

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

April 20, 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
Mrs. Melody Douglas, Director, Business and Finance
Mr. Ed McLain, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction
Mrs. Sharon Radtke, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

OTHERS PRESENT: Mrs. JoAnn Odom Mrs. Mo Stoner
Mr. Chuck Boll Mr. Patrick Bennett
Mrs. Carole Bear Ms. Phyllis Halstead
Mr. Dennis Dunn Ms. Marnie Love
Mr. Mike Fischer Mrs. Beth Martin
Mrs. Ann Bayes Mr. Paul Fischer
Mrs. Sylvia Reynolds Mr. Patrick O'Brien
Mr. Lawrence Colston Mrs. Nan Spooner
Ms. Barb Vogel Ms. Karen Mahurin
Mr. Justin George Mrs. Pam Lazenby
Dr. Don Boehmer

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Mrs. Gross called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. A quorum of School Board members, Mrs. Debra Mullins, Mrs. Joyce Fischer, Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, Ms. Deborah Germano, Mr. Joe Arness and Mrs. Susan Larned, were in attendance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 2:31 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. Ms. Germano seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 3:30 p.m., Ms. Germano moved the executive session be adjourned. Mr. Arness seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

RECESS: At 3:31 p.m., Mrs. Gross called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS: At 7:40 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

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	Present
	Miss Danielle Meacham	Absent

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved as written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of April 6, 1998, were approved as printed.

KENAI ALTERNATIVE HIGH SCHOOL REPORT: Mr. Dennis Dunn, principal, Kenai Alternative High School (KAHS), reviewed the history of the alternative school and thanked the Board and central office administration for their support of the school. He stated that since August 1997, 60 to 70 windows have been replaced and the majority of the building has been painted among other improvements. He reported that Mrs. Radtke assisted in scheduling nursing care for his students and that Mr. Garoutte has assisted with computer technology. He thanked ARCO for their computer donation. Mr. Dunn noted that the focus of the mission is to serve those students that have difficulties. He reported that the delivery of instruction at Kenai Alternative High School must be flexible, the classes are smaller because his students have a greater need than most other students. He stated that student attitude means the difference between success or failure. He stated that students have to want to be there and to do what it takes; if not, they are withdrawn from the program. Mr. Dunn stated that it takes a great deal of patience and belief that his students can be successful in order to work with them. He presented a slide show with pictures of students, their children, teaching staff, volunteers, student artwork and projects, and the facility.

KENAI ALTERNATIVE HIGH
SCHOOL REPORT (Continued):

Ms. Ruth Dennison, parent of a daughter at KAHS, stated that her daughter has had trouble in school since first grade, was diagnosed with Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD), and has been unable to function in a traditional school setting. She stated that her daughter continued to have trouble in high school and during the middle of her sophomore year wanted to quit school. She stated that her daughter felt she didn't have a chance to succeed. Ms. Dennison stated that her daughter enrolled in the KAHS in January of 1998 and now has a B average. She stated that her daughter is a smart girl who now feels good about herself and actively participates and feels like she belongs as a member of KAHS. Ms. Dennison reported that her daughter is much calmer at home and does not get as frustrated. Ms. Dennison stated that KAHS has made major difference in her daughter's life as well as her own.

Mr. Dunn read a letter from a student who has recently completed credits for graduation in spite of many obstacles in her life. She thanked the Board for the opportunity to complete her high school diploma in an alternative program.

Mr. Dunn displayed an overhead transparency with statistics showing the number of students enrolled at KAHS and the schools they transferred from or previously attended. He currently has 39 students, 19 of whom have been in the alternative school since October 1, 1997. He stated that he has interviewed a total of 86 students this school year with many of them being referred to other agencies for assistance, such as the Kenai Peninsula College, Cook Inlet Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, and Central Peninsula Mental Health Center. Nine students are expected to graduate this school year. Mr. Dunn reported that students who seek help from the alternative school are typically behind academically, have behavior problems, are pregnant or are teen parents, involved in drugs and alcohol abuse, are abandoned, or have multiple problems. He said that it takes flexibility, structure, consistency, and mature people with life experiences to work with his students. He stated that classes are one hour and forty-five minute, courses are 6 weeks long, and he blends direct instruction with independent study. He stated that he would like to involve students in the community by having them work in local businesses. Mr. Dunn listed the many organizations and businesses that have helped KAHS and thanked them. He stated that recently the students focused on a three-week unit concerning giving back to the community, had a Christmas celebration with gifts for each student and was excited to have 100% attendance at Parent/Teacher conference.

