

# Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes

June 7, 2004 – 7:30 p.m.  
Regular Meeting

Borough Administration Building  
148 N. Binkley, Soldotna, Alaska

**SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:**

Ms. Deborah Germano, President  
Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Vice President  
Dr. Nels Anderson, Clerk  
Mrs. Margaret Gilman, Treasurer  
Mrs. Debra Mullins  
Ms. Sandra Wassilie  
Ms. Debbie Holle  
Mr. Marty Anderson  
Mrs. Sunni Hilts  
Mr. Patrick Tilbury, Student Representative

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Dr. Donna Peterson, Superintendent of Schools  
Mrs. Melody Douglas, Chief Financial Officer  
Dr. Gary Whiteley, Assistant Superintendent  
Mr. Sam Stewart, Assistant Superintendent

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Mr. Bob VanDerWege	Mr. Ken Halverson
Mrs. Paula Christensen	Mrs. Jan Halverson
Mr. Steve Wright	Mrs. Patty Rich
Ms. Sharon Brower	Mr. Hal Spence
Mrs. Lassie Nelson	Mr. Dave Larson
Mr. Gene Dyson	Mr. Todd Syverson
Mr. Paul Kubena	Mr. Dave Spence
Mrs. Jenni Hammond	Mr. Dan Chay
Ms. Marcia Beachamp	Mrs. Kelley Smith
Ms. Terri Woodward	Ms. Judy Klunder
Ms. Sara Hepner	Mr. John Pothast

Others present not identified.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

*(7:30:55 PM)*

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

*(7:31:06 PM)*

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

**ROLL CALL:**

*(7:31:29 PM)*

Mrs. Sammy Crawford	Present
Ms. Deborah Germano	Present
Mrs. Margaret Gilman	Present
Mrs. Debra Mullins	Present
Dr. Nels Anderson	Present
Ms. Sandra Wassilie	Present
Ms. Debbie Holle	Absent/Excused
Mr. Marty Anderson	Present
Mrs. Sunni Hilts	Present
Mr. Patrick Tilbury	Present

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

*(7:31:56 PM)*

The agenda was approved with revisions to 10a.(4), Long-Term Substitute Teacher Contracts and 10a.(9), Leave of Absence Requests-Certified.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

*(7:32:22 PM)*

The School Board Minutes of May 3, 2004, were approved with corrections.

**AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:**

*(7:32:45 PM)*

The Board presented a Golden Apple award to Ms. Judy Klunder, Tustumena Elementary teacher, for her dedication to education, and a Spirit of Youth Award to Mr. Eric Fischer for his volunteer service to the community.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:**

*(7:37:10 PM)*

Mr. Steve Wright, K-Beach Elementary head custodian, read from the Work Rules section of the KPESA negotiated agreement and asked the Board to reinstate support hours and positions that have been reduced or eliminated.

Ms. Leslie Morton, Quest Program parent, expressed concern for possible reductions to the Quest Program and asked the Board to instead, increase funding or at least maintain the program in its current form instead of reducing it.

Ms. Marcia Beachamp, PFLAG representative, stated that the group does not feel that the proposed changes to the District Policy Manual is adequate and asked the Board to reconsider use of the terms "sexual orientation" instead of "perceived or real differences."

Ms. June Rigby, Quest Program parent, asked the Board to reinstate Quest Program funding to the 2003 level and added that the current proposal of 8 teachers would reduce the Program to be almost nonexistent at all grade levels.

Mr. Dennis Dunn, KCHS principal, expressed concern for the overall quality of education if cocurricular activities are cut and noted that the effects would be significant.

Ms. Gail Moore, QUEST Program teacher, read from the District Long Range Plan and noted that the same goals reflect the purpose of Quest Program and asked the Board to consider fully funding the Program for next school year to allow time for a study to be completed.

Ms. Susan Matthews, K-Beach Elementary parent, asked the Board to put money into lowering the pupil-teacher ratio because too much is being asked of teachers and they do not have the time to give individual student attention and suggested that cocurricular activities be provided in other ways.

Ms. Penny Vadla, High School English teacher and Quest parent, reported on the recent International Future Problem Solvers competition in Kentucky and credited Quest teacher, Mrs. Cindy Romberg, for the students' success and asked the Board to provide an equitable education for all students.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:** Dr. Peterson reported that the administration office is fielding an unusual number of requests from outside agencies asking for public information (i.e. employee salaries, teacher placement). She reported that a large number of communications have been received regarding the FY05 budget, cocurricular activities, Quest Program, and districtwide music. She stated that she received a letter from the Port Graham Tribal Council regarding the District's hiring process and noted that the issue has been resolved. She reported that the administration has received two requests for future arbitration from KPESA.

*(7:59:01 PM)*

Ms. Germano reported that she has received several communications regarding cocurricular activities, staffing and budget, and a request from a parent who is interested in serving on a committee to develop a long-term solution for funding cocurricular activities.

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

*(8:00:53 PM)*

Ms. Cathy Carrow, KPEA President, reviewed comments made to the Board at prior meetings regarding class size; noted that 50 teaching positions were cut last school year and more than 35 were cut this year and asked that the Board consider putting money back into staff over materials.

