

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
Borough Administration Building  
Soldotna, Alaska 99669

July 7, 1997

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President  
Mr. Joe Arness, Vice President  
Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk  
Dr. Nels Anderson, Treasurer  
Mrs. Joyce Fischer, Member  
Mrs. Deborah Germano, Member  
Mrs. Debra Mullins, Member

STAFF PRESENT: Mr. John Dahlgren, Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Patrick Hickey, Assistant Superintendent, Operations and  
Business Management  
Mr. Ed McLain, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction

OTHERS PRESENT: Mrs. Leona Oberts Mr. Paul Fisher  
Mr. Justin George Mrs. Barbara Vogel  
Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Mrs. Gross called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mrs. Gross invited those present to participate in the Pledge  
of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross Present  
Mr. Joe Arness Present  
Mrs. Susan Larned Present  
Dr. Nels Anderson Present  
Mrs. Joyce Fischer Present  
Mrs. Deborah Germano Present  
Mrs. Debra Mullins Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved as written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of June 9, 1997, were approved as  
printed.

KPESA: Mr. Justin George, KPESA representative read a letter from  
Mrs. Mahurin, KPESA President, dated June 27, 1997.  
Mrs. Mahurin asked the Board to reconsider their previous  
decision to remove \$750,000 from the Health Insurance  
Premium Account and to begin unauthorized payroll deductions  
of \$113 per employee. She stated that KPESA will be forced  
to choose binding grievance arbitration or court if the  
Board does not reverse their previous action. Mrs. Mahurin  
requested the Board honor Mr. Dorsey's arbitration award of  
paying employees \$650 in November and let the Health  
Insurance Committee continue to problem solve ways to keep  
health insurance costs at a minimum and then work with ,  
KPESA on a memorandum of agreement to agree to terms of  
insurance co-payment, if it appears one is necessary.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATION: Mrs. Gross presented a Plaque of Appreciation to retiring Superintendent/School Board Secretary, Barbara Jewell, and thanked her for her eighteen years of dedicated service to the Board of Education.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Mr. Dahlgren introduced new staff members Mr. Ed McLain, Assistant Superintendent Instruction; Mr. Patrick Hickey, Assistant Superintendent, Operations and Business Management; and Sally Tachick, Superintendent/School Board Secretary.

Mr. Dahlgren reported the Borough Assembly did not pass the technology bond issue at their last meeting. He stated he would be attending the next Borough Assembly meeting in Seldovia on July 15, 1997.

CONSTRUCTION AND MAJOR MAINTENANCE NEEDS: Mr. Dahlgren presented proposed lists of school construction and major maintenance needs for the next six years. He explained that these lists will be included in the District Six-Year Plan which will be given to the Board at the August 4 board meeting as a report. It is scheduled for approval at the August 18 board meeting. Mr. Dahlgren suggested a work session prior to approval of the document so that the items can be prioritized by the Board.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Mr. Hickey presented the financial report of the District for the period ending May 30, 1997.

CONSENT AGENDA: Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Annual Agenda, Extended Field Trip Requests, 1997-98 Tentative Non-Tenure Teacher Assignments, 1997-98 Tentative Teacher Assignments, Resignations, 1997-98 Teacher Assignments, Lease Agreements/People Count/Boys and Girls Club/Kachemak Selo, Lease Agreement/Aurora Borealis Charter School, and Furniture and Equipment List

ANNUAL AGENDA: Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve the 1997-98 Annual Agenda. The Annual Agenda consists of dates on which routine items are presented to the school board for approval.

EXTENDED FIELD TRIP  
REQUESTS:

Mr. McLain recommended the Board approve extended field trip requests for 10-12 Soldotna High School students to participate in the Baron's Optimist Basketball Tournament in San Diego, California, on December 26, 1997 through January 2, 1998; for 65 Kenai Central High School students to travel to Ireland, Wales, and Scotland to perform in cathedrals and concert halls, and to learn about foreign countries and currency on March 18-31, 1998; and for 100 Homer High students to participate in the 1998 International Music Festival in Honolulu, Hawaii, on April 7-14, 1998.

1997-98 TENTATIVE NON-  
TENURE TEACHER ASSIGNMENTS:

By memorandum, Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a listing of tentative non-tenure teaching assignments for 1997-98.

1997-98 TENTATIVE TEACHER  
ASSIGNMENTS:

By memorandum, Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve tentative tenure teaching assignments for the 1997-98 school year for Dianne Spence-Chorman, Homer High; and Holly Zwink, Kenai Middle.

RESIGNATIONS:

By memorandum, Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve resignations effective the end of the 1996-97 school year for Carl Kittrell, Music Counselor, Chapman Elementary; and Colleen Wright, Special Education/Resource, Nikiski Elementary.

1997-98 TEACHER  
ASSIGNMENTS:

By memorandum, Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve teaching assignments for the 1997-98 school year for Barbara Anderson, Math/Science, Kenai Central High; Richard Bartolowits, Computer, Kenai Central High; Laura Beck, Middle School, Seward Middle/Sr. High; Joel Burns, Grade 8 Science, Soldotna Middle; Jennifer Chapple, Elementary Grades, Susan B. English Elem/High; Shona DeVolld, English, Kenai Central High; Daniel Dillon, Math, Nikiski Middle/Sr. High (Temporary); Robert Dimick, P.E./Social Studies, Soldotna High (Temporary); George Harbeson, Language Arts, Chapman Elementary; Carol Huntington, District Wide Special Education Resource, West Homer Elementary; April Kaufman, Elementary Grades, Susan B. English Elem/High; Daniela Martian, Math, Kenai Central High; Bradford Nyquist, Math/Language Arts, Kenai Middle; Christopher Perk, P.E., Homer Middle; Jennifer Platt, Grade 4/5, Nikiski Elementary (Temporary); Roy Shapley, Grade 4, Nikiski Elementary; Jamilyn Shurts, District Wide Special Ed/Resource, Sterling Elementary; Richard Smith, District Wide Special Education/Resource, Kenai Central High; Amy Utecht, Grades 3/4, Redoubt Elementary; Ann Wilson, Art/Drama, Kenai Middle; William Withrow, P.E. (half-time), Sterling

1997-98 TEACHER ASSIGNMENTS (continued): Elementary (Temporary); Dena Pettijohn, Grade 6, Soldotna Elementary; Tammy Woffinden, English, Kenai Central High; Warren Starr, English, Soldotna High; Shelli Church, Social Studies, Soldotna Middle; Ann McLain, Science/Health/Reading, Kenai Middle; Sharon Thompson, Science, Chapman Elementary; and Greg Zorbas, Generalist, Skyview High.

LEASE AGREEMENTS/PEOPLE COUNT/BOYS & GIRLS CLUB/KACHEMAK SELO: Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve lease agreements for People Count, Boys and Girls Club, and Kachemak Selo. The agreements for People Count and Boys and Girls Club are renewals of last year's agreements for space at Kenai Elementary School. The amended lease agreement for facilities in Kachemak Selo is for additional space in the amount of \$1,850 monthly.

LEASE AGREEMENT/AURORA BOREALIS CHARTER SCHOOL: Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve a lease agreement between the District and Grace Brethren Church for space to house the Aurora Borealis Charter School.

FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT LIST: Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve the purchase of furniture and equipment for West Homer Elementary School in the amount of \$18,061.02.

