

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes

June 2, 2003 – 7:30 p.m.

Borough Administration Building
Regular Meeting – 148 N. Binkley, Soldotna, Alaska

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

Mr. Joe Arness, President
Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Vice President
Ms. Deborah Germano, Clerk
Mrs. Margaret Gilman, Treasurer
Mrs. Debra Mullins, Member
Dr. Nels Anderson, Member
Mr. Al Poindexter, Member

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. Sam Stewart | Senator Tom Wagoner |
| Mrs. Paula Christensen | Representative Mike Chenault |
| Dr. Roy Anderson | Mr. Jim White |
| Mr. Tim Peterson | Mr. Dave Spence |
| Mrs. Cathy Carrow | Mr. Gene Dyson |
| Mrs. Jennie Hammond | Mr. Rick Matiya |
| Mrs. Jenni Dillon | Mr. Michael Lengfelder |
| Mr. Jim Heim | Mrs. Mary Kennedy |
| Mrs. Beth Kellie | |

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

(Tape 1, 280)

Mr. Arness invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

(Tape 1, 305)

| | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Dr. Nels Anderson | Present |
| Ms. Deborah Germano | Present |
| Mrs. Sammy Crawford | Present |
| Mr. Joe Arness | Present |
| Mrs. Debra Mullins | Absent/Excused |
| Mrs. Margaret Gilman | Present |
| Mr. Al Poindexter | Present |

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

(Tape 1, 328)

The agenda was approved with a revision to Item 10a.(5), Administrative Recommendation regarding Request for Leave of Absence-Support, and the addition of Item 10a.(8), Tentative Tenure Teaching Assignment 2003-2004.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

(Tape 1, 391)

The School Board Minutes of May 5, 2003, were approved as printed.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:

(Tape 1, 410)

Representative Mike Chenault presented Dr. Peterson with a Legislative Citation honoring her for being selected as the 2002 AASA Superintendent of the Year.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

(Tape 1, 550)

Mrs. Jennie Hammond reported that during the legislative session she testified against SB202 (An Act relating to school transportation; relating to the base student allocation used in the formula for state funding of public education; and providing for an effective date); she asked the Board if they feel there is honest and open communication between the District and communities and urged those present to become educated on the issues before action is taken by attending School Board meetings, Site Council meetings, and Parent-Teacher Organization meetings.

Mr. Grigori Vaissenberg, Soldotna High and Skyview High teacher, stated that next year's schedule calls for him to teach a Spanish class (a subject he minored in 29 years ago) and asked for consideration to fill a .25 social studies position at Soldotna High School.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

(Tape 1, 1027)

Dr. Peterson noted that the U.S. Department of Education has given verbal notification that Alaska's No Child Left Behind Accountability Plan has been approved and commended Dr. Gary Whiteley for his work on behalf of the State of Alaska.

Dr. Whitely stated that he would provide copies of the Accountability Plan upon request. Ms. Germano noted that the final copy of the Plan is posted on the State Department of Education website.

**Advisory Committee, Site Council
and/or P.T.A., K.P.A.A., K.P.E.A., K.
P.E.S.A, Borough Assembly:**

(Tape 1, 1100)

Mr. Arness welcomed Assembly Member Mrs. Betty Glick.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

(Tape 1, 1123)

Dr. Peterson reported that on May 23 she participated in a teleconference that was held among the eight school districts that educate 85% of the students in Alaska public schools to discuss what will happen if Governor Murkowski chooses line item veto of the state budget. She reported that on May 30 the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District central office staff participated with central office colleagues of the five largest districts in Alaska to share ideas and learn from each other. She reported that school administrators are using an electronic method of checking out of schools for the summer and are each required to schedule a half-hour exit meeting with her. She reported that summer school has begun and that the 100 employees are being paid through state Learning Opportunity Grant funds. She thanked Ms. Jamie Harper, Mrs. Norma Holmgaard, and Mrs. Paula Christensen for their efforts in coordinating the summer program. She noted that the June 2 meeting would be Mr. Syverson's last Board meeting. Dr. Peterson recognized Mrs. Melody Douglas and Mrs. Sally Tachick for 25 years of service to the District.

Financial Report:

(Tape 1, 1370)

Mrs. Douglas presented the financial report of the District for the period ending April 30, 2003.

