

# Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

## Board of Education Meeting Minutes

May 3, 2004 - 7:30 p.m.  
Regular Meeting

Seward High School  
2100 Swetmann, Seward, 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  
Mr. Sam Stewart, Assistant Superintendent

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Miss Jenni Dillon	Mrs. Martha Fleming
Mr. Steve Pautz	Mr. Roger Steinbrecker
Mr. Jim White	Mrs. Laura Beck
Ms. Donna Foxley	Mr. John Cote
Mrs. Jerry Dixon	Ms. Marcia Beachamp
Mr. Wayne Young	Mr. Tim Peterson
Mr. David Kingsland	Ms. Gail Moore

Others present not identified.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Ms. Germano called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

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

**ROLL CALL:**

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	Present
Mr. Marty Anderson	Present
Mrs. Sunni Hilts	Present
Mr. Patrick Tilbury	Present

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

The agenda was approved with a revision to 10a.(2), Approval of Nontenure teachers for Tenure and the addition of 10a.(7), Approval of Resignations.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The School Board Minutes of April 19, 2004, were approved as printed.

**AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:**

Mrs. Laura Beck was presented with the 2003 Inspirational Teacher Award given by Eastern Oregon University. A former student nominated Mrs. Beck for the award.

**SCHOOL REPORT:**

Mr. John Cote, Principal Seward Middle School, announced that last year the school made Annual Yearly Progress as part of the No Child Left Behind Act mandate. He noted the new Seward Middle School would be completed next year. He announced the school has converted to a five-period day focusing on core classes and allowing teachers a common prep period to be used to coordinate the curriculum around the state standards, review test scores and other planning. Mr. Cote introduced students Mr. Peter Fleming and Mr. Mitchell Moore who concluded the report by each presenting an oral English project.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:**

Mr. David Thomas, PFLAG representative, urged the Board to add sexual orientation to the non-discrimination and harassment policies.

Mrs. Rhonda Hubbard, Seward High parent and member of the Seward Educational Alliance Model, reported that the group is awaiting support from the District to endorse and institute a change in favor of the Model's plan. Mrs. Hubbard provided a list of questions for the Board's consideration.

Dr. Shannon Atkinson, parent, expressed concern with the decrease in graduation requirements within the School District and asked the Board to include performing arts curriculum. Dr. Atkinson encouraged the Board to try to find ways to instill pride in education. Ms. Germano clarified that graduation requirements have not been changed.

Mr. Kenny Faust, Seward High School senior, expressed concern with the many budget cuts or threats of cuts throughout the years and is especially concerned with the possibility of cutting the Quest Program. He stated that he is also concerned with the potential cuts in the drama and sport programs and feels these programs are an integral part of the educational process.

Ms. Gail Moore, Quest teacher, requested the Quest Program be fully funded next year with the 13.25 positions currently in place. Ms. Moore invited the Board to Quest classrooms to meet the students, teachers and parents.

Mr. Piper Dixon, student, stated that Quest is a good program and feels it should remain in place.

Ms. Patty Linville, Seward parent, expressed concerns with the new enrollment projections, the consequent loss of yet another teacher, and personnel decisions made that would affect Seward in a negative way.

Ms. Theresa Butts, Quest parent, expressed concern with the number of Quest teachers to be eliminated and explained what Quest has meant to her family. Ms. Butts stated that Quest is an important part of her children's education.

Augusta Lind, Quest teacher, stated that the District's Quest Program is one of the best she's ever worked for and added that she felt that creativity is needed to find solutions for education.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:**  
(Continued)

Ms. Heidi McCardy, Quest parent, stated she has been thrilled with the opportunities and challenges her child has received since being involved in the Quest Program and that if the Quest Program is cut, the special needs of the students could not be properly met.

Mr. Colin McCardy, Quest student, explained what Quest Program has done for him and asked the Board not to cut the program.

Mr. Austin Gillespie, Quest student, stated that he has been in the Quest Program for two years and has received a lot of good information and asked the Board not to cut the program.

Ms. Germano explained that the idea of a traveling educator to model the Quest Program is no longer an option, as it appeared to be the least desirable. Ms. Germano continued, the Board shares the concerns of the communities and have approved the budget with eight Quest teachers Districtwide.

