

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

148 N. Binkley Street  
Soldotna, AK 99669

August 19, 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

STAFF PRESENT:

Dr. Donna Peterson, Superintendent of Schools  
Mrs. Melody Douglas, Chief Financial Officer  
Dr. Gary Whiteley, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction  
Mr. Todd Syverson, Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mrs. Mary King	Mr. Sam Stewart
Mrs. Paula Christensen	Dr. Roy Anderson
Ms. Jenni Dillon	Mrs. Cathy Carrow
Mr. Jim White	Mr. Tim Peterson
Mr. Rick Matiya	Ms. Terri Woodward
Mrs. Rhonda Hubbard	Mrs. Terry Birchfield
Mrs. Shelly Wilson Schoessler	

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

Dr. Anderson called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m. A quorum of School Board members, Ms. Germano, Mr. Arness, Mrs. Mullins, Mrs. Crawford, Mr. Poindexter, Mrs. Gilman, and Dr. Anderson, were in attendance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 5:11 p.m. Ms. Germano 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 tactics and strategies. Mr. Arness seconded.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 7:33 p.m., Mrs. Mullins moved the executive session be adjourned. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The agenda was approved with a revision to Item 11a.(2) Approval of AR 3342, Payroll – Tax Sheltered Annuities.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The School Board Minutes of August 5, 2002, were approved as printed.

## PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mrs. Rhonda Anderson Hubbard, Seward parent, expressed concern about the prevailing attitude regarding student drug and alcohol use in public schools. She stated that student drug and alcohol use is running rampant in District schools and is creating an apathetic learning environment. She stated that after interviewing several Seward High teens she learned that; 1) 80-90 percent of the students have tried or regularly use marijuana or alcohol, 2) students come to school and return from lunch smelling of marijuana, 3) there is a perception among students that they need to go to drinking parties to be cool, 4) some students are harassed or teased if they do not engage in alcohol or drug use, and 5) some parents are providing drugs or alcohol or making it easily available to their children. She stated that the public might not be able to change the home environment, but the public can change the school. She referenced the Anchorage Daily News, August 13 article regarding increased suspension rates in the Anchorage School District. She stated that Seward is a small community and that once a negative culture is established in a small school, it becomes a breeding ground for horrendous peer pressure that is hard to escape. She stated that there is an attitude among high school students that they must use or experiment with some form of alcohol and drug abuse which, for some, turn into habits and addictions. She stated that to solve the problem the District must first accept the fact that there is a problem. She stated that she is involved with the area youth, has led youth groups, is participating in a new mentoring program, and is a substitute teacher. She stated that she is confident that there is a serious problem with substance abuse in District schools. She stated that she has reviewed the District policies on drug and alcohol use and noted that they appear adequate but are not enforced. She stated that she suspects that lack of time and energy are reasons why the policies are not enforced. She suggested that the District hire a resource officer at the school to consistently enforce student discipline. Mrs. Hubbard reported that the Seward Police Chief is working on a grant to keep a full-time resource officer at the Seward High School. She stated that she suspects that the severity of the suspension policy is another reason why it is not enforced. She suggested that the policy be enforced vigilantly and consider drug testing for students participating in extracurricular activities. She suggested that the policy be adjusted so that students do not lose contact with those who are able to help them. She stated that suspending and expelling a child for lengthy periods of time, without follow-up, can cause the child to become frustrated and give up on school. She stated that on the other hand, keeping offenders in school so they can graduate should not be at the expense of other students. She suggested that each site council be asked to address the issue locally and report back to the administration on ways to enforce the policy and to save students not condemn them. She stated that there are safety nets that can be put in place to save most students. She thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak and asked them to consider taking action regarding her concerns. She asked the Board to contact her for assistance in the matter.

Ms. Germano asked if Seward High had an open campus. Mrs. Hubbard responded that students are allowed to leave school unless their parent has stated otherwise.

Ms. Germano reported that the Homer Site Council has discussed the open campus issue. She stated that during the 2002-2003 school year, the Homer High campus will be closed to freshman students, unless a parent gives them permission.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS (continued): Dr. Anderson stated that the Youth At-Risk Survey (completed several years ago)

was fairly accurate regarding actual student substance abuse. He invited Mrs. Hubbard to call Board members to discuss the issue individually.