Ms. Terri Woodward, KPESA President, noted that 14 custodians were cut last year and that secretaries will be cut this year and added that support staff is overloaded and expressed concern that worker's compensation claims for secretaries will rise next year,

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

*(8:11:19 PM)*

Dr. Peterson reported that she attended a Project GRAD event on Saturday, June 5 and noted that Senator Stevens also attended and was complimentary towards the KPBSD. She noted that 48 school ground camper hosts are placed at various District schools to watch and protect them during the summer months. She reported that summer school has begun with an enrollment of 500 students. She reported that furniture and materials at Nikiski Elementary are being moved to other locations. She announced that the state has signed off on all outstanding items identified during the fall 2003 audit. She invited those present to a retirement reception for Dr. Gary Whiteley on Friday, June 18 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the Assembly Chambers. She reminded Board members of the Planning Session on Tuesday, June 8 at 9:00 a.m. and that effective July 12, Board meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Peterson presented the End of the Year Report, which included a summary of Board action for the 2003-2004 school year as well as progress on administrative work plans and Board goals.

**Financial Report:**

*(8:14:40 PM)*

Mrs. Douglas presented the financial report of the District for the period ending April 30, 2004.

**LEASE REPORT:**

*(8:15:01 PM)*

Mr. Stewart presented a report of leases and agreements for the 2004-2005 school year.

**LEASE REPORT:**

*(continued)*

Mrs. Gilman asked whether charter schools have lease agreements with the District. Mr. Stewart responded that no money is exchanged between charter schools and the District for classroom space but that there is language in their charters that specify how much classroom space each one will have. Mr. Stewart added that charter schools pay utility bills.

Ms. Germano asked whether there was an increase to any of the leases. Mr. Stewart responded that the lease amounts are the same as the 2003-2004 school year.

**BOARD REPORTS:**

*(8:16:30 PM)*

Mrs. Crawford reported that she and other representatives from the District attended a Project GRAD event in Anchorage and met with U.S. Senator Stevens. She reported that students were allowed to speak to the group and that during the event, announcements were made regarding future financial support for the program. She reported that the Project GRAD Summer Institute begins for students on June 7 and will include sessions in reading, writing and math. She reported that she attended four graduation ceremonies.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

*(8:18:00 PM)*

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Administrator Appointments, Nontenure Teacher Assignments, Resignations, Long-Term Substitute Teacher Contracts, AR 6146.1, Weighted Grades, Leave of Absence Requests-Support, Nontenure Teacher for Tenure, New Teacher Assignment, and Leave of Absence Requests-Certified.

**Administrator Appointments:**

Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve the appointment of Guy G. Fisher, III, assistant superintendent, Central Office; Daniel J. Beck, assistant principal, Homer High; and Sharon K. Conley, principal/teacher, Nikolaevsk Elementary/High.

**Nontenure Teacher Assignments:**

Dr. Whiteley recommended the Board approve tentative nontenure teacher assignments beginning the 2004-2005 school year for Timothy J. McFarland, music/art/physical education, Aurora Borealis Charter; Amy Stalmaster, special education/intensive needs, Homer Middle School; Christopher Towne, elementary music, Paul Banks Elementary and West Homer Elementary; Erin Southwik, elementary music, Soldotna Elementary; Anne McCabe, Grades 1-3, Soldotna Montessori; and Susan Larned, Grades 1-3, Soldotna Montessori.

**Resignations:**

Dr. Whiteley recommended the Board approve resignations effective at the end of the 2003-2004 school year for Dick Sander, principal, Chapman Elementary; John W. Bushell, technology/Quest, Homer Middle; Marcie L. Curry, special education/resource, Kenai Central High; Kim Shostak, special education/resource, (currently on unpaid leave of absence) Kenai Central High; Erik Viste, school psychologist, Kenai Central High; Beth Ladd, special education/ resource, Nikiski Middle/High; Sheila DeVold, Grade 5, Redoubt Elementary; Richard C. Houghton, science/athletic director, Seward High; M. Colleen Pucillo, school psychologist, Soldotna Middle; and Tracy L. Wimmer, Grade 5, Sterling Elementary.

**Long-Term Substitute Teacher Contracts:**

Dr. Whiteley recommended the Board approve long-term substitute teacher contracts for Diane Bernard, Grades 1/2, Sears Elementary; Marie Alexson, Grade 5, West Homer Elementary and Elizabeth Ross (DeVold), music, Redoubt Elementary.

**AR 6146.1, Weighted Grades:**

Mr. Stewart recommended the Board approve proposed changes to AR 6146.1, Weighted Grades, which would allow Advanced Placement courses to be weighted.

**Leave of Absence Requests-Support:**

Dr. Whiteley recommended the Board approve unpaid leave of absence requests for Nora Ribbens, aide, Nikiski Elementary (effective April 9 through April 26, 2004); Darrell Moore, custodian, Nikiski Elementary (effective for the 2004-2005 school year); and Kyle D. Gauthier, secretary III, Soldotna Middle (effective 2004-2005 school year).

**Nontenure Teacher for Tenure:**

Dr. Whiteley recommended the Board approve Jill Herbert, a tentative nontenured teacher, for tenure.

**New Teacher Assignment:**

Dr. Whiteley recommended the Board approve a teacher assignment for the 2004-2005 school year for Kathleen Holt, Grade K-2 teacher, Soldotna Montessori Charter School.

**Leave of Absence Requests-Certified:**

Dr. Whiteley recommended the Board approve unpaid leave of absence requests for the 2004-2005 school year for Alexei V. Basargin, social studies/generalist, Nikolaevsk Elementary/High; Ann McLain, Grade 7, K-Beach Elementary; Dana Edwards, math, Soldotna High School; and Alecia Lybrand, counselor, Kenai Middle School.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 9. Mr. Anderson seconded.