LEASE REPORT

(Tape 1, 1394)

Mr. Syverson presented a report of leases or agreements for the 2003-2004 school year. He noted that the English Bay Corporation lease may change in the future because the corporation has expressed an interest in using the teacherage for another purpose.

BOARD REPORTS:

(Tape 1, 1461)

Mrs. Gilman reported that she attended graduation ceremonies. She stated that she recently had the privilege of drawing the winning ticket for the Mt. View Elementary Future Problem Solving fund raiser and that the team raised \$4,500 to pay for travel to the international competition in Connecticut.

CONSENT AGENDA:

(Tape 1, 1525)

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Budget Transfer; Long Term Substitute Teacher Contracts; Resignations; Leave of Absence requests-Certified; Administrative Recommendation Regarding Requests for Leave of Absence-Support; New Teacher Assignment; Nontenure Teacher Assignments; and Tentative Tenure Teaching Assignment 2003-2004.

Budget Transfer:

Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve budget transfer Number 453 for \$77,492 to pay for salaries (\$14,500) and benefits (\$29,900) for staff of the School within a School program and \$26,500 for professional and technical support of the Ed Prep program; and Number 468 for \$28,000 to pay for summer school bus costs.

Long-Term Substitute Teacher Contracts:

Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve long-term substitute teacher contracts for Dan Hill, principal, Nikiski Middle/High School; Jany Warnica, vocational education, Nikiski Middle/High; Tamara Passe, special education/resource, North Star Elementary; Mary Bailey, speech therapist, Sears Elementary; and Marc Berezin, QUEST, Soldotna Middle School.

Resignations:

Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve resignations effective at the end of the 2002-2003 for Eileen Clark, Language Arts, Homer High School; Cheryl Schweigert, Reading, Kenai Middle School; Dottie Sanders, Language Arts, Nikiski Middle/High School; Robin Williams, Principal, Nikiski Middle/High School; Linda Thacker, Grades K-3, Port Graham School; Penny Tinker, Special Ed, Pupil Services, District-wide; Teresa Brown, Resource, Soldotna Elementary; Robert Amundson, Math, Soldotna High School; Jerry Dixon, Quest, Seward High School; Brad Drake, Principal/Teacher, Tebughna School; and Belinda Drake, Grades K-2, Tebughna School.

Leave of Absence requests - Certified:

Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve unpaid leave of absence requests for the 2003-2004 school year for Jane Teller, Grade 2/3, K-Beach Elementary; and Virginia Morgan, reading teacher, Soldotna Middle School.

**Administrative Recommendation
Regarding Requests for Leave of
Absence – Support:**

Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve an administrative recommendation regarding requests for leave of absence for Robert Harwood, vocational aide, Nikiski Middle/High School (to approve); and Laura Conant, kitchen manager, Seward Elementary (not to approve).

New Teacher Assignment:

Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve teacher assignments for the 2002-2003 school year for Mary Jo Sanders.

**TENTATIVE Nontenure Teacher
Assignments:**

Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve tentative nontenure teacher assignments for the 2003-2004 school year for Janet Szajkowski, Suzanne Bishop, Saundra Hudson, Julianna DeBoard, Daniel Krier, Lori Krier, Donald Torres, and Suzanne Haines.

**TENTATIVE TENURE TEACHING
ASSIGNMENT 2003-2004:**

Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve a tentative tenure teacher assignment for the 2003-2004 school year for George Richard Kelso.

MOTION:

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 8. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Nikiski Elementary Schools
Consolidation Plan
(Tape 1, 1563)**

Mr. Syverson recommended that the Board approve the consolidation of Nikiski Elementary School and North Star Elementary School by closing Nikiski Elementary School and transferring all K-6 Nikiski area students to North Star Elementary, beginning the fall of 2004. He further recommended that the District request that the Nikiski Elementary building be turned back to the Borough, with a 12-month option to reopen the school should the Nikiski area student enrollment increase enough to cause the need.

Mr. Poindexter asked how much the District would save by consolidating the Nikiski elementary schools. Mr. Syverson responded that the District would save \$250,000 and referred to a scatter chart in the Board packet which was used to assist the administration in deciding which school should be closed.

