

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2003 – 7:30 p.m.

Borough Administration Building
Special Meeting – 148 N. Binkley, Soldotna, Alaska

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

Mr. Joe Arness, President
Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Vice President
Ms. Deborah Germano, Clerk
Mrs. Margaret Gilman, Treasurer
Mrs. Debra Mullins, Member
Dr. Nels Anderson, Member
Mr. Al Poindexter, Member
Mr. Cameron Poindexter, 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:

Ms. McKibben Jackinsky	Mr. Henry Anderson
Mr. Tim Peterson	Mr. Dave Carey
Ms. Jayne Porter	Ms. Terri Woodward
Mrs. Laura Pilifant	Mrs. Kathy Foster
Mrs. Lassie Nelson	Mr. Roy Shapley
Mr. Dave Spence	Mr. Hans Bilben
Mr. Sam Stewart	Mr. John Wensley
Mrs. Lassie Nelson	Mr. Rick Matiya
Mrs. Laurie Olson	Mr. Clark Whitney

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. A quorum of School Board members, Mr. Arness, Dr. Anderson, Mrs. Crawford, Ms. Germano, Mrs. Gilman, Mrs. Mullins and Mr. Poindexter were in attendance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 7:04 p.m. Dr. Anderson moved 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 litigation. Mr. Poindexter seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 7:30 p.m., Mrs. Crawford moved the executive session be adjourned. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

(Tape 1,32)

Mr. Arness invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

(Tape 1, 46)

Dr. Nels Anderson	Present
Ms. Deborah Germano	Present
Mrs. Sammy Crawford	Present
Mr. Joe Arness	Present
Mrs. Debra Mullins	Present
Mrs. Margaret Gilman	Present
Mr. Al Poindexter	Present
Mr. Cameron Poindexter	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

(Tape 1, 70)

Mr. Arness moved to suspend Board Bylaw 9320 and to allow the addition of a presentation by Mayor Dave Carey as Item Number 2e. on the Special Meeting agenda. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Germano moved to suspend Board Bylaw 9320 to allow the addition of Board Comments on the Special Meeting agenda. Mr. Poindexter seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

The amended agenda was approved with a revision to Item Number 3a(1), Resignations.

PRESENTATION OF BOARD INVITATION:

(Tape 1, 210)

Soldotna Mayor Dave Carey announced that the 2006 Arctic Winter Games signing ceremony will be held on April 16 at 1:30 p.m. in the Kenai Central High Auditorium and invited the Board and those present to attend. He thanked Dr. Peterson, Mr. Syverson, the District Technology Coordinator, the District Food Service Coordinator, Laidlaw Transportation, Mr. Dunn and Mr. Miller for their assistance in making a bid for the games a reality. He reported that Kenai Peninsula school clubs and activities will be allowed to market Arctic Winter Games merchandise for a share of the profit. He reported that one of the benefits of hosting the games will be a cover for the Kenai Central High ice rink.

CONSENT AGENDA:

(Tape 1, 426)

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Resignations, Requests for Sabbatical Leave, Disbursement of Remaining Bond Funds, 2003-2004 Tentative Board Meeting Dates.

Resignations:

Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve resignations (effective at the end of the 2002-2003 school year) from Teresa Kiffmeyer, social studies teacher, Grants/Federal Programs; Joseph Huftel, assistant principal, Homer High School; Molly Brann, Grades 4-6, Kachemak Selo School; Patricia A. Cahill, Grades 7-8, Nanwalek School; Gloryann Baily, special education teacher, North Star Elementary; Lesley Weatherman, librarian, North Star Elementary; Jill Kriens, special education/resource teacher, Paul Banks Elementary; Sandra J. Lewis, Grade 1, Redoubt Elementary; Lori Newton, kindergarten, Sears Elementary; Robert Hassen, math, Seward High School; Brenda R. Jones, secondary teacher, Susan B. English School; and Steve Jones, principal, Susan B. English School. Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve resignations (effective April 4, 2003) from Alan E. Anderson, vocational education, Nikiski Middle/High School.

