

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Seward High School

Seward, AK 99664

October 4, 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 Melinda Haring, Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT:

Dr. Donna Peterson, Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Patrick Hickey, Assistant Superintendent, Operations and Business Management

Mr. Ed McLain, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction

Mr. Todd Syverson, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mrs. Sharon Brower

Mr. David Dieckgraeff

Mr. Bob Boyle

Ms. Terri Woodward

Ms. Kate Carmody

Mr. Paul Sayan

Mr. Malcolm Fleming

Ms. Shana Loshbaugh

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mr. Arness invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE: Mr. Arness introduced Miss Melinda Haring, Kenai Central High School student, as the newly elected School Board Student Representative.

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
Mrs. Sammy Crawford	Present
Miss Melinda Haring	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved as written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of September 13 and Special School Board Minutes of September 23, 1999, were approved as printed.

SCHOOL REPORTS: Mr. Robert Boyle, Seward Elementary principal; Mrs. Jeanne Fredrickson, teacher; Ms. Ida Cooper, ESL tutor; Ms. Staci Edgar, Seward Life Action Council; and Miss Cassidy Davis, student, presented a skit introducing the Stop and Think Program, which is a social skills training program for students. Mr. Boyle announced that the school has an enrollment of 410 students in kindergarten through sixth grade. He stated that the school is 17 students over the projected enrollment and that there are new teachers at every grade level. He reviewed the teaching assignment changes from last year and noted that, with the approval of the site council and school staff, the hiring of a music teacher was postponed so that the pupil-teacher ratio could be lowered. He reported that his teachers are experimenting with multi-aged classrooms and "looping" or the practice of teachers moving with a group of students for two or more years. He stated that the school goal this year is to focus on reading; and to assist with that goal, teachers are being trained in the First Steps reading program. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to give his report and invited them to visit the school.

COMMUNICATIONS AND  
PETITIONS:

Dr. Peterson announced that she received a copy of a letter to Laidlaw Transit from a parent concerning an extra bus stop bus stop, which is currently being addressed by the transportation coordinator; a letter regarding the homecoming incident at Skyview High; a letter from a parent praising Dr. Whiteley and Mr. Pothast for their handling of a student scheduling issue; a letter from Mr. Alex Trout regarding an incident at Voznesenka School; and a letter from a parent to the Board and secondary principals regarding a student dress code. She commented that the dress code issue will be an item of discussion at the next administrators' meeting.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND/OR P.  
T.A., K.P.A.A., K.P.E.A., K.P.E.S.A.:

Mr. Dave Diekgraeff, Seward Site Council, told the Board that the school scoreboard was donated by the Pepsi Corporation and installed by members of the Seward community. He reported that it was installed in less than a week and in time for homecoming and thanked those involved for their help. He thanked the Board for providing fencing around the athletic fields. He announced that this will be his last term on the site council and suggested that the Board invite site councils to share their opinions and be more involved. He thanked President Arness for his hard work on the Board and wished him well on the upcoming election.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Mrs. Mullins presented a gift of appreciation to Mr. Arness for his past years of dedicated service to the Board of Education.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Peterson reported that the next Technology Work Group will meet again on October 19 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. She reported that as a result of the recently approved contract with PTINet, conduit will be laid in the ground by the end of October with fiber to be installed by the end of November. Dr. Peterson reported that in a one-day period more than 10,000 email messages were sent from box to box, and 2,000 "hits" per week were received on the District website. Dr. Peterson reported that she recently met with Laidlaw representatives to discuss the procedures dealing with bad weather. She reported that 61 certified substitutes were recently trained. Dr. Peterson reported that the AASA Superintendents' Conference will be held October 7-9 at Pizza Paradisos in Kenai.

BOARD REPORTS:

Mrs. Crawford reported that she attended the AASB Fall Boardmanship Academy and participated in workshops on special education laws and the state high school qualifying exam. She reported that the Technology Work Group is making progress.

Mrs. Larned reported that she attended a School-to-Careers Advisory Committee meeting. She reported that the rotational improvement grant program funded by Carl Perkins money is in its second year. She reported that Skyview High School and Kenai Central High School will each receive \$2,000 for their vocational education programs. She added that Kenai Alternative, Nikolaevsk Elementary/High, Soldotna Middle School and Voznesenka Elementary will each receive \$5,000.

Mrs. Gross reported that she visited all of the schools east of Soldotna this past week and attended the Certified Diploma Committee meeting.

Ms. Germano reported that she attended the Technology Work Group meeting via speakerphone and that the committee is coming closer to agreeing on a plan.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Primary Sponsor of Gaming Permits, Tentative Tenure Teacher Assignment, Leave of Absence/Support, New Teacher Contracts, 19-Day Substitute Teacher Contracts and Budget Transfer/Connections Program.

**Approval of Primary Sponsor of Gaming Permits:**

Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve a list of primary and alternative members in charge of gaming for those schools applying for gaming permits for 1999-2000.

