

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes

February 2, 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. Tim Peterson	Mrs. Kelly Smith
Mrs. LaDawn Druce	Mr. Bob VanDerWege
Mr. John Pothast	Mr. Dave Carey
Mrs. Mim McKay	Mr. Gene Dyson
Mrs. Vidya Oftedal	Mr. Steve Wright
Mr. Bob Ermold	Mrs. Debbie Stewart
Mrs. Paula Christensen	Mrs. Jackie Anstegui
Mrs. Laurie Olson	Mrs. Laurie Lingafelt
Mrs. Laura Pillifant	Mr. Glenn Haupt
Mr. Dave Spence	Miss Jenni Dillon
Mrs. Norma Holmgaard	Mr. Dave Larson
	Mr. Jim White

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

(7:30:38 PM)

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

(7:31:04 PM)

Ms. Germano invited Mr. John Pothast to lead those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

(7:31:33 PM)

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

(7:32:08 PM)

The agenda was approved with the removal of 10b. Approval of AR 5125.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

(7:33:02 PM)

The School Board Minutes of January 5, 2004, were approved as printed.

Ms. Holle clarified that a response to a question at the January 5 Board meeting was corrected by Mrs. Harris, District art specialist. She reported that Mrs. Harris e-mailed her after the meeting to correct a reference made which was from Alaska Statutes Title 14 instead of from the Alaska State Constitution.

SCHOOL REPORT:

(7:35:09 PM)

Mr. John Pothast, Skyview High School principal, presented a student-created video, featuring students, staff, the facility, cocurricular activities, mentorship activities, and the After The Bell Program. The Swing Choir concluded the report by singing *Big Yellow Taxi*, and *Your Momma Don't Dance*.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

(7:50:35 PM)

Mr. Tony Lewis, Budget Review Committee member, asked the Board and administration to allow for more time to analyze the budget information and provide feedback. He suggested that the District hire a consultant to review the special education program for potential savings. He stated that he is not convinced that Proposition 1 will be approved by the voters and asked the Board not to cut funding for cocurricular activities. Ms. Holle asked whether he thought it would be helpful to reconvene the Budget Review Committee for a follow-up meeting. Mr. Lewis stated that it would be helpful only after additional information was provided and an analysis is made.

Mr. David Thomas, Peninsula Chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFFLG) representative, urged the board to adopt the terms sexual orientation in Board Policies 4010, 4030, 5145.3 and 4119.12 and added that specific wording makes it clear that sexual preference discrimination is not acceptable.

Mr. Steve Wright, Kalifornsky Beach Elementary head custodian, recommended that the Board and administration support the passage of HB 329 (Retirement Incentive Program) and added that if implemented in the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District, numerous support employees would take advantage of the offer.

Ms. Marcia Beauchamp spoke in support of PFFLAG's request to add language to District policies regarding sexual preference discrimination.

Mrs. Jenni Hammond, Budget Review Committee member, urged those present to testify at the Kenai Legislative Information office on February 3, at 11:00 a.m. or send an e-mail to inform legislators about the inadequate funding for education in the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District.

Mr. Doug Blossom, parent, thanked Ms. Holle for hosting a meeting at the Skyview High School and asked the Board in the future to inform parents in advance when potential school closures are being considered.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

(continued)

Mrs. Margaret Parsons-Williams, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Coordinator at Frontier Community Services, stated that alcohol is the cause of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and asked the Board to continue special education support and students assistance with FASD.

Mr. Bruce Vadla, parent, asked the Board not to cut the QUEST Program and added that both of his children are motivated learners and have excelled in school because of the QUEST Program.

Ms. Marion Austin, parent, summarized the benefits provided to her son by the District special services staff and spoke in support of providing resources to assist students with FASD.

Miss Brighton Bates, Skyview High student, stated that class sizes are too large and asked the Board not to raise the pupil-teacher ratio; she asked the Board not to cut cocurricular activities because many students attend school largely to participate in activities; she asked the Board not to cut special education services.

Mr. Darrell Kincaid, Skyview Site-Based Council president, read a letter from the council requesting the Board to discontinue the discussion of closing Skyview High unless it becomes necessary and then to provide advance information to the site council so that changes can be made as smoothly as possible. He thanked Ms. Holle for hosting the public meetings.

Mr. Dave Blossom, parent and basketball coach at Skyview High School, asked the Board and administration to stop talking about closing the school and urged those present to talk to legislators about adequately funding education. He asked the Board not to eliminate cocurricular activities because they are extremely important to students and parents.

