

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Agenda

December 6, 2004 – 7:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting

Borough Administration Building
148 N. Binkley, Soldotna, Alaska

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

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

Worksessions

2:30 p.m. [Section 4000 Policy Review](#) – *Structure*
3:30 p.m. [FY05 Budget Revision](#) – *Structure*
4:00 p.m. [Valedictorian/Weighted Grades](#) –
Structure
5:00 p.m. Legislative Delegation – *Vision*

A-G-E-N-D-A

1. Opening Activities

- a. Call to Order
- b. Pledge of Allegiance/National Anthem/Alaska Flag Song
- c. Roll Call
- d. Approval of Agenda
- e. Approval of Minutes/[November 15, 2004](#)

2. Awards and Presentations – *Advocacy*

- a. Linda Cusak, Soldotna High School Parent Volunteer
- b. Larry Streiff, Soldotna Middle School Head Custodian
- c. Neldon Gardner, Soldotna Middle School Teacher,
- d. Tanya Boedeker, Connections Program Teacher

3. School Reports – *Accountability*

- a. Nanwalek Elementary/High – Mr. Darrell Johnston

4. Public Presentations (Items not on agenda, 3 minutes per speaker, 30 minutes aggregate)

5. Hearing of Delegations

6. Communications and Petitions

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

8. Superintendent's Report

9. Reports – *Accountability*

a. Board Reports

10. Action Items

a.

Consent Agenda

- (1) Approval of [Long-term Substitute Teacher Contracts](#) – *Structure*
- (2) Approval of [New Teacher Assignment](#) – *Structure*
- (3) Approval of [Outsourced Activities Recommendation](#) – *Structure*
- (4) Approval of [Six-Year Plan and School Construction Needs](#) – *Vision*
- (5) Approval of [2005 Legislative Priorities](#) – *Vision*

Finance

- b. Approval of [FY 05 Budget Revision](#) – *Structure*

11. First Reading of Policy Revisions

12. Public Presentations/Comments (Individuals are limited to three minutes each on the topic(s) listed below or on any topic.)

13. Board Comments

14. Executive Session

15. Adjourn

* * * * *

Copies of agenda items are available just prior to the meeting in the back of the room or visit our website at <http://www.kpbsd.k12.ak.us>.

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

Sam Stewart, Assistant Superintendent
 148 North Binkley Street Soldotna, Alaska 99669-7553
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 Email: sstewart@kpbsd.k12.ak.us

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Education

From: Sam Stewart, Assistant Superintendent

Re: Policy Manual Review of [Section 4000](#), Personnel

Date: November 29, 2004

As part of the systematic examination of the Policy Manual, the policy review committee met on November 18, 2004 to review and make recommendations for revision of Section 4000, Personnel. These revisions are presented for review during the worksession.

Policy numbers listed at the top are often multiple within this section: the 4100 series refers to certificated personnel, the 4200 series refers to support personnel, and the 4300 series refers to management and supervisory personnel.

BP 4000 Concepts and Roles	Align with policy governance
BP 4020 Drug and Alcohol-Free Workplace	Deleted boxed note and aligned with current legal procedures
E 4020 Drug and Alcohol-Free Workplace, Notice to Employees	Housekeeping
BP & AR 4021 Drug and Alcohol Testing of School District Commercial Driver Licensed Employees	Housekeeping
BP Nondiscrimination in Employment	Housekeeping
E 4030 Protection for Whistle Blowers	Housekeeping
AR 4040 Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) Privacy Policy	New AR
BP 4111 Recruitment and Selection	In BP 4000, BP 4119.3, BP 4030 and new AR 4111

AR 4111 Recruitment and Selection	New AR
BP 4112.2 Legal Status Requirement	Reworded for clarity
AR 4112.2 Legal Status Requirement	Edited to match current I-9, Employment Eligibility Verification.
BP 4112.1 Contracts	Housekeeping
BP 4112.4 Health Examinations	Deleted physical examination exemption
BP 4112.5 Security Check	Background check ability added.
AR 4112.5 Security Check	Clarification
BP 4112.6 Personnel Records	Housekeeping
BP 4112.61 Employment References	Housekeeping
BP 4112.8 Employment of Relatives	Housekeeping
BP 4112.8 Employment of Relatives	New AR
BP 4113 Assignment	Housekeeping
BP 4115 Evaluation/Supervision	Moved majority to AR 4115
AR 4115 Evaluation/Supervision	New AR from BP 4115
BP 4116 Non-Tenured/Tenured Status	To align tenure eligibility with state statutes
BP 4117.2 Resignation	Housekeeping
BP 4117.3 Personnel Reduction	Align with policy governance
AR 4117.4 Dismissal	Housekeeping
BP 4117.6 Non-Retention	Change date of non-retention notice to end of school year
BP 4118 Suspension/Disciplinary Action	Moved majority to new AR 4118
AR 4118 Suspension/Disciplinary Action	New AR from BP 4118
BP 4119.11 Sexual Harassment	Moved majority to new AR 4119.11
AR 4119.11 Sexual Harassment	New AR from BP 4119.11
BP 4119.12 Harassment	Moved portion to new AR 4119.12
AR 4119.12 Harassment	New AR from BP 4119.12
AR 4119.21 Codes of Ethics	Housekeeping
E 4119.21 Code of Ethics and Teaching Standards	Reflects current state administrative code.
BP 4119.23 Unauthorized Release of Confidential Information	Housekeeping
BP & AR 4119.25 Political Activities of Employees	Housekeeping
BP 4119.3 Duties of Personnel	Housekeeping
BP 4119.41 Employees with Infectious Disease	Moved to AR 4040 (HIPAA)
BP 4119.42 Exposure Control Plan for Blood Borne Pathogens	Align with policy governance procedures
AR 4119.42 Exposure Control Plan for Blood Borne Pathogens	Housekeeping
E 4119.42 Hepatitis B Declination Form	Housekeeping