ACTION Mr. Arness moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items #1 through #9. Mrs. Germano seconded.  
  
Motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATOR EVALUATION HANDBOOK: By memorandum, Mrs. Radtke presented a revised administrator evaluation handbook for Board approval. Mr. Dahlgren explained the main component of the evaluation is the School Development Plans which are geared toward the improvement of instruction. The mid-year evaluation assesses the school administrator in a variety of areas: General Functions, Certified and Support Staff, Curriculum/Instruction/Assessment, Physical Plant, Pupils, Communications, Goal Setting and Leadership. A final evaluation is conducted at the end of the year based on their school development plan.

Mr. Dahlgren noted many development plans were tied to the Analytical Writing Assessment for the 1996-97 year. He pointed out that the principal is considered the instructional leader of the school and that is their first priority. Secondly, they are the manager of their facility which includes many of the other duties listed in the handbook.

He reported that between 40 and 50 administrators are evaluated each year by the central office administration with principals evaluating assistant principals. He added that the evaluation proposal complies with HB 465.

ADMINISTRATOR EVALUATION  
HANDBOOK (continued):

In response to a question from Dr. Anderson, Mr. Dahlgren pointed out those items specific to the improvement of instruction are contained within the evaluation handbook.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board postpone action until the August 4 meeting. Mrs. Germano seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Germano asked to have a work session with Mrs. Radtke prior to the August 4 meeting to answer questions pertaining to the Administrator Evaluation Handbook.

1997-98 BOARD GOALS:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve five new goals and eight other activities to be accomplished by reports and work sessions during the school year. The recommended new goals were 1) To develop criteria for KPBSD diploma certification through the expansion of the assessment program, the establishment of benchmark targets, and the development of remediation procedures; 2) To establish positive relationships with employee groups and the public; 3) To establish a budgeting process which will involve the borough administration, assembly and the public; 4) To explore and monitor alternative methods for the implementation of the art curriculum; and 5) To support the successful passage of the technology referendum.

ACTION

Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve the 1997-98 School Board Goals. Mr. Arness seconded.

ACTION

Mrs. Larned moved the Board amend the 1997-98 School Board Goal Item #4 to add after implementation, "elementary visual arts section." Dr. Anderson seconded.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

YES - Anderson, Larned, Mullins, Gross  
NO - Arness, Fischer, Germano

Amendment carried.

Mrs. Germano expressed concern for the music program that would be excluded by amending Item #4.

ACTION

Mrs. Germano moved the Board amend the 1997-98 School Board goals to add Item #6, "To Explore and monitor alternative methods for the implementation of the elementary arts curriculum." Mrs. Fischer seconded.

1997-98 BOARD GOALS  
(continued):

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

YES - Fischer, Germano, Larned  
NO - Anderson, Arness, Mullins, Gross

Amendment failed.

VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION:

YES - Anderson, Arness, Germano, Larned, Mullins, Gross  
NO - Fischer

Amended motion carried.

BAY VIEW CHARTER SCHOOL  
PROPOSAL MODIFICATION:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve an addendum to the Bayview Charter School proposal that would increase the number of students served from 20 to 22.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve an addendum to the Bayview Charter School proposal to allow an increase to the number of students served to 22. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACTS:

Mr. Dahlgren presented contracts for approval for three charter schools: Aurora Borealis Charter School, Central Peninsula area; Bay View Charter School, Seward; and Homer Charter School, Homer.

ACTION

Mrs. Germano moved the Board approve contracts for three charter schools: Aurora Borealis Charter School, Central Peninsula area; Bay View Charter School, Seward; and Homer Charter School, Homer. Mrs. Fischer seconded.

Mr. Dahlgren clarified a question from the Board that the charter school contract takes precedent over the proposal. He explained that the binding document is the contract between the Board and the Charter school.

Mrs. Fischer questioned whether the Charter School contracts included variances that govern purchasing procedures, etc. Mr. Dahlgren responded the contracts refer to the proposals which outline the specific waivers that had been requested. He added that the contracts have been reviewed by district attorneys to make sure they include items that were in the proposals.

Mrs. Leona Oberts stated that there was a waiver that allowed charter schools to purchase outside of the District Warehouse. She also pointed out that Item #16 in each of the contracts addresses anything that is included in the proposals.

CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACTS  
(continued):

Mr. Dahlgren added that the District does purchase from vendors other than what is stocked at the warehouse. Charter schools could purchase specific items such as Calvert curricula, Dell computers, etc. He explained that these items are purchased through the bid process.

Motion carried unanimously.

INCLUSION OF \$650 IN HEALTH  
INSURANCE PAYMENT:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended authorization to commence co-payments in the amount of \$650 for those employees who are receiving a \$650 wellness payment.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board authorize the administration to commence co-payments in the amount of \$650 for those employees who are receiving a \$650 wellness payment. Mr. Arness seconded.

Mr. Dahlgren explained that the Board has not initiated any action allowing the administration to commence the co-payments other than directing the administration to send out a letter to the employees which was not an action of the Board.

Mr. Hickey stated if the Board does not approve the co-payment and proceeds with the \$650 payment, the health reserve would be depleted totally. Mr. Hickey estimated that the employees would still be faced with a co-payment of approximately \$58/per employee per month to balance \$430 in expected expenses to the District's health care, which is in excess of the \$395 amount contained in the negotiated agreement. There would be no reserve account for health insurance.

Mrs. Fisher asked where the funds would come from for the \$650 if the arbitrator's decision did not rule in favor of the Board. Mr. Dahlgren explained that during the budget process the funds were included in the salary accounts of each employee.

Mr. Hickey explained that a total of \$113 would be deducted from each employee; \$54 for the \$650 payment and \$59 co-payment to offset the anticipated level of expenditures for health coverage.

Mrs. Gross expressed concern over deducting \$113 per month immediately and that the money will come from some of the lowest paid employees.

Mr. Arness pointed out that the District will be spending \$713,000 each year indefinitely. He stated if this issue is not clarified prior to negotiations it will be assumed that the payment will be a bonus in addition to their regular salary.

INCLUSION OF \$650 IN HEALTH  
INSURANCE PAYMENT  
(continued):

Mrs. Fischer reminded the Board that there will be a cost to the public whether it is settled through legal channels, negotiations, or arbitration. She urged the Board to get on with business and find other solutions to the problem.

VOTE:

YES - Anderson, Arness, Germano, Larned  
NO - Fischer, Mullins, Gross

Motion carried.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. George stated that KPESA is more that willing to take the co-payment issue to the arbitrator.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mrs. Fischer expressed her disappointment that the Fourth of July parade did not include a school band.

Mrs. Mullins welcomed Mr. John Dahlgren, Mr. Patrick Hickey, Mr. Ed McLain and Mrs. Sally Tachick, and wished Ms. Barbara Jewell well on her retirement.

Mrs. Larned extended a welcome to the newcomers and thanked Ms. Jewell for all of the help she had provided and wished her luck in her future endeavors.

Mr. Arness expressed his appreciation for Ms. Jewell and felt that she ranked as one of only a few women who have had the most impact on this local government.

Mrs. Gross reported that the Board will host a barbecue dinner for the Association of Alaska School Boards on July 26, 1997. She urged Board members to attend.

