Kenai Peninsula Borough School District
Board of Education Meeting Minutes

January 16, 2006 – 7:00 p.m. | Borough Administration Building
Regular Meeting | 148 N. Binkley, Soldotna, Alaska

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:
Mrs. Debra Mullins, President
Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Vice President
Ms. Sandra Wassilie, Clerk
Mr. Marty Anderson, Treasurer
Dr. Nels Anderson
Mrs. Debbie Brown
Mrs. Liz Downing
Mr. Bill Hatch
Mrs. Sunni Hilts
Miss Kelly King, Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT:
Mrs. Melody Douglas, Chief Financial Officer
Mr. Sam Stewart, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Glen Szymoniak, Assistant Superintendent

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Lee Young	Mrs. Jamie Harper
Mr. Mark Norgren	Mr. Dean Hamburg
Mr. Gary Turner	Mrs. Norma Holmgaard
Mr. Aleks Pfaffe	Mr. Sean Dusek
Ms. Paula Christensen	Mr. Jim White
Mrs. Lynn Hohl	Mr. Tim Peterson
Mrs. Jeanne Burger	Mrs. Penny Vadla
Ms. Pam Shepherd	Mr. Dave Spence
Ms. Pako Whannel	Mr. Phil Weber

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:
Mrs. Mullins called the meeting to order at 3:56 p.m. A quorum of School Board members, Ms. Wassilie, Dr. Anderson, Mr. Hatch, Mr. Anderson, Mrs. Hilts, Mrs. Downing, Mrs. Crawford and Mrs. Mullins were in attendance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:
At 3:57 p.m. Mr. 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 negotiations. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:
At 4:36 p.m., Dr. Anderson moved the executive session be adjourned. Mr. Hatch seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

CALL TO ORDER:
Mrs. Mullins called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:
(7:01:19 PM)
Mrs. Mullins invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:
(7:01:38 PM)

Mrs. Debra Mullins	Present
Mrs. Sammy Crawford	Present
Ms. Sandra Wassilie	Present
Mr. Marty Anderson	Present
Dr. Nels Anderson	Present
Mrs. Debbie Brown	Present
Mrs. Liz Downing	Present
Mr. Bill Hatch	Present
Mrs. Sunni Hilts	Present
Miss Kelly King	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:
(7:02:08 PM)

The agenda was approved with a change reversing the order of the two school reports.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
(7:02:38 PM)

The School Board Minutes of December 6, 2005, were approved as printed.

SCHOOL REPORTS:
(7:03:03 PM)

Mr. Lee Young, Connections Program principal, gave a computer generated PowerPoint listing the reasons why the Connections Program is the best choice in home school programs. He listed the program's philosophy, accountability requirements, available resources, mission statement, curricular options, and noted that students are issued a Dell computer and upon completion of the high school program, are issued a KPBSD high school diploma. Assessment and AYP information was provided.

Mrs. Downing asked whether statewide assessments were optional for Connections students. Mr. Young responded that all Connections students must take statewide assessments.

Mrs. Downing stated that she is aware of a few private schools throughout the District that are using Connections courses and are gathering in small groups to work, sometimes with the help of a certified teacher and asked if that was an exemption. Mr. Young responded that one parent must commit to being home with the student. Mr. Young added that Connections provides support for tutoring and added that occasionally student workshops are provided.

Mrs. Downing asked if the base student allocation is the same for all students throughout the District, including Connections students. Mrs. Douglas reported that the base student allocation is the same for all students but that Connections students are discounted to 80%.

Mr. Aleks Pfaffe, Connections Program student, concluded the presentation by reporting on his positive home schooling experience through the Connections Program.

Mr. Young distributed copies of a book titled, What's the Trouble with Bernie?, that was illustrated by Katie Miller, a Connections Program student.

SCHOOL REPORTS:
(continued)

Mr. Mark Norgren, Cooper Landing Elementary principal, gave a computer-generated presentation highlighting the school staff, students, community involvement, volunteers, and the success of multi-grade education. Mrs. Joyce Koppert explained her approach to teaching at a multi-grade school. She highlighted art projects, noted that she has 14 regular volunteers who help with physical education, math, reading, art, school plays, and a music festival. Ms. Michelle Stewart, parent, and her daughter, Miss Jessica Stewart, praised the staff and community volunteers for the high-quality education being provided to students at Cooper Landing Elementary.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:
(7:30:30 PM)

Ms. Dru Sorenson, Hope School parent and community member, gave a history of the enrollment of the school; questioned the decision of closing the school; read some quotes made by some of the current students, and asked the Board to consider keeping the school open.

