## Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Meeting Minutes

May 5, 2003 - 7:30 p.m.	Re	Seward High School 2009 Swetmann, Seward, 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:	Mr. Jim White Mr. Steve Pautz Mr. David Kingsland Mr. Dan Walker Mrs. Patty Linville Mr. Nathan Capra Mr. Burke Anderson Dr. Shannon Atkinson Mr. Erick Amberg Mr. Dave Diekgraeff Mr. Tom Osborne Others present not identified.	Dr. Roy Anderson Mr. John Cote Ms. Karen Davis Mrs. Christine Ermold Mrs. Marianna Keil Mrs. Jennifer Carr Miss Rebekah Hill Ms. Carol Griswold Ms. Lynn Hohl Ms. Sandra Wassilie Mrs. Rhonda Hubbard	
CALL TO ORDER:	Mr. Arness called the meeting	to order at 7:30 p.m.	
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:	Mr. Arness invited those prese	Mr. Arness invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.	
ROLL CALL:	Dr. Nels Anderson Ms. Deborah Germano Mrs. Sammy Crawford Mr. Joe Arness Mrs. Debra Mullins Mrs. Margaret Gilman Mr. Al Poindexter Mr. Cameron Poindexter	Present Present Present Present Present Present Present Present	
APPROVAL OF AGENDA:	The agenda was approved with revisions to Consent Agenda Number 10a. (2), Approval of Resignations, and Item Number 10c., Approval of Nontenure Teacher Assignments.		
<b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES:</b>	The School Board Minutes of April 21, 2003, were approved with a correction in the third paragraph of page 132; the acronym "KPESA" was changed to "KPEA."		

## **PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:**

Mrs. Rhonda Hubbard, Seward resident, reported that the Seward community has formed a group called the Seward Education Forum comprised of community volunteers whose goal is to create a venue where parents and community members can work through educational issues.

Mrs. Marianna Keil, Seward Softball Association president, thanked the Board for naming the softball field the "Jon Perry Memorial Field" and invited the Board to the dedication on May 10, at 12:00 p.m. She reported that 2003 is the City of Seward's centennial year and will be recognized by many special events. She expressed concern for her children's education at Seward High and noted that one child is only enrolled two classes. She asked the Board to make a request to the Borough Assembly to consider funding student transportation (including sports transportation) outside the cap.

Mrs. Patty Linville, Seward parent, city librarian and Seward Schools Site Council president, stated that the Seward High block schedule has become an issue and encouraged those parents who are concerned about student choices meet with Mr. Osborne and Mr. Pautz.

Mr. Tom Osborne, Seward High counselor, provided background information on the school's change from a sevenperiod schedule to the current four-by-four block schedule and noted that the current schedule allows for flexibility, increased class selections, longer class periods, community-based options, internships and more.

Mrs. Jennifer Carr, Seward Elementary teacher, expressed concern that there will be no music taught in Seward area schools next year and stated that she had hoped the schools and community could remedy the problem.

Mr. Steve Daly, Cooper Landing Elementary parent, asked the Board not to reconfigure the school from Grades K-6 to Grades K-8 and added that he would be willing to sign a waiver stating that it is okay the teacher is not "highly qualified" as required by the No Child Left Behind Act. He expressed concern for the safety of the students with only one adult (teacher) in the building.

Mr. Ron Hemstock, Seward High shop teacher, stated that he supports the block schedule because it allows time for the students in his class to work on projects such as remodeling houses and rebuilding automobile engines.

	Mr. Dave Diekgraeff, Seward resident, asked the Board to seek help from the Borough Assembly and State of Alaska to address a student safety issue by funding a sidewalk to the school. He reported that there are many course offerings at Seward High School for students with a block schedule and added that it allowed his daughter to take a class via the internet.
	Mr. Nathan Capra, Seward High student, stated that he likes the block schedule because of the longer class periods.
<b>PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS</b> (continued): Mr. Arness welcomed Mr. Pete Sprague, Assembly President, to the meeting.	
	Mr. Burke Anderson, Seward High student, stated that he supports the block schedule because it creates well-rounded individuals and provides more opportunities such as satellite classes, exploration of different subjects, on-the-job training, and mentorships.
Hearing of Delegations:	Mr. Cameron Poindexter gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting activities of the Future Farmers of America organization at Homer High and the recent state convention in Palmer.
COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS	Dr. Peterson noted that routine communications have been included in the Board's information packet. She called the Board's attention to the message from the Kenai Central High School Site Council regarding extracurricular activities.
Advisory Committee, Site Council and/or P.T.A., K.P.A.A., K.P.E.A., K. P.E.S.A, Borough Assembly:	Dr. Shannon Atkinson, Seward PTSA representative, stated that the organization has provided information dissemination to Seward area families through the use of email, and have purchased recorders in order to provide music for fourth grade students. She expressed concern about the lack of a certified teacher for middle school math. She stated that although PTSA does not have an official position regarding block scheduling, the group is encouraging the community to become educated about all scheduling options. She stated that the group is not encouraged by the direction of the State Department of Education. She stated that the Seward residents are proud of the community and the students and support the school administration, teachers, and District, and welcomed any assistance or advice from the Board.

