

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
148 N. Binkley Street

Soldotna, AK 99669

March 15, 1999

SCHOOL BOARD
MEMBERS:

Mr. Joe Arness, President

Mrs. Debra Mullins, Vice President

Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

Ms. Deborah Germano, Treasurer

Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, Member

Dr. Nels Anderson, Member

Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Member

Miss Charise Calvert, 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:

Mrs. Sylvia Reynolds

Ms. Barb Vogel

Miss Andrea Gensel

Mr. Chuck Boll

Mr. Dan Gensel

Mr. Tim Peterson

Mr. Gene Dyson

Mr. Michael Lengenfelder

Mrs. Debbie Palm

Mrs. Sue Liebner

Mr. Pete Sprague

Mr. Don Oberg

Mr. Mark Norgren

Mr. Larry Semmens

Mr. Stuart Laurion

Mrs. Sharon Sauer

Mrs. Paula Laurion

Mr. Jay Sauer

Dr. Donna Peterson

Mr. Terri Woodward

Mr. Dave Spence

Mrs. Sandra Taylor

Mr. Justin George

Mr. Rick Taylor

Mr. Bob Nath

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mr. Dan Gensel introduced Melissa Schmidt, Soldotna High senior, who sang the "Star Spangled Banner."

- ROLL CALL:
- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| Mr. Joe Arness | Present |
| Mrs. Debra Mullins | Present |
| Mrs. Susan Larned | Present |
| Ms. Deborah Germano | Present |
| Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross | Present |
| Dr. Nels Anderson | Present/Arrived at 8:26 p.m. |
| Mrs. Sammy Crawford | Present |
| Miss Charise Calvert | Present |
- APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved with revisions to item Numbers 10a.(2), 10a.(4) and 10a.(5).
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of February 24, and March 1, 1999, were approved as printed.
- SCHOOL REPORTS: Mr. Joe Arness thanked Mrs. Reynolds for the Soldotna High School report, which was held earlier in the day at the school.
- PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Mr. Chuck Boll, Laidlaw Transit branch manager, presented a \$500 check to the District to be used for a student scholarship. Mr. Boll told the Board that Mrs. Penny Little made an offer to purchase a used special service bus from Laidlaw Transit. He stated that the senior vice-president of Laidlaw Transit who was attending a meeting to sign the seven-year contract told Mrs. Little and Mr. Hickey that Laidlaw would give the bus to the District. Mr. Boll handed the keys and title to Mr. Hickey.

AWARDS AND
PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. Arness presented awards of appreciation to Soldotna High School staff members Sharon Sauer, Dan Gensel, and Stuart Laurion for their outstanding service to education and the District.

SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT:

Mr. Dahlgren reminded the Board about the Assembly worksession on March 16 from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Dahlgren reported that he recently attended a conference sponsored by the United States Department of Education concerning class size grant funds. He stated that the District could possibly apply for approximately \$430,000. He noted that the intent of the grant is to lower pupil-teacher ratios to 1:18 in Grades 1-3. He stated 82% of the grant money must be used for hiring and recruitment and 15% could be used for inservice. He stated that he was encouraged that none of the grant money is to be used for administrative costs.

Mr. Dahlgren stated that the District is also considering applying for Reading Excellence grant funds offered by the federal government.

Mrs. Gross asked when the District might receive the class size grant money. He replied that as soon as the Department of Education completes their calculation for each District, the money should be available. He stated that he is hoping to know something by the end of this week or next.

Ms. Germano asked how much money the District might receive for the reading grant. Mr. Dahlgren explained that the reading grant is a competitive grant by state and that there is \$212 million allocated to the country. He explained that grants for states the size of Alaska range between \$1 and \$4 million. He noted that each state must apply for the money and then, in turn, districts must apply to the state for the money.

Presentation of the FY 1999-2000 Budget:

Mr. Hickey presented the 1999-2000 budget to the Board. The Board will consider adoption of the budget at their April 5, 1999 meeting. He noted that it is the third draft and that the artwork used on the cover was created by Andy Tholberg, a Ninilchik Elementary/High School student. He added that the Business Office is trying to make the document more user friendly and to conform to national standards for budget presentation.