Ms. Pam Shepherd, Hope School parent and community member, explained that she moved to Hope so that her son could attend a small school and receive a personalized education and became one of the first graduates at Hope School. She asked the Board to keep the school open so that her daughter Deana can complete her education at the school.

Miss Deana Shepherd, Hope School student, asked the Board to keep the school open because she does not want her mother to be her principal.

Ms. Pako Whannel, Kaleidoscope School parent and volunteer, commended the school for the excellent education being provided to the students and asked the Board to allow the school to expand to Grade 4 and eventually to grades kindergarten through 8. She suggested that Mt. View Elementary and Sears Elementary Schools be combined allowing the Kaleidoscope School to use the Sears Elementary School facility.

Mrs. Brown asked Mrs. Whannel whether conversations have been held with Kaleidoscope, Mt. View Elementary and Sears Elementary Parent Advisory groups about combining schools. Ms. Whannel stated that she has spoken to several parents from Sears Elementary and Mt. View Elementary who have said it would be easier because they have children at both schools. She stated that Kaleidoscope parents are mainly concerned about expansion and growth.

Mrs. Brown asked Mrs. Whannel whether there is inadequate space at Kaleidoscope School to offer fourth grade. Ms. Whannel stated that there is not enough space and that her daughter is a third grade student which is why she is advocating for additional space.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:
(continued)

Mr. Dennis Bear, Cooper Landing Elementary parent, explained that his family relocated to the community from North Carolina based on size of the school and what it has to offer and commended Ms. Koppert for providing a great educational environment for students. He complained about the inequities between schools within the District and between districts throughout the state and asked the Board to invest in students, and to consider the future of the students.

Ms. Fayrene Sherritt, Hope resident, explained that the community is taking steps to correct the declining enrollment situation and asked the Board to allow the Hope School an extension of one or two years to increase the enrollment.

Mr. Phil Weber, Cooper Landing Elementary volunteer, stated that the quality of education at the Cooper Landing School is outstanding and compared the eighth grade students to freshmen and sophomores at other schools within the District.

Mrs. Barbara Bureau, Hope resident, stated that the entire Hope community would be impacted by the closure of the school and asked the Board to consider keeping it open.

Ms. Michelle Stewart, Cooper Landing resident, read a letter from the Bauer family who were not able to attend the worksession or meeting. Ms. Bauer wrote that long bus rides and home schooling is not an option for her children which are future students of the school and asked the Board to consider keeping the school open.

Mr. Todd Bureau, Hope resident, explained that the community has developed a short-term plan and a long-term plan to grow the community and increase school enrollment and asked for a two-year extension on the decision to close the school.

Mr. Stewart explained that a Board worksession was held prior to the meeting concerning the Hope Elementary and Cooper Landing Elementary Schools and added that there is no recommendation for closure by the administration. He added that the administration will work on policies and guidelines to help the Board make future closure decisions.

At 8:05 p.m. Mr. Hatch left the meeting.

Mrs. Mullins informed the Kaleidoscope parents that the Board has put all charter school decisions on hold until a report has been received from the Charter School Review Committee. She added that once the Charter School report is received, Sears Elementary and Kaleidoscope will be invited to meet with the Board.

At 8:06 Mr. Hatch returned to the meeting.

HEARING OF DELEGATIONS:
(8:06:30 PM)

Dr. Marilynn Jackson, Community Action Coalition and Dr. Matt Dammeyer, Central Peninsula General Hospital, provided information about a prevention needs assessment to be given to students who have parent permission. She explained that the grant-funded survey will tentatively be given February 22, 2006, and is designed to identify risk factors and protective factors.

Mrs. Crawford asked if programs will be developed based on the results of the survey. Dr. Jackson replied that the Coalition would not provide the programs, but they would support existing local or national programs and added that the survey would be conducted every other year so there would be an ongoing measurement.

Ms. Wassilie asked Dr. Jackson whether the Coalition will expand the needs assessment to the southern or eastern side of the Peninsula. Dr. Jackson replied that the Coalition's efforts are primarily focused on the Central Peninsula area but have spoken to the Homer community and is working with a consultant who has conducted a similar survey.

Mr. Anderson asked if the questions that were shared with the Board was the actual survey. Dr. Jackson responded that the sample survey is very similar to the actual survey.

Dr. Anderson asked what the Coalition plans to do with the information and how the information will change how the District or community responds to at-risk activities. Dr. Dammeyer responded that assumptions are made without any data to test whether an intervention is successful or necessary. Dr. Dammeyer stated that the survey will determine the strengths and risk factors so that best practices can be used.

