

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

148 N. Binkley Street
Soldotna, AK 99669

February 18, 2002

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

Dr. Nels Anderson, President
Ms. Deborah Germano, Vice President
Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Clerk
Mr. Joe Arness, Treasurer
Mrs. Debra Mullins, Member
Mrs. Margaret Gilman, Member
Mr. Al Poindexter, Member
Miss Katie Lockwood, Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT:

Dr. Donna Peterson, Superintendent of Schools
Mrs. Melody Douglas, Chief Financial Officer
Dr. Gary Whiteley, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction
Mr. Todd Syverson, Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Henry Anderson	Mrs. Linda Raemaker
Mrs. Sherry Matson	Mr. Sam Stewart
Mr. Dave Carey	Mr. Berry Swenson
Mrs. Laurie Olson	Mr. Dave McCard
Mrs. Lassie Nelson	Dr. Ron Keffer
Mrs. Jackie Ansotegui	Mr. Bill Searle
Mr. Bill Popp	Ms. Sharon Brower
Mrs. Paula Christensen	Mrs. Michelle Gabriel
Mrs. Karen Mahurin	Mrs. Patty Rich
Mrs. Terri Woodward	Dr. Roy Anderson
Mrs. Shana Loshbaugh	Mr. Hank Overturf
Mrs. Carolyn Cannava	Mrs. Linda Overturf
Mrs. Viki Searle	Mr. John Pothast
Mr. Buck George	Mrs. Barb George
Mr. Jeff Sinz	Mr. Tim Peterson

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:

Dr. Nels Anderson	Absent/Excused
Ms. Deborah Germano	Present
Mrs. Sammy Crawford	Present
Mr. Joe Arness	Present/Arrived at 8:30 p.m.
Mrs. Debra Mullins	Present
Mrs. Margaret Gilman	Present
Mr. Al Poindexter	Present
Miss Katie Lockwood	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The agenda was approved as written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The School Board Minutes of February 4, 2002, were approved as printed.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. Henry Anderson, North Star Elementary teacher, reported that he has taught since 1980 and is proud to be a teacher. He stated that he has taught 330 students since 1988, some of them have been children of School Board members, the superintendent and Borough Assembly members. He stated that he has also been the KPEA president. He stated that he assisted in the development of North Star Elementary School's critical incident plan, which became a district model. He noted that he has been proud to present at the districtwide inservice. He noted that Dr. Peterson was a parent volunteer in his classroom and was later hired as a teacher. He stated that eventually, Dr. Peterson became the school principal and led North Star Elementary to a national Blue Ribbon award. Mr. Anderson stated that he believed that Dr. Peterson would take the hopes and passions of District teachers to Central Office when she accepted the position as superintendent. He stated that during the past four weeks the pride has turned to shame. He told Dr. Peterson that she set the tone for the District.

Ms. Germano interrupted Mr. Anderson and cautioned him against speaking against the character of any District employee.

Mr. Anderson made a personal appeal to Dr. Peterson and added that if contract negotiations are not settled peacefully everyone loses.

Mrs. Barb George, K-Beach Elementary teacher, stated that she has worked for the District for 11 years. She stated that she is frightened and incredibly sad. She stated that the School Board, superintendent, teachers and support staff care about children and quality education and that all groups are professionals that want to be respected. She stated that she does not understand why a person has been hired from outside the State of Alaska who has never worked as an educator and does not have a feel for educational staff or children.

Ms. Germano interrupted Mrs. George and cautioned her against speaking against the character of any District employee.

Mrs. George stated that the bargaining process should be used to work together for the good of children. She stated that it appears that the bargaining process has become an "us" against "them" situation. She stated that she hoped both parties could work together to create a satisfactory relationship. She asked the Board to carefully consider the decisions that are being made and added that she is afraid for the future of the District.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS: Dr. Peterson reported that she has received communications from the Department of Education and Early Development, and from KPEA and KPESA relative to bargaining.

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, stated that she assumed that the Board meeting was a public meeting where employees have an opportunity to express concerns that affect the District. She stated that it is the employee's right to express concerns to the Board. She stated that she has a right to say that the District is in trouble and that employee morale has never been as poor as it is today. She stated that problem solving has been abolished and that school principals would agree if they had the courage. She stated that problem solving is not being allowed and is getting worse and will not happen if the District approves the administrator contract list.