Student Nutrition Services:

Mr. Hickey presented the results of a recently concluded audit by the State of Alaska of the Student Nutrition Services program. He stated that the review found only one discrepancy and otherwise stated that it was a successful audit and that he was pleased.

Nikiski Elementary
Reconfiguration Cost Report:

Mr. Hickey presented the results of the Nikiski Reconfiguration Committee cost estimates to convert the Nikiski Elementary School to a middle school. He stated that the Committee meetings were held at Nikiski Elementary and involved the Borough Planning Department. The report contained lists of improvement costs, which were categorized into a high priority list totaling \$628,000 and a low priority list totaling \$343,000.

Mrs. Mullins asked whether the report had been given to the Reconfiguration Committee. Mr. Hickey stated that the report and improvement list will be sent to the Committee.

Mr. Arness asked for a timeline and list of steps to be taken if the reconfiguration were to occur. Mr. Dahlgren responded that a recommendation will be brought to the next Board meeting. He added that if the Board decides to proceed with the reconfiguration, then a request would be made to the Borough to appropriate the funds in their budget. He noted that funds could possibly be made available after July 1 with work possibly beginning during the summer of 2000.

Financial Reports:

Mr. Hickey presented the financial report of the District for the periods ending January 31, 1999 and February 28, 1999.

BOARD REPORTS: Ms. Germano stated that she recently attended the Kenai Peninsula Student Activities Association (KPSAA) meeting and that a teleconference is schedule March 18 to discuss student handbook and by-law changes. She noted that the annual meeting will be held April 15.

**BOARD REPORTS
(Continued):** Miss Calvert reported that she received an e-mail message from Mr. Derek Peterson, AASB Director of Child/Youth Advocacy, asking her to serve on the child advocacy committee as the student representative. She stated that she has accepted the appointment.

Mrs. Gross announced that Mr. Derek Peterson will be in Homer on March 16 and 17 to conduct training on the ASSET building model. She stated that she will be attending.

CONSENT AGENDA: Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Budget Transfer, Resignations, Leave of Absence Requests/Support, Leave of Absence Request/Certified and Substitute Teacher Contract.

Budget Transfer: Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve budget transfer Number 256 for \$15,000 to cover costs for contracted services to assess and evaluate the operation, design and staff of Aurora Borealis Charter School.

Resignations: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve the resignations of Susan Lepry, math/science, Homer Charter School; Jeannette Sorrels, special education/severe, Sears Elementary; Leona Oberts, lead teacher, Aurora Borealis Charter School; Ann Riedel, music, Chapman Elementary; and Liesl Davenport-Wheeler, music, Seward Middle/Sr. High.

Leave of Absence Requests/
Support:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a one-year, unpaid leave of absence for the 1999-2000 school year for Masha Yakunin, bilingual instructor, Nikolaevsk Elementary/High School; and Robert Harwood, truck driver, warehouse.

Leave of Absence Request/
Certified:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a one-year, unpaid leave of absence for the 1999-2000 school year for Hilary Matthews, English, Skyview High School and Jacqueline Bock, special education/preschool, Sears Elementary.

Substitute Teacher Contract:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a 19-day substitute teaching contract for Susan Nabholts, 7th grade science, Kenai Middle School; and Shelli Colligan, Grade 1-2, Sears Elementary.

ACTION

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 5. Ms. Germano seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

1999-2000 Administrator
Appointment:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve the appointment of Richard Patton, principal, Homer High School.

1999-2000 Administrator
Appointment (continued):

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve the appointment of Richard Patton, principal, Homer High School. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

ACTION

Ms. Germano expressed her continued concern for the appointment. She noted that two weeks ago the appointment was withheld and now it is back on the agenda and is assuming that the administration has a plan.

VOTE:

Advisory Vote - YES

YES - Crawford, Gross, Larned, Mullins, Arness

NO - Germano

Motion carried.

Seward Bus Route Bus
Purchase:

Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve the lease/purchase of four busses in the amount of \$299,932. He stated that the Seward routes are the only ones that are served by District busses. He stated that the four busses will be distributed to the schools to use as activity busses. He noted that he expects the bus expenditures will be reimbursed at 100% with Department of Education appropriations through the Pupil Transportation fund.

