
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes

April 4, 2005 – 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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mrs. Mo Sanders	Mr. Jim White
Mrs. Norma Holmgaard	Mr. Bob VanDerWege
Mrs. Sheryl Sotelo	Dr. Roy Anderson
Mr. Layton Ehmke	Mr. Dave Carey
Ms. Terri Woodward	Mrs. Sharon Mook
Mr. Glen Szymoniak	Mrs. Linda Overturf
Mr. Joe Nicks	Mrs. Melissa Eby

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Mrs. Crawford called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.
(7:04:22 PM)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mrs. Crawford invited Soldotna Montessori Charter School students to lead those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. The students sang *America The Beautiful*.
(7:04:28 PM)

ROLL CALL:

Mrs. Sammy Crawford	Present
Ms. Deborah Germano	Present
Mrs. Margaret Gilman	Present
Mrs. Debra Mullins	Absent/Excused
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: The agenda was approved as written with a revision to Item 10a(4), Approval of Resignations.
(7:07:00 PM)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of March 7, 2005 were approved with a correction.
(7:07:16 PM)

SCHOOL REPORT:

(7:07:57 PM)

Ms. Mo Sanders, Soldotna Montessori Charter School administrator, provided a history of the establishment of the charter school in 2001 and explained that the school gives parents another choice for free public education. She explained the differences between regular schools and the Montessori School and noted that many students come to the school from home school situations. Miss Ashley Eby, Miss Madeline Ransom, Miss Phoebe Neapolitano and Miss Rachel Beckmann explained several community service projects that have been accomplished this year and a quilt project using math and art skills. Mrs. Overturf and her students concluded the report by demonstrating a China and continental studies lesson with a dragon parade.

RECESS:

(7:21:21 PM)

At 7:21 p.m., Mrs. Crawford called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:

(7:23:50 PM)

At 7:23 p.m. the Board reconvened in regular session.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

(7:24:14 PM)

Dr. Peterson noted that several KPAA Career Development reports have been shared with the Board in the information packet as well as the proposed ASAA Bylaw changes.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

(7:25:44 PM)

Dr. Peterson reported that interviews have tentatively been scheduled for the Homer Middle School principal position on April 13, and for the Nikiski assistant principal position on April 14. She reminded the Board that testing is being conducted for Grades 3 through 10 and noted that the dates were selected by the state.

Ms. Germano asked whether there is flexibility in regards to the testing dates. Dr. Peterson explained that there are assessment make up dates available. Mr. Stewart stated that there is flexibility for the standards-based assessments but not for the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam. He stated that there is some flexibility with assessments that fall on Russian holy days.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

(7:28:30 PM)

Mrs. Douglas presented the financial report of the District for the period ending February 28, 2005.

BOARD REPORTS:

(7:28:56 PM)

Mrs. Crawford reported that she attended the Project GRAD meeting and was proud to announce that 60 students will attend the Summer Institute at Kachemak Bay College. She stated that she assisted with the scoring of Analytic Writing Assessment papers and noted that the group included dedicated teachers who were using an outstanding rubric.

CONSENT AGENDA:

(7:30:22 PM)

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Tentative Board Meeting Dates for 2005-2006; New Teacher Assignments; Request for Leave of Absence-Certified; Resignations; Long-term Substitute Teacher Contracts; Administrator Appointments; High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver; Budget Transfer.

TENTATIVE BOARD MEETING DATES FOR 2005-2006:

Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve the schedule for Board meetings for the 2005-2006 school year.

**NEW TEACHER
ASSIGNMENTS:**

By memorandum, Mr. Fisher recommended the Board approve teacher assignments for the 2004-2005 school year for Anne E. Peel, (temporary) Special Education emotionally handicapped teacher at Homer Middle School; Katherine A. Van Saun, (temporary) speech language pathologist, Central Peninsula Area, Pupil Services; and Kimberly D. Knecht, .50 FTE (temporary) 21st Century Grant Teacher/Manager at K-Beach Elementary.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF
ABSENCE-CERTIFIED:**

By memorandum, Mr. Fisher recommended the Board approve an unpaid leave of absence for the 2005-2006 school year for Lourdes Link, Resource, Ninilchik Elementary/High School.