Ms. Wassilie asked to remove 10a.(5), Approval of AR 6146.1 (Weighted Grades).

Vote on Consent AGENDA ITEMS 1 through 4 and 6 through 9:

Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Wassilie expressed concern for the adoption of a regulation regarding weighted grades. She stated that there are other issues the Board needs to consider such as, each year new classes will be brought forward for approval as a weighted course, and whether it sends mixed messages to students. She explained that the District is working towards mastery of subject matter over grades, and that weighted grades might limit a student's exposure to arts and physical education. She stated that the regulation puts an emphasis on college prep. She expressed concern that students will not take other classes unless they are weighted. She commented that the District is changing its grading system to accommodate college-bound students. She noted that more and more colleges are asking schools for transcripts without weighted grades. She suggested that the Board examine the student scholarship selection systems such as the University of Alaska's

**Leave of Absence Requests-Certified:** top 10% requirement. She stated she will vote against the proposed regulation.  
(continued)

Mrs. Gilman stated that she will vote for the proposed weighted grades regulation because it provides a method to encourage students to take difficult classes. She reported that weighted grades will only be available for Advanced Placement courses because they are classes that have a very specific program with a very specific curriculum that is uniform across the country. She stated that allowing weighted grades provides a method that will encourage the highest level of academic student achievement at no cost to the District.

Mrs. Crawford explained that a national test is given to students who take Advanced Placement courses which is scored by high school and college teachers. She explained that AP courses include a rigorous curriculum and added that the proposed regulation specifically states that weighted grades will be awarded only for College Board Advanced Placement courses and added that she feels strongly that it should be limited to only those courses. She stated that the very best way to improve performance for all students is rigorous nonfiction writing which is emphasized in all AP courses. She stated that weighted grades will reward all students and not just those who are college bound.

Mr. Anderson stated that he shares some of the same concerns expressed by fellow Board members. He stated that the Board should provide incentives to those students who want to challenge themselves and take AP courses and not be concerned about protecting their Grade Point Average.

Dr. Anderson stated that one of the unfortunate results of reducing teachers is that high schools feel obliged to eliminate the number of high-level classes. He stated that allowing the use of a weighted grade system will help bring back the number of advanced classes. He reported that studies have shown that people who take AP classes (even if they don't do well on the national test) have benefited dramatically and added that a student does not have to be a genius to do well in AP classes. He stated that allowing weighted grades is an attractor to help schools bring out the best in all students.

Ms. Germano expressed concern that small schools compete for student enrollment with all schools in the District and are at a disadvantage because they cannot offer AP classes. She stated that the Board can withdraw the regulation if students who attend small schools are disadvantaged.

VOTE ON ITEM 10a.(5):

Advisory: YES

NO - Wassilie

YES - Hilts, Crawford, N. Anderson, Mullins, M. Anderson, Gilman, Germano

Motion carried.

**RECESS:**  
(8:33:26 PM)

At 8:33 p.m., Ms. Germano called a recess.

**RECONVENE:**  
(8:41:29 PM)

At 8:41 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

**FY05 Budget Revision:**  
(8:42:00 PM)

Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve a FY05 general fund budget of \$81,263,357 and total of \$99,256,424 for all funds.

Ms. Germano explained that additional budget information was provided to the Board by the administration during the worksession held prior to the Board meeting.

Mrs. Jenni Hammond, parent, asked the Board to put a percentage of the additional money back into the classroom. She asked the Board not to cut cocurricular activities all at once and suggested that the Board convene a task force to review the program that would include parents. She asked the Board to establish a Transportation Task Force and asked to be a member. She stated that next year she will promote the Box Tops for Education Program. She stated that putting money into the unallocated fund makes it difficult for schools to plan ahead.

Ms. Megan O'Neil, parent, asked that the Board's top priority be to lower the pupil-teacher ratio and added that she supports reinstating extracurricular activities.

Mrs. Sara Hepner, Quest teacher, stated that the Quest Program is an exemplary program and is worthy of being thoroughly examined before crippling cuts are made. She stated that the District Media Center equalizes opportunities for small schools as well as large schools to have curriculum support for their programs.

Mr. Dave Larson, KCHS teacher, suggested that the Board examine the issue of staff development as a result of the passage of the weighted grades regulation and as more AP classes are added to high school offerings. He suggested the Board consider instructional units size (size of specific classes for specific subjects) rather than class size.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve a revised FY05 general fund budget of \$81,263,357 and total of \$99,256,424 for all funds. Dr. Anderson seconded.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Gilman moved the Board approve an amendment to increase the reduction to the Connections Program Supply and Equipment account by \$406,500, reduce the Districtwide Supply account by \$301,925, reduce the Unallocated account by \$568,212, and reduce the Contingency Fund for Utility and Unknown Situations account by \$568,212 for a total of \$1,768,657 and to reduce the pupil-teacher ratio by 2.0 FTE throughout the District for \$1,577,152, add 3.0 FTE to the Quest Program for \$180,000 for a total of \$1,757,152. Ms. Wassilie seconded.

