

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
148 N. Binkley Street  
Soldotna, AK 99669

April 6, 1998

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President  
Mr. Joe Arness, Vice President  
Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk  
Mrs. Debra Mullins, Treasurer  
Dr. Nels Anderson, Member  
Mrs. Joyce Fischer, Member  
Ms. Deborah Germano, Member  
Miss Danielle Meacham, Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT: Mr. John Dahlgren, Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Patrick Hickey, Assistant Superintendent, Operations and Business Management  
Mr. Ed McLain, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction  
Mrs. Sharon Radtke, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Bob Bellmore Mr. Bill Reeder  
Mrs. Rose Mary Reeder Mrs. Karen Mahurin  
Mr. and Mrs. Lancaster Mr. David Boyle  
Mr. and Mrs. Orth Mrs. Melody Douglas  
Mr. Mark Leal Mr. Paul Sorenson  
Mr. Phil Morin Mr. Fabian Castilleja  
Mr. Greg Paxton Mr. Fred Deussing  
Mrs. Paula Christenson

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Mrs. Gross called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

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  
Ms. Deborah Germano Present  
Mrs. Debra Mullins Absent/Excused  
Miss Danielle Meacham Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved as written. Ms. Gross noted that Paula O'Connell (Redlin), was removed from Item 10a.(4) Approval of Resignations.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of March 16, 1998, were approved as printed.

SCHOOL REPORTS:

Bob Bellmore, principal, Nikiski Middle/High, introduced several staff members in the audience. He reported that British Petroleum donated several computers for their school's Apple computer lab. Phil Morin, science teacher, reported that teachers are using the computer lab and incorporating word processing programs, data bases, spread sheets and web browsers for research into cross curricular lessons. Mr. Morin stated that by using the lab as a cross curricular tool, students are able to complete final end-type projects.

Breanna Butler and Kendall Barrett, students, presented several web pages designed by students as part of a research assignment on Egypt. Both students explained how web pages are created and how to conduct research on the internet.

Stephanie Roberts, math teacher, stated that the computer lab is another assessment tool for teachers by providing another way to see what the students have learned. She stated that the students were excited to use the computer lab and the teachers noticed more peer teaching. Ms. Roberts stated that the teachers have also learned a lot from the students. She stated that the use of the computer lab was so successful that the teachers are considering expanding the project next year.

Mr. Bellmore stated that Nikiski Middle/High School's focus has been to break down the "technology cliff" and the BP computer lab is an attempt to accomplish that goal.

COMMUNICATIONS AND  
PETITIONS:

Ms. Gross stated that she received a copy of a letter to the news media written by Anchorage School Board President, Debbie Ossiander, who expressed concern for the negative news coverage relating to SB36. Mrs. Gross read a fax from Anchorage Superintendent, Bob Crystal containing a script that will be used for local radio announcements next week. The advertisement voices support for area legislators on the topic of school funding. Mrs. Gross stated that she received a letter from Shirley Holloway, Commissioner, Department of Education, and the State School Board, criticizing the school funding proposal.

RECESS:

At 7:55 p.m., Mrs. Gross called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:

At 8:00 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS: Mrs. Gross presented awards of appreciation to Rose Mary Reeder, Soldotna Community Schools Program, for the countless hours she has dedicated to the program which provides many benefits for District students and to David Boyle, Soldotna Middle School, for his outstanding contribution to education and the District.

Mr. Dahlgren stated that he remembered David Boyle when he was a freshman at Kenai Junior High School. Mr. Dahlgren stated that he is an exceptional young man.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Mr. Dahlgren reported that Eric Simpson, Soldotna Elementary sixth grade student, recently placed second at the State Geography Bee.

Mr. Dahlgren announced that Phil Biggs, technology director, had successfully applied for Technology Literacy Challenge grant monies in the amount of \$200,000 to be used for staff development.

Mr. Dahlgren reported on his recent trip to Juneau to participate in the Superintendents' AASA Legislative Fly-In. He reported on the progress of SB36 relating to school funding and expressed concerns for legislation dealing with part-time students and expansion of the number of charter schools.