Mrs. Downing stated that there are similar risk factor surveys that have been conducted by another agency and asked whether that data has been reviewed, and how many returned surveys will be necessary to make the proposed survey valid. Dr. Dammeyer replied that the Coalition has a target of returned surveys and added that the return rate in Utah and other states has been high which is why it was chosen.

Mrs. Downing asked why the Coalition is presenting the survey and if they were in a partnership with the Grants Program. Mr. Stewart replied that the administration plans to assist with the project and the administration of the grant. He added that the benefit to the District will be the data that can be used during the grant application process. He stated that getting positive parent permission by the survey deadline will be a challenge because in the State of Alaska surveys of this type cannot be given unless the parent gives written permission. He stated that the purpose of the report is to inform the Board of the survey and to solicit support throughout the community.

HEARING OF DELEGATIONS:
(continued)

Mr. Anderson asked why the term "hand gun" is used in the survey instead of weapon. Dr. Dammeyer stated that the Coalition did not develop the survey and the language is adapted to be useful in multiple contexts. He added that the Coalition is not at liberty to adjust or make changes to the questions.

Mrs. Brown asked why the site councils aren't involved in deciding whether to implement the survey and to enlist their support. Mr. Stewart responded that the survey has not been shared with the site councils and added that it is an opt-in survey. He explained that each parent has the right to give permission for their child to participate. Mrs. Brown asked how the survey will be administered. Mr. Stewart explained that the survey will be treated like a standardized test and administered on a specified date (tentatively February 20 during second period) with accommodations made for large groups of students. He stated that sample surveys will be available at the office for parents who wish to preview it. Dr. Jackson added that the Coalition has an extensive media campaign planned to solicit parental support and will also meet with site councils and PTOs. Dr. Jackson explained that a letter and consent form will be mailed to parents and a website will be made available.

Ms. Downing suggested that the Coalition extend the survey to other parts of the District which would make the results more valid and useful. Mr. Stewart stated that the District would be happy to work with other agencies outside of the Central Peninsula on a similar project. He stated that the administration feels that the Coalition's survey project will provide valuable information for the District and community in making decisions about substance abuse prevention.

Mrs. Mullins asked whether the survey proposal requires Board action. Mr. Stewart responded that the decision to cooperate with the Coalition's request is an administrative decision.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:
(8:24:53 PM)

Mr. Stewart reported that several letters from Hope and Cooper Landing community members were shared with the Board during an earlier worksession and added that he had received written communications from Kaleidoscope parents and communications regarding the distribution of religious flyers.

Mrs. Mullins reported that she received emails and letters regarding Seward Boys' Baseball outsourcing and the Hope Elementary/High School and Cooper Landing Elementary School.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SITE COUNCIL AND/OR P.T.A., K.P.A.A., K.P.E.A., K.P.E.S.A, BOROUGH ASSEMBLY:
(8:26:18 PM)

Ms. Jeanne Burger, Hope School PTA president, referred to an Anchorage Daily News article and other media coverage of the Hope community situation and thanked Representative Hawker and Senator Bunde for their assistance. She noted that 15 Hope residents traveled to Soldotna to attend the Board worksession and other related meetings and asked the Board to consider teleconferencing or video conferencing Board meetings to make it easier for residents in outlying communities to participate.

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

Mrs. Lynn Hohl, Seward PTSA vice president, reported that she wrote in support of teleconferencing Board meetings. She thanked the Board and administration for the new Seward Middle School Grand Opening reception and for the previous night of basketball.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:
(8:31:49 PM)

Mr. Stewart presented the 2005-2006 Midyear Report on Goals. The report includes current progress on goals, current progress on work plans, an update on other work plans, a list of other unanticipated issues, and a timeline graphic illustrating the District Office workload for the second semester. He reported that Dr. Peterson is currently on family medical leave. He reported that on January 17, and repeated on January 18, Gary Marx will give a presentation for District staff titled, Trends in Education. The public is invited to attend the presentation at 7:00 p.m. on January 17 at the Challenger Learning Center. He reported that Budget Forums will be held on January 23 at Seward High, January 25 at Skyview High, and January 30 at Homer High. He reported that the Site Council and Parent Group Training will be held at the Soldotna Sports Center on January 24. He noted that there will be a special administrator meeting on January 20. He noted that schools south of Ninilchik were closed on Friday, January 13, because of ash fallout from the eruption of Mt. Augustine.

RECESS:
(8:34:10 PM)

At 8:34 p.m., Mrs. Mullins called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:
(8:44:05 PM)

At 8:44 p.m. the Board reconvened in regular session.