BP 4119.43 Universal Precautions	Housekeeping
AR 4119.43 Universal Precautions	Add description of glove removal
BP 4122 Student Teachers	Housekeeping
AR 4122 Student Teacher Placement Process	Comply with current practices
BP 4131 Staff Development	Clarification
BP 4132 Publication or Creation of Materials	Housekeeping
BP 4133 Travel Expenses	Moved portion to new AR 4133
AR 4133 Travel Expenses	New AR from BP 4133
BP 4135 Soliciting and Selling	Moved portion to new AR 4135
AR 4135 Soliciting and Selling	New AR from BP 4133
BP 4136 Nonschool Employment	Housekeeping
BP 4141 Negotiated Agreement	Management rights
BP 4141.6 Concerted Activity/Work Stoppage	Housekeeping
BP 4143 Negotiations/Consultation	Housekeeping
BP, AR and E 4154 Health Benefits	Housekeeping
BP 4156.3 Reimbursement, Uniforms and Allowances	Housekeeping
BP 4158 Employee Security	Housekeeping
BP 4161.1 Sick Leave Bank	Housekeeping
BP 4211 Recruitment and Selection	Housekeeping
BP 4212 Appointment and Conditions of Employment	Clarified
BP 4215 Evaluation/Supervision	Housekeeping
BP 4217.2 Resignation	Housekeeping
BP 4218 Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action	Housekeeping
AR 4218 Support Personnel	Housekeeping
BP 4253 Overtime/Compensatory Time-off	Housekeeping
BP 4300 Management and Supervisory	Housekeeping
BP 4313.2 Promotion/Demotion/Reclassification	Housekeeping
BP 4315 Evaluation/Supervision	Housekeeping
BP 4315.1 Competence in Evaluation of Teachers	Housekeeping
AR 4319.26 Teacher-in-charge/Principal's Designee	Housekeeping
BP 4361 Leaves	Housekeeping

Attachment: [Section 4000](#)

Finance

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Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

November 30, 2004

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Education

Through: Dr. Donna Peterson, Superintendent

From: Melody Douglas, Chief Financial Officer

Subject: FY05 Budget Revision – General Fund

BACKGROUND:

Annually, the District revises the general fund, pupil transportation, food service and community school fund budgets to reflect the salary and benefit accounts for employees hired for the year. Other adjustments are included at the same time as appropriate. This revision also incorporates an adjustment as a result of the draft OASIS information received from the Department of Education and Early Development for FY05.

RECOMMENDATION:

The administration recommends the Board of Education approve a revised General Fund budget of \$83,245,227.

PERTINENT INFORMATION:

Staff Costs

The annual budget adjustment to reflect the salaries and benefits of those actually hired for FY05 has been completed. Unallocated staff was assigned to address enrollment needs per Board action on June 7, 2004.

Enrollment

Preliminary foundation funding information based on the October 2004 OASIS data has been received from the Department of Education and Early Development indicating an enrollment of 9531 FTE. This represents an increase of 301 FTE over the FY05 enrollment projection of 9230. Hopefully, this situation is indicative of a reverse in the enrollment declines the District has encountered in recent years. A future FY05 budget revision will

be necessary to address the final OASIS numbers, including possible changes to charter school and Connections program budgets. Final OASIS numbers are expected in January.

FY04 GENERAL FUND BUDGET REVISION:

It is important to make the changes resulting from the annual salary and benefit budget adjustment and to incorporate preliminary OASIS information at this time so that the FY06 Preliminary Budget comparison information is relevant.

General Fund Revenue Budget

Approved FY05 Budget	<u>\$81,263,357</u>
Increased State Revenue	1,422,322
Increased Local Effort from KPB	327,134
Increased Quality Schools (summer school)	<u>4,973</u>
Revised FY05 Revenue Budget	<u>\$83,017,786</u>

General Fund Expenditure Budget

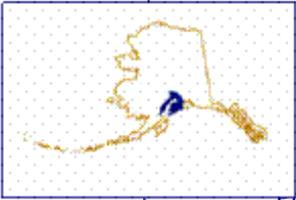
Approved FY05 Budget	<u>\$81,263,357</u>
Health care cost adjustment per negotiated agreements	141,962
Utility budget increases (5% electricity and 20% fuel)	297,430
Increase summer school allocation	4,973
Upgrade deteriorating phone systems	181,800*

Annual salary and benefit adjustment	(178,322)
Replace elementary reading curriculum to be NCLB compliant	500,000*
Replace Finance/PR/HR software	400,000*
Contingency (set aside for subsequent year's use)	<u>406,586</u>
 Revised FY05 Expenditure Budget	 <u>\$83,017,786</u>

*additional information attached

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District							
2004-2005 Budget							
General Fund Revenue							
				Original	11/30/2004		
2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	Revenue Source	2004-05	2004-05	Change	% of
Actual	Actual	Actual		Budget	Budget		Chg
General Fund Revenue:							
\$ 6,086,948	\$ 6,092,718	\$ 6,405,124	Borough In-Kind	\$ 6,956,156	\$ 6,956,156	\$ -	-
24,102,170	24,526,142	25,230,415	Borough Appropriation	26,465,619	26,792,753	327,134	1
1,846,392	386,694	(252,271)	Earnings on Investments	341,209	341,209	-	-
403,834	492,682	491,215	E-Rate	450,000	450,000	-	-
47,960	26,000	53,500	Rentals	65,000	65,000	-	-
84,388	134,461	87,256	Miscellaneous	50,000	50,000	-	-
-	-	-	Allocation of Fund Balance	1,600,000	1,600,000	-	-
<u>32,571,692</u>	<u>31,658,697</u>	<u>32,015,239</u>	Total Local Revenue	<u>35,927,984</u>	<u>36,255,118</u>	<u>327,134</u>	<u>1</u>
State Revenue:							
42,482,522	41,361,048	42,124,335	Foundation Program	44,837,905	46,260,227	1,422,322	3
1,149,974	2,346,338	230,066	Learning Opportunity Grant/Quality Schools	222,468	227,441	4,973	
316,325	285,312	1,038	Tuition	-	-	-	-
<u>43,948,821</u>	<u>43,992,698</u>	<u>42,355,439</u>	Total State Revenue	<u>45,060,373</u>	<u>46,487,668</u>	<u>1,427,295</u>	<u>3</u>
Federal Revenue:							

235,236	279,021	281,073	Medicaid	275,000	275,000	-	-
-	-	-	Public Law 874	-	-	-	-
<u>235,236</u>	<u>279,021</u>	<u>281,073</u>	Total Federal Revenue	<u>275,000</u>	<u>275,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<u>76,755,749</u>	<u>75,930,416</u>	<u>74,651,751</u>	Total General Fund Revenue	<u>81,263,357</u>	<u>83,017,786</u>	<u>1,754,429</u>	<u>2</u>



Information Services

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Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

MEMORANDUM

TO: Melody Douglas, Chief Financial Officer

FROM: Jim White, Director, Information Systems

DATE: November 30, 2004

SUBJECT: IP Telephony

I have proposed a three year plan to update many of the district's phone system to IP telephony. The problem we are having is the outdated phones systems we have just aren't holding up. Since July, Soldotna High's phone system has failed and been replaced, Nikiski El's phone system replaced the old system at Sears (which was a used system, that was put in a few years ago when their "old" system failed). The old voice mail equipment from Central

Office was moved to Redoubt, and last week Nikiski High's Mitel PBX failed and could not be repaired. Our systems are so old that parts aren't commonly available nor are today's technicians always familiar with these older systems. Moving 10 year old systems around to replace 20 year old systems just doesn't seem to make sense any more. We need to take a fresh look at things.