Mr. Dahlgren reported that the District has reached a tentative agreement with KPESA. He stated that the agreement is currently being prepared for public inspection to comply with the requirements of HB465. He stated that upon ratification by the Association it will be brought before the Board for approval. He commented that it is a one-year agreement and that negotiations went smoothly and was positive and productive for both parties.

QUARTERLY LEASE REPORT: Mr. Hickey presented a report of leases or agreements entered into for the third quarter of fiscal year 1998. The District terminated the lease for equipment with Xerox Corporation and entered into a service agreement with Xerox Business Services.

Dr. Anderson asked whether schools that already own their own copier equipment were included in the new service agreement. Mr. Hickey replied that those particular schools were not included and that he will be meeting with those principals during the first week in May and will report back to the Board.

MIDDLE SCHOOL REPORT:

Ms. Dorothy Gray extended her thanks to the Middle School Committee team members for their dedication to the review process. She stated that it has been nine years since the District approved a plan to transition the junior high schools into middle schools. Ms. Gray reviewed the history of middle schools in the District with Kenai Middle and Homer Middle Schools being the first to participate in the transition process in 1991. She stated that the committee based their data analysis and research on the National Middle School Association's twenty characteristics of exemplary middle schools. She stated that the results of a staff survey of middle school traits were that teachers are highly confident that schools are staffed by educators knowledgeable and committed to teaching early adolescents and that schools regularly use cooperative learning strategies. Two weaknesses that were identified by teachers were that most schools lack a comprehensive student advisory program which allows teachers to work with small groups of students and that physical plants in the District do not easily accommodate teams or provide sufficient space for small and large group meetings.

She reported that a random survey conducted of ninth grade parents revealed that 91% felt that the District best met their child's needs in the use of a variety of classroom teaching and learning activities and 89% felt that their child received individual attention and concern by District staff. Academically, parents felt their children had been well prepared for high school in the areas of language arts and science.

Ms. Gray reported that 83% of ninth grade students surveyed felt that their middle school experience had prepared them well for high school in the areas of language arts, reading, music, and recreational sports. She reported that, when asked, students said they would like to have lower class sizes, greater curricular and elective class offerings, longer class periods and more hands-on activities.

Ms. Gray presented a comparison of CAT-5 scores administered to eighth grade students, including special needs students, statewide. Her report indicated that the District ranked higher than the Alaska state average in the areas of reading, writing and math.

MIDDLE SCHOOL REPORT  
(Continued):

Mrs. Gray stated that some primary points of consideration are that 16% of the total school population are being serviced by a middle school program. She added that these students are at a "turning point" in their school career which directly affects their future. She added that another consideration is that the state and local certified diplomas may dictate structural and organizational changes to occur in the middle school.

Ms. Gray stated that the committee recommends that a middle school review should occur every 5 years, the District should continue to support national studies which recognize the importance of middle school conceptual learning with the specific recommendations of the Carnegie Report, and the Board of Education recognize the specific needs of middle school physical plant design as new schools are built and older schools are remodeled.

Mark Leal, principal, Homer Middle School, stated that in order to continue with the successes of the middle schools in providing developmentally appropriate programs for young adolescent students, the District should renew its commitment to full implementation of the middle school model; that all schools continue to focus on developing appropriate programs for young adolescents; that the District move beyond focusing on development of interdisciplinary units and begin developing and implementing a rigorous, challenging and authentic curriculum that promotes connections between subject areas; that the District examine sports programs at the middle school level to determine a proper balance of intramural competition and interscholastic competition; and that the District develop a districtwide focus on implementing effective practices and programs for young adolescents.

In response to Ms. Germano's questions concerning future plans, Mr. Leal stated that the middle school principals have begun to meet during the administrators' meetings. He emphasized the importance of finding time to share program ideas among themselves.

