

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

148 N. Binkley Street

Soldotna, AK 99669

April 1, 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
Dr. Gary Whiteley, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction
Mr. Todd Syverson, Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Paul Kubena	Mr. Rick Matiya
Mrs. Lynne Hohl	Mrs. Paula Christensen
Mr. John Kistler	Mr. Tim Peterson
Mrs. Debbie Stewart	Mr. Jim White
Mr. Sam Stewart	Mrs. Lisa Bote-Phillips
Dr. Roy Anderson	Ms. Terri Woodward
Mr. Richard Putney	Mr. Dave Spence
Mrs. Shana Loshbaugh	Mrs. Nan Spooner
Mrs. Jackie Ansotegui	

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

Dr. Anderson called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. A quorum of School Board members, Dr. Anderson, Ms. Germano, Mr. Arness, Mrs. Mullins, Mrs. Gilman, Mr. Poindexter, and Mrs. Crawford were in attendance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 4:31 p.m., Mr. Poindexter 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. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Arness left at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 7:37 p.m., Mrs. Mullins moved the executive session be adjourned. Mrs. Crawford 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	Present
Mr. Joe Arness	Absent/Excused

Mrs. Debra Mullins	Present
Mrs. Margaret Gilman	Present
Mr. Al Poindexter	Present
Miss Katie Lockwood	Present

- APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** The agenda was approved with revisions to Item 11a.(2), Approval of Leave of Absence Requests-Certified, and Item 11d., Approval of Resignations.
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The Revised School Board Minutes of March 4, 2002, were approved as printed.
- PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:** Ms. Velvet Heffner, Sterling Elementary parent, expressed concern for the need for a certified, qualified teacher to teach physical education classes at Sterling Elementary. She acknowledged that money to pay for teachers is a problem and suggested that the District apply for grant money. She referenced a website offering \$50 million in grants and volunteered to assist in applying for the money, if a qualified physical education teacher could be hired. She stated that she observed the current physical education class and was not satisfied. She presented a petition containing 350 signatures requesting the Board hire a certified teacher to teach the physical education classes. She distributed copies of the petition and a page listing the reasons for the petition and a reference to the grant website.
- COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:** Dr. Peterson referenced additional information that was sent in the Board information packet regarding the Seward Softball Program outsource application. She stated that she received an invitation to attend the Masonic Awards Program on April 18 at 7:00 p.m. at Kenai Central and noted that Dr. Anderson would attend. She reported that she received a follow-up invitation from AASB to participate in QS2.
- Ms. Germano stated that she will find out whether it is advantageous for the District to participate in QS2 during the April 2 AASB teleconference.
- AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:** The Board presented a Golden Apple Award to Lisa Bote-Phillips, Kenai Central High Special Education aide, for her dedication to students and service to the District.
- SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Dr. Peterson reported that the parent trip to Juneau has been rescheduled for various dates in April 2002. She reported that the AASB Legislative Fly-in is scheduled for late April. She reported that four students will participate in the Borough-funded student government experience on April 15-16.
- PARTNERSHIPS:** Dr. Whiteley presented a list of organizations and agencies with which the District has leases or agreements.
- BOARD REPORTS:** Mrs. Crawford reported that she attended the Spring Creek graduation and noted that eight men received their diplomas. She reported that the prison superintendent told those present that for most of the offenders this graduation ceremony is the first time in their lives they have been publicly recognized for doing something good.
- CONSENT AGENDA:** Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Tentative Tenure Teacher Assignment, Leave of Absence Requests-Certified, Leave of Absence Requests-Support, Terminations, Seward Bus Purchase, and Budget Transfers.
- Tentative Tenure Teacher Assignment:** Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve a tentative tenure teacher assignment for the 2002-2003 school year for Jennifer Tabor.

