

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

148 N. Binkley Street

Soldotna, AK 99669

September 10, 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

STAFF PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mrs. Beth Hickey	Mrs. Paula Christensen
Miss Katy Hickey	Mr. Jim White
Mrs. Shana Loshbaugh	Mr. Jim Heim
Mr. Roy Anderson	Mr. Jack Hickey
Mr. Sam Stewart	Mr. Rick Matiya
Mr. Burck	Mrs. Liz Burck
Mrs. Melody Douglas	Mrs. Debbie Stewart
Mr. Chris Moss	Mrs. Margaret Gilman
Miss Katherine Amen	Mrs. Karen Mahurin
Miss Mary Krusen	Mr. Clifford Cochran
Miss Roxanna Wilcox	Mr. Morgan Saltenberger
Miss Cassie Wilcox	Mr. Shaun Kiser
Miss Katie Burck	

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.

ROLL CALL:

Ms. Deborah Germano	Present
Mrs. Sammy Crawford	Present
Mrs. Debra Mullins	Present
Mr. Joe Arness	Present
Dr. Nels Anderson	Present
Mrs. Sandra Wassilie	Present
Mr. Al Poindexter	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The agenda was approved with a correction to Item Number 11a. First Reading of Revisions to BP 5141.31 and the deletion of Darrel Hagen from Awards and Presentations.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of August 20, 2001, were approved as printed.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS: Dr. Peterson reported that she has received the usual Department of Education and Early Education communications and that there was nothing out of ordinary. She reported that the District has received several positive communications regarding the transition period of Year One and Year Two of the Technology Plan. She stated that the communications will be included in a report to the Assembly during the first Technology Work Group meeting. She announced that the Soldotna Chamber of Commerce, as well as other chambers throughout the Peninsula, are noting the Board of Education meetings on their monthly calendar.

Ms. Germano reported that she received a petition from students expressing support for their music teacher, who is resigning. She stated that the students do not want her to leave and expressed their concern.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS: The Board presented Mrs. Elizabeth Burck, KCHS teacher, with the 2000 Presidential Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching award. The Board presented plaques to Mr. Patrick Hickey, Assistant Superintendent, Operations and Business Management, and Mr. Mark Leal, former assessment director, in appreciation for their service to the District. Mr. Leal was not in attendance and his plaque will be sent to him in Juneau.

Mrs. Burck thanked the Board, administration, and those present for the award and noted that she was very pleased that her family and several students were in attendance to see her receive the award.

Mr. Hickey noted that of all the accolades he has received during his tenure with the District, he is most proud of the ASBO Meritorious Budget Award.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Peterson reported that the September 10 School Board meeting will be Mr. Hickey's last, and she publicly thanked him for his service to the District during the past four years. Dr. Peterson commented that school start up has gone extremely well. She noted that the Large District Forum will be held Friday, September 14. She reported that she and Ms. Germano will attend a school funding discussion with the Department of Education and Early Development and the Association of Alaska School Boards, which will be facilitated by Dr. Bruce Johnson Monday, September 17, in Anchorage. Dr. Peterson announced that School Board candidate forums will be held on September 11 with the Kenai Peninsula Education Association, September 12 with the Anchor Point Chamber of Commerce, September 19 with the KSRM Sound Off Program, September 20 with the League of Women Voters, and September 26 with the Kenai Chamber of Commerce.

BOARD REPORTS: Mrs. Crawford reported that the Alaska Democracy Project was established to seek ideas and projects throughout the state that help students participate in democracy by serving on Boards, being active in student government, and becoming good, informed voters. She reported various District activities and projects to the Lieutenant Governor who was especially impressed with activities by teachers Mrs. Raemaker, Mr. Carey and Mr. Harbeson.