Mr. Pete Sprague, Assembly President, reported that the Borough Assembly meeting will be held May 6, at 11:00 a.m. for committee meetings, and 7:00 p.m. for the business meeting. He noted that residents can watch the meeting on cable television or come to the meeting at City Hall. Mr. Sprague stated that the Borough Assembly funds the School District at the cap as well as funds specific items outside the cap. He suggested to those present that they let legislators know that they are willing to pay for education in some form or another.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Dr. Peterson reported that she recently spoke at the State PTA Convention regarding the influence of fathers in education. She reported that she attended Education Forum with U.S. Secretary of Education, Mr. Rod Paige, to discuss education in Alaska and the No Child Left Behind Act. She thanked Mr. Cameron Poindexter, Student Representative, for his service on behalf of the students of the District and noted that May 5 would be his last meeting.

## **BOARD REPORTS:**

Mrs. Mullins reported that she attended the AASB Legislative Fly-In in Juneau. She stated that she attended the AASB Board of Directors meeting and then attended a legislation update meeting. She stated that she and Mrs. Crawford visited with at least 19 legislators and shared a budget impact statement prepared by the Fly-In participants. She stated that the impact statement outlined exactly how the proposed budget cuts would affect education. She reported that Representative Gatto introduced legislation that would fund student transportation on a per head basis instead of a per route basis which would be a loss of \$600,000 to the District. She reported that SB200, introduced by Senator Wilkins, would adopt the Area Cost Study figures which would provide the District some money. She stated that the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District has not been funded appropriately through the current area cost differential. She encouraged the audience to contact legislators who serve on the education or finance committees and the governor, and make their opinions known. She reported that May 4 she attended the Education Forum with Governor Murkowski, U.S. Senator Murkowski, and U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige. She stated that she hoped Secretary Paige had a good visit to rural Alaska and now has a better understanding of education in Alaska.

Ms. Germano reported that she attended the AASB Legislative Fly-In and that during the Board of Directors meeting Mrs. Mullins was elected president-elect. She noted that the AASB Scholarship Committee selected three District students (out of 160 applicants) to each receive \$1000 scholarships.

	Mrs. Crawford reported that she attended the AASB Legislative Fly-In and that during the meetings the Board told the legislators exactly how the budget reductions are impacting the District. She stated that many legislators had been contacted by constituents regarding education funding but were still not willing to raise the foundation formula. She stated that candidates for the legislature and the governor campaigned for education during the election and suggested that constituents remind them.
	Mr. Poindexter reported that he attended the FFA State Convention. He reported that the Homer natural resources class is being taught through the Community School Program and is facilitated by the Soil and Water Conservation District in Homer. He stated that there was no cost to the District for the class. He reported that because of the education funding problems, the Soil and Water Association is hiring a statewide Natural Resources Coordinator to institute a similar program in schools in other Districts.
CONSENT AGENDA:	Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Leave of Absence Requests – Certified; Resignations; Resolution 02- 03-10, Association of School Business Officials International Vice President Seat; New Teacher Assignments; and Budget Transfer.
Leave of Absence Requests - Certified:	Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve unpaid leave of absence requests for Denise Cox, Media Specialist/Music Teacher, Nikiski Elementary and Jill E. Showman, Russian/ English/ History, Voznesenka School.
Resignations:	Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve resignations (effective at the end of the 2002-2003 school year) from Margaret Corbisier, speech therapist, Homer Middle School; Charles Chavka, Grade 6, Redoubt Elementary; and Kristan Warnick, special education/psychologist, districtwide Pupil Services.
Resolution 02-03-10:	Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve Resolution 02- 03-10, Association of School Business Officials International Vice President Seat.
New Teacher Assignments:	Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve teaching appointments for the 2003-2004 school year for John Edward Clare, vision specialist (temporary) districtwide, Pupil Service and Erin Sunshine Hunter, assistive technology/augmentive communication specialist, districtwide.
Budget Transfer:	Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve budget transfer