Mrs. Gross thanked Ms. Jewell for her help and stated that her professionalism is exemplary to everyone.

ADJOURN:

At 8:55 p.m., Mrs. Larned moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Fischer seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President

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Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

The Minutes of July 7, 1997,  
were approved on August 4, 1997,  
as written.



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
148 N. Binkley Street  
Soldotna, AK 99669

August 4, 1997

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President  
Mr. Joe Arness, Vice President  
Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk  
Dr. Nels Anderson, Treasurer  
Mrs. Joyce Fischer, Member  
Mrs. Deborah Germano, Member  
Mrs. Debra Mullins, Member

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Lawrence Colston Mrs. Barbara Vogel  
Mr. Justin George Ms. Shawna Loshbough  
Mr. Mick Wykis Ms. Robin Coursen  
Mr. Steve Wright  
Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Mrs. Gross called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mrs. Gross invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross Present  
Mr. Joe Arness Late/Arrived 7:50 p.m.  
Mrs. Susan Larned Absent/Excused  
Dr. Nels Anderson Present  
Mrs. Joyce Fischer Present  
Mrs. Deborah Germano Present  
Mrs. Debra Mullins Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved with the removal of Item 10b. Approval of Administrator Evaluation Handbook.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of July 7, 1997, were approved as printed.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS: Mr. Dahlgren read a thank you note from Sharon Young for hosting the Association of Alaska School Board's dinner, held at Dr. Anderson's house, Saturday, July 26, 1997.

KPEA: Mr. Lawrence Colston, KPEA President, spoke in favor of the \$650 insurance payment. He stated that money spent on teachers is an investment in students. He added that teachers are not a commodity; when more effort, energy and enthusiasm is spent on them, the more they have to offer students. He concluded by saying, "invest in me, I touch kids' lives."

KPESA:

Mr. Justin George, KPESA representative, read a letter from Ms. Karen Mahurin, KPESA President. She expressed her disappointment over actions from the last board meeting. She stated that she was offended by comments made by some board members regarding KPESA. She stated that a grievance has been filed over Board action directing the District to begin unauthorized payroll deductions of \$650. Ms. Mahurin stated that it was not legal or ethical to deduct money from employees only to pay it back. She noted that, of the \$540 co-payment amount deducted last year, \$188 has been returned to employees. She stated that KPESA is interested in entering into a memorandum of agreement regarding a co-payment for the 1997-98 school year. She expressed concern over returning to work under such a negative tone.

Mr. George urged the Board to read the KPESA negotiated agreements as it relates to contracting of support employee jobs. He asked the Board to be cautious when considering granting authorization for the superintendent or designee to enter into contracts and agreements.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Dahlgren presented the Superintendent's Annual Report for the 1996-97 school year. The report outlines progress on board goals for the 1996-97 school year and highlights staff achievements, student accomplishments, co-curricular achievements and various programs throughout the District.

Mr. Dahlgren reported attending the July 15 Borough Assembly Meeting in Seldovia. He stated that the Assembly failed to reconsider the technology bond issue and felt that there was a strong feeling from at least six members that the timing was poor. He added that the Assembly expressed concerns regarding the legality of going to bond over equipment and wanted to work closely with the District to locate other funding opportunities. He noted that he went to the assembly meeting to reaffirm that a plan was in place and that schools had developed a technology plan that implements technology into the curriculum. He reported that the Assembly was not totally negative but that there were too many issues for consideration, such as funding outside cap, the transfer of money from the West Homer Elementary construction project to Ninilchik Elem/High, etc.

Mr. Dahlgren reported that the Borough Mayor forwarded a memo and proposed resolution that would authorize the harvest of spruce bark beetle infested trees on school property. Mr. Dahlgren explained that beetle infested trees pose a threat to the safety of staff and students. The removal and planting of new trees would begin immediately upon adoption of the resolution.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT  
(Continued):

Mr. Dahlgren reported that the Sallie Mae First Year Teacher Award was given to Terri Carter, elementary teacher at Redoubt Elementary. Mr. Dahlgren noted that Ms. Carter was a former KCHS student and was a member of the first graduating class of Soldotna High School in 1981.

SIX YEAR ENROLLMENT  
PROJECTIONS AND PLAN:

Mr. Hickey presented the Six-Year Enrollment Projections and Plan for 1997-98 through 2002-2003. He noted a worksession was conducted prior to the meeting to review the information. The plan will be presented for adoption at the August 18 meeting. Projects for major maintenance and future construction needs were presented in prioritized ranking.

Mr. Hickey stated that he had been asked by the Borough Mayor to participate in an effort by the Borough to present information to a group of legislators regarding deferred maintenance. He will make copies available to the Board and notify them of the dates as soon the presentation has been completed.

STATUS OF HEALTH INSURANCE  
PAYMENT:

Mr. Hickey presented an update on the current status of employee health insurance payments. Mr. Hickey reported that the negotiated District contribution is expected to be less than anticipated, and employee contributions are expected to meet the shortfall. He reported that the District closed the year for the health insurance account and refunded excess contributions to employees.

Mr. Hickey stated that as soon as the employee health insurance committees are able to meet, the District can make a more serious approach towards agreeing to a co-payment. He reported that a \$58 participation by the employees groups will be necessary to make up the shortfall.

Mr. Dahlgren added that at the end of the week a grievance was filed by KPEA and KPESA concerning the \$650 payment. He stated that the unions asked to waive steps I and II and go directly to step III. Mr. Dahlgren directed Mrs. Radtke to draft a letter to the unions asking them to waive step III and go directly to arbitration.

ASSESSMENT REPORT:

Mr. McLain expressed his appreciation for Mr. Mick Wykis and Ms. Nan Spooner for their work this summer coordinating the assessment efforts and compiling the report. Mr. McLain presented assessment information for the 1996-97 school year. Mr. McLain noted that, during the worksession held previously, state scores were not available but are included in the report sent in the board packet. Mr. McLain made comparisons between state and district scores, and stated that he was basically pleased with the results. He felt that there were some interesting anomalies in the area of math, which is the target curriculum for the 1997-98 school year.

Mr. McLain stated that the depth of this testing information is extremely useful for the District. He noted that District and school administrators will review this information during a workshop on August 5. The school administrators will return to their site councils and review testing information as they finalize their 1997-98 school development plans.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Hazardouse Bus Route Resolutions, Furniture and Equipment List, 1997-98 Teacher Appointments, Resolution for Authority to Enter into Contracts, Leaves of Absence/Support, 1997-98 Resignations, and Semester Leave of Absence/ Support.

HAZARD BUS ROUTE  
RESOLUTIONS:

Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve resolutions establishing 1997-98 hazardous bus routes for North Star, Nikiski, Seward, Redoubt, Soldotna, Sears, Mt. View, Homer Intermediate, Paul Banks and K-Beach elementary schools for the 1997-98 school year. Hazardous bus routes are established on roads within 1.5 miles from these schools where walking conditions for students are considered dangerous.

FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT  
LIST:

Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve the purchase of furniture and equipment for West Homer Elementary School in the amount of \$36,625.51.

