

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

148 N. Binkley Street

Soldotna, AK 99669

July 9, 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:

Mr. Eric Soderquist	Mr. Greg Niesen
Mr. Jim White	Mr. Herb Stetler
Mrs. Melody Douglas	Mr. Terry Linebarger
Mr. Dave Morse	Mrs. Shana Loshbaugh
Mrs. Lynn Hohl	

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.

ROLL CALL:

Ms. Deborah Germano	Present
Mrs. Sammy Crawford	Present
Mrs. Debra Mullins	Present
Mr. Joe Arness	Present
Dr. Nels Anderson	Present/Arrived at 7:33 p.m.
Mrs. Sandra Wassilie	Present
Mr. Al Poindexter	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The agenda was approved with the addition of Item 10b.(1), Approval of Termination.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The School Board Minutes of June 4, 2001, were approved as printed.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

Dr. Peterson reported that she received three communications: one from the Department of Education and Early Development approving a request to list Seward Middle/High School as two separate schools; one from the United States Department of Agriculture complimenting the District for actively participating in a pilot program developed by the District; and one from the Interagency Incident Management Team thanking District staff for support and assistance during the recent Mystery Hills fire. Dr. Peterson noted that District staff donated hundreds of hours, which were coordinated by Mr. Hickey and Mrs. Spooner.

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

Mrs. Lynn Hohl, Seward PTSA member, shared a report given to the State Board of Education during the June meeting in Seward. Her report recounted the history of Seward Schools and the Seward community and staff/student population comparisons. She noted several concerns facing the Seward school community including funding support for the separation of Seward Middle and Seward High; funding for sports and academic competitions; raising academic requirements for athletes to ensure passage of the High School Qualifying Exam; the removal of sports competitions outside the academic day; equitable funding support for academic extracurricular activities; adequate funding for special needs students; inflation proofing educational funding; and recognition for the added cost of doing business in districts such as Kenai. She highlighted many positive activities and student academic and athletic achievements at each of the Seward schools.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Peterson announced that Mr. Patrick Hickey recently received his doctorate in business administration from the California Coast University. She welcomed Dr. Whiteley as the Assistant Superintendent of Instruction. She reported that Dr. Whiteley will be selecting a replacement for Mr. Mark Leal, Assessment Coordinator, who has taken a position with the Department of Education and Early Development. She reported that the District recently hosted two reading institutes (primary and intermediate) and an art institute and remarked at the changes in the participating students after their two-week program. Dr. Peterson announced that Mrs. Sammy Crawford has been appointed to the Alaska Democracy Project Task Force, which is a group of educators who will work on civics education throughout Alaska. Dr. Peterson reported that she has been appointed by the Governor to be the superintendent representative on the Professional Teaching Practices Commission.

Dr. Peterson presented a plaque from the President of the United States for outstanding achievement in environmental protection services to Mr. Eric Soderquist for his 1999 Caring for the Kenai project. Mr. Soderquist gave an overview of the Soldotna Creek Park project, which stemmed from a government class assignment at Soldotna High School. He stated that the project included the addition of approximately \$80,000 to \$100,000 of capital improvements to Soldotna Creek Park at a cost of \$17,000. He stated that he and two other students received the money from community businesses and organizations to complete the project. He stated that the group added four alcove benches, a fishing platform, additional stairs, and restored 80 feet of riverbank. He reported that the three students entered the project in the Caring for the Kenai competition and won first place and were later nominated for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) national recognition for environmental youth. He stated that the Soldotna Creek project was selected as an award winner from Region 10, which included a trip to Washington D.C. He reported that while in Washington D.C., he had the opportunity to meet many dignitaries including the EPA Administrator, the Alaskan Congressional Delegation and the President. He thanked the community for their support.

Site Council Report:

Dr. Peterson presented site council reports from each school. She explained that in accordance with Board Policy 0420, schools are required to submit an end-of-the-year report reflecting activities throughout the year. She noted that this is the second year this report has been required and that there has been quite an improvement over last year.

