

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Homer High School

Homer, AK 99603

November 5, 2001

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

Dr. Nels Anderson, President  
Ms. Deborah Germano, Vice President  
Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Clerk  
Mr. Joe Arness, Treasurer  
Mrs. Debra Mullins, Member  
Mrs. Margaret Gilman, Member  
Mr. Al Poindexter, Member  
Miss Katie Lockwood, Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT:

Dr. Donna Peterson, Superintendent of Schools  
Ms. Melody Douglas, Chief Financial Officer  
Dr. Gary Whiteley, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction  
Mr. Todd Syverson, Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Pete Swanson	Mr. Dan Calhoun
Mr. Randy Creamer	Mr. Wayne Clark
Mrs. Paula Christensen	Ms. Deborah Meganack
Mr. Rick Matiya	Ms. Deborah Smith
Ms. Pam Fields	Ms. Shawnie Olson
Mr. Ron Keffer	Mr. Rick Ladd
Ms. Bev Gillaspie	Mr. Chris Moss
	Ms. Karen Wessel

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

Ms. Germano called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Ms. Germano invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Dr. Nels Anderson	Present/Arrived at 7:37 p.m.
Ms. Deborah Germano	Present
Mrs. Sammy Crawford	Present
Mr. Joe Arness	Present
Mrs. Debra Mullins	Present
Mrs. Margaret Gilman	Present
Mr. Al Poindexter	Present
Miss Katie Lockwood	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The agenda was approved with the addition of Item Number 10a.(8), Approval of Nomination to AASB Board of Directors.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The School Board Minutes of October 15, 2001, were approved as printed.

## SCHOOL REPORTS:

Mr. Pete Swanson, McNeil Canyon Elementary principal, stated that the school staff is attempting to implement standards-based instruction for every student. He stated the school has developed an educational program that stimulates and challenges students to extend their learning in every discipline. He stated that core academic areas are emphasized by lowering the pupil-teacher ratio and standards in other disciplines are taught by teachers with talent in those areas. He stated that the technology/media person (funded by grant money) assists in the classroom and computer lab. He explained that the school received new Dell computers as part of Year Two of the Technology Plan. Mr. Swanson reported that the school added French, art, oral language, library skills and is continuing to offer physical education, music, band and choir and the bilingual program. He stated that volunteers staff the school library every day and the Title I tutor, bilingual instructor and technology/media person assist students after school. Mr. Atz Kilcher concluded the report by directing the student choir in a song titled, *Spirit of Flight Nine Three*.

Mr. Randy Creamer, Kachemak Selo Elementary principal/teacher, stated that commuting to the school is challenging because it is extremely remote. He explained that students speak only Russian when they attend kindergarten. He presented a graph showing students' ability to name English, and Russian letters in the beginning of first grade. He explained that technology is weak (new computers are two years away); a community desire. He presented a graph comparing students' knowledge of the English language by grade level and noted that, according to the Peabody Vocabulary Assessment, students have caught up by eighth and ninth grade. He noted that by the eighth grade all students are fluent in Russian and English. He noted that the school offers a preschool program for four-year-old children. He commented that Kachemak Selo students are extremely creative because of their culture; the girls learn to sew and the boys build houses and boats. He noted that the Kachemak Selo students have won many art contests. He stated that the school participates in the Battle of the Books competition and last year placed third at the high school level. He noted that the school has scored slightly higher in the Analytic Writing Assessment against other Russian schools in the District and credits the success to the teachers and the fact that the village is extremely remote.

## PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mrs. Boone's first and second grade students presented a song promoting the use of bear-proof dumpsters at District schools. Miss Sara Boone outlined the problem of bears raiding school dumpsters for the garbage. She explained that once bears begin to eat human garbage, their scavenger habits become altered and they become a pest. She suggested alternatives to current garbage disposal methods and recommended the District purchase bear-proof dumpsters that are compatible with local sanitation trucks. She stated that after researching funding for the dumpsters, the Audubon Society has tentatively agreed to partially fund the project. She asked the Board for their support in the pursuit of locating a responsible and economically feasible means of bear proofing District dumpsters.