RESIGNATIONS:

By memorandum, Mr. Fisher recommended the Board approve resignations from Glenn Haupt, secondary education/curriculum and assessment director; Loraine Murphy, language arts, Homer High School; Lance Petersen, .75 FTE theater, Homer High School; William B. Searle, band, Homer High School/Homer Middle School; Mark H. Tobin, Grades 7/8 math, Kenai Middle School; Ed Frink, generalist, Kachemak-Selo; Connie S. Tobin, Grade 4, K-Beach Elementary; Janet G. Miller, language arts, Nikiski Middle/High School; Kent Sanders, science, Nikiski Middle/High School; Darrell Johnston, principal, Port Graham/Nanwalek; David R. Carey, social studies, Skyview High School; and Alice Porter, Grade 4, West Homer Elementary (all effective at the end of the 2004-2005 school year).

**LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE
TEACHER CONTRACTS:**

By memorandum, Mr. Fisher recommended the Board approve substitute teacher contracts for Mary Bailey, speech, Soldotna Elementary and Dan Hill, principal, Sterling Elementary.

**ADMINISTRATOR
APPOINTMENTS:**

Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve the appointment of Glen Szymoniak as assistant superintendent at Central Office; Sandra M. Miller as Title I coordinator/administration at Central Office/Tebughna; John G. O'Brien as principal of Nikiski Middle/High School; and John Cook as principal of Sears Elementary.

HSGQE WAIVER:

Mr. Stewart recommended the Board approve High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waiver request Number 2005-05.

BUDGET TRANSFER:

Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve budget transfer Number 307 requested by the Curriculum/Assessment Department to purchase kindergarten through Grade 8 music books.

Mr. Carey asked the Board to accept his resignation for the purpose of retirement. He recapped his teaching and coaching career with the District and noted that it was his pleasure to work with former principals, Mr. Art Motz, Mr. Robert DeVold, and Ms. Marlene Byerly. Mrs. Crawford thanked Mr. Carey for his service to the District.

MOTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 8. Ms. Wassilie seconded.

Mrs. Gilman asked to remove 10a.(1), Approval of Tentative Board Meeting Dates for 2005-2006 from the Consent Agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA:
(continued)

Mrs. Brown asked to remove Item 10a.(6), Approval of Administrator Appointments from the Consent Agenda.

Motion carried unanimously for Consent Agenda Items 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, and 8.

Mrs. Gilman objected to the proposed meeting schedule for the 2005-2006 school year and the elimination of two meetings (November and April). She stated that two years ago the Board held 18 regular meetings, last year the Board held 16 regular meetings, and will hold 14 meetings in the 2005-2006 school year. She noted that according to Board Policy the Board may meet two meetings each month and suggested that the intention of the policy is that the Board would meet twice each month. She reminded members that the primary responsibility of the Board is to be responsive to the public and with fewer meetings it will mean fewer opportunities for public input. She stated that she does not agree with the reasons stated for the elimination of the November and April meetings and added that the priority should be Board meetings above other meetings such as AASB and NSBA.

MOTION

Mrs. Gilman moved the Board approve an amendment to add the second meeting in November 2005 and the second meeting in April 2006. Ms. Germano seconded.

Mrs. Brown stated that it is bad public policy when the Board of Directors for an organization meets less than two times each month, especially when the budget is over \$100 million and 67% of the Borough's budget. She stated that with fewer meetings there is not enough time to thoroughly discuss each topic and that there is an inadequate amount of time for public input. She stated that she would like to add meetings back into the Board's calendar and will support the amendment. She stated that the Board has a serious responsibility to the public and there is growing interest in the community about how the Board functions because of the size of the budget.

Dr. Anderson expressed concern that if the Board meets once a month (with exceptions for a couple of months) the Board will not have time to address issues that need to be reviewed. He stated that the last couple of years have provided relief from special meetings to make budget decisions. He stated that he does not support the elimination of the second meeting in January and March when the budget is being reviewed. He stated that the NSBA Conference normally does not conflict with Board meetings. He stated that he would like to add a second meeting in August, November, January and April because the Board gets out of the pattern of doing business when meetings are so far apart.

MOTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve an amendment to add a second meeting in January on January 23. Mrs. Brown seconded.

CONSENT AGENDA:
(continued)

Ms. Germano explained that the second meeting in January was eliminated because the community budget hearings occur at the same time. She stated that she agrees that the Board needs to meet in January. She expressed concern for keeping informed regarding negotiations and will support the N. Anderson amendment.

Mr. Anderson stated that it is important to have continuity and consistency which will only come from repetition. He observed that even though Board service is a very important commitment to each member, there are times when absence is necessary and with only one meeting each month it could be six weeks between meetings. He stated that he supports the amendment to the amendment.

Dr. Peterson stated that the Board needs to make the decision on how often they would like to meet. She stated that the recommendation reflected discussions held during a meeting in November as well as conversations with the Board president.

Ms. Germano asked Dr. Peterson for comments regarding the elimination of the second meeting in January. Dr. Peterson stated that it is the Board's decision about how staff should spend their energy and time. Mrs. Douglas stated that it was a relief not to have a second meeting in January during the current school year because she is doing preparation work for the budget and public presentations and responding to the public.

Mrs. Gilman stated that the January budget hearings need to be revisited because of the low public attendance and that the Board may want to combine the hearings and Board meetings.

Ms. Germano stated that each year the Board considers changes to the budget process. She stated that the Board used to hold 5 budget hearings which have been reduced to 4 meetings.

Mrs. Crawford stated that the Board has a problem with attendance and noted that the public rarely attends meetings in great numbers. She stated that Board members have publicly published their phone numbers and email information and added that the administration is better served by working on Board tasks. She stated that sometimes there is confusion among members who feel that administrative tasks are Board functions. She stated that she supports less meetings because of the time spent by staff preparing packet information and travel by Board members.

Ms. Wassilie stated that she does not agree with the N. Anderson amendment to add a second January meeting. She noted that the budget hearings take quite a bit of time in January and suggested that the Board can dispense with the Central Peninsula hearing and continue with hearings in Homer and Seward because there is better attendance. She stated that the Board can always have a special meeting if necessary.

CONSENT AGENDA:
(continued)

Mrs. Brown stated that if she is not able to attend a meeting there is likely a very good reason and it is not for lack of commitment to the Board. She stated that she sympathizes with the president because of the additional responsibilities associated with the job. She stated that the president's responsibility is great but willingly undertaken and comes with additional financial compensation. She stated that although the additional compensation is likely a pittance compared to the scope of the job, the size of the budget requires the Board to meet regularly so that the public can participate in the process.

VOTE ON N. ANDERSON AMENDMENT TO GILMAN AMENDMENT:

Advisory Vote – YES

YES – Gilman, N. Anderson, Brown,

NO – M. Anderson, Germano, Hilts, Wassilie, Crawford

Amendment to the amendment failed.

Mrs. Gilman stated that the AASB Annual Conference is usually held during the first weekend in November which does not conflict with the Board meeting calendar. She stated that the Board usually does not meet during the week of Thanksgiving. She stated that she would like a second meeting in April because the legislature is still in session.

Mrs. Gilman stated that the Board has met during the week of Thanksgiving. She stated that if the Gilman amendment does not pass there would be only 2 months in the school year when the Board would have 2 meetings. She agreed with Dr. Anderson's comments regarding continuity and added that there are issues regarding timeliness and reminded the Board about the weighted grades issue.

Ms. Wassilie agreed that the Board must maintain a certain continuity and will support the Gilman amendment. She stated that timeliness is important for many items that come before the Board each year.

VOTE ON GILMAN AMENDMENT:

Advisory Vote – YES

YES – Gilman, M. Anderson, Germano, N. Anderson, Brown, Hilts,
Wassilie

NO – Crawford

Amendment carried.

MOTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve an amendment to move the January 9, 2006 meeting to January 16, 2006. Mr. Anderson seconded.

Ms. Germano stated that better information will be available regarding the budget. Dr. Peterson reminded the Board of the past directive to avoid Board meetings on inservice days.