IP telephony is a better way to do phone systems today. IP, or Internet Protocol, telephones are different from conventional phone systems in that they operate on our existing data networks instead of dedicated telephone wire. The main phone system handling the calls is actually a PC server and the phones are like computers on the network having Ethernet connectivity built in. With the extensive data network the school district has IP telephones are a natural.

A couple of years ago the Borough made the jump to IP phones. Their equipment was sized to eventually accommodate the school district. We took advantage of that when the district's central office moved to IP phones last summer. The new IP phone system replaced existing phone systems in the central office, both Connections portables, and in Purchasing/Warehouse.

Although you can still buy conventional phone systems, the whole telephone industry is quickly moving toward IP telephones. Efficiency is the reason. Our central office installation serves as a good example. At the beginning of the project, the central office campus had 55 phone lines. We added a Primary Rate Interface (PRI) line, which is 23 phone lines delivered on a T1 data circuit. PRI lines are very efficient being able to handle

inbound, outbound, and direct inward dialing (DID) lines. We went from 55 phones down to 31 lines (the 23 PRI lines plus 8 fax lines). Today's savings on central office phone lines is about \$1,000 per month. Eventually, those 8 fax lines will go away as well. This example shows how the IP telephones can save recurring month phone charges for one site, but the potential for savings is far greater. When running telephone services over our data network that already interconnects our school we are able to share telephone services as easily as we share other network services. Consider Nikiski. After attempts by ACS to repair the Mitel phone system at Nikiski High School had failed, Ted Notter placed about 20 IP phones borrowed from the borough at the school. ACS re-routes calls coming into Nikiski High to our PRI circuit in Soldotna. Likewise outgoing calls from Nikiski High go through the data network to Soldotna and go out to the public telephone system through the Soldotna PRI line. There are some tariff issues pending, but if we are allowed to continue we will be able to cancel 16 phone lines at Nikiski leaving only the fax line there. I believe the ability to share PRI lines between sites has the very realistic potential to cut our ACS phones lines to half of the present 334 lines.

I must mention that the recurring phone lines are E-Rate subsidized. We pay about 30 cents on the dollar on average for our recurring monthly phone bills. Unfortunately, not all the IP phone system costs are subsidized. To a degree, E-rate subsidizes us to be inefficient. They pay us to inefficiently use our lines, but won't pay for all the equipment for us to efficiently use fewer lines. Although there is tremendous potential for us to save money by consolidating phone lines, plus the advantage to talk inter-school without long distance charges, one shouldn't over-sell the cost benefit of IP phones. The E-Rate subsidy skews the return on investment.

The real issue is our phone systems are failing and will continue to fail. Understand we have an awful lot of junk phone systems out there. Now even some of our newest systems can't be repaired when failures occur. We could do nothing and wait for systems to crash before acting, but our ability to respond is seriously limited without advance planning. We can spend the same money on conventional phone systems, but we won't realize the full cost-saving benefits of IP telephony and we will still be tied to the phone company's \$95 per hour labor charges. Or we can move forward with a well thought out plan to replace our aging systems with technology of the day that can utilize our existing data network and save us money every month to boot.

Convergence is a term used to describe the merging of data, video, and voice into a single common network. The technology is here today. We are well versed in it. The borough has offered to share their IP telephony infrastructure with us. The school district is at the head of the line for the \$100,000 worth of IP telephony the Artic Winter Games will be leaving behind. E-rate will fund part of the purchases but you have to plan ahead to get the funding. IP telephony will bring the best return over the conventional systems that will soon be obsolete. The time is right to move forward with IP telephony.

This is a major undertaking. It will take three years to accomplish. We can manage our phone systems now or they will most certainly manage us in the future.

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

Curriculum & Assessment

Paula Christensen, Director, Elementary Education

Glenn Haupt, Director, Secondary Education

148 Binkley Street Soldotna, Alaska 99669-7553

Phone (907) 262-9805 Fax (907) 262-6354



The “No Child Left Behind” law requires that all materials used for supplemental programs in reading be research-based and effective. In our district, we use the same reading text for all of our students; that text is Scholastic’s Literacy Place (2000). When we adopted this text series, the NCLB act was not yet in effect. Since then, however, the federal government has developed a list of approved reading textbook series which are research-based and considered “highly effective” in the teaching of reading skills (phonics, fluency, comprehension, decoding). Our current text is not on this approved list.

Our reading curriculum is due for revision in the 2005-06 school year, with an adoption of elementary texts slated for spring 2006. Due to the new NCLB requirements, I propose that we move this curriculum revision and adoption to this school year with purchase of reading texts in the 2005 fiscal year. We made no curriculum purchase for the past school year. As we plan to meet the needs of our schools at levels 2 and 3 of AYP, we need to meet their needs immediately with NCLB approved reading materials. If we do not do a district adoption, we will end up with many schools using different reading texts as they strive to meet their individual AYP plans.

DIBELS assessment scores show the need to address reading at a more intense level. While more than half our students are showing proficiency at the primary grade levels, we expect that all children will be proficient by the end of grade three. As of spring 2004, we showed the following percentage of district students not showing proficiency in reading fluency:

-
- Kindergarten: 23% (Phoneme Segmentation Fluency)
 - First Grade: 41% (Oral Reading Fluency)
 - Second Grade: 43% (Oral Reading Fluency)
 - Third Grade: 44% (Oral Reading Fluency)

These numbers are somewhat higher than the previous two years, but are consistent within approximately 10%.

We need to address these gaps in reading fluency as an immediate need. We have begun to implement literacy training for all primary teachers using Title

II Professional Development funds, and now are at the point that our materials must match our research-based training.

To this end, I request that the elementary reading adoption and curriculum revision be moved from the 2005-06 school year to the 2004-05 year, so that by spring 2005, we will meet the NCLB requirements to provide research-based, effective supplemental materials in reading instruction to all district students and schools.

Paula Christensen, Director of Elementary Education

30 November 2004



KPBSD
Administrative Duties
2004-2005 Work Plan
(Due 8/15/04 to superintendent)

Project: **Research, select, and implement new finance/payroll/HR software**
This project is a joint project with the Kenai Peninsula Borough.