Ms. Holly Norwood stated that she represents a concerned group of parents who support a reconfiguration of the Nikiski elementary schools into Grades K-3 at one school and Grades 4-6 at the other school in order to raise student achievement. She displayed several charts that contained information about poverty levels of the Nikiski area.

Mrs. Jennie Hammond, Nikiski parent, stated that the Nikiski community has not had a chance to have an open and honest conversation to discuss the consolidation proposal and provide input and asked for a one-month delay on the consolidation decision.

Ms. Connie Wirz stated that she supports the proposed consolidation of the Nikiski elementary schools because it will provide students with a richer curriculum by offering music, physical education, and art.

Mr. Mike Peek, Nikiski resident, noted that the enrollment at Nikiski schools is decreasing and stated that he supports the school consolidation plan; although he does not agree with the proposal that North Star Elementary is the school to stay open. Ms. Germano moved the Board approve the administrative recommendations for the Nikiski elementary schools consolidation. Dr. Anderson seconded.

MOTION:

Mrs. Gilman asked Dr. Peterson for the total number of students if the two Nikiski elementary schools were combined.

Dr. Peterson responded that the fall 2004 projected enrollment is 410 students. She explained that the two Nikiski elementary schools as well as two other District schools, have dropped below 250 students. She stated that those schools are participating in a pilot program to share specialists during the 2003-2004 school year. Mr. Tim Peterson explained that for every 75 students, a .5 FTE is allocated to the school and noted that the combined Nikiski elementary school would receive 2.5 FTE specialists.

Mrs. Crawford stated that the Nikiski Consolidation Plan is the first of many difficult decisions the Board will have to make. She stated that the Board would prefer not to close schools. She stated that the Board must face these difficult decisions because of declining enrollment and budget reductions.

Ms. Germano clarified with Dr. Peterson that there have been community conversations regarding the Nikiski elementary schools consolidation plan. Dr. Peterson stated that the administration uses school site councils as the process for additional public input and communication. She stated that the process may need some additional modifications as the consolidation process continues.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Adoption of BP 3513.4
Integrated Pest Management:**
(Tape 1, 2507)

MOTION:

Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve the adoption of BP 3513.4, Integrated Pest Management to bring the District into compliance with federal regulations.

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve the adoption of BP 3513.4, Integrated Pest Management. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Cocurricular Activities and Handbooks

(Tape 1, 2631)

MOTION:

Mr. Arness summarized the actions of the May 5 meeting regarding the cocurricular activities and handbooks recommendations. He noted that the current amendment to be addressed was made by Ms. Germano to strike the proposed increase to the participation fees.

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve additions to the elementary school, Middle school and High school handbooks that states, "Activity Directors - Assume responsibility for all program funds in accordance with District policy, and provide a report to site councils on a quarterly basis." Dr. Anderson seconded.

Ms. Germano expressed concern that there are booster funds and activity funds that pay for cocurricular activities. She stated that the District has reduced the cocurricular travel budget by \$245,000 and left \$1.2 million for coach stipends. She stated that it is important for the community to know where activity funds are coming from and how they are being used.

Mr. Arness clarified that Ms. Germano meant to put the reporting responsibility on the activity director. Mr. Syverson stated that, for staffing purposes, the term "athletic director" is used. Ms. Germano stated that she will support the term "athletic director" for the time being and will address that issue at a later time.

Mr. Arness clarified that the amendment will say, "Athletic Directors - Assume responsibility for all program funds in accordance with District policy, and provide a report to site councils on a quarterly basis."

Amendment regarding quarterly reports to site councils on a quarterly basis carried unanimously.

Ms. Germano stated that she still does not support increased fees for cocurricular activities and added that the issue should have been brought up earlier in the school year so the public could provide input. She stated that now is not an appropriate time to ask parents to pay 50% more for activity fees.

Mrs. Gilman stated that she is opposed to an increase of activity fees because the Board needs to have a discussion regarding priorities for cocurricular activities. She stated that she would like to review the entire travel budget for activities and to decide whether it is necessary to transport students outside of the District as often as is being done. She suggested that more competitions be conducted within the Borough and only travel outside of the Borough for special occasions. She stated that increasing activity fees is a tiny band-aid on a larger problem.

Mrs. Crawford agreed with Mrs. Gilman that the activity fee is a bigger problem but will support the increase. She stated that she believes in user fees and noted that there are waivers and scholarship options for those who cannot afford the fees.