Ms. Pam Fields, Laidlaw bus driver, requested the Board consider changing the language in Board policy to allow students to eat on the bus. She stated that students who are allowed to eat while riding the bus are happier, more respectful and cooperative. She added that ironically, there is less trash when children are allowed to eat. She stated that bus driving is hard enough to do without being forced to devote so much attention to enforcing the "no eating on the bus" rule.

Mr. Barrett Fletcher, former School Board candidate, stated that he was disappointed with the true caliber of the School Board winners. He recounted a list of campaign topics, and stated that for the time being he will continue to home school his children. He said that he is angry that he is required to pay taxes to support the half-empty public elementary school in his neighborhood. He stated that in the future, he might seek tax relief from the Borough Assembly, apply for grant money from the legislature or may pursue the issue through the court system. He stated that his agenda includes cooperation, diversification and privatization.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:** Dr. Peterson reported that she received the results of the AASB Quick Survey regarding Board districting, an email regarding a Large District Forum meeting during the AASB Annual conference and a notice that Principal's Day is November 16.

**AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:** The Board presented Golden Apple Awards to Dan Calhoun, Homer Middle teacher, Wayne Clark, retired teacher, Deborah Meganack, Homer area volunteer, and Deborah Smith, West Homer Elementary teacher. The Board presented the Alaska Counselor of the Year Award to Shawnie Olson, Homer High School counselor.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Dr. Peterson reported that Mr. Stewart is testifying about waivers and appeals for the High School Qualifying Exam. She stated that she and local business partners recently gave a presentation at the Partners in Education Symposium. She noted that the October 24 Administrator Meeting was successful. She announced that she will attend the Alaska Distance Education Technology Consortium meeting on November 7. She reported that the District received a charter school application of intent for a Central Peninsula Montessori school.

**BOARD REPORTS:** Mr. Arness reported that he recently attended the calendar committee meeting and noted that the 2002-2003 calendar will look similar to the 2001-2002 calendar.

Mrs. Crawford reported that she attended the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards meeting. She announced that Mr. Dick Sander is the only high school teacher in the District who has achieved national board certification. She reported that she has attended several meetings of the Social Studies Curriculum Committee. She stated that the committee is making progress and has changed the scope and sequence of the curriculum. She noted that she and Dr. Peterson testified at the Alaska Tolerance Commission.

Mr. Poindexter reported that he assisted the Department of Education and Early Development in writing performance standards for vocational education in the areas of health, manufacturing, construction, natural resources and agriculture. He stated that most of the work is complete and that a list of performance standards will be posted on the state website very soon.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Items presented on the Consent Agenda were New Teacher Assignments 2001-2002; Leave of Absence Support; Primary Sponsor of Gaming Permit; Resolution 01-02-12, Arctic Winter Games; Request for Sabbatical; Resignation; Budget Preparation Calendar; and Nomination for AASB Board of Directors.

**New Teacher Assignments 2001-2002:** Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve teacher assignments for the 2001-2002 school year for Foley Weems, generalist (temporary), Port Graham School; Jennifer Harvey, special education/preschool (temporary), Sears Elementary; Louise Heite, speech therapist, districtwide special services; Robin McSheehy, special education/resource, Kenai Middle School; Matthew Widaman, (temporary), vocational education, Skyview High School.

- Leave of Absence Support: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve a one year unpaid leave of absence request from Vicki Hollingsworth, Title I tutor, Grants Instruction (effective December 17, 2001).
- Primary Sponsor of Gaming Permit: Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve a list of primary and alternative members in charge of gaming for those schools applying for gaming permits for 2001-2002 and a change of primary and alternative member for Nikiski Middle/High School.
- Resolution 01-02-12, Arctic Winter Games: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve Resolution 01-02-12 supporting the bid by the Kenai Peninsula to host the 2006 Arctic Winter Games.
- Request for Sabbatical: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve an unpaid sabbatical for the 2002-2003 school year for Marina Bosick, Grade 3/4, Ninilchik Elementary/High School.
- Resignation: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve the resignation of Roderick Ladd, West Homer Elementary principal.
- Budget Preparation Calendar: Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve a draft calendar to be used as a guideline for preparation of the 2002-2003 School District budget.
- NOMINATION FOR AASB Board of directors: Mrs. Crawford recommended the Board approve the nomination of Ms. Deb Germano to the AASB Board of Directors.
- Action Mr. Arness moved the Board approve Consent Agenda items Numbers 1 through 8.  
Ms. Germano seconded.  
  