- CONSENT AGENDA: Items presented on the Consent Agenda were New Teacher Assignments; Tentative Nontenure Teacher Assignment; Leave of Absence Request - Support; Homer Land Requests; Nontenure Teacher for Tenure; Budget Transfer and Resignation.
- New teacher Assignments: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve teacher assignments for the 2001-2002 school year for Linda Etwiler, (temporary) reading, Voznesenka School; JoEllen Fowler, Grades 4/5, Tustumena Elementary; Teri Haddeland, (temporary) Grade 6, Seward Elementary; Saundra Hudson, QUEST/regular education, Homer Middle; Peggy Totten, (temporary) social studies, Kenai Middle; Thomas Weller, (temporary) Title I teacher, K-Selo School; and Pasco Window, special education/resource, Redoubt Elementary.
- Tentative Nontenure Teacher Assignment: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve a tentative nontenure teaching assignment for John DeVold, Mt. View Elementary, library/Title I teacher (50% temporary).
- Leave of Absence Request – Support: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve an unpaid leave of absence request for the 2001-2002 school year for Ron Verney, food service coordinator, Kenai Central High (effective September 15, 2001) and for Karen Pulley, special education assistant/intensive needs, Soldotna Middle.
- Homer Land Requests: Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve a recommendation to declare the uppermost 30 feet of Homer Middle School property for the purpose of expanding the existing roadway and the Homer High School property necessary for connecting Fairview and Heath streets as surplus.
- Nontenure Teacher for Tenure: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve Mark Fraad, a tentative nontenured teacher, for tenure.
- Budget Transfer: Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve a budget transfer of \$84,000 from the Connections equipment account to cover the language arts curriculum budget shortfall.
- Resignation: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve the resignation of Renda Horn, music, Paul Banks Elementary.
- ACTION Mr. Arness moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 3 and Numbers 5 through 7. Mr. Poindexter seconded.
- Motion carried unanimously.
- ACTION Mr. Arness moved the Board postpone action on Item Number 10a.(4) to the October 1 Board meeting and direct the administration to bring a recommendation relative to all of the Homer land requests. Mrs. Wassilie seconded.
- Ms. Germano asked whether there was a deadline for approval of the Homer land requests. Mr. Hickey stated that the land requests are not time sensitive.
- Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Germano explained that the Homer land requests were postponed so the Board can approve recommendations for all of the land requests.

Mr. Hickey stated that he will submit a substitute document regarding the Homer land requests for consideration at the October 1 meeting.

Revisions to BP 5131.6, Students – Alcohol and Other Drugs:

Dr. Gary Whiteley recommended the Board approve revisions to BP 5131.6, Students – Alcohol and Other Drugs. He noted that the administration recommends that the word “will” in the last paragraph remain and that it does not change due process rights of students.

ACTION

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve revisions to BP 5131.6, Students – Alcohol and Other Drugs. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

AASB Resolution Regarding Immunization: Dr. Peterson presented a proposed AASB resolution regarding immunization as requested by the Board at the August 20 Board meeting. The resolution requests the state to reinstate the church leader verification requirement on the immunization exemption form to assure that students receiving a religious exemption meet the intent of the statute.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve AASB resolution regarding immunization. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Mr. Arness reported that a similar situation arose in Wyoming and the court found that it is illegal to require persons to verify their religion. He read a statement from the court, “this is the only instance in recorded American legal history, that we are aware of, where the state has an administrative appeal system to require residents to prove their religious sincerity.” Mr. Arness stated that he is not sure that he can support the concept of asking the state to require verification of a person’s religion.

Dr. Anderson stated that although the Board recognizes the validity of Mrs. Mahurin’s comments regarding religious exemptions being used as personal exemption from immunizations, he feels that the Wyoming decision is legal precedent and he will vote against the resolution.

Mrs. Mullins stated that many people of various religious beliefs may not have a church leader and, for that reason, will vote against the resolution.

Motion failed unanimously.

AASB Resolution Regarding Truancy:

Dr. Peterson presented a proposed AASB resolution regarding truancy as requested by the Board at the August 20 Board meeting. The resolution requests that the state and enforcement agencies work together with Alaskan districts to support efforts to get children to school each day.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve a proposed AASB resolution regarding truancy. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Dr. Anderson stated that there are problems with the enforcement of the state truancy laws. He stated there is no system in place to assist schools and parents in getting truant students to attend school. He stated that he supports the proposed resolution.

Ms. Germano stated that the resolution does not request any action and asked whether there was something specific that the Board wanted to have happen. Dr. Anderson stated that administrators complain that there is no “teeth” or assistance from authorities available to get truant students to attend school.