Mr. Poindexter stated that personally, he would like to eliminate all fees until the Board can figure out what will be done with cocurricular activities. He stated that an increase of activity fees creates a "have" and "have not" situation for students. He stated that he knows of individual students who were not able to participate in cocurricular activities because of the cost of the current fees. He stated that the Board supports free and equitable education for all students and added that activity fees create second-class students. He stated that user fees are designed to help pay for transportation to activities and noted that he has spent an additional \$200 to \$300 in related costs for his own student. He suggested that the District not collect fees but added that he will support the increase at this time.

Mr. Arness clarified that a positive vote would return the activity fee structure to one currently in place and that a negative vote would increase the fees.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT TO STRIKE THE COCURRICULAR FEE INCREASE:

YES - Germano, Gilman

NO - Arness, Crawford, Poindexter, Anderson

Amendment to strike the increase to the current user fees failed.

motion

Ms. Germano moved the Board amend all cocurricular activities fees ranges to a Range 1. Mr. Poindexter seconded.

Ms. Germano stated that the Board has control over the range at which money is allocated to various activities. She stated that the Board needs to review how money is being spent for activities. She stated that there are many parents who are willing to volunteer and added that the Board does not need to pay for every coach or ask parents to pay for more coaches. She stated that she is extremely opposed to the continuation of the cocurricular activity fee process.

Dr. Anderson stated that he might support the amendment if the Board had had some time to consider it and make a reasonable assessment. He asked Ms. Germano to withdraw the amendment and let the Board discuss the idea and return it as a formal motion in the future. He stated that he agreed with Ms. Germano's proposed cocurricular activity fee reduction but stated that he is not willing to make that decision without review.

Mrs. Gilman agreed that the cocurricular activity fee reduction idea is worth investigating but stated that the Board needs to take time to make that decision.

Mr. Arness noted that the cocurricular activity fee ranges are an addendum to the Cocurricular Activity Handbook. Ms. Germano withdrew her amendment and asked the Board to consider the ranges at the next meeting.

Mr. Arness clarified that the Board would be voting on the entire handbook changes as amended by the Germano amendment (approved at the May 5, 2003 Board meeting). He noted that the cocurricular activity fees have been increased in the proposed changes.

VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION:

YES - Anderson

NO - Gilman, Crawford, Germano, Poindexter, Arness

Amended motion failed.

RECESS:
(Tape 1, 4171)

At 8:34 p.m., Mr. Arness called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:
(Tape 1, 4204)

At 8:40 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

Hot Lunch Price Increase:
(Tape 1, 4213)

Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve an increase in the price of student lunches for the 2003-2004 school year. He stated that the administration recommends that the prices be changed to \$2.40 for elementary student lunches and \$2.75 for secondary student lunches and added that the increase is necessary to cover the cost of doing business.

motion

Mrs. Crawford recommended the Board approve the hot lunch price increases. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Ms. Germano asked how much money in food service inventory is being sold to the public. Mr. Lengenfelder explained that the inventory is not accountable in the expenditures of food service until they are released to a school. He explained that products are in a floating account and are not charged to the Student Nutrition Services until they are requisitioned out of inventory. Mrs. Douglas explained that the surplus inventory items that are sold become a direct expense to the Student Nutrition Services Program (SNS) if less revenue received than the cost of the item. Ms. Germano asked how much revenue is generated from the surplus sale. Mrs. Douglas responded that the items being sold are products that will expire before the next school year. Mr. Lengenfelder stated that the District received approximately \$800 in sales. Ms. Germano asked if the items were sold for a considerable loss. Mr. Lengenfelder stated that the items were not sold for a loss and added that some items were marked down but most were sold at 15% above cost to cover warehousing and handling expenses. Mr. Lengenfelder explained that the frozen items that were sold were loaves of bread and happy birthday cupcakes. He explained that the inventory reduction sale has been held for seven years and has been very successful in releasing products that have a shelf life. Ms. Germano expressed concern that the food inventory be as minimal as possible at the end of the year. She stated that she has not seen the condition of the warehouse at the end of the year but was told by the public that there was more than \$800 worth of product on hand. Mr. Lengenfelder replied that not all of the food items in the warehouse were sold and explained that the SNS Program recently received some USDA commodities to use next school year.