FINANCIAL REPORT:
(8:44:18 PM)

Mrs. Douglas presented the financial report of the District for the period ending December 31, 2005.

BUDGET TRANSFER REPORT:
(8:46:39 PM)

Mrs. Douglas reported on quarterly budget transfers Numbers 49 through 187 for various schools and departments within the District.

Mrs. Brown asked why Consent Agenda budget transfers were necessary. Mrs. Douglas explained that the budget is a plan to pay for the cost of doing business and is developed 18 months ahead of implementation. Mrs. Douglas further explained that the budget transfer request on the Consent Agenda contains a transfer that was an inadvertent omission in the original budget development.

Mrs. Brown asked if budget transfer Number 188 was a result of an underestimate of sufficient funds for summer school. Mrs. Douglas responded that the transfer request was made to align the budget to match the summer school plan which has evolved from its original plan.

BOARD REPORTS:
(8:49:08 PM)

Mr. Hatch reported that he attended the KPSAA meeting and noted that 5 guests came to the executive board with concerns, that included a track & field issue, a cheerleader program for Grades 3 through 6, more coaching stipends for girls and boys soccer, home school participation in sports, and outsource of Seward boys' baseball and softball. He reported that KPSAA recommended that the outsource agreement for Seward boys' baseball be rewritten. He reported that a concern was expressed regarding sixth grade participation at the small schools and noted that there is a Board policy prohibiting team travel for sixth grade students. He reported that small adjustments were made to minimum team sizes and coaching formulas and discussions were held about eligibility rules.

Mr. Anderson reported that he attended the Career and Technical Education meeting at Skyview High and noted that the Department of Labor, as well as local employers, also attended. He reported that the group discussed student opportunities, public involvement, grants from the state and federal government, employment opportunities, marketing opportunities in vocational education, statistics regarding job opportunities and college degrees. He reported that he will submit a full report to Mrs. Mullins and Ms. Wassilie.

Ms. Wassilie reported that she attended the Seward Middle School Grand 0pening on January 6, 2006, and noted that Dr. Peterson, Borough Mayor John Williams, as well as many students, staff, parents, community members, the architect and builders were in attendance. She stated that it is a beautiful energy-efficient building as well as learner-friendly and safe.

Mrs. Brown reported that she attended a two-day AASB conference regarding the negotiations process. She stated that she was impressed with the quality of speakers who were attorneys and business people with extensive experience in negotiations. She stated that at the next meeting she will provide a one-sheet summary of the conference. She noted that negotiations should remain as friendly as possible, because Alaska and its communities are small in terms of population. She reported that as few restrictions and ground rules as possible should be imposed on both groups because there is less opportunity for people to be at odds with each other. She stated that Board members must be allowed to communicate because of the interest in public funds and added that there are laws in place to ensure that the public is involved properly. She noted that there cannot be a breach of trust and that the Board must make sure the public understands that information will be provided as long as it is fair for all to know and yet maintain a level of trust in working with the negotiating groups. She stated that the worksession was very valuable and suggested that the information be included with the collective bargaining agreement binder.

CONSENT AGENDA:
(8:58:10 PM)

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Long-Term Substitute Teacher Contract; Revisions to AR1330 Use of School Facilities and Properties; Request for Leave of Absence-Support; Budget Transfer; New Teacher Assignment; Administrative Recommendations Regarding Outsourcing of Cocurricular Activities (baseball and softball) and Resignations.

LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE TEACHER CONTRACT:

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve a long-term substitute teacher contract for Steve Wolf, science, Voznesenka School.

REVISIONS TO AR1330:

Mr. Stewart recommended the Board approve revisions to AR 1330, Use of School Facilities and Properties, to address liability concerns as recommended by the Borough attorney.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE-SUPPORT:

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve an unpaid leave of absence for Yvonne Hakkinen, instructional aide, Kaleidoscope (effective February 2 through 28, 2006).

BUDGET TRANSFER:

Mrs. Douglas recommended the Board approve budget transfer Number 193 for $21,000 to pay for teacherage rental costs; Number 194 for $25,000 to fund school intervention programs; Number 188 to move summer school funds into the appropriate accounts for summer school 2006 needs; Number 156 and 185 for $10,000 and $17,000 respectively to pay the contract and health care costs for the consultant who helped negotiate the transportation contract; and Number 195 to accommodate a change within the Student Nutrition Services program allowing Sterling Elementary to do more of their own food purchasing.

