

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

148 N. Binkley Street

Soldotna, AK 99669

June 3, 2002

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
Mrs. Melody Douglas, Chief Financial Officer
Dr. Gary Whiteley, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction
Mr. Todd Syverson, Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mrs. Mary Kennedy	Mrs. Sylvia Reynolds
Ms. Gayle Buben	Mrs. Barb George
Mrs. Terri Carter	Mr. Jim White
Ms. Elizabeth Kirby	Mrs. Carolyn Cannava
Mr. Joe Rizzo	Mrs. Paula Christenson
Mr. Dale Dolifka	Mr. Rick Matiya
Mrs. Sandra Ghormley	Mrs. Debbie Stewart
Mrs. Zena Udelhoven	Mr. Sean Dusek
Mrs. Judy Swarner	Mrs. Shana Loshbaugh
Mrs. Lassie Nelson	

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

Dr. Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

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	Present
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 7, Awards and Presentations; Numbers 7f. and 7g. were moved ahead of Number 7a.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The special School Board minutes of April 24, 2002, were approved. The revised minutes of May 6, 2002, were approved with a correction in the fifth sentence of the first paragraph of page 424; the word "substituted" was changed to "taught."

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mrs. Sylvia Reynolds, Soldotna High principal, thanked the Board and administration for hiring her seven years ago. She reported that the Soldotna High School Site Council has spent an inordinate amount of time considering valedictorian issues and weighted grades issues. She stated that she is concerned that students will take the path of least resistance and not challenge themselves with advanced courses. She stated that there is a place for weighted grades. She reported that the state of Texas is moving to an eight-point weighted grade system. She encouraged the Board to discuss the issue of weighted grades with the Soldotna High Site Council during a worksession.

Mrs. Shirley Gifford, Soldotna High School Site Based Council Chair, stated that during the past year she has worked closely with Mrs. Reynolds and members of the Site Council. She reported that her daughter participated in advanced placement classes at Soldotna High School and was irritated that her classmates, who took basic courses, received the same grades. Mrs. Gifford credited her daughter's success in college to the advanced placement classes and added that students should be rewarded for taking difficult classes. She stated that she has worked closely with Mrs. Reynolds for the past five years and noted that she is an extraordinary woman. She stated that she has a unique partnership with the school in her role as the Chief of Police in Soldotna and noted that she will miss Mrs. Reynolds as the principal at Soldotna High School. She stated that she is looking forward to a continued partnership with Mr. Dusek as the new principal. She stated that she has enjoyed her position as the Soldotna High School Site Based Council Chair, even though her daughter is in college, since it gives her the opportunity to keep in touch with the students.

Mrs. Shana Loshbaugh stated that she has completed her work at the Peninsula Clarion and would like to speak to the Board as a parent and private citizen. She stated that she is appalled and disheartened by the bitter turn of the contract talks. She stated that it is inexcusable to accuse colleagues of lying and deception and inexcusable for teachers to violate codes of ethics. She stated that both sides need to be more realistic and added that if the District's own employees have no grasp of its fiscal situation and no trust of its administration's version of events, perhaps the administration needs to tend to its own better. She stated that if the employees demand things that the administration has no power to deliver, the employees need to redirect their grievances. She stated that she feared that those involved in the fray have lost site of the welfare of children and are turning against each other. She warned those present that there is a common enemy outside the gate and cautioned that extremists throughout the nation are eager to dismantle public education and are spreading slanted information about national issues and local schools. She stated that these people do not come to board meetings, volunteer in classrooms or meet with principals. She noted that these people vote, run for office, and have the ear of many lawmakers. She recommended that the District flood talk radio every time someone puts out lies, work out partnerships with home school families to meet their needs and address their concerns, educate fellow educators to be informed, eloquent and involved. She suggested that the District enlist retired educators, parents and mature students to lobby on behalf of the District. She warned those present that the District must stop bad mouthing each other and the system. She told those present that it has been an education and a pleasure to work with the Board and District employees during the past six years. She thanked the District for providing her daughters with a combined 22.5 years of excellent schooling.

Dr. Anderson thanked Mrs. Loshbaugh for her comments and for her fair and balanced reporting.

- COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:** Dr. Peterson reported that she received a resolution and cover letter from the community of Voznesenka regarding responsibility for the school facility and a request to raise the rent. She reported that the first draft of the Seward Middle School code compliance review was received. She noted that Miss Carrie Collins, Miss Caelin Kubena, Miss Bethany Thornton, Miss Angel Hollers, Miss Katie VanDerWege, and Miss Crystal Dionne were selected as nominees for the Spirit of Youth award.
- AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:** The Board presented golden apple awards to Mrs. Mary Kennedy and members of the Soldotna High School PTSA Executive Board (Mr. Dale Dolifka, Mrs. Judy Swarner, Mrs. Zena Udelhoven, Mrs. Sandra Ghormley) for their service to the District.
- On behalf of British Petroleum, Board members presented commemorative plaques to Ms. Gayle Buben, Mrs. Terri Carter, Mrs. Elizabeth Kirby, and Mr. Joe Rizzo for being chosen as the 2001-2002 British Petroleum Teachers of Excellence. Mr. Vernel Schneider was also a recipient but was not present. Mr. Syverson noted that each teacher will have an opportunity to visit BP Exploration on the North Slope.
- SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Dr. Peterson reported that the Board goal setting session will be held June 4, at 9:00 a. m., at the Kenai River Center. She reminded the Board that the BP Teachers of Excellence recognition dinner will be held June 4, 6:00 p.m. at the Kenai Merit Inn. She reported that the District summer school opened with approximately 40 teachers and 400 students and will operate from June 3 through June 28. She announced that the final student enrollment for the 2001-2002 school year is 59 students less than the projected enrollment for the 2002-2003 school year.
- FINANCIAL REPORT:** Mrs. Douglas presented the financial report of the District for the period ending April 30, 2002.
- CONSENT AGENDA:** Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Budget Transfer Number 621, New Teacher Assignments, Tentative Nontenure Teacher Assignments, Long-Term Substitute Teacher Contracts, Resignations, Leave of Absence Requests – Certified, Leave of Absence Requests – Support, Nontenure teachers for Tenure, Budget Transfer, and Seldovia Boys and Girls Club Building Study.
- Budget Transfer Number 621:** Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve budget transfer Number 621 for \$13,267.00 to offset a long-term substitute teacher contract at Skyview High School.
- New Teacher Assignments:** Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve teacher assignments for the 2002-2003 school year for Clayton D. Kramer, high school special education/resource; districtwide special services; Linda E. Hampson, school counselor, Homer High; Debra Rose Blossom, Grade 5 (.50 FTE temporary), K-Beach Elementary; Dawn M. Brighton, English, Kenai Central High; Christopher A. Jenness, middle school generalist, Nikiski Middle/High; M. Jayne McFarland, speech/language pathologist, Redoubt Elementary; Julianna R. DeBoard, Title I reading (temporary), Seward Elementary; Teresa A. Cowart, Grade 6 (temporary), Tustumena Elementary; Janet Szykowski, generalist, Connections; Ed Frink, generalist, Kachemak Selo; and Susan Rorrison, Grades K, 1, or 2 (.50 FTE temporary), Sears Elementary.
- Tentative Nontenure Teacher Assignments:** Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve tentative nontenure teaching

assignments for Don R. Drury, Grade 3, Aurora Borealis Charter; Sally A. Burns, Title I reading (temporary), Kachemak-Selo; Carol A. Boehmler, Grade 3, K-Beach Elementary; Lisa M. Chambers, Title I reading (temporary), K-Beach Elementary; Christopher Towne, elementary music, Paul Banks and Homer Area; Katrina A. Adamson, Grades 4/5 or grade 5, Redoubt Elementary; Matthew J. Faris, Grades 2/3, Redoubt Elementary; Cindy J. Hurst, Grades K-2 or 2 (temporary), Sears Elementary; and Teri L. Haddeland, upper elementary, Seward Elementary.

Long-Term Substitute Teacher Contracts: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve long-term substitute teacher contracts for Rita Pfeniger, math, Homer Middle; Matthew Fischer, physical education/health, Soldotna High; and JoAnn McClain, math/social studies/language arts, Seward Middle.