Person Responsible: **Project Coordinator: Melody Douglas**
 Technical Support: Jim White and Patty Campbell
 General Ledger and Budget: Laurie Olson
 HR: Tim Peterson and Lynne Sandahl

Payroll: Lana King
Accounts Payable: Jayne Porter
Purchasing: Vicky Hodgin

Timeline/Tasks: Tentative; actual timeline will be determined by project participants, consultant, and successful vendor. The actual implementation schedule will be determined once the software vendor has been selected. Personnel critical to this project have attended project orientation classes and talked with various software vendors.

FY05 – plan project, select consultant, identify system requirements, solicit RFP’s and select software

August/September – Project planning meetings with KPB

October/November – Hire consultant and begin identifying system requirements

December/January – Continue identifying system requirements and participate in vendor ‘webinars’.
– Draft and release RFP document

February – Evaluate RFP’s submitted by vendors and select software

March/June – Plan and Coordinate implementation of software

Note: this suggested schedule has not been reviewed by KBP staff.

FY06 – implement software

FY07 – address unresolved issues from software implementation

- **Prepare staff to support multi-year project**
- **Hire consultant to assist with software selection**
- **Interview departmental personnel and document current work processes**
- **Identify and prioritize software application requirements***
- **Create and publish RFP based on prioritized requirements**
- **Evaluate and rank vendor responses to RFP**
- **Check references**
 - **Rank top three vendors after software demonstrations**
 - **Select and negotiate a contract for implementation, software and maintenance**

*** Determine complete system needs**

HR/PR System Needs **

Classification and pay

Position control

Employment

Personnel Administration

Benefits Administration

Payroll

Organizational development

Health and Safety

Substitute

HR Statistical needs – NCLB, Negotiations, etc.

Financial System Needs **

General ledger
Budget management
Work authorization
Account cod structure
Revenue accounting
Purchasing
Expenditure accounting and accounts payable
Check reconciliation
Budget preparation
Fixed assets
Inventory

**** Not inclusive**

Time Investment: Significant

Questions/Concerns/Needs: The most pressing concern is how to release employees to work on this project while staying current with day-to-day operations. Current planning focuses on developing a support system to provide release time to staff so they may have quality time for this project. It is likely there will be a need to hire an employee to support HR and Finance during this project to help with routine clerical functions. Cross training has occurred in the Finance department sufficiently to support the partial release of top level personnel to work on this project. Identification of a person to assist HR so top level personnel may be released to work on this project is underway.

Staff dedicated to this project will also be involved in preparing for and conducting employee contract negotiations during FY06. Also, Arctic Winter Games is scheduled to be held the spring of 06 which may create a challenge to the implementation.

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

Sam Stewart, Assistant Superintendent
 148 North Binkley Street Soldotna, Alaska 99669-7553
 Phone (907) 714-8858 Fax (907) 262-5867
 Email: sstewart@kpbsd.k12.ak.us

To: Board of Education

From: Sam Stewart, Assistant Superintendent

Re: Weighted Grades

Date: November 16, 2004

Controversy surrounding class rank, valedictorian status, and grade point average has surfaced with the institution of weighted grades. One reason for the controversy is how grade point average can be affected, negatively, when students take more classes than required. This is illustrated by the enclosed attachment that Mrs. Gilman prepared, to a simple illustration is below.

Hypothetical student: Tom	Hypothetical student: Susie
A AP Class = 5 grade points	A AP Class = 5 grade points
A AP Class = 5 grade points	A AP Class = 5 grade points
A non-weighted = 4 grade points	
14 grade points	10 grade points
14:3 = 4.6 GPA	10:2 = 5.0 GPA

As you can see, the student who takes more classes is penalized in the calculation of grade point average. This in turn affects class ranking and, potentially, decisions made on valedictorian status. Both class rank and valedictorian status have scholarship and financial implications for students.

Class rank is used to determine who qualifies for the University of Alaska Scholars Program and is also considered in many other scholarship award decisions. Weighted grades will affect class rank. Clearly there is a problem in some cases. Students may be unfairly impacted due to taking additional classes that are not weighted.

Valedictorian status is a school issue, but potentially students who took an equal number of AP classes and took more regular education classes than another student will end up with the lower grade point average. Grade point average is usually the determining factor in the valedictorian selection process.

Grade point average is a college admissions issue. Weighted grades may be of some benefit to students when competing for college admission.

November 16, 2004

Page two

Much effort has been put into possible remedies for the issues raised by weighted grades. Each has a possible downside. Attached is one possible remedy for consideration.

In conclusion, I believe the board has three possible courses of action.

1. Rescind the administrative regulation instituting weighted grades.
2. Postpone implementation and refer to a committee for further study.
3. Adopt a procedure to remedy the issues created in determining class rank and grade point average with the understanding of possible ramifications of the remedy. (see attachment)

Whatever the course of action, a decision needs to be made prior to the end of the semester as students will be reporting class rank and grade point averages on scholarship and college applications.

- Attachments:
1. [Weighted Grades](#)
 2. [Weighted Grades Illustration](#)
 3. [Computation of High School GPA](#)

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes

November 15, 2004 – 7:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting

Borough Administration Building
148 N. Binkley, Soldotna, Alaska

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

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

STAFF PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Ken Halverson	Mrs. Kathy Gensel
Mrs. Jan Halverson	Mr. Dan Gensel
Mr. Paul Lorenzo	Mr. Joe Nicks
Miss Karina Lorenzo	Dr. Roy Anderson
Mrs. Paula Christensen	Mr. Glenn Haupt
Mrs. Sarah Hepner	Mr. Layton Ehmke
Mr. Dan Chay	Mr. Dennis Dunn
Mr. Dave Stein	Ms. Teri Stickler

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

(7:01:58 PM)

Mrs. Crawford called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

(7:02:01 PM)

Mrs. Crawford invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

(7:02:20 PM)

Mrs. Sammy Crawford	Present
Ms. Deborah Germano	Absent/Excused
Mrs. Margaret Gilman	Present/Arrived at 7:30 p.m.
Mrs. Debra Mullins	Present
Dr. Nels Anderson	Present
Ms. Sandra Wassilie	Present
Mrs. Debbie Brown	Present
Mr. Marty Anderson	Present
Mrs. Sunni Hilts	Present
Mr. DJ Tyson	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

(7:03:05 PM)

The agenda was approved as written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
(7:03:15 PM)

The School Board Minutes of November 1, 2004 were approved with corrections to Ms. Griswold's comments in Item 4., Public Presentations.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:
(7:04:06 PM)

The Board presented a Golden Apple Award to Mrs. Kathy Gensel, for her volunteer service to the District.

