

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes

July 7, 2003 - 7:30 p.m.
Regular Meeting

Borough Administration Building
148 N. Binkley, Soldotna, 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

STAFF PRESENT:

Dr. Donna Peterson, Superintendent of Schools
Mrs. Melody Douglas, Chief Financial Officer

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ms. Terri Woodward	Dr. Roy Anderson
Mrs. Paula Christensen	Mr. Jim White
Mr. Glenn Haupt	Mrs. Lynn Hohl
Mr. Dave Spence	Mr. Sam Stewart
Mrs. Jenni Dillon	Ms. Sandy Roach
Mr. Jim Heim	

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

(Tape 1, 51)

Mr. Arness invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

(Tape 1, 65)

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

(Tape 1, 86)

The agenda was approved with revisions to Items 10a.(4), Approval of Administrator Appointments, and 10a.(7), Approval of Tenure Teacher Assignment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

(Tape 1, 116)

The School Board Minutes of June 2, 2003, were approved as printed.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

(Tape 1, 139)

Mr. Rich Redmond, counselor, reported that he was laid off after 13 years of service to the District and asked the Board to be rehired because he does not want to work in Koyuk or Shaktoolik.

Mr. Arness welcomed Soldotna Mayor, Dave Carey.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

(Tape 1, 286)

Dr. Peterson noted that the District is featured in the August 2003 national publication of *Board and Administrator* for the Board's Dine and Discuss sessions. She thanked Miss Dillon, Peninsula Clarion reporter for two well-written articles; one regarding Project GRAD and the other regarding assessment tests.

Advisory Committee, Site Council and/or P.T.A., K.P.A.A., K.P.E.A., K.P.E.S.A, Borough Assembly:

(Tape 1, 415)

Mr. Arness welcomed Assembly Member, Betty Glick

Ms. Terri Woodward, KPESA president, asked the Board and administration to reinstate the KPEA and KPESA discussion folders on First Class. She noted that seven Seward bus drivers will lose their jobs if the proposed FY04 budget revision is approved and asked the Board to at least give the employees advance notice.

Mrs. Gilman asked whether there was a state law that requires bus driver salaries be twice the amount of minimum wage. Ms. Woodward stated that she was not sure about state law.

Mrs. Douglas explained that the bus driver salary discrepancy is due to Laidlaw's contract which does not specify that wages be increased and added that the District does not have that latitude.

Mr. Poindexter asked whether Laidlaw would be required to pay bus drivers more for student cocurricular trips. Mrs. Douglas stated that she was unsure but thought that the contract with Laidlaw would prevail and that any additional busing services would fall under the language of the existing contract.

Ms. Lynn Hohl, Seward PTSA vice president, asked why the fall Board meeting in Seward is the day before the Borough elections. Dr. Peterson explained the Board meeting rotation schedule between the communities of Homer and Seward.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

(Tape 1, 950)

Dr. Peterson compared the Board agenda items to each related Board standard and solicited feedback from the Board about how to present the information in the future. Dr. Peterson noted that Dr. Whiteley is teaching on a professional development trip in England and that Mr. Syverson is no longer on the senior management team. She noted that there will be upcoming meetings with Project GRAD representatives and that on July 24, she and others statewide will meet with Commissioner Sampson regarding the efficiency of the State Department of Education and Early Development.

Financial Report:

(Tape 1, 1164)

Mrs. Douglas presented the financial report of the District for the period ending May 31, 2003. She noted that the next financial report to the Board will be when the audit is presented in November 2003. She added that the audit will begin August 18 and last for approximately six weeks.

Budget Transfer Report:

(Tape 1, 1245)

Mrs. Douglas reported on budget transfers Numbers 321 through 717 for various schools and departments within the District. She noted that in anticipation of Board approval, the FY04 budget revision includes budget transfers (over \$10,000) that are listed on the consent agenda.

Mr. Arness asked for a concise breakdown of the accounts that money is being transferred from and the accounts the money is being transferred to. Mrs. Douglas stated that she can provide the information. She explained that beginning this year, the administration did not allow principals to transfer money from temporary or substitute accounts.

Budget Transfer Report:

(continued)

Mrs. Gilman asked whether principals were allowed to hold some of their funds if they had not been spent. Mrs. Douglas explained that the administration was not allowing transfers from salary or benefit accounts. She stated that the rolling account option will remain in effect until the Board chooses to change it.

