

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

March 3, 2003 - 7:30 p.m.

Homer High School
Regular Meeting - 600 E. Fairview, Homer, Alaska

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: Mr. Joe Arness, President
Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Vice President
Ms. Deborah Germano, Clerk
Mrs. Margaret Gilman, Treasurer
Mrs. Debra Mullins, Member
Dr. Nels Anderson, Member
Mr. Al Poindexter, Member
Mr. Cameron Poindexter, Student Representative

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mrs. Paula Christensen	Mr. Joe Huftel
Mr. Jim White	Mr. Ron Keffer
Ms. Karen Wessel	Ms. Milli Martin
Mr. Rick Matiya	Ms. Laura Norton
Mrs. Christine Ermold	Ms. McKibben Jackinsky
Mr. Steve Daly	Mr. Tim Peterson
Mrs. Caroline Venuti	Ms. Lolita Brache
Mr. Benny Abrahamson	Miss Halley Moak
Mr. Ray Hillman	Ms. Jill Kriens
Ms. Terri Woodward	Ms. Wendy Todd
Ms. Jill Showman	Mr. Steven Mersch
Ms. Maggie Corbisier	Ms. Janet McNary

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

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

ROLL CALL:

Dr. Nels Anderson	Present
Ms. Deborah Germano	Present
Mrs. Sammy Crawford	Present
Mr. Joe Arness	Present
Mrs. Debra Mullins	Present
Mrs. Margaret Gilman	Present
Mr. Al Poindexter	Present
Mr. Cameron Poindexter	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved with a revision to Item Number 10a.(2), Approval of Long-Term Substitute Teacher Contracts.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of February 17, 2003, were approved as printed.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:

The Board presented the Spirit of Youth Award to Miss Halley Moak for volunteer service at the Youth of the Nation Teen Center in Homer.

The Board presented Golden Apple Awards to Ms. Lolita Brache, Homer Flex volunteer, and Mrs. Amy Budge, McNeil Canyon teacher for their service to the District. Ms. Sharon Whytal, Homer Flex volunteer, was not in attendance but also received a Golden Apple Award.

SCHOOL REPORT:

Mr. Benny Abraham, Paul Banks Elementary School principal, gave a PowerPoint school report with the assistance of Ms. Wendy Todd, physical therapist, and Ms. Jill Kriens, special education/ resource teacher. The report included the school mission statement, a history of the school, information on academic activities, an introduction of staff and community/ parent volunteers, a list of special programs (special education, physical therapy, Bully-Proofing Program, etc.), information regarding specials (music, art, physical education, and library), assessment and achievement information, intervention team and staff collaboration meeting information, a summary of field trips and visits by special guests, and an audio demonstration of a first grade student reading.

Mr. Ray Hillman, Voznesenka School principal, gave a PowerPoint school report with the assistance of Ms. Jill Showman, teacher. The report included information on the school location and facility, class size, student language transition from Russian-only to English, a visit to the Challenger Space Center, an increasing number of high school graduates, the student reward program, assessment scores and student progress, contests and special classroom activities, field trips, club sports activities, and the incorporation of state standards into the curriculum.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Ms. Janet McNary, Paul Banks Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) representative, stated that the PTO is pleased that a tentative agreement has been reached between the District and KPEA/KPESA and added that should a strike become necessary, the parents will support the workers.

Mr. Steve Daly, Cooper Landing Parent Advisory Committee president, read a letter expressing concern for the increase in pupil-teacher ratio at the school and asked the Board to reconsider the proposed reductions in staff because of potential safety issues.

Ms. Paula Setterquist wished Ms. Germano a happy birthday.

Mr. Arness recognized Assembly members, Ms. Milli Martin and Mr. Chris Moss in attendance.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS: Dr. Peterson reported that the District has been receiving a series of draft regulatory guidelines for the No Child Left Behind Act.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS: Ms. Germano asked whether teacher certification tests will be an issue for the new State Board of Education. Dr. Peterson replied that the new State Board of Education will act on teacher certification tests. She added that it will be important for all Districts to provide input to the new members.
(continued)

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

Ms. Terri Woodward, KPESA President, thanked the District bargaining team for their hard work and added that the Associations will try to ratify the contract as soon as possible.

Ms. Maggie Corbisier, KPEA Executive Board and KPEA Bargaining Team member, thanked the District bargaining team members for reaching a tentative agreement and added that KPEA is working as quickly as possible to make the tentative agreement available to the membership so a vote can be taken.