The Outstanding Service Award was presented to Mrs. Crawford by Mrs. Mullins on behalf of the National School Boards Association. The Excellence in Boardmanship Award was presented to Mrs. Mullins by Mrs. Crawford on behalf of the Association of Alaska School Boards.

SCHOOL REPORT:
(7:10:18 PM)

Mr. Ken Halverson, Tustumena Elementary principal, presented a computer-generated report created by students, Mr. Erik Skjold, Miss Cassie Sheridan, and Miss Kaitlyn VanMeter that highlighted the facility, staff, instruction program, academic competitions, band, the Quest Program, intramural activities, Love of Reading and Sea Week, book fairs, special programs, Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program, cross-country skiing, the Site Council and P.T.O. members, guest speakers, community service activities, student recognitions and student behavior rewards.

RECESS:
(7:27:04 PM)

At 7:27 p.m., Mrs. Crawford called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:
(7:29:14 PM)

At 7:29 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:
(7:29:15 PM)

Mr. Nelson Amen, Kenai parent, asked the Board to review the weighted grade point system used to calculate student grade point average and consider revisions that will not penalize students for taking Advanced Placement classes.

Ms. Teri Stickler, Nikiski parent, requested the Board review the Board Policy regarding due process for student discipline and to instruct school administrators on the process.

Mr. Paul Lorenzo, Nikiski parent, asked the Board for assistance in reinstating the band program at Nikiski Middle/High School.

Ms. Phoebe Love, stepparent, stated that she is confused by the District's rationale regarding student suspension as a punishment and asked for an explanation.

Miss Karina Lorenzo, Nikiski Middle/High School student, stated that she would like the school to offer band and asked the Board to reinstate the program.

Mrs. Crawford explained that although the Board cannot take action on items that are not on the agenda, the Board will probably direct the administration to investigate the topics of concern expressed by the public and report to the Board. She thanked those who spoke to the Board.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

(7:41:47 PM)

Dr. Peterson reported that she received a letter from the Governor containing educational funding comments and proposal that were made at the Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB) Annual Conference. She reported that she received a letter from Nikiski area parents regarding the band program issue. She noted that the administration is working on an equitable resolution and added that the Seward area has a similar issue. She reported that raw information from the latest Budget Review Committee meeting has been distributed. She noted that Mr. Haupt submitted a report to the Board in response to their request for information regarding competent parental instruction.

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

(7:43:34 PM)

Mrs. Cathy Carrow, KPEA President, noted that American Education Week provides a way to celebrate public education as a cornerstone in a strong democracy. She stated that the state needs to resolve issues within the teacher retirement and public employee retirement systems, to inflation-proof the funding formula, and to repair the deficiencies in education caused by inadequate funding during the past 20 years. She asked the Board to join with KPEA in lobbying legislators.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

(7:49:05 PM)

Dr. Peterson announced that November 14-20 is American Education Week. She reported on the recently held ACSA Annual Conference and noted that the focus of the group will be to cement relationships with other groups within the educational community. She reported on the Missing and Exploited Children Conference and quoted statistics relating to crimes against children over a one-year period. She reported on the Board goal to expand the use of Edline as a parent communication tool throughout the District and provided statistics regarding its use and compliance by the 38 schools that have Grades 4 through 7.

Financial Report:

(7:55:09 PM)

Mrs. Douglas presented the financial report of the District for the period ending October 31, 2004. She noted that a revision will be brought to the Board for approval at a future meeting.

Class Size Enrollment Report:

(7:55:36 PM)

Mr. Sam Stewart presented the Class Size Enrollment Report which included a comparison of pupil-teacher ratios throughout District schools.

Mrs. Crawford noted that the report listed the number of classes with over 30 students and observed that most of the classes were band, choir and physical education.

Mr. Stewart responded to a question from Mrs. Brown that the entire report is available on the District website.

Presentation of Enrollment Projections:

(7:57:04 PM)

Mrs. Melody Douglas presented the Six-Year Enrollment Projections (2005-06 through 2010-11) which reflects 9,591 students. She explained that the projections are used in developing the FY06 budget and that the administration used a straight line model to calculate the projections, using a two-year average for kindergarten students.

Presentation of Enrollment Projections:

(Continued)

Ms. Wassilie asked if the administration will review the projections throughout the year and bring updates to the Board. Mrs. Douglas stated that if it becomes appropriate to change the projection, she will inform the Board.

Mrs. Brown asked when corrections are made to the projected enrollment. Mrs. Douglas responded that the enrollment projections for past years are the actual enrollment numbers of students. Mrs. Douglas stated that a straight line model was used to project enrollment (minus 2%) after it was discovered that future projections were off by 2% over a 5-year period.

BOARD REPORTS:

(8:01:51 PM)

Mrs. Gilman reported that she attended the 51st AASB Annual Conference. She highlighted the Governor's address to the group announcing a plan for more money for education, attorney Saul Friedman's history on pledge of allegiance, and Marshall Lind's 50-year history on education and educational funding in the State of Alaska. She commented that many ideas in education return, and added that hopefully each time they return they are refined and improved. She thanked the public for the opportunity to attend the conference.

Mrs. Hilts stated that she attended the AASB Annual Conference. She noted that the District was well-represented by Mrs. Mullins as AASB president. She noted that an award was given to Mrs. Crawford. She stated that she enjoyed former Commissioner Marshall Lind's 50-year history of education in Alaska and noted that she remembers most of it. She stated that she was inspired by listening to other districts who are finding ways to educate children, communities, and the state. She stated that they heard from districts who supply a laptop computer and digital camera to each student and a district who does not use a grading system and students are promoted when competency is demonstrated. She expressed appreciation for the opportunity to attend the conference.

Mr. DJ Tyson reported that he attended the AASB Annual Conference and participated in the Youth Leadership Institute sponsored by Alaska Initiative for Community Engagement (ICE). He stated that the institute put a huge emphasis on growth as a student leader in the community and school. He reported that approximately 50 students statewide participated (most of them were student representatives or held some type of leadership role). He reported that the students participated in various activities that put an emphasis on leadership skills, communication within the community and with other students. He reported that the group attended sessions with adult Board members. He noted that it was extremely helpful to meet other students who were Board representatives. He thanked the Board for encouraging him to attend.

BOARD REPORTS:

(Continued)

Mr. Anderson reported that he attended the AASB Annual Conference. He reported that he attended a session on School Construction and Maintenance, which was designed to help Board members understand cost control during the design and bid process and to consider replacement costs. He reported that he attended the Bullying session which is described as “peer abuse”. He reported on the definition and identification of peer abuse as well as the mitigation processes that school districts are considering. He reported on the Future Teachers Organization teacher mentoring program in which future teachers are supported emotionally and financially throughout their college education so that they will return to rural Alaska to teach. He reported that the School Law session debated the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer in school and religious leaders who may attend graduation ceremonies. He thanked Mrs. Mullins and Ms. Germano for their service on the AASB Board of Directors and recognized the time commitment that is involved. He stated that he had the opportunity to personally meet Governor Murkowski.