Mr. Jerry Dixon, former teacher, stated that the Quest Program has made a large impact on many students and asked that the Board do whatever it can to keep the 13.2 positions and let the "best and brightest" continue to learn on the Kenai.

Mr. Dan Walker, teacher, expressed concern for the potential lack of programs at the new Seward Middle School and added that education is expensive and the school should be funded as a middle school.

Ms. Naomi Fischer, Seward High teacher, introduced herself to the Board and stated that she is a nontenured teacher who will be laid off next year. She listed some of the problems the gay and lesbian students encounter in schools and stated that it is the inherent right and dignity of all students to be who they are.

Ms. Marcia Beachamp, Sterling resident, stated she supports the proposed language changes regarding sexual orientation and anti-discrimination to the District Policy Manual and added that it is the right and fair thing to do.

Mrs. Lynn Hohl, Quest parent, spoke in support of reinstating all of the 13.2 Quest teaching positions as children of all ages benefit from the program.

Miss Christin Clark, Seward High School student, spoke in reference to the sexual orientation policies and pointed out that students are teased for everything, not just being gay.

Mr. Kenny Faust, Seward High student, stated his goal is to become an English and drama teacher at Seward High and added that if there is no drama program he will work hard to assure that there is one.

**RECESS:**

At 8:32 p.m., Ms. Germano called a recess.

**RECONVENE:**

At 8:36 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:** Dr. Peterson reported there is a lot of action at the State Department of Education level. Dr. Peterson reminded the public and Board of the Department of Education website and noted there is a public comments section regarding some specific issues that affect the District.

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

Dr. Marlin Atkinson, PTSA President, informed the Board that PTSA's single goal for the 2003-2004 school year is to foster communication between parents and teachers and outlined efforts being made to achieve the goal. Dr. Atkinson requested that any position replacements be with classroom instructional teaching as opposed to other activities. He also asked, when counting for student allocation, that the October enrollment numbers be used, as they were much higher than the low number recorded in April. Dr. Atkinson stated that the state's financial problem is that there is no mechanism in place to allow taxation and asked for help in researching alternative approaches to this basic problem.

Ms. Patty Linville, Site Based Council Chair, reported their site council has established the same goal of fostering communication and she is working to inform the public of what is happening in the schools.

Mrs. Lynn Hohl, Region V Vice President of Alaska PTA, provided a report on their Reflections program and the award ceremony that was held in Anchorage.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

Dr. Peterson presented the "Caring for the Kenai" third place award to Miss Brittany Dalberg, Seward High student, who was unable to attend the awards ceremony. Miss Dalberg reported that she wrote a book telling students why they should care about the environment titled, *A Teen's Guide to Caring for the Planet*. Dr. Peterson introduced Ms. Donna Foxley, Regional Representative to the U.S. Department of Education. She announced that the Board would conduct a Level III grievance hearing on May 17 at 3:00 p.m. She reported that before the last school day the District must notify all coaches and others who are paid from cocurricular funds that they will not have a contract next year and added that those notifications will be sent beginning May 10. She announced that the District achieved a 94% pass rate for seniors who took the HSGQE.

**BOARD REPORTS:**

Ms. Wassilie reported she attended the Quest Program meeting on April 20, 2004 and reviewed several proposals from Quest teachers and District administration. She reported that one recommendation was to retain the 13.25 teacher positions and study a workable model over the next year. This was contingent upon being able to add back adequate funding. She announced that she participated in the AASB Legislative Fly-In and the Boardmanship Academy that included presentations on the Quality School/Quality Student developments in several schools using Alaska Initiative for Community Engagement (ICE). Ms. Wassilie also reported Mr. Greg Maloney provided an excellent update on special education. She added that the group also received an orientation to Board self-assessment, which will be accomplished next month along with long range planning. She reported the

**BOARD REPORTS:**

(Continued)

majority of the time was spent strategizing and visiting legislators. She stated the group supported the idea of the percent of market value (POMV) as a first step in developing the long-range plan for education funding. She reported that funding for major maintenance items would be by whatever mechanism the legislature feels they can provide, either via direct appropriation or through bonds. She reported they were well received by the legislators and were invited to the Governor's mansion for a reception where the governor emphasized support for the POMV. Ms. Wassilie reported comments from the Peninsula are being heard.