CONSENT AGENDA:
(continued)

Dr. Anderson asked whether it will be a problem to hold a Board meeting on an inservice day. Mr. Stewart stated that the January 16 inservice date was chosen because it is Martin Luther King Day.

Germano Amendment carried unanimously.

MOTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve an amendment to reduce the number of Homer and Seward meetings from two each school year to one each per school year. Mrs. Brown seconded.

Dr. Anderson stated that although he enjoys traveling to Homer and Seward and the Board receives good input from both communities, he feels that the Board is not effective in accomplishing Board business on travel meetings. He stated that with a reduced number of meetings the Board needs to be in the Central Peninsula area near resources necessary to deal with problems that may arise.

Mrs. Hilts stated that she is guilty of feeling overwhelmed by the number of meetings required by the Board because so much personal travel time is involved. She noted that the Board gets better attendance at Homer and Seward meetings. She stated that she feels ambivalent about the N. Anderson amendment.

Mr. Anderson stated that although Dr. Anderson's reasons for the amendment are valid, it sends a message that the communities farthest away are less important. He stated that he does not support the amendment.

Mrs. Gilman stated that it is important for the Board to go to Homer and Seward for meetings. She reminded the Board that the room was full earlier in the meeting until the Board excused parents with children. She stated that it is not fair to say that public attendance at Board meetings is poor and reminded the Board of the attendance during the discussions regarding weighted grades.

Ms. Germano stated that it is not unreasonable to conduct 25% of the Board meetings in Homer and Seward because more than 25% of the population is outside of the Central Peninsula area. She stated that Homer students were angry that they did not have information about the issue of weighted grades. She stated that it is very important that the Board be accessible. She noted that the agendas for the Homer and Seward meetings are short so that staff can get home.

Ms. Wassilie stated that hard-working boards must attend meetings in other communities.

CONSENT AGENDA:
(continued)

Mrs. Brown stated that she will support the amendment and added that she hoped that the Board will have further discussions on all of the ideas that were expressed. She stated that she understands that schools outside of the Central Peninsula area need attention. She stated that she represents an area that is in the middle of Soldotna and Homer and noted that seldom do her constituents attend budget review meetings in Kenai. She stated that she was the only person from her area at the Homer budget meeting and suggested that the Board discuss holding meetings in the Kasilof area. She stated that the Board should not have a light load at any meeting and should meet as regularly as the Assembly. She suggested that the Board consider a calendar that is like clockwork. She stated that the Board should support the amendment because other communities need attention also.

VOTE ON N. ANDERSON AMENDMENT:

Advisory Vote – NO

YES – N. Anderson, Brown

NO – Germano, Hilts, Wassilie, Gilman, M. Anderson, Crawford

Amendment failed.

Amended motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Brown stated that she will vote against the administrator appointment for Central Office because of the Budget Review Committee's recommendation to reduce management and it is the right thing to do. She stated that small schools across the District are being squeezed and more is being required of administrators. She stated that the District does not have to fit into the state or national average mold. She reported that her constituents would like to see Central Office do more to reduce the amount of staff and the recent resignation is an opportunity to restructure rather than rehire.

Ms. Germano stated that she supports the administrator appointments and noted that the District administration is one of the least expensive in the state. She stated that although the Board and administration don't always agree, the Board asks an incredible amount of work from everyone. She stated that Dr. Peterson's top priority is more staff in schools. She stated that while she appreciates the concern, she hopes that Board members understand the situation and can explain to constituents what is being accomplished in the District. Ms. Germano stated that Central Office cannot function with less staff.

Dr. Anderson clarified that Mrs. Brown's objection is not to the people being recommended but rather the position. He explained that studies conducted in 1998 showed that KPBSD had the least expensive central office costs per student in the state by more than 50% and since the study, further reductions have been made. He stated that he is proud to support the administrator appointments because the District has the most efficient central office throughout the entire state.

CONSENT AGENDA:
(continued)

Mrs. Hilts stated that federal programs continue to increase with the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act. She stated that because Central Office has been reduced over the years it has put a load on others and therefore, will support motion. She stated that for two years the most gratifying statement made while lobbying in Juneau is hearing that KPBSD has a good, lean, and reputable administration. She stated that that comment was heard many times and in many different offices. The District has a good reputation and added that employees can only be stretched so far and will approve some relief.