**Tentative Tenure Teacher Assignment:**

Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve a tentative tenure teacher assignment for Timothy Daugharty, Homer Middle School.

**Leave of Absence/Support:**

Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve a one-year, unpaid leave of absence for the 1999-2000 school year for Judy Baker, secretary III, Bartlett Elementary/High School.

**New Teacher Contracts:**

Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve teacher assignments for the 1999-2000 school year for Josanne Breeding, districtwide school psychologist; Jaimee Coon, language arts, Soldotna Middle; Laurie Decker, special education/resource, Homer High; Judy Graham, (temporary) special education/resource, Soldotna Elementary; Paul Hettwer, music, Seward Middle/Sr.; Vicki Illg, science, Homer High; Terrie Kane, (temporary) special education/severe, Seward Middle/Sr.; Kelli Kessler, (temporary) reading specialist, Nikolaevsk Elementary/High; Patricia Lawyer, counselor, Skyview High; Mary Beth Nearing, districtwide physical therapist; Teresa Smith, (temporary) library, Mt. View Elementary; Jacqueline Stringham, (temporary) music, Nikiski Elementary/Nikiski Middle/High and Brenda Williamson, special education/intensive, Soldotna High.

**19-Day Substitute Teacher Contracts:**

Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve a 19-day substitute teaching contract for Michael Stockburger, study skills, Homer High; and Renee Merkes, math/photography, Soldotna High.

Budget Transfer/ Connections Program: Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve a budget transfer for \$99,146 to purchase computers and printers for the Connections Program.

Budget Transfer/ Connections Program  
(Continued):

ACTION

Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve Consent Agenda items Numbers 1 through 6. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

BUDGET PREPARATION  
CALENDAR:

Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve a calendar to be used as a guideline for preparation of the 2000-2001 School District budget. He noted that a change has been made on the date to deliver the budget to the Borough Assembly from April 10 to April 6.

Ms. Germano asked when the joint worksession with the Board and Borough Assembly would be held. Mr. Hickey stated that the date for the joint worksession should be March 20 instead of March 16.

ACTION

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve the budget preparation calendar as revised. Ms. Germano seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATOR APPOINTMENT:

Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve an administrator assignment for the 1999-2000 school year for Paula Christensen, assistant principal, Soldotna Middle School.

ACTION

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve an administrator assignment for the 1999-2000 school year for Paula Christensen, assistant principal, Soldotna Middle School. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. Malcolm Fleming, Seward Middle/High School principal, clarified an article relating to the possibility of the Seward Police Department providing a police officer in the Seward Middle/High School. He stated that a police officer was not necessary but that having another adult in the building to assist in hallways and possibly coach student activities would be desirable. He reassured those present that the school is a safe place to be and that the climate is very nice. Mr. Fleming proposed the idea that athletics be moved outside the school and operated by a separate organization but still be associated with the school, similar to a recreation department. He noted that this way schools would not have to pay for cocurricular activities out of instructional funds.

He thanked the Board for coming to Seward for their meeting and suggested moving next year's fall meeting to a later date so newly elected Seward site council officers could attend the meeting.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mrs. Crawford thanked Mr. Fleming for his comments, Mr. Boyle for his school presentation and the Seward community for hosting the meeting. She thanked Mr. Arness for his past service on the Board.

Mrs. Gross welcomed Miss Haring and thanked Mr. Arness for his past service and viewpoints.

BOARD COMMENTS (continued):

Mrs. Larned reported that she recently watched high school volleyball for the first time and enjoyed it very much. She wished Mr. Arness good luck and welcomed Miss Haring to the Board.

Ms. Germano thanked Mr. Fleming for his comments regarding athletics. She welcomed Miss Haring to the Board. She thanked Dr. Peterson for speaking at the Women 2000 Conference in Homer. She explained that the original presenter cancelled at the last minute and Dr. Peterson agreed to speak. She noted that since Dr. Peterson's presentation, she has heard many compliments from those who attended. She thanked Mr. Arness for his viewpoints and

added that he will be missed.

Mrs. Mullins welcomed Miss Haring to the Board and added that she hoped the experience would be rewarding. She urged Miss Haring to voice the views of the students. Mrs. Mullins stated that she appreciates the work that Mr. Arness has done for the Board. She added that he is an honest and caring person.

Dr. Anderson welcomed Miss Haring to the Board. Dr. Anderson stated that Mr. Arness is a great teacher and friend. He thanked the Board for the privilege of serving.

Mr. Arness welcomed Miss Haring to the Board. He stated that it has been an honor to serve on the Board for the past nine years. He stated that he leaves knowing that things are in good hands. He thanked the Seward community for hosting the meeting.

ADJOURN: At 8:23 p.m., Mrs. Mullins moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mr. Joe Arness, President

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Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

The Minutes of October 4, 1999,  
were approved on October 18, 1999,  
as written.