Mrs. Mullins reported she was invited to a meeting in the Governor's office with a number of lobbyists and that the Governor provided a presentation on the need to lobby for the POMV. Mrs. Mullins felt that pressure needed to be put on the senate and the Governor's office for education funding.

Mrs. Crawford reported there had been 31 meeting appointments with legislators and staff while in Juneau. Board members were assured that education funding was forthcoming but added that it is currently stranded. She added, it appears that students are pawns again so help is needed to put pressure on the senate and the Governor. Mrs. Crawford stated, as things are presently there will be no cocurricular activities next year. She reported that she attended the Quest Program meeting and provided feedback on how the program could be changed. She also attended a Project Grad meeting and noted that the group is working on scholarships for students.

Mrs. Gilman reported that she also attended the AASB Legislative Fly-In and the group did their very best to explain to each legislator how their decisions impact students. Mrs. Gilman compared the number of elective and class offerings her child has access to against the courses she was offered when she was a student at KCHS. She added that her child has more requirements but is given fewer resources. Mrs. Gilman encouraged the public to send their personal opinion messages to the state senate because they have the power to allow the people of Alaska to vote on the POMV. She added that timing is essential because if funding comes through in August it will not help cocurricular next year.

Ms. Germano reported she also participated in the AASB Legislative Fly-in and will provide a report at the end of the meeting.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Tentative Tenured Teacher Assignment, Nontenure for Tenure, Approval of Long-Term Substitute Teacher, Approval of Correction of Board Tentative Meeting Dates, Approval of Administrator Appointment and Approval of Leave of Absence-Certified.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve action Items 1 through 7 as revised. Mrs. Gilman seconded.

Ms. Holle asked to remove Item 10a.(2), Approval of Nontenure Teachers for Tenure from the consent agenda.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**  
(Continued)

Ms. Wassilie asked whether background information could be provided. Dr. Peterson responded that the recommended teacher is one who was on the reduction in force (RIF) list from last school year and is a tenured teacher.

Dr. Anderson requested unanimous consent on Item 10a.(1) and items 3 through 7.

Ms. Holle stated she wanted to speak to only the Homeless Liaison position and it is her intent to vote against it as she feels it could be handled with existing positions.

**MOTION**

Ms. Holle moved the Board split the question so that members could vote on the positions individually. Mrs. Gilman seconded.

Dr. Peterson clarified that the Homeless Liaison position is a teaching position and not an administrative position. Mrs. Gilman asked why the District would need a Homeless Liaison position. Dr. Peterson replied that the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) requires districts to have a Homeless Liaison position and added that it has been a very productive position in identifying and providing services to homeless students.

Dr. Anderson stated that he didn't believe the Board had the right to make a decision on the assignments because the real question is whether or not the individuals are to receive tenure.

Ms. Holle asked why the position is called Homeless Liaison and not Homeless Teacher. Dr. Peterson replied that she was clarifying that the job is considered a teaching position which deals with the homeless students and the requirements of the NCLB. It was clarified the position finds the homeless students and works to get them to school.

Vote on Consent AGENDA

Motion carried.

VOTE TO SPLIT QUESTION ON ITEM 10a.(2):

Advisory: NO

NO – M. Anderson, Hilts, Gilman, Crawford, Wassilie, N. Anderson, Mullins, Germano

YES – Holle

Motion failed.

VOTE ON ITEM 10a.(2):

Advisory: YES

NO – Holle

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

Motion carried.

**FY04 Budget revision:**

Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve the final revision of the FY04 budget and noted that it was basically a housekeeping issue.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve the FY04 budget revision in the total amount of \$91,522,129. Mr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Policy manual revisions (Section 3000):**

Mrs. Douglas noted the recommended changes to Section 3000 suggested by the Board of Education have been incorporated in the policies and Administration recommends approval as presented.

Mrs. Lynn Hohl, Seward parent, objected to the lack of public input in the Seward Middle School project process.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve revisions to Board Policy, Section 3000, Business and Non-instructional Operations as outlined. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Mrs. Crawford advised the public that the Board has reviewed Section 3000 and added that the revisions make it more functional.

Ms. Germano asked whether there was a policy regarding the purchase of property or land acquisitions. Mrs. Crawford explained that land acquisition and purchases are a Borough function and not the School District.

