

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Homer High School

Homer, AK 99603

March 4, 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:

Mr. Richard Putney	Miss Jennifer Poindexter
Dr. Ron Keffer	Mr. Hans Bilben
Mr. Dave Evans	Mr. Gregg Wilbanks
Mr. Glen Szymoniak	Mr. Rick Matiya
Mr. Peter Swanson	Mr. Dick Sanders
Ms. Ginny Espenshade	Mr. Mike Heimbuch
Mrs. Cindy Barker	Mrs. Anne Heimbuch
Ms. Barb Browning	Mr. Tony Parlow
Ms. Francie Roberts	Mr. John Bushell
Mrs. Patty Jay	Mrs. Dana Sanders
Mrs. Eileen Clark	Mrs. Paula Setterquist
Mrs. Bev Gillaspie	Ms. Rebecca Boone
Ms. Anita Harry	Mrs. Kari Greiner
Mr. Randy Creamer	Ms. Debbie Smith
Dr. Roy Anderson	Mrs. Melissa Cloud
Mr. Tim Whip	Miss Hannah Harrison
Mrs. Sherry Conley	Miss Kasey Aderhold
Mrs. Molly Brann	Ms. Jill Showman
Ms. Francie Roberts	Mr. Chris Perk

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

Dr. Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:34 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	Absent/Excused

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The agenda was approved as written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The School Board Minutes of February 18, 2002, were approved as printed.

SCHOOL REPORTS:

Mr. Dave Evans, Razdolna Elementary principal/teacher, gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the school history and demographics. He stated that the school instructional goal is to improve oral language in three areas as defined by the First Steps framework and is supported through Author's Day, a health fair and science fair. He explained that 100% of incoming kindergarten students speak Russian as their only language. He noted that disciplinary action is rarely needed; students obey on first request. He reported that the school sponsors a vegetable fair, fire safety training, and a six-week summer library program which provides local access to school library books. He reported that the staff conducts weekly collaboration meetings to discuss students and instructional strategies and monthly collaboration meetings with onsite and itinerant staff to celebrate successes and discuss concerns. He reported on student assessment data and state standards. He noted that daily road access, parent involvement, building maintenance, facility inadequacies, poor attendance with migrant families and 100% high school dropout rate by Grade 10 (some students take the GED test) are some of the challenges that face the school. He reported that meeting dual language needs of students, convincing leaders that dual language learners have the capacity to surpass single-language learners in all academic areas by age 14, and maintaining a kindergarten through 12 school setting that embraces the culture and produces successful learners ready to support families at a young age are some of the big issues that face the Razdolna staff.

Mr. Glen Szymoniak, Homer Middle School principal, explained that the school offers four core classes and several exploratory classes including technology skills taught by Mr. John Bushell, a full-time technology teacher. He introduced Miss Kasey Aderhold and Miss Hannah Harrison who gave a PowerPoint presentation thanking the Board, administration, and Borough for the new computers. The presentation highlighted many areas where the new computers are being used. Miss Harrison explained that all teachers post their assignments and grades online and maintain websites where they post the standards that are addressed in their classes. She noted that the school has been participating in Cyber Safari, a nationwide competition, and placed first in 1999, tenth last year, and are waiting for the results of this year's competition. She stated that the Kachemak Bay Branch of the University of Alaska uses the computer lab for college courses and the After the Bell Program uses the computers to provide student academic assistance.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Miss Jennifer Poindexter, Homer High senior, thanked Board members for the opportunity to join them in Juneau. She summarized the two-day Youth Institute held in conjunction with the AASB Legislative Fly-In. She reported that students heard from Derek Peterson who spoke on the importance of student representation on school boards and explained the legislative process. She stated that other speakers talked about the trend of students attending colleges outside of Alaska and the history of Alaska's financial status. She referred to a booklet titled, *Citizens Information Kit*, which provides information regarding Alaska's financial situation and suggested that each District government class have a copy of the booklet to help them better understand Alaska's financial problems. She reported that the last two days were spent visiting with legislators and that Board members presented the District's financial picture to the legislators. She reported that she asked legislators to consider funding a natural resource vocational class in every school in Alaska as soon as the financial picture improves.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS (Continued): Mrs. Molly Brann, Kachemak Selo fourth, fifth and sixth grade teacher, stated that the school is extremely overcrowded and asked the Board to be proactive and help solve the problem. She explained that the school is housed by two buildings that are leased by the District and owned by the village of Kachemak Selo. She reported that