Mrs. Gilman expressed concern about the end of the year sale. She asked whether the income from students who pay full price for lunch covers the cost of lunch. Mr. Lengenfelder stated that the price for student lunches does not cover the cost and added that the District receives reimbursement from the federal government of .30 per paid student meal. Mrs. Gilman asked why there is an increase in the cost of providing lunches when there is a decrease in student enrollment. Mr. Lengenfelder noted that the Student Nutrition Program is serving the same number of meals, and noted that student participation has increased during the 2002-2003 school year. He noted that the program has been serving the same number of lunches for the past three years. He noted that amount of food purchased has not decreased and as a result of the new negotiated agreement, labor costs have increased. He stated that the projected SNS Program staff labor increases for the 2003-2004 will be \$87,000. He noted that there will be an 11% increase in expendable products such as paper products, foam plates, plastic products, and anything made with

petroleum. He reported that the program will also need to plan for the cost of routine equipment replacement such as refrigerators, freezers, delivery trucks, cashiers, and a forklift. Mrs. Gilman asked whether ala cart items make money. Mr. Lengenfelder reported that the District makes money on ala cart sales which is figured into the student price. He stated that the program tries to keep lunch prices fair.

Mr. Arness asked for a clarification regarding the Point of Sale, system. Mr. Lengenfelder explained that the cost of the system has been spread out over time and noted that it is four years old. He stated that the system needs to be replaced because the company sold their school food service system to another company. He stated that the new company's software does not work on District machines. He noted that the former company guaranteed to service the machines for two years which will expire after the next school year. Mr. Lengenfelder explained that the Point of Sale system saves the District quite a bit of money in labor costs and added that there is excellent accountability because parents can see a history of student purchases. Mr. Arness asked Mr. White whether the new student software program could accommodate the SNS Program. Mr. White replied that the new student software is completely different software and could not support the SNS lunch program.

Ms. Germano asked whether the hot lunch price increase includes the cost of a new point of sale system. Mr. Lengenfelder replied that the costs were not included in the lunch price increases. She asked why the existing system could not be upgraded. Mr. Lengenfelder explained that the former point of sale company will not upgrade the system because they have sold the school food service department to another company.

Dr. Anderson asked Mr. White whether the District could service point of sale software. Mr. White replied that the Information Services Department staff is not in a position service the software.

Mr. Syverson stated that one of the District's main considerations when buying software is to purchase from companies that will be in business for many years. He explained that software comes and goes in five year cycles.

Mr. White explained that companies typically buy "customers" when they buy another company and then encourage the customers to buy their software.

Mr. Lengenfelder explained that CCR Data Systems is a major retail outlet company. He stated that unlike other companies, CCR Data Systems sold true cash registers (IBM Share I) that were mobile. He stated that PCs are designed to stay in one place.

Ms. Germano asked how much it costs for the District to provide a student lunch. Mr. Lengenfelder replied that without labor costs, a student lunch is \$1.85 per meal. Mr. Lengenfelder explained that with the additional labor costs for next year and the increase in the cost of products, the total increase to the SNS Program would be \$96,047. He stated that he estimates that the SNS Program will serve 583,418 reimbursable meals next school year and noted that the added cost will be \$.16 per meal. He stated that he recommended an increase of \$.10 for elementary student lunches and an increase of \$.20 per meal for secondary student lunches to help offset the cost of increases.

Mrs. Gilman expressed concern that students are not making healthy food choices. She stated that students could choose french fries and the entrée every day for lunch. She expressed concern for child obesity and the associated health risks and added that she partially blames the school lunch costs because ala cart items help subsidize the cost of the actual meal. She stated that before the Board approves an increase to school lunch prices they should review the entire school lunch program. Mr. Lengenfelder explained that the directive of the Board was that the school lunch program be self sustainable. He suggested that the Board address the issue of competition and noted that the lunch program competes with soda machines, ice cream sales, and snack stands that include candy. He stated that the SNS Program provides a well-balanced meal to students. He stated that next year all french fries will be cooked in the oven. He stated that most foods that are prepared with child nutrition programs in mind are processed in a manner that lowers the fat content and increases the fiber content. He reported that the SNS pizza is a high fiber product made with turkey pepperoni. He noted that many foods are made to look like fast food products because that is what students want, but are actually high in fiber and low in fat. He stated that "homemade" food does not sell and noted that student tastes have changed over the generations.