MOTION:	Ms. Germano moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 5. Mrs. Crawford seconded.
	Mrs. Crawford congratulated Ms. Douglas on her appointment to the Association of School Business Officials International Board of Directors. She stated that she hoped that any teachers who receive national board appointment will be allowed leave time to serve.
	Motion carried unanimously.
Nontenure Teachers for Tenure:	Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve Lorraine Hibpshman, Sally Burns, Clayton Holland, Linda Jackson, Cynthia Romberg, Laura McIndoe, Richard Douglas Hogue, Timothy McIntyre, Barbara McNinch, tentative nontenured teachers, for tenure.
MOTION:	Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve the list of nontenure teachers for tenure. Mrs. Gilman seconded.
	VOTE:
	YES - Crawford, Gilman, Mullins, Poindexter, Anderson, Arness NO - Germano Advisory Vote - YES
	Motion carried.
<section-header></section-header>	Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve tentative nontenure teacher assignments beginning the 2003-2004 school year for Don Drury, Grade 3, Aurora Borealis; Jill Sill, generalist/Title I, Homer Flex; Linda Hampson, counselor, Homer High; James Keal, counselor/social studies, Homer High; Timothy Whip, online assessment trainer, Homer High; Vicki Abraham, migrant reading/language arts, Homer High; Debbie Harris, districtwide art specialist, Instruction/ Operations and Assessment; Debra Hayes, special education/ resource, K-Beach Elementary; Teresa Owens, special education/intensive, K-Beach Elementary; Erik Viste, districtwide school psychologist, K-Beach Elementary; Ed Frink, generalist, Kachemak Selo; Andrea Cacek, art/photo, Kenai Central High; Dawn Brighton, English, Kenai Central; Kim Denesen, special education/emotionally handicapped, Kenai Central; Susan Hatch, Alternative Stages special education/emotionally handicapped, Kenai Central; Erik Larson, special education/ resource, Kenai Middle; Louise Heite, districtwide speech therapist, Kenai Middle; Susan Larned, teacher of 6-9 years old, Montessori; Matthew Neagley, generalist, Nanwalek Elementary/High; Colby Neagley, Title I reading Teacher, Nanwalek Elementary/High; David Brown, special education/severe, Nikiski Middle/High; Linda Thacker,

**MOTION:** 

Handbooks:

**Cocurricular Activities and** 

**Cocurricular Activities and** 

Handbooks (continued):

**MOTION:** 

K-3, Port Graham; M. Jane McFarland, speech/language pathologist, Redoubt Elementary; Timothy Wight, special education/resource, Skyview High; Eric Willets, special education/ resource, Skyview High; Kay Downs, special education/preschool, Sears Elementary; Agusta Lind, special education/QUEST, Seward Elementary; Lana Esposito, special education/resource, Seward Elementary; Jennifer McDonald, language arts/math, Seward Middle; Erin Southwick, music, Soldotna Elementary; Amy Hogue, special education/speech, Soldotna Elementary; Janne Lillestol, special education/ resource, Soldotna High; Cecilia Deatherage, districtwide special education/speech, Soldotna High; Diane Haupt, districtwide school psychologist, Soldotna High; Kevin Downs, special education/resource, Soldotna Middle; Chris Lau, generalist, Spring Creek; Gail Frasher, special education/ resource, Sterling Elementary; Claude McMillan, Grade 5/6, Susan B. English; Marie McMillan, English/health, Susan B. English; Belinda Drake, K-3, Tebughna; Susan Whipp, language arts/social studies, Tebughna; Tania Patiro, Grades 7-12 science, Voznesenka; Judy Gonsalves, special education/ speech, West Homer Elementary; Millie Lewis, special education/resource, West Homer Elementary; Wendi Dutcher, Grades 9-12, Connections; Ray Vining, math/science, Connections; Angela Nelson, school psychologist, districtwide Pupil Services; and Danielle Thompson, special education/ speech, districtwide Pupil Services.

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve the revised list of tentative nontenure teacher assignments. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Syverson explained that prior to the meeting, the Board conducted a worksession to review changes to the Cocurricular Activities Handbooks as proposed by the member schools of the Kenai Peninsula Student Activities Association.

Mrs. Kim Reierson asked whether coaches must be present at all fund raising activities for the entire time. Mr. Arness noted that the Board is prepared to deal with the issue.

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve revisions to the Cocurricular Activities and Handbooks. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Ms. Germano noted that housekeeping changes should be made in Section IV., Item B., Number 1.,c., 2), by inserting the word "in" after the word "enrolled"; and in Section VI, Item I., Number 4., General, paragraph a., inserting the word "and" after the word "practices."

