

---

# Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

## Board of Education Meeting Minutes

---

April 5, 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. John Pothast	Mr. Todd Syverson
Mr. John Owens	Mr. Jim White
Mrs. Sandy Miller	Mrs. Carla Jenness
Ms. Jenni Dillon	Mr. Chris Jenness
Mrs. Margie Warner	Mrs. Sharon Brower
Mr. Bob VanDerWege	Mr. Glenn Haupt
Mr. Josh Ball	Mr. Roy Anderson
Miss Ramona Baker	Mrs. Laurie Olson
Mrs. Nan Spooner	Mrs. Patty Rich
Mrs. Candy Goldstein	Mr. Joe Rizzo
Mr. Dave Spence	Mrs. Lynn Dusek
Mr. Dave Larson	Mrs. Cathy Carrow
Miss Kaitlin Vadla	Mr. Pete Sprague
Mr. John Widman	

Others present not identified.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Ms. Germano called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. A quorum of School Board members, Ms. Germano, Mrs. Crawford, Mrs. Gilman, Ms. Wassilie, Ms. Holle, Mr. Anderson, and Mrs. Hilts, were in attendance.

**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	Absent/Excused
Dr. Nels Anderson	Absent/Excused
Ms. Sandra Wassilie	Present
Ms. Debbie Holle	Present
Mr. Marty Anderson	Present
Mrs. Sunni Hilts	Present
Mr. Patrick Tilbury	Absent/Excused

- APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** The agenda was approved with a revision to 10a (4), resignation.
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The School Board Minutes of March 15, 2004, were approved as printed.
- AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:** Golden Apple Awards were presented to Mrs. Nan Spooner, KPBSD Transportation Coordinator, and Mrs. Candy Goldstein, Redoubt Elementary teacher, for their many years of service to the District.
- RECESS:** At 7:43 p.m. Ms. Germano called a recess until the sound system could be fixed.
- RECONVENE:** The meeting was reconvened at 7:53 p.m.
- SCHOOL REPORT:** Mr. John Owens, principal at Nikiski Middle/High School, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the goals and objectives of the school. He showed that 99% of their senior class have passed the writing portion of the HSGQE, 96% have passed in reading, and 95% have passed the math portion, and they had 100% participation on the 8<sup>th</sup> grade benchmark exam. He also stated that 27% of their seniors will receive honors diplomas and on average, 66% of their graduating seniors go on to attend a four-year college or university. Their school will transition to a traditional six-period day next year and they will be instituting an academic lettering policy. Students Josh Ball and Ramona Baker then performed a skit titled, *Duet*. Nikiski Middle/High School's drama/debate/forensics team placed 2<sup>nd</sup> at the State competition, 1<sup>st</sup> place in overall debate, and they are State Champions in debate.
- PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:** Darrell Kincaid, President of Skyview Site Council, wanted the Board to know they appreciated the effort to keep their school open, said their school will be changing to a standard six-class schedule next year to make it easier for students to share resources with other schools, and asked that the Board and administration commit to some kind of transportation for students wanting to attend a class at another school.
- Ms. Germano stated they need to start by discussing the matter with their school administration.
- Ms. Holle asked administration if there was any dialogue about transportation before initiating common schedules.
- Mr. Sam Stewart stated the four Central Peninsula high school principals had been instructed to develop a common schedule so resources could be shared, including online classes. He said that is what has been done, but there has been no talk about providing transportation between schools.
- Mrs. Gilman stated this was only practical between Soldotna High and Skyview High, because if all high schools were on the same schedule it wouldn't allow for travel time between other schools. Mr. Stewart stated that some students chose to travel during their lunch break, or arrangements could be made for a five-period day in order to use one period for travel time.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:**

Dr. Peterson stated the Seward City Council has acted on resolutions specifically regarding co-curricular activities, as well as PERS and TRS for harbor masters and police officers.