**FY05 Budget Revision:**  
*(continued)*

Mrs. Gilman explained that the Connections Program enrollment was reduced by 25% and therefore the Program supply and equipment budgets should be reduced accordingly. She reminded the Board that in July 2003 both Connections Program budgets were increased. She stated that putting teachers in front of students is the most important priority for the resources of the District and added that she feels certain that parents, teachers, and the community would be willing to cut back on supplies if it meant putting another teacher in the classroom. She stated that the Unallocated Account is still left with \$100,000 to plan for overcrowded situations and added that she would rather hire teachers before school starts. She explained that typically contingency funds are used as a "rainy day" savings account and stated that 33 students in a fifth grade classroom is critical and calls for more teachers. She stated that the Contingency Fund will still have \$200,000 in the account.

Mr. Tilbury asked whether the District could function with a reduction to the Contingency Fund and Unallocated Account as proposed in the Gilman amendment. Mrs. Douglas stated that it would be difficult.



Mrs. Mullins asked what the ramifications would be if the Connections Program supplies and equipment budgets were largely reduced. Mr. Stewart replied that the administration's concern is that students would leave the Connections Program and enroll in other statewide correspondence programs.

Mrs. Crawford pointed out that even though the legislature provided money that appears to be an increase to educational funding, the amount equals \$6 additional per student. She explained that even with the increase the Board will have to reduce the budget and face some difficult decisions. She stated that she is uneasy about the reductions proposed in the Gilman amendment because the administration has spent countless hours planning the best way to allocate the District's resources.

Mr. Anderson asked why the Connections Program supply account was increased by 70%. Mrs. Douglas explained that supply accounts are based on a certain allocation for students K-5, Grades 6-8 and Grades 9-12 and that over the years the administration has held the supply allocation portion flat. She stated that the Connections Program has had some money available in the supply budget so they have been dispersing it to their students in order to be competitive with other districts operating correspondence programs in the area. She stated that historically, not all allocations have been fully expended for each student. She explained that the administration made the reduction in the supply budget using the same method used to develop the budget. She stated that once it was determined that the Connections Program enrollment would be reduced by 167, the supply budgets were reduced accordingly and a similar calculation was made to reduce the equipment budget. She stated that she was unable to address the question of the calculations and the rationale behind those calculations without conducting a detailed research.

**FY05 Budget Revision:**  
*(continued)*

Mrs. Gilman explained that her amendment was based on information in the FY05 budget document. She noted that the supply budget for the Connections Program that was approved in April 2004 increased from \$563,140 to \$976,800. She asked whether the District is able to receive computers at a decreased rate. Mr. White stated that the cost of computers has decreased by approximately \$100 per computer and the District is getting a more enhanced computer for that amount.

Ms. Germano clarified that the \$300,000 reduction that was recommended by the administration to the supply budget was to put back the 12% reduction that was made previously. She asked Mrs. Douglas to explain the proposed budget revisions to the Contingency Fund for Utilities and Unknowns Account. Mrs. Douglas responded that it is a budget category that is held in reserve to be used on an "as needed" basis throughout the year. She reported that the Contingency Fund will pay for expected increases in utility expenditures, textbooks and other unforeseen expenses. She noted that funds would not be expended from the account without Board authorization.

Ms. Wassilie asked whether the FY05 budget has a fund balance. Mrs. Douglas explained that the Contingency Fund could be considered a part of fund balance but would not occur until the end of the fiscal year and added that should the money not be used, it would go into the fund balance.

Dr. Anderson stated that the budget figures have been generated by the administration with good intent. He noted that the calculation for supplies is much less per student than in 1980 and added that he cannot support such a comprehensive cut to the account and will vote against the Gilman amendment.

Mrs. Mullins clarified with Mrs. Douglas that equipment purchased by the Connections Program is relocated for use at other District schools after one year.

Mrs. Douglas verified the budget amounts in the Gilman amendment and noted that it results in a net decrease of \$11,505.

**VOTE ON THE GILMAN AMENDMENT:**

Advisory: NO

NO – Wassilie, N. Anderson, Crawford, Mullins, Germano

YES – M. Anderson, Hilts, Gilman

Amendment failed.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Hilts moved the Board approve an amendment to the budget revision to cut 10% from the Cocurricular Activities account, a portion of that amount to include all C teams of various sports and to put the \$120,522 into the Unallocated Account to be used for staffing needs. Mr. Anderson seconded.

**FY05 Budget Revision:**

*(continued)*

Mrs. Hilts explained that District expenses amount to more than the increase in funding provided by the legislature. She stated that although she totally supports cocurricular activities, in good conscience, she cannot support the proposed revised budget especially when programs are being cut. She stated that she would like the Board to put forth a good faith effort into putting something back into the classroom.

Mrs. Gilman asked whether there is a plan to address staffing needs for the sixth grade students at Kenai Middle School. Dr. Whiteley explained that the staffing increase presented by Mr. Peterson addresses the larger elementary schools. Dr. Peterson explained that there were 2.0 extra teacher positions to address the needs of all other schools in the District. Mrs. Gilman asked what staffing formula is used for Kenai Middle School sixth grade students. Mr. Peterson confirmed that the elementary formula is used to calculate staff for those students.

Mr. Tilbury asked how many C team coaching stipends are paid by the District. Dr. Peterson explained that there are four stipends at a variety of schools and that the amount paid depends on the sport.

Mrs. Crawford observed that 10% of the Cocurricular Activity fund is much more than the cost of C team coaching stipends.

Mrs. Mullins asked where the balance of the 10% reduction would come from once the C team stipends are eliminated from the Cocurricular Activities Fund. Mrs. Hilts responded that the District administration could decide.

Dr. Peterson responded that past budget proposals have recommended that either a specific program is cut or C teams and junior varsity teams are eliminated.

