

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

148 N. Binkley Street
Soldotna, AK 99669

January 8, 2001

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

Ms. Deborah Germano, President
Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Vice President
Mrs. Debra Mullins, Clerk
Mr. Joe Arness, Treasurer
Dr. Nels Anderson, Member
Mr. Al Poindexter, Member
(Vacant), Member
Miss Sara Hart, Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT:

Dr. Donna Peterson, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Patrick Hickey, Assistant Superintendent, Operations and Business Management
Dr. Ed McLain, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction
Mr. Todd Syverson, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mrs. Sandy Wassilie	Mrs. Betsy Arbelovsky
Mr. David Henson	Mr. Mark Leal
Mr. Ted Notter	Ms. Melody Douglas
Mrs. Trish Notter	Mr. Gene Dyson
Mr. Jim White	Mr. Don Oberg
Mrs. Patty Campbell	Mr. Tim Peterson
Mr. Mike Wetherbee	Mr. Michael Dunn
Mrs. Lisa Parker	Mr. Justin George
Mr. Jim Wolverton	Ms. Barb Vogel
Dr. Gary Whiteley	Mr. Chris Fisher
Mr. Rick Matiya	Mr. Pete Sprague
Mrs. Margaret Gilman	Mr. Roger Liebner
Mr. Chris Moss	Mrs. Shana Loshbaugh
Mr. Chris Hanson	Mrs. Patty Rich

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

Ms. Germano called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

ROLL CALL:

Ms. Deborah Germano	Present
Mrs. Sammy Crawford	Absent/Excused
Mrs. Debra Mullins	Present
Mr. Joe Arness	Present
Dr. Nels Anderson	Absent/Excused
Mr. Al Poindexter	Present
Miss Sara Hart	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The agenda was approved as written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The School Board Minutes of December 4, 2000, were approved with a correction to Ms. Mullins who called the meeting to order and invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

SCHOOL REPORTS:

Mr. Mike Wetherbee, Ninilchik Elementary/High School principal, highlighted activities at the K-12 school. He reported on the school's common reading hour and recent Division 2A first place finishes in wrestling and girls' basketball. He gave a Hyperstudio presentation created by two students that featured the book, *What Did I Find?* Mr. Wetherbee explained that the Hyperstudio project will be used to assist students in reading. Mr. Chris Hanson, teacher, explained a project involving the rearticulation of animal skeletons and displayed a porcupine skeleton that was assembled by Ninilchik students. He noted that he has a sea otter and a beluga whale for the students to work on in the future. Mr. Wetherbee invited the Board to visit the school anytime.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

Dr. Peterson noted that a revised budget calendar was included in the Board information packet. She noted that a joint worksession with the Borough Assembly has been scheduled for February 21. She stated that she received a petition from the Sitka school board members disseminated through the Alaska Association of School Administrators requesting the Board's interest and agreement in increased funding for education. She reported that she received a request for action from the Alaska School Activities Association regarding state funding for school district activities and a request from the Association of Alaska School Boards to select a legislative liaison. She noted that the information packet also contained her appeal response to the Homer Baseball Club and various other correspondences.

Ms. Germano stated that she received a letter from the Alaska School Activities Association requesting support for funding school activities. She noted that she received several letters regarding various school Board applicants.

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

Richard Blakesley, Soldotna High School PTSA president, spoke in support of Debra Holle and Roger Liebner. He stated that Ms. Holle is interested in what is best for kids. He stated that Roger Liebner is a very cooperative and competent person. He added that both applicants' qualifications are impeccable and either one would be a good choice.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:

The Board presented golden apple awards to Ted Notter, Programmer, and to David Henson, Programmer Analyst, for playing a major role in the advances the District has made in the area of technology and computer networking.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Peterson reported that the Technology Group will present the technology plan to the Borough Assembly on January 23 at 3:00 p.m. She stated that the Long Range Planning Session will be held on January 25-26 and that she expects over 60 people to attend. Dr. Peterson announced that Microsoft Tech World featured the District in a recent publication. She stated that she received a check from BP External Affairs for technology. Dr. Peterson stated that even though Project Impact has been scaled back, they will continue to retrofit District facilities with seismic bracing for light fixtures. She reported that the District is grieving the loss of Bob Pennington, borough electrician, who was recently killed in an accident.