Mrs. Sherry Karnikas thanked Ms. Holle for the public meeting and expressed concern for good voter representation in the special election and its passage and asked whether the Borough could still fund cocurricular programs if the proposition failed.

Ms. Germano explained that the Board will be relying on Borough communities to share information regarding Proposition 1. She reported that the special election process has already been approved by the Borough Assembly. She explained that the School District cannot campaign for the Proposition and added that she is uncertain about what will happen if it does not pass. She stated that cocurricular activities have a huge impact on communities.

Ms. Holle announced that the Borough Assembly and School Board will hold a joint meeting on February 3, at 10:00 a.m. and invited the public to listen to the discussion.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

(8:29:16 PM)

Dr. Peterson reported that the Board was sent information from District counselors. She stated that she has information and a list of Alaskan school districts who have sought waivers from the state requirement of budget spending of 70% on instruction and 30% on operations. She noted the District has the highest percentage (85%) of seniors who have passed the HSGQE and is sixth overall in the state.

Ms. Germano stated that she will share information sent by Michael Merrit regarding the sexual orientation request. She stated that she received some letters from students regarding the STEP discipline program.

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

(8:31:55 PM)

Ms. Cathy Carrow, KPEA President, summarized the activities, guest speakers, and topics of the recently-held NEA Annual Delegate Assembly. She reported that District teachers have decided to remain affiliated with NEA-Alaska and KPEA. She noted that the KPEA Executive Board voted in support of Proposition 1 and will work to educate employees. She expressed appreciation for the Board's efforts to protect the pupil-teacher ratio. Mrs. Gilman thanked Ms. Carrow for the thorough report.

Mr. Pete Sprague, Borough Assembly President, urged those present to contact legislators regarding the education bills currently before the legislature. He stated that Assembly members were recently in Juneau to present the Borough and District priority list and reported that the serious funding issues may not be addressed during the current session. He reminded those present of the joint worksession with the Borough Assembly and School Board on February 3.

Mrs. Douglas announced that there will be a second opportunity to testify to the legislature on the same education bills on Thursday, February 5.

Ms. Holle asked Mr. Sprague what would happen if Proposition 1 passes and what would happen if it fails. Mr. Sprague replied that the Assembly will appropriate the money if the Proposition passes. He stated that if the Proposition fails, it will be difficult for the Assembly to support funding of cocurricular activities outside the cap.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

(8:41:55 PM)

Dr. Peterson reminded those present that there will be a joint meeting of the Borough Assembly and School Board on February 3 at 10:00 a.m. She stated that state legislators want to hear from parents and recommended to those interested to provide testimony at the Kenai Legislative Information Office on Tuesday, February 3 at 11:00 a.m. and on Thursday, February 5 at 12:30 p.m. She noted that February is School Board Recognition month and thanked the Board for their service. Dr. Peterson presented a report of the progress to date on the 2003-2004 Board goals and provided information of interest regarding superintendent activities.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

(continued)

Ms. Wassilie asked Dr. Peterson how she feels about working with the new nine-member Board. Dr. Peterson responded that she is learning a lot about each member and added that there is more to learn. She explained that in June the Board will conduct a review of the superintendent and added that sometimes it becomes a candid, frank conversation about areas of strengths and areas of improvement. Mrs. Crawford thanked Dr. Peterson for the comprehensive mid-year report.

Ms. Holle asked Dr. Peterson about time spent in the "Other Category" of the Mid-Year report. Dr. Peterson replied that her professional organization memberships are included in the 40-day allocation listed in the report.

School Consolidation Report:

(8:47:36 PM)

Dr. Peterson presented the School Consolidation Report, which provides an administrative response to the Budget Review Committee's suggestion to consolidate schools throughout the District.

Financial Report:

(8:48:04 PM)

Mrs. Douglas presented the financial report of the District for the period ending December 31, 2003.

Quarterly Budget Transfer Report:

(8:48:34 PM)

Mrs. Douglas reported on quarterly budget transfers Numbers 48 through 132 for various schools and departments within the District. Mrs. Douglas acknowledged that the Board would like a different format for future reports and noted that it will take a programmer to change the report and asked for the Board's patience.