Ms. Wassilie reported that the Policy Review Committee completed a review of Section 4000, Personnel, which will come to the Board for consideration at the next meeting. She reported that she attended the AASB Annual Conference and expressed appreciation to Mrs. Mullins, AASB President, for an organized and efficiently run meeting and noted that her representation reflects well on the District. She stated that her highlights were similar to those of other Board members. She expressed appreciation for the Governor’s funding proposal and although no money will go into the classroom, it will at least keep the District at status quo. She expressed appreciation for the presentation by the Commissioner of Education, Roger Sampson, regarding the four goals set by the State Board of Education (principal mentoring, teacher mentoring, oral language proficiency, and teacher licensing tier system). She stated that she is particularly impressed with mentoring programs, especially when the state is facing a teacher shortage. She reported that she attended a round table session where Board members met with students who

were participating in the Leadership Institute. She stated that she attended the bullying session and noted that everyone at the school must address the issue. She thanked the District for the opportunity to attend.

Dr. Anderson reported that he attended the AASB Conference, and was impressed by the Internet Online demonstration and added that this technology will help when offering classes at various sites in the District. He stated that the main reason he attended the Conference was to promote the District's resolution regarding mandated accountability for all students in the state (not just public school students). He stated that he was gratified that both the Resolutions Committee and the general membership were in complete agreement that it was a high priority and will promote it at the legislative level. He stated that he intends to put forth his own time and resources to lobby the legislature in order to protect those students who are being inadequately home-schooled.

BOARD REPORTS:

(Continued)

Mrs. Mullins reported that she attended the AASB Annual Conference and told those present that although the oral reports may be monotonous, the Board must be accountable to the public for the time and money spent. She reported that former Commissioner of Education, Marshall Lind and two other former commissioners were present at the Conference. She stated that it was a privilege to introduce the Governor and added that she was pleased when he agreed to take questions from the audience. She stated that Commissioner Sampson gave an in-depth explanation of the proposed Principal Mentorship Program and the three-tiered teacher licensure proposal. She reported that the commissioner introduced the Alaska Teacher of the Year and added that she was on the selection committee who interviewed 5 other outstanding teachers from throughout the state. She reported that the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education was very vocal on the Resolutions Committee floor and received support from the membership. She reported that she spent the first 2 days of the Conference training 80 to 100 new board members. She stated that she participated in the District Policy Review Committee's review of Section 4000.

Mrs. Crawford reported that 8 of 9 Board members as well as the student representative, Mr. Tyson, were able to attend the AASB Annual Conference. She reported that the Governor and Commissioner of Education, Roger Sampson, spoke to the assembly and that the conference offered several outstanding sectionals. She noted that Mrs. Mullins presided over the meeting and added that Mrs. Hilts proposed a resolution to make students a number one priority in the state which passed unanimously.

Mrs. Brown reported that she attended the October 26 Budget Review Committee meeting and added that although the attendance was good, it was lacking in regular citizenry representation (not District staff or Board members). She stated that the work of the group was thorough and she was encouraged by the new ideas to help solve the District's budgetary problems. She stated that she has not had a chance to read the meeting summary and asked Mrs. Douglas if all Committee members will be provided a copy. Mrs. Douglas responded that the Committee meeting summary has already been distributed.

CONSENT AGENDA:

(8:26:21 PM)

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of New Teacher Assignments and Substitute Teacher Contracts.

New Teacher Assignments:

Mr. Fisher recommended the Board approve teacher assignments for Theresa M. Bush, special education occupational therapist (.50FTE) districtwide for Seward Area; Lucas Peless, secondary generalist at Tebughna Elementary/High; and Kristen R. Peless, elementary generalist at Tebughna Elementary/High.

Substitute Teacher Contracts:

Mr. Fisher recommended the Board approve substitute teacher contracts for Michelle Burnett, kindergarten, Sears Elementary and Cindy Robertson, Grades 5/6, West Homer Elementary.

MOTION

Ms. Wassilie moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 and 2. Mr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

REVISIONS TO BP 1321:

(8:26:53 PM)

Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve revisions to BP 1321, Solicitation of Funds from and by Students, in order to be in compliance with state regulations. She noted that the changes specifically deal with what happens to funds in a gaming account if any of the District schools were to be dissolved.

MOTION

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve revisions to BP 1321, Solicitation of Funds from and by Students. Mrs. Gilman seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

BOARD COMMENTS:

(8:28:43 PM)

Mrs. Mullins presented Mrs. Gilman with The Excellence in Boardmanship Award on behalf of the Association of Alaska School Boards. Mrs. Mullins thanked the Tustumena Elementary parents and students for the school report. She requested the parent who spoke to the Board regarding due process to speak with Dr. Peterson. She congratulated Mrs. Crawford for being elected to the AASB Board of Directors.

Mr. Anderson thanked the Tustumena Elementary staff, students and administrator for the school report. He reminded those present to continue advocating for adequate education funding and a stable funding

source to legislators. He noted that oil prices are good at the present but could easily drop in the future putting the District back into a financial crisis. He thanked the Board members who attended the AASB Annual Conference and noted that he learned more about being a Board member and more about his fellow Board members. He stated that he supports Dr. Anderson's views on educational accountability of all Alaska students and added that education is a civil liberty and that he will work to ensure that every student in the District has the opportunity for an education so that no child is left behind.

BOARD COMMENTS:

(Continued)

Mrs. Gilman reported that she received a number of phone calls regarding weighted grades. She gave a brief history of the weighted grades issue and subsequent policy adoption and noted that the Board's intention was to encourage academic excellence and to reward students who choose to take Advanced Placement classes. She reported that the weighted system has instead penalized students who take additional courses. She announced that the Board will conduct a worksession regarding weighted grades at the next Board meeting. She thanked Mr. Stewart for the Class Size Report and noted that not all of the 198 classes that have more than 30 students are band, choir and physical education classes. She stated that the large numbers include English classes, social studies classes, history classes, science classes, etc. She stated that she assumes that the Nikiski band problem will be resolved. She expressed appreciation for the comments regarding suspension. She stated that she supports the use of suspension as a punishment because attending school is a privilege and if a student's behavior endangers others, they should be suspended.