Ms. Germano asked for an explanation of a model student advisory plan. Mr. Leal responded that a student advisory program is a place where a small group of students interact with an adult. He added that it is not counseling but that it is a time when a group of students could work on goal setting or talk about problems. He stated that a key element of a successful advisory program is when an adult becomes an advocate for a group of students. He stated that this year he worked with an advisory group and has been following those 14 students throughout the year.

MIDDLE SCHOOL REPORT  
(Continued):

Vicki Leach, middle school parent, stated that she especially appreciated the accessibility that parents have in a middle school program. She stated that parents are called on to assist with registration, fortnightlies, teacher projects, staff interviews, PTA, extracurricular activities, fund raising activities, library, drama, music, band, career exploration, site councils, field trips, student led conferences. She expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to meet with teachers. Ms. Leach stated that middle schools need more books for students and lower class sizes. She stated that, even though middle schools cost more to operate, it is money that is extremely well spent.

Dan Walker, teacher, Seward Middle School, stated that teaching middle school is about helping students who are going through social and physical changes and converting from elementary to high school. He stated that the team approach is very important for middle school teachers. He stated that if teachers are going to teach the way research and experience calls for, teachers must be integrating curriculum. If teachers are to be fair and use consistent discipline, teachers must meet regularly. He stated that the successes identified by the review team were that all the participants learned something, even those who have been middle school teachers for quite awhile. He stated that teachers on the committee felt that the review process should continue, that current teachers should be trained and new teachers be recruited and trained to be middle school specialists. Mr. Walker stated that advisor/advisee programs are important because students need an adult who knows them on a more personal basis and can be their advocate. He stated that quite often parents are at wits end with their child and welcome the help of an advocate. He concluded by saying that he would like to have a one-day District middle school conference next year.

Mrs. Fischer asked whether new state curriculum requirements may require the District to revise or restructure school programs and would the District teach to the test. Ms. Gray responded that the issues center around the exit exam. Ms. Gray stated that the District curriculum standards are much more detailed than the state standards. She stated that middle schools will need to identify students who require remedial assistance before they get to the exit exam.

Dr. Anderson stated that he would list his questions and concerns in the form of a letter for the committee's response.

MIDDLE SCHOOL REPORT  
(Continued):

Ms. Germano asked how the change in the math curriculum will impact the middle schools. Ms. Gray stated that the staff development department will begin an intensive program to provide inservice training to all K-12 math teachers in May.

Mr. Walker reported that teachers have expressed concerns that the new math curriculum will be more restrictive in the choices of textbooks. He stated that teachers like to have lots of options available to them.

Ms. Germano commented that she would like to see a middle school review every 3 years and each individual school staff review each year.

BOARD REPORTS:

Mr. Arness announced that a tentative agreement with KPESA had been reached and thanked Ms. Mahurin and Mr. Justin George for their time and effort. Mrs. Radtke assured the Board that they would receive a copy of the agreement before it is made public. Mrs. Radtke explained that after the union verifies that the draft copy is correct, announcements will be made in the newspaper stating that copies will be made available at public libraries. She added that the association will submit the proposed agreement to their members for ratification with Board approval scheduled for May 18.

RECESS:

At 8:50 p.m., Mrs. Gross called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:

At 9:05 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Budget Transfer, Extended Field Trip Request, 1997-98 Teacher Assignments, Resignations and Leave of Absence Request/Support.

Ms. Fischer asked to remove Consent Item Number 2. Ms. Germano asked to remove Consent Agenda Item Number 1.

1997-98 TEACHER ASSIGNMENTS:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve 1997-98 teacher assignments for Janet VanDriessche, full time (temporary) Special Ed/Resource at Seward Middle/Senior High and James William Carlson, full time (temporary) Vocational Education at Soldotna High.

RESIGNATIONS:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve the resignations of Julie Britton, Special Ed/Resource, Soldotna High, effective March 31, 1998; and Margaret Evans, Generalist, Kenai Alternative; Laurie Cramer, Physical Therapist, Districtwide Special Services; Jamie Shurts, Special Education/Resource, Sterling Elementary; effective May 29, 1998.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST/  
SUPPORT:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a one-year leave of absence request for the 1998-99 school year from Mary Downs, school secretary III, Chapman Elementary School.

