

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

148 N. Binkley Street
Soldotna, AK 99669

December 3, 2001

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

Dr. Nels Anderson, President
Ms. Deborah Germano, Vice President
Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Clerk
Mr. Joe Arness, Treasurer
Mrs. Debra Mullins, Member
Mrs. Margaret Gilman, Member
Mr. Al Poindexter, Member
Miss Katie Lockwood, Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT:

Dr. Donna Peterson, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Melody Douglas, Chief Financial Officer
Mr. Todd Syverson, Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Jim White	Mr. Rick Matiya
Mr. Richard Putney	Mr. John Kistler
Mr. Sam Stewart	Mrs. Shana Loshbaugh
Mr. Roy Anderson	Ms. Terry Woodward
Mrs. Paula Christensen	Mr. Jim Heim

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

Dr. Anderson called the meeting to order at 4:09 p.m. A quorum of School Board members, Dr. Anderson, Ms. Germano, Mr. Arness, Mrs. Mullins, Mrs. Gilman, and Mr. Poindexter were in attendance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 4:10 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 negotiations. Mr. Arness seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 7:32 p.m., Ms. Germano moved the executive session be adjourned. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Dr. Anderson invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Dr. Nels Anderson	Present
Ms. Deborah Germano	Present
Mrs. Sammy Crawford	Absent/Excused
Mr. Joe Arness	Present
Mrs. Debra Mullins	Present
Mrs. Margaret Gilman	Present
Mr. Al Poindexter	Present
Miss Katie Lockwood	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The agenda was approved with a revision to Item 11f., Approval of Legislative Priorities.

- APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The School Board Minutes of November 19, 2001, were approved with a correction to the spelling of "EXECUTIVE" on page 325.
- COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:** Dr. Peterson reported that a letter was sent from Mr. Malcolm McBride, Kenai Peninsula Borough Maintenance Contracts Coordinator regarding AHERA projects that have been conducted over the past three years.
- SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Dr. Peterson reported that memos were included in the Board's information packet regarding the feasibility of an "800" number, broadcasting School Board meetings, health insurance, and class size. Dr. Peterson reported that she and Ms. Germano attended the Education Advocates meeting which included representatives from the Department of Education and Early Development, the Association of Alaska School Boards and the National Education Association. She reported that the group is continuing to work on a consensus for a K-12 education statewide message to send to the legislature. She noted that Dr. Whiteley is attending an accreditation conference.
- BOARD REPORTS:** Ms. Germano reported that a tri-fold flyer regarding the A+ Report was developed by AASB and distributed at the Education Advocates meeting. She stated that it was decided the flyer needed to be simplified further. She explained that the front of the flyer will include the broad statewide statements and the back page can be used to address each school district's local issues.
- CONSENT AGENDA:** Items presented on the Consent Agenda were New Teacher Assignments, Long Term Substitute Teacher Contracts; and Resignation.
- New Teacher Assignments:** Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve teacher assignments for the 2001-2002 school year for Mary Alice Allman, generalist, Spring Creek School; Gary Blount, generalist, Spring Creek; Debra Hayes, (temporary) special education/resource, K-Beach Elementary; and Heather Pancratz, (temporary) Middle School Coordinator, Homer Middle.
- Long Term Substitute Teacher Contracts:** Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve long-term substitute contracts for JoAnn McClain, Grades 5-8, Moose Pass Elementary and Gordon Griffin, English, Skyview High School.
- Resignation:** Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve the resignation of Vicki Johnstonfreese, librarian, Sterling Elementary (effective at the end of the first semester of the 2001-2002 school year).
- ACTION** Ms. Germano moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Number 1 through 3. Mr. Poindexter seconded.
- Motion carried unanimously.
- Six-Year Enrollment Projections and Plan:** Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve the Six-Year Enrollment Projections and Plan for the school years 2001-02 through 2007-2008.
- ACTION** Ms. Mullins moved the Board approve the Six-Year Enrollment Projections and Plan.
- Ms. Germano reported that a great deal of discussion was generated during an earlier worksession and that she appreciated the information regarding the capital improvement projects soon to be completed and other items that are in the progress.

She noted that Homer High metals shop electrical is Number 91 on the list and expressed concern that an instructional item would be put on the bottom of the list to be completed in 2007.

Six-Year Enrollment Projections and Plan
(continued):

VOTE:

YES – Arness, Germano, Gilman, Mullins, Anderson

NO – Poindexter

Advisory Vote – YES

Motion carried.

Dr. Anderson noted that the plan represents a 2% decrease in student enrollment.

Revisions to BP 6111 (Elementary &
Secondary, School Calendars):

By memorandum, Dr. Whiteley recommended the Board approve revisions to BP 6111 (Elementary and Secondary, School Calendars). The revision would allow the Board to approve calendars for two school years preceding the expiration of the currently adopted calendar cycle.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve revisions to BP 6111 (Elementary and Secondary, School Calendars). Mr. Poindexter seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

School Calendars:

Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 school calendars and tentatively approve school calendars for 2004-2005 and 2005-2006. Dr. Peterson noted that approving two school calendars at once will allow long-term planning for parents and students.