Mr. Steven Mersch, K-Beach Site Council president, and Ms. Mim Updike, K-Beach Site Council recorder, shared some pictures of the school facility and a letter expressing concern for the loss of teaching staff and reported that the school is over its projected enrollment and is overcrowded.

Mrs. Crawford asked for an explanation of the overcrowding in the severe education classroom. Ms. Updike explained that there is not enough room for the student wheelchairs in the classroom so they are parked outside the door after the children are brought in. She further explained that next year five workers will share an office area that is 5 feet by 8 feet.

Mrs. Gilman asked Ms. Updike if the site council could recommend a solution. Ms. Updike stated that one solution might be to add more portables or to downsize the library for more classroom space. She noted that adjusting the school service area boundaries might also be an option.

Mrs. Mary Baringer, South Peninsula Hospital long-term care professional, shared pictures and reported on the Voznesenka School job training program activities at the South Peninsula Hospital and noted that the program provides an opportunity for students to think about future plans.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Peterson reported that beginning March 3 students will take the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam and benchmark tests. She reported that the Blue Ribbon Vocational Education Task Force final meeting will be held March 11.

2003-2004 BUDGET PRESENTATION: Mrs. Melody Douglas presented the 2003-2004 preliminary School District budget. She noted that the administration recommends that \$2,919,193 in adjustments be made to reconcile the FY04 general fund expenditure budget to available revenue totaling \$72,509,508. She noted that the March 3 enrollment count is 105 students under the baseline used to calculate the 2003-2004 school year budget. She outlined several significant issues that will impact the FY04 budget that included the amount of the governor's budget, employee contracts, and student enrollment.

2003-2004 BUDGET PRESENTATION: Ms. Germano summarized the budget worksession held prior to the Board meeting.
(continued)

Mr. Arness extended an invitation for the public to comment on the FY04 budget.

Year 3 Technology Report:

Dr. Peterson presented the Year 3 Technology Plan Report written by Mr. Jim White, Information Services director, which included a summary of the accomplishments and an explanation of how the six-year project was completed in three years.

Mrs. Crawford stated that she is still astonished that the six-year plan was completed in three years.

Ms. Germano asked Mr. White to explain where the money comes from that was spent on technology. Mr. White explained that \$1.6 million came from the Borough Assembly which was funded "outside the cap." He stated that recycled computers from the Connections Program were set up in the schools and that the necessary cash came from federal E-Rate Program. He reported that the Tech Plan was designed to be self-standing and self-sustaining for many years. Ms. Germano asked if the cash was spent through the Connections Program to bring E-rate money to the District. Mr. White explained that the E-Rate subsidy is not tied to the Connections Program; instead the money comes from telecommunications costs. He stated that phone lines, long distance phone service, data circuits, and fiber network costs generate the subsidy which will equal 66% for FY04.

Dr. Whiteley noted that teacher training was provided at the beginning of the 2002-2003 school year and an additional week long training was provided for 14 schools.

BOARD REPORTS:

Mr. Poindexter reported that he chaperoned a group of Future Farmers of America (FFA) students to the District Career Technical Student Organizations (CTSO) Conference held at the Kenai Peninsula College. He stated that 65 students from the Vocational Industrial Clubs of America (VICA), Business Professionals of America (BPA), and FFA were in attendance. He stated that the students spent the morning in four workshops with industry leaders and then competed in skills competitions (culinary arts, keyboarding, public speaking) in the afternoon. He reported that Mr. Cameron Poindexter placed first in the prepared public speaking event and that eight Homer students placed in other events. He told Mr. Hillman that he would like to see Voznesenka School students attend the next conference. He stated that he would like to see more students participate in future CTSO conferences.

Mr. Cameron Poindexter reported that he attended the CTSO Conference which was held at the Kenai Peninsula College. He reported that he competed in two events and placed in both (prepared public speaking and extemporaneous public speaking). He stated that the conference was fun because he was allowed to do some motivational speaking to the students. He thanked the Board for sending him to Juneau to lobby legislators.