Mrs. Gilman stated that people ask her for a rationalization of the need for two assistant superintendents as well as the superintendent. She explained that there are 10,000 students with 10 senior administrative staff members making the ratio 1 senior administrator per 1,000 students. She explained that much is asked of Central Office administrators. She stated that there must be back up staff members available in case of sickness or other matters and the Board would be selling the District short by not filling the assistant superintendent position. She stated that as a board member, she is looking for someone who has an eye on the future and wants to make sure that the District has staff that are researching current curriculum and have the time to find solutions to the District's problems. She stated that she will support the recommendation.

Mr. Anderson agreed with other previous comments in support of the administrator appointments.

Ms. Wassilie stated that the District has slightly less than 10,000 students that are spread out over 26,000 square miles which is a cost factor in doing business. She stated that the entire District is being squeezed as well as the Central Office and will soon be out of compliance with Federal Programs if more reductions are made.

Mrs. Brown explained that her constituents would not support the hiring of any more middle management employees. She acknowledged that the District has an excellent reputation throughout the state and is cause to be proud. She stated that the money designated for the position could be better used to hire teachers to reduce class size.

Mrs. Crawford noted that the Title I position is being added because of the requirements in the NCLB Act.

VOTE ON ADMINISTRATOR APPOINTMENT:

Advisory Vote – YES

YES – Germano, Gilman, N. Anderson, M. Anderson, Hilts,
Wassilie, Crawford

NO – Brown

Motion carried.

FY05 BUDGET REVISION:
(8:22:00 PM)

Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve a final revision to the FY05 general fund budget to \$82,993,209. She explained that it will be the last revision of the FY05 budget and is the result of the final OASIS report from the Department of Education and noted that the District's estimation was within \$25,000 of the final amount.

MOTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve the FY05 general fund budget revision to \$82,993,209. Ms. Wassilie seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

2005-2006 BUDGET:
(7:23:32 PM)

Mrs. Douglas recommended approval of the FY06 Budget in the amount of \$88,536,469 for operating funds with a total for all funds of \$105,867,945. She noted that the administration is still waiting for the legislature to decide the revenue amount for next year. She noted that items that still need to be addressed when the budget is brought back for revision will include cocurricular activities and health insurance.

MOTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve the FY06 Budget in the amount of \$88,536,469 for operating funds with a total for all funds of \$105,867,945. Ms. Wassilie seconded.

Ms. Germano asked for the amount used to build the budget. Mrs. Douglas responded that the budget was built on the Governor's initial proposal of \$4,869.

Mrs. Brown asked for the year with the second highest budget for all funds. Mrs. Douglas responded that the current year is the second highest budget for all funds in District history.

Mrs. Gilman thanked the Budget Review Committee and the administration for their work on the budget. She stated that the budget addresses some of the pupil/teacher ratio needs in all grades. She expressed concern that full-day kindergarten can be staffed at 1 to 20. Mrs. Crawford responded that there are many contingency plans.

Ms. Germano thanked those who worked on the budget and added that she hoped that as soon as the legislature makes funding decisions the Board can go back to work on the budget because there are many needs to still be addressed.

Motion carried unanimously.

**CAREER AND TECHNICAL
EDUCATION CURRICULUM:**
(8:29:36 PM)

MOTION

Mr. Stewart recommended the Board approve revisions to the Career and Technical Education Curriculum.

Ms. Wassilie moved the Board approve revisions to the Career and Technical Education Curriculum. Ms. Germano seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**CAREER AND TECHNICAL
EDUCATION CURRICULUM:**
(continued)

Mrs. Crawford thanked those who worked on the curriculum and especially Ms. Wassilie who spent many days at worksessions.