Mrs. Gilman asked about budget transfer Number 80-800342 for the Connections Program Kenai Fjords field trip. Ms. Douglas stated that she would return with an answer at the February 16 Board meeting. Mrs. Gilman expressed concern that field trips are usually paid for by parents or through some type of fund raising effort and not from District funds. Mrs. Douglas suggested that the trip may be part of the science component of the Connections Program and is written into the ILP.

Ms. Germano asked how e-rate money is allocated. Mrs. Douglas explained that the funds are allocated for software. Mr. White explained that e-rate money is transferred from Location 79 to various schools based on a formula outlined in the Technology Plan.

BOARD REPORTS:

(8:54:12 PM)

Mrs. Gilman stated that she attended the Budget Review Committee and stated that there is not enough time to get accurate information and suggested that the first meeting of the Committee be held in December and with a second meeting during the second week in January. Ms. Germano suggested that the issue be mentioned when the Board is discussing the budget.

Mrs. Hilts stated that she visited Chapman Elementary School and reported that the administrator expressed concern about funding a music program for the school.

BOARD REPORTS:

(continued)

Ms. Germano reminded the members that the Board Report section of the agenda is reserved for reporting activities on behalf of the Board (curriculum meeting, budget meeting).

Ms. Holle reported that she participated on the Budget Review Committee. She stated that although the meeting was productive she would like to see more participation from the public and suggested that meeting notices be better advertised. She stated that she distributed the same materials shared at the Budget Review Committee meeting at two recent school meetings. She assured those who made comments at the school meetings that their feedback will be shared with the Board.

Ms. Wassilie stated that she reports to the Seward City Council regarding Board of Education actions and has recently informed them of the impending budget shortfall. She stated that she attended the Budget Review Committee meetings, the public budget hearing held in Seward, Advisory Commission and the project manager meetings for the new Seward Middle School, and Seward PTSA meetings.

CONSENT AGENDA:

(9:01:39 PM)

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Budget Transfer; Middle School Eligibility for Co-Curricular Activities; New Teacher Assignments; Requests for Leave of Absence-Support; Six-Year Capital Improvement Plan; and AR 6146.7 (Waivers to the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam).

Budget Transfer:

Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve budget transfer Number 137 in the amount of \$162,700 to pay for costs of contracted services for positions the Pupil Services Department has been unable to fill (psychologist, occupational therapist, physical therapist).

Middle School Eligibility for Co-Curricular Activities:

Mr. Stewart recommended the Board approve a proposed language change to the KPAA middle school eligibility policy 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.

New Teacher Assignments:

Dr. Whiteley recommended the Board approve teacher assignments for the 2003-2004 school year for Audrey M. Kepp, secondary generalist (temporary), Nanwalek School and Letha W. Sumpter, Grade 3 teacher (temporary), Port Graham Elementary/High.

Requests for Leave of Absence-Support:

Dr. Whiteley recommended the Board approve requests for unpaid leave of absence for the remainder of the 2003-2004 school year for Shirley Chihuly, Title I/Migrant tutor, Ninilchik Elementary/High and Maria Martushev, bilingual instructor, Voznesenka School.

Six-Year Capital Improvement Plan:

Mr. Stewart recommended the Board approve the six-year plan and major maintenance/capital improvements projects list for the 2003-2004 school year.

AR 6146.7 (Waivers to the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam):

Mr. Stewart recommended the Board adopt AR 6146.7 (Waivers to the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam) which addresses the procedures for granting waivers to the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam.

Ms. Megan O'Neil, Kenai Middle School Site Council vice president, expressed the Council's strong support for the proposed changes to the middle school eligibility for cocurricular activities.

Mr. Doug Haralson, Aurora Borealis Charter School parent, asked the Board to postpone action on the proposed changes to the middle school eligibility for cocurricular activities because of the short amount of time to review and provide feedback.

Mrs. Gilman asked Mr. Haralson where the ABC parents wanted their students to participate. Mr. Haralson replied that last year students who were living in the Nikiski area participated in Nikiski but this year were asked to participate at Kenai Middle School. He stated that ABC does not care where the students participate and offered some alternative solutions. Mr. Haralson stated that ABC was willing to fund the cost of another basketball team at Kenai Middle School.

Mr. Larry Simmons, ABC Committee, asked the Board to postpone action on the proposed middle school language change and request KPSAA review the eligibility language further.

Mr. Lee Chadwick, ABC parent, asked the Board to delay action on the proposed middle school activity eligibility requirements until a discussion can be held with ABC representatives.

