

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Borough Administration Building
Soldotna, Alaska 99669

May 19, 1997

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President
Mr. Joe Arness, Vice President
Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk
Dr. Nels Anderson, Treasurer
Mrs. Joyce Fischer, Member
Mrs. Deborah Germano, Member
Mrs. Debra Mullins, Member
Miss Megan Corazza, Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT:

Dr. Walter Bromenschenkel, Superintendent
Mr. John Dahlgren, Associate Superintendent, Planning,
Operations, and Technology
Mr. Thomas Thorpe, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction
Mrs. Sharon Radtke, Executive Director, Personnel
Mr. Richard Swarner, Executive Director, Business Management

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Hal Smalley	Mr. Paul Kubena
Mr. Joel Hilbrink	Mr. Dale Moon
Mrs. Karen Mahurin	Mrs. Grace Merkes
Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Stanley	Mr. Don Oberg
Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Dougherty	Mr. Wally Williams
Mr. Buck George	Ms. Marnie Bartolini
Mrs. Bonnie Clouston	Mrs. Anne Bayes
Mrs. Angela McKinney	Ms. Collette Thompson
Mrs. Vickie Leach	Ms. Mary Toutonghi
Ms. Virginia Robinson	Mrs. Bonnie Golden
Mr. Al Poindexter	Mrs. Shana Loshbaugh
Ms. Terri Woodward	Mr. Robert Dover
Ms. Kathy Drake	Mr. Tony Lewis
Mrs. Margaret Seelye	Mrs. Diane Borgman
Mrs. Barbara Dahl	Mr. Mike Wiley
Mr. Pete Ehrhardt	Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

At 5:00 p.m., Mrs. Gross called the meeting to order. A quorum of the Board was present with Mrs. Gross, Mr. Arness, Mrs. Larned, Dr. Anderson, Mrs. Fischer, and Mrs. Mullins in attendance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 5:01 p.m., Mr. Arness moved the Board go into executive session to discuss subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person, provided the person may request a public discussion. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 7:33 p.m., Dr. Anderson moved the executive session be adjourned. Mr. Arness

seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mrs. Gross invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross	Present
Mr. Joe Arness	Present
Mrs. Susan Larned	Present
Dr. Nels Anderson	Present
Mrs. Joyce Fischer	Present
Mrs. Deborah Germano	Present
Mrs. Debra Mullins	Present
Miss Megan Corazza	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved as printed, with Awards and Presentations moved ahead of Public Presentations.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of May 5, 1997, were approved as written.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS: Mrs. Gross presented Golden Apple Awards of Appreciation to Mr. Dale Moon, Technology Teacher at Skyview High, in recognition of his Technology in Excellence Award and 15 years of service to the District; and to Mr. Joel Hilbrink, Ninilchik Industrial Arts Teacher, in recognition on being selected the KPBSD Vocational Education Teacher of the Year. Mr. Stan Eller, Homer Biology Teacher, was unable to attend the meeting but was recognized for his national mathematics and science award. Mrs. Gross recognized Mrs. Karen Mahurin, Head Secretary, Sears Elementary, and Mrs. Jennifer Tabor, Home Economics Teacher, Skyview High, for their national honors and they will receive their awards at the June 9 School Board Meeting.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Mrs. Gross acknowledged that parents would be speaking to staffing at district schools. She informed the audience that the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District is a diverse district and that the administration has assigned staff to school according to the formulae. She noted the assignments had been made in a fair manner with final decisions made at the local level. She further commented budget cutting has taken place for the past ten years, and again this year, more reductions were required.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS
(continued): Mr. Daune Christiansen, Anchor Point parent, spoke in support of reinstating the music teacher at Chapman School. He questioned why money has been earmarked for computer technology when students will not have time get on the Internet with its slow access time. He felt elementary students would be more interested in playing on the playgrounds rather than using the computers. He was also concerned about costs for placing basketball hoops in junior high cafeterias. He felt money should be allocated to music instruction and was concerned that students must have fifth grade band prior to high school band.