Ms. Holle stated that she felt that having an opportunity for community input in the early stages of property acquisitions was important.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Policy manual revisions (BB9320):**

Dr. Peterson explained that revisions to BB 9320 would change the meeting time from 7:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. beginning with the July 12 meeting.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve a revision to BB9320, Board Meetings. Mr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/  
COMMENTS:**

Mrs. Lynn Hohl, Seward parent, clarified her earlier comments by stating that she wasn't implying the School District was paying an inflated price for the school property and noted that land in Seward is expensive and valuable.

Mr. Dane Melvin, Seward High School student, stated he has participated in drama for two years and that it has been a great experience, and asked the Board for help in retaining Seward's great teachers.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/  
COMMENTS:**  
(Continued)

Mr. Trent Anderson, Seward High School student, stated that school can be very dry and boring but when you add programs such as art, drama, Quest, music, etc., students will look forward to coming to school much like peanut butter is to celery (appetizing) and added that without those programs, the students will quit coming to school.

Miss Heather Dalberg, Seward High School student, stated that drama classes have helped with her speaking skills and added that without it there isn't anything else at school for her.

Mr. Eric Olson, Seward parent, observed that Drug and Violence Prevention funding was eliminated and the Youth and Detention facility funding was increased. He commented that as activities are eliminated the Youth and Detention Program will be needed Boroughwide. He noted that because of the proposed cuts in the schools he and his wife will consider relocating.

Ms. Germano explained that the Youth and Detention is not funded by the Board or School District, rather it is funded by the state and comes along with the juvenile detention center



now located on the Peninsula.

Miss Lara Loomis, Seward High School student, stated that although she isn't involved in the Quest Program many of her friends are and they talk about how much they benefit from it. Miss Loomis added that the drama class produced an exceptional play and added that all of the hard work will be for nothing if there is no drama program next year. Miss Loomis reported that a friend received a \$28,000 scholarship because of her involvement with sports and added that all programs give the students more ways to grow, otherwise there is nowhere to go but down.

Ms. Bonnie Apperson, Seward parent, expressed concern with the number of teachers to be cut in the Seward schools and added that if the positions were to be filled at the last minute they may not be filled with quality educators. She expressed concern for other proposed program cuts.

Ms. Germano explained that all across the District nontenured teachers are being laid off until tenured teachers are placed in jobs, then other jobs will open.

Ms. Rhonda Hubbard, Seward parent, asked if the Homeless Liaison position was a federally mandated program. Dr. Peterson replied the services are required to be provided. Ms. Hubbard felt the program was a poor allocation of the District's resources. Dr. Peterson explained that the position is grant funded and is not paid from general revenue funds. Ms. Germano added that there is no choice to spend the money somewhere else. Ms. Hubbard stated that the Department of Health and Social Services should partner with the District to provide the services. Ms. Hubbard commented on sexual orientation being a part of the non-discrimination policy in the school and stated that students get teased for many reasons and encouraged the teachers not to tolerate any discrimination or

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/  
COMMENTS:**  
(Continued)

harassment. Ms. Hubbard reported the Seward Band/Choir/Booster Association has been classified as a non-profit organization and provided 20 hours of music education to students and the community. Ms. Hubbard reminded those present that the last spring concert will be held on Thursday, May 6 and added that an Army band will perform a free concert on Mother's Day.

Dr. Marlin Atkinson, Seward parent, expressed concern that the entire educational system is reactionary from whatever is happening above, whether it's federal or state government. He asked whether the District had a vision and whether there is a mechanism to talk about a vision. He suggested that instead of looking at a 10% decrease in enrollment across the Peninsula in the next six years, that the District create a vision that creates a 50% increase in enrollment and attracts students into the system.

Mrs. Lynn Hohl, Seward parent, reported that the Parent-Teacher Association state convention was recently held and that the organization sent three people to Juneau (one was a high school senior) to meet with legislators.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

Mrs. Crawford expressed appreciation for the many public comments. She added that there were many worksessions held during the day and all were worthwhile. Mrs. Crawford stated that she felt there was a compromise on the weighted grades issue. She encouraged those present to lobby the senate and governor regarding education funding for this year.