Mr. Poindexter asked where money for budget transfer Number 835111 will come from. Mrs. Douglas explained that money for software was held in an account until the purchase was made and then was transferred into a more detailed account.

Mr. Poindexter noted that budget transfer Number 720013 was to pay for temporary bus drivers and asked whether the District hires temporary bus drivers. Mrs. Douglas stated that the District has occasional need to hire temporary bus drivers as well as other temporary help.

BOARD REPORTS:

(Tape 1, 1744)

Mrs. Crawford reported that she attended the Spring Creek High School graduation ceremony just prior to the Board meeting. She explained that the school is located inside a maximum security prison and added that 13 young men (between the ages of 16 and 22) received their diplomas. She stated that friends and family of the students attended the graduation ceremony.

Mr. Arness announced that Dr. Anderson delivered his newborn grandson.

CONSENT AGENDA:

(Tape 1, 1860)

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of AR 1330, Use of School Facilities and Properties; 2003-2004 Annual Agenda Guideline; Substitute and Temporary Pay Schedule; Administrator Appointments; Nontenure Teacher Assignments; New Teacher Assignments; Tenure Teacher Assignment; Leave of Absence Requests – Certified; Resignations; Budget Transfers; 2003-2004 Board Goals; AR 6146.4, Special Services Grading and Graduation Guidelines; AR 6164.4, Identification of Individuals with Exceptional Needs.

AR 1330, Use of School Facilities and Properties:

Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve revisions to AR 1330, Use of School Facilities and Properties.

2003-2004 Annual Agenda Guideline:

Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve the 2003-2004 Annual Agenda. The Annual Agenda consists of dates on which routine items as well as worksessions and reports relating to Board goals are presented to the School Board.

Substitute and Temporary Pay Schedule:

Dr. Whiteley recommended the Board approve the pay schedule for substitutes and temporary employees for the 2003-2004 school year.

Administrator Appointments:

Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve the appointments of Matthew Fischer as principal/teacher of Tebughna Elementary/ High; Sandra Miller as assistant principal of Nikiski Middle/Senior High and Jamilyn Harper as assistant director of Districtwide Special Services and the reassignment of Sam Stewart as Assistant Superintendent at Central Office; John Owens as interim principal, Nikiski Middle/Senior High; Glenn Haupt, director of Secondary Education/Curriculum and Assessment; Norma Holmgaard as director of Small Schools and Alternative Programs; Rick Matiya, coordinator of NCLB Grants; and Robert Ermold, assistant principal, Skyview High.

Nontenure Teacher Assignments:

Dr. Gary Whiteley recommended the Board approve tentative nontenure teacher assignments for Timothy McFarland, music/art (temporary), Aurora Borealis; Karen Ruebsamen, homeless liaison (temporary), Districtwide Grants; Linda Frink, Grades 6-7, Kachemak-Selo; Jill DuFloth, Grade 6 (temporary), K-Beach Elementary; Matthew J. Faris, Grade 3 (temporary), K-Beach Elementary; RaeEllen Kurzendoerfer, generalist, Nikiski Middle/Senior High; Jennifer Haddix, Grade 6 (temporary), Redoubt Elementary; Cindy Hurst, Grade 3 (temporary), Redoubt Elementary; Krista Etwiler, Title 1 (temporary), Voznesenka School; and Michael A. Houghton, social studies/technology (temporary), Voznesenka School.

New Teacher Assignments:

Dr. Whiteley recommended the Board approve teacher assignments for the 2003-2004 school year for Elaine Velsko, Grade 4-5, Kachemak Selo School; Aileen F. Hediger, K-1 teacher (temporary), Kachemak Selo School; Audra K. McCubbins, reading teacher (.25 FTE temporary), Nikiski Elementary; Amy T. Stalmaster, special education/intensive needs, Homer Middle School; Mary Roed, special education/resource, Redoubt Elementary; Elizabeth Lennon, speech language pathologist, Districtwide/Tustumena/Ninilchik/Pupil Services; Leah Dubber, social studies, Susan B. English Elementary/High; and Chris Standley, school psychologist, Districtwide Pupil Services.

Tenure Teacher Assignment:

Dr. Whiteley recommended the Board approve a tentative tenure teacher assignment for the 2003-2004 school year for Tari Hoeft and Allan Miller.