1997-98 TEACHER  
APPOINTMENTS:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve 1997-98 teacher assignments for Christine Abrahamson, Language Arts/Social Studies/Humanities (half-time), Homer Charter School; Stuart Allen, Science, Seward Jr./Sr.; Alan Anderson, Vocational Education; Nikiski Jr./Sr.; Pauline Demas, K-3, Nanwalek Elem/High; Margaret Evans, Generalist, Kenai Alternative; Beverly Grogan, Lead Teacher, Bayview Charter School; Jackie Kempf, Speech Pathologist, Districtwide; Susan Lepry, Math/Science (half-time), Homer Charter School; Laurie Martin, Grades 3/4, Nikolaevsk Elem/High; Heidi McMahan, Math, Skyview High; Claire Musgrove, Physical Education/Math, Seward Jr./Sr.; Lynn Norstadt, Primary (half-time), Port Graham Elem/High; Carol Norstadt, Primary, Port Graham Elem/High; Scott O'Tremba, Counselor, Ninilchik Elem/High; Leona Oberts, Lead Teacher, Aurora Borealis School; Scott Otterbacher, Grades 4-6, Nanwalek Elem/High; Eugene Palm, Grades 5-6, Aurora Borealis School; Suzanne Phillips, Grades 7-8, Aurora Borealis School; Kurt Racicot, Technology/Computers, Homer High; Odessa Rogers, Spanish (temporary), Kenai Central High; William Severson, Grades 3-4, Aurora Borealis; Constance Tobin, Grades 3/4, K-Beach Elementary; Carol VanDerWege, Reading Specialist (temporary, three quarter-time), Redoubt Elementary; Robert VanDerWege, Media Coordinator and Media Specialist, Soldotna Elementary; Karen Wessel, Lead Teacher, Homer Flex School; Lydia Wren, English/MC, Nikolaevsk Elem/High; Cathy Zorbas, Activities Director (half-time); Kenai Central High.

RESOLUTION FOR AUTHORITY TO  
ENTER INTO CONTRACTS:

Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve resolution 97-98-1 to grant the superintendent or designee authority to enter into contracts on behalf of the District. Mr. Hickey clarified that the term "service contracts" refers to vendors who provide a service not economically feasible to provide in-house and is therefore contracted out. Mr. Hickey assured the Board that such agreements are not meant to infringe on support employee positions.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE/SUPPORT:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve unpaid leave of absence requests for the 1997-98 school year for Marya Kalugin, Migrant Tutor/Bilingual Instruction, Voznesenka School and Elizabeth Smith, Head Custodian, Soldotna High.

1997-98 RESIGNATIONS:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve resignations effective the end of the 1996-97 school year for Peter Thielke, Math/Language Arts, Homer Middle and David Scott Tomaso, Primary Grades, Ninilchik School.

SEMESTER LEAVE OF  
ABSENCE/SUPPORT:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve an unpaid leave of absence request for the first semester of the 1997-98 school year for Esther Richeson, School Nurse, Kenai Central High.

CONSENT AGENDA (Continued):

ACTION Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items #3, #5, #6, and #7. Mrs. Germano seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ACTION Mrs. Germano moved the Board approve Hazardous Bus Routes as presented with the change from Homer Intermediate to West Homer Elementary. Dr. Anderson seconded.

VOTE:

YES - Arness, Fischer, Germano, Mullins, Gross  
NO - Anderson

Motion carried.

ACTION Mrs. Germano moved the Board approve the Furniture and Equipment List for West Homer Elementary in the amount of \$36,625.51. Dr. Anderson seconded.

ACTION Mrs. Germano moved the Board amend the Furniture and Equipment list and remove the purchase of a building dedication plaque in the amount of \$1,200. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Mr. Dahlgren explained that Mr. Ladd had requested a plaque be placed on the front of the building dedicating the West Homer Elementary to the students and to those involved with the planning and construction. He noted that other District schools and additions have dedication plaques.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

YES - Anderson, Arness, Germano, Mullins, Gross  
NO - Fischer

Amendment carried.

VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION:

Motion carried unanimously.

ACTION Mrs. Germano moved the Board approve Resolution 97-98-1 Authority to Enter into Contracts. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

CONSENT AGENDA (Continued): Mr. Dahlgren explained that vendors often require a resolution verifying that the Board has individuals authorized to enter into contracts. He noted that because of the capital outlay and maintenance agreement, a resolution was required in order to purchase a lease agreement with the telephone system for Central Office, Homer, Nikiski, and Skyview High Schools.

Mrs. Fischer questioned the administration about when the Board would receive information on contracts. Mr. Hickey answered that board policy and administrative regulations outline what levels of purchased services are brought to the Board's attention. He assured the Board that the resolution does not circumvent what is currently in board policy. Contracts for telephone systems, copy services, drug and alcohol screening, psychology services, bus contract services, etc. do not require board approval.

ACTION Mrs. Fisher moved to amend the last sentence of the fourth paragraph of Resolution 97-98-1 by adding, "after Board approval." Mrs. Germano seconded.

Mrs. Fisher stated this amendment would emphasize that the Board does want to approve contractual agreements, as outlined by board policy, and felt that previous contracts had circumvented that approval.

Mr. Arness felt the amendment confused the intent and would not allow the superintendent or designee to enter into service contracts unless the board approves them. He stated that the amendment is properly worded and urged the Board to pass the resolution as written.

Mrs. Fischer stated that, next to educating students, the Board's function is to see that the business of educating is done in the most practical and economical manner possible. She expressed concern that many items of business have been delegated away and the Board is not aware that it is happening. She stated that by adding this amendment the Board would be aware of what is going on and can answer questions from the public.

Mr. Dahlgren explained that there are other types of contracts and services that the District enters into that are not brought to the Board and he did not feel that it was the Board's intent to see every expenditure.

Mrs. Germano agreed with Mrs. Fischer that contract information should be brought to the Board. She questioned how service contracts are drawn up.

CONSENT AGENDA (Continued): Mr. Arness felt the administration should have a document that authorizes them to sign and negotiate contracts with vendors, but that it does not mean the Board should be less vigilant about what it is they are signing.

Mr. Hickey further explained that the Board has set a policy which indicates the level the Board feels the necessity to be aware of financial transactions of the District. If anything is purchased above a minimum level the Board should be informed. Mr. Hickey stated that his intent in proposing the resolution was to clear up what he felt was a clerical error and offered to draft new policy language if the Board desired.

Mrs. Gross clarified with Mr. Dahlgren that there was a previous resolution that authorized he and Mr. Swarner to sign contracts for the District.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

YES - Fischer

NO - Anderson, Arness, Germano, Mullins, Gross

Amendment failed.

VOTE ON MOTION:

YES - Anderson, Arness, Germano, Mullins, Gross

NO - Fischer

Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATOR  
APPOINTMENTS:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve administrator appointments for the 1997-98 school year for Aaron Stansberry, Principal/Teacher, Bartlett Elem/High; Leslie Weld, Principal/Teacher, Nanwalek School; Rosemary Bushon, Assistant Principal, Kenai Middle; Gregg Wilbanks, Assistant Principal, Skyview High; Greg Paxton, Assistant Principal, Soldotna Middle; and Alex Trout, Principal/Teacher, Kachemak Selo.

ACTION

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve administrator appointments for the 1997-98 school year as presented. Mrs. Germano seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mrs. Mullins requested an excused absence from the August 18, 1997, meeting.