the \$20,000 lease is a bargain when start-up costs for other schools are much higher. She reported on improvements made to the school last year by the village. She stated that the school does not require District funds for building maintenance, bussing, a lunch program, band, choir, music, cocurricular activities, physical education, pool maintenance, utilities, snow removal, or computer and video equipment. She reported that Kachemak Selo parents want students to learn to read and write in English and Russian and to learn math by using books and real experiences. She reported that Kachemak Selo children do not have televisions or computers at home. She stated that the school needs two more classrooms and supply money for books and hands-on activities. She suggested that the village request a loan from the District to build a new building. She invited the Board to visit the school. She shared letters written by Kachemak Selo students regarding the overcrowding situation.

Mrs. Sherry Conley, McNeil Canyon Elementary fourth grade teacher, reported that she and Mr. Walker, Seward Middle/High teacher, participated in the First Annual Alaska Teacher Forum in Juneau. She reported that the purpose of the forum was to discuss teacher recruitment and retention. She stated that six former Alaskan Teachers of the Year, a national Teacher of the Year and four national board certified teachers participated in the forum. She noted that participants in the round table discussion included Commissioner Holloway, Eric Madson (EED Recruitment and Retention Project Director), legislators, state policy makers university leaders, and superintendents from around the state. She stated that the forum provided the participants various talking points to analyze and seek a remedy of the growing need of teacher recruitment and retention which were; 1) the need to be serious about standards for students and teachers, 2) the need to look at teacher preparation and professional development, 3) the need to fix teacher recruitment and put qualified teachers in every classroom, 4) the need to encourage and reward teacher knowledge and skill and 5) the need to create schools that are organized for teacher and student success. She reported that the forum identified several areas to be addressed which include validation, formal mentoring programs, research for teacher attrition, preservice preparation, internships and fellowship for interns, compensation, competitive salaries, loan forgiveness, planning collaboration and preparation time, professional development and growth that is teacher-driven, trained and compensated. She stated that she and Mr. Walker appreciated the support to be able to attend.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS (Continued): Ms. Francie Roberts, Homer High math and QUEST teacher, reported that the Homer High Academic Decathlon team placed second in District 4A and third place in the state. She announced that this year is the first time Homer High has participated at the state level. She noted that the students who participated were Syverine Abrahamson, Travis Keefer, Alder Seaman, Colby Sander, Miriah Phelps, Luke Roberts, Aaron Smith, Toby Pruitt and Joe Pfeil. She stated that in addition to receiving the overall trophy, the students also received medals for individual competitions. She stated that Colby Sander and Luke Roberts received bronze medals in math, Travis Keefer and Luke Roberts received bronze medals in music, Luke Roberts received a bronze medal in interview, Syverine Abrahamson received a silver medal in interview and Luke Roberts received a silver medal in science, and Colby Sander and Travis Keefer were awarded overall high scores in the 4A division. She stated that Luke Roberts received a \$1000 scholarship. She explained that the Academic Decathlon is a test in ten categories that are covered in most high schools and attributed her students' success to the kindergarten through twelfth grade education they received from teachers in the Homer area.

Ms. Eileen Clark, Homer High, English, journalism and yearbook teacher, stated that each year teachers are expected to do more with less time, money and colleagues and then in the spring are asked to make even more budget cuts and assume more

responsibilities. She stated that it is time for the District and state legislature to hear teachers' concerns. She stated that the District must ensure that educators have less demands and more time to prepare and instruct. She stated that the District must ensure that Kenai Peninsula schools retain and recruit quality teachers. She asked the Board to continue to negotiate a contract in good faith for quality teachers and quality education. She stated that the students in the District deserve a quality education and should be considered an investment for the future, and are considered Alaska's best natural resource.

Ms. Jill Showman, Voznesenka Elementary teacher, stated that in the past five years she has seen numerous cuts to programs and schools. She stated that without educational supplies and textbooks, students will have nothing to learn. She stated that teachers in the Russian villages are teaching in crowded schools with not enough chairs or supplies. She stated that the school staff has done everything possible to make ends meet and added that she has spent more than \$650 of her own money for teaching supplies (not including the cost of classes or educational memberships). She stated that the workload continues to increase and yet more budget cuts are made. She noted that she teaches two Russian classes, two applied communications classes, is the school librarian, and beginning on March 4, will teach a reading class. She stated that she does not have textbooks for any of her classes and much of her personal time is spent preparing lessons and locating teaching materials. She stated that she is concerned about the contract the District has proposed. She stated that approximately 10% of the teaching staff is eligible to retire and more will consider leaving the District if the proposed contract is enacted. She stated that without quality educators the students will have no one to teach them.

Mr. Chris Perk, Homer High athletic director and former graduate, thanked his past teachers for their awesome patience, and the School Board, administration, and community of Homer for their support. He stated that support for teachers is critical and noted that everyone has suffered through budget reductions. He stated that he is proud to be working in the education field and added that he appreciates all of his former teachers. He stated that he is proof that teachers do make a difference.

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

Mr. Hans Bilben, complimented Miss Poindexter and the students who presented the Homer Middle school report and added that they are a credit to District teachers. He reported that according to a recent KPEA survey, 49% of teachers surveyed stated that they will leave the District within the next two years if the negotiated contract does not meet their expectations. He stated that after 15 years of budget cuts, teachers must see some changes. He noted that he will join a group who will travel to Juneau to speak to the legislature about funding for education. He stated that when he arrived on the Peninsula the District was considered one of the best in the country and added that he would like to return it to that level.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS: Dr. Peterson reported that she has received a letter from the North Peninsula Recreation Service Area regarding the consolidation of schools and a memo from KPSAA regarding a Seward outsource application for baseball and softball.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS: The Board presented a Golden Apple Award to Mrs. Angela McKinney, Chapman Elementary volunteer, for her service and dedication to the District. Ms. Mondari, Razdolna Elementary and Kachemak-Selo Elementary secretary, and Ms. Jane Symens, Chapman Elementary volunteer, were not in attendance but also received Golden Apple Awards.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Peterson announced that the Borough Assembly will conduct a worksession on Tuesday, March 12 at 4:00 p.m. to continue the review and discussion of the final report filed by the Borough Reapportionment Committee regarding School Board apportionment and districting. Dr. Peterson reported that the "Leave No District

Behind" legislative campaign was recently discussed in a meeting that included parents, Board members, and administration. She explained that the campaign addresses the area cost differential, rural schools and geographic differences in the District. She noted that the information will be posted on the District website. She announced that she will travel to Juneau with a delegation from the District on March 5 to discuss the campaign with state legislators. She announced that she will travel to Juneau again on March 20 for further discussions with the legislature.

Dr. Anderson encouraged those present to read the "Leave No District Behind" proposal. He stated that the information shows that the District would receive approximately 2.5 million more each year if it were funded consistently with the rest of the state. He stated that the District is pressing the issue very hard this year but may not see any changes until the area cost differential is reviewed in the fall.

2002-2003 BUDGET PRESENTATION: Mrs. Melody Douglas presented the 2002-2003 preliminary School District budget. She recommended that \$1,453,435 in adjustments be made to reconcile the FY03 general fund expenditure budget. She reported that on March 12 the Assembly will discuss a resolution to award the District approximately \$2 million in retroactive interest earnings. She noted that a revised budget may be presented to the Board at the April 1 meeting depending upon action taken by the Assembly. She noted that the District expects additional revenue from the legislature but, at this time, the amount is unknown

Ms. Germano reported that the Board discussed budget issues at an earlier worksession.

BOARD REPORTS:

Mr. Poindexter reported that he went to Juneau with Miss Poindexter, Mrs. Gilman and Ms. Germano. He stated that originally he did not plan to go on the trip but changed his mind after listening to a delegation of teachers insist that the Board's job is to communicate District needs to the legislature. He stated that while in Juneau he heard discussions about inflation-proofing the education foundation funding and Learning Opportunity grants. He stated that the House of Representatives is working hard to solve the fiscal gap problem but that a block of senators have decided that the state does not have a fiscal problem and won't for another 25 years because the money will come out of the permanent fund dividend principal. He urged those present to contact the senators and express their concern for the fiscal gap. He suggested that Board members read the booklet titled, "Citizen's Workbook." He reported that the Board did their best to plead their case but stated that he doubts much will be accomplished until after the election. He reported that he attended the Career Technical Student Organization District Conference where students participated in numerous skill and leadership competitions. He stated that Miss Poindexter placed first in the speech contest.

Mrs. Gilman reported that she attended the AASB Legislative Fly-In. She stated that she felt strong support from local legislators. Mrs. Gilman recounted the details of a visit with a senator who suggested that she view the \$1 billion fiscal gap as her own personal financial problem. Mrs. Gilman stated that her response to the senator was that education would still be a priority. Mrs. Gilman urged those present to concentrate their lobbying efforts for additional education funding with local legislators.

Ms. Germano echoed comments made by Mrs. Gilman and Mr. Poindexter regarding the Legislative Fly-in. She reported that the public opinion polls indicate that the top concern of Alaskans' is education funding. She stated that she encouraged District legislators to provide leadership for the state to move forward. She stated that she feels an increase in education funding is likely and added that she hopes it will be included in the foundation formula. She stated that inflation-proofing the formula

has been discussed by legislators.

Mr. Arness reported that the Kenai Peninsula Student Activities Association (KPSAA) denied an outsource application for Seward softball until more information is provided. He stated that the prime sponsor requested that the decision be appealed to the Board so that spring practices can begin. He reported that KPSAA received more information from the Seward softball group. He stated that he informed the Seward softball group that it was too late for an appeal during the March 4 Board meeting since the agenda had already been set. He stated that he would speak to individual Board members even though no decision could be made.

Dr. Anderson asked whether the Seward softball group could proceed without formal Board action if the KPSAA board finds that the outsource application is acceptable. Mr. Arness explained that the KPSAA board will not meet for approximately two months but that members could be contacted by phone. Mr. Arness stated that the Seward group could proceed without formal Board action.

Mr. Arness announced that he will be in Juneau on March 5, 6, and 7, 2002.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Leave of Absence Requests –Certified, New Teacher Assignment, Resignations, Tentative Tenure Teacher Assignment, Administrative Recommendation Regarding Leave of Absence Requests – Support, Budget Transfers, and Sabbatical Request.

Leave of Absence Requests –Certified:

Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve an unpaid leave of absence request for the 2002-2003 school year for Douglas Emmerich, Grade 4, Mountain View Elementary; Steve Gillaspie, health/physical education, Nikiski Middle/High; Russell Lewis , Grade 6, Tustumena Elementary; Linda Overturf, home economics, Soldotna Middle; and Bev Hunter-Gillaspie, assistant principal, Homer High.

New Teacher Assignment:

Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve a teacher assignment for the 2001-2002 school year for Amber Fischer, elementary music (temporary), Tustumena Elementary.

Resignations:

Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve resignations for Malcolm Fleming, unassigned, (effective March 4, 2002); Ralph Steeves, Moose Pass School principal/teacher (effective at the end of the 2001-2002 school year); Alice Tucker, Spring Creek principal/teacher (effective at the end of the 2001-2002 school year); and Donald Glaze, Nikiski Middle/High assistant principal (effective at the end of the 2001-2002 school year).

Tentative Tenure Teacher Assignment:

Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve a tentative tenure teacher assignment for the 2002-2003 school year for Dale Moon.

Administrative Recommendation Regarding Leave of Absence Requests – Support:

Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve an unpaid leave of absence request for the 2002-2003 school year for Jeanie Carter, special education aide, Nikiski Middle/High. Mr. Syverson recommended the Board not approve an unpaid leave of absence request for the 2002-03 school year for Debbie Church, school secretary II, Nikiski Middle/High.

Budget Transfers:

Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve budget transfer Number 252 for Aurora Borealis Charter School for \$19,575 for additional work days for teachers; for \$55,000 for desks, chairs, curriculum and classroom supplies for three classrooms; and for \$40,000 for computer purchases.

Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve budget transfer Number 256 to reallocate part of the Learning Opportunity Grant request as follows: \$298,000 to

fund the after school and summer After-The-Bell programs at Nikiski, Seward, Homer and Kenai; \$10,000 to provide counseling treatment and support to grade 7-12 students by Seaview Community Services; and \$10,000 to provide out-of-school suspension services for Homer Alternative School.

Sabbatical Request: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve an unpaid sabbatical request for the 2002-2003 school year for Jerry Dixon, Quest, Seward Elementary.

ACTION Ms. Germano moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 7. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Administrator Appointment: Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve an administrator appointment for the 2002-2003 school year for Charles W. Walsworth III, West Homer Elementary principal.

ACTION Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve Charles W. Walsworth III as West Homer Elementary principal for the 2002-2003 school year

Motion carried unanimously.