<u>MOTION:</u>	Ms. Germano moved the Board approve an amendment to insert the sentence "A coach or designee must attend fundraising events, and community service events." as paragraph b., in Section VI, Item I., Number 4., General, and that the current paragraph b. be changed to c. Mrs. Crawford seconded.
	Amendment carried unanimously.
MOTION:	Ms. Germano moved the Board approve an amendment to strike the proposed increase to the participation fees. Mrs. Gilman seconded.
	Ms. Germano stated that the Board needs to have more discussion on the decision to raise participation fees. She stated that she would like to know how the additional money will be spent and expressed concern that families will already have to subsidize their child's extracurricular travel.
	Mrs. Gilman asked whether Connections students are allowed to use their allotment to pay for extracurricular activity participation fees. Mr. Syverson stated that the Connections allotment is to only be used for academic purposes.
	Mr. Syverson explained that KPSAA recommended an increase in participation fees to offset travel costs.
	Ms. Germano stated that the Board did not have a chance to discuss the travel revenues and added that she felt that there are many needs in the District.
	Mr. Arness passed the gavel to Mrs. Crawford, vice president.
	Mr. Arness explained that participation fee revenues go directly to the school where the money is raised and does not pass through 100 funds and can be used in any manner the school decides. He further explained that the increase in participation fees would offset transportation costs that have been shifted to the schools.
	Mrs. Crawford returned the gavel to Mr. Arness, president.
<b>Cocurricular Activities and Handbooks</b> (continued):	Ms. Germano explained that the Board cut \$245,000 designated for extracurricular activity travel and left \$1.2 million in the budget for coaching stipends. She stated that the Board has not had discussions with the public about what they are willing to pay. She stated that the Board is asking the public to make another contribution or work longer at the snack bar and are now asking for a 50% increase in participation fees.

<u>MOTION:</u>	Dr. Anderson moved the Board postpone action for one meeting on the Germano amendment and the amended motion regarding changes to the Cocurricular Activities Handbooks. Mrs. Mullins seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
Administrator Appointments:	Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve the transfer of Sharon Conley to the assistant principal position at Homer High, and the appointment of Daniel J. Beck as the principal/ teacher of Susan B. English Elementary/High for the 2003- 2004 school year.
MOTION:	Ms. Germano moved the Board approve the 2003-2004 administrator appointments of Sharon Conley as Homer High assistant principal and Daniel Beck as the principal/teacher of Susan B. English Elementary/High. Mrs. Crawford seconded.
	Motion carried unanimously.
FIRST READING OF POLICY REVISIONS:	The Board heard a first reading of BP 1100 (Communication with the Public); BP 1112 (Media Relations); BP 1140 (Responsibilities of the Board); BP 1150 (Commendations and Awards); AR 1150 (Commendations and Awards); BP 1220 (Advisory Committees); BP 1230 (Organizations Supporting Student Activities); AR 1230 (Organizations Supporting Student Activities); BP 1240 (Volunteer Assistance); E 1240 (Volunteer Questionnaire); BP 1250 (Visits to the Schools); BP 1312 (Public Complaints Concerning the Schools); BP 1312.1 (Public Complaints Concerning School Personnel); AR 1312.1 (Public Complaints Concerning School Personnel); AR 1312.2 (Challenges To Instructional Materials); BP 1321 (Solicitation of Funds From and By Students); E 1321 (Approved Student Fund Raising); BP 1325 (Advertising and Promotion); AR 1325 (Advertising and Promotion); BP 1330 (Use of School Facilities and Properties); AR 1330 (Use of School Facilities and Properties); E 1330 (Room/Building Use Application); BP 1340 (Access to District Records); AR 1340 (Access to District Records); and BP 3513.4 (Integrated Pest Management).
PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/ COMMENTS:	Ms. Sandra Wassilie noted that 2003 is Seward's Centennial year and invited the Board to the Centennial Parade (on the Fourth of July), Founders Day (in August), and Railroad Day (in September). Ms. Wassilie acknowledged the Seward Schools in their role at the Seward Symposium and summarized their contributions. She stated that Seward residents need to "think outside of the box" and use opportunities to keep families from leaving the community for education elsewhere.