BOARD COMMENTS (Continued): Dr. Anderson expressed his unhappiness with the comments in the *Peninsula Clarion* from Representative Hodgins, a couple of weeks ago, suggesting that the District does not employ local people. He extended an invitation to Mr. Hodgins to check with the central office and see who has been hired this school year and to retract his statement.

Mrs. Germano commented that there is an impact on students every time more money is spent on staff. She added that the concern is the students, not the students against the staff.

Mr. Dahlgren responded to Mrs. Germano's question on the technology bond issue that he hoped to meet with the borough mayor, borough finance director, and Mr. Hickey to develop a plan before having a worksession with the Assembly.

Mrs. Germano asked to have a short board policy worksession with the new administration regarding expenditures.

Mrs. Fischer expressed her concern over the half-way houses being located within one-half mile from elementary schools. She felt that the Board should provide input to the Assembly concerning student safety.

ADJOURN: At 8:40 p.m., Mr. Arness moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Fischer seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President

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Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

The Minutes of August 4, 1997,  
were approved on August 18, 1997,  
as written.

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Homer High School Auditorium  
Homer, Alaska 99603

August 18, 1997

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President  
Mr. Joe Arness, Vice President  
Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk  
Dr. Nels Anderson, Treasurer  
Mrs. Joyce Fischer, Member  
Mrs. Deborah Germano, Member  
Mrs. Debra Mullins, Member

STAFF PRESENT: Mr. John Dahlgren, Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Patrick Hickey, Assistant Superintendent, Operations and  
Business Management  
Mr. Ed McLain, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction  
Mrs. Sharon Radtke, Assistant Superintendent, Human  
Resources

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Glen Szymoniak Mr. Rich Toymill  
Mr. Keith Gebhardt Mr. Mark Leal  
Mr. Steve Gibson Ms. Shana Loshbaugh  
Mrs. Lila Arness Mr. Neil Herrin  
Mr. Rich Patton  
Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Mrs. Gross called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mrs. Gross invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross Present  
Mr. Joe Arness Present  
Mrs. Susan Larned Absent/Excused  
Dr. Nels Anderson Present  
Mrs. Joyce Fischer Present  
Mrs. Deborah Germano Present  
Mrs. Debra Mullins Absent/Excused

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved as written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of August 4, 1997, were approved as printed.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS: Mrs. Gross stated she received a letter from Mrs. Jacquie Imle requesting that the Sears Elementary nurse be allowed to start work on August 18 to be present for registration.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Mr. Dahlgren reported that the New Administrator Orientation was conducted on August 13 and the first Administrator meeting was held on August 14-15. Mr. Dahlgren reminded the Board of the districtwide inservice to be held on August 20 at Kenai Central High beginning at 8:45 a.m. He announced the Inservice keynote speaker will be Ceil Chavez and invited board members to attend.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Mr. Hickey presented the financial report of the District for the period ending July 15, 1997.

- CONSENT AGENDA: Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Substitute and Temporary Pay Schedule, Furniture and Equipment List, Non-Tenure Teacher for Tenure, and 1997-98 Teacher Appointments
- SUBSTITUTE AND TEMPORARY PAY SCHEDULE: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve the pay schedule for substitutes and temporary employees for the 1997-98 school year. Mrs. Radtke confirmed the salaries for substitutes remain the same as for the 1996-97 school year.
- FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT LIST: Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve the purchase of furniture and equipment for West Homer Elementary School in the amount of \$9,455.64.
- NON-TENURE TEACHER FOR TENURE: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve Trudy Petersen, a non-tenure teacher, for tenure.
- 1997-98 TEACHER APPOINTMENTS: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve 1997-98 teacher assignments for Krista Larson, Grade 7 Science/Health, Soldotna Middle School; Dotti Harness, Math (Half-time), Homer High; Suzanne Stansberry, Grades K-2, Bartlett School; Elizabeth Kobylarz, Special Ed/Resource, Nikiski Elem; Alice Tucker, Language Arts, Ninilchik School; and Tari Hoeft, Physical Education, Homer High.
- ACTION Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the Consent Agenda items #1 through #4. Dr. Anderson seconded.  
Motion carried unanimously.
- ADMINISTRATOR EVALUATION HANDBOOK: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve the 1997-98 Administrator Evaluation Handbook. Mrs. Radtke noted that changes made during the previous worksessions have been included.
- ACTION Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the 1997-98 Administrator Evaluation Handbook. Dr. Anderson seconded.
- ACTION Mrs. Germano moved the Board amend the Administrator Evaluation Handbook to add a Community Survey form. Mrs. Fischer seconded.  
Amendment carried unanimously.
- ACTION Mrs. Germano moved the Board amend the Administrator Evaluation Handbook on page 8 to add one more category titled, "Consistently Exceeds District Standards." Amendment died for lack of a second.

ADMINISTRATOR EVALUATION  
HANDBOOK:

Mrs. Germano moved the Board amend the Administrator Evaluation Handbook on page 2, second paragraph, to replace "assurance" for the first "improvement." Motion died for lack of a second.

ACTION

Amended motion carried unanimously.

SIX-YEAR PLAN/ENROLLMENT  
PROJECTIONS AND SCHOOL  
CONSTRUCTION NEEDS:

Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve the Six-Year Enrollment Projections and Plan. The plan includes enrollment projections and school construction needs for the 1997-98 through 2002-2003 school years.

Neil Herring, Homer Hockey Association representative, expressed his disappointment over the project to cover the Kenai hockey rink and the fact that there was not a similar item for the Homer area. He requested the Board pay attention to the hockey needs in the Homer area. Mr. Herring stated that last fall the local borough advisory commission in Homer selected the project to cover the Homer hockey rink as the number one item to submit to the Borough Assembly for their capital improvement project list. He requested the Board give equal consideration to the Homer rink.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the Six-Year Enrollment Projections and Plan as presented. Mrs. Germano seconded.

Mr. Dahlgren explained that the listed projects have been brought up by each of the schools during his annual building visitations. Mr. Dahlgren stated that there had not been any requests from Homer administrators to cover the Homer hockey rink. Mr. Dahlgren added that the Homer Hockey Association has approached the City of Homer for a facility of their own. He stated that the District let the hockey association restore the old hockey area. Mr. Dahlgren stated that the Kenai ice rink covering has been on the list for several years and does not believe the state will fund it. He explained that the state has quit funding new construction of outdoor hockey facilities. He added that covering the Homer ice rink project request could be added to the capital projects list and funded through the Borough, if the Board approved a recommendation.

Mr. Dahlgren confirmed that the district hockey program is sharing the existing rink with the Homer Hockey Association. Mr. Dahlgren reiterated that he had not been contacted by the Homer Hockey Association or the Homer High School to cover the rink. He stated that he had a discussion with the Homer Hockey Association about the possibility of constructing a refrigerated rink some place in Homer.

SIX-YEAR PLAN/ENROLLMENT  
PROJECTIONS AND SCHOOL  
CONSTRUCTION NEEDS  
(Continued):

ACTION

Mrs. Germano moved to amend the capital improvement project list to include covering the Homer ice rink. Motion died for lack of a second.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board amend the capital improvement project list to move the Central Peninsula Middle School back to the year 2001. Motion died for lack of a second.