Mrs. Carla Stanley, Skyview High School teacher, requested the Board find a way to release funds for the Art Club to travel on a planned trip to Mexico. She noted students have worked and saved the money for the trip for the past several years. She commented that other groups have taken trips without documentation and have received funds they saved for these excursions. She was hopeful the Board would find a way to have the student earned funds released for the trip.

Mrs. Anne Bayes, Anchor Point parent, commented she felt staffing for the elementary specialist may have been computed improperly. She noted she was concerned that some parents are unable to afford music instruction outside the school and she did not like creating a "have-have not" situation. She asked that Anchor Point be placed on top of the list in the fall for additional staffing if more students arrive at the school. She noted this is not a vendetta issue, but a frustrating issue for the school as well as for the school board.

Miss Stephanie Swanson, Skyview student, requested the Board find a creative solution for the release of Art Club funds for an educational out-of-country trip. She noted it is at no fault of the students that the funds have not been released and they were hopeful the students could take the trip.

Mr. Arness commented he had no information about the trip. Mrs. Stanley responded information was mailed on Friday to school board members. She distributed duplicate copies of information to board members. She stated the students have saved \$5,000 for a trip to Mexico. At mid-April they were told the funds would not be released because it was not a school sponsored tip. She added summer camp trips had been

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS
(continued):

completed without paper work, but this trip would require forms to be completed. Since this is considered a school-sponsored trip, paper work was completed in April although late, immunizations were completed, and proper chaperones secured. She requested access to the funds in order that these very deserving students could make the trip.

Mrs. Sandra Lettis, Anchor Point parent, expressed concern about the Chapman School staffing reduction. She expressed appreciation to Mrs. Dahl, Mrs. McKinney, Mrs. Bayes and others who represent the parents who are unable to attend the school board meetings. She noted the parents are very concerned about having the teacher returned to Chapman School.

Mrs. Angela McKinney, Anchor Point parent, commented that if the seventh and eighth grade students were calculated on the middle school formula Chapman School would qualify for the additional staff. She noted the community agreed several years ago to retain the seventh and eighth grades at Chapman and be staffed as an elementary school. She was aware the school board was not cutting the music department; this was a local decision.

Mrs. Vivian Swanson, parent, asked that the Art Club funds be released in order for the students to take their trip. She commented it was unfortunate that due to paper work and protocol the funds would not be released and they would miss this educational trip that they have worked so hard to earn. She requested the Board waive the three-month requirement on the paper work.

On question from Mrs. Germano, Mr. Thorpe responded that Mrs. Gross had the information on the trip. He noted Ms. Tapia was informed that if she wanted to take a trip of this nature she needed to file the proper paper work in accordance with school board policy. The teacher was given a packet of information by her principal, but elected not to complete it. As a result, the fund raising was done through a school club as a school activity. Since the teacher chose not to comply with school board policy, the request was denied.

Mrs. Swanson responded that the parents did not understand some of the procedures, and added that the students should not be punished for mistakes of some adults.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS
(continued):

Mrs. Mary King, Soldotna parent, apprised the Board about a situation at Soldotna Elementary. She noted the kindergarten several years ago was three classes which had been divided into two classes for the first grade. Parents voiced concern related to the large class because of special needs children in the class and relief was made for the first, second and third grades. Now as the class moves to the fourth grade those classes will be confined to two teachers for 68 students and special needs students. In addition to large classes with special needs children, parents were concerned about the quality of education the children will receive in the small classroom. The parents felt at least 2.5 teachers are needed for this particular group of students as they move through fourth, fifth, and sixth grades.

Mrs. Shelly Wilson-Shoessler, Soldotna parent, reiterated Mrs. King's comments about the fourth grade class. She noted the children with special needs were disruptive to regular learning students and more teachers were needed to support the classroom until the children have completed the sixth grade. She requested the situation be reconsidered.