	Mr. David Kingsland recognized Mr. Marc Swanson, Seward Elementary teacher, for being selected as a British Petroleum Teacher of Excellence.
	Mrs. Lynn Hohl, Region V Alaska PTA vice president, announced that the Seward PTA has nominated Mr. Arness for the Excellence for Children Award. She read a complimentary letter from Ms. Janice Louden, Alaska PTA president, and presented Mr. Arness with a framed certificate.
	Mrs. Rhonda Hubbard, Seward resident, asked the Board and Administration to support media literacy in the language arts curriculum beginning in fifth grade and to provide teacher training.
	Mrs. Lynn Hohl reported that Seward area parents attended the April 16 Administrator meeting to review a draft of a workshop regarding implementation of the National PTA Standards for Parent Involvement.
	Mr. Erick Amberg, Seward High student, stated that he is in favor of block scheduling because it provides the opportunity to enroll in college classes and participate in mentorships.
	Miss Rebekah Hill, Seward High student, stated that she is in favor of the block schedule because it allows time for students to work at the Sea Life Center or the fish hatchery.
	Ms. Carol Griswold, Seward parent, expressed appreciation for Mr. Marc Swanson, Seward Elementary teacher, and added that he deserves to be selected as Teacher of the Year.
BOARD COMMENTS:	Mrs. Mullins thanked the Seward community for hosting the Board meeting and for the public comments. She congratulated Mrs. Douglas for the ASBO nomination. She thanked Mr. Cameron Poindexter for his efforts on behalf of District students. She congratulated Mr. Arness for the PTA award. At 9:13 p.m. Mrs. Mullins asked to be excused and left the meeting.
BOARD COMMENTS (continued):	Dr. Anderson stated that it is a privilege to have the Board meeting in Seward, and noted that the Seward community is a model for student awards and scholarships. He explained that the Central Office administration retains the right to make decisions regarding high school scheduling and added that they have been very liberal in allowing local communities to make their own scheduling decisions. He stated that in the future the community may wish to align school schedules with other schools if it will provide the opportunity to offer interactive classes. He stated that the Board has received letters from all over the Peninsula regarding the budget cuts and predicted that upcoming years will be worse. He explained that the Board did not cut the Seward music program and noted that course offerings are a site option. He noted that

Mrs. Gilman stated that she is impressed with the Seward community's concern and love for the students and their willingness to put the concern into effort through the creation of the Seward Educational Forum. She commented that the Seward elementary students who performed prior to the Board meeting were wonderful. She told the students in attendance that one of the best aspects of being a Board member is watching students perform, speak in public, demonstrate their proficiency in any way possible because it demonstrates that the education being provided in the District is good. She thanked Mr. Cameron Poindexter for his service and wished him good luck with his future plans. She thanked the Board members who sacrificed their personal time to attend the AASB Legislative Fly-In and to lobby the legislature on behalf of the District. She noted that high school graduations begin soon and wished all District graduates good luck in their future.

Mr. Poindexter reported that he was born in Seward and attended school in the community for 10 years. He expressed appreciation for the student comments. He noted that Mr. Cameron Poindexter brought miniature roses as a thank you gift for the Board members.

## **BOARD COMMENTS** (continued): Mr. Cameron Poindexter reported that May 5 will be his last Board meeting. He stated that he has enjoyed his service on the Board and thanked the Board and administration for the opportunity to serve.

Ms. Germano thanked Mr. Cameron Poindexter for his leadership and efforts while serving on the Board and added that she has appreciated his opinions and concern for the students of the District. She thanked Seward for hosting the Board meeting. She encouraged those present to review and consider all high school scheduling options.

Mrs. Crawford reported that prior to the meeting the Board visited Spring Creek Correctional Center and noted that it was

a very sobering experience. She noted that it is frightening to see what happens to children who are not nurtured and loved. She reported that it costs approximately \$130 per day to keep each person in prison. She stated that the cost of education is reasonable and added that it is heartbreaking to be required to put so much of the state's resources into correctional centers. She stated that the District is doing a fine job educating the juvenile offenders at Spring Creek Correctional Center. She congratulated Mr. Arness for the PTA award and thanked Mr. Cameron for his service on the Board. She congratulated Mrs. Douglas for the ASBO nomination and Mrs. Mullins for her election as AASB Board of Directors president-elect. She thanked the Seward Elementary student performers. She stated that it is interesting to see the unfunded mandates that come from the state and federal government and expressed frustration that the District has had to make choices to cut the budget to accommodate the mandates. She thanked the public for their comments. She commented that forty-eight other states in the nation are in the same funding crisis as Alaska.

Mr. Arness thanked Mrs. Hohl for the PTA award. He thanked the Seward community for hosting the Board meeting. He stated that the Board had an interesting visit through Spring Creek Correctional Center. He thanked Mr. Cameron Poindexter for his service on the Board and commended him for being a stellar young man. He noted that Mr. Poindexter will graduate from Homer High School on Monday, May 19.

At 9:28 p.m., Dr. Anderson 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 May 5, 2003 were approved on June 3, 2003 as written.

**ADJOURN:** 

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