Mr. Dahlgren clarified that the capital improvement project lists are ranked statewide. He added that some districts have passed bond issues pending state approval. He stated that the district could refuse money should it be available, but it would require voter approval to change the title of the project and put it towards an addition to the Soldotna Middle School. He stated that the question still remains about what should be done with the middle school in Soldotna with eight portables.

Mr. Dahlgren stated that he would have a listing of the reports and worksessions the Board chose to have as a result of the goal setting session.

VOTE:

YES - Anderson, Arness, Fischer, Gross

NO - Germano

Motion carried.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mrs. Fischer thanked the Homer residents for attending the meeting and expressed her appreciation for being in Homer.

Dr. Anderson expressed his appreciation for the new road and beautiful scenery.

Mrs. Gross announced that the board self-evaluation documents would be mailed to the Board for the September 15 meeting.

Mrs. Gross stated that she would like to move the Homer board meeting to a date after school begins.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 8:05 p.m. Dr. Anderson moved the Board adjourn into executive session to discuss subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person, provided the person may request a public discussion. Mr. Arness seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 8:32 p.m. Dr. Anderson moved the Board adjourn the executive session. Mrs. Fischer seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN: At 8:32 p.m., Dr. Anderson moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Fischer seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President

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Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

The Minutes of August 18, 1997,  
were approved on September 15, 1997,  
as written.

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
148 N. Binkley Street  
Soldotna, AK 99669

September 15, 1997

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President  
Mr. Joe Arness, Vice President  
Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk  
Dr. Nels Anderson, Treasurer  
Mrs. Joyce Fischer, Member  
Mrs. Deborah Germano, Member  
Mrs. Debra Mullins, Member

STAFF PRESENT: Mr. John Dahlgren, Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Patrick Hickey, Assistant Superintendent,  
Operations and Business Management  
Mr. Ed McLain, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction  
Mrs. Sharon Radtke, Assistant Superintendent, Human  
Resources

OTHERS PRESENT: Mrs. Linda Raemaeker Mrs. Terri Carter  
Mr. Gary Jackson Ms. Traci Davis  
Ms. Karen Mahurin Mr. Lawrence Colston  
Ms. Angela McKinney Ms. Shana Loshbaugh  
Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Mrs. Gross called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 5:01 p.m., Ms. Mullins moved the Board go into executive session to discuss subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person, provided the person may request a public discussion. Mr. Arness seconded.  
  
Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 6:30 p.m., Mrs. Larned moved the executive session be adjourned. Dr. Anderson seconded.  
  
Motion carried unanimously.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mrs. Gross invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross Present  
Mr. Joe Arness Present  
Mrs. Susan Larned Present  
Dr. Nels Anderson Present  
Mrs. Joyce Fischer Absent/Excused  
Mrs. Deborah Germano Present  
Mrs. Debra Mullins Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved as written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of August 18, 1997 were approved as printed.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND/OR  
P.T.A., K.P.A.A., K.P.E.A.,  
K.P.E.S.A.:

Mrs. Angela McKinney, Parent Representative, Chapman Elementary SBDM, asked the Board to staff the Chapman Jr. High grades as a middle school. She recounted the history surrounding the decision not to move the Chapman Jr. High students to Homer Middle School. She stated that Anchor Point parents were not aware that they would be losing .5 FTE and that Chapman Elementary was categorized as an elementary school along with other K-6 or 3-6 elementary schools. She reviewed the staffing formula and asked the Board to staff Chapman Elementary seventh and eighth grades using the middle school formula of 1:19. Mrs. McKinney stated that she felt Chapman Elementary was being discriminated against.

Mr. Arness clarified the facts surrounding the previous conversations of the Chapman Elementary School staffing. He stated that Chapman Elementary parents agreed to status quo staffing as opposed to moving Anchor Point middle school students to Homer Middle School. Mr. Arness added that financially, it made more sense to transport the Anchor Point middle school students to Homer Middle School.

Mr. Colston, KPEA President, encouraged the Board to seek more ways for both groups to work together. He highlighted personal contributions made to the district by board members and district staff. Mr. Colston expressed his appreciation for progress between KPEA and the Board and hoped it would continue.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Mrs. Gross presented an Award of Recognition to Ms. Terri Carter, first grade teacher, K-Beach Elementary, for receiving the 1997 Sallie Mae First Class Teacher for Alaska. Ms. Carter will receive \$1,500, a personalized memento, and a trip to Washington, D.C.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Dahlgren presented a listing of worksessions and reports to be presented at future board meetings from October 20 through May 18, 1998.

Mr. Dahlgren reported on Future Homemakers of America winners from Homer and Seward High Schools who had competed at the national convention. At Seward High, Candice Gonzales placed first in Community Service; Kelly Lipinski and Haida Hamill placed second in Skills for Life, Senior Division; and Marcie Zimmerman placed third in Skills for Life, Junior Division. At Homer High, Annie Lefton placed first in Illustrated Talk and Tiffany Webb placed third in Illustrated Talk.



SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT  
(Continued):

Mr. Dahlgren reported that the most recent student enrollment count indicated the district is below the projected enrollment by 207 students. He pointed out that the Alternative School is below by 55 students and that the anticipated students requesting the Calvert School program have not materialized. The administration is currently working on plans to balance the budget if the enrollment does not significantly increase. Mr. Dahlgren noted that this is the first time the kindergarten and first grade classes have been smaller than the senior class. He announced that a freeze has been put on hiring until a plan is developed. He added that substitutes have been placed in areas where there are vacancies. Mr. Dahlgren stated that he anticipates a continued student increase during the twenty-day count, but the District is still looking at a sizable loss of funding at the borough and state levels.

Mrs. Germano suggested that worksessions and reports that have budgetary impact be rearranged so they occur prior to budget preparation. Mr. Dahlgren replied that the administration has tried to distribute the worksessions and reports prior to budget adoption. Information for the inclusion of soccer in the cocurricular budget will not be available prior to spring.

Dr. Anderson expressed concern that changes to the cocurricular and health services budgets would not have a chance to be considered before the budget is prepared.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Mr. Hickey presented the financial report of the District for the period ending August 31, 1997.

BOARD REPORTS:

Mrs. Gross reported that she attended the AASB Board of Directors meeting at Big Lake during the Alaska State School Board meeting. Mrs. Gross expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to share ideas with the state board.

Mrs. Gross reported that during a stop at the Anchorage School District offices she was invited to participate in a worksession involving health insurance coverage. She was provided a comparison of Alaska employers' health benefits premiums and was pleased to note the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District had lowest cost for health insurance of those listed.

Mrs. Gross appointed Mr. Joe Arness to represent the Board on the Math Curriculum Committee. Mrs. Gross stated that she will also attend as many of the meetings as possible.