Ms. Germano asked where the money would come from. Mr. Hickey replied that the District will be reimbursed at a rate greater than the lease price during the first year. He explained that there is a downward amortization of the busses in the first year so the District should recover the money. He added that the money would be put into a liability account to pay for the busses in subsequent years. He stated that he expects the District will receive 100% recovery of the cost of the busses.

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve the lease/purchase of four busses in the amount of \$299,932. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Disposition of Kenai
Elementary Facility:

Mr. Hickey provided history on the use of the Kenai Elementary facility. He stated that based on the Borough's interest in the facility and the potential availability of federal funds to renovate the building, the administration recommends the Board approve the transfer of the Kenai Elementary building to the Kenai Peninsula Borough. He further recommended that the transfer include the stipulation that the Kenai Alternative School be permitted full and continued access to the facility for as long as the building suits their needs. He also recommended that should the facility be rehabilitated to allow the occupancy of school children, consideration be given to providing Aurora Borealis Charter School space within Kenai Elementary.

Ms. Germano asked whether the Borough has any obligation to give special consideration to either the Kenai Alternative High School or Aurora Borealis Charter School. Mr. Dahlgren suggested that to protect the Board's interest, the District obtain a signed memorandum of agreement or contract from the Borough.

Ms. Germano asked why the District would give the Kenai Elementary building to the Borough if it is to be used to house students. Mr. Dahlgren explained that students cannot be housed in a portion of the building and that the Borough and Assembly have other options to fund renovations to the building.

Mr. Larry Semens, Aurora Borealis Charter School Academic Policy Committee member, stated that he didn't know who would be the best organization to own the Kenai Elementary building. He stated that during a conversation with the Borough mayor, the mayor stated that he did not feel the School Board had the desire to ask the Assembly for funds to renovate the building. Mr. Semmens asked the Board for a stronger commitment than was stated in Mr. Hickey's memorandum of recommendation. He stated that the school has spent many hours searching for another facility and has not found anything. He stated that he feels the mayor is sincere about allowing Aurora Borealis Charter School to use the Kenai Elementary building. He stated that he still feels that the ADA requirements should be critically evaluated to ensure that unnecessary renovations are not be made.

Mr. Mike Dunn, Aurora Borealis Charter School parent, expressed his concern with the memo of recommendation. He stated that he feels the school has been getting the run around. He stated that he thought the School Board was interested in housing the Charter School and asked the Board to assist them in locating a facility or grant money to fund a five-year lease.

Disposition of Kenai
Elementary Facility
(Continued):

Mrs. Sandra Taylor, Aurora Borealis Charter School parent, stated that she was assured that the Charter School relocation issue would not be drug out. She stated that because a decision was not made in a timely manner, the Charter School will have to pay for space through the end of June. Mrs. Taylor stated that she is concerned with the language in the recommendation memo that assures full use of Kenai Elementary for Kenai Alternative High School and only consideration given to Aurora Borealis Charter School. She stated that she feels the ADA issue is out of proportion and that there is a hidden agenda. She stated that she feels that there are political reasons why the District does not want the Charter School to relocate to the Kenai Elementary building.

Mr. Arness asked Mrs. Taylor what political overtone she was referring to. Mrs. Taylor stated that Board members were not aware that the Charter School wanted the use of the Kenai Elementary building even though they wrote letters. She stated that eight months have passed and they still don't have answer.

Lori Uponen, Aurora Borealis Charter School teacher, listed problems with the current Charter School facility. She stated that her classroom shares a wall with the gymnasium and it is extremely noisy and dangerous. She stated that each week she has to move her classroom furniture, equipment, and educational materials to accommodate the church Sunday school program. She expressed her appreciation for the Board's assistance with the Charter School so far and asked for their continued assistance in locating a new facility.

Mrs. Debbie Palm, echoed Mrs. Taylor's comments regarding the wording in the recommendation memo. She stated that according to her understanding of the Charter School legislation, it is expected that school districts assist in the location of a facility. She asked the Board to replace the word "consideration" in the recommendation memo with the words "full use."

