

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

148 N. Binkley Street

Soldotna, AK 99669

August 20, 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
Mrs. Sandra Wassilie, Member
Mr. Al Poindexter, Member

STAFF PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Chris Moss	Mr. Roy Anderson
Mr. Jim Heim	Mr. Jim White
Ms. Margaret Gilman	Mrs. Shana Loshbaugh
Mrs. Paula Christensen	Mrs. Karen Mahurin
Mrs. Melody Douglas	Mr. Sam Stewart

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

Ms. Germano called the meeting to order at 7:35 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	Present
Mrs. Debra Mullins	Absent/Excused
Mr. Joe Arness	Present
Dr. Nels Anderson	Present
Mrs. Sandra Wassilie	Present
Mr. Al Poindexter	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The agenda was approved as written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The School Board Minutes of August 6, 2001, were approved as printed.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

Dr. Peterson reported that she received a letter from Mrs. Peggy Robinson, Anchorage School Board, requesting the District participate in a Large District Forum and a letter from Senator Dave Donley requesting input on finances.

Mrs. Germano stated that the Board attends the AASB conference in November and does not have a large travel budget and that a Large District Forum meeting in November would be better. She suggested that the group participate via teleconference.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS
(continued):

Mr. Arness stated that he is willing to attend the Large District Forum at his own expense. Ms. Germano replied that it is not fair to other Districts to rearrange their calendars at the request of the Fairbanks District when AASB hosts a Large District Forum during their Association meetings. She commented that the Fairbanks District has chosen not to be a member of AASB and saves the cost of membership fees and therefore, is not in favor of participating in the Large District Forum on principle.

Mr. Arness stated that he felt that it would be a good idea to participate and a great opportunity to present the District's ideas regarding a fiscal plan.

Dr. Anderson stated that he feels it is reasonable to discuss what the group has in mind and other options rather than meeting on a specified date. He stated that if the Mat-Su District does not attend, it will limit the usefulness of the meeting.

Mrs. Crawford stated that an audio conference is reasonable for a Large District Forum meeting in September, but that the group should meet face-to-face in November. She stated that there is a need to communicate and work together.

Mrs. Wassilie agreed with Mrs. Crawford's approach. She stated that she would hate to see splintering occur among the districts statewide. She stated that it is important for people in education to stay united on common issues such as adequacy of funding for all students.

Mr. Arness suggested that the Board respond in a manner that leaves the door open to participate if the Large District Forum organizers can identify who should participate and what will be on the agenda.

Ms. Germano encouraged Mr. Arness to attend the Large District Forum and stated that she has attended the meetings in the past and did not feel that she spent a productive day. She stated that she might feel differently if she could see an agenda of the meeting. Mr. Arness suggested that the Board respond to the group by expressing an interest in attending and asking for more information regarding the agenda topics.

Ms. Germano stated that she has received email messages regarding bears and guns as they relate to student travel and activities. Dr. Peterson responded that District policy states that guns are not allowed on school property or during school activities by staff, parents or students. She stated that if the activity is deemed unsafe, then students should not be allowed to participate. She stated that the Borough safety coordinator has been involved with the issue.

Mr. Poindexter asked how field trips are deemed unsafe. Dr. Peterson replied that decisions are made after discussions with the school principal, teacher and central office administration. She noted that parents may also choose not to allow their child to participate in an activity that they feel is unsafe.

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

Mrs. Karen Mahurin, KPESA president, asked the District to consider expanding the group that traveled to Juneau last year as a collaborative effort to lobby the legislature. She suggested that a PTA person, a representative from the Kenai Native Association and a chamber of commerce member be invited to participate in the trip this year. Mrs. Mahurin asked the Board to consider adopting a resolution to submit to AASB addressing religious exemptions for mandated immunizations. She stated that in the past, a minister was required to sign religious exemption forms but since the requirement has changed, anyone can sign the form, which puts District employees in an awkward position. She noted that Sears Elementary has accepted more religious exemptions this year than in years past.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Peterson reported that the Districtwide inservices have been completed and were delivered regionally this year. She thanked Board members for attending. She reminded the Board that the District is entering year two of the Technology Plan. She reported that technology training is being conducted for schools receiving computers this year. She noted that Dr. Whiteley will present the Long Range Plan Community Survey Results to the Assembly at their August 21 meeting. She noted that three candidates have filed for each of the three school board seats for the upcoming election and that she will conduct an orientation on August 27 at 4:00 p.m. in her office.

Financial Report:

Mr. Hickey presented the financial report of the District for the period ending July 31, 2001.