- BOARD REPORTS (Continued): Mrs. Gross reported that she had received a request from the president of the Anchorage School District to meet with presidents or representatives from Fairbanks, Mat-Su, Kenai, Juneau and Anchorage school districts on October 11 to discuss legislation regarding funding, deferred maintenance and other topics of mutual interest.
- CONSENT AGENDA: Items presented on the Consent Agenda were 1997-98 Teacher Appointments, Furniture and Equipment List and Revised Substitute and Temporary Pay Schedule.
- 1997-98 TEACHER APPOINTMENTS: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve 1997-98 teacher assignments for Dennis Calhoun, Math (half-time), Homer Middle; Angela Maw, Dance (.4 time), Soldotna High; Jill Showman, Russian, Skyview High; Paula Patterson, Special Ed/Resource, Homer Middle; Charlotte Records, Grades 1-2, Ninilchik School; Kristi Felchle, Intermediate Grades, K-Beach Elementary; Cynthia Capra, Grade 1, Seward Elementary; Kathleen Herring, Technology/Math (.75 time), Nikiski Jr./Sr.; William Vedders, Technology Specialist/Media Center, Mt. View Elementary; and Christine Hertholtz, Science, Kenai Central High.
- FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT LIST: Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve the purchase of furniture and equipment for West Homer Elementary School in the amount of \$504.95.
- REVISED SUBSTITUTE AND TEMPORARY PAY SCHEDULE: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve the revised pay schedule for substitutes and temporary employees for the 1997-98 school year. Mrs. Radtke explained that the change was necessary to comply with the new state minimum wage increase.
- Mrs. Radtke explained that the teacher who was recommended for the Homer Middle School math position was selected even though it was not his area of certification. She further explained that it is difficult to place teachers for positions that are half-time and only one year.
- ACTION Mrs. Germano moved the Board approve the Consent Agenda items numbers 1 through 3. Mrs. Larned seconded.
- Motion carried unanimously.
- ADMINISTRATOR EVALUATION HANDBOOK COMMUNITY SURVEY FORM: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve the community survey form to be included in the 1997-98 Administrator Evaluation Handbook and made available to the public. The form includes questions intended to provide feedback to principals on their work with parents, students and community members.

ADMINISTRATOR EVALUATION  
HANDBOOK COMMUNITY SURVEY  
FORM (Continued):

ACTION Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the 1997-98 Administrator Evaluation Handbook Community Survey Form. Mrs. Germano seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

VOZNESENKA LAND PURCHASE: Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve the purchase of a portion of Lot 7, Voznesenka Subdivision, pending Borough Assembly approval at their September 16 meeting. Mr. Hickey explained that Voznesenka Elementary School population has increased from 28 students during the 1987-88 school year to a projected enrollment of 131 students for the current year.

Mr. Hickey explained that the Borough Assembly will consider the Voznesenka land purchase at their next meeting and asked the Board to give their endorsement so the Borough can proceed with the purchase.

Mr. Arness expressed concern over the cost of the property. Mr. Hickey stated that the two-acre parcel would cost between \$14,000 and \$19,000. He explained that during the negotiations process, the Borough tried to trade for other land but there wasn't any available.

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the purchase as a good way to protect the district as the community evolves and becomes Americanized. He assured the Board that, although some work will have to be done clearing the property, all of the land is usable.

Mr. Dahlgren explained that enrollment at Voznesenka is below projection because residents quite often migrate to Oregon to find work or are on extended trips outside and sometimes return later in the school year.

ACTION Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve the Voznesenka land purchase of Lot 7, Voznesenka Subdivision, pending Borough Assembly approval. Mr. Arness seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

AASB RESOLUTIONS: Mrs. Gross asked the Board to consider the 1997 AASB Belief Statements and Core Resolutions. She reminded the Board that the resolutions were given to them last year and that they must be acted on and submitted to AASB prior to the November AASB Annual Conference.

AASB RESOLUTIONS (Continued):  
ACTION Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve the AASB Belief Statements and Core Resolutions with the exception of 4.1, Opposing Mandated School Consolidation; 4.2, Opposition to Mandated Borough Formation; and 4.3, Non-Public School Student Access to Public School Programs. Mrs. Germano seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ACTION Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve AASB Resolution 4.1, Opposing Mandated School Consolidation. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Dr. Anderson expressed his concern over Resolution 4.1, Opposing Mandated School Consolidation. He felt that consolidating smaller schools would reduce costs to the state and still serve the best interests of students.

ACTION VOTE:

YES - Germano

NO - Anderson, Arness, Larned, Mullins, Gross

Motion failed.

ACTION Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve AASB Resolution 4.2, Opposition to Mandated Borough Formation. Mrs. Germano seconded.

Dr. Anderson spoke against the resolution stating that small REAA and city districts should be forced to incorporate into boroughs.

VOTE:

YES - Mullins

NO - Anderson, Arness, Germano, Larned, Gross

Motion failed.

ACTION Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve AASB Resolution 4.3, Non-Public School Student Access to Public School Programs. Mrs. Germano seconded.

Dr. Anderson spoke in support of private school students being allowed to access public school facilities and programs.

Mr. Dahlgren reminded the Board that Board Policy 5119 addresses the issue of non-public school students having access to public school programs.

AASB RESOLUTIONS (Continued):

ACTION

Mr. Arness and Mrs. Mullins clarified that voting in favor of Resolution 4.3 would support continued local control of non-public student access.

Motion carried unanimously.

REVISION OF AR 1330, USE OF  
SCHOOL FACILITIES AND  
PROPERTIES:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve the revision of Administrative Regulation 1330, Use of School Facilities and Properties. The change allows school groups to use kitchen and food preparation facilities to serve food and not be required to hire a food service worker to be present.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve revision of Administrative Regulation 1330, Use of School Facilities and Properties. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Mrs. Mahurin, President, KPEA, clarified that school related groups could still use kitchen facilities and nonschool groups would be required to hire a kitchen worker to monitor the kitchen use. Mrs. Mahurin stated that a vital part of the regulation is that all groups appropriately cleanup after themselves. She added that cleanup is an extremely sensitive issue at the building level since custodial time has been reduced.

Mr. Jackson, Principal, K-Beach Elementary spoke in favor of the regulation change. He added that a memo had been sent to building administrators earlier in the year from Student Nutrition Services that addressed the use of kitchen facilities.

Mrs. Germano concurred with Mrs. Mahurin's concern over building use cleanup and suggested that the building administrators provide a list that clearly states what is expected before the group is finished.

Mr. Dahlgren explained that building administrators have the liberty to decline the use of their facilities if they are not properly cared for and cleaned.

Motion carried unanimously.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mrs. Larned reported that she had spoken to several teachers who had felt that this year's school opening had been one of the best and they expressed their appreciation for the use of e-mail to share information.

BOARD COMMENTS(Continued):

Mrs. Gross expressed concern that Homer Flex School reported 27 students with one teacher. She asked the administration to investigate the possibility of adding a second teacher. She commented on her recent school visits and felt the school year was beginning on a positive tone.

ADJOURN:

At 8:38 p.m., Mrs. Mullins moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mr. Arness seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President

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Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

The Minutes of September 15, 1997,  
were approved on October 6, 1997,  
with a correction.

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Seward High School  
Seward, Alaska 99664

October 6, 1997

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President  
Mr. Joe Arness, Vice President  
Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk  
Dr. Nels Anderson, Treasurer  
Mrs. Joyce Fischer, Member  
Mrs. Deborah Germano, Member  
Mrs. Debra Mullins, Member

STAFF PRESENT: Mr. John Dahlgren, Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Ed McLain, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction  
Mrs. Sharon Radtke, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

OTHERS PRESENT: Mrs. Shana Loshbaugh Mr. Robert Boyle  
Mr. Lawrence Colston Mrs. Karen Mahurin  
Ms. Terry Woodward Mr. Malcolm Fleming  
Mr. Jerry Dixon Mrs. Nancy Tapsfield  
Mr. Marvin Tapsfield Ms. Liesl Davenport  
Mr. Cliff Regal Ms. Carol Sturgelewski  
Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Mrs. Gross called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mrs. Gross invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Davenport introduced Mr. Jasper Cunningham who played *Adios Muchachos* on the baritone while Ms. Cunningham accompanied him on the piano.