Disposition of Kenai
Elementary Facility
(Continued):

Mr. Doug Haralson, Aurora Borealis Charter School parent, stated that the school is paying \$75,000 per year for a lease with a facility that has problems. He stated that occupancy in the Kenai Elementary facility could resolve those problems as soon as it is renovated. He stated that if the \$75,000 lease money were to pay for renovations at Kenai Elementary, there could be a 7-10 year return on the money. He stated that he doesn't care who owns the building just that the Aurora Borealis Charter School students are housed. He stated that for a \$1 million investment, the School Board would see some intangible benefits and that no one would be negatively impacted. He stated that he didn't see a reason why the District would want to turn the property over to the Borough. He asked the Board to change the recommendation specifying that the Charter School be allowed to use the Kenai Elementary building.

Mr. Bob Nath, Aurora Borealis Charter School parent, told the Board that the Charter School is the best school that his children have been in. He stated that there is a serious problem with the current facility. He stated that he did not understand why the District would give the Kenai Elementary building back to the Borough. He stated that there is a political undercurrent going on and that the Boys and Girls Club is concerned over the loss of control of the building. He stated that the Charter School doesn't want to drive out the Boys and Girls Club from the Kenai Elementary building. He stated that it was his understanding that there was supposed to be a meeting to decide the outcome of the use of the Kenai Elementary building but it did not happen. Mr. Nath stated that charter schools are an alternative method to education and

that it is working well.

Mr. Rick Taylor, Aurora Borealis Charter School parent, expressed concern for the location of the Charter School. He stated that he is not particularly concerned who is the owner of the Kenai Elementary building but is concerned about its future use. He stated that some of the renovation costs are not necessary. He stated that the Charter School has \$75,000 to invest in the facility each year. Mr. Taylor stated that the Charter School has the potential to be a model charter school throughout the state or nation. He stated that the current facility is crowded and unsatisfactory and that not too many teachers would teach under those conditions. He stated that the Charter School wants to work with the Boys and Girls Club.

Disposition of Kenai
Elementary Facility
(Continued):

Mrs. Holly Gutsch, Aurora Borealis Charter School parent, stated that without the use of the Kenai Elementary building, the Charter School will have a difficult time existing next year. She pointed out that the benefit of the Charter School is that many home-schooled students have enrolled who otherwise would not be enrolled in public school.

Mr. Dahlgren stated that long before the Charter School was formed, the administration recommended to the Board of Education that the Kenai Elementary building be returned to the Borough. He stated that he did not feel that the School District should be in the landlord business. The Board chose to keep the building and considered reopening it due to increased enrollment. The proposal went to the voters and it was voted down. Mr. Dahlgren listed the other rented and overcrowding situations throughout the District and stated that the Board and Administration must consider 39 other very special schools. He explained that the Kenai Elementary building belongs to the Borough but is administrated by the District.

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve the transfer of the Kenai Elementary building to the Kenai Peninsula Borough and that the transfer include the stipulation that the Kenai Alternative School be permitted full and continued access to the facility for as long as the building suits their needs and that should the facility be rehabilitated to allow the occupancy of school children, consideration be given to providing Aurora Borealis Charter School space within Kenai Elementary. Mrs. Larned seconded.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board postpone action on the disposition of the Kenai Elementary facility to the April 5 meeting until an agreement can be reached with the Borough. Ms. Germano seconded.

Mrs. Crawford asked what the District's legal obligation was to provide housing for charter schools. Mr. Dahlgren explained that charter schools have a lot of autonomy and can choose where they wish to be located. He added that the District has an obligation to provide housing if it is available within District facilities. He stated that the Charter School cannot be located in a facility that could be challenged.

Ms. Germano asked whether there was space in any District-owned buildings. Mr. Dahlgren stated that the Board can grant space in other buildings if they feel that it is available.

Disposition of Kenai Elementary Facility (Continued):

Mrs. Gross recounted the history regarding the renovation of the Kenai Elementary building and stated that the Board deemed the building unsuitable to renovate for student occupancy. She said that instead, the Board considered building a new elementary school.

Mrs. Mullins asked whether the administration would have time before the April 5 meeting to meet with the Borough mayor and Assembly leadership regarding the future use of the Kenai Elementary building. She stated that it was the District's responsibility to house students and not the Assembly's.