Mr. Lengenfelder thanked the Board for their support over the past 10 years.

VOTE:

YES – Germano, Anderson, Poindexter, Crawford, Arness

NO – Gilman

Motion carried.

Approval of School Calendars:
(Tape 1, 6374)

Dr. Whiteley recommended the Board approve calendars for the 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 school year and a tentative calendar for the 2006-2007 school year. He summarized the changes in the calendars as necessary to accommodate the negotiated agreement.

Mrs. Gilman asked whether buses will operate on days that are designated as "minimum days." Dr. Whiteley stated that buses would run and noted that the length of a minimum day for kindergarten through Grade 2 is four hours and for Grades 3 through 12 is five hours.

Mrs. Crawford asked whether students will be in school 180 days. Dr. Whiteley explained that inservice days that occur before the first student day are not counted as student contact days but are counted as part of the 180-day state requirement.

Ms. Germano observed that there is an extra vacation day in the 2005-2006 school year. Dr. Whiteley explained that the District was asked by the Arctic Winter Games Committee and the Borough Mayor to close schools one day prior to spring break so the games can be set up. He noted that the school year will begin one day earlier to accommodate the extra vacation day.

motion

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve the 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 school year and a tentative calendar for the 2006-2007 school year. Dr. Anderson seconded.

motion

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve an amendment to change the reference of Good Friday to vacation day on all calendars. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Amendment carried unanimously.

Amended motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Project Grad:
(Tape 2, 248)

Dr. Whiteley recommended the Board approve the implementation of Project Graduating Really Achieves Dreams (GRAD) at Tebughna Elementary/High, Nanwalek Elementary/High, Port Graham Elementary/High, Razdolna School, Voznesenka School, Ninilchik Elementary/High, and Nikolaevsk Elementary/High. Mr. Matiya introduced Project GRAD representatives (seated in the audience) and explained that the group will establish a nonprofit organization that will coordinate and implement the project.

motion

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve the implementation of Project GRAD. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Ms. Germano thanked the Project GRAD representatives for the presentation made during a worksession prior to the Board meeting.

Mrs. Crawford stated that she is excited about raising aspirations for all students in village schools.

Motion carried unanimously.

Administrator Appointment:

(Tape 2, 408)

Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve the appointment of Todd Syverson as Redoubt Elementary principal.

motion

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve the appointment of Todd Syverson as Redoubt Elementary principal. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Mrs. Gilman stated that she hopes the staff, students, and parents at Redoubt Elementary realize how lucky they are to have Mr. Syverson as a principal.

Motion carried unanimously.

Policy Manual Revisions/Adoptions:

(Tape 2, 497)

Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve revisions and adoptions to BP 1100 (Communication with the Public); BP 1112 (Media Relations); BP 1140 Responsibilities of the Board); BP 1150 (Commendations and Awards); AR 1150 (Commendations and Awards); BP 1220 (Advisory Committees); BP 1230 (Organizations Supporting Student Activities); AR 1230 (Organizations Supporting Student Activities); BP 1240 (Volunteer Assistance); E 1240 (Volunteer Questionnaire); BP 1250 (Visits to the Schools); BP 1312 (Public Complaints Concerning the Schools); BP 1312.1 (Public Complaints Concerning School Personnel); AR 1312.1 (Public Complaints Concerning School Personnel); AR 1312.2 (Challenges to Instructional Materials); BP 1312.3 (Public Complaints Concerning Discrimination); BP 1321 (Solicitation of Funds From and By Students); E 1321 (Approved Student Fund Raising); BP 1325 (Advertising and Promotion); AR 1325 (Advertising and Promotion); BP 1330 (Use of School Facilities and Properties); AR 1330 (Use of School Facilities and Properties); E 1330 (Room/Building Use Application); BP 1340 (Access to District Records); AR 1340 (Access to District Records).

Mr. Dave Birchfield, Soldotna Silver Salmon Swim Club Board Member, stated that the proposed increase to the standard rental fee from \$15 to \$35 would be catastrophic and added that, if approved, the club could not exist and asked the Board to reconsider the increase.

Ms. Germano asked whether the swim club is required to have a lifeguard available during their rental.