Miss Heidi Gagnon, student who was accompanied by four other students, told the board studies indicate that students who participate in extracurricular activities have higher grade point averages than those who do not participate in these activities. She noted the student interest survey indicated students were interested in soccer, and she requested the Board approve soccer as a recognized sport later in the meeting.

Mrs. Heidi Haberman, Soldotna parent, spoke on the concern of the third grade moving to the fourth grade. She stated Soldotna Elementary is a transient school with crowded classrooms. She encouraged that basic classes be taught rather than introducing Internet. She felt other things should be cut in order for classrooms to be staffed.

Mrs. Annette Valardie, Soldotna parent, spoke to the need for additional staff for the incoming fourth grade class. She felt the windfall of \$300,000 should be used for additional teachers. She stated a good educational program is essential for students.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS
(continued):

Mrs. Diane Thomas, parent, spoke in support of additional staffing for the third grade going into the fourth grade. She felt that if staffing is determined later in the school year it would be disruptive to children if they have to move to another classroom. She urged the Board to consider the parent's request for additional staffing to cover this particular situation.

Mr. Steve Wright, Homer parent, expressed concern related to the reduction in the nursing program at McNeil Canyon Elementary School. He stated his son attended that school and is a diabetic; the nurse has been attentive to his and other children's medical problems. He noted without full-time nursing attention the situation could be fatal. On question from the Board, Mrs. Radtke responded no additional reductions have been made since the Board approved the staffing. However, the staffing at schools was not balanced and she has requested administrators to make the appropriate adjustments. General discussion followed, and Dr. Bromenschenkel reminded the Board that public discussion was inappropriate since the function of this section of the agenda was for public comments only. Mrs. Fischer questioned when the Board would be allowed to respond to public concerns. Superintendent Bromenschenkel stated the Board could establish a process for public hearings on particular issues. He noted it is not appropriate to hold discussions on topics where the administration has not gathered solid, accurate information. He also noted that the public should first contact the school principal for information, and if the principal does not have the information, they can ask the district office for information.

COMMUNICATIONS AND
PETITIONS:

Mrs. Gross read a communication from the McNeil Canyon Community Council Parent Group related to the staff reduction of one teacher for the next school year. This staff reduction will result in no physical education instruction and teachers will not have an opportunity for collaboration or parallel blocking. The multi-grade staffing has already been stretched with the attendance of Russian speaking students. They requested additional staff be reinstated for the 1997-98 school year.

Mrs. Gross acknowledged receipt of letters related to additional staffing for Chapman Elementary School.

RECESS:

At 8:30 p.m., Mrs. Gross called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:

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

KPEA:

Mr. Hal Smalley, KPEA President, expressed appreciation to Mrs. Fischer and Mrs. Mullins for their vote against the health insurance motion in April. He stated the Association protests the Board's action on the health care and the \$650 issue. He noted KPEA responded to the April 25 memorandum from Dr. Bromenschenkel on the Board's behalf objecting to the Board's action. He also noted a memorandum has been sent to all employees from the superintendent, again on the Board's behalf, despite a response from the union. He felt a wedge was being driven between the employees, central office and the school board. He added the district would realize a windfall from the PERS reimbursement of \$467,353 and new employees not receiving the \$650 payment would result in approximately \$525,00 additional funds to the district. He stated KPEA has not agreed to a Memorandum of Agreement for the 1997-98 school year to withhold employee funds for projected health care fund deficits. He felt there was misappropriation of funds for health care. He urged the Board to reverse their action, otherwise, he was certain the union would win in arbitration and in the courts.

CHAPMAN PTA:

Mrs. Barbara Dahl, Chapman PTA President, told the Board everyone was aware of the problem at their school, and now was the time to find a solution to it. She felt a win-win situation was needed at the school where students would benefit for the decision. She noted Chapman is a unique K-8 school and she urged that time be set aside to discuss the staffing formula for these small school situations.