BOARD COMMENTS:
(7:30:44 PM)

Mr. Anderson thanked the Soldotna Montessori Charter School staff for the presentation. He expressed appreciation for the opportunity of quality education choices through District charter schools and correspondence programs. He stated that he visited the Montessori School last year and noted that it is a delightful place for students. He thanked those who resigned for their service to the District. He expressed gratitude for the local legislative delegation for carrying an unpopular message to the rest of the legislature. He stated that four studies in twenty years have shown that the District is being asked to do more with less. He noted that he and Mrs. Gilman, who are former graduates, can see what has been cut. He stated he is extremely frustrated with other legislators who are not interested in the District's financial situation. He stated that the Board is not asking other districts to endure the hardship the District has experienced for the last 20 years; instead, KPBSD students should have the same opportunities and the same resources as students in other districts.

Dr. Anderson stated that he approves all of the proposed changes to the ASAA Bylaws with provisions for exceptional cases. He stated that he is convinced that the only way the area cost differential study will be implemented is by going through the court system.

Mr. Tyson thanked Ms. Sanders and the students for the Soldotna Montessori School report. He reported that he participated in the KCHS choir trip to Europe and that he and 50 other students sang in Germany, Austria and the Czech Republic and added that it was an incredible experience. He asked the Board and administration to continue their support for these types of trips. He stated that he supports all but one of the proposed changes to the ASAA Bylaw changes. He stated that students do not like the 5-credit requirement because most seniors want a shorter day so they can work.

Ms. Wassilie thanked Ms. Sanders for the Soldotna Montessori Charter School presentation and added that she was especially pleased that the students are thinking locally as well as globally with their community service projects. She thanked Mr. Carey for personally submitting his resignation and thanked him for his 30 years of service. She congratulated Mr. Szymoniak on being appointed as assistant superintendent and noted that he started his career in the District as a third grade teacher at Seward Elementary. She expressed appreciation for the proposed ASAA Bylaw changes emphasizing higher expectations and cautioned that they be implemented slowly. She stated that she has testified before the State Senate Finance Committee, House Finance Committee, and the House Special Committee on Education regarding the District's legislative priorities as well as the area cost study. She reported that the Board conducted a teleconference meeting with legislators Senator Gary Stevens, Senator Con Bunde (represents Hope Elementary/High) and Senator Tom Wagoner. She reported that all Board members emphasized the importance of

BOARD COMMENTS:
(continued)

the area cost study and the need for equity before adequacy otherwise more inequities will be created. She stated that the Board neglected to comment on the PERS and TRS legislation and added that the proposed changes are so comprehensive that they are not likely to be accomplished well if at all. She reported that she attended a meeting with Mr. Fred Esposito at the Alaska Vocational Technical Center about how to articulate all Peninsula resources in educating and training the future workforce. She stated that Mr. Esposito extended an invitation (including transportation) to District counselors to spend a day at AVTEC so they can be aware of the kinds of training opportunities available. She reported that she attended a community forum on youth to discuss ways to involve parents that don't come to school meetings, and parenting workshops. She stated that one of the outcomes was to target sixth grade parents who do not want to send their children to middle school. She added that another issue that was discussed was parents who do not want to send their children to public schools because there are other children who attend whose parents use illegal substances or are in prison and they do not want their children to intermingle. She reported that if children and parents are being isolated it will create more problems in public schools. She expressed appreciation for the KPAA career development reports from principals and noted that many of them focused on the importance of personal relationships between students. She related a personal story regarding a former high school principal who made her feel important.

Ms. Germano stated that the state retirement system problem belongs to the state and not school districts and explained that the legislature's tactic is to get school boards to be advocates for their plan to resolve the state retirement system financial crisis. She stated that school boards have their own problems and feels that the retirement system problems belong to the legislature. She stated that she would be happy to receive \$4700 base student allocation and implement the latest area cost study. She hopes assistance will come from business officials from other school districts. She expressed appreciation for Mr. Bunde's participation in the teleconference and for his comments. She stated that she agreed with Mr. Tyson's comments regarding the proposed ASAA Bylaw changes. She stated that often ASAA implements rule changes that cost districts money. She commented that she does not agree with the proposed change requiring students to pass five classes in order to participate in cocurricular activities especially when the District does not have the classes to offer. She added that by forcing students to take an additional class they are taking opportunities away from other students who may want a specific class but it is already full. She thanked Ms. Sanders and the Soldotna Montessori School staff for the school presentation. She congratulated Mr. Szymoniak for his appointment as assistant superintendent. She requested Board members stay on the topic when discussing amendments and amendments to amendments and asked to be reminded if she wanders off the subject. She noted that *Robert's Rules of Order* is specific and asked Board members to monitor each other.