Assessment Report:

Mr. Stewart, assessment director, provided the Board with a report on the results from the California Achievement Test, Analytic Writing Assessment, Achievement Level Tests, Alaska Benchmark Exams, and High School Qualifying Exam. Ms. Germano thanked Mr. Stewart and Mr. Leal for their work on the report.

BOARD REPORTS:

Mr. Arness reported that he attended a meeting organized by a group who is beginning the groundwork for an all-weather outdoor field for sport events. He noted that the group was comprised of representatives from each major high school in the District, Mr. Pete Sprague and himself.

Ms. Germano stated that she enjoyed the Districtwide inservice in Homer. She stated that the inservice was well received and added that people left feeling that it was time well spent. She thanked the administration for their work to make it possible.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Resignation, New Teacher Assignments, Leave of Absence Requests – Support, Leave of Absence Request – Certified, Fire Alarm Upgrades, and FY01 Budget Revisions.

Resignation:

Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve resignations from Johanna Idzerda, generalist, Voznesenka School and Patrick Hickey, assistant superintendent, Operations and Business Management, Central Office.

- New Teacher Assignments: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve teacher assignments for the 2001-2002 school year for Tyson Cox, (temporary) Title I math specialist, Nikiski Elementary; Sherry Friedersdorff, (temporary) Grades 3-6, Tebughna School; Michelle Garnto, special education for Districtwide Pupil Services; Diane Haupt, school psychologist for Districtwide Pupil Services; Megan Jones, English, Skyview High School; Erin Southwick, music, Soldotna Elementary; Shane Totten, art/photography, Kenai Central High; Raymond Vining, math/science, Port Graham School; Kristan Warnick, school psychologist for Districtwide Pupil Services; Tommie Window III, social studies, Soldotna High; Jill Wojciechowski, (temporary) Grade 3, K-Beach Elementary; Alison Larson, (temporary) science, Skyview High School; Jill Herbert, social studies, Seward High; and Amy Gallaway, generalist, Voznesenka School.
- Leave of Absence Requests – Support: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve one-year unpaid leave of absence requests for the 2001-2002 school year for Christine Tanape, Title I Tutor, Nanwalek and Doris Pratt, Special Ed Aide, Sears Elementary (effective September 14, 2001).
- Leave of Absence Request – Certified: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve an unpaid leave of absence request for the 2001-2002 school year for Malcolm Fleming, special education/resource, Skyview High School.
- Fire Alarm Upgrades: Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve the submittal of an application for fire alarm upgrades in the District for the remaining funds of the voter-approved bond initiative.
- FY01 Budget Revisions: Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve an adjusted FY01 Budget in the amount of \$86,492,263.
- ACTION Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 6. Mr. Poindexter seconded.
- Motion carried unanimously.
- Resolution Number 01-02-07: Dr. Whiteley recommended the Board approve Resolution Number 01-02-07 designating Mr. Todd Syverson as the 504 coordinator for District staff and Mr. Roy Anderson as the 504 coordinator for students.
- ACTION Mr. Arness moved the Board approve Resolution Number 01-02-07. Mrs. Crawford seconded.
- Motion carried unanimously.
- Administrator Appointment: Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve the appointment of Ms. Alice Tucker, interim principal/teacher, Spring Creek School (effective August 13, 2001).
- ACTION Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve the appointment of Ms. Alice Tucker, interim principal/teacher, Spring Creek School. Mr. Poindexter seconded.
- Motion carried unanimously.

AASB Resolutions:
ACTION

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approved the 2001 AASB Belief Statements and Core Resolutions with the exception of Resolutions 1.1, Opposition to Mandated School Formation and 1.2, Opposition to Mandated Borough Formation. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve AASB Resolution 1.1, Opposition to Mandated School Formation. Mr. Arness seconded.

Dr. Anderson noted that Senator Torgerson has discussed the issue of mandated school consolidation and mandated borough formation. He stated that he feels that the Board can legitimately oppose these two resolutions and he will vote against them.

Mrs. Wassilie stated that although she sees a need to consolidate in some areas, she will vote in favor of the resolutions because she believes in local initiative.

Ms. Germano stated that she will vote in favor of Resolution 1.1, Opposition to Mandated School Formation and noted that there have already been some savings statewide.

Mr. Arness acknowledged Mrs. Mahurin's request for an AASB resolution regarding religious exemptions to mandated immunizations.

VOTE:

YES – Wassilie, Germano

NO – Anderson, Arness, Crawford, Poindexter

Motion failed.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve AASB Resolution 1.2, Opposition to Mandated Borough Formation. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Dr. Anderson reminded the Board that Mr. Hickey gave an eloquent explanation of why Resolution 1.2 would not be valuable to support. He added that he felt it was not unreasonable to mandate the formation of boroughs.