Leave of Absence Requests - Certified:

Dr. Whiteley recommended the Board approve unpaid leave of absence requests for the 2003-2004 school year for Karen Brewer-Fair, physical education, Mountain View Elementary and Kim Shostak, special education/resource, Kenai Central High.

Resignations:

Dr. Whiteley recommended the Board approve resignations effective at the end of the 2002-2003 school year from Atz Kilcher, music, McNeil Canyon; Debbie Moore, special education/resource, Nikiski Middle/Senior High; Brittna M. Praker, school psychologist, Soldotna Elementary; Laura Lawrence, Grade 3, Sterling Elementary; Brent Keene, physical education teacher, West Homer Elementary/Paul Banks Elementary; Larry Wheat, Grade 5, Sterling Elementary; Janet Boyce, Grade 4, Soldotna Elementary; and David McCard, Grade 6, Sterling Elementary.

Budget Transfers:

Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve budget transfer Number 575 for \$20,717, \$19,995 and \$13,098 to pay for substitute and temporary wages for employees who were on extended leave; Number 638 for \$10,482 to pay for additional Education Prep courses at Kenai Peninsula College; Number 655 for \$11,000 to pay for health care benefits for additional Aurora Borealis Charter School employees; Number 677 for \$11,000 to pay for temporary bus drivers; Number 678 for \$51,396 and Number 679 for \$12,029 to pay off the Seward bus purchases; Number 687 for \$14,000 to pay for unanticipated legal costs incurred as a result of grievances and extended negotiations; and Number 711 for \$250,000 to pay for components of the student software system, including equipment and training.

2003-2004 Board Goals:

Dr. Peterson presented four goals and 17 related tasks for accomplishment during the 2003-2004 school year as a result of the Board's June 3 planning session. The recommended goals are 1) plan for effective nine member school board; 2) improve communication regarding accountability; 3) improve employee relations; and 4) begin discussion on co-curricular issues.

AR 6146.4, Special Services Grading and Graduation Guidelines:

Mr. Stewart recommended the Board approve revisions to AR 6146.4 (Special Services Grading and Graduation Guidelines), that would align the District with current state and federal law and regulations relating to special education.

AR 6164.4, Identification of Individuals with Exceptional Needs:

Mr. Stewart recommended the Board approve revisions to AR 6164.4 (Identification of Individuals with Exceptional Needs), that would align the District with current state and federal law and regulations relating to special education.

MOTION:

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 13. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Mrs. Gilman noted that the annual guideline lists the Board goals to be approved at the August 4 meeting and instead are on the July 7 Consent Agenda. Dr. Peterson stated that when the annual guideline was being developed she was unsure whether the goals would be ready in time. She stated that next year the Board goals will appear on the July meeting.

Mr. Poindexter asked to remove Item 10a.(1), AR 1330, Use of School Facilities and Properties.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Poindexter asked about whether there is a time limit for groups to receive cancellation notice for use of a District facility. He stated that schools should be responsible for notifying users of a cancellation in enough time to make alternative arrangements. Dr. Peterson stated that the District reserves the right to cancel building use in emergency situations and cited an example of the difficulties of transporting basketball teams to a tournament in Homer during flooding conditions on the Kenai Peninsula. She stated that an emergency cancellation is not a school level decision.

CONSENT AGENDA:
(continued)

Mr. Poindexter asked for an explanation of rental charges for classroom use. Dr. Peterson clarified that classroom rentals can only be made for times after the regular school day.

Mrs. Gilman verified that school gymnasiums are occasionally rented by the public for birthday parties. Dr. Peterson stated that school gymnasiums can be rented by the public as long as a building administrator is present.

Mr. Arness asked whether fees for pool rentals were changed to accommodate the swim clubs. Dr. Peterson explained that fees for swim club use of the school pools have been reduced.

Motion to approve revisions to Item 10a.(1), AR 1330, Use of School Facilities and Properties carried unanimously.

FY04 Revised Budget:*(Tape 1, 2452)*

Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board of Education approve the FY04 operating fund budget for \$75,045,636 and the pupil transportation budget for \$4,617,448, for a total for all funds of \$91,179,092. She further explained that with the \$2.5 million received from the legislature, the administration recommends that the foreign language and math curricula be reinstated, unallocated funds be reinstated, the supply allocation be reinstated, and allocate the remaining difference for 2004 summer school. She stated that the administration recommends a reduction to the pupil transportation fund necessitated by a change in state funding. She stated that a variety of reductions within the pupil transportation fund are recommended to balance to the reduced revenue of \$627,000. She stated that the administration recommends that the Seward pupil transportation operation be moved from a District-operated program to a contracted program. She stated that the administration recommends the elimination of ten bus routes Districtwide. She noted that the Board must approve all funds and that this budget revision will be forwarded to the Borough Assembly upon approval.

Mrs. Crawford asked for clarification of the \$2.5 million increase to the FY04 budget. Mrs. Douglas stated that the legislature moved the outside-the-cap Learning Opportunity Grant funding into the cap. She stated that, in her opinion, the District overall received less funding due to the change in transportation funding.

Ms. Gilman noted that the FY04 transportation budget (approved in April) was for \$5.2 million which was an increase over the FY03 transportation budget and is now being reduced by \$600,000.

Mrs. Mullins observed that the legislature did not "hold the District harmless" as they were led to believe while attending the AASB fly-in in Juneau. Mrs. Douglas stated that the base used to calculate transportation revenue will be based on FY03 actual expenditures provided to the State Department of Education and Early Development. She stated that part of the problem is that the original District FY04 transportation budget was based on the estimates. She stated that the proposed changes to the transportation budget equal \$627,000 and will bring the budget in line with basic state revenue to the District.

FY04 Revised Budget:

(continued)

Mr. Poindexter asked whether the cocurricular travel scenario will also be approved if the FY04 budget revision is passed. Dr. Peterson explained that pupil activity transportation as addressed in a memorandum dated June 16, 2003 from Mr. Syverson is an administrative function. She stated that the Board would need to change the FY04 budget as presented in order to change certain portions of Mr. Syverson's transportation memo. Mrs. Douglas added that the administration has built the budget based on assumptions made in the administrative recommendation.

Mrs. Gilman verified with Mrs. Douglas that cocurricular travel was not added back into the FY04 budget.

Ms. Woodward, KPESA president, asked how much additional it will cost the District for Laidlaw to assume the Seward bus routes. Mrs. Douglas reported that the analysis of the financial changes show that there is a direct savings in FY04 with additional savings in the future because the state will no longer subsidize districts for the purchase of buses. Ms. Woodward asked whether employees will be notified in enough time to make other employment plans and to allow flexibility with health insurance coverage. Mrs. Douglas explained that until the Board approves the budgetary changes, the administration cannot proceed.

Mrs. Sandy Roach, Seward school bus driver, stated that the Seward community is unaware of the impact of the proposed FY04 budget revisions and added that because Seward school buses are used for many purposes, the community should be allowed to provide feedback before final action is taken.

Mrs. Lynn Hohl, Seward PTSA vice president, asked the Board to postpone action on the proposed FY04 budget revisions, which include the elimination of District buses in Seward, until the community has time to respond.

Mr. Dave Carey, Skyview High teacher and coach, expressed concern for the safety of students traveling to and from cocurricular activity competitions and suggested that fewer activities be offered in order to fund safe travel.

Mr. Poindexter asked Mr. Carey whether he would be in favor of reducing the number of competitions to meet the budget. Mr. Carey stated that he would be in favor of reducing the number of activities (reducing the salary account for coaches) and the number of competitions.

MOTION

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve the FY04 budget as revised. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

FY04 Revised Budget:*(continued)*

Mrs. Gilman asked Dr. Peterson how cocurricular travel will be funded. Dr. Peterson explained that cocurricular travel will be funded at the site level. She added that safe student travel to cocurricular activities is a concern to the District and has been discussed extensively. She noted that during the scheduling process, athletic directors reduced the amount of cocurricular competitions by 10% and scheduled back-to-back games. She stated that another resource is the proposed increase in user fees and noted that schools in Homer and Seward have huge transportation budgets. Mrs. Gilman asked what percentage of the cocurricular budget reduction would be recovered if the student activity fee increase is approved. Dr. Peterson stated that she did not know.

Mrs. Mullins verified with Dr Peterson that student activity schedules for the 2003-2004 school year have already been scheduled and that it would be impossible to further reduce competitions. Dr. Peterson replied that there is always an opportunity to reduce the number of competitions but the administration would not make that recommendation. Mrs. Mullins expressed concern that the District continue to maintain compliance with Title IX requirements. She noted that it is extremely difficult to cut a specific sport and noted that unfortunately, it brings more public response than when cutting teachers. She suggested that the Board consider reducing the number of cocurricular activities in the future so the remaining activities can be fully funded.