BOARD REPORTS:

Mr. Arness reported that he attended the AASB Labor Relations Conference. He stated that it was an interesting two days.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Substitute Teacher Contracts; New Teacher Assignments; Budget Transfer; Homer Charter School Name Change; Bartlett Elementary/High School Name Change; AR 5111, Early Entrance; AR 5123, Promotion/Acceleration/Retention; Resolution 00-01-9, Public Employee Retirement System; and Charter School Budget Adjustment.

- Substitute Teacher Contracts: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve substitute teacher contracts for Mary Bailey, speech therapist, Sears Elementary; Ann Fantz, math/social studies, Moose Pass School; Tanya Erwin, physical education, Soldotna Elementary; and Sharon Ganser, Grade 1/2, Seward Elementary.
- New Teacher Assignments: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve teaching contracts for Teresa Cowart, Grade 6 (temporary), K-Beach Elementary; Jennifer Jones, Title I reading (temporary), Tustumena Elementary; Karen Ruebsamen, middle school coordinator (temporary), Soldotna Middle; and Jill Wilson, generalist (temporary), Homer Flex School.
- Budget Transfer: Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve budget transfer Number 140, which transfers \$16,872 to purchase a dual unit tape drive backup system for centralized services.
- Homer Charter School Name Change: Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve the Homer Charter School Academic Policy Committee's request to change the name of Homer Charter School to Fireweed Academy. He noted that, if approved, the administration will forward the request on behalf of the Board to the Borough Assembly.
- Bartlett Elementary/High School Name Change: Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve the Tyonek community's request to change the name of E. L. Bartlett School to Tebughna School. He noted that, if approved, the administration will forward the request on behalf of the Board to the Borough Assembly.
- AR 5111, Early Entrance: Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve revisions to AR 5111, Early Entrance, in an effort to address possible ambiguity in the process.
- AR 5123, Promotion/ Acceleration/ Retention: Dr. McLain recommended the Board approve revisions to AR 5123, Promotion/ Acceleration/Retention, that would allow a student to attain sophomore class standing by passing four credits rather than five; allow more students the opportunity to take the HSGQE in their second year of high school; and allow more students to keep up with their cohort age group.
- Resolution 00-01-9, Public Employee Retirement System: Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve Resolution Number 00-01-09 to amend KPBSD's PERS Participation Agreement to continue PERS participation for Board Members. He explained that in the past, compensated elected officials were statutorily included in PERS but that effective August 20, 2000, employers who wish to include elected officials in the PERS must amend their Participation Agreement to state that elected officials are an included classification.
- Charter School Budget Adjustment: Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve general fund transfers to Aurora Borealis Charter School, which was underfunded by \$72,457 and to Homer Charter School, which was underfunded by \$953. He explained that the adjustments were made based upon their actual enrollments as determined at the conclusion of the count period.
- ACTION Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve Consent Agenda items Numbers 1 through 9. Mr. Arness seconded.
- Motion carried unanimously.

FY 01 General Fund Budget Revision:

Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve revisions to the FY01 budget to accommodate a revenue shortfall of \$462,964. He noted that reductions were made in the categories of salary/fringe benefits, professional/technical services, equipment/technology, travel, and utilities. He noted that an increase was budgeted in supplies and other expenses categories.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the outlined budget revisions. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

BP 5111, Admission:

Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve revisions to BP 5111, Early Entrance, in an effort to address possible ambiguity in the process.

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve revisions to BP 5111, Early Entrance. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

School Board Vacancy Replacement:

Ms. Germano explained that during a public worksession, the Board interviewed Betsy A. Arbelovsky, Norm Brennan, Michael D. Dunn, Eugene L. Dyson, Chris Fischer, Barrett Fletcher, Margaret Gilman, Debra Holle, D. Roger Liebner, Holly Norwood, Sandra P. Wassilie, and James N. Wolverton, Jr.

Megan O'Neil, Mt. View Elementary parent, stated that she is concerned about public education and therefore supports Margaret Gilman. She stated that Mrs. Gilman is a strong advocate for children, is well versed in what is needed in the schools and is open-minded. She stated that she felt Ms. Gilman would be an excellent candidate for the Board.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the appointment of Sandra Wassilie to the vacant position on the Board of Education. Mr. Poindexter seconded.