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross Present  
Mr. Joe Arness Absent/Excused  
Mrs. Susan Larned Present  
Dr. Nels Anderson Absent/Excused  
Mrs. Joyce Fischer Present  
Mrs. Deborah Germano Present  
Mrs. Debra Mullins Present  
Miss Danielle Meacham Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved as written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of September 15, 1997, were approved with a correction.

SCHOOL REPORTS:

Mr. Robert Boyle, Principal, Seward Elementary, introduced Mr. Marvin Tapsfield who reported on the Youth Area Watch Program project in cooperation with the Chugach School District. Mr. Tapsfield explained that Exxon Trustee Council awarded Chugach School District 5 million dollars for 45 students. The Chugach School District expanded their program to include Seward Elementary and Seward High participants. Mr. Tapsfield explained that students in grades 5 through 12 were allowed to work in the field of science with research scientists in Prince William Sound. Six students joined scientists on research vessels, spent a week on board, conducted experiments, used computers, analyzed sea water, and studied sea life. Students were allowed to study the effects of the oil spill and were able to take science experiments back to the classroom to duplicate for other students. Mr. Jonah Swiderseski, student at Seward Middle/High School and Youth Area Watch Program participant, explained that his research experiment was to study crab zoya by compiling data on their growth and weight loss or gain and write a brief summary. Mr. Boyle stated that Jonah's work has been published on the web page.

Mrs. Tapsfield reported on the Fine Arts Camp sponsored by the Seward PTSA. She explained that over 100 students in grades 2 through 6 participated in a five-week variety of courses relating to fine arts. She told the Board that the students were extremely proud of their accomplishments and showcased their newly learned talents on the last night of the camp. Mrs. Tapsfield explained that the PTSA sponsored the camp through a grant from Holland America. Mrs. Tapsfield and Seward Elementary students displayed stained glass, ceramics and quilts created during the Fine Arts Camp.

Mr. Boyle reported on the Seward Elementary teacher exchange program which brought Ms. Jenifer Barrass from Australia. Mr. Boyle also reported that Mr. Dixon was named as the MacAuliffe Fellowship Award recipient. He explained that students created a web page by interviewing local senior citizens and writing their biographies. Mr. Boyle told the Board that their goals for the 1997-98 school year will be implementation of the new science curriculum, improvement of the Sights on Success Program, and a student and staff wellness program. Mr. Boyle reported on staffing challenges with the reduction of a 6th grade teacher and the elimination of a kindergarten teacher. He thanked the many school volunteers, PTSA and site council parents and introduced the student council president and vice president.



PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. Cliff Regal, Seward Site Council Member, spoke to the Board about his concerns regarding staffing at the kindergarten and 6th grade levels. He told the Board that Seward Elementary has one half-time teacher position that is currently unfunded and urged the Board to fill that position.

Ms. Carol Sturgulewski, parent, told the Board she has been volunteering in the 6th grade and feels that the teachers are doing an excellent job with the overcrowding situation. She expressed her concern that students are not getting the attention they need and less instruction. She urged the board to allocate funds for the one half-time teacher position or consider hiring another aide to be shared between the kindergarten and 6th grade classrooms.

Mrs. Sharon Ganser, parent, stated that she is the parent of a kindergarten student and a 6th grade student. She told the Board the school has an excellent staff but felt that the students aren't being served as they have in the past. As time goes on, conditions at the 6th grade level will get more difficult. She reported that currently the 6th grade has 3 teachers in the morning and then students are split between 2 teachers in the afternoon. She asked the Board to provide assistance to the 6th grade as the teachers try to prepare them for junior high.

Monica Luther, parent, applauded 6th grade teachers but, felt that a pupil/teacher ratio of 32:1 was not good for staff or students. She expressed her concern for the quiet students who may be struggling to maintain but do not speak up. She urged the Board to fund a one half-time position at the 6th grade.

COMMUNICATIONS AND  
PETITIONS:

Mrs. Gross reported she had received three letters from Tustumena Elementary parents and staff concerning nursing time; a letter from Dave Dieckgraeff and Mr. and Mrs. Mark and Sharon Ganser concerning staffing at Seward Elementary.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND/OR  
P.T.A., K.P.A.A., K.P.E.A.,  
K.P.E.S.A.:

Mr. Lawrence Colston, KPEA President, commended the Board on their recent decision to pay the \$650 payment to the support staff. Mr. Colston expressed his objections to the decision concerning the \$650 payment to KPEA members. He stated that there was no court order or signed agreement authorizing the District to deduct the money from teachers' salaries. Mr. Colston stated that it is becoming clear that there is a commodity mentality with regards to teachers—the less you pay them, the better the bargain. He asked the Board to do what is right by paying the \$650 payment without deducting money from teachers' salaries.

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

Mr. Dieckgraeff, Seward Site Council President, welcomed the Board to Seward. He commended the school staff and stated that it is not uncommon to see teachers at school on Sunday afternoons. He expressed concern for 46 students and one teacher at the kindergarten level and one teacher who teaches 6th grade in the morning and music in the afternoon. He asked the Board to add an additional one half-time teacher for the 6th grade. Mr. Dieckgraeff stated he was pleased to see that 130 students are participating in sports at Seward High School. He asked the Board to think about organizing a School Based Decision Making meeting with other district councils to talk to the Board about common problems. He invited the Board to attend the Seward Site Council meeting on Thursday at 7:00 p.m. in the Seward High library.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Mrs. Gross presented an award of appreciation and a gift to Ms. Jenifer Barrass, exchange teacher from Australia. She thanked Ms. Barrass for sharing her talents and cultural background with students and staff at Seward Elementary.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Dahlgren submitted a revised listing of worksessions and reports to be presented at future board meetings from October 20 through April 6, 1998. The reports/worksessions to review alternate options for nursing services was moved to December 1 and a review of the cocurricular program was moved to January 19 to accommodate the budgeting process.

Mr. Dahlgren reported that the 20-day count for funding began on September 28. He reported that the District is currently 152 students under projected enrollment. This count does not include part-time students which total 22.5 FTE. With those students, the District is still 132 students under projection. Mr. Dahlgren stated that the count period continues though October 24. He explained that there is a one-day count for special services, bilingual education, and vocational education. Mr. Dahlgren stated that the district is facing a \$700,000 to \$1 million deficit and the administration will be looking at unallocated money, money set aside for the Calvert curriculum and unallocated equipment money, and will report back to the Board with a recommended plan. He stated that this is the first time in his tenure that the kindergarten class is smaller than the senior class. He guessed that the reasons were probably due to private and home schools. He will report to the Board in November with a plan on how to balance the budget.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT  
(Continued):

Mrs. Larned asked if the Board would be having a worksession with Cathy Schwartz concerning art classes. Mr. Dahlgren responded that one of the board goals is to review the elementary art curriculum.

Mrs. Germano asked if there was a committee looking at art curriculum. Mr. Dahlgren responded that Mrs. Peterson, Curriculum Director will decide how to accomplish this goal. Mrs. