

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

148 N. Binkley Street

Soldotna, AK 99669

January 7, 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. Jim Dawson	Mrs. Karen Mahurin
Mrs. Elizabeth Hayes	Mrs. Paula Christensen
Mr. Chris Hayes	Mrs. Terri Woodward
Mr. Richard Putney	Mr. Dave Carey
Mr. Sam Stewart	Mr. Charlie Stephens
Mr. Roy Anderson	Mr. John Wensley
Miss Crystal Hayes	Mr. Gene Dyson
Mr. Colton Hayes	Mr. Rick Matiya
Mr. Tim Peterson	Mr. Dave Spence
Mr. William Keller	Mrs. Shana Loshbaugh

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

Dr. Anderson called the meeting to order at 4:09 p.m. A quorum of School Board members, Dr. Anderson, Ms. Germano, Mr. Arness, Mrs. Mullins, Mrs. Gilman, and Mr. Poindexter were in attendance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 4:10 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. Mr. Arness seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 7:34 p.m., Mrs. Mullins moved the executive session be adjourned. Ms. Germano 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	Absent/Excused
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 11b., Approval of FY02 Budget Revision.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of December 3, 2001, were approved as printed.

SCHOOL REPORTS: Mr. Jim Dawson, Mt. View Elementary principal, facilitated a Power Point presentation created and given by the school student council. He played a song titled, *Learn Like an Eagle* recorded earlier by Miss Crystal Hayes and Miss Bethany Blumenshine. Several student council members reported on learning, school goals, state standards, school safety, student council, special programs (DARE, QUEST, physical education, library, music and band), lunch and other activities.

RECESS: At 7:48 p.m., Dr. Anderson called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS: At 7:53 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Mr. William Keller asked the Board to consider the implementation of weighted grades at the high school level. He stated that class standings can be determined by weighted grades and that the University of Alaska (UAA) awards scholarships for the top 10% of each Alaskan high school graduating class. He stated that the UAA scholarship program was designed to provide an incentive for the brightest Alaskan students to complete their college education in Alaska. He stated that by not using the weighted system, students who elect to take advanced placement classes take the risk of losing their scholarship eligibility. He stated that students who take advanced placement courses should not be penalized for taking college level courses in high school. He stated that weighted grades would put District students on the same level when competing for national scholarships. He added that taking college level courses while in high school prepares students for the real world and post secondary education. He stated that many articles have been written in support of weighted grades.

Mr. Dave Carey, praised Dr. Anderson for assisting the Skyview High wrestling team with the development their program. He explained that for many years Dr. Anderson has conducted weight certification physicals.

Mr. Carey stated that over the past 10 years his salary has increased \$2,404 but is reduced by inflation and health care deductions (which have recently increased another \$30). He proposed that in addition to asking the state legislature for additional money and asking the Borough for funding above the cap, the Board ask the Borough Mayor and Assembly to grant a sales taxes waiver for all District employees for items purchased in the Borough. He stated that the waiver would constitute a 3% to 5% increase in buying power, promote buying locally, and increase the number of local jobs. He stated that this proposal would send the message to District employees that the Kenai Peninsula values its children and its teachers. He stated that the failure of easy solutions will strengthen the call for civil disobedience by District employees in the near future.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS: Dr. Peterson reported that she received an outsource application from the Seward

community for baseball and softball programs. She noted that a copy of the December 7 memo regarding the Technology Work Group has been included in the Board general information packet.

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

Mrs. Karen Mahurin, KPESA president, expressed concern that school principals are members of the District bargaining team. She stated that principals will also be negotiating with the administration this school year and that principals on the team will have inside information that KPEA and KPESA will not have. She asked whether principals who serve in an advisory capacity to the negotiating team will be allowed to participate in caucuses, have access to all budget documents, and be involved in the preparation of proposals. She stated that she is concerned that it will be a tough year and does not want the District to do anything that could make it more negative.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Peterson reported that schools across the water have completed Year Two of the Technology Plan. She noted that the mid-year Board goal update is included in the Board general information packet for review and she requested Board feedback. Dr. Peterson reported that District staff has logged almost 600 hours of travel to schools outside the Central Peninsula area between the months of August through December. Dr. Peterson stated that she will continue to collect the information for the remainder of the school year.

Dr. Anderson stated that the information in the travel report will be helpful, especially if the Board districting issue goes before the voters.

Ms. Germano stated that teacher specialists are required to travel as part of their job. Dr. Peterson stated that teacher specialists serve all schools. Dr. Peterson added that school staffs complain that the Central Office does not make school visits and therefore, do not get the help they need. She noted that the travel report shows to the contrary.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Mrs. Douglas presented the financial report of the District for the period ending November 31, 2001. She called the Board's attention to the equipment fund account and explained that the revenue budget is short because it did not get updated before the report was generated. She stated that the equipment fund revenue budget should be \$795,540.

BOARD REPORTS:

Ms. Germano reported that she attended the Health Curriculum Committee meeting and that the curriculum will be presented to the Board at the next meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Leave of Absence – Certified; Long-Term Substitute Teacher Contracts; Outsourcing for Homer High School Baseball and Softball; New Teacher Assignments; and Resignation.

Leave of Absence – Certified:

Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve an unpaid leave of absence for the remainder of the 2001-02 school year for Tammy Vollom-Matturro, music, Tustumena Elementary.

Long-Term Substitute Teacher Contracts:

Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve long-term substitute teaching contracts for Rita Geller, physical education, K-Beach Elementary and Ingrid McKinstry, Grades 3-6, Fireweed Academy.

Outsourcing for Homer High School

- Baseball and Softball: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve an outsource agreement for the Homer High School Baseball and Softball Club 2001-2002 spring activity season.
- New Teacher Assignments: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve teacher assignments for the 2001-2002 school year for Jodie Swager, special education resource, West Homer Elementary; Albert Tiger, athletic director/math teacher, Nikiski Middle/High School; and Erik Viste, (temporary) school psychologist, Districtwide Pupil Services.
- Resignation: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve a resignation (effective January 7, 2002) from Paul Sayan, Grade 5, Seward Elementary.
- ACTION Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1, 2, 4 and 5. Mr. Poindexter seconded.
- Motion carried unanimously.
- ACTION Mr. Arness moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Item Number 3. Mr. Poindexter seconded.
- Ms. Germano asked why activity fees were charged for girls' softball but not for boys' baseball. She asked who would fund the outsourcing program for Homer baseball and softball.
- Mr. Arness explained that the activity fees are registration fees paid by the program for participation in tournaments or other activities. He further explained that the Homer American Legion is financially supporting both programs.
- Mrs. Gilman asked if the outsource application was for one-year. Mr. Arness verified that the Homer Baseball and Softball Club outsourcing request was for one year. Mrs. Gilman questioned the cost of girls' softball uniforms. Mr. Syverson explained that a helmet could cost as much as \$150 and that sports uniforms are expensive. Ms. Germano explained that the baseball team uniforms were purchased a couple of years ago but the softball team does not have uniforms.
- Ms. Germano stated that she supports the outsource application but suggested that the Board ensure that both programs are equitably supported by the American Legion.
- Mrs. Gilman asked whether the District would be obligated to continue Homer baseball and softball programs if the American Legion decided not to continue support the following year. Mr. Arness responded that the agreement has been reviewed by legal counsel and that the District would not be obligated.
- Motion carried unanimously.
- FY02 Budget Revision: Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve an amended FY02 Operating Fund budget of \$75,008,547. She explained that the amendment is necessary due to a shortfall of student enrollment in the Connections Program and money awarded by the Alaska Legislature for the Learning Opportunity Grant. She stated that the amended budget will require further adjustment as soon as information is received from the Department of Education. She explained that it was necessary to approve the current amendment before next budget cycle begins.

- FY02 Budget Revision (continued): Mrs. Woodward asked for a definition of "in-kind expenses." Mrs. Douglas explained that "in-kind expenses" represent funds the Borough expends on behalf of the District such as insurance payments, audit fees, maintenance of buildings, custodial services and utilities.
- ACTION Ms. Germano moved the Board approve an amended FY02 Operating Fund budget of \$75,008,547. Mrs. Mullins seconded.
- Motion carried unanimously.
- KPSAA Handbook Changes: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve changes to the KPSAA Middle School Handbook for the 2001-2002 school year.
- ACTION Mr. Arness moved the Board approve changes to the KPSAA Middle School Handbook for the 2001-2002 school year. Mrs. Mullins seconded.
- Mr. Poindexter asked for an explanation about the proposed language that states, "a non KPBSD school on the Kenai Peninsula having membership in ASAA at the high school level, may participate in middle school level Borough tournaments in non-team sport programs..." He asked why teams were not included.
- Mr. Spence responded that team activities are scheduled at the beginning of the school year. He stated that it causes chaos to revise the schedule when a new school requests to be seeded in the Borough tournament. He stated that in September 2001 Cook Inlet Academy (CIA) requested that KPSAA seed them in the cross-country running Borough Tournament. He reported that in the past there have been no private schools who have petitioned to participate in middle school Borough tournaments. He explained that private schools have not had the amount of students necessary to compete against District middle schools. He reported that the KPSAA Board decided to allow Borough tournament participation this first year in non team activities. He explained that team activities have already been scheduled for this school year and that CIA did not express a desire to compete in any Borough tournament team activities at the middle school level.
- Mr. Poindexter asked what would happen if a non KPBSD team expressed an interest in participating in a Borough tournament. Mr. Spence explained that the KPSAA Board would hear the request.
- Mr. Arness reminded the Board that the revisions apply only to Borough tournaments. He noted that it is unwieldy to add teams to the Borough tournament schedule at the last minute. He stated that he believes in including all students in activities but added that there have been no requests for team participation in Borough tournaments by non KPBSD schools. He explained that CIA has requested participation in cross-country running and cross-country skiing Borough tournaments at the end of the season.
- Dr. Anderson asked why non KPBSD teams are excluded from participation in Borough tournaments. Mr. Arness explained that non KPBSD teams have not requested to participate in Borough tournaments and are not participating throughout the season on a regular basis. Mr. Spence stated that non KPBSD middle school teams have the opportunity to participate with other schools in Region II.

KPSAA Handbook Changes (continued): Mr. Spence stated that CIA was informed that they must notify KPSAA if they wish to participate in middle school level Borough tournaments.

Mr. Poindexter asked whether small school teams participated in Borough tournaments. Mr. Spence responded that they do not usually participate.

Mr. Syverson explained that from year to year CIA may not have enough 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to field a middle school team so the District will allow a group of students from a variety of grades to play as part of the CIA team.

Mr. Poindexter stated that the handbook revisions could be worded to allow CIA to participate in a Borough tournament if they are able to field a team. Dr. Peterson stated that the KPSAA handbook is approved annually and that the tournament issue could be considered during the next review.

Motion carried unanimously.

Request for Voznesenka Middle School Wrestling:

Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve wrestling as an activity for Voznesenka School for the 2001-2002 school year. Mr. Syverson explained that the team will participate as a club at no cost to the District.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve wrestling as an activity for Voznesenka School for the 2001-2002 school year.

Mr. Poindexter clarified that the Voznesenka wrestling team will be allowed to participate in the Borough tournament. Mr. Arness explained that although there will be no expense to the District this first year, the club will be back to seek money for a stipend, if it is successful. He stated that Voznesenka School's request to offer wrestling is the process used for any sport to begin at a school.

Mrs. Gilman asked how wrestling can be offered at no expense to the District. Mr. Arness reported that the principal/coach has contacted other middle schools to locate old mats and uniforms. Mr. Spence reported that there were approximately 6 to 8 wrestlers.

Mr. Arness stated that the District does not purchase uniforms for any sports teams. He stated that the parents or school community raise money to buy uniforms.

Motion carried unanimously.

Public Input Regarding KPEA and KPESA Negotiations:

Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve a formal opportunity for public input on contractual issues with KPEA and KPESA at the January 21, 2002 School Board Meeting under the public presentations portion of the agenda, following the protocol for addressing the Board of Education.

Dr. Anderson asked whether the time period should be limited. Dr. Peterson stated that the public comment period should be held during the public presentations portion of the agenda. She noted that the time could be extended beyond the 30 minute aggregate limit.

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve a formal opportunity for public input on contractual issues with KPEA and KPESA at the January 21, 2002 School Board Meeting under the public presentations portion of the agenda, following the protocol for addressing the Board of Education. Mr. Arness seconded.

- Public Input Regarding KPEA and KPESA Negotiations (continued): Dr. Peterson clarified that the time limit will be 3 minutes per speaker with no aggregate time limit. Mr. Arness noted that the January 21 agenda will need to be modified.
- Motion carried unanimously.
- Revised 2002-2003 Certified Staffing Formula: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve the revised 2002-03 Certified Staffing Formula. Mr. Syverson explained that the revisions standardize the principal and assistant principal formulas among all District middle schools and high schools.
- ACTION Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve the revised 2002-03 Certified Staffing Formula. Mr. Poindexter seconded.
- Ms. Germano stated that she would like to revisit the assistant principal formula next year. She stated that she would like the formula to be based on what is educationally sound. Mr. Syverson stated that Mr. Putney and Mrs. Sandahl will be notified of the request to review the formula next year.
- Motion carried unanimously.
- KPEA, KPESA Negotiation Team: Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve the appointment of Todd Syverson, Richard Putney, Melody Douglas, Ken Meacham, and Ron Keffer to the District negotiating team.
- ACTION Ms. Germano moved the Board approve the appointment of Todd Syverson, Richard Putney, Melody Douglas, Ken Meacham, and Ron Keffer to the District negotiating team. Mr. Arness seconded.
- Mrs. Mullins asked whether a principal has served on the negotiating team in the past. Mrs. Douglas responded that Mr. Paul Epperson, former Sterling Elementary principal, served on the last negotiating team.
- Motion carried unanimously.
- FIRST READING OF POLICY REVISIONS: The Board heard a first reading of BP 6146, Graduation Requirements/Standards of Proficiency - The Certified Diploma. Dr. Whiteley explained that the changes will bring the policy in line with state statutes.
- BOARD COMMENTS: Mrs. Gilman thanked the Mt. View Elementary staff and students for the school report. She informed the Board that each year Mr. Dawson invites the student council to a sleepover in January at the school. She noted that her son was one of the student council presenters.
- Ms. Germano noted that KPSAA regulations limit participants to one game per day at the middle school level and asked whether the limitation should be considered at the high school level. She stated that students are playing both C team and junior varsity and are playing too many games in a day. Mr. Syverson responded that ASAA limits participants to six quarters per day and must forfeit any games played beyond the limit. Ms. Germano expressed concern for the students who participate in more than one game and for those who sit on the bench. She expressed her thanks to Homer High School for use of the facility during the holiday to assemble

Christmas baskets for needy families as part of the Sharing of the Spirit Program.

BOARD COMMENTS (continued):

Miss Lockwood stated that she appreciated the Mt. View Elementary School presentation. She stated that she was happy to be back at school.

Mr. Poindexter stated that he appreciated the attendance by District staff at the Board meetings.

Dr. Anderson appointed Mrs. Gilman and Mr. Poindexter to the Budget Committee, and Mrs. Mullins, Mr. Arness, and Ms. Germano to the negotiating team.

ADJOURN:

At 8:54 p.m., Mrs. Mullins moved the School Board meeting be adjourned. Mr. Arness 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 January 7, 2002,  
were approved on January 21, 2002  
as written.