ACTION

Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Item Numbers 3, 4, and 5. Mr. Arness seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

BUDGET TRANSFER:

Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve budget transfer number 358 for \$19,135 for the purchase of computers for the Quest Program.

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve budget transfer number 358 for \$19,135 for the purchase of computers for the Quest Program. Mr. Arness seconded.

Ms. Germano asked why a request was made to transfer QUEST funds to purchase equipment. She expressed concern that money to fund staff for the QUEST program is already limited.

Mrs. Radtke responded that several years ago when Special Services made reductions in their QUEST Program they developed a plan to meet the needs of those student by converting staffing dollars to equipment to purchase computers. She explained that this plan would serve remote students on-line via computers. Ms. Germano asked why the money wasn't put in the equipment account originally. She commented that QUEST teachers are already spread too thin and could not support the purchase of equipment.

Mr. Arness stated his objections to the purchase of equipment with Special Services money. Mr. Dahlgren stated that all Special Education money is budgeted as certificated staff and then converted into aides, secretarial positions and other expenditures. He added that he would like to meet with Mr. McLain and the Special Education staff to develop a budget that can be understood by everyone.

Dr. Anderson stated that he would not vote for the budget transfer. Mrs. Gross concurred and felt that the QUEST Program has been understaffed for quite some time, and it is an area in which parents are unhappy.



BUDGET TRANSFER (Continued):  
ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board table action on the motion to approve budget transfer number 358. Ms. Germano seconded.

VOTE ON MOTION TO TABLE:

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

Motion carried.

EXTENDED FIELD TRIP  
REQUESTS:

Mr. McLain recommended the Board approve extended field trip requests for Soldotna High School students to travel to Denver, Colorado, to participate in the National DECA Conference and for Homer High School students to travel to Washington, D. C., to participate in the CloseUp Program.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve an extended field trip request for Soldotna High School students to travel to Denver, Colorado, to participate in the National DECA Conference. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Mrs. Fischer noted that the timeline for the DECA field trip did not meet established Board policy and suggested that the Board either enforce or change the policy if it was not going to be followed.

Mr. McLain stated that the question of timelines is an issue that he has been working on with the principals. He stated that when he arrived in the District there seemed to be a misunderstanding concerning what trips needed advance approval. He stated that the perception was that ongoing, routine field trips were exempt from the timeline requirement. He stated that when field trips are submitted this late the reality is that the planning has been done and fees have been paid. Mr. McLain stated that he has been correcting the principals and teachers as each field trip is submitted late. He requested that the Board approve the field trips and allow him to transition to the requirements of the proposed policy revisions.

Mrs. Fischer stated that, although Mr. McLain may be new to the District, the principals are aware of the Board policy regarding extended field trip requests.

Mrs. Gross asked what eligibility criteria was used to qualify for participation in the National DECA competitions. Mr. McLain responded that students win the right to attend at the state level; however, the application process could be started earlier. He reiterated that an understanding among principals is that routine extended field trips are treated as ongoing trips.

EXTENDED FIELD TRIP  
REQUESTS (Continued):

Ms. Germano asked whether the extended field trip process is reviewed with principals at the beginning of each school year. Mr. McLain stated that the information is available to principals before school begins, but he did not review the process with them. Mr. McLain stated that he will review the policy with the principals at the beginning of next year.

VOTE:

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

Motion carried.

ACTION:

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve an extended field trip request for Homer High School students to travel to Washington, D. C., to participate in the CloseUp Program. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Mr. Arness expressed concern that many extended field trips were approved in the past that did not meet the required timeline. He added that the Board is about to approve language which reinforces Board policy requiring schools to abide by the timeline.

Mrs. Larned stated that she would support the field trip request because she did not feel the students should be punished for an oversight on the part of a teacher or principal.