Mrs. Gilman stated that she does not support cutting cocurricular funding by 10% because practices start in 2 months. She warned the public that cocurricular activities must look substantially different during FY06 because the Board will not be able to afford it if future financial projections stay the same. She reported that \$1.3 million only pays for coaching stipends and substitute teachers and added that all other expenses have been passed on to the community and parents.

Mr. Anderson stated that an increase of \$6 per student equals \$90,000 above a status quo budget.

Ms. Wassilie stated that even with \$90,000 in additional money some budget cuts are necessary and listed several suggestions proposed for consideration. She stated that she appreciates both amendments because she would like more teachers in the classroom. She stated that she will support the Hilts amendment because it is time to face the issue of cocurricular reductions.

Mrs. Hilts stated that she is asked daily by community member about whether schools will get additional teachers now that the District has received additional funding.

**FY05 Budget Revision:**  
*(continued)*

Mrs. Mullins provided a brief history of past budget cuts to the Cocurricular Activity Fund. She stated that she wants the District to educate the whole child which includes participation in cocurricular activities. She stated school activities are extremely valuable to students; it is why they come to school. She stated that she does not want students to pay for the decision of the voters. She stated that she is unsure about whether she will vote for cocurricular activities next year. She stated that it is unfair to burden the youth with concerns about whether there will be activities in August 2004.

**VOTE ON THE HILTS AMENDMENT:**

Advisory: YES

NO – N. Anderson, Crawford, Gilman, Mullins, Germano

YES – Wassilie, M. Anderson, Hilts

Amendment failed.

Ms. Germano asked for an explanation of the recommended increase to charter schools. Mrs. Douglas explained that the funding formula increase added funding for all students including those who are in charter schools and those who will be attending the new Kaleidoscope Charter School.

Ms. Germano asked for an explanation of the recommended increase to in-kind costs charged by the Borough. Mrs. Douglas explained that the District has been notified by the Borough that in-kind costs will increase because of a rise in benefits and health care costs. Ms. Germano verified that the cost of the increase is \$550,000.

Ms. Germano asked for an explanation of the recommended increase to health care. Mrs. Douglas explained that the Collective Bargaining Agreements include language that states that if there is a funding increase from the State of Alaska of 10% or more, that 10% of the increase needs to be applied to the reduction of health care costs.

Ms. Germano asked for an explanation of the recommended increase to summer school costs. Mrs. Douglas explained that in the past, funding for summer school came in the form of Learning Opportunity Grants and is now recommended to be paid for from the \$16 per adjusted Average Daily Membership portion of the foundation funding formula.

Ms. Germano verified that an increase to the Unallocated Account was designated to address staffing problems at large elementary schools. Mrs. Douglas confirmed that the increase was equal to 2.0 FTE.

Mrs. Gilman asked why Kenai Middle School sixth grade students were not accounted for in the draft proposal presented to the Board during the budget worksession. Dr. Peterson stated that the administration was able to divide the classes so that they fit within the formula, therefore no staffing changes were recommended.

**FY05 Budget Revision:**

*(continued)*

Ms. Germano passed the gavel to Mrs. Crawford.

**MOTION**

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve an amendment to the FY05 budget to reduce the Contingency Fund for Utilities and Unknowns by \$392,000 and to put the money in the Unallocated Account for staffing needs at the high school, middle school, and small schools. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Ms. Germano stated that if the amendment is approved, \$300,000 will still remain in the Contingency Fund and added that it is a way for the Board to do what is best for students and not impact another program.

Dr. Anderson stated that he had planned to move a smaller amount of money to pay for .5 FTE staff at high schools that have at least two AP classes to be used as a Quest teacher or to address other needs.

Ms. Germano stated that she trusts the administration to evaluate the schools' needs and make decisions accordingly.

Dr. Anderson stated that he wants to encourage schools to offer AP classes and to specifically designate at least three positions to support that effort.

Mr. Anderson stated that additional Quest Program positions would enhance the weighted grades option and AP course offerings and added that he would like to be assured that at least 3.0 FTE of the Unallocated Account were designated for the Quest Program.

Mrs. Gilman expressed concern about having a Contingency Fund of \$692,000 in the District budget when the Board is relying on an increase of the Borough's contribution of \$780,000. She reminded those present that the Borough has a financial problem with the assessed valuation not as high as previously expected and increases in their expenditures. She warned the Board that it is dangerous to pass a budget with a \$680,000 savings account.

Ms. Germano stated that she felt certain that the administration would allocate at least .5 FTE to high schools and cautioned members that by specifying to the administration where staff will go borders on micromanagement of the District.

Ms. Mullins clarified that the Germano amendment adds 8.0 FTE to the 11.0 FTE in the Unallocated Account for a total of 19.0 FTE. She asked the administration where they advised the Board put the money for staff. Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board put money for staff in the Unallocated Account because a staffing formula change would be a financial commitment into the future.

Ms. Wassilie stated that she will support the Germano amendment and urged the Board to keep their recommendations simple so that the administration can decide how best to allocate staff.

**FY05 Budget Revision:**  
(8:42:00 PM)

Mr. Tilbury asked whether the Germano amendment will cause the District to fall short in the Contingency Fund.

Dr. Peterson asked for clarification from the Board about whether the intent of the proposed increases to the Unallocated Fund is to fix problems with course offerings or to bring back recommendations on how to use the additional 8.0 FTE. Ms. Germano replied that the intent of the additional staff is to make things better at the schools.