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

Mrs. Cathy Carrow, KPEA President, offered KPEA support for efforts with legislators to find a solution for funding problems. She noted that KPEA and KPESA will be carrying the message to Juneau that a long-term solution to fund education is needed now. She stated that they will be sponsoring tables at local grocery stores where they will ask people to take a few moments to contact their state legislators. She stated that they are also working on putting together a group of people who will be responsible for a Saturday rally on April 24<sup>th</sup> to support educational funding which will be held at Kenai Central High.

Mr. Pete Sprague, President of the Borough Assembly, noted the Borough will be certifying the co-curricular election results at their April 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. The final tally was 4685 yes votes, and 4753 no votes, for a final margin of only 68 votes. When asked by Ms. Holle about his recommendations, Mr. Sprague said he would abide by what the voters said. His suggestion was to let the legislators know the District has a problem. Ms. Germano stated the possibility of service areas should be explored.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

Dr. Peterson reminded everyone that this Friday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, is a no work/no pay day and all schools (except for Kachemak Selo, Nanwalek, Nikolaevsk, Razdolna and Voznesenka), and the District Office will be closed for the day. She also stated the last Administrators' Meeting for this year will be held on April 15, and the Masonic Awards, honoring the top students in the District, will be held at Kenai Central High School at 7:00 p.m. on April 15. The Caring for the Kenai competition will be held on April 23, beginning at 6:30 p.m., in the Little Theater at KCHS.

**BOARD REPORTS:**

Mrs. Gilman reported on attending the Statewide Charter School Conference in Kenai, sponsored by Aurora Borealis Charter School; it was the first time it was held in Kenai. She reported that she heard Commissioner Sampson speak and learned more of the District's role in charter schools.

Ms. Wassilie reported she had attended the Seward City Council meeting and they had supported Proposition 1, and opposed HB 91 and SB 245, regarding PERS and TRS. She also reported that the Seward City Council no longer participates in PERS and TRS. Ms. Wassilie stated she had attended the joint work session with the Borough Assembly, on the status of the proposed new Seward Middle School. She pointed out that school buildings are built for long-term needs (30 to 50 years) and noted that there is a difference between capacity and the functional space of a school.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Nontenure Teacher Assignments; Request for Sabbatical; Requests for Leave of Absence – Certified; Resignations - Revised; Nontenure Teachers for Tenure; 2004-2005 School Board Meeting Dates; Revised 2005-2006 School Calendar; and Budget Transfer 271.

**TENTATIVE NON-TENURE  
TEACHER ASSIGNMENTS  
FOR 2004-05:**

Dr. Whiteley recommended the Board approve tentative nontenure teacher assignments for the 2004-2005 school year for John Clare, Vision Impaired Specialist, Districtwide, Central Peninsula; Kari Cook, Special Ed/Occupational Therapist, Districtwide, Central Peninsula; Cecilia Deatherage, Speech Language Pathologist, Districtwide, Central Peninsula; Michelle Gormanous, School Psychologist, Districtwide, Pupil Services; Susan Hatch, Special Ed/E.H., Districtwide, Pupil Services, Central Peninsula; Elizabeth Lennon, Speech Language Pathologist, Districtwide, Central Peninsula; Angela M. Nelson, School Psychologist, Districtwide, Pupil Services; Mary Colleen Pucillo, School Psychologist (.67 FTE Permanent/.33 FTE Temporary), Districtwide, Pupil Services, Central Peninsula; Chris Standley, School Psychologist, Districtwide, Pupil Services; Danielle Thompson, Speech Language Pathologist, Districtwide, Pupil Services; Erik Viste, School Psychologist, Districtwide, Pupil Services; David Brown, Special Ed/Resource, Skyview High School; Chaenette (Jenny) Carroll, Special Ed/E.H., Nikiski Middle/High School; Stephanie Coolman, Special Ed/Resource, Susan B. English, Nanwalek, Port Graham; M. Jayne McFarland, Speech Language Pathologist, Districtwide, Pupil Services/Redoubt Elementary; Elizabeth Ladd, Special Ed/Resource, Nikiski Middle High School; Mary Roed, Special Ed/Resource, Redoubt Elementary; Juliana DeBoard, Special Ed/Intensive Needs, Seward Elementary; Steve Evans, Special Ed/Intensive Needs, Seward Middle/High School; Tim Wight, Special Ed/E.H., Skyview High School; Tina Skaalerud, Special Ed/Resource, Soldotna Elementary; Janne Lillestol, Special Ed/Resource, Soldotna High School; and Jennifer Harvey-Kindred, Special Ed/Resource, Tustumena Elementary.