Mr. Poindexter stated that he received the Board packet on Saturday, July 5 and does not feel that he has had adequate time to read and understand the contents. He stated that the District current budget revision total is almost the same as this year and yet the Board has increased the pupil-teacher ratio by three and eliminated cocurricular travel. He stated that he has not seen any information about the student cocurricular transportation pilot program with Laidlaw and added that it was his understanding that if the pilot program was successful, it would be implemented Districtwide. He stated that the program did work but is not being used Districtwide. He stated that he is not convinced that the program is the best for students. Mr. Poindexter stated that he doesn't have a good understanding of the student transportation recommendation and does not feel that he can make an informed decision.

MOTION

Mrs. Gilman moved the Board approve an amendment to the FY04 budget revision to reduce the supply allocation by 25% or \$300,000. Mr. Poindexter seconded.

Mrs. Crawford reported that the Board had a discussion about the supply allocation during an earlier worksession. She noted that the supply account pays for copy paper and other items necessary to allow schools to operate. She stated that for many years the supply budget has not kept up with inflation and added that she does not see how schools can exist with another cut to the supply budget.

FY04 Revised Budget:
(continued)

Mrs. Mullins noted that after reviewing the budget transfer report, many of the transfers are for the purchase of supplies such as crayons, magic markers, index cards, printer paper, toilet paper, Kleenex, etc. She stated that she was a high school student in California when Proposition 13 was passed and as a result, was asked to bring a list of supplies for school use. She stated that the Board should not ask students to bring supplies and added that it is against the law and will not vote for Mrs. Gilman's amendment.

Mrs. Gilman noted that she gets a supply list each year from her children's teachers. She stated that she does not want to imply that there is waste in the supply budget, but instead, the Board needs to make it a priority to have teachers in front of students in the classroom. She stated that the public has spoken to the Board about adequately funding supply budgets but added that the Board has heard that teachers in front of students are a priority.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

YES – Gilman, Poindexter

NO – Anderson, Crawford, Mullins, Arness

Amendment failed.

Dr. Anderson stated that he is not pleased with the FY04 budget. He stated that he would like to review the transportation issue separately and would support the consideration of it separately. Mrs. Douglas stated that the Board will need to pass the budget in total and it must be reported to the Department of Education and Early Development by July 15. She stated that the administration does not usually submit the District budget to the Assembly unless it is approved in entirety. Dr. Anderson asked whether the Board could approve the budget as presented and revise it further, if desired. Mrs. Douglas responded that the Board can revisit the budget at any time during the year.

Dr. Peterson stated that the administration did not want to seek additional funding for transportation from the Borough Assembly. She stated that there is a cost savings by turning the Seward bus routes over to Laidlaw. She reminded the Board that the biggest issue regarding District-owned buses is that the state will no longer reimburse for them. She stated that if the Board does not support the elimination of the District-operated buses in Seward then they could reduce busing by 25 routes. She reminded the Board the timing of the budget revision decision is important because Laidlaw and District employees need to be notified immediately.

FY04 Revised Budget:

(continued)

Mr. Arness asked whether the transportation budget could be held as a placeholder, transfer the curriculum adoption to the transportation budget, and then find savings in the transportation program. Mrs. Douglas stated that postponing a decision on the budget revision will be problematic for the District and Laidlaw. She stated that Laidlaw needed to know the District's decision regarding the take over of the Seward routes before now and added that a decision needs to be made as soon as possible. She explained that the savings in FY04 if the Seward student transportation is contracted to Laidlaw is approximately \$70,000. She reported that if the District continues to operate the Seward busing program, the balance of the loan of the owned buses which is \$124,000 must be addressed and the District would have to purchase two more buses for \$100,000 each. She reported that if the District contracts with Laidlaw to provide busing service in Seward, the District-owned buses can be used to assist the cocurricular program with transportation. She stated that schools would no longer be charged for the use of the cocurricular buses and the reserve accounts where bus revenues have been held can be released to the schools.

Dr. Anderson clarified with Mrs. Douglas the costs involved if the Seward student transportation is provided by the District. He asked why the schools would not charge for use of the cocurricular buses and use the money to replace them. Mrs. Douglas explained that it would only be a matter of time before the District is back in the same situation as now; no money to replace the fleet. She explained that the District has been charging for the use of buses for approximately 15 years and the money collected has not been enough to adequately purchase more buses. She added that the only way to save enough to buy more buses would be to significantly increase the cost for the use.