Mrs. Gilman referred to the student who gave the peanut butter and celery analogy and stated that one of the best rewards of being a School Board member is hearing students express their opinions because a teacher taught that child to think. She stated that the student's celery example should be taken further and added that instead of just the peanut butter on the celery, the District should also provide "raisins" in order to get students excited about school. Mrs. Gilman reported she attended the Quest Program meeting and worksession and added that she hopes the legislature will approve an additional \$84.5 in revenue so the Board will have to decide what to do with the money. She stated that if the additional money comes from the legislature, the Board would decide whether to reinstate the Quest Program at the current level. Mrs. Gilman thanked Mr. Dan Walker for his middle school comments and added that schools should be renamed because they are now operated as junior high schools. Mrs. Gilman referred to a comment made about creating a vision that would increase student enrollment by 50% rather than a 10% decrease and added that the Board must be realistic because birth rates at the hospitals are down and the demographics of the area are showing that the fastest growing population is the over 55 age group and that the 0 to 9 year old population has decreased. She stated that there are fewer children in the Borough and in the schools. She stated she believes that because of the fewer students the District will need to look at school consolidation.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

(Continued)

Mr. Tilbury stated he saw more students speak at this meeting than any other time and felt there were a lot of good comments made. Mr. Tilbury added that it is nice when people acknowledge that the Board does not like to make many of the choices they have to make.

Mr. Anderson thanked the community of Seward for their participation in the meeting. He reported that the Board has been to Juneau twice in the last three months to lobby for education funding. He reported that the education budget has passed the house and now the senate must decide whether to approve an increase to education funding of \$84.5 million. He encouraged those present to call or e-mail the senate and governor's office and tell them that education is paramount. He commented that the state's revenue base has decreased and explained that if Alaskan residents want services and benefits to be available for the next generation then they must

do what it takes to make that possible. Mr. Anderson referred to an earlier comment regarding the District's vision and stated there is a lot of hard work by staff members to implement the District's vision and noted that the administration can only do so much when there is so little to work with. He added that he appreciates the involvement of the Seward community.

Mrs. Mullins stated that the District is reaping the consequences of cuts which began in 1985. She added that the Peninsula has reaped the consequences of decisions that have been made for the past 18 years. She expressed appreciation for those who attended and spoke at the meeting. Mrs. Mullins shared a story she wrote for the School Board Commentary which dealt with the difficult decisions she's had to make as a Board member. She stated that it is nice to talk about student achievements rather than budget cuts. She stated that it is difficult to talk about budget concerns at every meeting because students, communities and the economy are ultimately affected. She encouraged those present to convince the senators and the governor to get on the right path.

Ms. Holle expressed appreciation for being in Seward. She encouraged Seward residents to not leave their community, especially with a new school under construction and noted any concerns or problems can be worked out. She reported that she attended an economic opportunities forum and heard a report from Seward representatives that there are some exciting prospects on the horizon. Ms. Holle again encouraged folks to not leave town as their enrollment is needed. She stated it would be a shame to build the school and have to give it back to the Borough Assembly due to low enrollment. She stated that standards are good but is saddened when even one student can't pass the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam (HSGQE). Ms. Holle requested an excused absence for the first week in June.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**  
(Continued)

Mrs. Hilts reported that she has only been on the Board for a few months and represents some small schools. She stated that programs are being cut because there isn't enough money. She added that the Board does not have a lot of choices and explained the ramifications of the cuts in her schools. She referred to earlier comments regarding a District vision and added there has been work done on the District vision and added that Dr. Peterson still conducts training with PTAs and site councils on long-range planning. She stressed the need for the public to use the phone, the internet, and to write letters to make sure that the education funding bill is passed. She stated that the most important natural resource is the children and added that legislators need to understand that message and if they can't be made to understand then they need to be changed. Mrs. Hilts reported on her visit to Nanwalek and Port Graham and added that the majority of the staff in Nanwalek are local and that the community involvement was very encouraging.