Mr. Dahlgren stated that he understood the Board's frustration over the 30-day advance approval. He assured the Board that the central office would reject any further extended field trip requests that do not meet the required advance notice. He reminded the Board that field trips have been denied by central office in the past and pressure has been put upon the Board to approve them anyway.

Ms. Germano felt that the request was too short notice for an ongoing program. Dr. Anderson stated that he would like the schools to get the message that the Board will enforce the required deadline for submission of extended field trips.

VOTE:

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

Motion carried.

HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULING  
RECOMMENDATIONS:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended that the Board approve proposed high school scheduling recommendations which include more course integration; selling teacher preparation periods; shared partial day programs in the areas of vocational education and specialty programs; development of a distance delivery model through the use of technology for enrichment and make-up for failed requirements; and expanded dual credit offerings for required course work with the college.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve the proposed high school scheduling recommendations as presented. Ms. Germano seconded.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board amend the recommendations to include the mandate of a seven-period day, or the equivalent, at the high school level. Mrs. Fischer seconded.

Ms. Germano expressed support for the amendment stating that seven periods could be delivered in many different ways.

Mr. Arness felt that he was not ready to mandate a seven-period day.

Mrs. Fischer asked what effect the seven-period mandate would have on staffing and cost to the Board. Mr. Dahlgren stated that there would not be any change.

Dr. Anderson stated that he was opposed to mandating anything but felt that the proposed change would allow an opportunity for students who are academically inclined to take electives. He stated that if the state legislature passes legislation requiring students to take a minimum of two vocational education classes the District will have to increase the number of class periods to accommodate the requirement.

Mr. McLain stated that, although he appreciated the perspective from Dr. Anderson, he felt that there were strong benefits of a buy-in from staff.

Ms. Germano stated that she felt the seven-period day would provide a study hall option for students who need additional time for school work. Ms. Larned concurred with Ms. Germano's comments and added that schools could be creative in the use of block scheduling.

Miss Meacham stated that most of the students she has spoken with want a seven-period day. She noted that because of a shorter day, students have dropped activities in order to take the classes they need to graduate.

HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULING

RECOMMENDATIONS (Continued): After further discussion, Dr. Anderson withdrew his motion.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board amend the high school scheduling recommendations to include the sentence, "It is strongly recommended that principals and central office develop a method to deliver a minimum of seven credits per year to high school students. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Mr. Arness felt that there were other ways to provide seven credits per year to students besides a seven or eight-period day.

Amendment carried unanimously.

Amended motion carried unanimously.

BP 6153 SCHOOL-SPONSORED TRIPS AND AR 6153 SCHOOL-SPONSORED TRIPS:

Mr. McLain recommended the Board approve revisions to BP 6153 School-Sponsored Trips and AR 6153 School-Sponsored Trips. The changes clarify current practice, streamline forms and address water travel.

Mr. McLain noted that the most significant change is the language concerning water travel. He explained that "when practical" was substituted to allow short distance boat trips. He stated that the change allows building principals the flexibility of planning courses that involve travel by canoe in shallow water where boats with motors would not be appropriate. He stated that this policy has been reviewed by Mr. Hickey.

Mr. John Kistler stated that he agreed with the revisions as long as the Board requires mandatory adherence to all approved policies instead of ignoring them.

Ms. Larned asked why a three-month advance approval was required. Mr. Dahlgren responded that three months was a realistic time frame for a group to decide whether or not they wanted to organize a trip and still have enough time to plan fund raising activities.

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve revisions to BP 6153 School-Sponsored Trips and AR 6153 School-Sponsored Trips. Mr. Arness seconded.

BP 6153 SCHOOL-SPONSORED  
TRIPS AND AR 6153 SCHOOL-  
SPONSORED TRIPS (Continued):

Mr. Arness asked why the Board was required to approve extended field trips. Mr. McLain responded that from the discussions surrounding school-sponsored trips, it has long been a point of interest to the Board. He stated that the degree of involvement by the KPBSD School Board is unusual and more than other Alaskan districts require. He stated that the necessity for the Board to approve extended field trips is due to the liability issues and assurances that the trip has been carefully planned.