- Lease Agreements Report: Mr. Hickey presented a report of current lease agreements between the District and the North Peninsula Recreation Service Area, Community Schools Programs, Kachemak Selo School, Razdolna School, Voznesenka School, and Boys and Girls Club. He noted that previous leased space for teacher housing in Tyonek has been relinquished since the individual teacher located other housing.
- Financial Report: Mr. Hickey presented the financial report of the District for the period ending May 31, 2001.
- Budget Transfer Report: Mr. Hickey reported on budget transfers Numbers 242 through 880 for various schools and departments within the District.
- Mrs. Wassilie noted that a number of the grants have received only one-third of the total funds awarded. Mr. Hickey noted that because the federal government operates on a different fiscal year, only partial funding has been received.
- BOARD REPORTS:
- Mrs. Wassilie reported that she serves on the Borough Assembly Reapportionment Committee. She stated that the Assembly has authorized the Committee to consider the issue of districting the school board. She stated that the Committee has decided to postpone any discussion on the issue until this fall. She reported that she was invited by Dr. Whiteley to visit the Primary Reading Institute that was hosted by Mrs. Norma Holmgaard. She reported that the Institute was for students with reading difficulties and for training of teachers. She stated that teachers received training while having the opportunity to practice with students who need the extra help. She commented that the Institute was one of the better training sessions she has ever seen.
- Ms. Mullins reported that she attended the final Space Allocation Committee meeting. She stated that as a result of the recommendations from the Committee, the Mayor will introduce Ordinance Number 2001-24 requesting submission to voters on October 2 the question of the issuance of not to exceed \$5 million of general obligation bonds to pay for capital improvements to alleviate the overcrowding in the Borough Administration Building.
- CONSENT AGENDA: Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of 2001-2002 Annual Agenda Guideline; AR 1330, Community Use; Tentative Nontenured Teacher Assignments; Tentative Nontenured Teacher For Tenure; New Teacher Assignments; Resignations; Leave of Absence Request – Support; and Budget Transfers.
- 2001-2002 Annual Agenda Guideline: Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve the 2001-2002 Annual Agenda. The Annual Agenda consists of dates on which routine items are presented to the School Board.
- AR1330, Use of School Facilities And Properties: Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve revisions to AR 1330, Use of School Facilities and Properties. The revision states that firearms or other deadly or defensive weapons are not permitted in school facilities or on school property without the express written permission of the superintendent or designee. An exhibit page was included, and if completed and approved, would give permission to allow firearms in school facilities or on school property.

- Tentative Nontenured Teacher Assignments: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve tentative nontenure teaching assignments for Virginia Bucher, Migrant reading teacher, Homer area; Kenneth Hepner, generalist, Voznesenka School; Cindy Hurst, Grade 2, Soldotna Elementary; Teri Hoffman, Grades 5/6, Sterling Elementary; Jennifer Joy Jones, Title I teacher, Tustumena Elementary; Chris Lau, generalist, Spring Creek School; Stephanie Tauszell-Roberts, math/computers, Kenai Middle; and Jill Wilson, generalist, Homer Flex School.
- Tentative Nontenured Teacher For Tenure: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve Ann Heimbuch and Debra Womack, tentative nontenured teachers, for tenure.
- New Teacher Assignments: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve teaching appointments for the 2001-2002 school year for Stephanie Cox, intermediate grades, Soldotna Elementary; Jill DuFloth, Grade 6, K-Beach Elementary; Laurie Emerich, Grades K-3, Connections Program; Krista Etwiler, reading (temporary), Voznesenka School; Matthew Faris, Grades 2/3 (temporary), Redoubt Elementary; Laura McIndoe, special education/emotional handicapped, Soldotna Middle; Linda Pittman, special education, districtwide Special Services; Wendy Potton, math/technology, Nikiski Middle/High; Elaine Velsko, Title I teacher (temporary), Chapman School; Susan Whipp, generalist, Tebughna School; and Eric Willets, special education/resource, Skyview High.
- Resignations: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve resignations effective the end of the 2000-2001 school year for Ron Becker, social studies and physical education, Soldotna High; Gretchen Becker, speech pathologist, districtwide Special Services; Dean Vincent, Grade 4, K-Beach Elementary; and Mark Leal, Director of Elementary Education/Curriculum and Assessment, Central Office.
- Leave of Absence Request – Support: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve an unpaid leave of absence request (support) for Holly Klier, School Secretary III, Soldotna Middle.
- Budget Transfers: Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve budget transfers Numbers 762 and 778 which respectively transfer \$10,000 and \$20,100 to cover the cost of contracted speech therapy services and psychological services; budget transfer Number 828 for \$10,044 to cover the purchase of computers to set up a computer lab at Aurora Borealis Charter School; budget transfer Number 841 for \$30,000 to purchase switches, routers and servers for the computer system to implement the District Technology Plan; budget transfer Number 865 for \$34,000 to purchase printers for the Connections Program and for \$10,400 to cover increased District legal fees; and budget transfer Number 868 for \$20,197 to purchase a centralized Dell server and tape drive unit for the Data Processing Department.
- ACTION** Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 and 3 through 8. Mrs. Wassilie seconded.
- Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA (continued):

Mr. Dave Morse, Veteran of Foreign War representative, stated that no person who has ever been convicted of domestic violence may possess or use a rifle. He explained that in order to conduct a twenty-one gun salute, each person who fires a weapon during the ceremony must sign an oath that they are eligible to do so. He explained that a logbook is kept on each rifle that is fired. He added that their weapons are rendered useless for live ammunition and would be more of a danger to the person firing the weapon if live ammunition were used. He urged the Board's support of the changes to AR 1330. He stated that Chief Warner has assured the VFW that an officer will be present for any ceremony involving the firing of a rifle. He stated that the VFW post urges support of the changes to AR 1330.

ACTION

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Item Number 2.  
Mrs. Wassilie seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Substitute and Temporary Pay Schedule:

Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve the pay schedule for substitutes and temporary employees for the 2001-2002 school year. He noted the addition of skill levels for temporary workers.