**REQUEST FOR SABBATICAL:**

Dr. Whiteley recommended the Board approve a request for an unpaid sabbatical without benefits for the 2004-2005 school year from Kim Blommel, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher at Seward Elementary.

**REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF  
ABSENCE – CERTIFIED:**

Dr. Whiteley recommended the Board approve the request for an unpaid leave of absence for Jason Hobart, Math/Science, Kenai Central High; and for Micheal Wetherbee, Principal, Ninilchik School.

**RESIGNATIONS – REVISED:**

Dr. Whiteley recommended the Board approve resignations from Cliff Draper, P.E., Seward Elementary; Thomas Osborne, Counselor, Seward High School; Bill Morisette, Grade 4/5, West Homer Elementary; Katherine Morisette, Grade 5, West Homer Elementary; Mary Henry, Special Ed/Resource, Sears Elementary; and Maurice Glenn, Principal, Nanwalek Elementary/High.

**TENTATIVE NON-TENURE  
TEACHERS FOR TENURE,  
2004-2005:**

Dr. Whiteley recommended the Board approve tentative employment and tenure for the following nontenure teachers, for the 2004-05 school year: Kim Denesen, Special Ed/E.H., Districtwide, Central Peninsula; Diane Haupt, School Psychologist, Districtwide, Pupil Services; Debra Hayes, Special Ed/Resource, K-Beach Elementary; Theresa Owens, Special Ed/Intensive Needs, K-Beach Elementary; Kay Downs, Special Ed/Preschool, Sears Elementary; Lana Esposito, Special Ed/Resource, Seward Elementary; Eric Willets, Special Ed/Resource, Skyview High School; Amy Hogue, Speech/Language Pathologist, Soldotna Elementary; Kevin Downs, Special Ed/E.H., Soldotna Middle School; Gail Frasher, Special Ed/Resource, Sterling Elementary;

**CONSENT AGENDA:**  
(continued)

and Judy Gonsalves, Speech Language Pathologist, Districtwide, Pupil Services, West Homer Elementary.

**2004-2005 SCHOOL BOARD MEETING DATES:**

Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve the schedule for Board meetings during the 2004-2005 school year.

**2005-2006 SCHOOL CALENDAR – REVISED:**

Mr. Sam Stewart recommended the Board approve the revised 2005-2006 school calendar.

**BUDGET TRANSFER:**

Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve Budget Transfer Number 271 in the amount of \$11,300, to pay course fees for the Connections Program at Kenai Peninsula College.

**MOTION:**

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 5 and 7 through 8, and remove Item Number 6. Mrs. Gilman seconded.

Mrs. Gilman asked the Board to remove Item Number 7 from the Consent Agenda as well. Mr. Anderson seconded.

Ms. Wassilie questioned Item Number 2, Sabbaticals. She asked if this is the only request for this year. Dr. Whiteley stated that he believed this to be correct. She also asked if the request was made in a timely manner, since the paperwork states it has to be in by April 1<sup>st</sup>. Dr. Whiteley said the paperwork had been received on time, but administration had been waiting for a Board meeting to present it.

Ms. Germano asked why, in 10a(1) and 10a(5), some of the assignments are listed as Districtwide, specific to schools, and some are Districtwide, Central Peninsula. Dr. Whiteley explained that some are assigned, depending on the case load, and others are itinerant positions.