Mr. Arness stated that he felt that a three-month advance notice converts to a five-month advance notice after the school completes the paperwork, schedules the field trip on the Board agenda and approval is received. He stated that he did not feel that it was a workable policy. Mr. McLain noted that the policy requires that the Board approve the extended field trip request prior to final planning, fund raising or three months prior.

Mr. Dahlgren added that the reason the policy is so extensive is because of the Board's request. He stated that the Board was concerned that schools were taking excursions and excluding certain individuals, and field trips were being taken outside of vacation time, especially trips abroad. He stated that the Board was also concerned about teacher chaperones and the cost of their substitutes. He stated that these concerns have resulted from past trips.

Mrs. Fischer reported that another concern of the Board was that trips were not aligned with any particular curriculum and that many times there was no time for the sponsor to modify the trip plans if the request came to the Board late.

ACTION

Mrs. Fischer moved the Board amend the motion to strike the words, "final planning" on page AR 6153(c), second paragraph, and return to the original language of "substantial plans." Ms. Germano seconded.

Mr. McLain stated that the change was made to eliminate prior fund raising, or planning commitments. He explained that one of the problems is that field trip request are coming to central office that are too vague, and these have been returned to the sponsors for more detail. He stated that the change was recommended to create a situation where enough detail was provided so that he felt comfortable bringing the request to the Board.

Mrs. Fischer withdrew the amendment to the motion.

BP 6153 SCHOOL-SPONSORED  
TRIPS AND AR 6153 SCHOOL-  
SPONSORED TRIPS (Continued):

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board amend the motion to say "whichever occurs first," at the end of the sentence on page AR 6153(c), second paragraph. Mrs. Fischer seconded.

Ms. Germano asked Mr. McLain whether the proposed amendment helped clarify the intent of the policy. Mr. McLain suggested that the Board change the word "or" to an "and" after the words "fund raising" on page AR 6153(c), second paragraph.

Ms. Germano withdrew the amendment to the motion.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board amend the motion to change the word "or" to an "and" after the words "fund raising" on page AR 6153(c), second paragraph. Mrs. Fischer seconded.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

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

Motion failed.

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board amend the motion to change the word "or" to an "and" after the words "final planning" on page AR 6153(c), second paragraph. Motion died for lack of a second.

Mr. Arness suggested that the Board remove all reference to the Board of Education from the entire administrative regulation and policy.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board table action on Item 10c., BP 6153 School-Sponsored Trips and AR 6153 School-Sponsored Trips. Mrs. Larned seconded.

VOTE ON MOTION TO TABLE:

YES - Arness, Germano, Larned, Gross  
NO - Anderson, Fischer

Motion carried.

AR 3100 BUDGET:

Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve a revision to AR 3100 Budget. The revision changes the April 1 deadline to May 1 for the Board to adopt and submit the annual budget to the Borough Assembly for approval.

AR 3100 BUDGET (Continued): Mrs. Gross stated that the recommended revisions to AR 3100 Budget would be considered a first reading.

FY 1998-99 BUDGET: Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve the FY 1998-99 annual budget in the amount of \$84,059,605. Included in the budget is a request for Kenai Peninsula Borough contributions for in-kind and local appropriation to the "cap" for the general fund in the amount of \$29,139,010 and dedicated funding "outside the cap" for the cocurricular fund in the amount of \$1,175,000.

ACTION Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve the FY 99 annual budget as presented. Ms. Germano seconded.

ACTION Mr. Arness moved the Board amend the FY 99 Budget to reflect an increase in the staffing formula by .25 for 7-12 schools and .5 for 9-12 schools. Ms. Germano seconded.

Mr. Arness questioned the interpretation of the Board's intent of the staffing formula change at the last budget worksession.

Mrs. Fischer asked about reinstating staff at the high school level for Susan B. English High. Mr. Dahlgren explained that the Board directed that .25 FTE for Susan B. English High and an additional .5 FTE for the Homer Flex School be funded out of the unallocated.