Dr. Peterson responded to Mr. Tilbury's comment by saying that the administration will make adjustments to the Contingency Fund as necessary if fuel costs and other expenses rise.

Mr. Anderson asked for assurance that the money in the Unallocated Account be used and asked Ms. Germano if the amendment will specify such. Ms. Germano felt certain that the administration will return with a plan for use of unallocated staff.

Mrs. Gilman stated that she is not in support of the Germano amendment to add 8 FTE to the Unallocated Account if there is no assurance that teachers will be hired at the secondary schools before school starts.

Mrs. Germano stated that it is not her intent that the 8.0 FTE be unused before school begins and reminded the Board that 2.0 FTE needs to be held for unanticipated overcrowding and suggested that the Board ask the administration to bring back a plan for use of the unallocated staff.

Mrs. Gilman clarified that the current budget revision proposal includes 11.0 FTE staff to hire this summer with 2.0 FTE be used to address overcrowding after the school year begins. She clarified that the Germano amendment will add 8 FTE to be hired this summer to address junior high and high school staffing needs. Ms. Germano stated that small schools should also be included in the staffing considerations.

VOTE ON THE GERMANO AMENDMENT:

Advisory: YES

NO – N. Anderson, Crawford

YES – Hilts, Wassilie, M. Anderson, Gilman, Mullins, Germano

Amendment carried.

Mrs. Crawford returned the gavel to Ms. Germano.

**MOTION**

Dr. Anderson moved the Board amend the amended motion to designate 3.0 FTE from the Unallocated Account to high schools based on whether they have AP classes that can be used for the Quest Program or any other way they choose. Mr. Anderson seconded.

Mrs. Gilman asked the Board to consider that there may be other needs to be addressed with the 8.0 FTE positions.

**FY05 Budget Revision:**  
*(continued)*

Mrs. Crawford clarified that the intent of the Anderson amendment was that as long as high schools offered at least two AP courses they could use the teacher allocation any way they choose.

VOTE ON THE ANDERSON AMENDMENT:

Advisory: NO

NO – Hilts, Wassilie, Gilman, Germano

YES – Crawford, N. Anderson, Mullins, M. Anderson,

Amendment failed.

VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION:

Advisory: YES

NO – Gilman,

YES – Crawford, Wassilie, N. Anderson, Hilts, Mullins, M. Anderson, Germano

Amended motion carried.

**Recess:**  
(8:50:30 PM)

At 9:50 p.m., Ms. Germano called a recess.

**RECONVENE:**  
(9:59:00 PM)

At 9:59 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

**KPSAA High School Handbook  
Recommended Changes:**  
(9:59:07 PM)

Mr. Stewart recommended the Board approve various changes to the high school handbook as proposed by the Kenai Peninsula School Activities Association.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve the recommended high school handbook changes for the school year of 2005. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Ms. Germano asked why the required quarterly activity report to site councils was changed to a semi-annual report. Mr. Stewart replied that the Policy Review Committee recommended the change.

Mrs. Douglas explained that the quarterly report requirement became very confusing for schools because there are so many reports due at differing times. She commented that the scope of fund raising encompasses the entire school year and sometimes very little happens during the quarter reporting period. She stated that the reports were more meaningful when reviewed on a semi-annual basis and would also align with other required reporting.

Ms. Germano passed the gavel to Mrs. Crawford.

**FY05 Budget Revision:**  
(continued)

Ms. Germano stated that by only reporting twice in a school year, in reality, there is only one opportunity to present information to site councils because the end-of-the-year reports are completed after school is dismissed for the summer. Mrs. Douglas stated that a number of site councils received reports before the close of school. Mrs. Douglas stated that although activity reports can be made at anytime throughout the year, in order to assure compliance it is best to standardize throughout the District.

**MOTION**

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve an amendment to strike the words "semi-annual" and replace with the word "quarterly" in numbered paragraph 2 of the Athletic Director's Responsibilities in the KPSAA High School Handbook. Mrs. Gilman seconded.

Ms. Germano stated that with more information available to the communities, better decisions can be made.



Mrs. Gilman expressed concern that she has not seen a cocurricular activity report and added that she would like to have information about how much money is raised to pay for activities outside of the District budget.

VOTE ON GERMANO AMENDMENT:

Advisory: YES

NO – Mullins, N. Anderson, Crawford, Hiltz, Wassilie,

YES – Gilman, M. Anderson, Germano

Amendment failed.

VOTE ON MOTION:

Advisory: YES

NO – Germano

YES – Wassilie, Crawford, N. Anderson, Gilman, M. Anderson, Hiltz, Mullins

Motion carried.

Mrs. Crawford returned the gavel to Ms. Germano.

**KPSAA Middle School Handbook  
Recommended Changes:**

*(10:06:33 PM)*

**MOTION**

Mr. Stewart recommended the Board approve various changes to the middle school handbook as proposed by the Kenai Peninsula School Activities Association.

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve various changes to the Middle School Handbook for the 2004-2005 school year. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**KPSAA Middle School Eligibility for  
Cocurricular Activities:**

*(10:07:21 PM)*

**MOTION**

Mr. Stewart recommended the Board approve a proposed language change to the KPSAA middle school eligibility requirement to be in compliance at the state level for student eligibility in school districts with non-traditional programs and the expansion of non-traditional programs for middle school-aged children.