Mrs. Gilman verified with Mrs. Douglas that the purchase of school buses is an expense that is outside the cap. She asked whether the District could request money from the Borough to pay for the cost of buses in the future. Mrs. Douglas stated that it may be possible to request money for cocurricular buses. She explained that when the District-owned buses become unusable to transport students to cocurricular activities, those schools will need to contract with Laidlaw. She reported that Homer High School has realized a financial savings, in addition to other benefits, by contracting with Laidlaw to transport students to activities.

(Tape 2, 61)

Mr. Poindexter stated that he has not had enough time to consider the ramifications of the decisions proposed in the FY04 budget revision. He stated that previous budget worksessions were based on an entirely different budget and different scenario. He stated that in two years, when the bid process begins for a new bus contract, the District may be in a position to own and operate a cocurricular bus program. He suggested that the Board hold a worksession and special meeting to examine the issues in more detail. He stated that the public needs to have a chance to weigh in on the issues.

FY04 Revised Budget:

(continued)

Mrs. Crawford noted that the District did not have the final FY04 budget figures from the state offices until the end of June. She noted that the District is suffering and is being forced to make many decisions that are not pleasant. She stated that the Board must deal with the amount of money that the legislature has provided.

Mrs. Mullins clarified with Mrs. Douglas that the District will transmit the FY04 budget revision to the Borough Assembly on July 8 but will not take action until later. Mrs. Douglas noted that the District must report the FY04 budget to the Department of Education by July 15.

Mrs. Douglas explained that the mandated date to report the FY04 budget was met when the Board initially approved the budget. She noted that the Board must deal with the additional revenue from the state immediately. Mrs. Gilman asked whether the Board could postpone, or hold a special meeting regarding the transportation issue so that the Seward community can provide input. Mrs. Douglas explained that the Borough Assembly must approve the total District budget and that postponing action on the transportation issue will postpone action by the Assembly.

Dr. Anderson stated that he would like to consider the transportation budget a placeholder so that other alternatives can be explored. He suggested that if the Board feels that the reductions to the transportation budget cannot be made they can request funds from the Borough Assembly. He stated that he will vote for the proposed FY04 budget revision with the understanding that the transportation budget serves as a placeholder for future consideration.

Dr. Peterson urged the Board to decide the Seward transportation issue as soon as possible because if additional funds are necessary, a request must be made to the Borough Assembly or money must be transferred from another account.

Mr. Arness asked whether a transfer of \$75,000 to the transportation budget would allow the District to operate the Seward bus routes for the 2003-2004 school year. Mrs. Douglas stated a transfer would allow continuation of the routes but that further analysis would be needed concerning the acquisition of replacement buses. Mr. Arness pointed out that by operating the Seward bus routes for another year the buses would not be available for student activity transportation.

recess:
(Tape 2, 830)

At 9:18 p.m., Mr. Arness called a recess.

reconvene after recess:

At 9:24 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

Mrs. Gilman asked whether the Seward site council was notified of the proposed changes. Dr. Peterson responded that, due to timing the site council was not notified. Mrs. Crawford clarified that the Seward principals were made aware of the proposal.

FY04 Revised Budget:
(continued)

VOTE:

YES - Anderson, Crawford, Mullins, Arness
NO - Gilman, Poindexter

Motion carried.

Cocurricular Activities and Handbooks:
(Tape 2, 979)

Mr. Arness passed the gavel to Mrs. Crawford.

Motion

Mr. Arness moved the Board reconsider the recommended Cocurricular Activities Handbooks. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Crawford returned the gavel to Mr. Arness.

Mr. Poindexter stated that he is opposed to increasing cocurricular activity fees because it will eliminate some students from participating. He stated that school activities should be available for all students. He noted that he knows of students who do not participate because of the cost of fees and will not ask for a waiver or financial assistance. He stated that he would like cocurricular activities to be equally available for all students regardless of their economic background.

Mrs. Mullins asked for the rationale for the amount of increase in activity fees. Mr. Spence stated that no statewide comparisons were made; he added that member school activity directors and administrators recommended that student fees be increased to raise one-third of the cost of transportation fees. Mrs. Mullins asked whether the suggested activity fees compare with other districts statewide. Mr. Spence stated that if the activity fee increase is approved, the KPBSD will have higher fees than the Anchorage School District or Mat-Su School District.