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

Ms. Germano read from BB 9323, Meeting Conduct, "No oral presentation shall include charges or complaints against any employee of the Board, including the superintendent, regardless of whether or not the employee is identified by name or by another reference which tends to identify. Charges or complaints against employees must be submitted to the Board under the provisions of Board policy and administrative regulations related to such complaints."

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:

The Board presented Golden Apple Awards to Patty Rich, Soldotna Elementary custodian; Michelle Gabriel, Soldotna Elementary secretary; and Sherry Matson, North Star Elementary teacher, for their service and dedication to the District.

Mr. Paul Richards from British Petroleum, and Board members presented plaques to Sherry Matson, Jennifer Carr, James Davis, Linda Raemaker, and William Searle, for being chosen as 2001-2002 British Petroleum Teachers of Excellence. Mr. Richards noted that each teacher will receive a \$500 savings bond, a commemorative plaque and an opportunity to visit BP Exploration on the North Slope. He reported that one teacher from the District will be chosen as BP Teacher of the Year and will receive a \$1,500 scholarship for continuing education and a bronze sculpture.

Ms. Germano thanked Mr. Paul Richards and British Petroleum for recognizing District teachers through the Teachers of Excellence Program.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Peterson reported that the administration has been working on the "Leave No District Behind" legislative campaign. She stated that the District is proposing "circuit breakers" modeled after funding methods used in other states and gave an example of how it is used. She recognized the Budget Review Committee for their hard work. She reminded Board members of the budget worksession with the Borough Assembly on February 19 at 10:00 a.m. at the Borough Administration Building. Dr. Peterson reported that the District received the Alaska Social Service Organization Achievement Award in recognition of exceptional school-based mental health program delivery from the Alaska Mental Health Association.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Mrs. Douglas presented the financial report of the District for the period ending January 31, 2002.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Administrative Recommendation Regarding Leave of Absence Requests – Certified, Resignations, and Budget Transfer.

Administrative Recommendation
Regarding Leave of Absence Requests –
Certified:

Mr. Syverson recommended the Board not approve an unpaid leave of absence request for the 2002-03 school year for William Idzerda, Grade 1, Voznesenka School, and Theo Lexmond, school psychologist, Districtwide Pupil Services.

Resignations:

Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve resignations effective the end of the 2001-2002 school year for William H. Overturf, assistant principal, Kenai Central High School, and John Wickersham, Grade 5, Seward Elementary.

Budget Transfer:

Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve budget transfer Number 230 for \$70,000 to purchase 150 site licenses for the Passkey software.

CONSENT AGENDA (continued):

ACTION

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 3. Mr. Poindexter seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

2002-2003 Administrator Contracts:

Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve a list of administrator and Central Office contracts for the 2002-2003 school year.

ACTION

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve a list of administrator and Central Office contracts for the 2002-2003 school year. Mr. Poindexter seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Tentative Tenure Teacher Assignments, 2002-2003:

Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve a list of tentative tenure teacher assignments for the 2002-2003 school year.

ACTION

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve a list of tentative tenure teacher assignments for the 2002-2003 school year. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Ms. Germano expressed concern that with declining enrollment, more tenured teachers are being asked to teach out of their area of expertise. She urged the Board to place the best teachers in classrooms and expressed concern for the District for situations when there is no choice for teacher assignments.

VOTE:

YES – Crawford, Gilman, Mullins, Poindexter

NO – Germano

Advisory Vote – YES

Motion carried.

Social Studies Curriculum:

Dr. Whiteley recommended the Board adopt the Social Studies Curriculum as presented by the Social Studies Curriculum Committee.

ACTION

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board adopt the Social Studies Curriculum. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Student Expulsion:

ACTION

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve the following: “Based on the evidence presented, the board finds a one-year expulsion is required. Knowingly possessing a firearm on school premises violates board policy 5131.7(a) and Alaska Statute 14.03.160, and is conduct inimical to the welfare and safety of other students. Board policy and Alaska statutes require expulsion for at least one year for such conduct, except that the superintendent may recommend a modification in certain cases. No such recommendation was made in this case. DR is accordingly expelled from this school district for a period of one year from December 18, 2001. He may not go on school grounds during the period of expulsion for any reason, nor may he attend any school event or function whatsoever.” Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

FIRST READING OF POLICY REVISIONS:

The Board heard a reading of E 6162.71, Internet Safety Policy Guidelines/Internet Use Terms and Conditions. Dr. Whiteley explained that the revisions will bring the District in compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and that the update is also necessary for the District to be eligible to receive E Rate funding.

