


KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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SCHOOL BOARD COMMUNICATION

Title:	KPSAA Borough-sponsored Events		
Date:	April 30, 2012	Item Number:	Worksession
Administrator:	Steve Atwater, Ph.D. Superintendent of Schools 		
Attachments:	Seward Schools Site-based Council Minutes KPSAA General Membership Meeting Minutes – April 25, 2012		

☐ Action Needed ☐ For Discussion ☒ Information ☐ Other: _____

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Item VI B of the KPSAA Handbook includes the following language on Borough tournaments.

Borough tournaments. *Borough tournaments may be held in cross-country running, Nordic skiing and track and field when at least three schools are involved. Borough tournaments may not begin before 9:00 a.m. This includes pre-event sponsors' meetings.*

The unwritten expectation for participation at a borough tournament is a source of contention among some of our coaches. In response to this, next year KPSAA will convene three committees to review borough tournaments in cross country, skiing and track.

The KPSAA handbook that will be brought forward to you in June will not contain any language changes regarding borough tournaments.

This worksession is held in response to the Seward Site Council's request for the board to hear their (and others') sentiments concerning participation at borough tournaments.

Seward Schools Site-based Council

Representing:
Seward High School
Seward Middle School
Seward Elementary School

April 16, 2012

Dr. Steve Atwater, Superintendent
Mr. Joe Arness, School Board President
Ms. Sally Tachick, School Board Administrative Secretary
Mr. John O'Brien, KPSAA Executive Board
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District
148 N. Binkley St.
Soldotna, Alaska 99669

Dear Dr. Atwater and colleagues:

It has come to our attention that the KPSAA board recently passed a proposal to change the language in the KPSAA manual with regard to participation at Borough-sponsored events. The previous language states that "*Borough tournaments may be held...when at least three schools are involved.*" The proposed language states, "*All schools shall be represented in all Borough tournaments.*"

The Seward Site-based Council is requesting thoughtful consideration from the school board on the language change. The Council is opposed to this change, and firmly believes that it will adversely affect competitive runners from the Kenai Peninsula. We also believe that the new language change unduly targets a small group of athletic participants, and will stifle enrichment through its compulsory mandate instead of enhancing it.

The Seward Site-based Council believes that our running coaches have the expertise and the motivation to engage our student-athletes at the highest levels. In order for this to happen, they must be allowed the flexibility to decide what races they will run, and how they will run those races. We want our runners to have the same opportunities as other Alaskan high school athletes, not only on the Peninsula but in the state as well, and forced participation in a redundant and ill-timed competition inhibits their chances to take advantage of better opportunities.

We are respectfully requesting a work session to discuss the idea of compulsory attendance at these two events for the following reasons:

- This rule only targets running and skiing coaches, which is not equitable. No one has suggested we should schedule a Borough wrestling championship, a Borough basketball tournament, etc. In addition, both CC and track have fewer competitions than many

other sports in the district, yet one of their meets each season may be declared compulsory. Can you imagine a scenario in which KPSAA mandates that all basketball teams on the Peninsula will participate in a Borough tournament that takes up three of their seasonal game slots?

- Our Seward running coaches focus their entire programs on two races: Regions and State. Strategically, the Borough meet may or may not be advantageous to the team running goals for those two critical races. Only the coaches can make that distinction.
- Redundant competition is not always conducive to the outcomes desired in a quality running program. Peninsula schools and Peninsula athletes race against each other at every race throughout the season in cross country and track.
- The Seward coaches would periodically like to take their kids in both track and cross country to more advantageous competitions that occur at the same time as the Borough track and cross country meets. For example, coaches periodically bring runners to a Su Valley meet where a faster course and more diverse participation give Seward runners better opportunities to impress college recruiters and win scholarships. (Seward has had more athletes run in college than all other sports combined. One of our runners was recently selected as the Gatorade Runner of the Year.)
- The Borough meet has never been compulsory. Our coaches have gone elsewhere in the past and this has never been an issue. Why is it now? Other boroughs, such as the Mat-Su, do not require compulsory meets for their runners.

The KPSAA board also plans to adopt language that labels the Borough meet experience as “*enriching*.” Enrichment is not restricting. It is not encroaching. It does not require mandates. The Seward Site-based Council does not want restrictions placed on this small group of running athletes. The state of Alaska is bigger than that, and when opportunities arise to send our kids out to experience something new, possibly in a place they have never been, with people whom they have never encountered, then we can claim enrichment.

Again, this letter is a request for a work session to discuss this issue, and a vote of support for all the coaches and runners on the Peninsula who want equity and autonomy with regard to their scheduling.