KENAI ALTERNATIVE HIGH
SCHOOL REPORT (Continued):

Mr. Dunn summarized phone calls and contacts during the a typical day which can include calls from youth detention facilities, parents, Kenai Peninsula Care Center, Youth Corrections, sick students, and school nurses. He reported that many of his students have not finished an entire school year during their entire school career. He stated that KAHS needs adequate funding and resources like other schools to be able to expand the alternative program in a manageable way. Mr. Dunn stated that, unfortunately, his enrollment is growing and concluded with an analogy of the importance of locating at-risk students early in their school careers. He thanked the Board for their time, support and invited them to attend the KAHS graduation ceremony.

Mr. Arness encouraged those present to attend the KAHS School graduation on May 15 at 7:00 p.m. He stated that he has attended five years in a row and felt that the KAHS students have a real appreciation for their accomplishment that is not found in the other schools.

HEARING OF DELEGATIONS:

Ms. Ann Bayes, South Kenai Peninsula State Parks Advisory Board, asked the Board for a resolution or letter of support for the concept of developing the Anchor Point Beach Community Safety Trail (ABC'S Trail). Mrs. Bayes shared a map showing the proposed trail and new parking area. She stated that currently Anchor Point has a tremendous number of visitors in the summer who use a narrow road without shoulders. The trail would be approximately three miles long. She stated that Alaska State Parks is working with the community to secure ISTE A funding from the Department of Transportation. She stated that the Anchor Point Advisory Planning Commission has selected this project as their top capital projects priority.

Mrs. Bayes responded to a question from Mrs. Gross that the trail will be a gravel, handicapped accessible, family oriented type of a trail. It is not to be used for motorized vehicles or high-speed bicycles.

Mr. Arness asked how much the project will cost and why Board support was being solicited. Mrs. Bayes responded that more detailed plans are currently being drawn and so she was not sure of the total cost. She stated that community support is important for the proposal to qualify for ISTE A funding and because of the close proximity to the school. She noted that the trail head parking area would provide additional parking for the school and also would provide a safe trail for student field trips to the beach.

HEARING OF DELEGATIONS
(Continued):

Mr. Arness asked what other projects the ABC'S Trail would be in competition with for funding. Mrs. Bayes responded that she did not know of any others. She has heard rumors about pedestrian trails in the Deep Creek area.

COMMUNICATIONS AND
PETITIONS:

Mr. Dahlgren called the Board's attention to two extended field trip reports from Kenai Middle School and Kenai Central High School located in their information packet.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Mrs. Gross presented awards of appreciation to Phyllis Halstead, secretary, Kenai Alternative High School; Carole Bear, counseling secretary, Soldotna High School; and Marnie Love, bookkeeper, Soldotna High School, for their outstanding dedication to the District.

Mr. Arness read a proclamation from the Borough mayor Mike Navarre, declaring Friday, May 1, 1998, as Alaska School Bus Driver Appreciation Day. Mr. Chuck Boll, area supervisor, Laidlaw Transit Company, accepted the proclamation on behalf of the school bus drivers.

Mr. Boll introduced Mrs. JoAnn Odom, who has been a bus driver for 27 years, and Ms. Colleen Puch, who has been a bus driver for 22 years. Mr. Boll expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to pay tribute to the 100 plus drivers and monitors employed by Laidlaw. He stated that District bus drivers travel more than 7,000 miles each school day and over 1.2 millions each school year. He reported that Laidlaw busses transport an average of 5,800 pupils each day to 25 different schools in the District. He stated that during the past two years there have not been any preventable accidents and no pupil injuries. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to acknowledge his drivers.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Dahlgren announced that the annual Strategic Planning Update will be held Saturday, May 9, 9:00 a.m., at the Skyview High School library. He reported that Mrs. Radtke and other central office staff are attending the Job Fair in Anchorage and that Mr. Hickey is attending a conference as part of the Borough's disaster preparedness plan.

He announced that interviews for the assistant principal position at Soldotna Middle School have been conducted and a selection will be brought to the Board at the next meeting.