Ms. Wassilie thanked the Board for coming to Seward and for

the community members who spoke. Ms. Wassilie responded to an earlier comment regarding a District vision and stated that is one of the reasons why students are doing so well. She offered her congratulations to Miss Brittany Dalberg for winning third place in the "Caring for the Kenai" contest and to Miss Sarah Glasser and Miss Chelsea Lechner who won National Awards of Excellence for their presentations in the National PTA Reflections Program. She reported there is a 94% graduation rate and pass rate of the HSGQE throughout the District and noted that in Seward the rate is 100% and congratulated the seniors, parents and teachers. Ms. Wassilie wished Mr. Walker well in his future plans and reported that he broke the gender barrier by becoming a teacher at the elementary school. She added it was good to have both men and women teaching. Ms. Wassilie stated that there is a lot of partnering in the Seward community and expressed concern for budget cuts in other departments, especially the Health and Human Services who provide assistance to the special education and intensive needs students. Ms. Wassilie expressed appreciation to those who spoke in regard to discrimination in the classroom and the importance of addressing the issue.

Dr. Anderson reported that a parent expressed concerns to him regarding the Quest Program cuts and told him that students are encouraged to take a first and fourth period study hall because they don't have classes. He explained that the District provides equal teaching allocations per student to each school on the Peninsula. He explained that the community is given the right to offer a block schedule or whatever is desired, but suggested that the system be reviewed closely to see if it is really wanted. He recommended that the community consider incorporating some of the interactive classes. He stated that when there is a decrease in enrollment there are two options; one is to increase the money or number of teachers on site or bring teachers to the site. He suggested schools review ways to bring teachers to the site while accommodating the schedules of all schools. Dr. Anderson stated that the School Board

**BOARD COMMENTS:**  
(Continued)

could be blamed for part of the financial problems of the District because a contract was passed that gave teachers a 20% raise over the life of the contract with uncapped health care cost, which may add another 10%. He commented that he felt that the teachers deserved a raise but that it was an unwise decision based on the fact that funds would not be available. Dr. Anderson stated that earlier he predicted that the District would lose a minimum of 120 teachers over the life of the contract and reported that 56 were lost last year and that the number could be more this year because of the TRS/PERS increases. He stated that it is discouraging that \$2 million must be cut each year so that active teachers can pay for the retired teachers. He stated that cuts will need to continue to be made for at least the next two years. He explained that each community makes the decision about what programs will continue and how the positions will be allocated. Dr. Anderson told a story from Alaskan history

about how a mother would evaluate her food supply and if she decided there was not enough she would take two or three of the children out and hang them so the others could survive. He stated that sometimes he feels like the mother who had to choose and go out to hang a child when there is not enough money to pay for education and noted that there are two choices, the food supply has to be increased (money from the legislature) or the consumption has to be decreased (salaries and benefits). He stated that he is in favor of taxes and of using the permanent fund. He stated that the population on the Peninsula of people who are childbearing age has decreased by 30% over the last 10 years because there are no jobs available.

Ms. Germano stated that the Board had the opportunity to talk about weighted grades and the Quest Program. She stated that the discussions were good because they were about students and the direction of the District. Ms. Germano added that she was very pleased to hear students speak in public and added that they were very articulate. She thanked the community for their support and noted that it was obvious they were constantly working to find solutions. She explained that decisions regarding teacher assignments centers around who is nontenured and because of that schools are forced to give up programs. Ms. Germano stated that conversations must continue regarding the programs the schools want to keep and how that can happen. Ms. Germano reported she has heard that districts statewide could receive \$84.5 million but the senate is firm on \$82 million making the base student allocation at \$4,576. She noted that the house proposal would be \$4,588, a difference of \$12. She stated that the Board will need to consider what to add back if additional money is received and explained that the proposed increase is a small amount when TRS and PERS increases are taken out. She stated that, based on input from the public, the add back list includes the purchase of books, funding to operate middle schools, reinstate the Quest Program, increase high school course offerings, provide cocurricular activities, lower elementary classroom sizes, and lower intermediate grades 4 through 6 classroom sizes. Ms. Germano stated that the

Board would have to determine what can be done to effectively serve the greatest number of students possible. She reported that in June the Board would be working on long-range plans and discussing specific goals for the following year. She stated that Representative Reggie Joule stated that until the state has a vision, it will be difficult to make any progress. She stated that when she hears the public say that the Board doesn't have a vision, it is an indication that there is a problem with communication.

**ADJOURN:**

At 10:43 p.m., Mrs. Crawford moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Mullins seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Ms. Deborah Germano, President

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Dr. Nels Anderson, Clerk

The Minutes of May 3, 2004,  
were approved on June 7, 2004 with  
corrections.