Sincerely,



Amy Haddow
Vice Chair
Seward Schools Site-based Council

KPSAA General Membership Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 25, 2012
Immediately following the Administrative meeting
(Challenger Learning Center)

- 1) Dan Carstens called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.
- 2) Roll call
Members present: Dan Carstens, John O'Brien, Jen Dowd, Tony Graham, Mark Robinson, Curtis Schmidt, Trevan Walker, Jay Griffel, Bill Holt, and Dave Spence
- 3) Approval of February 23, 2012 Executive Board Meeting minutes
Motion was made by Tony Graham to approve the February 23, 2012 Executive Board Meeting Minutes.
Curtis Schmidt seconded the motion.
Vote: Passed unanimously.
- 4) April 25, 2012 agenda approval
Motion was made by Tony Graham to approve the April 25, 2012 General Membership Meeting Agenda.
Jen Dowd seconded the motion.
Vote: Passed unanimously.
- 5) Guests:
No guests present.
- 6) Executive Secretary's Report
 - a. Plaque presented to Mark Robinson due to his retirement. He served 16 years on the KPSAA board. Thank you Mark for all your years of service.
 - b. Plaque presented to Dave Spence due to his retirement. He served 15 years as Executive Secretary on the KPSAA Board. Thank you Dave for all your years of service.
 - c. KPSAA budget is ending the year in the black with approximately \$2,000.00.
 - d. Former KPSAA & ASAA members John Andrews and Craig Yung will be honored in the ASAA Hall of Fame (Anchorage).
 - e. Dave Spence presented John O'Brien, the new KPSAA Executive Secretary, with the official KPSAA gavel.
 - f. KPBSD Girls' Hockey Team: Meeting to be held Monday, April 30th to discuss possible formation.
 - g. Upcoming School Board work sessions:
May 7th – Borough Tournament discussion in Seward
June 4th – KPBSD Co-Curricular Handbooks work session
- 7) Correspondence
None.
- 8) ASAA/Region III Updates
Jim Beeson updated the group regarding football issues and new by-laws for volleyball, basketball, baseball and wrestling.

9) Action and Discussion Items

- Middle School travel restrictions follow-up (Curtis Schmidt)
Will keep the same waiver process and address any issues as they present themselves.
- Propose acknowledgement of B teams at the middle school level as well as examine number of extra-curricular staff members allocated to each school for each activity (Vaughn Dosko)
Vaughn Dosko will send Dave Spence some participation numbers for follow-up.

Bill Holt made a motion to form a committee to study intramurals and 'B' teams at the middle school level.

Curtis Schmidt seconded the motion.

Vote: Passed unanimously.

- All State football selection/discrepancies follow-up (Dan Carstens/Curtis Schmidt)
Current formation is through the Coaches' association.
- M.S. drug/alcohol suspension policy follow-up (Curtis Schmidt)
The High School drug/alcohol policy did not match the Middle School needs, thus specific changes were made.
- Music activities calendar for 2012-2013
The music activities calendar for the 2012-2013 Co-Curricular Handbook was updated.
- Interest Survey results
As a Title IX requirement, all schools must comply by conducting the survey every three years. KPBSD has been successful in having over 70% gender equity. Last year was the first time KPBSD had 100% gender equity in participation.
- Request to create cooperative football team for the Head of the Bay schools (Voznesenka, Kachemak-Selo, and Razdolna)
As per Michael Wojciak's request, Curtis Schmidt moved to create an eleven man football team. Tony Graham seconded the motion.
Vote: Passed unanimously.
This will move forward to the School Board for approval.

- Borough Tournaments

John O'Brien recommended three separate committees be formed to examine Borough Tournament issues with Cross Country Run, Nordic Skiing, and Track and Field.

Treva Walker moved to drop the Borough Tournament language change (established at the previous KPSAA Executive Meeting on February 23, 2012).

- Handbook changes

- Eligibility for Participation
- Student Representative to KPBSD Board of Education
- Parent Representative by-law change: Voting Member, 3-year term, advertise
- Concussion Guidelines and Education and Requirements
- Middle School Drug and Alcohol policy change
- Cooperative football team formation (if approved by members)

Tony Graham moved to approve all the above handbook changes.

Curtis Schmidt seconded the motion.

Vote: Passed unanimously.

- Nominations and Elections

- a. Activity Representative Amy Christianson (Band Director at Homer High)
- b. Administrative Representative-at-Large (Treva Walker)

Tony Graham moved to elect the above officers.

Curtis Schmidt seconded the motion.

Vote: Passed unanimously

10) Adjournment

At 5:55 p.m., Jen Dowd moved to adjourn.

Curtis Schmidt seconded the motion.

Vote: Passed unanimously