NEW TEACHER ASSIGNMENT:

Mr. Glen Szymoniak recommended the Board approve a teacher assignment for Lisa Fellows, (temporary) .50 FTE school counselor, Homer High.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING OUTSOURCING OF COCURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve KPSAA recommendations regarding outsourcing of cocurricular activities agreements for the 2005-2006 spring activity season. The recommendation includes approval of Soldotna Softball Association/Girls' Fast-pitch Softball at Soldotna High School; Jack Gist Recreational Park Association/Girls' Fast-pitch Softball at Homer High School; Sons of the American Legion/Boys' Baseball at Homer High School; and Seward Softball Association/Girls' Fast-pitch at Seward High School. KPSAA did not recommend approval of the outsource agreement for the American Legion Post 5/Seward High Boys' Baseball since they did not meet the conditions set forth by the Board of Education for the 2004-2005 baseball season.

RESIGNATIONS:

Mr. Glen Szymoniak recommended the Board approve the resignations of Dan Bartos, art, Homer High and Alan Olson, French, at Homer High.

Ms. Lynn Hohl, Seward High baseball parent, asked the Board to allow the Seward High School boys to play baseball against other high school teams and noted that there was no mention in the Seward Site Council recommendation that 15 players must be maintained throughout the season.

CONSENT AGENDA:
(continued)

Ms. Sherene Adelman, Seward baseball parent, asked for the Board's support of the Seward High School baseball outsource application and provided an explanation of games that were forfeited or canceled, and summarized the amount of local support for the team.

Mr. Anderson asked whether the boys' baseball team currently has a head coach. Mrs. Adelman stated that the team has four returning coaches and guaranteed that the team will have a head coach before the season begins. She added that the team has a dynamic coaching staff.

Mr. John Ragusa, Seward baseball player, asked the Board to allow them to play baseball during the upcoming season and noted that the program is new and is growing.

Mr. Jong Kim, Seward baseball player, stated that he has been playing baseball for 10 years and read a list of the names of players who have completed the player registration form and paid fees.

Ms. Wassilie thanked the boys for coming to the meeting and for staying so late. She asked how many boys played on the team last year and how many are new. Mr. Kim reported that the team lost one player from last year and added that most of the players are returning players with the exception of 4 freshmen.

Mr. Logan Adelman, Seward Middle School student, asked the Board to approve the boys' baseball outsource agreement so that he can play next year as a freshman.

Mrs. Kerry Romig, Seward resident, asked the Board to allow the group time to grow the team because three seasons is not enough time.

Mr. Steve Lemme, Seward resident and business owner, asked the Board to allow the Seward High School boys to play baseball and acknowledged that Alaskan weather is not conducive for spring sports such as baseball, soccer and track.

Dr. Anderson asked if there is a head coach for the Seward boys' baseball team. He stated that he would like to see a committed, competent adult designated as the head coach before he will support the Seward High baseball program. Mr. Lemme asked if the District had head coaches for every cocurricular activity. The administration confirmed that head coaches are in place for each activity. Mr. Lemme asked how much time was allowed for each school to hire a head coach.

Mr. Rich Adelman, Seward resident, explained that in October the Seward baseball team had a head coach, but in the meantime, the school administration offered the baseball coach $3,000 to coach soccer instead.

MOTION

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 7. Mr. Hatch seconded.

CONSENT AGENDA:
(continued)

Ms. Wassilie asked to remove Item 6, Administrative Recommendations Regarding Outsourcing of Cocurricular Activities.

Motion carried unanimously for Items 1 through 5 and 7.

MOTION

Ms. Wassilie moved the Board approve an amendment to divide the question to approve the four bulleted items which include agreements for Soldotna Softball Association/Girls' Fast-pitch Softball at Soldotna High School; Jack Gist Recreational Park Association/Girls' Fast-pitch Softball at Homer High School; Sons of the American Legion/Boys' Baseball at Homer High School; and Seward Softball Association/Girls' Fast-pitch at Seward High School, and a separate question to approve the outsource agreement for the American Legion Post 5/Seward High Boys' Baseball. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Amendment carried unanimously.

MOTION

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve outsource agreements for Soldotna Softball Association/Girls' Fast-pitch Softball at Soldotna High School; Jack Gist Recreational Park Association/Girls' Fast-pitch Softball at Homer High School; Sons of the American Legion/Boys' Baseball at Homer High School; and Seward Softball Association/Girls' Fast-pitch at Seward High School. Mr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION

Ms. Wassilie moved the Board approve the KPSAA recommendations regarding the outsourcing of the American Legion Post 5 Seward High Boys' Baseball. Mr. Anderson seconded.

MOTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve an amendment to the administrative recommendation pending the selection of an appropriate head coach and until that is accomplished the Board would hold that in abeyance. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Ms. Wassilie suggested that the condition of an appropriate head coach be held to a time limit of the second Board meeting in February.

After further clarification and discussion, Dr. Anderson withdrew his amendment.

MOTION

Mrs. Hilts moved the Board approve an amendment to add the words "unless there is a head coach stipulated with a commitment to the season by the second meeting in February." Ms. Wassilie seconded.

Mrs. Brown stated that there is plenty of time for the Seward baseball team to locate a head coach. She stated that she would support the amendment but felt that because the outsource application forms require a head coach to be in place just prior to the season, the Board should allow a longer grace period.

CONSENT AGENDA:
(continued)

Ms. Wassilie noted that a worksession regarding the KPSAA recommendations was held prior to the Board meeting. She stated that the conditions of the Seward boys' baseball agreement were discussed during the worksession and that conditions that were imposed last year were not met in full, but that a good faith effort was made. She reported that there is a roster of 20 students, which is more than in the past. She stated that the issue is consistent coaching, and encouraged the Board to approve the amendment.

Mr. Anderson stated that the Board wants students involved in activities and wants Seward High School to have a baseball team. He explained that all outsource groups need to be aware of requirements and ensure that they are met and not create additional work for the administration. She stated that if there are continual exceptions throughout the District, it creates confusion. He stated that he will support the amendment but added that the baseball team needs to understand the requirements.

Dr. Anderson reiterated that the requirements discussed during the workession were last year's requirements. He stated that because of the past missed games he would like the assurance of a head coach earlier than the beginning of the season. He stated that he is a huge baseball fan and added that he doesn't want the players to miss out because adults failed the process. He stated that he favors the amendment and would listen to an extension request if an appeal was made.

Mrs. Brown clarified the intent of the Hilts amendment. She asked if the February deadline would be imposed on all outsource agreements. Mrs. Mullins replied that the amendment was made for the Seward High baseball outsource agreement only for this season. She added that the amendment does not apply to other groups.

Mrs. Mullins asked for comments and advice from the administration. Mr. Szymoniak asked when the cocurricular scheduling meeting occurs. Mr. Spence reported that the scheduling meeting usually takes place during the second week of February. Mr. Spence added that games could be tentatively scheduled without a head coach but advised against signing any contest contracts. Mr. Spence cautioned that it might be difficult to fill the schedule because most schools prefer a signed contract.

Mrs. Mullins asked the Board if locating a coach by the second meeting in February is the only stipulation being imposed or if the conditions outlined in the Seward Middle/High School letter would be included as well.

Mrs. Hilts stated that coaching seems to be the major problem and is all that is needed for her support because the other issues would be resolved with a head coach. She stated that she hopes that because the Board has closely reviewed the Seward baseball agreement that those involved understand that all conditions must be met next year.

CONSENT AGENDA:
(continued)

Mr. Anderson agreed that the selection of a head coach for the Seward baseball team will solve many of the other issues that the team faces. He stated that just because the Board is not stipulating all of the other requirements does not mean that they are free of them. He stated that the administration will ensure that all issues are resolved prior to the start of the season.

Ms. Downing asked if having a head coach is necessary to make scheduling decisions. Mr. Spence explained that scheduling is usually done by the athletic director or principal.

Ms. Wassilie clarified that if the Seward team selects a head coach after the scheduling meeting has occurred, they are left with whatever openings are available. Mr. Spence stated that the athletic community is aware of teams that have a history of problems or difficulties. He stated that the District will keep in close contact with Mr. Krier if the Board wishes to be updated regularly.

Mrs. Mullins clarified that the deadline in the Hilts amendment was the second School Board meeting in February and that if a head coach is not appointed by that date then the Seward baseball outsource agreement is not approved. Mrs. Hilts confirmed that that was the intent and would require no further Board action. Mrs. Hilts stated that it would be incumbent upon the Seward baseball team to select a coach early enough to convince the athletic director and others that they are committed and to sign them up for games.

Ms. Wassilie reported that ASAA rules have recently changed preventing non-ASAA member teams from competing with ASAA teams.

Mrs. Brown asked the Board if a precedent was being set by shortening the time period required for the Seward team to locate a coach. She clarified that if the team can locate a coach by February 20 then they can play baseball.

Amendment carried unanimously.