SOLDOTNA PTA:

Mrs. Vickie Leach, Soldotna Elementary PTA President, reiterated consideration for additional staff for the upcoming fourth grade situation. She felt adding high needs students to the classroom had created special considerations for this class. She commented that the Title I Program has been successful, however, there is concern related to the student count which should include the pre-school students despite their not participating in the lunch program, which is the basis for the Title I Program. She invited the administration and school board to attend their school picnic and Arbor Day Celebration on Friday, May 23, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

KPESA:

Mrs. Karen Mahurin, KPESA President, commented that the Skyview Art Club designed and produced T-shirts, sweatshirts and book bags for their fund-raiser at the state and national level. The teachers and students were most appreciative and she asked that consideration be given to them in their situation. She also noted that 2 FTE nursing

KPESA (continued):

staff were cut at the middle/high school level. She commented there was confusion on the two listings which were prepared with/without additional borough funding. She also commented that unallocated time for 2 FTE nurses was deleted in the budget which would cover the special needs of students. She asked that the unallocated positions be considered with the PERS adjustment. She stated KPESA responded to the Board on May 5 at the Seward meeting that they were not in agreement with the school board related to the health insurance and \$650 issue. She stated that since that meeting KPESA and members of the KPESA Health Committee have talked with employees in all parts of the district. She noted the union had responded prior to the May 15 deadline requested and was disappointed a letter had been sent to the employees. She commented employees were disappointed the board has not honored their word, they are disappointed they would end and begin the school years with labor unrest, and disappointed the Board will take money from their paychecks. She noted that by this action some employees will have \$90-\$100 after essential bills have been paid. She urged the Board to reconsider their action and honor their word to the employees. She noted the only recourse would be to file an unfair labor practice suit.

CHAPMAN PTA:

Mrs. Cheryl Richardson, Chapman PTA Member, invited the Board to their Eighth Grade Graduation at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 27. She noted the ceremony is prepared by the parents, staff and volunteers of Chapman School.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Bromenschenkel reported correspondence has been forwarded to the Borough Assembly related to a technology bond referendum. Currently, the borough attorney is developing language for borough assembly consideration and the administration is participating in that process.

Superintendent Bromenschenkel told the Board requests for additional staffing for next year have been received from Seward Elementary, Chapman Elementary, Redoubt Elementary, McNeil Canyon Elementary and other schools. He explained the process in determining staffing allocations and noted that decisions are made at the local level through the School Based Decision Making Councils. He stated that at this point no schools have received additional staffing outside the formula. Mrs. Fischer requested a worksession be held prior to the next meeting related to the staffing formula, and requested the Chapman allocation be placed on the next agenda. She also asked that any additional funding be placed in the unallocated account to cover staff.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
(continued):

Mrs. Germano commented she felt other schools should be considered also, not just one school. On clarification, Mrs. Gross stated a worksession would be scheduled and the agenda item would be for additional staffing for selected schools.

Dr. Bromenschenkel announced that although his contract terminates the end of June, his last day at the district office will be June 13 since he will be using annual leave through the end of the month.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Mr. Swarner presented the financial report of the district for the period ending April 30, 1997. He responded to questions from Mrs. Germano related to the financial report.

BOARD REPORTS:

Miss Corazza told the Board that the student body president of Homer High traveled to Juneau to lobby for educational funding. The trip was made possible with help from Assembly Member Drew Scalzi and Senator John Torgerson.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were: Approval of Furniture and Equipment List, Extended Field Trip Request, Early Graduation Request, Resignations, Leave of Absence Request/Certified, Terminations, 1997-98 Teacher Assignments, 19-Day Substitute Teacher Contract, and Tentative Non-Tenure Teacher Assignment/1997-98.

FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT
LIST:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve the purchase of furniture and equipment for West Homer Elementary in the amount of \$326,714.60.

