

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

148 N. Binkley Street

Soldotna, AK 99669

April 15, 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. Rochelle Hanson	Mrs. Sue Biggs
Mrs. Michelle Gage	Ms. Penny Tinker
Mr. Steve Gage	Mr. Sam Stewart
Mr. Paul Kubena	Mrs. Traci Withrow
Mr. Wayne Young	Mr. Jim White
Mrs. Belinda Drake	Mrs. Paula Christensen
Miss Sabrina Malchoff	Mr. Hans Bilben
Miss Stephanie Evans	Mrs. Dorothy Gray
Miss Emily Rojas-Mickelson	Mrs. Barb Eastham
Miss Tania Evan	Mr. Rick Matiya
Mr. Sam DeFrance	Dr. Roy Anderson
Mrs. Trena Richardson	Mrs. Diane McBee
Mrs. Carole Nolden	

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

Dr. Anderson called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. A quorum of School Board members, Dr. Anderson, Mr. Arness, Mrs. Mullins, Mrs. Gilman, Mr. Poindexter, and Mrs. Crawford were in attendance. Ms. Germano participated via conference call.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 5:01 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 budget and negotiations. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 7:36 p.m., Mrs. Mullins moved the executive session be adjourned. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ROLL CALL: Dr. Nels Anderson Present  
 Ms. Deborah Germano Present/Arrived at 7:37 p.m.  
 Mrs. Sammy Crawford Present  
 Mr. Joe Arness Present  
 Mrs. Debra Mullins Present  
 Mrs. Margaret Gilman Present  
 Mr. Al Poindexter Present  
 Miss Katie Lockwood Absent/Excused

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved with the removal of Item 11a(1)., Approval of AR Health Curriculum Opt Out Provisions, from the Consent Agenda to Item 11c.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of April 1, 2002, were approved as printed.

Dr. Anderson introduced five students (Miss Sabrina Malchoff, Miss Stephanie Evans, Miss Emily Rojas-Mickelson, Miss Tania Evan, Mr. Sam DeFrance) and their chaperone (Mr. Wayne Young) who were participating in a two-day Borough-sponsored government field trip.

SCHOOL REPORTS: Mr. Paul Kubena, Sterling Elementary principal, reported that the school has 242 students in kindergarten through sixth grade. He stated that the integration of art continues to be a major focus of the school. Three students narrated a computer-generated Power Point presentation. Miss Alyssa Ellison spoke about the GeoBee, Math-A-Thon fund raising program, DARE Program, DEAR Program, computer lab, RIF Program, and the recycle can drive. Miss Melissa Massey spoke about the spelling bee, forensics competition, Battle of the Books, science fair, keyboarding lab, and the P.T.A. organization. Miss Mara Mohler reported on intramural basketball and volleyball, the birthday recognition for Mr. Kubena, Crazy Hat Day, special guest artists in the classroom, a spelunking hallway display, a visit by Mrs. Celia Anderson (District art specialist), the band and choir programs, bicycle rodeo, and the QUEST Program. Mr. Jordon Merkes reported on Falcon Fun Night, Sterling Student Council, the spring carnival, Field Day, and classroom field trips. Mrs. Sue Biggs directed the Soaring Falcons choir in two songs titled, "A Patriotic Salute" and "God Bless the U.S.A."

RECESS At 7:47 p.m., Dr. Anderson called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS: At 7:50 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS: Dr. Peterson reported that the Nikolaevsk Gymnasium grand opening will be Friday, April 26 at 10:30 a.m.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SITE COUNCIL, AND/OR P.T.A., K.P.A.A., K.P.E.A., K.P.E.S.A.: Mrs. Carole Nolden, K-Beach Elementary site council member, distributed a letter from the council regarding declining funds for the school due to projected enrollment. She stated that K-Beach is not a school with declining enrollment and gave a brief enrollment history. She stated that the school currently has 470 students and reported that the projected enrollment for the 2002-2003 school year is 434 students. She noted that 1.5 teaching positions have been reduced even though the enrollment continues to increase. She reported that two subdivisions will be built near the school with a projection of over 100 homes. She stated that K-Beach Elementary has an increased enrollment for the second year in a row and yet teaching positions have been reduced. She stated that the reductions are unacceptable,

especially when schools and teachers are being made accountable through mandated testing. She noted that evidence shows that it is critical that a strong reading foundation be established in the lower elementary grades in order to have success at any academic level. She stated that class sizes must also be configured at an acceptable level so that teachers can achieve goals set by the Department of Education and Early Development. She stated that K-Beach Elementary would like to have the 1.5 teacher position returned, to have the District reassess school boundaries to balance enrollment, to decrease the PTR formula adopted by the Board of Education to a lower class size, and to provide the appropriate staffing for the correct number of students. Mrs. Nolden provided a spreadsheet showing possible staff and student configurations at each grade level for a projected enrollment of 434 students. She asked the Board to acknowledge the pocket of growth in the K-Beach area and to review the enrollment and allocate the appropriate number of teachers for the amount of students.