Mr. Dahlgren stated that either the District keeps the Kenai Elementary building and requests that renovations be done so that the Charter Schools can use the facility or the Borough takes over the building. Mr. Dahlgren stated that Mayor Navarre was thinking that if the Borough took ownership of the building then grant funds could be secured for renovation. He stated that discussions have been held in the Borough mayor's office with local legislators regarding funding to renovate the facility.

Ms. Germano asked where else the Kenai Alternative School students could be housed and how much it would cost.

Mr. Dahlgren stated that it would cost approximately \$2,000 per month to rent a facility comparable to the Homer Flex School.

VOTE ON POSTPONEMENT:

Advisory Vote - NO

YES — Anderson, Germano, Gross, Larned, Mullins,

Arness

NO - Crawford

Motion carried.

Request for Re-appropriation of Revenue to the Equipment Fund:

Mr. Hickey recommended the Board request the Assembly to redirect \$266,607 in currently appropriated revenue for the express purpose of funding the Equipment Reserve Fund. He explained that as a result of CSSB36, the District anticipated a \$1.8 million increase in the budget but declining enrollment brought the opportunities under the cap down to below the amount the Borough agreed to pay the District in this year's revenue. He stated this transfer will help mitigate \$536,391 in equipment reductions required to balance the budget.

Request for Re-appropriation of Revenue to the Equipment Fund (Continued):

Mrs. Larned moved the Board request the Assembly to redirect \$266,607 in currently appropriated revenue for the express purpose of funding the Equipment Reserve Fund. Mrs. Gross seconded.

ACTION

Motion carried unanimously.

Bayview Charter School Contract Termination:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board terminate the Bayview Charter School's contract at the end of the 1998-99 school year for not maintaining a minimum enrollment of 20 students as stated in the contract.

Mrs. Lynne Hohl, Bayview Charter School Academic Policy Committee member, requested that the Board postpone their decision to terminate the Charter School contract until after their spring enrollment period in June. She referred to a memo dated March 9 to Mr. Dahlgren listing the focus areas that address the issue of increasing their enrollment. She read four additional items to the action plan. She stated that the parents and staff are working very hard to find solutions to their problems and asked for the Board's flexibility and understanding.

Ms. Germano asked how many parents are involved with the Academic Policy Committee and how often they meet.

Ms. Hohl stated that the Academic Policy Committee meets every two weeks and consists of one community member, five parents, and one staff member.

Dr. Anderson stated that the Board has received two letters that were not very complimentary to the operation of Bayview Charter School.

Mrs. Phyllis Shoemaker, Bayview Charter School parent, stated that the Charter School has made some mistakes but they are trying to rectify them. She stated that students have many different needs and that charter schools help meet the needs of some students. She stated that the Seward community in general supports the idea of charter schools. She asked the Board for a postponement until the enrollment period is over.

Ms. Germano asked whether exit exams were conducted for those students who have left the school. Ms. Hohl reported that informal interviews had been held that they would go back and hold formal interviews.

Mr. Larry Semmens, Mr. Mike Dunn, Mr. Doug McAuliffe, Mr. Bob Nath, and Mrs. Sandra Taylor each spoke in support of the postponement of the Bayview Charter School contract termination.

Bayview Charter School
Contract Termination
(Continued):

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve the termination of the Bayview Charter School's contract at the end of the 1998-99 school year. Mrs. Larned seconded.

ACTION

RECESS:

At 9:32 p.m., Mr. Arness called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER
RECESS:

At 9:34 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

Mrs. Larned stated that she would like to visit the Charter School and meet with the staff and parents during the May 3 School Board meeting.

Ms. Germano suggested that the Board meet with the Bayview Academic Policy Committee to hear their plan for increased enrollment and program changes during the May 3 meeting in Seward.

Mrs. Mullins stated that she would like to talk to the Bayview Academic Policy Committee. She stated that 5 to 7 students is not considered a school and that it is not cost effective to operate a school for so few students. She stated that she appreciated the memorandum from Bayview Charter School outlining their action plan. Mrs. Mullins asked how the postponement will affect the budget process.