- Leave of Absence Requests-Certified: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve an unpaid leave of absence request for the 2002-2003 school year for Janette Cadieux-Lexmond, physical therapist, Soldotna Elementary; Sherri Baktuit, second grade, Soldotna Elementary; and Heather Lindquist, Grades 5-8, Moose Pass Elementary.
- Leave of Absence Requests-Support: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve an unpaid leave of absence request for Loretta Pearce, deaf education interpreter, Kenai Middle School (effective immediately); and Linda Vroman, special education aide, North Star Elementary (effective for the 2002-2003 school year).
- Terminations: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve the terminations of five teachers (currently on an unpaid leave of absence) for failure to notify the District of their intent to return (per KPEA Negotiated Agreement).
- Seward Bus Purchase: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve the purchase of two new 15-passenger special education buses.
- Budget Transfers: Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve budget transfer Number 430 to move funds from the Special Services psychologist and speech therapy salary accounts to professional/technical accounts to pay for contracted services.
- Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve budget transfer Number 434 for the Food Service Department to move funds to the Homer High (\$20,000), Seward High (\$15,000), and Soldotna High (\$14,000) kitchens to pay for additional costs due to increased student participation.
- ACTION Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 6. Ms. Germano seconded.
- Motion carried unanimously.
- FY02 Budget Revision: Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve an amended FY02 Operating Fund budget of \$76,718,250 and a total budget for all funds of \$92,322,110. Dr. Peterson noted that there will be future revisions.
- ACTION Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve revisions to the FY02 Budget revisions as presented. Ms. Germano seconded.
- Motion carried unanimously.
- FY 2002-2003 Budget: Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve an FY03 Operating Fund Budget of \$74,390,220 and a total budget for all funds of \$89,917,829.
- ACTION Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve the FY 2002-2003 annual budget (revised). Mrs. Crawford seconded.
- Motion carried unanimously.
- Resignations: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve resignations effective for the end of the 2001-2002 school year for Bradley Kloeckl (currently on unpaid leave of absence, resignation effective immediately); Theo Lexmond (currently on unpaid

leave of absence, resignation effective immediately); David Martian, Grade 8 math/science, Nikiski Middle/High School; Diane Porter, Grade 2, Sears Elementary; Sue Strutz, physical education, Homer Middle School; Curtis Terrill, science, Skyview High; A. J. Tiger, athletic director, Nikiski Middle/High School; Peggy Totten (resignation effective immediately), Grade 8 Social Studies, Kenai Middle School; Rich Toymil, principal, Paul Banks Elementary; James Ballentine, counselor, Homer High; Barbara Browning, social studies, Homer High; Barbara Burman, special education/speech, Redoubt Elementary; Celia Colvin, Grade 3, K-Beach Elementary; Susan Crane, Grade 5, K-Beach Elementary; Beverly Edwards, Grade 4, K-Beach Elementary; Matthew Estill, special education resource, Homer Middle, Port Graham Elementary/High, Nanwalek Elementary/ High; Bonnie Evans, Grades 5-10, Razdolna School; David Evans III, principal/teacher, Razdolna School; Ann Fraser, Grade 3, Tustumena Elementary; Zada Friedersdorff, Grade 5/6, Redoubt Elementary; Dorothy Gray, teacher specialist, Staff Development; Thomas Green, Grade 6, Kenai Middle; Mary Jackson, kindergarten, Sears Elementary; Sally Kishbaugh, special education/severe, K-Beach Elementary; Sue Liebner, principal, North Star Elementary; Laurine Maxwell-Evans, vision impaired, special education teacher, Redoubt Elementary; Terry McBee, art, Soldotna Middle; Tashawna Olson, counselor, Homer High; Catherine Rate, language arts, Homer High; Trena Richardson, principal, K-Beach Elementary; William Rolph, Grades 4/5, Connections; David Schmidt, music, Soldotna Middle; Deborah Smith, Grade 3, West Homer; and Kathleen Smith, special education teacher, Kenai Central High.