Requests for Sabbatical Leave:

Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve requests for sabbatical leave from Patricia M. Jay, social studies teacher, Homer High School; and Michele Stenger, Grades K-1, Kachemak Selo School.

Disbursement of Remaining Bond Funds:

Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve the redirection of \$1.9 million of unexpended funds generated from House Bill 281 from the Department of Education and Early Development toward projects at Soldotna Middle School (remodel and sprinkler installation for \$1,165,000), Ninilchik School (swimming pool repairs for \$200,000), Nanwalek School (roof and drainage repairs for \$350,000), Districtwide (code deficiencies for \$200,000), and an alternative project at Kenai Middle School (bleachers for \$200,000, if a replacement project is necessary).

2003-2004 Tentative Board Meeting Dates:

Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve a tentative list of School Board meetings and a planning session for the 2003-2004 school year.

Ms. Joann Rogers, Skyview High School and Soldotna Middle School parent, asked the Board to consider making a request to the Borough Assembly to increase the Borough mill rate by .5 percent (approved by a vote of the people) and use that money to fund school extra curricular activities.

Mr. Arness explained that the District budget would be considered for action at the April 21 meeting.

Ms. Germano requested Item 1a.(4), Approval of 2003-2004 Tentative Board Meeting Dates, be removed from the Consent Agenda.

MOTION:

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items 1 through 3. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve a list of tentative School Board meetings dates and a planning session date for the 2003-2004 school year. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Mrs. Crawford requested that the Board not cancel the previously scheduled June 3 planning session. She noted that the upcoming October election would bring two additional members as well as the possibility of each member being new to the Board. She stated that the planning session will allow a six-month lead-in to plan for the 2003-2004 school year.

Ms. Germano suggested the Board conduct another planning session in November to discuss Board goals.

Mrs. Mullins noted that new Board members would not be seated until after the Borough certifies the October 7 election. She suggested that an additional planning session be held after October 20.

CONSENT AGENDA:
(continued)

Dr. Peterson stated that the administration could schedule a planning session after the October election on an informal basis. She asked the Board to advise her on whether the Board wished to hold the June 3 planning session so that arrangements can be made as soon as possible.

Ms. Germano stated that she felt it important to conduct a November planning session.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Kenai Peninsula Education
Association Negotiated Agreement:**
(Tape 1, 995)

Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve the 2003-2006 Kenai Peninsula Education Association Negotiated agreement as presented.

MOTION:

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve the 2003-2006 Kenai Peninsula Education Association Negotiated agreement.
Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Mrs. Crawford thanked the negotiating team for their long and arduous work.

Mr. Poindexter stated that he felt that it was a fair agreement and supported the motion. He expressed concern for the 2005 and 2006 school years and warned that the School District may be in a lot of trouble if the legislature and state revenue picture does not change. He stated that the District needed the agreement to maintain high quality teachers. He expressed concern that the quality of teachers may be mitigated by overloaded classrooms. He stated that he supports the agreement.

Mrs. Gilman concurred with Mrs. Crawford's expression of appreciation for the hard work of the negotiating team members. She stated that she hoped the District can now move forward with the issue of seeking adequate funding for education. She stated that she supported the agreement.

Mrs. Mullins thanked the Association for the ratification vote and expressed gratitude that the negotiation process will not come up again for at least three years. She stated that she believed that the contract is fair and that the employees deserve it. She stated that she hoped that the Board can work with the employees to lobby the legislature for additional funding, especially during the last year of the contract and beyond.

VOTE:

Advisory Vote – YES

YES – Crawford, Germano, Gilman, Mullins, Poindexter, Arness

NO – Anderson

Motion carried.

Kenai Peninsula Education Support Association Negotiated Agreement:

(Tape 1, 1335)

Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve the 2003-2006 Kenai Peninsula Education Support Association Negotiated agreement as presented.