MOTION

Mrs. Gilman moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 6. Ms. Wassilie seconded.

Ms. Holle removed item Number 10a(2), Middle School Eligibility for Cocurricular Activities, from the Consent Agenda.

Mrs. Gilman removed item Number 10a.(6), AR 6146.7 (Waivers to the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam), from the Consent Agenda.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda Numbers 1, 3, 4, and 5 carried unanimously.

MOTION

Ms. Holle moved the Board postpone action on item Number 10a(2), Middle School Eligibility for Cocurricular Activities, to a time indefinite. Dr. Anderson seconded.

CONSENT AGENDA:

(continued)

Mrs. Gilman stated that she asked a follow-up question of Mr. Haralson because she was unaware that ABC had offered to fund an additional basketball team. She stated that she was also unaware that the District administration had asked ABC students to try out for basketball at Kenai Middle School. She expressed concern that 45 students tried out for the girl's basketball team which would require a team selection process. She stated it did not seem equitable that students who attend Kenai Middle School would be cut from the basketball team in favor of students who attend another District school.

Ms. Wassilie stated that she agreed with the motion to postpone.

Mrs. Crawford asked if the administration had a recommendation regarding the postponement. Mr. Stewart stated that the language was brought forward from KPSAA and noted that the middle school basketball season is over and so an immediate decision is not necessary.

Ms. Germano objected to the motion to postpone because it removes the opportunity to ask questions or have public discussion.

Mrs. Gilman clarified with Ms. Germano that if no action is taken by the Board before middle school soccer season next fall the current rules would apply.

VOTE ON MOTION TO POSTPONE:

NO - Germano, Crawford

YES - Holle, N. Anderson, Gilman, Wassilie, Hilts

Motion carried.

Mrs. Gilman asked for clarification about the term "rare and unusual circumstances" as a condition in which a HSQE waiver can be granted. Dr. Whiteley responded that according to the deputy attorney general, a waiver for rare and unusual circumstances could be used when a student is in a catastrophic accident or has a serious illness. Mr. Stewart stated that a state committee is currently developing a rubric to help districts work through the waiver process. He stated that students will be allowed an appeal with the state school board if the local school board denies their request for a waiver. He stated that HSGQE waivers would be brought to the Board as a Consent Agenda item and if discussion was necessary, the Board could convene an executive session.

Motion to adopt AR 6146.7 (Waivers to the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam) carried unanimously.

RECESS:
(9:28:28 PM)

At 9:28 p.m., Ms. Germano called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:
(9:40:57 PM)

At 9:40 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

Northern Lights Charter School:
(9:40:58 PM)

Dr. Whiteley presented an application from Northern Lights Charter School to establish a new charter school in the District. He recommended the Board postpone action on the charter school request to sometime prior to May 1.

Ms. Sue Singleton, Skyview High School parent, stated that the information being shared with the public regarding the charter school request is very confusing and asked the Board to allow more time to consider where the charter school would be located and how the funds would be allocated.

Motion

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board postpone action on the Northern Lights Charter School. Ms. Wassilie seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Kaleidoscope School of Arts and Sciences Charter School:

(9:45:43 PM)

Dr. Whiteley presented an application from Kaleidoscope School of Arts and Sciences Charter School to establish a new charter school in the District for a five-year period.

Mr. Tony Lewis, Sears Elementary parent, reported that teachers and parents have worked together to address all of the concerns in forming a charter school and noted that parents will have a choice of using arts and sciences as a way to teach children and provides another way for students to learn.

Ms. Kelly Conoway, Sears Elementary parent, spoke in support of Kaleidoscope School of Arts and Sciences Charter School request.

Mrs. Lisa Zulkanycz asked the Board to support the Kaleidoscope School of Arts and Sciences Charter School application request.

MOTION

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve an application from the Kaleidoscope School of Arts and Sciences Charter School to establish a new charter school in the District for a five-year period. Ms. Wassilie seconded.

Ms. Holle stated that she supports the charter school request and added that the community seems to be supportive also.

Mrs. Gilman thanked the founding committee and noted that the charter school application is quite thorough. She commended the founders for their different approach to learning and added that she is pleased that the school was formed from within the community. She expressed concern that by forming another charter school it would take students away from regular schools. She stated that the Kaleidoscope School of Arts and Sciences Charter School may instead, bring more students to the district that are not currently enrolled.