EXTENDED FIELD TRIP REQUEST:

Mr. Thorpe recommended the Board approve an extended field trip request for 12 Skyview High School students to travel to Santa Anna, CA, December 25, 1997-January 1, 1998, to participate in the Century Holiday Classic Basketball Tournament.

EARLY GRADUATION REQUEST:

Mr. Thorpe recommended the Board approve an early graduation request for a Homer High School student to graduate at the end of her junior year in May, 1998, pending completion of three correspondence courses this summer.

RESIGNATIONS:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve resignations effective the end of the 1996-97 school year for Holly Kiel, Dance, Soldotna High; and Henry Hofeldt, Counselor, Nikiski Jr/Sr High.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST/
CERTIFIED:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve unpaid leave of absence requests for the 1997-98 school year for Robert Boudreaux, Physical Education/Social Studies, Soldotna High.

TERMINATIONS:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve terminations effective the end of the 1996-97 school year for Jeff Wheaton, Grades 3-4, Susan B. English Elem/High; and Trudy Peterson, Music, Soldotna High.

1997-98 TEACHER ASSIGNMENTS:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve 1997-98 teacher assignments for Tina Krieger, K-Grade 1, Kalifornsky Beach Elementary; MaryBeth Verhelst, Grade 1, Kalifornsky Beach Elementary; and Nicole Shelden, Primary Grades, Soldotna Elementary.

19-DAY SUBSTITUTE TEACHER
CONTRACT:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a contract for 19-day substitute teacher Richard Kelso, Physical Education, North Star Elementary/Nikiski Elementary.

TENTATIVE NON-TENURE
TEACHER ASSIGNMENT/1997-98:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a tentative non-tenure teacher assignment for the 1997-98 school year.

ACTION

Mrs. Germano moved the Board approve the Consent Agenda Items. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

POLICY REVISION/AR 5113,
ABSENCES AND EXCUSES:

Mr. Thorpe presented revisions to Policy AR 5113, Absences and Excuses. The revisions require school intervention teams to work with the school administration and parents in problem solving individual truancy issues.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve Policy AR 5113, Absences and Excuses. Dr. Anderson seconded.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved to amend the motion to revise AR 5113 (b) to read, "The following options shall with approval of the building administrator be made available to parents when considering disciplinary action for student truancy:" Mrs. Larned seconded.

VOTE:

YES - Arness, Larned

NO - Anderson, Fischer, Germano, Mullins, Gross

Advisory Vote - NO

Amendment failed.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved to amend the motion, Option 2, change the word "assigned" in the first sentence to "allowed to perform" and add at the end of the paragraph, "All community service will be arranged by the student or parent and they will be responsible for documenting completion to the satisfaction of the building administrator." Dr. Anderson seconded.

ACTION

Mrs. Fischer moved to amend the amendment to delete, "All community service will be arranged by student or parent," and add "student and parent will be responsible..." Mrs. Mullins seconded.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT:

YES - Fischer, Gross

NO - Anderson, Arness, Germano, Larned, Mullins

Advisory Vote - NO

Amendment to the amendment failed.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

YES - Anderson, Arness, Larned
NO - Fischer, Germano, Mullins, Gross
Advisory Vote - NO

Amendment failed.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved to amend the motion to delete the words "select or" and add a comma after "suspension" in the last paragraph of AR 5113 (b). Mrs. Germano seconded.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

YES - Anderson, Germano, Mullins, Gross
NO - Arness, Fischer, Larned
Advisory Vote - YES

Amendment carried.

VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION:

YES - Anderson, Germano, Larned, Mullins, Gross
NO - Arness, Fischer
Advisory Vote - YES

Amended motion carried.

NINILCHIK SBDM WAIVER
REQUEST:

Mr. Thorpe presented a request from the Ninilchik School Based Decision Making Council to waive the requirement of the term of office for one of the two council support employee positions on the council.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve the SBDM waiver and stipulated the waiver would be limited to the term of Mr. McCombs. Mrs. Germano seconded.