Motion carried unanimously.

**MOTION:**

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board amend the 2004-2005 meeting dates, changing the January 3 meeting to January 10. Mr. Anderson seconded.

Mrs. Gilman questioned why there was only one meeting in January. Dr. Peterson answered that the third Monday of the month is an inservice day as well as a holiday. Ms. Germano also stated that traditionally, budget hearings are held near that date.

Mrs. Gilman also voiced concern with one of the proposed changes for the March meeting. She felt that having only one meeting in the month of March would tend to limit the public's ability to comment on the budget.

Dr. Peterson stated that this year was the first year there had been a second meeting in March. Normally the meeting would fall on spring break, but this year it didn't.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**  
(continued)

Ms. Germano said it had been suggested that another meeting be held in March to discuss the budget process. Mrs. Gilman stated an all-day work session regarding the budget has been discussed, which would allow time for public testimony.

Ms. Holle stated she had understood there would be two meetings each month, but only about half the months have two meetings, and suggested that there be two meetings in January and March.

Ms. Germano stated the proposed calendar is nearly a mirror of this year's calendar, except for eliminating the second meeting in August and the second meeting in March, because of spring break.

Ms. Holle stated that it would be best to get the meetings on the calendar, rather than trying to squeeze in special meetings.

Ms. Wassilie asked if changing the January meeting to January 10 would impair the budget process.

Dr. Peterson stated the budget process would be discussed during the summer planning session. She stated that the discussions have indicated a need for moving all processes back further so there are more and earlier conversations, and so she doesn't see this as a problem. She responded that as long as the administration knows the dates, they can work around them.

Ms. Wassilie stated she thought some rhythm with the meetings needed to be kept up, but didn't want to schedule unnecessary meetings either. She stated that she thought the Board could perhaps change the January meeting, and then if it was found that a second meeting was necessary, it could be scheduled at that time.

**MOTION:**

Ms. Holle moved the Board approve an amendment to the amendment to the 2004-2005 School Board meeting dates, to also meet on January 24. Mrs. Gilman seconded.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT:

NO – Anderson, Crawford, Hilts, Wassilie, Germano  
YES – Gilman, Holle

Amendment to the amendment failed.

**MOTION:**

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

NO – Wassilie  
YES – Anderson, Crawford, Gilman, Hilts, Holle, Germano

Motion carried.

Ms. Holle questioned the rationale of having meetings on June 6 and 7, back-to-back. Ms. Germano explained that June 6 is a regular meeting day for the Board, and June 7 is a planning day for the Board for setting goals for the next year, since everyone is already in the area for the Board meeting. Mrs. Crawford stated it

**CONSENT AGENDA:**  
(continued)

was important to give the administration time to plan for the upcoming year. Dr. Peterson stated the rationale was to do the self-evaluation of the Board, and the evaluation of the superintendent, and then move directly to the planning session on the next day. Ms. Wassilie explained that it was also done for practicality, since everything could be done in one time period, so those that work can go back to their jobs.

**MOTION:**

VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION:

Motion carried unanimously.

**MOTION:**

Mrs. Gilman moved the Board approve Item 10a(7) Revised 2005-2006 School Calendar. Ms. Holle seconded.

Mrs. Gilman asked for the reason behind revising the 2005-2006 school calendar. Mr. Stewart explained the number of days in the quarters would have a large disparity if the calendar was not changed, and instructionally, it is a good move because it allows students a week after spring break before taking quarter finals. He stated that it is a good move instructionally, works better with the needs of the Arctic Winter Games, and in some ways even works better with the activities calendar. Mrs. Gilman asked if it was the same time as the Anchorage School District spring break, and Mr. Stewart noted it was a week before Anchorage has their break.

Ms. Wassilie asked if it would conflict with the testing schedule, and Mr. Stewart stated the testing will be in April.