Mrs. Mary King stated that she represented nine parents of Soldotna Middle School eighth grade QUEST students. She introduced Mrs. Shelly Wilson Schoessler and Mrs. Terry Birchfield. She asked for a status report regarding the possibility of students receiving credit for high school courses taken while in eighth grade.

Dr. Anderson responded that during a worksession held prior to the Board meeting a preliminary discussion was conducted to see whether there was any interest in pursuing the idea further. He noted that there will be further discussions and noted that no policy decisions have been made but may be considered in the future.

Mrs. King asked whether there have been any actions taken so far that QUEST parents should be aware of. Mr. Whiteley responded that a ninth grade student can challenge a high school course taken while they were in eighth grade.

Mrs. Wilson Schoessler asked how a challenged course would affect a student's grade point average. Dr. Whiteley responded that no grade is assigned to a challenged course and noted that it is recorded as "pass" or "fail" and would have no affect.

Dr. Peterson asked the parents to understand that the high school credit topic will be discussed at great length before any changes are made. She referred the parents to the current policy which states that students are not eligible for 9-12 grade credit but can challenge a course.

Mrs. King asked whether the QUEST parents will be notified prior to any future Board discussions on the topic. Dr. Peterson explained that the Board discussion held prior to the Board meeting was informal and did not include members of the administration.

Dr. Anderson noted that the Board will consider the high school credit topic further but that no decisions have been made. He stated that the QUEST parents can be notified of future discussions if they will contact the Board.

Ms. Germano stated that Board worksessions are posted in the Peninsula Clarion and on the District website.

Dr. Anderson explained that Board policy changes require two readings before action is taken.

Mrs. Gilman asked whether the parents were told their children would receive high school credit when they enrolled in the class. Mrs. King replied that the parents were told they would have to challenge the course to receive credit. She stated that the high school counselors discouraged the parents from pursuing high school credit because they would not likely be successful.

Mrs. Gilman asked whether their children were allowed to take Geometry II. Mrs. King responded that all of the students were enrolled in the class. She noted that all nine students scored at the top of their class in competition with students who were in Grades 9-12. Mrs. Schoessler stated that it was a positive experience.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS: Dr. Peterson reported that she received confirmation that the District has complied

with legislation requiring school districts to work with their communities to develop school disciplinary and safety programs.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

Dr. Peterson reported that the District has conducted the New (to position) Administrator training, the three-day principals' retreat, the new teachers' orientation, three days of District Wide Inservice and several other smaller training sessions throughout the district. She stated that the District Wide Inservice evaluations will be reviewed by the Inservice Committee to determine the content of future inservices. She noted that school starts on Wednesday, August 21 and added that maintenance projects at some of the buildings are not completed and are being monitored so that school startup will be as smooth as possible. She announced that Parent training (one representative from each school) will be held on Monday, August 26, and a similar day of training will be held for Site Council training on Tuesday, August 27, in the Soldotna Elementary Staff Development Room. She reported that the August 28 Board Candidate Orientation has been canceled and instead a packet of information will be sent to candidates. She announced that beginning on October 1 the District will be self-insured for worker's compensation.

**Financial Report:**

Mrs. Douglas presented the financial report of the District for the period ending July 31, 2002.

**BOARD REPORTS:**

Mrs. Crawford reported that she participated on the Reading Cut Score Committee for the High School Qualifying Exit Exam. She stated that the Committee members met for three days; took the test and examined each item. She stated that the reading section has 104 questions which the Committee matched with the state standards, rated each question, and then set the cut score for student proficiency. She stated that the process was interesting and added that she feels comfortable with the Committee's decision about what students should know. Mrs. Crawford reported that the Process Technology pilot class will be held at Kenai Central and should soon be online. She reported that the Board discussed the topic of student representatives to the Board again and that she and Mr. Poindexter would develop a job description and would make sure that all high school students receive the information ahead of time. She stated that the Board also wants to make sure that the student representative knows about the AASB Annual Meeting as well as be available to assist the Board with lobbying efforts at the AASB Fly-In in Juneau. She stated that Mr. Poindexter suggested that the Board invite students from Homer and Seward when the Board meetings are held in those communities. She stated that the Board would like to encourage students to use the student government folder so they can communicate with each other. She stated that the Board would also like to recognize outstanding students in the District.