Dr. Anderson raised question whether this would "stack" the committee with district staff rather than other committee members. He questioned whether this was reasonable for a one-year period of time. Mr. Thorpe responded he had no insights into this other than the site council requested the waiver.

Mrs. Fischer expressed concern related to the number of school employees on the committee and wanted the waiver to cover this one position only. Miss Corazza spoke in support of the waiver because there were so few people who ran for the site councils that one member should not be disqualified. Mrs. Germano stated this was a step in the direction for changing the makeup of the site councils beyond its original intent and purposes.

VOTE:

YES - Arness, Fischer, Larned, Gross

NO - Anderson Germano, Mullins

Advisory Vote - YES

Motion carried.

EXPULSION:
ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the following: "Decision of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School Board in the Matter of Expulsion of the student WW.

This matter was heard before the board on May 19, 1997. The student and his father were present. Principal Bob Bellmore, Assistant Principal Don Glaze, and Mr. Thomas Thorpe, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, were present on behalf of the administration, which recommended expulsion for the remainder of the 1996-97 school year and for the 1997-98 school year, with early readmission upon completion and compliance with certain conditions.

The evidence presented showed that on Wednesday, May 7, 1997 two of the student's teachers approached Mr. Glaze and advised him that WW was acting suspiciously in that he kept handling his jacket pocket, putting his jacket over his face

EXPULSION (continued):

and breathing, and was defensive when questioned. The student was called out of his fourth period class and questioned. A search of his pockets revealed marijuana in a cigarette pack in one of his jacket pockets. During subsequent questioning the student admitted that he had bought the marijuana from another student at school. WW is a special education student; his IEP team met and concluded that this offense was not related to his disability. The student's father testified that WW has expressed a strong desire to return to school and has made a commitment to complete treatment at CICADA. WW was previously suspended for 45 days in February, 1997 for possession of alcohol on school grounds. Fifteen days were waived as a result of completing drug treatment, and WW returned to school April 3, 1997. Additionally, WW was suspended for three days in January 1997 for smoking on school grounds.

The board finds that the evidence is sufficient to establish that WW violated the district's substance abuse policy 5131.6 on May 7, 1997, and for that reason his presence is inimical to the welfare or morals of other students at the school. The board concludes that WW's suspension should continue through the end of this 1996-97 school year, and that WW should be expelled for one year beginning immediately after the end of the school year. He may apply for conditional early readmission in January, 1998 if the following conditions are met: (a) he enrolls in the Alternative to Out of School Suspension Program and completes 4 credits, if it is available in the fall of 1997; (b) if option (a) is not available, he completes four correspondence courses at his expense; (c) he is reassessed at CICADA and follows a recommended treatment plan at his expense; (d) he completes a minimum of 40 hours of community service, to be arranged and documented by the student's parents in coordination with the school district administration; and (e) he has monthly, clean UA's conducted via Chain of Custody for June through December, 1997, at the student's expense.

WW's suspension is continued through May 28, 1997 and WW is hereby expelled from the school of the district from May 29, 1997 through the end of the 1997-98 school year. WW shall not attend or participate in school activities or come onto school grounds during school or school-sponsored events, except as may be required by the district during the period of this suspension and expulsion." Dr. Anderson seconded.

EXPULSION (continued):

VOTE:

YES - Anderson, Arness, Fischer, Larned, Mullins, Gross

ABSTAIN - Germano

Advisory Vote - ABSTAIN

Motion carried.

RECESS:

At 10:11 p.m., Mrs. Gross called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:

At 10:26 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

1998 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT
PROJECTS LIST:

Mr. Dahlgren reminded board members this item had been postponed from the last two meetings. He noted a memorandum had been received from Mayor Navarre where five items would be placed on the maintenance list, and requested these be replaced with replacement of playground equipment in the amount of \$214,000. Other projects to complete the \$1.5 million list were pool renovation design phase for Seward High, bus turnaround at Redoubt Elementary, reroofing at Kenai Central High, reroofing at Soldotna High, playfield construction at Seward High; playfield construction at Redoubt Elementary and remodeling of the chemistry lab at Kenai Central High. Mr. Dahlgren explained current safety specifications resulting in the replacement of playground equipment. He recommended the Board approve the listing based on the risk manager's evaluation of playground equipment.