Mr. Dahlgren invited the Board to attend a potluck honoring the Magadan visitors on Friday, April 24, 6:00 p.m. at Redoubt Elementary.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
(Continued):

Mr. Dahlgren reported that there have not been any hearings on any educational legislation since April 6. He added that SB36 was scheduled to be heard in House Finance today but was postponed.

Mr. Dahlgren announced that the Budget had been delivered to the Borough Clerk's office and will be formally introduced during the April 21 Borough Assembly meeting.

Mr. Dahlgren announced that Mr. Theo Lexmond was selected as the Alaska School Psychologist Association's Psychologist of the Year and that Mr. Rick Ladd was selected as Alaska's National Distinguished Principal of the Year.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Mrs. Douglas presented the financial report of the District for the period ending March 31, 1998.

BUDGET TRANSFERS REPORT:

Mrs. Douglas reported on budget transfers Numbers 200 through 366 for various schools and departments within the District. She stated that this is a quarterly report for the months of January through March, 1998.

Ms. Germano asked about budget transfer 266 for KCHS academic coach stipends from Districtwide for \$3,000. Mo Stoner explained that the high school QUEST program was scaled down several years ago and KCHS traded-in their one-half time QUEST allocation along with several other school QUEST allocations and consolidated services. She explained that by doing that they became eligible for financial support for academic coaching for competitions such as Future Problem Solvers, Mind of Mazes, Knowledge Master and the Academic Decathlon. Mrs. Stoner explained that the stipend pays for after-school coaching for academic competitions for Kenai Central High students.

Dr. Anderson asked if the stipend arrangement was unique to Kenai or whether other schools have the same funds available to them for similar academic coaching. Mrs. Stoner responded that a few of the high school principals decided to pool the money and then divide it out equally to be used more efficiently to fund academic competitions. She added that the other high schools decided to keep their .5 FTE QUEST allocation instead. Mrs. Stoner added that the high schools who have elected to pool their money also get computer support for six on-line courses taught via the internet. She stated that money is also used to pay for a couple of classes for students who take an on-line class outside of the District and to provide a mentorship program.

BUDGET TRANSFERS REPORT
(Continued):

Mrs. Douglas explained that budget transfer number 285 for \$3,750 pays for accounts payable check charges. She explained that the past banking contract included check stock but the new contract puts the charges back to the District.

BOARD REPORTS:

Dr. Anderson stated that he had the opportunity to attend a presentation by Dr. Roland Good who was brought to the District to inservice the special services staff. He stated he was quite impressed with Dr. Good's presentation on the ability and techniques available to ensure that all students are brought up to reading level. He stated that he hoped that a twenty or thirty minute presentation could be made to the Board.

Mrs. Mullins reported on her trip to New Orleans to attend the National School Boards Conference. She stated that Education Secretary Riley addressed their group and told them that the U. S. Department of Education is considering hiring 100,000 new teachers to lower the pupil-teacher ratio in Grades 1 through 3. She reported that three people spoke to them about overcoming major obstacles in their lives and how their association with an adult mentor helped them become successful. Mrs. Mullins stated that after listening to the speakers she left the conference with the idea that any child can succeed if they have a mentor to help them.

Mrs. Mullins reported that she is one of the District representatives on the Borough Assembly Space Allocation Committee and the committee has toured several buildings in order to develop a plan to alleviate overcrowding in the Borough Administration building. She stated that the committee has three more meetings before the recommendation is due and will report the long-range plans for the next ten to twenty years to the Board.

RECESS:

at 9:02 p.m., Mrs. Gross called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:

at 9:10 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Resignations, Substitute Teacher Contracts, 1997-98 Teacher Appointment and Grants.

RESIGNATIONS:

By memorandum, Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve resignations effective at the end of the 1997-98 school year from Sandra J. Lewis, Grade 3, Redoubt Elementary; Patti Jolin, Grade 2, Sterling Elementary; Laura Dershewitz, generalist, Nanwalek Elementary/High School; Michael Stewart, generalist, Nanwalek Elementary/High School; and Scott Otterbacher, Grades 4-6, Nanwalek Elementary/ High School.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER
CONTRACTS:

By memorandum, Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve 19-day substitute teaching contracts for Kristina Owens, physical education/art, Chapman Elementary and Susan Ridgway, art, Homer Middle.