**BOARD REPORTS (continued):**

Mr. Poindexter stated that he traveled to Massachusetts with a team of District high school students who qualified to compete in the International Canon Evirothon. He stated that the students raised \$4,000 to pay for the trip and spent one day each week preparing for the competition. He stated that the students were undereducated in environmental sciences and placed 46<sup>th</sup> out of 49 teams and placed 17<sup>th</sup> in their public presentation of a very complex problem that was presented to them by the Amherst City Council. He stated that the competition took 5 days to complete and that advisors, coaches and chaperones were not allowed to be in contact with the students while they competed. He stated that it was difficult for KPBSD students to compete because they come from a state that only has five species of trees and were asked to identify over 120 species of trees. He stated that the students were not familiar with the complex problems of urbanization. He stated that three of the

students are excited to compete again.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of New Teacher Assignments, and ar 3342, Payroll – Tax Sheltered Annuities.

**New Teacher Assignments:**

Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve teacher assignments for the 2002-2003 school year for Cecilia S. Deatherage, speech pathologist, Districtwide, Central Peninsula; Susan R. Hatch, special education/emotionally handicapped teacher, Districtwide, Central Peninsula; Danielle M. Thompson, speech/language pathologist, Districtwide, Pupil Services; Debbie A. Harris, art specialist, Districtwide, Instruction; Breta J. Brown, (temporary) math teacher, Nikiski Middle/High School; Linda Thacker, Grades K-4 teacher, Port Graham School; Lori Krier, language arts/social studies, Seward High School; and Mark J. Schnurstein, (temporary) middle school science/math, Seward Middle School.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION 3342, Payroll – Tax Sheltered Annuities:**

Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve revisions to ar 3342, Payroll – Tax Sheltered Annuities. The revisions are recommended because of changes in the tax code governing tax sheltered annuities under Section 403(b) eliminating the requirement of a maximum exclusion allowance calculation.

**ACTION**

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 2. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**BOARD POLICY 3530, Risk Management:**

Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve revisions to BP 3530, Risk Management. He noted that the reason for the change is to clarify reporting requirements for student and employee injuries and to include the appropriate forms.

**ACTION**

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve revisions to BP 3530, Risk Management. Mr. Poindexter seconded.

Mrs. Gilman asked for the number of student injuries and employee injuries per year.

Mr. Syverson stated that he would report student and employee injury information to the Board. He stated that the District will now be responsible for paying all workers' compensation injury claims and expressed concern that there has been an increase of employee injuries. He stated that safety planning and training will become much more important.

**BOARD POLICY 3530, Risk Management (continued):**

Ms. Germano expressed concern about language in the policy regarding parent notification of a student injury. Mr. Syverson responded that the student injury form requires parents to be notified as well as Central Office.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Resolution Number 02-03-7, Superintendent of the Year Nomination:**

Mrs. Crawford stated that Resolution Number 02-03-7, National Superintendent of the Year Nomination, is a show of support for Dr. Peterson by the Board. She stated that the Board would like to show their appreciation and honor the efforts of Dr. Peterson as the District Superintendent of School.

**ACTION**

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve Resolution Number 02-03-7, National Superintendent of the Year Nomination.

Motion carried unanimously.

AASB Resolutions:

Dr. Anderson explained that the Board must consider the AASB resolutions prior to the AASB annual meeting.

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve AASB core resolutions except (new) Pledge of Allegiance, 1.1, Opposing Mandated School Consolidation, 1.2 Opposition to Mandated Borough Formation, 2.1 In support of A+ Study on Education Funding/ Year Two Recommendations and (new) Education Funding Formula Rewrite and 1.11, Compulsory Attendance Law. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board split the question and consider the removed resolutions separately. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion to split the question carried unanimously.