Mrs. Gross acknowledged the presence of Assembly Members Grace Merkes and Mike Wiley as well as members of the Mayor's staff in the audience.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve Mr. Dahlgren's recommendation for 1998 capital improvement projects. Mrs. Germano seconded.

On question from the Board, Mr. Dahlgren stated it was his understanding that as equipment is removed the equipment would also be replaced with safety-standard playground equipment. Dr. Anderson expressed appreciation to the Borough Assembly for making the money available for the playground upgrades and he would also appreciate earlier input into the listing of projects prior to its consideration.

Motion carried unanimously.

1997-98 ADMINISTRATOR
APPOINTMENTS:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended approval of 1997-98 administrator appointments for Sue Liebner as Principal of North Star Elementary School and Keith Gebhart as Assistant Principal of Homer High School.

ACTION

Mrs. Fischer moved the Board approve the administrator appointments for North Star Elementary, Sue Liebner, and Homer High, Kieth Gebhart. Mrs. Germano seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

NAME CHANGE FOR SEWARD
JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve recommending to the Borough Assembly the name change of Seward Junior/Senior High School to Seward Middle/Senior High School. He noted the Seward Schools Site Council, student council and Jr/Sr High School principal had requested the name change to reflect the current structure and programs at the school.

ACTION

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve submitting a request to the Borough Assembly to change the name of Seward Junior/Senior High School to Seward Middle/Senior High School. Mrs. Germano seconded.

Mrs. Fischer stated a lot more is involved in a school name change such as sign changes, stationery changes, etc. She also noted that from discussions during the budget sessions the middle school concept will be whittled down and possibly be eliminated next year.

VOTE:

YES - Anderson, Arness, Germano, Larned, Mullins, Gross

NO - Fischer

Advisory Vote - NO

Motion carried.

KPSAA RECOMMENDATION ON
SOCCER:

Mr. Dahlgren commented that as a result of the gender equity survey results, the Kenai Peninsula Activities Association recommended a boys' and girls' soccer program be included as a varsity sport at the high school level for the 1997-98 school year. KPSAA stipulated that the sports will be operated in accordance with Alaska School Activity Association rules and regulations and at no cost to the school district. He noted the KPSAA Board met last week and would start a pilot program for girls' gymnastics through the Polar Gymnastic Club, if interest prevailed. Finding funding sources was a concern to the KPSAA Board for high school activities.

KPSAA RECOMMENDATION ON
SOCCER (continued):

Mrs. Margaret Seelye, Homer parent, expressed appreciation that the Board was considering soccer, but noted the report stated the survey was a gender equity survey. In reality, the survey was a student interest survey. She did not see this as a cure for gender equity and not equal opportunity for girls. She cited OCR regulations and stated girls were not being given their "piece of the pie." She noted the district spends \$472,500 on boys' sports, \$217,000 for girls sports and \$242,262 on co-ed sports. She stated it is time for those numbers to change and, as a parent of a girl, she felt this was not fair. She commented she did not propose adding more money to the budget, but instead distributing the funding equitably.

Mr. Peter Ehrhardt, speaking on behalf of the Kenai Peninsula Soccer Association, expressed appreciation to the Board for their consideration of the soccer proposal. He noted their organization is willing to work with the district during the next year where it will not cost the school district. However, with 250 students involved this year, the Board could expect their return requesting a piece of the athletic pie next year.