Motion carried unanimously.
- Enrollment Projections for 2002-2003: Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve the 2002-2003 projected enrollment of 9,725 students. She reported that the current enrollment is below projection by 260 students and that a budget revision will be forthcoming. She explained that projections for FY03 were conservative and that a straight-line approach was used. She noted that the current year senior class is larger than the kindergarten that will be entering the system.
- ACTION Ms. Germano moved the Board approve the 2002-2003 projected enrollment of 9,725 students. Mr. Poindexter seconded.  
  
Mr. Arness asked whether there were any projections in the report other than straight line in the estimation of kindergarten class sizes. She stated that there were a few enrollment projections that were projected on a site-by-site basis such as the charter schools.  
  
Motion carried unanimously.
- Administrator Appointment: Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve the appointment of Richard Putney, director of Human Resources, Central Office.
- action Mr. Arness recommended the Board approve the appointment of Richard Putney, director of Human Resources, Central Office. Mrs. Mullins seconded.  
  
Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 01-02-11:

Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve Resolution 01-02-11, Supporting Year Two Recommendations of the Task Force on School Funding. She stated that the resolution was developed by AASB and the Department of Education and Early Development regarding recommendations for the upcoming legislature.

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve Resolution 01-02-11. Mr. Arness seconded.

Ms. Germano encouraged those present to review the A+ Report (included with the resolution) and noted that the report is a compilation of work by several different groups throughout the state.

Motion carried unanimously.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Miss Lockwood stated that she was incredibly impressed by the school presentations.

Mr. Poindexter stated that it is a pleasure to have a Board meeting in Homer. He noted that he will be prepared with some recommendations at the next School Board meeting.

Mrs. Gilman stated that she was impressed with both school presentations. She reported that she attended an orientation at Kenai Middle School regarding student safety drills. She noted that although she was pleased that the students had the opportunity to practice the safety drills, she was sad that it is necessary. She reported that Kenai Middle School has adopted language arts as a goal and that all curriculum areas are required to address the goal in some way and cited an example used in the physical education classes.

Mrs. Crawford expressed appreciation for the school presentations and the Dine and Discuss presentation by Mr. Ladd. She stated that she appreciated hearing from the delegation promoting bear-proof garbage dumpsters. She thanked Mrs. Smith for her years of service. She stated that she was sad to hear that enrollment is dropping.

Mrs. Mullins stated that she enjoyed the Dine and Discuss session with Mr. Ladd and added that the sessions are a valuable use of Board time. She stated that she appreciated the school presentations and the effort that went into the song. She expressed appreciation to those who were recognized by the Board. Mrs. Mullins commented that she is saddened that Mr. Fletcher feels there is an adversarial relationship between the Board/District and himself and his children and that the Board does not respond to persons who feel alienated and therefore choose not to enroll their children in public school. She stated that she home schooled her son for a year, which was a personal choice. She explained that people home school their children for many reasons. She stated that the Board is a steward for public education. Mrs. Mullins asked whether Mrs. Fields' request for a change of District policy should be referred to KPSAA.

Mr. Syverson stated that he will review the policy with Laidlaw.

Ms. Germano thanked Mr. Ladd for the Dine and Discuss presentation and for his many years of service to the District. She thanked Mr. Swanson and Mr. Creamer for their presentations. She recognized Mr. Clark for his service. She announced that the Homer students placed first in the region swim meet and noted that Mr. Fisher was named Swim Coach of the Year. She wished the swim team good luck at the upcoming state meet.

Mr. Arness noted that he remembered competing against Mr. Calhoun while both of them were students at separate high schools in the District. He thanked McNeil Canyon Elementary for their report. Mr. Arness stated that he was pleased to announce that during the past weekend Ms. Dorothy Gray became his sister-in-law by marrying his brother James.

Dr. Anderson congratulated the Homer Boys' swim team for placing first in the region meet. He thanked Mr. Ladd for his service to the community and to the District. He stated that it is a pleasure to honor those who have worked hard for the District.

ADJOURN:

At 8:57 p.m., Mr. Arness moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dr. Nels Anderson, President

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Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Clerk

The Minutes of November 5, 2001,  
have been approved as of  
November 19, 2001.