Motion to approve the remaining AASB core resolutions carried unanimously.

Ms. Germano reported the Board discussed the Pledge of Allegiance core resolution during a worksession prior to the Board meeting and stated that it is a local control issue and that every district can choose to do as they wish and felt that the resolution was unnecessary.

Action

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve the adoption of AASB core resolution Pledge of Allegiance as presented. Mrs. Gilman seconded.

Mrs. Crawford stated that the Pledge of Allegiance is included in District policy and is expected at every school and agrees with Ms. Germano that each district should decide locally and added that she does not support the resolution.

Mrs. Mullins stated that although she agrees with local control, she does not feel that the resolution mandates any school district to participate in the Pledge it only encourages school boards to incorporate it as a part of their daily activities. She stated that she suspects that the issue came up in response to a decision made by the California Court System. She stated that the resolution does not do any harm and supports the resolution.

AASB Resolutions (continued):

VOTE:

YES – Gilman, Mullins, Poindexter, Anderson

NO – Arness, Crawford, Germano

Motion carried.

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve AASB Core Resolution 1.1 Opposing Mandated School Consolidation. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Ms. Germano stated that she opposed the resolution because many schools in Alaska are already consolidating because they are forced to do so.

Motion failed unanimously.

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve AASB Core Resolution 1.2 Opposition to

Mandated Borough formation. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

VOTE:

YES – Germano, Poindexter

NO – Arness, Crawford, Gilman, Mullins, Anderson

Motion failed.

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved to table AASB Core Resolution 1.11 Compulsory Attendance, until the next meeting. She noted that Mrs. Crawford has agreed to rewrite the resolution incorporating comments from the worksession held prior to the meeting. Mr. Arness seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve AASB Core Resolution (new) Education Funding Rewrite. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board amend language in AASB Core Resolution (new) Education Funding Rewrite as follows: delete the last sentence in the paragraph titled, "Cost Factor Study" and delete the last sentence in the paragraph titled, "Task Force A+ Study." Mr. Arness seconded.

Ms. Germano stated that there is a concern that the Board does not support holding districts harmless when the District has spent a lot of time and energy complying with funding requirements. She stated that language in the Task Force A+ Study states that districts will initiate several types of programs if they receive a 1.5% increase based on inflation. Ms. Germano stated that the programs are items that would require new money.

Amendment carries unanimously.

Amended motion carried unanimously.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mrs. Gilman thanked Dr. Peterson for a job well done and extended her thanks to the rest of the administration as well. She stated that she is excited about the parent training on August 26 and 27 and added that it is a great way to begin the school year and to implement the Board goals established in June regarding parent involvement. She stated that she is very excited that school will begin on Wednesday and added that she applauds the District teachers for their work with students.

Ms. Germano welcomed everyone back to school. She thanked Mrs. Hubbard for traveling from Seward to speak to the board regarding student substance abuse. She stated that substance abuse is a concern and added that parents need to work together to address the issue with their children.

Mrs. Crawford extended best wishes for a new school year. She thanked Mr. Stewart, Mrs. Williams and Mr. Frederic for an excellent presentation on academic honesty and plagiarism. She stated that she appreciated Mrs. Hubbard's comments regarding student substance abuse. She congratulated Dr. Peterson regarding the Superintendent of the Year resolution.

Mr. Poindexter thanked the public and Mrs. Hubbard for presenting their concerns to the Board. He stated that he appreciated the informal atmosphere during the Board worksession prior to the meeting. He reported that the Homer Community Schools

Program has instituted a new class titled, "Natural Resources Technology Application" and added that it will be offered for high school science and vocational credit.

Dr. Anderson stated that he heartily seconded Dr. Peterson's Superintendent of the Year nomination. He stated that he is extremely cognizant of student drug and alcohol problems.

Ms. Germano requested the Board reconsider the whole package of AASB Resolutions minus the resolutions that were acted on separately. She explained that the home school accountability resolution also needed to be considered separately.

ADJOURN:

At 8:31 p.m., Mrs. Crawford 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 August 19, 2002,  
were approved on September 9, 2002  
as written.