Dr. Anderson suggested that Mrs. Nolden review the enrollment figures with Mr. Syverson. She replied that in February, Mrs. Richardson wrote a letter to Mr. Syverson regarding the school's projected staffing.

Ms. Germano stated that the proposed class configuration scenarios show 17 classrooms and noted that the 2002-2003 teacher allocation is for 21.5 teachers. She asked how the school will be using the additional staff. Mrs. Richardson reported that 17.5 teachers are allocated for regular classroom positions and added that with 470 students, K-Beach Elementary is allocated for full-time teachers for music, library and physical education.

Dr. Peterson stated that the administration would like to respond in writing to the K-Beach Elementary site council.

#### AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Mrs. Diane McBee, executive board member of the Alaska Science Consortium, presented the Alaska Science Consortium Award to the District which was accepted by Ms. Dorothy Gray.

#### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Peterson reported that the joint worksession with the Borough Assembly regarding the state budget has been rescheduled for Wednesday, April 17. She announced that the DARE Program graduation will be held on Tuesday, April 16 in the Soldotna High theater, at 7:00 pm. She reminded the Board that the Masonic Awards ceremony will be held on Thursday, April 18, in the Kenai Central High auditorium, at 7:00 p.m.

#### FINANCIAL REPORT:

Mrs. Douglas presented the financial report of the District for the periods ending February 28 and March 31, 2002.

#### BUDGET TRANSFERS:

Mrs. Douglas reported on third quarter budget transfers Numbers 139 through 429 for various schools and departments within the District.

#### CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of AR 6158 (Health Curriculum Opt Out Provisions), Long Term Substitute Teacher Contracts, Administrative Recommendation Regarding Resignations, Request for Leave of Absence—Certified, Request for Leave of Absence—Support, and New Teacher Assignment.

- AR 6158 (Health Curriculum Opt Out Provisions): Item Number 11a(1). was moved to item Number 11c.
- Long Term Substitute Teacher Contracts: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve long term substitute teacher contracts for Kris Barnes, Grade 5/6, North Star Elementary and Nancy Thibodeau, Social Studies, Kenai Middle School.
- Administrative Recommendation Regarding Resignations: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve resignations effective at the end of the 2001-2002 school year from Patricia J. Blacklock, special education/ resource, Skyview High School; Lisa M. Chambers, intermediate teacher, Susan B. English School; Gweni Hurd, language arts, Kenai Central High School; and Molly Kennedy-Traynor, occupational therapist, Sears Elementary. Mr. Syverson recommended the Board not approve a resignation from Foley Weems, generalist, Port Graham School.
- Request for Leave of Absence—Certified: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve an unpaid leave of absence request for the 2002-2003 school year for Ginger Drais, hearing impaired, Kenai Central High.
- Request for Leave of Absence—Support: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve an unpaid leave of absence request for 16 weeks (effective January 13, 2003) for Maryellen Dalberg, Title I Tutor, Seward Elementary.
- New Teacher Assignment: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve a teaching assignment for the 2002-2003 school year for Judy A. Gonsalves, speech language pathologist, West Homer Elementary.
- ACTION Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 2 through 6. Mrs. Crawford seconded.
- Motion carried unanimously.
- New Administrator Appointments: Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve the appointment of Alan L. Fields as assistant principal of Kenai Central High School and Darell Johnston as principal/ teacher of Port Graham Elementary/High School.
- ACTION Ms. Germano moved the Board approve the appointment of Alan L. Fields as assistant principal of Kenai Central High School and Darell Johnston as principal/ teacher of Port Graham Elementary/High School. Mrs. Crawford seconded.
- Motion carried unanimously.
- AR and BP 6158, Health Curriculum Opt Out Provisions: Dr. Gary Whiteley recommended the Board approve revisions to BP and AR 6158 (Health Curriculum Opt Out Provisions). He stated that revisions to the policy reflect conversations with the Board regarding the new health curriculum. He stated that revisions to the administrative regulation will allow greater parent choice surrounding controversial issues.
- ACTION Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve revisions to AR 6158, (Health Curriculum Opt Out Provisions). Mrs. Crawford seconded.
- Mr. Poindexter stated that according to AR 6158, a student must opt out of the entire health class if they miss more than three days of instruction for objections to

controversial issues. He asked whether there was a conflict with board policy that states that a student will lose credits if they miss more than 15 days.

Dr. Whiteley explained that a substitute assignment is given for the three days that a student opts out of the health curriculum and added that the student is not counted as being absent. He reported that the Health Curriculum Committee felt that if parents objected to more than three days then the whole course should be substituted.

Ms. Germano stated that previously parents either chose to allow their children to participate in the Health Curriculum or opt out of the entire course. Ms. Germano stated that the three-day opt out option is a workable compromise.

Mr. Poindexter asked what happens when a student opts out of a specific class featuring a guest speaker and the speaker is unable to speak on that day. Dr. Whiteley replied that specific concerns and accommodations would have to be addressed by the teacher and added that the plan was to include all controversial lessons in the same time period.