BOARD COMMENTS:
(continued)

Mrs. Gilman reported that she traveled along with Ms. Reneé Henderson and 55 KCHS choir students to Europe. She noted that Ms. Henderson has taught in the District for 34 years and of the 55 students, 22 had at least one or both parents that had graduated from KCHS and studied under Ms. Henderson and 6 students had a grandparent who graduated from KCHS. She stated that Ms. Henderson draws students to KCHS as well as the strong music programs at the feeder schools. She expressed disappointment that some District schools do not offer choir. She stated that the purpose of ASAA should be to support academics and supports the proposed Bylaw changes. She reported that the discussion during the legislative teleconference was heated because the District is being short-changed \$10 million each year or 10% of the budget. She stated that students need the money now, children are passing through District schools right now. She quoted Senator Wagoner who said, "We cannot do it in this session." She agreed with Dr. Anderson's comment that the only way to resolve the inadequate funding issue is through the court system. She requested that the administration contact Jermain, Dunnagan and Owens, P.C. to research the question of whether a lawsuit can be filed on behalf of the students in the KPBSD against the State of Alaska for failing to equitably deliver education funding with regards to the area cost differential. She acknowledged that another attorney opinion advised that a public entity cannot sue another public entity but she would still like to have the matter researched by the District's attorneys.

Mrs. Brown expressed frustration because school careers pass quickly and students need adequate funding for education right now. She stated that the Board needs to do their own part. She stated that the Board could improve on the meeting calendar even more than the amendments that were made during the meeting. She stated that she would like the Board to provide teleconference opportunities available so that the public can arrange ahead of time to testify and to be able to follow along during the meetings. She requested that the Board prepare a resolution to ask the Borough Assembly to fund the radio broadcast of Board meetings and added that she believes they would be willing to package the request with the radio broadcast of other Borough meetings. She stated that radio broadcasts provide an opportunity for the public to be aware of important issues and that families need to be informed in a timely manner. She stated that she feels that the Assembly would consider the request in this year's budget. She expressed appreciation for the work of Peninsula legislators and acknowledged that their decisions are difficult. She expressed hope that they did not feel as though Board members were being too critical but instead were just doing their job. She stated that she was proud that the Board was speaking in unison and should not deviate from the mission of the District. She reported that at a recent Kenai Chamber of Commerce meeting she and Mrs. Crawford visited with U.S. Representative Don Young regarding the East End Road extension project included in the District's federal priority list. She stated that the proposed ASAA Bylaw changes are good and expressed concern that the District be allowed adequate time to address high school programs in order to meet the needs of the 5-period day requirement. She thanked Mr. Carey for his 30 years of

BOARD COMMENTS:
(continued)

service to the District and for mentioning the significant administrators he had worked for. She asked Mr. Szymoniak not to be offended by her comments regarding the assistant superintendent position appointment and welcomed him to the Central Office.

Mrs. Hilts expressed appreciation for the Soldotna Montessori Charter School report. She expressed disappointment for the resignation list. She stated that she feels that the responsibility of ASAA is to support school districts in educating students. She stated that school sports are a resource and that it should not be the primary goal of education. She stated that she has seen many students who were encouraged to stay in school because of sports. She stated that KPBSD has had a good method of dealing with academic eligibility and would like to continue. She stated that the proposed change comes at the risk of diluting grades. She related a personal story about a graduation ceremony in Seldovia where many of the students were the first high school graduates in the family and sports activities are what kept them in school. She stated that she does not support the regulation requiring eligibility grade checks at the quarter break and instead prefers the three-week check because it gives students a chance to get caught up in a lesser amount of time. She stated that during the period of time Susan B. English Elementary/High was supposedly "over staffed" students that graduated were very successful and became teachers, principals, and CEOs. She noted that the school had a choir and a band which is not offered anymore and added that it is hard to maintain excellence when teachers are teaching all high school students in one class. She suggested that small school staffing be reviewed with regards to program offerings. The Board is trying to provide the best educational opportunities that can be provided to District students. She congratulated the newly hired staff members. She thanked those who worked on the budget process and noted that although the process was easier the District is still not receiving adequate funding. She asked whether the Borough could help with a lawsuit against the state. She stated that it doesn't look like additional money will be available for her grandchildren who are currently in the school system and added that they have a right to an education afforded equitably by the state. She stated that legislators do not want to deal with the findings in the area cost study and that the District is being defrauded out of \$10 million. She stated that the Board needs to do something drastic and not wait for legislators to work it out.