Mrs. Crawford stated that charter school representatives gave a wonderful presentation and she wished them good luck.

Kaleidoscope School of Arts and Sciences Charter School:

(continued)

Dr. Anderson stated that he thought the charter school proposal was wonderful and would like to see them succeed. He expressed concern for the future of the school's funding.

Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/
COMMENTS:**

Ms. Penny Vadla asked the Board not to cut the QUEST Program and suggested that the Board cut some of the cocurricular activities instead.

(9:56:55 PM)

Mrs. Jenni Hammond reported that North Star elementary has a volunteer preschool program that operates two days each week from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. She urged those present to testify at the Kenai LIO Office or to send emails to the legislature and governor regarding funding for education.

Mr. Tony Lewis asked the Board to continue the discussion of school consolidation and to consider asking the state for a funding waiver if schools are consolidated to save money.

Mr. Steve Daley, Cooper Landing Elementary parent, reported that the school offers community-based cocurricular activities and added that he cannot support a proposition requesting the Borough to pay for student activities because it may raise his taxes. He stated that consolidating small schools will cause the District enrollment to decline further.

Mr. Darrell Kincaid, Skyview High Site Council president, stated that the Council passed a resolution supporting the work of the Northern Lights Charter School. He stated that extracurricular activities keep students in school and noted that last year he paid over \$1,100 in participation and miscellaneous fees; he spoke about the importance of vocational education courses.

Ms. Megan O'Neil asked the Board to consolidate schools so that there are more course offerings for students.

Mrs. Lisa Quesnel thanked Dr. Anderson and Mrs. Gilman for not dismissing the consolidation issue and added that if the Board chooses not to consolidate the high schools, they must offer the same education at all schools.

BOARD COMMENTS:

(10:15:14 PM)

Mrs. Gilman thanked fellow Board members for their service. She reported that the Peninsula Reading Carnival was a success with over 1,000 participants. She stated she attended Nikiski High School's performance of *Thanks for the Memories*, written and directed by Mr. Joe Rizzo, District teacher. She complimented Mr. Rizzo and the student performers for a quality show. She suggested that a video be created from private funds (not School District funds) featuring students participating in a variety of activities that would be used to foster the Proposition 1 vote. She acknowledged the concerns expressed by parents regarding the discussions about school consolidation and added that unfortunately, the reality is that the District is in a budget emergency. She stated that the Board must make unpalatable

BOARD COMMENTS:

(continued)

choices and noted that many schools are not at capacity. She requested the administration bring forth the calculations for potential consolidation. She asked the Board to consider supporting legislation mandating that students receive their education in the District where they reside. She explained that in Alaska, Districts are competing against each other and "poaching" students. She explained that the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District has had a number of students

poached but are not poaching from other districts.

Dr. Peterson stated that the administration could bring a resolution regarding out-of-District enrollment to the Board for comment. She stated that although this topic has been an issue for several years, it was not on the District legislative priority list. She stated that the administration feels that students should be enrolled in their home district.

Dr. Whiteley reported that there was comment regarding student enrollment boundaries by the State Board and the group was considering some regulatory changes.

Dr. Anderson stated that for 10 years he would not consider eliminating cocurricular activities to meet the equivalent of one year of step increases for teachers but has now reached that point and will support the idea. He stated that of the District's \$6.7 million deficit, \$3.27 million is non-reoccurring money that will have to be dealt with in the next year's budget. He stated that the District has been hiding the deficit issues for years and the public has not noticed the incredible amount of extra work that schools have done to continue programs. He stated that until there is some real hurting seen by the public, there will be no action by legislators. He stated that he would be happy to speak to Skyview High parents regarding his views on consolidating schools. He stated that the pupil-teacher ratio will inevitably increase since 85% of the budget (amount of the budget the Board can control) is salaries and benefits. He stated that if cuts were made in administration to balance the budget, there would not be any administration left. He stated that right now consolidation is not an issue because the District does not gain any money by closing schools. He stated that school consolidation makes sense from an academic perspective regardless of the cost and added that until the financial picture changes, communities will not support the idea. He reported that one of the best predictors of student success in future life is based on how they do in geometry. He noted that students that reside in Cooper Landing receive the benefits of cocurricular activities because they attend and participate at Skyview High School beginning in 9th grade. He stated that if Proposition 1 fails he will not support the reinstatement of funding for cocurricular activities in the District budget.