Resignations: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve resignations with various effective dates for Celia Anderson, art specialist, Mountain View Elementary; Amy Galloway, generalist, Voznesenka; Margaret Brewster, librarian, Homer High; Brenda Dolma, science, Homer Middle; JoEllen Fowler, Grade 4/5, Tustumena Elementary; Michelle Garnto, special education, resource, Kenai Central High; Margaret Ladd, QUEST, library, West Homer Elementary; Heather Pancratz, middle school coordinator, Homer Middle; Anne Pfitzner, Grade 6, Soldotna Elementary; Richard Putney, director, Human Resources; Kathy A. Sandoval, special education, resource, Seward Middle/High; Laurie Jane Esp, Grades K-2, Connections; and Janet Shepard, special education resource, Susan B. English Elementary/High.

Leave of Absence Requests – Certified: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve unpaid leave of absence requests for the 2002-2003 school year for Liana Bigham, social studies, Kenai Central High; L. Joseph Trujillo, Spanish, Skyview High; and Penny Tinker, special education, Sterling Elementary.

Leave of Absence Requests –Support: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve unpaid leave of absence requests for the 2002-2003 school year for Etta Mae Near, Carl Perkins vocational education tutor, Skyview High and Johnnie Standifer, custodian, Tebughna Elementary/High.

Nontenure teachers for Tenure: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve Kristy L. Schmelzenbach, Kristin E. Morrow, Tara J. Rosin, Cindy M. Thomas, Janet S. Boyce, Douglas Gordon, Andrea Eggleston, and Virginia M. Morgan, nontenured teachers, for tenure.

Budget Transfer: Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve a budget transfer for \$175,699 to purchase the social studies and health curriculum at the close of the 2001-2002 fiscal year.

Seldovia Boys and Girls Club Building Study: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve a proposal from the Boys and Girls Club to conduct a study to design and build on Borough property adjacent to Susan B. English School in Seldovia.

ACTION Mrs. Germano moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 10. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

FY03 Budget Revision: Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve a FY03 operating fund budget of \$76,506,530 and a total budget for all funds of \$92,034,139. She stated that the District was fortunate to receive \$2.1 million in additional funding from the

legislature through SB2006. She stated that most of the additional funding comes in the form of Learning Opportunity Grants. She stated that once the spending criterion is received the District will develop a budget to submit to the Department of Education and Early Development for approval. She stated that for one-year only an additional \$415,000 was received from the legislature that will be used towards the purchase of curriculum materials.

ACTION

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve a FY03 operating fund budget of \$76,506,530 and a total budget for all funds of \$92,034,139. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Administrator Appointments:

Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve Dennis Dunn as the Kenai Central High principal, Lori Manion as the North Star Elementary principal, Sharon Mook as the Kenai Middle assistant principal, Sharon Conley as the Razdolna School principal/teacher and Sean Dusek as the Soldotna High principal.

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve the administrator appointments as presented. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

FIRST READING OF POLICY REVISIONS:

The Board heard a first reading of BP 3440, Inventories and BP 6146.1, High School Graduation Requirements.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Miss Lockwood stated that it has been an incredible 13 years and she has enjoyed her time in the District. She stated that she will take many of the things she has learned into the "real world." She thanked her teachers for doing a good job and added that she feels she has turned out okay.

Mr. Pondexter stated that he attended five graduations and added that it was a great experience and that they were all different and fun. He stated that in future Board meetings he would like to discuss class fees, student government and the selection process for student Board representative using the ASSET model, vocational education, weighted grades, use of Community Schools for accredited classes, and conduct a review of KPSAA. He called the Board's attention to the CTSO report in the information packet and reported that FFA also conducted their state convention, which was held in Fairbanks. He noted that his son Cameron was chosen as the FFA state secretary and Brad Hayes was selected as state treasurer. He stated that both boys, along with other FFA officers, will attend leadership training for one week in Fairbanks and one week in Sacramento, California. He added that the FFA state president and vice president will travel to Washington, D.C. for another week of training and then are required to visit each chapter in the state to train chapter officers and act as advisors. He expressed concern that FCCLA will be nonexistent in the District next year and added that he would like the Board to spend some time working on that problem.