BOARD REPORTS:

(continued)

Mrs. Mullins reported that she attended the AASB Legislative Fly-In. She stated that the Board heard an update on the NCLB Act and held a discussion regarding the new Area Cost Differential Study. She stated that Board members visited 25 legislators and added that she does not feel certain about the outcome of the trip. She stated that the legislators were waiting for the governor's budget to become public and so no promises are being made. She stated that there was some discussion that Learning Opportunity Grants (LOGs) might be included in the foundation formula which would not give the District any additional money. She stated that she will wait and hopes that something good will come out at the last minute. She reported that Representative Croft told the group of board members that legislators perk up and take notice when they receive 45 to 50 emails on any one topic. She stated that legislators are not getting many messages from constituents regarding requests for additional funding for education. She stated that some legislators have received word that the Kenai Peninsula Borough needs additional money for education and added that several legislators campaigned on the promise to work for more educational funding. She encouraged those present to send letters and notes to all legislators because those from other districts are not receiving messages from their constituents asking for more funding for education. She stated that Mr. Cameron Poindexter served well while in Juneau. She reported that Mr. Poindexter was put on the spot by legislators and reported that he spoke up with great command and she thanked him for his work. She thanked all of the bargaining team members for their hard

work and added that she hopes that all of the rifts between all of the groups can heal. She stated that she survived the difficult negotiations process in 1987 and will survive this one.

Mrs. Crawford reported that she attended the Custodial Committee meeting where the group watched videos on team cleaning and specialty floor teams. She stated that the group discussed computer software, area supervisors, and central budgeting. She noted that the Committee will be presenting a report to the Board in the future. She reported that she accepted a certificate presented to the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education by the Soldotna Chamber of Commerce during the Annual Awards Banquet.

Mrs. Gilman reported that she attended the elementary forensics meet on Saturday, March 1. She thanked the many community volunteers, teachers, parents and administrators for donating their Saturday to work at the meet. She reported that she and Mrs. Crawford were asked to judge the Academic Pentathlon.

BOARD REPORTS:

(continued)

Ms. Germano reported that she attended the AASB Legislative Fly-In. She stated that she was struck by Mr. Croft's comments that legislators who receive 30 emails from registered voters about a certain topic will stop all other work to concentrate on that item. She stated that it was a frustrating trip to Juneau. She stated that the Board was told that the foundation formula is on the governor's list for possible reductions. She asked the community to follow education funding closely and suggested that the public check with the Legislative Information Office for information about upcoming teleconferences. She asked those present to either testify or send email messages to the legislature.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Tentative Tenure Teacher Assignments, Long-Term Substitute Teacher Contracts, Request for Leave of Absence-Certified, and Resignations.

Tentative Tenure Teacher Assignments:

Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve tentative tenure teacher assignments for the 2003-2004 school year for Marina Bosick, Penny Tinker, Joseph Trujillo, and Tracy Wimmer.

Long-Term Substitute Teacher Contracts:

Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve long-term substitute teaching contracts for Beverly Edwards, Grade 2-3, K-Beach Elementary; Gordon Griffin, English, Skyview High School; Marylil Spady, science, Skyview High School; Tamara Passe, special education/resource, Redoubt Elementary and Sherry Friedersdorff-Dillon, kindergarten, Redoubt Elementary.

Request for Leave of Absence-Certified:

Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve an unpaid leave of absence for the 2003-2004 school year for Thomas Barnard, teacher of visually impaired, District-wide Pupil Services.

Resignations:

Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve resignations from Liana Bigham, Kenai Central High social studies teacher, currently on year's leave of absence (resignation effective March 3, 2003); Russell Lewis, Tustumena Elementary sixth grade teacher, currently on year's leave of absence, (resignation effective March 3, 2003); and Mary Beth Nearing, physical therapist, District-wide, Pupil Services, (effective at the end of the 2002-2003 school year).

MOTION:

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 4 including the revised Item Number 10a. (2). Mrs. Gilman seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Fine Arts Curriculum:

Dr. Gary Whiteley recommended the Board approve the fine arts curriculum. He noted that the modifications recommended by the Board at the February 17 worksession have been incorporated into the document.

Fine Arts Curriculum:
(continued)

Ms. Germano confirmed with Dr. Whiteley that a stage craft course is included in the curriculum.

MOTION:

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve the fine arts curriculum. Ms. Germano seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/
COMMENTS:**

Ms. Jill Showman, Voznesenka School teacher, stated that she was pleased that a tentative agreement has been reached by the District and the Associations and suggested that the education community work together and lobby the legislature for adequate funding for schools.