Ms. Germano explained that the middle school eligibility recommendation was postponed from a previous meeting and that public testimony has already been taken.

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board suspend the rules to allow public testimony. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Philippa Sonnichsen, Kenai Middle School parent, objected to the participation of Aurora Borealis Charter School students in cocurricular activities at KMS and listed reasons why resources should not be spent allowing them to participate.

Mr. Carey Graves, KMS parent, stated that he will support the proposed changes to the middle school eligibility requirements because it is an appropriate compromise that allows some ABC students to participate in activities that do not have a selection process.

Mrs. Megan O'Neil, KMS Site Council Vice President and parent, reported that the Site Council reviewed the proposed middle school eligibility requirements and voted to support the proposal as it is currently worded. She announced that she would like to speak as a KMS parent. She stated that although she can accept the middle school eligibility compromise, she does not fully agree that ABC students should be allowed to participate in KMS cocurricular activities because families should accept the consequences that come with choosing to enroll their children at ABC.

Mr. Anderson asked whether KMS receives additional funds for ABC students who participate in cocurricular activities at KMS. Mr. Stewart replied that KMS collects a participation fee.

Mrs. Gilman noted that the KMS administrator is responsible for ABC students while they are on the premises of the school grounds. She commented that Aurora Borealis Charter School was founded as a back-to-basics school and chose not to offer cocurricular activities because they wanted to put their money into teachers in the classroom and lower their pupil-teacher ratio. She stated that she will not vote for the proposed compromise because one of the choices that are made when families send their children to ABC is, at the moment, not to provide cocurricular activities. She suggested that if parents want cocurricular activities for their children they should enroll them at KMS.

**KPSAA Middle School Eligibility for  
Cocurricular Activities:**

*(continued)*

Ms. Germano reported that the philosophy at the middle school level is to offer "intramural" activities and noted that team selections should not be an issue if the District were operating on a model of intramurals (students are not cut from teams). She stated that she supports the middle school eligibility compromise because it gives ABC an opportunity to offer their own program.

Ms. Wassilie stated that she will support the middle school eligibility compromise because she does not want to keep students from participating in cocurricular activities and agreed that KMS students should not be eliminated from teams in favor of ABC students.

VOTE ON MOTION:

Advisory: YES

NO – M. Anderson, Gilman

YES – Hiltz, Crawford, N. Anderson, Mullins, Wassilie,  
Germano

Motion carried.

**KPSAA Coaching Stipends at  
Voznesenka Elementary/High:**

*(10:22:28 PM)*

**MOTION**

Mr. Stewart recommended the Board approve a request from KPSAA for one coaching stipend each for Voznesenka School's middle and high school wrestling programs for the 2004-2005 school year.

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve one coaching stipend each for Voznesenka School's middle and high school wrestling programs for the 2004-2005 school year. Ms. Wassilie seconded.

Mrs. Gilman asked how much each stipend will cost, how many students will participate, and what other cocurricular activities are offered at Voznesenka. Mr. Stewart replied that wrestling would be the only activity sponsored by KPSAA and stated that the two coaches would cost under \$4,000.00. He explained that the money for the stipends will come from current KPSAA allocations. Mr. Spence replied that 13 middle school students began the wrestling season and 8 finished the season (the number required to qualify as a team and justify a coaching stipend). Mr. Spence noted that 8 students participated at the high school level. Mr. Spence reported that Voznesenka School is also offering a cross country running club.

Ms. Germano asked whether female students at Voznesenka School have been surveyed to find out what sports they may be interested in.

Mr. Spence reported that the three-year survey has been completed and would provide the results to the Board.

Ms. Germano stated that she would like the Board to consider activities for girls who attend Voznesenka. Mr. Spence noted that according to the Title IX survey from the 2002-2003 school year, the District disparity rate was 3%, the lowest that it has ever been in District history.

**KPSAA Coaching Stipends at  
Voznesenka Elementary/High:**

*(continued)*

Mrs. Hiltz reported that the students at Voznesenka are limited in the activities they can provide because they do not have a gymnasium and added that wrestling keeps some young men in school.

Mrs. Gilman asked whether the District is in compliance with Title IX regulations. Mr. Spence explained that Title IX compliance is measured on a districtwide basis and not school-by-school. He reminded those

present of a legal opinion that stated that disparity rates below 7% meets the intent of Title IX.

Mr. Stewart explained that the Board is required to approve all new cocurricular programs.

Mr. Anderson stated that he recently attended the graduation ceremony at Nikolaevsk School and noted that each of the seven graduates spoke about their participation in a state championship tournament as a highlight of their school career.

Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/  
COMMENTS:**

*(10:29:41 PM)*

Mrs. Patty Truesdell, Ninilchik Elementary/High teacher, thanked the Board and stated that she is impressed with the Board, loves teaching, and does not regret becoming a teacher as a second career.

Ms. Vadla thanked the Board for approving the weighted grades regulation, thanked Mrs. Gilman for her attempts to adjust the budget, expressed appreciation to Dr. Anderson for his amendment regarding staffing, and expressed appreciation for the recommendation to cut C teams and stated that the real purpose for the District is education.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

*(10:34:15 PM)*

Mrs. Hilts stated that she accomplished her goal to visit all schools in School Board District 9. She reported that she attended 4 high school graduation ceremonies and summarized her visits and the ceremonies. She announced that a Susan B. English student who is a classical guitarist, placed first at the state competition, and added that another student was named Citizen of the Year for Seldovia. She stated that she felt proud to be associated with the schools and that it is gratifying to be a Board member.