Mrs. Cathy Sorrel, Soldotna Silver Salmon Swim Club Board Member, stated that the proposal will increase the club rental rates by 133 percent and added that the club is required to have lifeguards on duty during their events.

Ms. Germano asked how much swim club members pay. Mrs. Sorrel responded that younger members who swim twice a week pay \$35 and older members pay \$65, in addition to a \$200 per year annual membership fee. She noted that parents continue to hold fund raisers throughout the year to pay for costs to operate the club.

Mrs. Gilman clarified that if the proposed rental fee increase is approved, the swim club would be required to pay an additional \$1520 per month. Mrs. Sorrel replied that the net result of the increase would be \$1520 per month based on the current number of club members. Mrs. Sorrel stated that the rental fee seems to be an inequitable charge when compared to other clubs.

Dr. Peterson stated that it was never the intent of the administration to cause a hardship to the swimming clubs. She stated that this is the first information she has received regarding the impact of the proposed increase of rental fees. She asked the Board to remove AR 1330 from Board action so it can be further revised.

Dr. Anderson stated that he had suggested the change in fees because he paid \$30 in admission fees to take several boy scouts to open swim and then later rented the pool for \$15 an hour. He explained that the District subsidizes the cost of running the pool and noted that it costs much more than \$15 per hour to operate and maintain. He stated that he is very aware of the value of the swim programs and would like to strike a balance between the cost to operate the pool and charging fees that are more equitable to swim clubs.

Mrs. Sorrell stated that the Soldotna High School pool will sit empty for three hours each day if the swim club closes. She added that there will be 60 children in the community that won't have an activity. She stated that for twenty-three years club members have worked extremely hard to raise funds to pay for the expenses of the club.

Mrs. Carolann Barum, Peninsula Piranhas Swim Team Board Member, stated that the increase in pool rental fees would have a major impact on their club which includes 58 children in grades kindergarten through Grade 12 and feeds into the high school swim programs.

motion

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve revisions and adoptions to BP 1100 (Communication with the Public); BP 1112 (Media Relations); BP 1140 Responsibilities of the Board); BP 1150 (Commendations and Awards); AR 1150 (Commendations and Awards); BP 1220 (Advisory Committees); BP 1230 (Organizations Supporting Student Activities); AR 1230 (Organizations Supporting Student Activities); BP 1240 (Volunteer Assistance); E 1240 (Volunteer Questionnaire); BP 1250 (Visits to the Schools); BP 1312 (Public Complaints Concerning the Schools); BP 1312.1 (Public Complaints Concerning School Personnel); AR 1312.1 (Public Complaints Concerning School Personnel); AR 1312.2 (Challenges to Instructional Materials); BP 1312.3 (Public Complaints Concerning Discrimination); BP 1321 (Solicitation of Funds From and By Students); E 1321 (Approved Student Fund Raising); BP 1325 (Advertising and Promotion); AR 1325 (Advertising and Promotion); BP 1330 (Use of School Facilities and Properties); E 1330 (Room/Building Use Application); BP 1340 (Access to District Records); AR 1340 (Access to District Records). Dr. Anderson seconded.

Mr. Arness clarified that AR 1330 (Use of School Facilities and Properties) has been removed from consideration and will be returned at a future meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/
COMMENTS:**
(Tape 1, 1598)

Mrs. Carolann Barum, expressed concern that items are being taken away from public education and yet allotments are being increased for home schooled students and special funding is provided for charter schools; she asked the Board where it finally stops.

Mr. Syverson thanked the Board of Education, Dr. Peterson, and the leadership team for the opportunity to work for an outstanding school district and for the opportunity to work with students again at the building level.

BOARD COMMENTS:
(Tape 1, 1774)

Dr. Anderson stated that some of Mrs. Barum's comments are echoed by the public. He observed that public education is changing and will continue to change and that there is not going to be a one-school-system anymore. He stated that public education needs to adapt to as many options as the public wants. He explained that funding for education follows the student so that home schools and charter schools are not taking money from public education except as they take students away. He warned that charter schools will begin to have similar problems with labor costs since salaries will increase as staff reaches seniority. He stated that the Board needs to recognize that there are other education options that the public will choose and that everyone will not fit into public education as it was. He thanked Mr. Syverson and Mr. Lengenfelder for their service.