Ms. Anne Bayes, Anchor Point resident, thanked the Board for their hard work and for resolving the contract negotiations issues and suggested that the Board reach out to various community organizations to assist with legislative lobbying efforts for additional education funding.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Ms. Mullins extended congratulations to those who received awards from the Board. She stated that it is nice to recognize students for their contributions. She expressed appreciation to Mr. Abraham for the Paul Banks Elementary School report and to Mr. Ray Hillman for the Voznesenka School report. She expressed appreciation for the suggestion of reaching out to community organizations for support in the lobbying effort for additional education funding. She thanked Mr. Cameron Poindexter for his assistance at the AASB Legislative Fly-In. She expressed appreciation for the hard work by those involved in the negotiations process and for the patience by Kenai Peninsula

communities and District employees.

Dr. Anderson expressed gratitude to the members of the negotiations teams for their hard work. He sang a Boy Scout song wishing Ms. Germano a happy birthday.

Mrs. Gilman announced that a student from Homer Middle School has won the state spelling bee. She thanked Mr. Abraham for the Paul Banks Elementary School report and their commitment to early reading. She thanked Mr. Hillman for the Voznesenka School report and noted that she was pleased with the increasing number of graduates. She thanked Board members and negotiating team members for their hard work. She commented that budget worksessions are becoming depressing. She stated that with the settlement of the employee contracts, the District as a whole can focus attention on a means to get more money for education.

BOARD COMMENTS:
(continued)

Mrs. Crawford thanked Mr. Hillman and Mr. Abraham for their school reports. She expressed appreciation for the specific information provided to the Board by the site council representatives. She stated that she was pleased that the Board recognized a student, an employee, and two volunteers. She reported that she recently assisted with the scoring of Analytic Writing Assessment papers along with 34 hard-working and dedicated teachers. She reported that earlier in the day she judged the Academic Pentathlon. She extended her thanks to the negotiating teams for their hard work and persistence.

Mr. Poindexter wished Ms. Germano a happy birthday. He thanked Mr. Hillman and Mr. Abraham for their school reports. He stated that the District's problem with the legislature is that those who control the state finances are legislators from Anchorage because there are so many. He noted that Anchorage legislators don't see a problem with education funding and suggested that the public solicit help from Anchorage residents. He stated that budget concerns are still being addressed and that nothing is sacred and suggested that the public stay in touch if they have special interests. He thanked the administration and especially Dr. Peterson for preparing students for college and the workforce in spite of the problems with negotiations and other matters. He reported that he attended an outstanding performance of the musical, *Les Miserables*, performed by approximately 100 Homer area students. He stated that the singing, acting, lighting and sound was as good as any professional production that he has seen. He reported that only 65 students attended the Districtwide CTSO Conference whereas other District events attract more than 300 or 400 student participants. He stated that he would like to see more students participate in workforce skills competitions.

Mr. Cameron Poindexter wished Ms. Germano a happy birthday. He thanked Mr. Hillman and Mr. Abraham for their school reports. He reported that he is a Paul Banks

Elementary alumnus. He asked for Board concurrence to schedule a worksession at the next meeting to discuss a proposal to increase the student Board representation to two students.

Mr. Arness authorized a worksession to be held at the next meeting to discuss a proposal to increase the student Board representation to two students.

Ms. Germano congratulated Hannah Bradley for winning the state spelling bee. She expressed appreciation for Mrs. Douglas' accompaniment during the Board's recent visits with legislators. She thanked staff and volunteers for their work on behalf of the District. She reported that tough times are still ahead. She thanked Dr. Anderson for his sense of humor and entertaining, irrelevant happy birthday song.

Mr. Arness reappointed himself as the Board representative to the District Calendar Committee. Mr. Arness asked Dr. Peterson about the need for a special School Board meeting in late March. Dr. Peterson reported that the Board will not have a quorum in late March.

BOARD COMMENTS:
(continued)

Ms. Germano requested to be excused from the April 7 Board meeting.

Mrs. Crawford requested to be excused from the April 7 Board meeting.

Mr. Arness thanked the District administration for their hard work during the negotiations process.

ADJOURN:

At 9:51 p.m., Mrs. Crawford moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Joe Arness, President

Mrs. Deborah Germano, Clerk

The Minutes of March 3, 2003
were approved on April 21, 2003
as written.