VOTE:

YES – Wassilie

NO – Anderson, Arness, Crawford, Germano, Poindexter

Motion failed.

ACTION

Mrs. Wassilie moved the Board approve a directive to the administration to develop an AASB resolution for approval at the next Board meeting regarding the enforcement of state truancy laws. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

AASB Resolutions (continued):

Dr. Anderson reported that it has come to the Board's attention that there are situations where a parent would like their child in school but the student refuses to attend and there is no enforcement being made to keep the student from dropping out of school. He stated that there are a number of young students within the District who are not attending school, which, in his opinion, is a major disaster.

Motion carried unanimously.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve a directive to the administration to develop an AASB resolution for approval at the next Board meeting requesting the state clarify the immunization requirement exemptions. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

FIRST READING OF POLICY REVISIONS:

The Board heard a first reading of revisions to BP 5131.6, Students – Alcohol and Other Drugs. Dr. Whiteley reviewed the changes.

Mrs. Wassilie suggested that the words "under the influence" be added in the last sentence of the first paragraph of the policy. Dr. Whiteley noted that the policy currently states that students that are "under the influence" are "using." He referred the Board to the second paragraph titled, "Possession/Under the Influence During School."

Mrs. Wassilie suggested that the Board change "may" to "shall" in the first sentence of the last paragraph. She stated that the wording should be changed since it is the law that students who are selling, offering for sale or distribution be reported to the law enforcement agency.

Mr. Arness asked why the word "shall" was changed to "may" in the last paragraph of the policy. Dr. Whiteley explained that all students will be recommended for expulsion when they violate Board policy regarding selling, offering for sale or distributing, but that the Board expressed concern regarding situations when a student offers another student nicotine gum, No-Doze, or similar items. Dr. Whiteley stated that the administration probably would not recommend the student for expulsion.

Mrs. Wassilie noted that the Parent/Student handbook uses the word "shall" instead of the words "may" in the last paragraph and recommended that the change be made in policy. Dr. Peterson explained that if a student gives an aspirin to another student, it is considered "distributing" and asked the Board if the police should be notified. She stated that the language in the Parent/Student Handbook was used to make it clear that the police will be called in situations of drugs and distribution.

Mr. Poindexter stated that a student offering another student a piece of nicotine gum or an aspirin does not warrant notifying the law enforcement but instead the District should require counseling for the student.

Mrs. Crawford agreed with the administration's recommended changes and allow for common sense to be exercised with each situation.

Mrs. Germano asked why the general term “drug paraphernalia” is used instead of “paraphernalia with residue.” Dr. Whiteley stated that legal council recommended that the term “drug paraphernalia” be used to include syringes and needles which a student could possess and not have drug residue on them.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mrs. Wassilie reported that she attended the Districtwide inservice in Seward and added that she heard good comments. She stated that the only negative comment made was that the staff missed the social aspect of meeting with other teachers throughout the District but did not miss the 4 to 5 hours of travel. She noted that she heard staff members express appreciation for the videotape featuring Dr. Rudy Crew and the Curriculum Mapping presentation by Paula Christensen. She extended a thank you to all teachers who have agreed to accept an intern this school year. She reported that Seward will have four interns and noted that two of them are local residents.

Dr. Anderson welcomed those present to another school year.

Mrs. Crawford stated that she heard many positive comments regarding the Districtwide inservice. She thanked Mrs. Mahurin for her comments. She thanked Mr. Stewart for the assessment report. She told Mr. Hickey that the Board will miss him.

Mr. Poindexter stated that he heard good comments about the regional inservices. He stated that some of his former colleagues mentioned that it was probably one of the more useful and worthwhile inservices they have attended in quite awhile. He stated that he attended the Curriculum Mapping session given by Dorothy Gray and was impressed. He stated that he would like to see the District participate in the Ninilchik Fair next year and would like to see some planning.

Mrs. Germano welcomed back school staff and stated that she is looking forward to a new year.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 8:30 p.m. Mrs. Crawford moved that the Board go into executive session to discuss matters which by law, municipal charter, or ordinance are required to be confidential. Specifically, the executive session was to discuss personnel and specific details regarding Mr. Hickey’s departure. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 9:20 p.m. Mrs. Wassilie moved the executive session be adjourned. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN:

At 9:21 p.m., Mrs. Crawford moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mr. Poindexter seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Deborah Germano, President

Mrs. Debra Mullins, Clerk

The Minutes of August 20, 2001,
were approved on September 10, 2001
as written.