1997-98 TEACHER APPOINTMENT:

By memorandum, Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a teaching appointment for the 1997-98 school year for Merry Zogas, full time (temporary), K-8, Hope Elementary School.

GRANTS:

Mr. McLain recommended the Board approve grants for Title VI: Innovative Education Program Strategies for \$89,885 and for Title II: Eisenhower Professional Development for \$97,867.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 4. Mrs. Fischer seconded.

Ms. Germano asked about the purpose of the Eisenhower grant. Mr. McLain responded that the grant began primarily as a math and science initiative but is now being used to consolidate and coordinate with other supplemental grant programs. He added that even though Eisenhower funds help support staff development, the focus is mainly math and science.

Mr. McLain explained that there has been a definite push from the state and federal government to enlarge the focus by including higher order thinking skills. He stated that for his first year with the District he asked to continue to focus the grant on math and science. Mr. McLain referred to the needs assessment plan that was completed for the Eisenhower grant application. Dr. Anderson stated that he had heard complaints from teachers that Eisenhower money was also funding language arts projects. Dr. Anderson asked what the parameters were of Eisenhower money. Mr. McLain explained that each grant is reviewed by the state Department of Education and that the Title II grant has routinely been recognized as exemplary and has even been used a model. He assured the Board the grant does not contain anything inappropriate or illegal.

Ms. Germano asked how the District reported expenditures from the Eisenhower grant. Mr. McLain explained that the District submits quarterly reports and year-end program evaluations to the state. He stated that to his knowledge the District has never failed a report.

GRANTS (Continued):

Ms. Germano asked why the budget amounts for membership and other professional growth organizations were considerably more than last year's. Mr. McLain explained that this year the District insisted that the entire District be able to participate in the POLARIS initiative which increased the membership costs. He added that there was also an increase in consortium fees.

Ms. Germano asked about staff travel and participation in professional development and membership activities at the district, state and national level. Mr. McLain explained that the District uses Eisenhower money for staff to travel to state and local conferences and that POLARIS money is used to send people to national conferences.

Motion carried unanimously.

1998-99 RETIREMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM PLAN AND SCHEDULE:

By memorandum, Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve the Retirement Incentive Program for TRS and PERS employees that is offered by the state for the 1998-99 school year. Her memo stated that declaration/waiver packets would be mailed August 15, 1998, and that employees must declare their participation after September 15 and before October 15, 1998.

ACTION

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve the Retirement Incentive Program for TRS and PERS employees. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Mrs. Fischer asked why the declaration dates are so early in the school year. Mr. Dahlgren explained that it allows enough time to advertise and plan for vacancies. He further explained that the retirement program must have the employee waivers prior to providing the District with a list of those who plan to retire.

Mrs. Mullins asked why the District would want to participate in the retirement incentive considering the small number of substitutes who are available. Mr. Dahlgren explained that the District did not want to participate in the retirement program this year because too many teachers had retired during the last retirement offer and the District needed some time to recover. He added that the District also did not want to compete with the Anchorage School District. He stated that this is the last year that the District will be able to participate in the retirement incentive program.

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board table action on participation in the retirement incentive program. The motion died for lack of second.

1998-99 RETIREMENT INCENTIVE
PROGRAM PLAN AND SCHEDULE
(Continued):

VOTE:

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

NO - Germano

Motion carried.

STUDENT EXPULSION:
ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the following: "The Decision of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District in the Matter of Expulsion of LM.

This matter was heard before the Board on Monday, April 20, 1998. The student and his parents were in attendance. Todd Syverson, Principal of Soldotna Middle School and Mr. John Dahlgren, Superintendent, were present on behalf of the administration. The administration recommended an expulsion of the student for the remainder of this school year and for the first semester of the 1998-99 school term, for violation of the District's Board Policy 5131.7(a). The administration also recommended that LM be allowed to continue his education via correspondence, and that LM be considered for readmittance during the second semester of the 1998-99 school year upon completion of a mental health counseling assessment, compliance with the recommended program and completion of 40 hours of community service.