Mr. Arness stated that he felt all of the applicants would do a fine job. He stated that after reading the résumés and listening to the responses to the interview questions, all of the applicants could do the job that is required of a Board member. He noted that only one applicant could do the job from the east side of the Peninsula. He stated that the Board is fortunate that someone with Sandra Wassilie's credentials applied for the vacancy.

Mr. Poindexter noted that all 12 candidates had unique talents to offer the Board. He stated that Seward has felt disenfranchised from the School District because of the lack of representation. He recognized that he is more familiar with the schools in his area because he visits them quite often. He stated that it is difficult for him to visit the Seward schools as well as Soldotna, Kenai or Nikiski.

Mrs. Mullins agreed that each candidate offered unique qualities. She stated that she does not believe in choosing people from specific areas, but rather in choosing the best-qualified candidate. Ms. Germano noted that with all applicants having equal qualifications, she would support an applicant from a specific area and therefore would support Mr. Arness' nomination.

Ms. Germano expressed appreciation for the candidates' efforts, time and willingness to serve. She encouraged the candidates to seek election to a seat on the Board in the future.

School Board Vacancy Replacement
(continued):

Mr. Arness clarified that his criteria was not that the applicant be from Seward. He stated that residency was the one issue that differentiated Ms. Wassilie from the other candidates. He stated that the Board was fortunate to have a legitimate candidate who lives in Seward.

Mr. Poindexter concurred with Mr. Arness' statement that the choice was not based on the geographic location of the applicants. He stated that his choice was based on the fact that all applicants were equally qualified and that geographical residency was the last criteria.

Ms. Germano reported that the poll taken of the applicants at the conclusion of the interview session did not help the Board come to a decision.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Germano noted that the new Board member will be seated at the January 22 meeting.

RECESS:

At 8:16 p.m., Ms. Germano called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:

At 8:28 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

Administrator Appointment:

Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve the appointment of Dr. Gary Whiteley as assistant superintendent of Instruction for the 2001-2002 school year. She noted that only local candidates were interviewed for the position.

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve the appointment of Dr. Gary Whiteley as assistant superintendent of Instruction for the 2001-2002 school year. Mr. Poindexter seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

FIRST READING OF POLICY
REVISIONS:

The Board heard a first reading of BP 6146, Graduation Requirements and Standards of Proficiency; BP 4119.23, 4219.23, 4319.23, Unauthorized Release of Confidential Information; and BP 5137, Positive School Climate.

Mr. Arness asked Dr. McLain whether flight path levels will be included as an administrative regulation to BP 6146, Graduation Requirements and Standards of Proficiency. Dr. McLain stated that they will be included in the Policy Manual as an exhibit.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mrs. Sandy Wassilie thanked the Board for selecting her as a replacement for the Board vacancy. She stated that it is an honor to be selected, especially since there were so many highly qualified people to choose from.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mr. Poindexter stated that he was glad that the Board does not have to go through the Board replacement selection process each meeting and is also glad that he does not have to do the hiring for the District because the decisions are extremely difficult. He reported that he attended the Alaska Human Resource Workforce Investment Committee (AHRIC) meeting to work on a vocational education blueprint for the state. He stated that the blueprint speaks strongly for postsecondary education and he is afraid that secondary education is going to be forgotten depending on what the legislature does. He asked the Board to schedule a discussion in the future about vocational education. He stated that he would like to know the Board's views before he continues to push for higher standards and quality for vocational education in the District.

Miss Hart wished District students good luck with finals this week.

Mrs. Mullins thanked the Board candidates and added that it was a difficult decision to make. She expressed gratitude for their participation in the process. She reported that she and Dr. Peterson met with candidates on January 3 and spoke to them about other aspects of board service. Mrs. Mullins requested an excused absence for the next meeting (January 22).

Ms. Germano asked the Board's concurrence to bring the appeal from the Homer Baseball Club to the Board for consideration.

After discussion regarding the appeal, Mr. Arness requested that Ms. Germano meet with Dr. Peterson to determine an appropriate appeal process and schedule the appeal for consideration.

ADJOURN: At 8:42 p.m., Mr. Arness moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Deborah Germano, President

Mrs. Debra Mullins, Clerk

The Minutes of January 8, 2000,
were approved on January 22, 2001
as written.