Mr. Tyson congratulated Mrs. Crawford, Mrs. Mullins and Mrs. Gilman for receiving Board-related awards. He thanked Mr. Halverson for the school presentation and added that it is wonderful to see how involved the Tustumena community is with the school. He stated that weighted grades is an important topic among students and will bring comments to the upcoming worksession.

Dr. Anderson encouraged the parent who spoke regarding due process to speak to the administration. He stated that he has mixed feelings about the suspension issue and noted that there are alternatives available. He explained that one option is that the parent can accompany the child to school and attend classes along with them. He stated that he was alarmed by the TRS and PERS information sent by the Governor's Office describing the situation. He stated that the participation rate could go up to 50% (TRS) and 35% to 40% (PERS) indefinitely which would mean the District would have to pay \$15 million from the District budget for retirees. He reported that the state has offered generous benefits for employees but it can not be continued and added that it is not a problem that will go away.

Mrs. Brown suggested that before January 10 (when the legislative session begins) the public write to legislators regarding No Child Left Behind otherwise they become inundated with other issues. She stated that she loves the Kenai Peninsula and added that there are lots of excellent and wonderful things to look forward to. She reported that the Governor has outlined a plan for funding education which will be decided by the legislature. She stated that she is looking forward to good things happening in the District. She stated that she was encouraged when Senator Stevens stated (prior to the election) that, should the Republicans win the election, oil exploration could be possible on the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge. She noted that if ANWR is opened for drilling, the School District may experience an influx of new residents into Peninsula communities and the District will need to be ready.

BOARD COMMENTS:

(Continued)

Mrs. Hilts reported that during the AASB Conference the membership considered a resolution regarding social security pension offset and added that a change is needed when districts recruit new teachers. She stated that she is glad to see communities deal with the issue of providing music instruction to their children. She stated that she agrees with the use of suspension as a discipline and recognized that it does not have the same effect on every student. She stated that she especially appreciated the Class Size Report and was struck by the fact that the District is so diverse that it is like multiple school districts in one. She stated that she is excited that people are trying to cope with the lack of funding, more regulations, higher expectations and higher standards. She recounted a meeting with Dr. Peterson and the parents of Susan B. English Elementary/High and noted that the meeting went well and people left feeling good even though nothing was promised. She reported that teachers at Moose Pass Elementary and Hope Elementary/High are coping with incredible problems and yet are doing a great job. She reported that AASB passed a resolution to make children a top priority and encouraged those present to ask legislators to do the same. She stated that if decisions are based on what is good for kids they will be good decisions for everyone. She stated that it is difficult to keep the legislature focused on children and encouraged those present to contact legislators, and ask them to make children a priority. She announced that November 13-20 is Youth Appreciation Week and suggested to those present that they make the effort to recognize a child for something that they did well.

Ms. Wassilie stated that she is heartened by the Governor's proposal to forward fund education and is also encouraged by the resolutions that were passed at the AASB Annual Conference. She stated she is pleased that the Association made a commitment to make children their first priority. She stated that she is pleased with the resolution that holds the public accountable for the education of all children. She stated that she is heartened that the public is going to start

properly taking care of its children. She stated that education is a right and a privilege and that parents do not have a right to keep their children from an education but should have the right to decide how they will be educated. She cautioned that the Class Size Report, although it is a valuable report, is only a snapshot of September 23. She announced that the Kenai Peninsula Borough Comprehensive Plan is currently being developed and that the Public Facilities section addresses education and urged the Board and those present to read and make comment. She thanked the parents who spoke to the Board about various issues and encouraged them to speak to the administration.

BOARD COMMENTS:

(Continued)

Mrs. Crawford thanked Mr. Halverson for the Tustumena Elementary School report. She thanked the parents for speaking to the Board about problems with the weighted grades point system for students who take Advanced Placement classes. She encouraged those present to consider nominating a student for the Spirit of Youth award. She reported that the Board recently revised Board Policy (BP 5126 Awards for Achievement) to include a student recognition element of the Recognition Committee and noted that Mr. Tyson will serve on the Committee. She reported that Mrs. Mullins will serve as a liaison to the Advocates for Alaska's Youth Network, a program sponsored by AASB to form a statewide youth network. She read a quote from the recent AASB board training, "Your opinions as an individual Board member matter but only to a certain point. The most effective boards accept differing viewpoints and then move forward cohesively as a single unit. The divided board cannot lead. We must uphold the body's decision. When we make a decision we've got to stay with that." She asked for an excused absence for the December 6 Board meeting and urged those who need to contact her to call her cell phone.

Mrs. Debbie Brown thanked Mr. and Mrs. Halverson and staff for the Tustumena Elementary School report. She stated that after careful research prior to moving to Alaska she decided to bring her family to the Kasilof area where her daughters attended Tustumena Elementary School. She credited her daughters' success to the outstanding school staff. She noted that the school is the hub of the community. Mrs. Brown explained that she became ill and was unable to attend the November 1 Seward Board meeting. Mrs. Crawford requested that Mrs. Brown call the administration office to be excused from future meetings. Mrs. Brown complimented Mrs. Crawford for doing a fine job presiding over the meeting.

ADJOURN:

(9:01:35 PM)

At 9:01 p.m., Dr. Anderson moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Sammy Crawford, President

Mrs. Debra Mullins, Clerk

The Minutes of November 15, 2004,
have not been approved as of
November 19, 2004.

December 6, 2004

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Tim Peterson, Director, Human Resources
THROUGH: Guy Fisher, Assistant Superintendent
SUBJECT: Approval of Substitute Teacher Contracts– Item 10 a (1)

The Administration recommends the following substitute teacher contracts be approved:

Reubin Payne	Grade 8	Kenai Middle School
Suzie Pyle	Social Studies/P.E.	Seward High School

December 6, 2004

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Tim Peterson, Director, Human Resources

THROUGH: Guy Fisher, Assistant Superintendent

SUBJECT: Approval of New Teacher Assignment/2004-05 Item – 10 a (2)

It is recommended that the following new teacher assignment be approved. The following assignment is tentative:

<u>RESIDENCE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>DEGREE</u>	<u>INSTITUTION</u>	<u>MAJOR</u>	<u>ATC</u>	<u>EXP</u>	<u>ASSIGN</u>
Ninilchik, AK.	Susan J. Welsh-Smith	MEd.	University of Alaska, Anchorage	Special Education	K-12 Art Elem/SpecialEd- Mildly Handicapped Elem/Special Ed- Learning Disabled	7 AK	Temporary .40FTE Art Teacher at Ninilchik School

Seward Middle / High School

A Northwest Accreditation Association Member School

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

PO Box 1049
Seward, Alaska 99664
907-224-3351
907-224-3306 (fax)