ACTION

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve a revised list of resignations. Ms. Germano seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Administrative Recommendation
Regarding Outsource of Seward Girls
Softball:

Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve an administrative directive to the Seward softball program to resubmit their softball outsource proposal to KPSAA early in the 2002-2003 school year for consideration.

Mr. John Perry asked the Board to approve the Seward Softball Program outsource activity request. He stated that the Region III athletic director told him that the team could play a full schedule of junior varsity games, if approved.

Mrs. Lynn Hohl asked the Board not to approve the administrative recommendation and to allow the softball team to play.

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve the administrative directive to the Seward softball program to resubmit their softball outsource proposal to KPSAA early in the 2002-2003 school year for consideration. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve an amendment to substitute the motion allowing provisional approval for the Seward Softball Program to participate in the 2002 season. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Administrative Recommendation
Regarding Outsource of Seward Girls
Softball (continued):

Ms. Germano acknowledged that the amendment puts the District in an awkward position but added that "time is of the essence" and that she does not want to deny Seward softball participants the opportunity to play. She suggested that the Board review the timeline for outsource activity requests.

Mrs. Mullins reported that a lot of information has been provided and a lot of work has been done regarding the Seward Softball Program outsource activity request. She stated that she does not want to penalize students because of deadlines. She stated that she appreciates the work put forth on the request as well as the e-mail messages of support.

Mrs. Gilman thanked Mrs. Hohl for her work on behalf of the Seward students. She stated that the District needs to constantly remember to do what is best for students. She stated that the softball program is an important activity for the Seward students and added that they should not be kept from playing because of a paperwork deadline.

Amendment carried unanimously.

Amended motion carried unanimously.

2002-2003 Tentative Board Meeting Dates: Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve a tentative list of School Board meetings and a planning session for the 2002-2003 school year. She stated that there is one less meeting scheduled next year and noted that the fall meetings in Homer and Seward will alternate each year allowing visits to each community after the October election.

Mrs. Hohl thanked the Board and administration for accommodating the Seward community. She stated that by alternating the meeting schedule, every other year the Seward residents will be able to meet the newly elected Board members.

ACTION

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve a tentative list of School Board meetings and a planning session for the 2002-2003 school year. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

FIRST READING OF POLICY REVISIONS:

The Board heard a first reading of BP 6158, Health Curriculum Opt Out Provisions. Dr. Whiteley stated that the reason for changing the policy is to allow greater parent choice surrounding controversial issues related to the health curriculum.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/ COMMENTS:

Mr. Richard Douglas asked the Board if they will be reducing teachers for the 2002-2003 school year. He expressed concern that teachers will be cut from Seward Elementary.

Dr. Anderson replied that teachers are hired according to a formula and that if there is a decrease in student enrollment, there will be a reduction of teachers. He referred further questions to the administration and suggested Mr. Douglas express his concerns to the legislature.

Ms. Lisa Quesnel reported that she attended the Region III basketball tournament and added that she is extremely proud of the boy's team for winning the sportsmanship award and the girl's team for winning the academic award as well as the first place championship.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/ COMMENTS (continued):

Mrs. Penny Vadla, parent and teacher, expressed concern that specialists are being reassigned to the classroom next year. She stated that her daughter participates in the QUEST Program and has excelled. She stated that to cut the QUEST Program is a disservice to students and that the District does not do enough for gifted and talented students. She stated that she teaches a few vocational education classes and that the

Vocational Education Program has sent her to conferences and provided books and materials. She stated that the staff development program has provided writing workshops and organized the mentor teacher program. She reported that the Technology Department has provided training in Dreamweaver and Fireworks, and Palm software. She noted that the skills she has learned from each special program has been passed on to her students. She stated that more students are affected if the technology specialist teaches teachers, who in turn, teach students. She stated that if the programs are grant driven, then the District is not saving money by reassigning the specialists to classrooms. She stated that she doesn't want to see valuable programs lost, especially if they are grant driven and beneficial.