Motion carried unanimously.

**FY05 BUDGET:**

Mrs. Douglas recommended approval of the FY05 Budget in the amount of \$77,063,301 for operating funds with a total for all funds of \$96,056,368. She noted that the administration is prepared to bring the budget back before the Board for additional action, once the legislature has acted and the District knows for certain what any additional revenue might be received.

Mr. John Widman, student, Soldotna High School, stated that he did not think that co-curricular activities should be totally eliminated. He stated that activities should be funded for athletic students as much as Quest for students participating in higher academics.

Miss Kaitlin Vadla, student, Soldotna High School, stated that sports, band and drama are a large part of her life; she suggested that the Board cut funding for all activities so the public will take action. She stated that cutting the Quest Program wouldn't make as big an impact because not as many people would be affected.

Mrs. Hilts commented that the next time there is a proposition to consider, she would like to see students add their input because they are excellent spokesmen.

Mr. David Larson, teacher at Kenai Central, suggested that the Board keep one phrase in mind if there is money to add back into the budget; "that you consider the idea of meaningful instructional

**FY05 BUDGET:**  
(continued)

opportunities for students whenever you consider any new revenue coming in to the budget.”

**MOTION:**

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve the FY05 Budget in the amount of \$77,063,301 for operating funds and an overall budget of \$95,056,368. Ms. Wassilie seconded.

Mrs. Crawford stated that months have been spent on the FY05 Budget and yet it is not what anyone wants. She reported that \$1.3 million was added back in as a guess of what the legislature will do. She noted that it is “bare bones”, and if the legislature gives more money, more things will be added back in.

Ms. Wassilie stated that if co-curricular activities are eliminated, a lot will be lost. She noted that any additional money will be a one-year fix, because next year the District will need to deal with a huge increase in PERS/TRS. She stated that this budget needs to be approved even with the gamble that the legislature will fund a \$94/per student increase.

Mrs. Gilman thanked Miss Vadla for her input and added that she is looking forward to her return to the Peninsula with an advanced degree – because she would be a great statesman. She stated she was not willing to give up on co-curricular activities. She said she was very disappointed on the outcome of the co-curricular vote. She stated that she isn’t sure if it meant that the public didn’t support co-curricular activities, or if they don’t want more taxes, or if they thought the state should pay for these activities. She thought eliminating activities from the budget would be a mistake because they are an essential part of the school environment, even for those students who don’t actively participate in the activity.

**MOTION:**

Ms. Holle moved the Board amend the FY05 Budget to eliminate, in its entirety, the Quest Program. Amendment failed for lack of a second.

Mrs. Hilts stated that she thought the co-curricular vote would be approved by the people and is very disappointed. She stated that although the cuts being suggested are unacceptable, cuts must be made to balance the budget. She will support this budget because it has to be done, not because she wants to.

Mr. Anderson stated there is no assurance of an increase in funding and added that even an increase of \$94/per student is a calculated guess. He commended Miss Vadla on her willingness to give up co-curricular activities for her belief that it would be the best for the District in the long run. He also stated that, if more money becomes available, according to Mrs. Douglas, certain items could be added back to the budget.

Mrs. Gilman asked if the budget moves forward without co-curricular activities, what would happen with coaches’ contracts for next fall. Dr. Whiteley noted that last year all coaches were notified that there would be no contract for the following fall, unless the funding became available, then contracts will be issued.

**FY05 BUDGET:**  
(continued)

Ms. Germano asked why contract notifications would not be sent out immediately, if the budget is passed as recommended tonight. Dr. Whiteley stated they probably would be sent out right away, based upon the Board's action tonight.

**MOTION:**

Ms. Holle moved to reduce District Office administration and support staff by a total of three full time employees for a total of \$154,857. Mrs. Gilman seconded.