BOARD COMMENTS: Mrs. Gilman thanked the Razdolna Elementary and Homer Middle schools for their presentations. She recommended that the slides from the Razdolna School showing the difficulty in commuting to school be included in the legislative information packet. Mrs. Gilman commended the students who spoke to the Board and noted that they are the result of the education that has been provided by District teachers. She reported that she was a guest reader for Dr. Suess' birthday party at Sears Elementary.

Ms. Germano thanked Ms. Roberts for her work with the Homer High School Academic Decathlon team. She stated that she was particularly pleased that the results of the competition were reported in the newspaper. She noted that the Skyview wrestling team received a citation in the state senate. She thanked the Homer Middle School students who presented the school report. She recognized all District employees for their hard work and noted that the business of education is becoming more stressful. She asked all employees to appreciate each other for their dedication and contribution to education.

Mrs. Crawford thanked Mr. Evans and Mr. Szymoniak for their school presentations. She expressed her appreciation for the presentations from the public. She stated that she reluctantly supports the preliminary FY03 budget and added that she hopes the District will receive funding help from the legislature. She echoed Ms. Germano's positive comments regarding District employees.

Mr. Poindexter thanked the public for their attendance and noted that several of his former students were in the audience. He stated that he enjoyed both school presentations and noted that Razdolna has lessons for the rest of the District regarding dual languages. He stated that he understood the difficulties of commuting to school and compared Razdolna School with his own experiences as a student in Alaska. He stated that the Homer Middle School presentation was outstanding. He reported that Miss Harrison recently placed third in the Homer Soil and Water Speech Contest, Miss Poindexter placed second, and Miss Cushing placed first and will represent the District in Anchorage. Mr. Poindexter informed those present that the vocational education worksession was held prior to the Board meeting at 3:30 p. m. He stated that he appreciated Ms. Roberts' work with the Academic Decathlon team and added that the District needs to participate in more competitions of that kind.

Mr. Arness thanked the schools for their presentations.

BOARD COMMENTS (Continued):

Mrs. Mullins thanked the public for their attendance. She reminded those present of the open forum held prior to the Board meeting and encouraged the public to informally speak to the Board about educational issues. She thanked the principals for their school reports and suggested that the District bring legislators to remote schools that are accessible only by four-wheelers. She stated that she is grateful to Mrs. Roberts for bringing the Academic Decathlon trophy and medals to the Board meeting. She stated that there are many children in the District who have achieved academic honors that should be recognized. She thanked Miss Poindexter for sharing her comments regarding the trip to Juneau. She stated that the Board tries to take a student each time they travel to Juneau because the legislators will listen to the student. Mrs. Mullins commended Mr. Poindexter for his vocational education presentation.

Dr. Anderson stated that Mr. Poindexter's vocational education presentation was intriguing and thought provoking. He thanked those present for their attendance and for their cordiality. He stated that he appreciated the kind words from Mr. Bilben and noted that three Board members are former teachers and that the rest of the Board members are also strong advocates for education. He stated that the Board is hopeful that the legislature will provide funding relief. He stated that the Board does not like to be viewed as the opposition and added that the members try to be the best possible advocates for education. He announced that his three sons assisted with the U.S. Olympic hockey venue in Salt Lake City, Utah. He stated that he appreciated the District employees and public who support the school system.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 9:07 p.m. Mrs. Mullins moved that 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. Mr. Arness seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

RECESS:

At 10:45 p.m., Dr. Anderson called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:

At 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 11, the Board reconvened in executive session at the Borough Administration Building, Superintendent's Office. Ms. Germano, Mrs. Crawford, Mr. Arness, Mrs. Mullins, and Mrs. Gilman were present. Mr. Poindexter participated via conference call. Dr. Anderson arrived at 5:12 p.m.

RECESS:

At 6:35 p.m., Dr. Anderson called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:

At 9:08 a.m. on March 28, 2002, the Board reconvened in executive session at the Borough Administration Building, Superintendent's Office. Dr. Anderson, Mr. Arness, Mrs. Gilman and Mrs. Crawford were present. Ms. Germano and Mr. Poindexter participated via conference call. Mrs. Crawford left the meeting at 10:02 a.m. Dr. Anderson left the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 10:55 a.m. Mr. Poindexter moved the executive session be adjourned. Mr. Arness seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN:

At 10:56 a.m., on March 28, 2002, Ms. Germano moved the School Board Meeting

be adjourned. Mrs. Gilman seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Nels Anderson, President

Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Clerk

The Minutes of March 4, 2002,
were approved on April 1, 2002
as written.