Mr. Dahlgren explained in detail the Board-approved staffing formula and explained that, as a result of the last budget worksession, the Board asked for a decrease of the staffing formula at 9-12 high schools to 1:21.5 and a decrease at 7-12 schools to 1:20.25. He suggested that the Board keep the staffing formula clean by decreasing the staffing formula at the 7-12 schools by .25 to 1:20. and that the recommended change would not add any additional staff.

Mr. Dahlgren suggested the Board change the amendment to address the change in the staffing formula.

ACTION Mr. Arness reworded his amendment to amend the FY 99 Budget to decrease the staffing formula at 7-12 high schools to 1:20 and a decrease at 7-12 schools to 1:21.5.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

YES - Arness, Germano, Gross

NO - Anderson, Fischer, Larned

Advisory Vote: YES

Amendment failed.

FY 1998-99 BUDGET (Continued):

ACTION

Mrs. Larned moved the Board amend the FY 99 Budget to reflect an increase in the staffing formula by .25 for 7-12 schools and .5 for 9-12 schools. Ms. Germano seconded.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

YES - Anderson, Arness, Germano, Larned, Gross

NO - Fischer

Advisory Vote - YES

Amendment carried.

VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION:

YES - Anderson, Arness, Germano, Larned, Gross

NO - Fischer

Advisory Vote - YES

Amended motion carried.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Ms. Karen Mahurin thanked the Board and District's bargaining team for a very successful, amicable and positive negotiation. She stated that having school board members present became a learning process. She stated that it is difficult to represent a diverse group of employees including one-hour playground aides, eight-hour secretaries and twelve-month custodians. She stated that she feels positive about the proposed agreement, and she feels that it reflects KPESA and the District's commitment to attracting and maintaining quality personnel.

Mr. John Kistler stated that he has recently been hearing rural communities tell the public how their schools are going to "get ripped off" by a change in the state foundation formula. He stated that the communities in the KPBSD are the same size as many of the complaining rural communities and that he takes offense at their radio advertisements and attempt to influence the public to believe a blatant lie.

Mr. Paul Fischer suggested that the District require companies providing student graduation packages go to bid. He recommended that the District outline the specifications for a graduation package and allow all vendors to bid on the same offerings and require the successful bidder to post a cash bond. He stated that the students could then pick the package of their choice.



PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS  
(Continued):

Mr. Lawrence Colston expressed concern regarding the high school scheduling options and the recommendation of selling teacher preparation periods. He stated that it brings forth a question of educational excellence issues and that all further discussions should focus on that issue.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Dr. Anderson advised the Board to follow Robert's Rules of Order more closely.

Ms. Larned stated that she agreed with Ms. Germano's suggestion that a Middle School review be conducted every three years and thanked the committee members for their hard work.

Ms. Germano reported that the Homer High School girls' basketball team placed third in the 3A state basketball tournament and received the academic and sportsmanship awards. She thanked the middle school committee for their review. Ms. Germano stated that she would like to see more money be allocated to the gender equity issue concerning math and science for girls. She stated that she was getting tired of hearing how devastated bush schools are going to be if SB36 is passed by the legislature. She stated that, although there are a lot of good elements in the bill, more money should be included. She added that the state is raising expectations and, therefore, should financially help every school meet those expectations.

Mrs. Fischer thanked the association for their cooperation. She stated that she would rather see money from the budget for additional teachers be put in the unallocated account and given out as necessary. She stated it is easier to give teachers than take them away. She stated that she is unhappy with Mr. Arness' action postponing revisions to the policy and administrative regulation concerning school-sponsored trips. She stated that the Board is giving away all of their responsibilities and approving extended field trips is one of the few left. She stated she is convinced that her decision to leave the Board in June was the right one.

ADJOURN:

At 10:50 p.m., Mrs. Fischer moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President

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Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

The Minutes of April 6, 1998,  
were approved on April 20, 1998  
as written.