BOARD COMMENTS:

(continued)

Ms. Holle thanked the Skyview High Swing Choir for their performance. She stated that she is proud of the growing community interest in education. She stated that she would like to see the Board approve a resolution regarding the Percent of Market Value (POMV). She reported that AASB passed a resolution supporting POMV with the hope that the money would be dedicated to education. She reiterated a comment made by Ms. Carrow that the governor told NEA-Alaska members that there is no guarantee that money from the POMV will go towards funding education. She requested

an excused absence for the March 1 Board meeting.

Mrs. Crawford thanked Skyview High staff and students for their school report. She noted that schools are a place where magic happens and noted that visiting schools is a privilege. She thanked Dr. Peterson for providing the HSGQE District results. She acknowledged that the consolidation reports are stressful. Mrs. Crawford clarified that any qualified teacher can offer an Advanced Placement course and wouldn't necessarily be affected by a reduction in the QUEST Program. She stated that it is important that the Board and community work together with the legislature, governor, and assembly to obtain better funding for education. She stated that the District is facing a more than \$5 million budget deficit and needs the public's support. She requested that the nondiscrimination policy language be added after the budget cycle concludes. She announced that February 9 through 13 is National Career and Technical Education Week and the Career and Technical Student Organization competition is February 20 at the Kenai Peninsula College. She thanked those present for the expressions of sympathy over the death of her father.

Ms. Wassilie reported that she visited Kenai Middle School and thanked Mr. Sorenson and Mrs. Mook for the invitation. She stated that she enjoys visiting schools and is inspired by the positive attitudes. She reported that the KMS facility is a challenge to monitor and keep maintained. She stated that she was pleased to see the type of scheduling and team teaching that is occurring at the sixth grade and added that she hopes to keep the pupil-teacher ratio the same. She noted that the woodshop classroom is not being used because there are no classes being offered. She noted that she is impressed with the number of people who spoke to the Board during the meeting. She reported that she has heard from anxious parents regarding school consolidation and acknowledged the difficulties of maintaining programs with limited funding. She stated that the cocurricular vote is very important and noted that regional and state competitions that are held on the Peninsula bring in money to communities. She thanked the parents who spoke during the Board meeting and urged those present to go to the Kenai Legislative Information Office to testify to the legislature regarding education funding.

BOARD COMMENTS:

(continued)

Mrs. Hilts thanked those present for their attendance. She stated that she is glad to hear others speaking in support of FASD and noted that it is a huge problem in the state and in the schools. She stated that she had three children who were able to take advantage of the QUEST program and would hate to see it cut. She summarized the expenses she has paid out for her grandson to participate in the school basketball program and listed the fund raising efforts organized by the Seldovia community so that students can participate in cocurricular activities. She stated that Alaska is not a poor

state and that the state government should help adequately fund the budget because it is the District's job to provide a quality education for its students.

Ms. Germano stated that she understands the frustrations and stress involved with the school consolidation conversations. She noted that small communities try to provide as many activities for students as possible by volunteering and fund raising. She stated that it is not possible to expect the District to ensure that every school in the district offer the same programs to students. She stated that the Board needs to communicate to the public that not every school in the District is a comprehensive school and that instead, the District should be clarifying schools; what programs and courses will be available and how they can be delivered. Ms. Germano clarified that the AASB signed a letter that addressed the POMV and the development of a state fiscal plan. She stated that she is on the AASB Board of Directors and acknowledged that any additional money obtained by the state will not necessarily go towards education. Ms. Germano clarified with Mrs. Douglas that a Charter School is recognized as a school when the enrollment reaches 150 students. She stated that middle school sports programs were meant to be intramural programs but are not being operated that way which has caused problems. She thanked Skyview High School staff and students for their school report. She thanked Mrs. Hammond for her comments regarding the volunteer-operated preschool program and cited the program as another example of parents making something happen by volunteering.

She reminded the Board members about the joint worksession with the Borough Assembly. She reported that the Board directed the administration to bring a resolution regarding cocurricular activities. She announced that Mrs. Hilts, Mr. Anderson, Mrs. Mullins, Mr. Tilbury, and herself, will attend the AASB Legislative Fly-In in Juneau on February 21-24.

ADJOURN:
(10:54:26 PM)

At 10:54 p.m., Mrs. Crawford moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Gilman seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Deborah Germano, President

Dr. Nels Anderson, Clerk

The Minutes of February 2, 2004 were approved on February 16, 2004, as written.