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 school calendars and tentatively approve school calendars for 2004-2005 and 2005-2006. Mr. Poindexter seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

School Board Districting Recommendation: Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve recommendations regarding School Board redistricting to be forwarded to the Borough Reapportionment Committee.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve a substitute memo (presented at the November 19 worksession) with a change in the second sentence of the paragraph following Number 4 (beginning with "The Board of Education believes that....") replace the word "Homer" with the word "Seldovia." Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Mr. Poindexter stated that he agreed with the entire districting memo except for the paragraph just before the conclusion section. He stated that he is not comfortable with statement that "Basically we are of the opinion that the creation of a nine member districted board accomplishes nothing more than recreating the Assembly." He stated that he does not agree with the proposal of the creation of seven single member districts.

School Board Districting Recommendation
(continued):

Mrs. Mullins stated that she researched information on other boards in other states and other areas. She stated that there are boards that are districted by population and by area. She stated that research has not shown that all policy decisions have been altered by a districted configuration but the research has shown that it causes much more controversy and rancor among board members. She stated that campaigning for Board seat in a district covering 25,000 square miles is difficult and recalled a time when a candidate from Ninilchik defeated her. She explained that there are many factors that decide how candidates are elected such as amount of campaign money, candidate personalities, name recognition, and voter turnout. She stated that the Board is a policy-making body, not a legislative body and is better suited to serve at-large with one goal and not be divided to represent specific areas. She stated she considers her constituency to be the children of the district. She noted that there has been concern expressed regarding representation from several areas of the Borough but added that candidates should stand up to the vote, even though it is difficult. She stated that if the Board wants to maintain the District as a whole (to implement the Strategic Plan and provide services equally throughout the District), the best way to do that is to keep the membership at-large and elected by all of the people of the Borough.

Ms. Germano stated that she talked to quite a few people about the successes and failures of districting Board membership. She stated that the people she has spoken to are happy about being represented. She expressed concern that the Board's memo does not point out that the issue is about perception.

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve an amendment to strike numbered paragraph Number 4. Mr. Poindexter seconded.

Ms. Germano stated that she would like to delete paragraph Number 4 because it is negative and not productive.

Mr. Arness explained that the purpose of paragraph Number 4 was to set aside some of the comments that have been heard during the Reapportionment Committee meetings that sound like a means to "fix" the Board.

Ms. Germano stated that, in her opinion, the language in paragraph Number 4 is "fueling the fire."

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

YES – Arness, Germano, Gilman, Mullins, Poindexter

NO – Anderson

Advisory Vote – YES

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve an amendment to strike the third sentence (beginning with "Basically...") in the second to last paragraph. Mr. Arness seconded.

Amendment carried unanimously.

Ms. Germano stated that the Board could not legally create districts just for Homer and Seward and added that representation must be for everyone. She suggested that the sentence be changed to say "Understanding that state law requires equal representation for people then we would propose creation of seven single member districts."

- RECESS: At 8:00 p.m., Dr. Anderson called a recess.
- RECONVENE AFTER RECESS: At 8:01 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.
- ACTION Ms. Germano moved the Board approve an amendment to delete the words "Further, creation of districts only for Homer and Seward seems a little awkward, and so" with the words "As a second choice" in the second to last paragraph of the memo, and move the subtitle "CONCLUSION" ahead of the second to last paragraph. Ms. Mullins seconded.
- RECESS: At 8:04 p.m., Dr. Anderson called a recess.
- RECONVENE AFTER RECESS: At 8:06 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.
- Mr. Poindexter reported that he agreed with Mrs. Mullins and will support the motion but added that he is not sure that a seven single member district will resolve the perceived problem of representation in smaller areas. He stated that because of the coverage area that would be assigned to rural area Board members, a nine member Board would be better. He added that 7 members seem to work quite well.
- Ms. Germano stated that she will support the motion but does not support the status quo recommendation. She stated that by electing seven single members it will provide an opportunity for more people to serve who live in seven different geographical areas.
- Mrs. Gilman stated that originally she felt that districting the Board sounded like a good idea but since then has changed her mind. She stated that a valuable component of campaigning for Board election is the opportunity to visit communities all over the Borough. She reminded the members that the Board is a policy-making body and that school administrators are the advocates for their school and the Board should consider the interests of all District students. She stated that she also feels that nine members would address the concerns of the Eastern peninsula but does not support spending the additional money.
- Amendment carried unanimously.
- Amended motion carried unanimously.
- Legislative Priorities: Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve the list of 2002 state and federal legislative priorities.
- ACTION Ms. Germano moved the Board approve the list of 2002 state and federal legislative priorities. Mr. Poindexter seconded.
- ACTION Ms. Germano moved the Board approve an amendment to add Number 4, Compulsory Attendance, (from the AASB priority list) to the 2002 state legislative priorities. Ms. Mullins seconded.
- Amendment carried unanimously.
- Amended motion carried unanimously.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mrs. Gilman reported that she visited Aurora Borealis Charter School and was pleased to observe students involved in a grammar lesson and was impressed with the school. She thanked those who served on the Calendar Committee.

Ms. Germano thanked those who served on the Calendar Committee.

Mr. Arness thanked Mrs. Mullins for the gift of homemade fudge.

Mrs. Mullins reported that she spoke to the Soldotna High VICA Club regarding parliamentary procedure. She reported that she attended the administrator meeting. She wished those present a Happy Holiday.

Dr. Anderson commented that the Board shares a great deal of camaraderie as well as disagree on certain issues and should not be considered a "divided board." He thanked those present for their attendance.

ADJOURN:

At 8:19 p.m., Mrs. Mullins moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned.
Mr. Arness seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Nels Anderson, President

Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Clerk

The Minutes of December 3, 2001,
were approved on January 7, 2002
as written.