Ms. Germano expressed concern that the Board would be putting principals and teachers in the position of negotiating curriculum because the administrative regulation states that, "If after reviewing the curriculum, a parent has any particular concerns, he/she will discuss his/her concerns with the teacher and principal. If after this discussion accommodations cannot be agreed on the parent may choose to opt their student out..." Dr. Whiteley responded that principals should show the controversial materials to the parents and let the parent decide whether to opt their child out of the class. Dr. Whiteley stated that principals would not debate the curriculum.

Motion carried unanimously.

**ACTION**

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve revisions to BP 6158 (Health Curriculum Opt Out Provisions). Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Resolution 01-02-13, Support of a Long Range Fiscal Plan for Alaska:**

Dr. Anderson introduced Resolution 01-02-13, Support of a Long Range Fiscal Plan for Alaska.

**ACTION**

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve Resolution 01-02-13, Support of a Long Range Fiscal Plan for Alaska. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

**Resolution 01-02-13, Support of a Long Range Fiscal Plan for Alaska (continued):**

Ms. Germano expressed concern that the resolution does not specifically address the belief that schools and education are the highest priority of the state.

Mrs. Crawford suggested adding the language, "Whereas education is, by constitution, the highest priority and important to the well being of the future of the state."

Mrs. Gilman suggested that the Board keep the resolution language the same as presented and added that the legislature is already aware of the Board's feelings

regarding education.

Mrs. Crawford stated that a School Board resolution should point out that education is the highest priority.

Mrs. Mullins stated that she feels sure that if the legislature adopts a long range fiscal plan that education will be a high priority. She suggested the Board keep the statements in the resolution broad and encourage the state to develop a fiscal plan.

Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/  
COMMENTS:**

Dr. Anderson acknowledged several Boy Scouts in the audience and asked what merit badge they were trying to achieve. An unidentified scout introduced the group as Troop 152 from Kenai who are working on their communication merit badge. He reported that the badge requires attendance at a committee meeting, borough meeting, or a school board meeting, and to take notes and make a report.

Mr. Ben Histan reported that a group of students in attendance were from Mr. Harbison's advanced placement government class at Soldotna High School.

Dr. Anderson introduced Mrs. Belinda Drake who is assisting Mr. Young in chaperoning the students participating in the Borough-sponsored government field trip.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

Mr. Poindexter thanked the students for attending the Board meeting. He stated that he supported Ms. Germano's efforts to add language in Resolution 01-02-13 regarding education as a top priority in the state, but added that he did not know how to state it appropriately. He stated that the additional language may have been construed as self-serving. He noted that the Assembly has appropriated \$60,000 to construct school greenhouses as part of a science project to grow trees for the Kenai Peninsula. He stated that he hopes that the greenhouses become part of a vocational education program to learn about the process of controlled environments, soil, and production agriculture. He added that the vocational education program should be involved in the actual construction of the greenhouses.

**BOARD COMMENTS (continued):**

Mrs. Gilman thanked Sterling Elementary for their school report and pointed out that the student council was comprised mostly of females. She reported that she visited North Star Elementary and Nikiski Elementary Schools. She reported that she has seen some incredibly beautiful student artwork displayed at each of the schools she has visited and credited Mrs. Celia Anderson, District art specialist. Mrs. Gilman stated that she is vocal about a fiscal plan for the state and noted that she did not want to include language in the resolution mandating that education be a top priority because she feels that the legislature will make the same choice. She stated that she received some comments from parents about the "Work to Rule" employee action. She stated that she hopes that the District and employee groups do not send home "Work to Rule" information with students.

Ms. Germano thanked Sterling Elementary for their report and added that it was nice to have students included. She apologized for not having an amendment prepared that would add language designating education as a priority. She stated that she was skeptical because the state has had money in the past and did not make education a priority.

Mrs. Mullins expressed appreciation for the attendance and commitment of the Soldotna High government students. She acknowledged the Boy Scouts in the audience and stated that she hoped they learned something. She thanked students participating in the Borough-sponsored government field trip for attending the Board meeting and eating dinner with the Board. She expressed appreciation for the Sterling Elementary School report and the parents for transporting their children. She stated that she especially enjoyed the music provided by the Soaring Falcons choir.

Mrs. Crawford welcomed the students to the Board meeting and added that she encourages students to be involved in government and in voting. She stated that she especially likes to see people from rural areas on the Peninsula. She stated that the report from the Sterling Elementary principal and students was wonderful. She reported that she judged the debate competition at Nikiski High and was just informed that the team won first place in state competition. She stated that Nikiski returned from the state debate competition with 17 medals. Mrs. Crawford congratulated Ms. Trena Richardson on her retirement and added that she will miss her.

Dr. Anderson encouraged the Boy Scouts in the audience to become Eagle Scouts. He stated that the Sterling Elementary presentation was exceptional and commended the staff and students.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 8:35 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 budget and negotiations. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Crawford left at 9:13 p.m.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 10:52 p.m., Mr. Poindexter moved the executive session be adjourned. Mr. Arness seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN:

At 10:53 p.m., Mrs. Mullins moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Ms. Germano seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dr. Nels Anderson, President

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Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Clerk

The Minutes of April 15, 2002,  
were approved on May 6, 2002  
as written.