Ms. Germano invited those present to comment on revisions to E 6162.71, Internet Safety Policy Guidelines/Internet Use Terms and Conditions. No one came forward to speak.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. Dave Carey, Skyview High School teacher, stated that he is pleased that District students work in many areas of community involvement. He noted that students serve on the City of Soldotna commissions, advisory boards and city council. He stated that when teachers can take the work of the classroom into the real arena it is better service for all involved. He stated that the input and response from students has been wonderful. He stated that there are many good things that the District does to provide students with multiple methods of learning and the community awareness lesson is a good example. He stated that Skyview High School has a community service requirement for sophomores (four hours), juniors (eight hours), and seniors (twelve hours) which has been well received by students. Mr. Carey mentioned the painting of the Soldotna area fire hydrants and the decorating of Parker Park in a patriotic theme by students as examples of student community involvement. He expressed concern that the teaching of United States history will begin with the Civil War and will not cover the Revolutionary War, Bill of Rights or the Constitution. He stated that there is a lot of information that needs to be covered and he does not want to see so much removed from the curriculum.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mr. Poindexter stated that he personally knows one of the BP Teachers of Excellence teachers and added that if the rest are as awesome as he is, then the District has many outstanding teachers. Mr. Poindexter clarified that the Civil War and Bill of Rights are initially reviewed at the beginning of the United States History course.

Mrs. Mullins congratulated the employees who received golden apple awards and extended her appreciation for their hard work. She congratulated the teachers who were selected as BP Teachers of Excellence. Mrs. Mullins gave special recognition to Mrs. Sherry Matson for speaking to the Board regarding National Board Certification during the Dine and Discuss session. She reported that Mrs. Matson gave the Board some ideas regarding teacher assistance that are worth consideration. Mrs. Mullins noted that Mrs. Matson taught her son in sixth grade and helped him overcome his shyness. She stated that she appreciates the work teachers do on a personal level with their students. She thanked the Social Studies Committee for their work. Mrs. Mullins reported that she attended three of the public budget hearings and added that she was impressed by the attendance. She stated that the Board needs public input.

BOARD COMMENTS (continued):

Mrs. Crawford congratulated the employees who received golden apple awards and the teachers who were selected as BP Teachers of Excellence. She stated that she is especially proud of Mrs. Matson who is the first elementary teacher to achieve National Board Certification. She stated that she appreciates comments by teachers through phone calls and email and assured those present that she is doing everything she possibly can to help in the most meaningful way. She thanked Mr. Carey for his comments regarding the Social Studies Curriculum and noted that Mr. Carey and

Mrs. Raemaker's work on civic participation has been a model for the state and received recognition from Lt. Governor Fran Ulmer. She stated that she echoed comments made by Mr. Poindexter regarding the review of events in United States history prior to the Civil War. She acknowledged that there is too much material to cover in the area of social studies.

Mrs. Gilman thanked those present for staying to hear the Board Comments section of the agenda. She noted that recently she has received many comments from the public and explained that it is because parents entrust their children to the District to educate them. She asked those present to remember, during the negotiations process, that the relationship between a teacher, custodian, or secretary and a student is different than any other relationship. She stated that a teacher gives a part of his or her heart to their students and gets the same in return, if it is carried out correctly. She stated that when the students become adults they remember their former teachers and have a great amount of respect for them. She stated that it is important as a community to do what is best for District students and give people the respect they deserve. Mrs. Gilman thanked the community members who served on the Budget Review Committee. She stated that it is every person's responsibility to email state legislators regarding educational funding. She stated that when Board members are asked what can be done about the budget situation, the first response should be to write to the state legislators and tell them what the District needs.

Ms. Germano stated that she appreciates all of the teachers that were recognized. She stated that she enjoyed the Dine and Discuss session with Mrs. Matson and appreciated her ideas on how the Board can help teachers help each other. Ms. Germano recognized the administration for their work.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 8:28 p.m. Mrs. Mullins moved that the Board go into executive session to discuss matters, the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the Borough. Specifically, the executive session was to discuss budget and negotiations. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

At 8:30 p.m. Mr. Arness arrived.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 11:09 p.m. Mr. Poindexter moved the executive session be adjourned. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN:

At 11:10 p.m., Mrs. Mullins moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Gilman seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Nels Anderson, President

Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Clerk

The Minutes of February 18, 2002,
were approved on March 4, 2002
as written.