Amended motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Stewart asked if the administration needs to bring the coaching information back to the Board at the second meeting in February. Mrs. Mullins stated that no further action is necessary. She explained if no head coach is appointed for the Seward team then they cannot play as a high school team. Mr. Szymoniak asked who will bring the name of the head coach to the administration. Mrs. Mullins stated that it is the responsibility of the Seward baseball team.

POLICY REVISIONS:
(9:52:07 PM)

Mr. Stewart recommended the Board approve revisions and adoptions to Policy Manual Section 6000.

At 9:52 Dr. Anderson left the meeting.

POLICY REVISIONS:
(continued)

Mrs. Penny Vadla, teacher and parent, asked if changes to BP 6146 will allow high school credit for 8th grade students who are taking 9th grade geometry.

At 9:54 Dr. Anderson returned to the meeting.

Mr. Stewart explained that if an eighth grade student is taking a high school class at a high school with high school students, they will be granted credit and that if students are taking algebra with other 8th grade students at a middle school they will not be granted high school credit.

Miss King stated that she understood that students had to challenge an advanced class in order to receive high school credit.

Mr. Gary Turner, Kenai Peninsula College Director, provided an informational sheet titled, "Kenai Peninsula College Dual Credit Program Cost Savings" and spoke in favor of AR 6180, Dual Credit Guidelines.

Mrs. Brown asked whether dual enrollment helps KPC financially. Mr. Turner replied that dual enrollment helps with tuition and added that KPC receives money from student tuition and funding from the state. He stated that students enrolled in the Jump Start Program pay only $35 per credit with funding help from the Borough for the per credit balance. He stated that Tech Prep courses cost $15 per credit.

Mr. Anderson asked if the tech prep courses are part of the workforce development classes which are offered after school hours for dual credit. Mr. Turner replied that the college administration is considering both.

Mr. Stewart explained that tech prep classes are District courses that are examined by KPC faculty to assure that the student performance level is college equivalency. He added that when a KPBSD student takes these courses they can receive college credit for the high school class.

Mr. Anderson asked whether dual enrollment reduces offerings at the high school level. Mr. Turner stated that the college is not doing anything extra to accommodate high school courses and does not understand how the college is lessening offerings at high schools. Mr. Anderson asked if the college is in competition with high school Advanced Placement courses. Mr. Turner explained that the AP English class is an introduction to literature transfer type course and the KPC English 111 course is a composition course at the college.

Mr. Anderson asked how reduced funding may affect funding for Jump Start and tech prep course. Mr. Turner explained that the funding comes from .1 of a mil rate that is not tied to the cap or to Borough funding.

POLICY REVISIONS:
(continued)

Ms. Cathy Carrow expressed concern on behalf of high school teachers for the deletion of the words, "The course is not offered in the school's curriculum. Consideration may be given to a request if the course does not jeopardize existing school programs." and "Enrichment courses may only be used for elective credit" in BP 6180, Dual Credit Guidelines, because required courses could be taken at the college and students would be awarded high school credit which could potentially reduce high school course offerings.

MOTION

Mrs. Hilts moved the Board approve the Policy Manual changes to Section 6000. Mrs. Downing seconded.

Mrs. Hilts asked Mr. Stewart if changes to 6146.1, High School Graduation Requirements will be effective for the Class of 2006. Mr. Stewart responded that the changes would take effect immediately with special consideration for schools that may be out of rotation and not allow students to meet the graduation requirements.

MOTION

Mr. Hatch moved the Board approve an amendment to remove all changes to BP 6161.13, Student Fees for Instructional Materials. Mr. Anderson seconded.

MOTION

Ms. Wassilie moved the Board approve an amendment to the amendment to table action on BP 6161.13, Student Fees for Instructional Materials. Dr. Anderson seconded.

VOTE ON WASSILIE AMENDMENT:

Advisory Vote - YES
YES - Hilts, Brown, N. Anderson, Downing, Hatch, M. Anderson, Wassilie, Crawford
NO – Mullins

Amendment carried.

MOTION

Mrs. Brown moved the Board approve an amendment to table action on AR 6180, Dual Credit Guidelines. Motion died for lack of a second.

VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION:

Advisory Vote - YES
YES – M. Anderson, Wassilie, Crawford, Downing, N. Anderson, Hatch, Hilts, Mullins
NO – Brown

Amended motion carried

BOARD COMMENTS:
(10:22:30 PM)

Dr. Anderson stated that dual credit only helps to decrease the pupil-teacher ratio and provides more teacher opportunities with the remaining students for interaction. He reported on a television program produced by ABC's 20/20 program titled, "Stupid in America", and added that it was a terrible indictment of the public school system and in particular, the teacher's union. He invited those interested to contact him to view a copy.