Mr. Dahlgren stated that the budget will be brought to the Board as it was initially presented. He noted that if there should be any adjustments to the budget, the money from Bayview Charter School would probably be put into the unallocated account. He stated that the Administration would recommend a budget transfer.

Mrs. Gross expressed concern that both years the Bayview Charter School has begun the year with only 17 students and throughout the year the enrollment declines.

Mrs. Mullins asked how the Bayview Charter School contract termination will affect tenure teacher contracts. Mrs. Radtke stated that the current teacher at Bayview Charter School is not tenured. She stated the District must notify all nontenured teachers whether they will be retained prior to May 15.

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board table the motion of the Bayview Charter School contract termination until the May 3 Board meeting and that a worksession be held with the Academic Policy Committee prior to the meeting.
Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Policy and Regulation
Revision:**

Mr. McLain recommended the Board approve revisions to BP and AR 5119, Access to District Schools By Private School, Correspondence and Other Programs. He explained that the revisions bring District policy into compliance with state law regarding part-time student enrollment and removes priority for full-time students in the selection and availability of classes. The revision in the administrative regulation removes the delayed enrollment process for part-time students.

Mrs. Larned asked whether there were many problems this year with the removal of the priority for full-time students. Mr. McLain responded that this was the first year part-time students were allowed equal access to classes and that the policy generated a lot of questions from principals. He stated that building administrators are now more familiar with the law and are making an effort to fulfill the requirements. Mrs. Larned asked how many students were involved. Mr. Dahlgren stated that between 60 and 70 students participated as part-time students.

Ms. Germano asked about whether the cocurricular handbook should be included with the policy. Mr. Dahlgren stated that he did not feel it would be appropriate to include the handbook in the policy manual because the Alaska School Activities Association (ASAA) board governs eligibility by participating schools. He stated that student eligibility refers to state guidelines as well as Kenai Peninsula Student Activities Association (KPSAA) guidelines and that it will be too confusing to include those guidelines in Board policy. He explained that the KPSAA handbook changes are approved on an annual basis. Ms. Germano asked whether a KPSAA handbook is available at all locations. Mr. Dahlgren stated that eligibility requirements are accessible at every building and posted on the District web site.

ACTION

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve revisions to BP and AR 5119, Access to District Schools By Private School, Correspondence and Other Programs as outlined. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Technology Referendum/
Upgrades:**

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board request the Assembly bring to the public a bond referendum in the amount of \$3 million for Districtwide technology upgrades or contribute \$1 million annually to the District equipment fund over the next three years. He explained that with the passage of CSSB36, the time has come to upgrade technology at all of our schools.

**Technology Referendum/
Upgrades (Continued):**

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board request the Assembly bring to the public a bond referendum in the amount of \$3 million for Districtwide technology upgrades or contribute \$1 million annually to the District equipment fund over the next three years. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

ACTION

Ms. Germano expressed concern that a more detailed plan was not included with the request. Mr. Dahlgren stated that the first step is to pass the recommendation and then the administration will develop a more complete plan, which will come back to the Board. He stated that \$3 million will bring all of the schools up to a standard within three years.

Ms. Germano asked why the \$1 million plan and recommendation didn't come to the Board together.

Mr. Dahlgren stated that he needs to know if the Board supports the request before a lot of time is spent developing a plan without some direction.

Mr. Arness passed the gavel to Mrs. Mullins. Mr. Arness stated that he likes the idea of first deciding which approach to take but he did not feel that the memo of recommendation offered that choice. Mr. Dahlgren stated that he will ask District staff to develop a plan listing what would be purchased for \$1 million the first year, second year, and third year. He stated that his intent was to discuss with the Assembly whether to ask for a bond referendum and/or a contribution to the equipment fund. Mr. Arness stated that he was uncomfortable with the concept of spending \$3 million on technology without knowing what will be purchased.

Mr. Dahlgren stated that his intent was for the Board and Assembly to work together and decide the best way to fund the upgrades. He noted that since the assembly is the only organization that can tax, they should decide whether to take the issue to the voters or sell a bond. He stated that he would bring the issue back to the Board with a plan for the technology upgrade.