Ms. Holle said her efforts to reduce expenditures are well intended. There is a significant financial deficit except for a fictitious number being factored in. She stated that she would like to have cut the Quest program in order to save the co-curricular program. She stated that her amendment would give direction to the administration to look for ways to cut down on middle management. She stated that the reductions were proposed on February 10, then altered down to two, but she believes that three could be done. She stated that the NCLB Coordinator position could be eliminated and that the District should become more visionary.

Mrs. Gilman clarified that she seconded the amendment to give the maker of the motion the opportunity to speak, however, she doesn't believe it is unreasonable for 10 people in Central Office to be responsible for 10,000 students.

Mrs. Crawford stated that the KPBSD has the lowest Central Office staff per capita in the state and she will be voting against the amendment.

Mr. Anderson stated that before he was on the Board he thought he knew what it took to run the District administration, but added that the longer he is on the Board the more he realizes the less he knows. He stated that the administration does a remarkable job and he won't be voting for the Holle amendment.

Ms. Germano stated that she wouldn't support the amendment. She reminded those present that Central Office reviewed this item and came back with their recommendation. She stated that the Board cannot tie administration's hands by passing this amendment.

Ms. Wassilie noted that there are already positions in Central Office that have been left unfilled.

**VOTE ON AMENDMENT:**

YES – Holle

NO – Anderson, Crawford, Gilman, Hilts, Wassilie, Germano

Amendment failed.

**MOTION:**

Ms. Holle moved the Board amend the FY05 Budget to make a 20% reduction in discretionary accounts, exempting charter schools, Connections, and all small schools of under 200. Amendment failed for lack of a second.

**FY05 BUDGET:**  
(continued)

Ms. Germano stated that she believed the year would end with a status quo budget. She stated that she believed the District would be able to add things back to the budget, but that her biggest concern is the future of the co-curricular program. She stated that next year the District will be faced with the same PERS/TRS issues, salary issues, and co-curricular issues. She stated that activities are important to students, and added that she is concerned about the impact of these decisions upon the students. She stated that she will be supporting the FY05 Budget, but not because she doesn't support activities for students.

**MOTION:**

Ms. Holle moved the Board amend the FY05 Budget to add language under Preliminary General Fund Expenditure Budget Items; the fifth one down reads "reduce all supply budgets districtwide by 12% except"; add to the "except charter schools, Connections and the following small schools: Tebughna Elementary/High, Ninilchik Elementary/High, Susan B. English, Chapman Elementary School, Cooper Landing School, Nanwalek Elementary/High, Hope Elementary, Moose Pass Elementary, Sterling Elementary, Tustumena Elementary, Nikolaevsk Elementary, Port Graham Elementary, McNeil Canyon Elementary, Razdolna Elementary, Voznesenka School, Kachemak Selo and Kenai Alternative." Mrs. Hilts seconded.

Ms. Holle stated the rationale behind her proposal was to not hinder the supply budgets of the smaller, more remote schools.

Mrs. Hilts explained that she seconded the motion to give an opportunity to hear Ms. Holle's idea, but would oppose the amendment because she would like the issue addressed through the add-back conversations. She stated that the Board needs to look at the entire system, not just one segment of it.

Ms. Wassilie asked how supplies are allocated and Mrs. Douglas replied that they are based on a supply formula according to the enrollment projection, and that smaller schools are weighted.

Mrs. Gilman asked if the Holle amendment would actually increase the budget. Ms. Holle stated it would simply exempt the small schools, Connections program, and charter schools from the 12% supply budget reduction. Mrs. Gilman stated that all students need supplies, not just the small schools. She stated she would not be in favor of the amendment.

**VOTE ON AMENDMENT:**

YES – Holle

NO – Hilts, Wassilie, Anderson, Crawford, Gilman, Germano

Amendment failed.

Mrs. Gilman stated that the Board and administration need to discuss what the budget will look like if there is an increase in revenue, and added that co-curricular activities should not be eliminated.