Dr. Anderson stated, "We spent perhaps the greatest amount of our time of this past few months just dealing with the implications of this budget and after all is said and done we've made cuts in maybe 15 people in order to balance it with the best expenditure we've ever gotten or reimbursement we've ever got from the legislature and we know that it looks grim next year to start with but we have another \$2 million in TRS/PERS, we'll have a half a million dollars additional insurance from the Borough, without considering salary and benefit increases and health increases and the other things we're going to have to do. I doubt that we're going to get, in a non-election year, much relief from Juneau and I appreciate Governor Murkowski's desire to try and balance the revenues along with the increases. I recognize there's a problem there. I have sympathies

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

*(continued)*

on both sides and I have developed, over the past year, a kind of a great fondness for Dave Larson and Cathy Carrow who are on the opposition as far as negotiations. I think Mr. Larson's idea of instructional unit is an excellent one. It's one that we've actually considered a little bit in terms of 'auditorium classes' would be my term for it and I think we'll be working towards it. On the other hand, I hope they won't be offended if I say I find it a little bit enigmatic that they know full well when

we were discussing the proposed contract that it would inevitably lead to increases in pupil-teacher ratio, that there was just no way around it and that we would have to continue to cut people because it was highly unlikely regardless of what happened in Juneau that we're going to get adequate money to make up for the 20% increase plus unlimited health benefits. I don't have any heartburn about the fact that that contract was passed and we'll honor it but as I say I think we all recognize that this was going to put us in a tough position and it and it's going to continue to put us in a tough position every year. Any rate that's the end of my rambling."

Mrs. Gilman thanked Board members for the intense discussions and the administration for their input during the worksessions held prior to the Board meeting. She suggested the Board consider imposing a staffing formula cap and added that without a cap, parents will have concerns about how high classroom sizes will go. She stated that it is an honor to attend graduation ceremonies and awards ceremonies and was thrilled to present her niece with a diploma at the Skyview High School graduation ceremony. She thanked Dr Whiteley for his service to the District and wished him good luck in his future plans and welcomed Mr. Guy Fisher.

Mrs. Crawford stated that she is pleased that after six years of promoting the idea of weighted grades, the Board has finally taken action to approve a regulation. She expressed appreciation for the difficult discussions regarding the FY05 budget and added that she wished the additional money from the legislature would have gone further. She warned those present that cocurricular activities will need to be reviewed next year and changes will have to be made. She thanked Dr. Whiteley for his service to the District.

Mrs. Mullins thanked the Board members for their discussions during the worksessions, especially the discussion regarding the FY05 budget. She announced that even though the District received a large amount of money from the legislature, it was not enough to cover the costs of the District and added that she fears for the future. She applauded the graduation ceremonies and added that it is payday for all involved with students and congratulated all those who graduated. She thanked the Board for the compromise regarding weighted grades. She thanked Dr. Whiteley for his work and wished him the best in his future plans. She thanked the administration for their work during the 2003-2004 school year and added that she hoped the Board goal setting session will be successful.

Mr. Tilbury reported that the Board conducted some good discussion and accomplished a lot of work. He announced that he will be unable to attend the goal setting session on June 8.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

*(continued)*

Mr. Anderson reported that he attended graduation ceremonies at Homer High and Nikolaevsk School and added that he was especially impressed with the choir that performed during the program at Homer High. He reported that the Nikolaevsk community served a delicious meal as part of the celebration. He reported that he visited Skyview High School and Soldotna Montessori School. He reiterated that the \$6 additional per student equates to \$90,000 over the amount of a status quo budget. He credited the community for influencing the legislators into passage of an increase in educational funding. He reported that the price of oil is up, but cautioned that very quickly it could be at \$9 per barrel and suggested that the District look at long-term funding solutions. He thanked the Board for the ideas that were shared during the worksession discussions and thanked the public for their comments. He thanked Dr. Whiteley for his service to the District.

Ms. Wassilie advised the Board that she is on the Art Committee for the new Seward Middle School and added that there are also two students who serve on the committee and provide valuable insight. She stated that she has been serving on the Title VII Indian Education Committee and added that although it is difficult to attend the meetings, she stays informed. She acknowledged the contributions of the Kenaitze and Salamatof Native Tribes for funding tutors to augment the Title VII tutors in the schools and added that the number of native students has increased. She reported that she attended two high school graduations (Connections Program and Seward High School) and the Moose Pass Elementary School eighth grade graduation. She reported that she assisted with the end-of-the-year awards at Seward Elementary and stated that she was struck by the number of awards given to students for their assistance in the kitchen. She asked whether the District is putting more of the burden of custodial duties on students and staff. She thanked the public for their comments and especially noted the comment made concerning undue stress on students in the classroom and added that she is pleased that the Board was able to place a few more teachers in the classroom.

Ms. Germano reminded those present of the Board Planning Session on June 8 in the Superintendent's Office at 9:00 a.m. and noted that Dr. Whiteley will facilitate the session. She requested Board members to make sure that they return the Superintendent Evaluation Forms to her as soon as possible so that a discussion can be held at the July 12 meeting.

**ADJOURN:**

*(10:56:43 PM)*

At 10:56 p.m., Mrs. Mullins moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Ms. Deborah Germano, President

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Dr. Nels Anderson, Clerk

The Minutes of June 7, were approved on July 12, 2004 with a correction and revised on August 2, 2004.