To: KPBSD Board of Education

From: Steve Pautz., KPSAA President & Administrator Representative

Date: Nov. 17, 2004

Subj: Outsourced Activities Recommendation

At the November 16, 2004 quarterly meeting, the Kenai Peninsula School Activities Association Board voted unanimously to recommend approval of activity outsource applications for Homer Baseball, Homer Softball, and Seward Softball. In addition, the KPSAA board recommends conditional approval for Seward Baseball as follows:

- the coaching staff must be in place and ready to begin supervised practice at the official start of the season on March 13, 2005 committed to fulfilling all supervision obligations for the season
- all scheduled games and post season tournament obligations be fulfilled with no cancellations due to player or coaching availability, transportation, budget, etc.
- the program maintain a roster of 15 eligible players as was recommended by the Seward Site Council during its October 14, 2004 meeting

The Kenai Peninsula School Activities Association recommends that if the above conditions are not met at the onset of the baseball season and maintained throughout the season's duration that this activity not be approved by the KPBSD Board of Education.

Thank you.

Planning & Operations
Dave Spence, Director
139 E. Park Avenue Soldotna, Alaska 99669
Phone (907) 262-9363 Fax (907) 262-7165

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

November 23, 2004

To: Board of Education

Through: Guy Fisher, Asst. Supt.
Operations and Business Mgt.

From: Dave Spence, Director
Planning and Operations

Subject: [6 Year Plan](#)

Attached please find the school district's 6 Year Plan for major maintenance and capital improvement projects for fiscal year 2007. Your approval of this plan is respectfully requested.

Thank you



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 2005 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

**** Recognize that children are the first priority in the State of Alaska.***

By recognizing and declaring children as the top priority in Alaska, and encouraging support for programs guaranteeing their safety, health, and education, the stability of Alaska's future will be protected.

**** Assure that health and safety needs are met by providing accountability for all school-age children in the state.***

Having a choice of an educational delivery system is important to Alaskans. However, all children have a right to an education. A registration and educational accountability system for all school-age children will help protect their right to an education as well as help protect the health and safety needs of those least likely to care for themselves.

**** Fund education on forward basis so that budgets are known prior to statutory requirements for notifying teachers of non-retention.***

School district issuance of teaching contracts is governed by state statute. Without knowledge of state funding, districts are required to balance their resources. In times of reduction, as a labor intensive workplace, this balancing occurs in school districts by having fewer people doing the job. A process of non-retaining teachers occurs in mid-March with reinstatement occurring once the budget amount is known, usually in mid-May. Funding for education should be established early so that adequate planning can occur.

**** Fully fund the contribution changes required to the Teachers Retirement System (TRS) and the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) in addition to the State educational funding formula.***

An important factor in student academic achievement is highly qualified and committed employees. The state mandated employer contribution increase to TRS and PERS is in excess of \$2 million for KPBSD, equating to an increase of \$114 per student. Fully funding this increase in addition to the current educational funding formula ensures that the District is not forced to reallocate instructional funds to pay for this obligation.

**** Recognize, through adjustments to the area cost differential within the educational funding formula, the high cost of doing business in the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District.***

With fifteen schools of under 100 students, 44 separate school programs, and five sites with severely limited access, a cost differential of 1.004 is not sufficient to provide equitable education for communities throughout the peninsula. KPBSD continues to be efficient with low administrative costs, meeting 70/30% instructional/other cost requirements, and receiving the maximum funding available through the local contribution. Since 1984, studies have shown that KPBSD has received less consideration than other districts for the high cost of doing business. It is estimated that a single year's adjustment of over \$2 million to the cost differential for KPBSD (equates to an increase of \$114 per student) would result in a more equitable distribution of state resources for KPBSD students.

*** Increase the foundation formula to reduce large class sizes.**

With high academic achievement standards, federal mandates, and increased accountability, increasing class sizes are of concern to parents and educators. Due to budget constraints, KPBSD has been forced to increase the numbers of students in classrooms. Current pupil teacher ratios are 24:1 in grades K-3; 29:1 in grades 4-6, 24.5:1 in 7-12, and 19:1 in our K-12 small schools. In order to lower class sizes to the appropriate and research based averages of 18:1 in K-3, and 24:1 in 4-12, approximately sixty additional teachers would be needed in KPBSD. This would mean an increase of \$3.9 million, or the need for \$175 additional in the funding formula.

*** Inflation-proof the educational funding formula.**

Costs continue to rise in education as in any business. In Alaska, the Permanent Fund is adjusted for these increases but the educational funding formula is not. Therefore, regular expected increases to the cost of doing business each year require Districts to reduce budgets to account for inflationary costs. A regular mechanism for addressing increasing costs needs to be developed. An example of an annual estimated cost of living adjustment of 1.5% would be \$1.2 million, adding an additional \$69 per student to the funding formula.

Fiscal Note for KPBSD Legislative Priorities

Current per pupil state foundation formula amount	\$4,576
Retirement obligation (TRS/PERS)	114
Recognize area cost differential issues in KPBSD	114
Address higher costs of doing business each year	69
Reduce large class sizes	<u>175</u>
Total 2005-2006 Request (per pupil state funding)	<u>\$5,048</u>
(\$472 additional)	

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 2005 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

**** Fully fund Federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) mandates.***

In order to assure a quality educational experience for all Alaskan children, the Federal government is responsible for providing a sustainable, reliable, and adequate funding for meeting the new accountability requirements and expectations for NCLB. These mandates include the need for additional personnel to monitor and complete documentation for NCLB requirements, provide annual assessments at all grade levels, and provide comprehensive training for effective implementation of NCLB requirements.

**** Fully fund the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).***

IDEA has been scheduled for reauthorization for the past year. Congress originally promised to fund up to 40% of the excess costs of educating students with disabilities under IDEA. Currently congress has authorized expenditures to cover nationally about 20% of the excess costs. The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District believes that Congress should fund the full amount they originally promised. To do otherwise requires local districts to reduce funding for general instructional needs to meet the needs of special student populations and results in another under-funded mandate passed down to state and local governments.

**** Develop East End Road from Homer to top of hill above Kachemak Selo.***

Four Russian Old-Believer Villages are connected to Homer, Alaska via East End Road (McNeil Canyon - 11 miles, Razdolna -23 miles; Voznesenka - 25 miles, and Kachemak Selo - 28 miles). The current road is in major need of repair and current conditions preclude school bus transportation to all but McNeil Canyon. KPBSD requests federal transportation funding to improve conditions on East End Road so that school bus travel is an option. Repairs to the road are also critical to the safety and well being of the District staff members and community members who travel this road on a daily basis.