MOTION:

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve the 2003-2006 Kenai Peninsula Education Support Association Negotiated agreement. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

VOTE:

Advisory Vote – YES

YES – Crawford, Germano, Gilman, Mullins, Poindexter, Arness

NO – Anderson

Motion carried.

FIRST READING OF POLICY

REVISIONS:

(Tape 1, 1427)

The Board heard a first reading of BP 5145.31, Students in Transition (Homelessness). Dr. Whiteley explained that the policy is required under the No Child Left Behind Act and must be in place prior to or during the upcoming state audit.

Mr. Arness expressed concern that the policy appears to be fraught with opportunities for problems. Dr. Whiteley responded that the policy assures (similar to special education law) that the District provide services for homeless youth. Dr. Whiteley confirmed that the language in E 5145.31 was written by the federal government.

Mrs. Crawford asked if transportation must be provided if a homeless student was living in an area where there no appropriate school was available. Dr. Whiteley confirmed that transportation must be provided to the student and noted that the District has appointed an employee to seek out homeless youth and encourage them to return to school.

Dr. Whiteley responded to Mrs. Gilman's question that there are approximately 100 homeless youth in the District. Mr. Matiya noted that the definition of a homeless youth is a person who does not have a permanent house or shelter for the evening. He further explained that youth who are living in another youth's home are considered homeless.

BOARD COMEMENTS:

Dr. Anderson stated that the contract is well-deserved and

(Tape 1, 1593)

added that he will continue to work to outsource extracurricular activities and for a fair and adequate area cost differential for the Kenai Peninsula and, if necessary, consolidate schools. He stated that he voted "No" on the contracts because he does not want to have to lay off another 60 to 150 teachers to afford the contract.

BOARD COMEMENTS:
(continued)

Mrs. Gilman announced that three Peninsula students placed in the top 10 in the state geography bee (Rikki Galley from Kenai Middle, Maya Johnson from Mt. View Elementary, Hannah Bradley from Homer Middle). She praised the students and reminded those present that good things are happening for students in the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District. She encouraged those present to come to the April 21 budget worksession. She stated that now that negotiations are over the Board needs to review the priorities of the District. She stated that the Board should revisit the consolidation of schools issue and added that the Board would appreciate a great amount of public input. She thanked the negotiating teams for their hard work.

Ms. Crawford reported that she attended the National Association of School Boards Annual Conference in San Francisco, California. She reported that 48 states are in a budget crisis. She urged those present to contact state legislators and the governor and advocate for more funding for education. She thanked the negotiating teams for their hard on the contract.

Mr. Poindexter thanked Mayor Carey for the invitation to the Arctic Winter Games signing ceremony. He expressed appreciation for the hard work and patience by the negotiating teams. He stated that more hard work and patience is needed to deal with the budget issue.

Ms. Germano stated that she attended the National Association of School Boards Annual Conference and noted that the federal government reauthorized IDEA, ESEA, and opened the discussion of whether the Head Start Program should be included in K-12 education. She encouraged those present to think about what is being asked of public education and how the mandates are being supported. She reported that the federal government is proposing a small increase to IDEA. She stated during a time of federal government tax breaks and money being given to other countries, that public education should get a fair share for the children in the United States. She reported that she received a copy of a letter and petition (with 119 signatures) from Janet McNarey addressed to Representative Paul Seaton and Senator Gary Stevens to share with School Board members regarding the loss of the Paul Banks Elementary music program and inadequate funding for education.

Mr. Arness stated that he is glad that the negotiations process

is over. He stated that he hoped the Board and Associations could begin to rebuild the communication, trust and everything else that was destroyed during the negotiations process.

ADJOURN:
(Tape 1, 2122)

At 8:06 p.m., Mrs. Crawford moved the School Board meeting be adjourned. Ms. Germano seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Joe Arness, President

Mrs. Deborah Germano, Clerk

The Minutes of April 11, 2003
were approved on April 21, 2003
as written.