Dr. Anderson reported that QUEST Programs are governed by federal law and that the District must comply with the mandates.

Mrs. Vadla stated that she felt compelled to speak to the Board because the training and assistance offered by District special programs make her a better teacher.

Ms. Germano stated that the administration recommended the Board look at programs differently than in the past. She stated that she is confident that the administration is going to come forward with a staff development plan that meets the needs of the teachers. She stated that is looking forward seeing the plan.

Ms. Terri Woodward, Skyview High School head custodian, stated that the impact on school bathrooms and supplies is incredible because of the amount of after-school activities. She asked the Board and administration for more money for supplies and custodial services to accommodate the heavy use. She noted that Soldotna High will be closed this summer causing all student activities to be held at Skyview High.

Dr. Anderson complimented the employees for the fine shape of District buildings.

Ms. Jennifer Hubbard, Sterling Elementary parent, expressed concern for physical education classes and student safety. She stated that if a teacher with a physical education endorsement is not available, then it is better not to offer physical education.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mrs. Gilman stated that she felt sad about the decline in student enrollment causing a revision to the current year budget. She stated that the District has an absolutely fantastic educational program. She stated that she would like to spread the word to parents about the great educational opportunity. She stated that she was also saddened after reading the list of resignations. She extended best wishes to those who resigned and thanked them for their service to the District. She added that she hopes the District can continue to attract the same caliber of teachers to the Peninsula.

BOARD COMMENTS (continued):

Ms. Germano agreed with Mrs. Gilman's comments regarding the approval of resignations. She stated that there are many great teachers in the District. She stated that the Board is trying to do the best they can for students with the money available. She stated that the Board has often been accused of not caring for employees but added that that opinion is not true. She stated that the Board strongly believes that protecting classroom programs is extremely important. She stated that KPBSD is doing the best job in the state at preserving smaller classrooms. She stated that it is frustrating to have to do more with less but added that the Board wants to provide community access to school buildings. She asked for the Board's consensus for the adoption of a resolution at the April 15 meeting regarding a long range fiscal plan for

the state. She stated that she liked the resolution sent by Representative Lancaster which was recently passed by the Anchorage School District. She thanked Ms. Lisa Bote-Phillips for her hard work.

Dr. Anderson announced that the Board was in agreement and asked the administration to draft a long range fiscal plan resolution for consideration.

Mrs. Crawford agreed with Ms. Germano's comments regarding Ms. Bote-Phillips. She reported that she attended the Soldotna High School National Honor Society Induction ceremony. She stated that Mr. Rife was honored at the same event for being chosen for the Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award and noted that Dr. Ed McLain, Deputy Commissioner of Education, presented the award. She stated that she is absolutely committed to ensure that this District remains a great District. She stated that all Board members are committed to make certain that class sizes are as small as possible, especially in primary grades. She stated that parents have a choice in educating their children and therefore the District must be competitive. She stated that she enjoyed watching Region III basketball games. She stated that she will go to Nikiski to judge some debates. She thanked those persons who have been lobbying the legislature for additional education funding.

Mrs. Mullins assured parents that they do listen to them. She stated that the Board does not make quick decisions and usually requires more time to investigate and gather additional information. She thanked parents for bringing their concerns to the Board. She stated that she is especially proud of the Nikiski girl's basketball team for earning the academic award. She stated that it is wonderful for youth to excel at academics, especially when they have such busy schedules. Mrs. Mullins announced that the Nikiski area schools lost a former student in a tragic accident during the week of spring break.

Dr. Anderson stated that he attended the Skyview High Swing Choir Spring Fling which featured Miss Lockwood, student Board representative. He commended Mrs. McKay, choir director and Miss Lockwood, for a wonderful program. He stated that he was disheartened to see Mr. Dave Schmidt's name on the resignation list along with many other fine teachers.

ADJOURN:

At 8:28 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 April 1, 2002,
were approved on April 15, 2002
as written.