Mrs. Downing thanked the staff at the Connections Program and Cooper Landing School for the school reports. She expressed appreciation for the residents of Hope and Cooper Landing for their testimony and school support. She reported that she has received many comments from parents, teachers and community members in the Homer area regarding nonprofit religious recreational program promotional materials that were distributed via schools in accordance to Board Policy, concerns regarding staff discipline, student discipline, and the Title I Program cut-off.

Mrs. Brown advised the administration not to proceed with the purchase of payroll software and instead partner with the Borough because it is too expensive. She recommended that the leadership team reevaluate and consider contracting out the webmaster duties. She stated that she was very impressed with the number of people, the Borough administration and Borough mayor who have joined in response to the Hope community situation. She expressed concern that if the Hope School closes it will cause a ripple effect throughout other small communities. She stated that she is optimistic for the Hope community and added that she has tried hard to communicate with the public and the Community Coalition Council. She stated that she believes there is a financial concern regarding KPC funding by the Borough and that Borough residents will see an increase in taxes in some form or another. She stated that she is unsure of how the District administration will track why Soldotna High School went from 6 high school social studies teachers down to one teacher. She asked what the real reason for that reduction is and how dual credit is playing a part.

Ms. Wassilie explained that the reason there is a decrease in staff in all schools is due to declining enrollment. She stated that the .1 mill designated for KPC to fund the Jump Start and tech prep courses has been well spent and helps students participate in the dual credit program. She expressed appreciation for the Midyear Report from Dr. Peterson and noted that it is sobering to read. She expressed concern for the software purchase and asked whether it is possible to partner with the Borough. She expressed appreciation for the community members who came from the east side of the Peninsula. She expressed appreciation for the tremendous effort by the Hope and Cooper Landing residents in their attempt to attract families to their communities. She suggested that the Board consider the use of teleconferencing equipment next year and offer it to various sites on an as-needed basis. She thanked those present for the flowers and cards and added that she is feeling well.

BOARD COMMENTS:
(continued)

Mr. Anderson thanked Mr. Norgren and Mr. Young for the school reports. He thanked the residents from the communities of Cooper Landing and Hope for their community pride and for their partnership in solving their problems and encouraged them to work together.

Mrs. Hilts stated that she was impressed with the manner in which the District administration handled the closing of schools south of Ninilchik due to the eruption of Mt. Augustine. She stated that the closure was a good decision especially for those students across the Kachemak Bay since they walk to school. She noted that the District website was very clear and informative about the closures. She commented that it is good to have all members at the Board meeting. She extended condolences to Dr. Peterson from the Board.

Miss King recognized the community members from Hope and Cooper Landing and added that she was impressed that 10% of Hope community attended the meeting. She commended the Seward baseball team and their parents for showing their commitment to their participating in the upcoming season. She noted that it will be interesting to see the Community Action Coalition survey results versus the youth risk assessment that was given three years ago.

Mrs. Crawford thanked the Connections Program and Cooper Landing staff for the school reports. She thanked the residents of Hope and Cooper Landing for speaking to the Board. She reported that the Board has decided to keep Hope Elementary and Cooper Landing Elementary open and asked the administration for policy language for closing schools in general that reflect other schools and states as well as based on enrollment numbers. She reported that during the budget worksession the Board discussed the possibility of withdrawing Board members from PERS, depending on the amount of savings. She stated that withdrawal from the retirement system would be a great public statement. She thanked the administration for copies of the response to Intervention Model Update for Use in Special Education. She noted that the open meetings training was excellent. She reported that the Borough vacated the software purchase decision even though the District would like them to participate.

Mr. Hatch stated that he enjoyed the Cooper Landing Elementary School report and added that he believes small schools have a peculiarly good opportunity to have real excellence in education. He congratulated the communities of Cooper Landing and Hope in doing a good job in impressing their points in a polite and professional manner. He agreed that some type of conferencing should be explored by the Board and acknowledged that it is not as easy as it looks, but that technology is getting better.

Mrs. Mullins announced that in February, Mr. Anderson and Mrs. Hilts will attend the AASB Legislative Fly-in in Juneau. She noted that the Community Action Coalition asked the Board to return the sample surveys that were provided for information.

ADJOURN:
(10:42:45 PM)

At 10:42 p.m., Mrs. Crawford moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

_____
Mrs. Debra Mullins, President

_____
Ms. Sandra Wassilie, Clerk

The Minutes of January 16, 2006
were approved on February 6, 2006
with changes.