Mrs. Gilman asked for an explanation of the activity fee waiver process. Mr. Arness replied that the student fills out a form and submits it to the school activity director. Mr. Spence stated that the waiver form is located in the appendices section of the Cocurricular Activities Guidelines and further explained that the form is processed at the school office. He stated that the only criterion that the school considers is whether the student is enrolled in the Free or Reduced Lunch Program. He noted that other alternatives are often discussed with parents such as a reduced activity fee or opportunities for the student to work off the amount of the fee.

Cocurricular Activities and Handbooks:
(continued)

Mrs. Crawford stated that although she agrees that raising activity fees is not a pleasant task, the decisions that the state legislature made regarding education funding is making the decision necessary. She stated that she would rather see the activities continue at the increased fee amount than not exist at all.

Mr. Arness passed the gavel to Mrs. Crawford.

Mr. Arness stated that he is a strong supporter of student activities and supports the increase. He explained that schools are constantly being asked to do more with less and added that raising activity fees provides another means to deal with the shortfall in funds. He stated that with the reduction to cocurricular activities there will be safety issues regarding student travel to activities. He stated that the increase in activity fees will be used to assist with safe travel for students.

MOTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve an amendment to the Cocurricular Activities Handbook in Section V., Participating Guidelines for Activities. He recommended that the words “whichever is longer (except as provided in paragraph 2)”, be added to the end of the first paragraph and the sentence, “With administrative approval, and upon completion of appropriate assessment and counseling, the student/athlete will become eligible to participate in practice for the last ten days of their 30 day suspension.”, be added to the end of the second paragraph. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Mr. Arness explained that the net affect of the changes means that students who are suspended for 30 consecutive school days have the option (with principal approval and completion of an appropriate assessment and counseling) to become eligible to participate in practices for the last 10 days of the 30-day suspension. He further explained that the unintended consequence has been that a 30-day suspension becomes a 40-day suspension because of Alaska State Activities Association requirements that students participate in 10 practices before they can compete. He explained that when student suspensions bridge the summer months it becomes fairly onerous in the fall when activity practices begin before school starts. He explained that the proposed amendment has not been formally considered by the KPSAA Board but noted that the change has been shared with each member and has received support.

Dr. Anderson stated that he supports the recommended amendment because the unintended consequences of the basic training rule affected his son who went on a ski trip during the winter break and could not participate in hockey upon his return.

Cocurricular Activities and Handbooks:
(continued)

Mrs. Gilman verified that students are suspended from school for use of illegal drugs. Dr. Peterson explained that a 30-day suspension can be reduced to 15 days if certain terms are met. She noted that another unintended consequence happens when a student gets into trouble on a weekend and then self-reports to the school administrator and is suspended from school for an extended amount of time whereas a student who does not self-report may have different consequences. She stated that the Arness amendment will bring fairness to student discipline as it relates to participation in cocurricular activities.

Mrs. Gilman asked for further explanation. Dr. Peterson explained that for students who are suspended for 30 days at the end of one activity, that student is not allowed to participate in the borough or state tournaments as well as the beginning of the next activity. She said that in comparison with other large districts in the state, KPBSD’s discipline policy for student activities is the most severe.

Mrs. Gilman verified that students who are caught with drugs on school grounds are suspended from school and cocurricular activities. Mr. Stewart explained that on a first offense a student is suspended for 30 days with the opportunity to attend the Alternative To School Suspension Program (ATOSS) and if successfully completed, may return to school in 15 to 20 days. Mr. Stewart explained that the proposed Arness amendment pertains to students who break training rules outside of the school day. He stated that the amendment rewards students (to some degree) for being honest.

Amendment carried unanimously.

Mr. Poindexter stated that he does not have a problem with any part of the Cocurricular Activities Guidelines except the proposed increased activity fees. He added that along with the high cost of activity fees are additional costs for travel to competitions. He stated that more thought should be put into the decision to increase activity fees. He stated that the District is paying a hefty salary for coaches and reminded those present that the District used to have coaches who coached for free. He stated that now students are being asked to pay a large amount of money, especially those who are in more than one activity. He stated that the Board needs to find a better way to fund activities.