**FY05 BUDGET:**  
(continued)

Ms. Germano stated the Board might be able to add items back to the budget this year, but next year, it will be the same discussion all over again.

Mr. Anderson echoed Ms. Germano's comments, and added that he understood what was said earlier by Representative Chenault about funding depending on the price of oil.

Mrs. Gilman stated that the message needs to be that students have to be educated no matter what the price of oil is.

Ms. Holle stated that she would be voting against the main motion because she believes a different way of funding must be provided.

Ms. Germano stated that she thought that a good effort had been made in moving this budget forward, and that it isn't unreasonable or unethical. She noted that a balance must be found.

**VOTE ON MOTION:**

NO – Holle

YES – Wassilie, Hilts, Gilman, Crawford, Anderson, Germano

Motion carried.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/  
COMMENTS:**

Miss Kaitlin Vadla said that by eliminating the Quest Program it was "picking on the little guy," to not take the easy way out. She stated that the Borough doesn't need voter approval to give the District the needed money, because it was an advisory vote.

Mr. John Widman thanked the Board and stated he was just glad he wasn't the one who had to balance the budget.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

Ms. Wassilie thanked those who stayed, and especially Mr. Widman and Miss Vadla. She noted that she is an avid supporter of co-curricular, and that more and more it is a responsibility of parents and the community. The District must look at how it can play a role in activities. She also reported that it is graduation time and the Board supports a policy of inclusion. She applauded students who have met District graduation requirements, including those who have graduated early.

Ms. Holle noted that, in reading the minutes from last year's budget meeting, there were two members who voted no, not just one. She stated that the Quest Program should be eliminated because no accountability exists and that it would be better to eliminate the program entirely and then later reinstate it in the proper form.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**  
(continued)

Mrs. Hilts stated she was impressed with the students from Nikiski High School and the number of students at that school who are passing the HSGQE. She stated she had recently been on a field trip with students to Valdez, and that music festivals are not funded by co-curricular activities, but rather by fund raisers. She stated that people of good will that have a love for kids can put together something that will benefit kids and open up the world for them.

Mrs. Gilman commented on the high percentage of Nikiski High School students passing the HSGQE and that 66% were planning to attend a four-year college or university. She stated she would like to see the District explore the idea of alternative schooling for elementary students as well as high school students. She stated that she would like to see the Quest Program kept in the budget and have a review committee that includes administrators, parents, and students that would decide what it would take to improve the program. She asked the Board to look at re-evaluating co-curricular activities, and added that the District needs to come up with funds for the coming year. She stated the District should look into suing the State of Alaska because they haven't fulfilled the requirement to educate students.

Mr. Anderson thanked Nikiski High School for the report; and added that it was an entertaining presentation. He stated that the skit had an underlying message about working together or against each other. He also commended Mrs. Spooner and Mrs. Goldstein for their many years of service to the District, and their achievement of the Golden Apple Award. He stated that, listening to Miss Vadla and Mr. Widman made him realize that democracy is still alive and well, and added that when a student starts to talk he realizes what being a Board member is all about.

Mrs. Crawford stated that hours and hours of work still remain on the FY05 Budget. She stated that it was wonderful to see students at the meeting, to observe and to participate. She noted that Mr. Joe Rizzo, teacher, Nikiski Middle/High School and the drama/debate/forensics coach, was in attendance to support the students. She reported that she was fortunate to be a delegate at the National School Board meeting in Orlando. She commented that the items on the agenda there were very uplifting and many monumental changes lie ahead.

Ms. Germano thanked the Nikiski High School students for the report and noted that there would be a legislative fly-in to Juneau on April 25, 26 and 27. She noted that the Board would keep working on the issues and thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

**ADJOURN:**

At 10:25 p.m., Mrs. Crawford moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Ms. Deborah Germano, President

---

Dr. Nels Anderson, Clerk

The Minutes of April 5, 2004,  
were approved on April 19, 2004  
with a correction.