Mr. Arness thanked Mrs. Loshbaugh for her time and educational coverage and specifically the observations expressed during the meeting. He thanked Miss Lockwood.

BOARD COMMENTS (continued):

Mrs. Mullins thanked Miss Lockwood for her service. She stated that it is always good to have someone on the Board whose views come from the people the District

educates. She wished Miss Lockwood good luck at the Junior Miss Competition. She thanked Mrs. Loshbaugh for her years of service to the community, and for asking tough questions. She commented that Mrs. Loshbaugh's remarks were well thought out and added that it is nice to have an outsider provide observations. She welcomed the new administrators and thanked them in advance for the work they will be doing for students. She thanked Mrs. Kennedy for her volunteer work and added that the Golden Apple award was well deserved. She thanked the Soldotna High School executive board and added that the Board appreciates the many parents who volunteer their time. She congratulated those who were selected as BP Teachers of Excellence. She stated that she had fun at the graduation ceremonies and added that they are the high point of being a Board member. She expressed appreciation for the efforts that went into the ceremonies and noted that they were dignified and uplifting. She reported that the Board worked on the superintendent evaluation and the Board self-evaluation prior to the meeting. She stated that information will be forthcoming for the public. She stated that, although the Board pointed out a few things that would be beneficial to the District, Dr. Peterson is a great superintendent and would choose her above any other superintendent in the state and probably in the nation. She stated that she appreciates Dr. Peterson and the administrative team for their efforts. She stated that the Board is still discussing the Board self-evaluation.

Mrs. Gilman stated that she enjoyed the privilege of attending the graduation ceremonies as a Board member. She reported that she attended graduations at Voznesenka, Kenai Alternative High, Skyview High, and the graduation of a Connections student. She stated that it was helpful to go through the Board self-evaluation process. She thanked those who were selected as BP Teachers of Excellence for their work with students. She thanked the parent volunteers for the tremendous amount of work they perform on behalf of District students. She wished farewell to Miss Lockwood and noted that she is a very talented individual and thanked her for her service to the Board. She reported that Miss Lockwood received the Marj O'Reilly scholarship.

Ms. Germano wished all District employees a great summer. She expressed appreciation to the administration for their hard work.

Mrs. Crawford thanked Mrs. Reynolds and Mrs. Gifford for their presentations regarding weighted grades. She congratulated Mrs. Reynolds, Mr. Dunn and Mr. Dusek on their new assignments. She thanked Mrs. Loshbaugh for her comments and expressed appreciation for her insights concerning the negotiation process. She congratulated those who were selected as BP Teachers of Excellence. She noted that the graduation ceremonies were wonderful. She stated that it is disheartening to see the list of retirees but added that she is glad to have wonderful teachers willing to fill the vacancies. She thanked Miss Lockwood for her service on the Board. She noted that Grigori and Olga Vaissenberg recently became United States citizens.

Dr. Anderson stated that he agreed with a comment made prior to the Board meeting that, if the State of Alaska was smart, they would appoint Dr. Peterson as the new Commissioner of Education. He stated that the Board thinks highly of her efforts to run the District in a very efficient and honorable manner. He congratulated the new administrators and especially thanked Mrs. Reynolds for her work at Soldotna High. He congratulated those who were chosen as BP Teachers of Excellence.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 8:27 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. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

RECESS

At 9:48 p.m., Dr. Anderson called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:

At 3:03 p.m., on Monday, July 1, 2002 at the Borough Administration Building, Soldotna, Alaska, the Board reconvened in regular session. Board members, Mrs Crawford, Ms. Germano, Mrs. Gilman, Mrs. Mullins, Mr. Poindexter and Dr. Anderson were in attendance.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 3:04 p.m., Mrs. Mullins moved the executive session be adjourned. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

ADJOURN:

At 3:05 p.m., Mrs. Crawford moved the School Board meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Nels Anderson, President

Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Clerk

The Minutes of June 3, 2002,
were approved on July 1, 2002
as written.