Mr. Arness clarified that the amended motion is before the Board along with amendments made at the May 6 and June 2 Board meetings.

MOTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board suspend the rules to allow public comment on the Cocurricular Activities Handbooks. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dave Carey, Skyview High School teacher and coach, stated that he would like to see data showing how much the District expects to collect from the increase in activity fees.

Cocurricular Activities and Handbooks:
(continued)

Mrs. Lynn Hohl, Seward PTSA vice president, stated that she knows of families whose children do not participate in cocurricular activities because of the cost of fees and added that travel costs are much higher in Seward because of the fewer number of participants and that the school will collect less than schools in the Soldotna and Kenai area.

Mrs. Gilman asked whether the anticipated revenue from the increase in activity fees is calculated into the budget. Dr. Peterson stated that it is not calculated in the budget because it stays at the site level.

VOTE:

YES – Anderson, Crawford, Gilman, Mullins, Arness

NO – Poindexter

Amended motion carried.

FIRST READING OF POLICY

REVISIONS:

(Tape 2, 3022)

The Board heard a first reading of BP 6146.7, Diplomas.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/
COMMENTS:**

(Tape 2, 3043)

Mrs. Lynn Hohl, PTSA vice president, asked the Board and administration to allow the Connections Program to form a site council.

BOARD COMMENTS:

(Tape 2, 3059)

Mrs. Mullins stated that it is her responsibility as a Board member, to make decisions on issues that are difficult. She thanked those who commented regarding the Seward busing issue. She suggested that the administration meet with the Seward employees who will be affected by the elimination of the District-operated bus routes to discuss transition assistance. She stated that the District will suffer bigger blows during the next budget cycle and added that during the last trip to Juneau she and Mrs. Crawford spoke to legislators regarding busing and transportation issues on the Kenai Peninsula. She stated that hopefully, the District can gather some information to show the legislature the ramifications of inadequate transportation funding. She thanked the Board and administration for the flowers that were sent in memory of her mother-in-law who passed away in June and expressed appreciation for the understanding and support from Board members.

Dr. Anderson predicted that the difficult decisions will get worse next year. He reported that the public has complained that activities are not administered fairly and that students of District employees are chosen to participate more often than other students. He stated that he does not think that that accusation is totally true and noted that there are many positions to take regarding student activities. Dr. Anderson stated that some students will not pay the increased fees to participate in cocurricular activities because they do not get to participate very much. He stated that he is grateful for the discussions by the Board members who are trying to do the best for students.

BOARD COMMENTS:

(continued)

Mrs. Gilman expressed appreciation for the Site Council Evaluation Report and thanked the building administrators and site council members who prepared the information. She thanked Dr. Peterson for taking the Board members to visit the Soldotna Elementary summer school program while in operation. She reported that 10-12 students were gathered around one teacher who was providing direct instruction. She stated that as a result, some students gain one to two grade levels during the summer. She stated that she was very pleased that the review of cocurricular activities was a Board goal.

Mr. Poindexter stated that his comments and opinions were not meant to “torpedo” progress in the District. He stated that his brother (who was born and raised on the Kenai Peninsula) was not able to get a teaching job after interviewing 12 times. He stated that after his brother taught in remote areas of Alaska for 15 years he moved to the lower 48 and now

teaches national scholars. He stated that the District lost a great Alaskan citizen and teacher (in his brother) and noted that sometimes local talent gets overlooked. He stated that on the other hand, teachers need to realize that they are in an extremely competitive market and that the person who can do the best job for District students should be hired.

Mrs. Crawford congratulated Mr. Arness on the arrival of his newborn grandson. She expressed appreciation to Dr. Peterson for the Site Council Evaluation Report and commented on how varied they were from school to school. She noted that dealing with the FY04 budget has been difficult and agreed with Dr. Anderson's prediction that it will continue to get worse in FY05. She stated that she wished that statewide decision makers could see the impact that they are making on local communities and families. She expressed appreciation for the manner in which the Board is able to work together and come to consensus. She thanked Dr. Peterson for assisting the Board in meeting the challenges in new ways. She thanked Ms. Dillon for reporting the positive test scores in the Peninsula Clarion.

ADJOURN:
(Tape 2, 4313)

At 10:13 p.m., Mrs. Crawford moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Joe Arness, President

Mrs. Deborah Germano, Clerk

The Minutes of July 7, 2003
were approved on August 4, 2003, as
written