Ms. Germano asked whether the Board could speak to the Assembly regarding the referendum during the budget worksession on March 16. Ms. Germano mentioned that the Board has not talked about the Borough funding the cocurricular activities outside of the cap. Ms. Germano stated that she wanted to be sure the Board is addressing instructional needs.

Mr. Dahlgren stated that he did not recommend that the Assembly be involved in cocurricular programs. He advised the Board to maintain control over all District activities.

Technology Referendum/
Upgrades (Continued):

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board amend the motion to state that the Board will ask the Assembly their conceptual preference of bonding or cash so that KPBSD may design an appropriate technology program within those parameters. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Mr. Arness stated that the idea behind his amendment is that the Board can now refer the referendum to the Assembly and have a discussion with them about how they wish to proceed.

Dr. Anderson stated that the Arness amendment is cleaner and accomplishes the same thing.

Amendment carried unanimously.

Amended motion carried unanimously.

RECESS:

At 10:03 p.m., Mr. Arness called a recess.

Mrs. Mullins left the meeting at 10:03 p.m.

Reconvene AFTER RECESS:

At 10:11 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

FIRST READING OF
POLICY REVISIONS:

The Board heard a first reading of AR 5144, Due Process. Mr. Dahlgren explained that the proposed regulation changes are recommended to protect student safety and to bring the District into compliance with current practice. He stated that the Borough attorney has reviewed the changes.

Mr. Arness asked whether the Borough attorney agrees with the proposed changes. Mr. Dahlgren responded that the attorney agrees to the changes since they maintain the safety and security of student witnesses.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Mr. Mike Dunn invited the Board to visit the Aurora Borealis School.

Mr. Bob Nath thanked Mr. Dahlgren for pointing out the larger picture in his earlier statements. He asked for a listing from the administration of available space within the District that could be used to house the Aurora Borealis Charter School.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS
(Continued):

Mrs. Sandra Taylor stated that she gave Mr. Hickey some grant information regarding \$100 million that could be used to renovate the Kenai Elementary building. She stated that the money was for charter schools that are cohabiting with entities such as the Boys and Girls Club or the Kenai Alternative School. Mr. Hickey stated that he read the grant information and from his interpretation, the District was not eligible. Mrs. Taylor stated that charter schools are eligible; but until the Board decides the future of the Kenai Elementary facility, they did not want to apply.

Ms. Germano suggested that the Charter School pursue the grants instead of relying on the administration.

Mr. Rick Taylor stated that the Aurora Borealis Charter School is the best outlet for attracting a large segment of home-school students. He stated that the Charter School has the ability to bring in funds to the District that may not ordinarily be available.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mrs. Crawford thanked Soldotna High School for the school visit and report and congratulated Mr. Gensel, Mrs. Sauer and Mr. Laurion.

Mrs. Gross congratulated the District basketball teams and wished them well at state.

Ms. Germano thanked everyone who spoke to the Board. She echoed Mrs. Crawford's comments regarding the Soldotna High School report. Ms. Germano thanked the administration for their hard work.

Mrs. Larned announced that she became a grandmother this week with an 8 pound 9 ounce grandson born in Denmark. She stated that she appreciated the Soldotna High School report and especially enjoyed seeing the block schedule used to accommodate vocational education classes.

Dr. Anderson stated that he enjoyed the Soldotna High report. He suggested that students wear ear protection from the loud noise in the wood shop class. He stated that he recently attended the basketball games and cheerleading competition.

Mr. Arness stated that the girls' basketball team from Homer stayed at his hotel and he thought their behavior was exemplary.

Miss Calvert thanked the Board for attending her school and listening to the Soldotna High band.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Dr. Anderson moved the Board go into executive session to discuss matters, the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the Borough. Specifically, the executive session was to discuss negotiations. Mr. Dahlgren, Mr. Hickey Mrs. Radtke and Dr. Peterson were asked to attend. Ms. Germano seconded.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 11:25 p. m., Dr. Anderson moved the executive session be adjourned. Ms. Germano seconded.

ADJOURN: At 11:26 p.
m.,
Mrs. Crawford
moved the
School Board
Meeting be
adjourned.
Mrs. Gross
seconded.

Motion
carried
unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Joe Arness, President

Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

The Minutes of March 15, 1999,
were approved on April 5, 1999
as written.