The evidence presented showed that on April 9, 1998, while walking by some school lockers, Assistant Principal Greg Paxton heard an alarm sound from inside a student's locker. Upon further inspection, Mr. Paxton saw an alarm clock, and also what appeared to be a grenade inside the locker. Mr. Paxton subsequently determined that the locker was assigned to LM, and that the item was a grenade replica used by the military in practice training. The replica had a large hole drilled through its base, and did not contain any explosives or any mechanism capable of triggering an explosion. LM stated he had brought it to school to show it to other people, and that he had no intention of using it to scare anyone. He had not been granted permission to bring the replica on school grounds. The administration agreed that LM probably did not intend to cause harm with the replica, and also indicated that LM had a history of numerous other less significant infractions for which he had been disciplined during the 1997-98 school year. On the day in question LM had just returned from a one-day suspension for insubordination.

STUDENT EXPULSION (Continued): Based on the uncontradicted evidence, the Board finds that LM did violate the District's Board Policy 5131.7(a) on April 9, 1998, by knowingly possessing a replica of a weapon or dangerous instrument on school grounds, and that his behavior was inimical to the welfare, safety or morals of other students and school employees, and concludes that he should be expelled from the District for the remainder of the 1997-98 school year and the first semester of the 1998-99 school year. The Board also finds that the grenade replica did not constitute a firearm or deadly weapon as defined by statute, and that LM may apply for limited admission to the Alternative Out-of-School Suspension Program for the remainder of the 1997-98 school year and the first semester of 1998-99. LM may apply for early full readmission to the general school District programs for the first semester of 1998-99 if he satisfactorily completes the above alternative program for the remainder of the 1997-98 school year, plus 40 hours of community service, and also completes a mental health counseling assessment by a duly licensed counselor, and completes the counselor's recommendations. Such early readmission is subject to approval by the superintendent. Except as necessary for such limited readmission to the alternative program LM shall not go on school grounds during the period of expulsion for any reason, nor shall he attend any school event or function whatsoever." Ms. Germano seconded.

VOTE:

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

Motion carried.

MIDDLE SCHOOL
RECOMMENDATIONS:

Mr. McLain recommended the Board approve three recommendations and nine actions to guide District plans for middle school organization, support and staff development in 1998-1999.

The three recommendations are:

- The District should affirm its commitment to the implementation of a full middle school program based on "best practices," research and standards of the National Middle School Association as outlined in the Middle School Review Committee report.
- The District should affirm its intent to continue our focus on offering a developmentally appropriate and standards-based program for all students at the middle school level.

MIDDLE SCHOOL
RECOMMENDATIONS (Continued):

- The District should affirm its commitment to offer a rigorous and challenging integrated/ interdisciplinary curriculum for all middle school students.

The nine associated actions were in the areas of District level staff development, District and site collaboration, site level staff development, Districtwide extracurricular, District planning and District staff recruitment.

ACTION

Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve the middle school recommendations as presented. Mrs. Fischer seconded.

Ms. Germano asked about the plan's review cycle. Mr. McLain responded that a complete review would be scheduled every four years.

Mr. Arness noted that one of the recommendations was to study, review and advise on middle school intramural as compared to competitive sports programs. He informed the Board that KPSAA recently completed a comprehensive study and conclusion on that same issue. Mr. McLain stated that he would make sure that the committee members are aware that the study exists.

Dr. Anderson expressed concern about the Board affiliating themselves with the National Middle School report. He stated and that after a two-hour worksession there was not enough time to ask questions of the committee. He expressed concern over the recommendation that the District affirm its commitment to offer a rigorous and challenging integrated/interdisciplinary curriculum for all middle school students. He stated that he was not convinced that that was best practice, and he did not want to commit to one philosophy. He stated the he would not support the recommendations.

Ms. Germano expressed concern that student intervention is not followed in all classes. She also stated that a four-year review cycle was too long.

Mrs. Larned asked how much money it would take to implement the middle school recommendations. Mr. Dahlgren responded that the recommendations will be used to focus the District's energies during the next few years. He assured the Board that if there were large costs associated with the implementation of the recommendations, he would seek Board direction. He stated that the report will be used during the June 1998 Board planning session.

MIDDLE SCHOOL
RECOMMENDATIONS (Continued):

Mrs. Mullins asked whether the District level staff development recommendation to organize a middle school conference would be statewide or Districtwide. Mr. McLain stated that the intent is to conduct a District conference using Title VI grant money.

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board amend the middle school recommendations to include a parent, staff and student survey every two years. Mrs. Fischer seconded.

Amendment carried unanimously.

VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION:

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

Amended motion carried.

BUDGET TRANSFER:

Budget transfer number 358 for \$19,135 for the purchase of computers for the QUEST Program was removed from the table.

Dr. Boehmer explained that during the 1994-95 school year he was asked by Dr. Bromenschenkel, former superintendent, to cut three teaching positions from the QUEST Program. He stated that at that time, eleven schools were not receiving any QUEST services. He stated that he suggested the District cut only two teachers and convert the third teaching position to cash to purchase computers and serve students via distance learning. He explained that this practice has been ongoing for the last three years.

BUDGET TRANSFER (Continued):

Ms. Germano commented that the reduction in QUEST services is most noticeable at the elementary level and asked what sites have received QUEST money. She asked Dr. Boehmer whether distance learning serves the needs of elementary students. Dr. Boehmer stated that it meets the needs of some students but not all. Ms. Germano stated that she did not feel that it was practical to share a half-time QUEST teacher among four schools. Dr. Boehmer stated that the District was left with limited options after such a drastic reduction in staff and that equity is a major issue. Mrs. Stoner assured the Board that all schools that have students that meet the criteria for the gifted matrix currently have QUEST service. Ms. Germano asked what the purpose of budget transfer number 358 was. Mrs. Stoner explained that the transfer was to provide more computers to the schools that need them so that more students can have more time on-line without having to double up on equipment. Mrs. Stoner stated that the computers are available to other students when they are not being used for QUEST students and that the computer equipment is moved and reallocated as the needs change.

Dr. Boehmer told the Board that the money will go towards purchasing Macintosh computers. Mr. Arness verified that the QUEST Program was reduced by two teaching positions with the third position being converted to cash and then expressed unhappiness about the "black hole of special services" where the money cannot be touched.

Mrs. Fischer asked whether according to the technology plan the District would be purchasing IBM compatible computer equipment and moving the Macintosh computers to the elementary grades. Mr. Dahlgren explained that there is a migration in secondary schools towards the Windows 97 format but that there has not been a mandate to purchase either type of computer system. He further added that the technology plan contains standards that all purchases must meet which includes a Pentium processor or a Power Macintosh.

Ms. Germano stated that she felt that the District should get the best bargain for their money and questioned the purchase of both types of computer systems. She stated that she was unhappy to see the degradation of the QUEST Program and added that teachers teach children and but computers don't.

BUDGET TRANSFER (Continued):

Mr. Dahlgren stated that budget reductions over the past several years have been extremely tough and that the plan to reduce Special Services and the plan to deliver QUEST services came before the Board. He stated that a similar budget transfer came to the Board last year also. He stated that it is difficult for program directors to operate without a plan and that if plans are going to be changed they need to be done prior to the beginning of the school year. Mr. Dahlgren explained that, at the time, Dr. Bromenschenkel was looking for ways to reduce the budget and this was one of the plans that Special Services developed which has been effective.

Ms. Germano asked why the funds for the equipment weren't allocated in the equipment account from the beginning. Mr. Dahlgren explained that the entire Special Services budget is based on certified FTEs, including the secretarial pool. He stated that he is currently working on revising the Special Services budgeting process to make it easier to understand.

VOTE:

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

Motion carried.

1998-99 TENTATIVE MEETING
DATES:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve a tentative listing of School Board, administrator and miscellaneous meeting dates for the 1998-99 school year. He stated that the administrators will be meeting one less day than this school year.

Mr. Dahlgren reminded the Board the District Academic Night honoring 4.0 students in grades 9 through 12 will be Monday, April 27, 6:30 p.m. at Soldotna High School.

ACTION

Mrs. Fischer moved the Board approve the tentative listing of School Board, administrator and miscellaneous meeting dates for the 1998-99 school year as outlined. Mrs. Larned seconded.

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board change the August 17 meeting in Homer to November 2. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Ms. Germano stated that the last August meeting in Homer had a very small audience because the school year had not yet begun.

1998-99 TENTATIVE MEETING
DATES (Continued):

VOTE ON THE AMENDMENT:

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

Amendment carried.

Amended motion carried unanimously.

POLICY REVISION BP 6153 AND
AR 6153 SCHOOL-SPONSORED
TRIPS:
ACTION

Mr. McLain recommended the Board approve revisions to BP 6153 School-Sponsored Trips and AR 6153 School-Sponsored Trips.