Mrs. Crawford stated that she appreciates the efforts by ASAA to raise academic standards and cautioned that the organization take a year to implement changes and added that she prefers the District's 3-week eligibility grade check rather than each quarter. She thanked Ms. Sanders for the Soldotna Montessori School report. She reported that HB 173, area cost study legislation, was scheduled to be heard during the House Health, Education, and Social Services Committee meeting but has been canceled along with previously scheduled meetings on the bill. She asked those present to submit written testimony in support of the bill. She thanked the Board for expressing their feelings to Kenai Peninsula legislators during the previously held teleconference. She expressed

BOARD COMMENTS:
(continued)

concern for the decision regarding the base student allocation and explained that the legislation is being held up by PERS and TRS legislation. She stated that District students should not have to pay for the mistakes of the legislature made many years ago. She appreciated the discussion regarding meetings and stated that she enjoys being a member of the Board and noted that the Board generally works well together. She noted that there is a lot of work involved for all Board members and expressed appreciation for their service. She asked each member to look for Board Self-Evaluation and Superintendent Evaluation information and forms in the May packet via email. She asked members to read the evaluation packets, complete the forms, and return them via email, fax or standard mail before the June 6 meeting. She announced that both evaluations will be discussed during the Board's June 7 planning session. She thanked Dr. Anderson and Mrs. Gilman for submitting articles to the newspapers and asked those present to encourage legislators to do the right thing for students.

Mrs. Crawford announced that Mr. Anderson and Ms. Wassilie have asked to be excused from the April 18 Board meeting since they will be at the NSBA Annual Conference.

Dr. Peterson asked the Board president for clarification regarding the quick turn around request on the budget as soon as accurate information is received. She noted that that task will be a priority and is dependant on when the administration can get the information from the legislature. She stated that it is important to the administration to meet the Board packet deadline. She reported that the administration will attempt to capture all of the Board comments in a resolution regarding the proposed ASAA Bylaw changes to be considered by the April 18 meeting. She asked for direction regarding Mrs. Gilman's request for legal services to research the possibility of a lawsuit against the state. Dr. Peterson noted that some work has been done previously on the question and that Mrs. Gilman's request involves a cost to the District as well as administrator time. She asked for direction regarding a request by Mrs. Brown to ask the Borough Assembly to fund radio broadcasts of Board meetings.

Mrs. Crawford noted that at least five Board members are interested in Mrs. Gilman's request and announced that by consensus the Board will direct the administration to proceed.

Mrs. Brown assured the Board that very little staff time would be involved in the request to broadcast the Board meetings. She stated that the idea behind the request is to try to encourage more public participation in Board meetings. She volunteered to speak to the Assembly and explain the request. She stated that the public would appreciate hearing Board comments.

Ms. Germano stated that she supports investigating the broadcast method to inform the public but would rather have the discussion during the June 7 planning session because there are currently too many other priorities.

Mrs. Crawford stated that the Board would discuss the radio broadcast topic during the June 7 planning meeting.

Mrs. Brown asked whether other Board members had comments about the radio broadcast request.

Mrs. Gilman agreed with Ms. Germano that the radio broadcast idea should be discussed during the planning session and at that time the Board can decide whether it is a priority.

ADJOURN:
(9:18:56 PM)

At 9:18 p.m., Ms. Germano moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Gilman seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Sammy Crawford, President

Mrs. Debra Mullins, Clerk

The Minutes of April 4, 2005
were approved on April 18, 2005
as written.