AASB Resolution Regarding Truancy
(continued):

Dr. Peterson replied that there is a state attendance law, which outlines the consequences if students are truant. She stated that it is a good law but is not enforced. She stated that the District does not receive assistance from law enforcement agencies in enforcing this law.

Motion carried unanimously.

FIRST READING OF POLICY
REVISIONS:

The Board heard a first reading of revisions to BP 5141.31, Students – Immunizations. Dr. Whiteley noted that the revisions bring the District into compliance with state law and added that legal counsel has reviewed the proposed revisions.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. Chris Moss, Assembly Member, stated that he wanted to say good-bye to Mr. Hickey. He stated that Mr. Hickey made the District budget process much easier and gave him a clearer picture. He stated that the Assembly feels the same. He thanked Mr. Hickey for the time spent reviewing the budget with him.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mr. Poindexter stated that the reason Mrs. Burck received the award is because she practices everything shown in the coaching video that was shared with the Board prior to the meeting. He stated that he is proud of her and her cross-country running team. He told Mr. Hickey that he hopes someday he will find his way back home.

Mrs. Mullins commented on the many awards and accolades Mrs. Burck has received. She stated that it is a testament to Mrs. Burck that her students came to witness her award. She thanked the people who presented the Aspirations Project during the Board’s Dine and Discuss. She thanked Mr. Hickey for his service to the District. She stated that she appreciated his integrity and the opportunity to work with him during negotiations. She stated that the Board will miss him.

Mrs. Crawford echoed the comments made regarding Mrs. Burck and added that it is a pleasure to watch her in action. She stated that she has had a lot of fun visiting schools over the past couple of weeks. She reported that teachers and students are excited. She stated that she appreciated the opportunity to work with Mr. Hickey.

Dr. Anderson extended accolades to Mrs. Burck and added that he has had a fruitful friendship with her. He stated that Mr. Hickey has brought integrity to his position and added that his character and demeanor have made the public aware that he is above reproach in his personal and business life and because of that people trust him. He stated that it is hard to replace someone with Mr. Hickey’s credentials.

Mr. Arness stated that the Dine and Discuss session was tremendously successful. He stated he would like to see some feedback regarding the Dine and Discuss program. He asked whether there was an agenda for the Large District Forum meeting Friday, September 14. Mr. Arness stated that his goal is to see the Large District Forum districts unite behind a common approach to the state to accomplish things that benefit the districts. He suggested that a Board of directors be established who can work in between meetings. He recommended that Mr. Hickey's financial ideas be shared with the group.

Ms. Germano suggested that Mr. Hickey's letter be added to the Long Range Forum agenda.

BOARD COMMENTS (continued):

Mr. Arness stated that he has enjoyed working with Mr. Hickey over the past few years. He stated that he appreciated Mr. Hickey's credibility and wished Mr. Hickey well.

Mrs. Wassilie reported that she has heard comments from the public that the District doesn't hire locally trained people. She reported that she has noted that there have been a number of local hires recently; two were hired in Seward. She stated that the District is blessed to have a science and math teacher of Mrs. Burck's caliber. She stated that she is pleased with the technology that has come to Seward, which she feels has contributed to an upbeat school start up. She stated that she has enjoyed working with Mr. Hickey and will miss his brand of thinking and added that he has the capacity to see the big picture and has been a catalyst for positive change. She wished him success.

Ms. Germano stated that she will miss Mr. Hickey's sense of humor. She stated that she has appreciated any presentation that he has given and has received positive feedback from the public.

Dr. Peterson stated that the Student Leadership Conference will be held Monday, September 24, at Nikiski Middle/High School. Ms. Germano asked that the student councils be invited to use the student government council email folder. Ms. Crawford stated that she will attend the Student Leadership Conference, if appropriate.

Ms. Germano stated that Mr. Arness will serve on the Calendar Committee. She stated that she and Mrs. Wassilie will serve on the Health Curriculum Committee, and Mrs. Crawford will serve on the Recognition Committee.

ADJOURN:

At 8:24 p.m., Mr. Arness moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Deborah Germano, President

Mrs. Debra Mullins, Clerk

The Minutes of September 10, 2001,
were approved on October 1, 2001
as written.