Mr. Arness moved the Board remove item 10f. BP 6153 School-Sponsored Trips and AR 6153 School-Sponsored Trips from the table. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board amend the original document with the document presented in the packet and strike the words "short-distance" and add the words "when practical" after the word "trips" in Item B. on page AR 6153(j). Ms. Germano seconded.

Mr. Arness stated that the intent of the substitution was to remove the Board from approving routine extended field trips and establish some guidelines that the administration would follow regarding qualified and appropriate field trips. He explained that the policy revision also establishes a quarterly report to be made to the Board from the administration listing the approved field trips. He added that the Board will act in cases of appeal.

Mrs. Fischer expressed her opposition to the Arness amendment. She stated that the Board is abandoning their responsibilities and that the Board will not always be aware of student trips. She stated that the Board was elected to represent their constituents and to take care of the business of the District.

Mr. Arness stated that as long as the proposed guidelines are administratively followed then there is no reason for the Board to approve extended field trips. He added that earlier this week some KCHS students were almost unable to participate in an out-of-state field trip because they did not meet the requirements of the current policy.

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

Ms. Germano asked about the due process procedure. Mr. McLain referred to page two of his memo, Item Number 3, second paragraph, "Parties denied approval for a trip may appeal that decision to the Superintendent. Denial by the Superintendent may be appealed to the Board following the District appeal process."

Ms. Germano asked about the three-month advance approval requirement. Mr. McLain explained that the use of the word "or" gave the administration the flexibility needed to review each request on a case by case basis. Field trip requests will be sent to the superintendent or designee prior to final planning or fund raising, or three-months prior to the trip.

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board amend the amendment to add Item Number 11 to BP 6153, "Parties denied approval for a trip may appeal that decision to the Superintendent. Denial by the Superintendent may be appealed to the Board following the District appeal process." Mrs. Larned seconded.

Amendment to the amendment carried unanimously.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT AS AMENDED:

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

NO - Fischer

Amendment carried.

VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION:

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

NO - Fischer

Amended motion carried.

Mr. Dahlgren assured the Board that the administration will deny those extended field trips that do not meet the guidelines. He warned the Board that the administration will follow Board policy and that there will be appeals.

POLICY REVISION AR 3100
BUDGET:

Mr. Dahlgren 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.

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve revisions to AR 3100 Budget. Dr. Anderson seconded.

POLICY REVISION AR 3100
BUDGET (Continued):

Ms. Germano asked whether the budget process would be moved forward by one month. Mr. Dahlgren responded that the revision aligns the policy with current practice.

Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Lawrence Colston, technology teacher, expressed concern for computers purchased from QUEST money. He suggested that books be purchased instead.

Mr. Mike Fischer, owner, Images Fine Photography, expressed frustration over the bid process for the District selection of the student photography contract. He stated that several times he has tried to obtain a contract and was told the first time that his company was not big enough to process the job. He stated the second time bid requests were advertised he hired a consultant whose specialty was to work with companies that handle school photography contracts but was told that the successful bidder was giving a 30% return to District schools and he was only giving 20%. He stated that eventually the successful firm had their contract withdrawn due to their inability to perform.

Mr. Fischer stated that following the most recent request for proposals he was told that a change had been made and that proposals would be analyzed and rated instead of a presentation to the principals. Mr. Fischer stated that he had prepared a presentation that pointed out discrepancies between his company's product and the competitors'. He stated that again, he was not awarded the contract. He stated that when he inquired he was given a paper listing the selection criteria. He stated that his company scored 22 out of 30 points possible and yet his proposal guaranteed that each item the District listed in the request for proposal would be done. He stated his was the only proposal that made that guarantee and yet his company received the lowest score. He told the Board that the company whose contract was withdrawn received a high score and that the other bidders either modified or stated that they couldn't deliver each item requested in the request for proposal.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS
(Continued):

Mr. Fischer stated that his company photographs 35% of the high school seniors in the District and he felt that that demonstrated professional expertise. He stated that the company that received a perfect score was Jostens and they are operating under the name of Digital Systems Group which does not have a sales tax number in the Borough and questioned how they could have past experience with the District, earning them 30 points. Mr. Fischer reported that two weeks ago Jostens canceled out of the Nikiski High School prom because they received a better offer from Chugiak High School so his firm accepted the contract.