Mrs. Liz Reicheson, Homer parent, commented that in a review of the budget it appeared unbalanced where the district retains 24 coaches for 336 football players, whereas, for a possible 630 soccer players the district was not paying for any coaches. She was appreciative that soccer could become a recognized sport, but felt it was unfair to the coaches with the responsibilities expected of them. She also questioned the cost of lodging and suggested it be applied to other activities. Mr. Dahlgren responded the lodging expenditures are for state travel expenses including sports and all state band and choir. The district pays no money for uniforms or officials fees and all fees are raised by the schools.

Mr. John Anaway, Kenai parent, told the Board he worked with 650 Boys and Girls Club soccer players and these students will be coming up to the junior high/middle school programs. He called attention to equipment, injuries and liabilities involved in football, basketball and similar sports, whereas, soccer and swimming are lifetime activities with healthier lifestyles. He encouraged the Board's support of the soccer program.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the KPSAA recommendation. Mrs. Larned seconded.

KPSAA RECOMMENDATION ON
SOCCER (continued):

Dr. Anderson told the Board they needed to take a proactive look at funding all sports activities, and suggested the Board consider this as one of their goals for next year. He expressed concern that schools do not have fields to play soccer on until May.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved to amend the motion that the survey was a "student interest survey" not a "gender equity survey." Mrs. Fischer seconded.

Mr. Arness stated there was no overt intent to sway anything with the use of the wording "gender equity survey."

Amendment carried unanimously.

ACTION

Mrs. Germano moved to amend the motion that the girls' soccer program will be funded through the district for next year. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Mr. Dahlgren stated currently the Board does not recognize or have a negotiated agreement for soccer. This would have to come to the table later and approximately 80% of the budget is stipends. Mrs. Germano clarified funding would mean coaches and travel help.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

YES - Germano, Larned
NO - Anderson, Arness, Fischer, Mullins, Gross
Advisory Vote - YES

Amendment failed.

Amended motion carried unanimously.

BOARD COMMENTS:

The Board extended their best wishes to Student Representative Megan Corazza on her graduation and her future. Miss Corazza stated after graduation she would be traveling to Nepal for a year's language study. She stated she enjoyed serving on the Board and was happy the position is available to the students of the district.

Mrs. Mullins expressed appreciation for attendance of the borough assembly members who were at the meeting, and for their interest in the matters that come before the Board.

Mrs. Larned stated she was happy that soccer was being introduced as a varsity sport.

BOARD COMMENTS (continued):

Mr. Arness expressed concern related to the policy revision and was hopeful this would not open the classroom to something that would be unwelcomed. He also commented he was pleased that soccer was on the table and was challenged to see what other activities could be added.

Dr. Anderson noted that students showed interest on rifle shooting on the interest survey. He expressed interest in adding other activities to cover student interests. He was concerned about the Mexico trip, but was not sure how it could be solved.

Mrs. Germano commented that the School Board should have made a decision on the trip even if it was for a denial. She noted she had a call related to the charter school waiver for a balanced lottery selection of students. She stated she attended a very nice graduation ceremony at Ninilchik School on Sunday. She commented that in reading KPSAA minutes there is no indication addressing injuries and expenses involved in football. She requested the Board set some direction for KPSAA as a board goal this year.

Mrs. Fischer expressed concern that the Board needs to clarify a "session" for their body. She noted several items have been brought back to the Board, sometimes by the administration and sometimes by the Board. She felt the Board should decide when items can be returned to them. She felt this should be clearly defined. Also, she noted the Board had a lot of work ahead on the extracurricular activities, and a main concern to her was student criteria for participation with student scholastics being upheld.

Mrs. Gross commented she did not see soccer as equality for girls but was a beginning for the activity.

Mrs. Gross announced the Board will hold their goal setting session on Saturday, June 7, 1997 beginning 9:00 a.m. in the Borough Assembly Room, and the next regular School Board Meeting would be Monday, June 9, 1997.

ADJOURN:

At 11:18 p.m., Mr. Arness moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Fischer seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President

Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

The Minutes of May 19, 1997,
were approved on June 9, 1997,
as written.