Mrs. Gilman thanked those who spoke to the Board. She agreed with Dr. Anderson's comment that money follows students but expressed concern that the Connections (home school) students can use their allocations to pay for user fees and are not impacted by an increase. She stated that she feels that it is the parent's responsibility to pay for their student's

participation fees. She stated that the Board action to consolidate the Nikiski elementary schools was cause for ceremony since Nikiski Elementary is one of the oldest schools in the District. She stated that her mother taught at Nikiski Elementary and added that later she was fortunate to teach QUEST at the school for a couple of years. She stated that although the decision was difficult, the consolidation of the two elementary schools was a positive move because the combined school can offer a comprehensive curriculum. She stated that she is pleased with the outcome of the Board's consolidation vote.

Mrs. Crawford thanked those who spoke to the Board. She stated that she also shares the concern for the future of public education. She stated that sometimes it feels that there is a real sabotage of what goes on in public education on a state and national level. She stated that public education is the ground for a democratic society and that all students must be educated. She stated that the local Borough Assembly has funded education to the cap for many years and yet are lacking at the state level. She stated that she is not sure whether the governor will sign the education funding bill. She stated that she hopes he keeps his campaign promise and commitment to support public education. She stated that she attended the BP Teachers of Excellence recognition dinner and added that it was wonderful to see the quality of the teachers in the District. She stated that she attended graduation ceremonies at Hope Elementary/High, Susan B. English Elementary/High and Kenai Central High. She noted that Hope Elementary/High School had one student graduate who is one of a few who have attended school in Hope for grades kindergarten through 12. She stated that the entire community attended the graduation ceremony and added that it was a moving event. She congratulated Dr. Peterson for being honored by the legislature and thanked Representative Chenault for his work on the citation. She told Mr. Syverson that the Board will miss him and wished him well at his new assignment.

Ms. Germano stated that she expects to hear from Mr. Syverson at future Board meetings. She thanked Mr. Syverson for his services and wished him well at his new assignment. She thanked Mrs. Jennie Hammond for speaking to the Board and for her community involvement. She stated that she heard Mrs. Hammond's concerns about how the Board communicates and explained that site councils are designated to communicate to parents. She stated that the Board will continue to work on communication because each school and community is different. She stated that it is important to have a strong connection between school site councils and the parent groups so that information can be shared with as many people as possible. She stated that communication continues to be the Board's biggest struggle. She noted that there were too many items of a monetary nature on the Board agenda.

Mr. Poindexter stated that public schools can be a society-change agent. He stated that one of the things that make the United States strong is the common experience in public schools. He stated that part of what the United States is about is choices. He expressed concern that society will begin to lose the common experience of public education and added that he is not sure what that will do to the nation. He stated that the District will change because of consolidation (due to budgetary restraints and programming) and ultimately force urbanization. He stated that in his experience, things don't change unless there is a crisis, such as floods and earthquakes and warned that public education is headed for an "earthquake." He stated that it is frustrating as a Board member not to be in control of how the school system will operate or how it will be funded. He stated that the general public needs to put pressure on the legislature to change. He stated that public education will change and expressed concern that the changes are not well thought out. He thanked Project GRAD representatives for their attendance and stated that he looks forward to working with the group and hopes the program flourishes. He thanked Representative Chenault and Senator Wagoner and those in the audience for their attendance.

Mr. Arness gave notice of reconsideration on the Approval of Cocurricular Activities and Handbooks and asked that it appear on the next agenda.

Mr. Arness extended best wishes to Mr. Syverson and noted that he will especially remember this year's negotiations experience. He stated that the existence of the Connections Program provides choices for parents and cited the quotation: "that which does not kill us serves to make us better." He stated that competition is a good thing and different ways of looking at the same old question is a good thing. He observed that many conversations regarding education usually begin with, "when I was in school..." and added that that has nothing to do with what is going on in school today. He stated that in the past, one-third of the teaching staff was not designated as special education and that students were dismissed from school for chewing gum. He stated that times have changed and the world must also change. He stated that he was surprised to be asked to "say a few words" at the Voznesenka School graduation ceremony.

ADJOURN:
(Tape 2, 2995)

At 9:55 p.m., Ms. Germano moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Joe Arness, President

Mrs. Deborah Germano, Clerk

The Minutes of June 2, 2003,
were approved on July 7, 2003
as written.