He stated that for the past six years his company has photographed the Ninilchik High prom and last year made \$160. He stated that last year his store gave back over \$13,000 to students and school-related projects. He stated that two months ago he received a call from central office asking for a donation of several sessions per month, and 8" by 10" and retouching for more than \$3,000 for the teacher appreciation program. He stated that, according to his knowledge, the other bidders did not donate any money to the District. He asked the Board what he is doing wrong and how can he do business with the District.

Mrs. Fischer asked what the District appeal process is.

Ms. Germano asked whether the request for proposal was stated more clearly than in the past. Mr. Dahlgren stated that he felt that the bid request was clearer than last time and that it included an explanation of the evaluation process, point system and the criteria. He stated that Mr. Spence also consulted with the Borough attorney prior to release of the bid request. He stated that Mr. Spence solicited volunteers to evaluate the photography proposals and that two principals, two teachers, a parent, and a teacher's aid evaluated all of the proposals and selected one. Mr. Dahlgren explained that the District office has an appeal process and tries to make the bid request process as open and fair as possible. He assured the Board that none of the committee members participated in the selection process with any preconceived ideas.

Mr. Dahlgren told the Board that they can hear the appeal if they wish. He stated that the administration would not make a different recommendation. He stated that if the Board wants to evaluate proposals on their own then they need to decide to do that.

Dr. Anderson stated that either businesses meet the request for proposals or they don't.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS
(Continued):

Ms. Germano clarified that the reason photography bids are not brought to the Board for approval is because it is not the District's money. Mr. Dahlgren stated that money received from photography companies goes to PTAs and 30s accounts. He added that the only reason the photography contract is brought as a bid request is to assure that all schools receive photography service.

Mr. Arness stated that if the District does not select a local business then the successful bidder had better be able to prove that they can really perform much better and cheaper or the District should choose the local business.

Mr. Arness asked the concurrence of the Board to suspend awarding of any photography contracts. He asked the president to appoint members of the Board to discuss and review with Mr. Dahlgren and Mr. Hickey how contracts are awarded and make suggestions.

Anne Bayes complimented Board and administration for making the budget process more clear to the public.

Mr. Paul Fischer told the Board that they did the right thing by suspending the award of the photography bid. He requested that the bid award for the graduation paraphernalia be suspended also; otherwise, the same thing will happen to his company as happened to Images Fine Photography.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mrs. Mullins stated that she appreciated the opportunity to hear from the Kenai Alternative High School and for all of the work that is being done there. She reiterated that during the conference she learned that every child can learn no matter what circumstance they are in. She stated that if one person or mentor cares it will make the difference in a student's success. She added that she had the opportunity to talk to Board members from other states and feels that, unfortunately, the District is progressing into the fast lane of student violence.

Mrs. Fischer stated that she appreciated Mr. Dahlgren's warning that he can say no to extended field trip requests that do not qualify. She reminded the Board that when writing policy, personnel change from year to year and they might not always follow established guidelines. She stated that she was sorry that the Board relinquished their responsibility for the approval of extended field trips.

Mrs. Fischer noted that the Anchorage School District requires that companies who are awarded contracts with them to have a local contact and suggested the District do the same.

BOARD COMMENTS (Continued):

Mrs. Larned echoed comments regarding KAHS and is glad that so many students are taking advantage of a second chance at a high school diploma. She stated that she agreed with Mr. Arness that the KAHS graduation ceremonies are wonderful.

Mr. Arness expressed regret that the Board did not have a chance to ask the Middle School Review Committee questions regarding the middle school recommendations.

Dr. Anderson commented that, although he does not always agree with Mr. Arness on the issue of local hire, he was amazed at how the scoring was done for the photography contract.

Mrs. Gross asked the administration to prepare a letter of support for construction of the ABC'S Trail as an action item on the next agenda.

Mrs. Gross appointed Mr. Arness and Mrs. Mullins to review the procedure for awarding contracts to the District.

Mrs. Gross stated that she attended the AASB workshop on writing standards for school boards on April 16 and 17 in Anchorage.

ADJOURN:

At 11:20 p.m., Joe Arness moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Ms. Germano seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President

Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

The Minutes of April 20, 1998,
were approved on May 4, 1998,
as written.