Mrs. Crawford asked whether the substitute rate is competitive. Mr. Syverson replied that the rate is similar to that of other Alaskan districts. He stated it has been difficult to hire substitutes in smaller communities and the District has had to recruit classroom volunteers.

ACTION

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve the pay schedule for substitutes and temporary employees for the 2001-2002 school year. Mrs. Wassilie seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Teacher TerminationS:

Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve the termination of two certified employees.

ACTION

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve the termination of two certified employees. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Student Expulsion:

ACTION

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve the following: "Board policy 5131.6(a) requires the administration to recommend expulsion for a second drug or alcohol-related offense. This was K.D.'s second violation of board policy on a drug-related offense. This behavior is inimical to the welfare and safety of other pupils. As such, K.D. is expelled for one calendar year from May 24, 2001 for violation of KPBSD policy 5131.6, Alcohol and Other Drugs. K.D. shall be allowed to apply for early readmission beginning January 2002 upon compliance with the following conditions by the first day of Christmas break, December, 2001:

1. K.D. enrolls in the KPBSD Connections Program and successfully completes the first semester's work.
2. K.D. agrees to submit to and pay for broad-spectrum random urinalysis tests during the period of his expulsion at the administration's discretion. The presence of any drug or alcohol in any one of these drug tests would result in the reinstatement of K.D.'s expulsion.

Student Expulsion (continued):

3. During the expulsion, K.D. 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. K.D. shall complete a mandatory drug assessment from an agency mutually agreed upon by the parent and the School District and the District reports successful progress with the agency's recommendations to the board by the first School Board meeting in December, 2001.

It is strongly recommended that K.D. meet with the School Board by or on the Board's first meeting in December 2001.

Notice of right to appeal School Board's final decision." Dr. Anderson seconded.

VOTE:

YES – Anderson, Crawford, Mullins, Poindexter, Wassilie, Germano

ABSTAIN – Arness

Motion carried.

Ms. Germano explained that the Board would like to meet with the student at the conclusion of the expulsion period and before he returns to school.

Contract Negotiations for RFP #CS-301:

Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve a request for permission to initiate negotiations for a five-year contract with Frontier Business Systems for copying services. Mr. Hickey reviewed the appeal process used for one of the proposers who objected to the award to Frontier Business Systems.

Mr. Greg Niesen, Frontier Business Systems owner, thanked Mr. Hickey for the proposal process. He reported that his business has sold a number of business machines to the District in the past and stated that the opportunity to compete for copying services is appreciated. He commented that this year the package was concise and had open specifications that allowed his company to place a bid.

ACTION

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve a request for permission to enter into contract negotiations with Frontier Business Systems. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hickey stated that as a result of the Board's action, members will receive a report which will outline the final outcome of the negotiations. Ms. Germano asked what the timeline will be. Mr. Hickey responded that the timeline will be negotiated during a meeting on July 10 in Anchorage.

2001-2002 Board of Education Goals:

Dr. Peterson presented three goals for accomplishment during the 2001-2002 school year as a result of the Board's June 5 planning session. The recommended goals are 1) strengthen Board relations with staff; 2) review, refocus, and retrain in areas of existing School District operations; and 3) provide leadership for stable education funding.

ACTION Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve the 2001-2002 Board goals. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

2001-2002 Board of Education Goals  
(continued):

Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Douglas explained that during the next school year the District is required to implement a new governmental reporting model, which is referred to as GASB 34.

KPBSD Superintendent Contract:

Dr. Peterson presented a three-year superintendent contract for the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District for approval.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve the superintendent contract as presented. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Mr. Arness suggested that the perpetual rolling contract language be changed in the Contract Termination paragraph.

action

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve an amendment to substitute the words "this contract" with the words "the fiscal year" in the second paragraph, second sentence, of item Number 15., Contract Termination. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Amendment carried unanimously.

Amended motion carried unanimously.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mrs. Wassilie thanked Mrs. Lynn Hohl for her PTSA presentation. She thanked Mr. Morse for his presentation.

Mrs. Crawford congratulated Mr. Hickey on receiving his doctorate. She welcomed Dr. Whiteley. She thanked Dr. Peterson for the site council reports. She stated she is glad to have the Board goals approved. She congratulated Dr. Peterson on the approval of her new contract.

Mrs. Mullins congratulated Mr. Hickey on receiving his doctorate and welcomed Dr. Whiteley to his new position. She congratulated Dr. Peterson on the approval of her new contract.

Mr. Arness stated that he was pleased with the new contract for the superintendent and he welcomed Dr. Whiteley.

Ms. Germano thanked the Central Office for their hard work and expressed her appreciation for the approval of AR 1330. She stated that she was happy to have the issue of community use of school facilities resolved quickly.

ADJOURN:

At 8:43 p.m., Mr. Arness moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Ms. Deborah Germano, President

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Mrs. Debra Mullins, Clerk

The Minutes of July 9, 2001,  
were approved on August 6, 2001  
as written.