Web casting was a good idea.

Motion carried unanimously.

Budget Transfer for Videoconferencing Equipment:

Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve a budget transfer from the Equipment Reserve Fund for \$28,000 to cover District network hardware. Mr. Hickey explained for the benefit of the audience that a worksession was held prior to the Board meeting.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve a budget transfer from the Equipment Reserve Fund for \$32,000 for video equipment; \$28,000 for conferencing equipment and \$4,000 to be used at the administration's discretion for Web cameras at appropriate sites. Mr. Arness seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mr. Chenault expressed appreciation for the many young people present in the audience. Mr. Wayne Young introduced Mr. Storman Norman, a boarding home student from Port Graham. Mr. Chenault thanked Mr. Young for the Port Graham Elementary/High School report. He congratulated Mr. Arness and Mr. Poindexter for their successful election to the Board. He thanked Mrs. Gross and Mrs. Larned for their service on the Board. He congratulated the Nikiski and Soldotna High School football teams for their performance in the championship game last weekend in Anchorage and commended them for the way they represented the District.

Dr. Anderson thanked Mrs. Gross and Mrs. Larned for their dedication to students. He stated that he is pleased to have Mr. Arness return to the Board and added that he is looking forward to becoming acquainted with Mr. Poindexter. He reported that he judged government projects at Soldotna High School and was impressed by the students' efforts. He noted that there were many quality projects, which demonstrated the students' capabilities using video and oral presentations. He reported that one of the projects was painting fire hydrants and noted that one of the hydrants on Binkley Street is blue with white stars.

Mr. Poindexter stated that he is excited to be on the Board added that he hopes that he can be a useful part of the team and is looking forward to a productive year. He noted that next week a small group of Future Farmers of America (FFA) students are traveling to the National FFA Convention in Kentucky to compete on behalf of the District and state in agriculture education.

Mr. Arness stated that he enjoyed having a one-year break from the Board but is happy to be back. He stated that he enjoyed serving on the Board with Mrs. Gross and Mrs. Larned. He stated that Mrs. Larned has unofficially appointed him as the Board member in charge of the arts.

Miss Hart stated that even though she has only served a short time, it was nice to meet both Mrs. Gross and Mrs. Larned.

Mrs. Crawford stated that Mrs. Gross has been a mentor to her and noted that she will miss Mrs. Gross and Mrs. Larned. She congratulated Mr. Arness and Mr. Poindexter. She commented that it is nice to see so many students in the audience and credited Mrs. Raemaker for encouraging them to come. She thanked Mr. Young for the school presentation. She stated that she is looking forward to judging the Soldotna High School government projects this week. She announced that Thursday, October 19, the League of Women Voters will host a candidate forum at the Kenai Community College from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. She noted that the forum is open to the public and will include candidates from state House District 7, 8 and 9 and Senate District E.

Mrs. Mullins thanked Mr. Young for the school presentation. She stated that she is pleased to hear about the continuity in the Port Graham Elementary/High school staff. She stated that she is excited to have students attend School Board meetings. She encouraged the students to express their concerns to the Board or Miss Hart, student representative. She thanked the Borough Maintenance Department for their help in Nikiski and to the custodians who assisted at the schools. She welcomed Mr. Arness and Mr. Poindexter to the Board and added that she is looking forward to new challenges. She encouraged Mr. Poindexter to attend the New School Board Training session during the AASB Annual Conference. Mrs. Mullins thanked Mrs. Gross and stated that she has been a wonderful mentor and has appreciated her leadership. She added that Mrs. Gross has done a great job as the president of AASB. She thanked Mrs. Larned for her six years of outstanding service on the Board. She thanked Ms. Germano for serving as Board president this past year and for her willingness to serve another year in the same capacity.

Ms. Germano thanked Mr. Young for the school report. She welcomed Mr. Arness and Mr. Poindexter to the Board. She noted that financially the upcoming year will be tough. She thanked her employer, ACS Wireless, for allowing her to take an 18-month sabbatical. She stated that she looks forward to spending more time with her family and working for the Board. Ms. Germano asked that the Student Council Folder on the electronic mail system be made available to all student councils and Miss Hart. She thanked Mrs. Gross and Mrs. Larned for their past service on the Board. She credited Mrs. Larned for the student art display in the Borough Assembly room and commended Mrs. Larned's advocacy for the arts. Ms. Germano appointed Mr. Poindexter to the School To Careers Advisory Committee and Mr. Arness to the Calendar Committee.

ADJOURN: At 8:35 p.m., Mrs. Mullins moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Deborah Germano, President

Mrs. Debra Mullins, Clerk

The Minutes of October 16, 2000,
were approved on November 6, 2000,
as written.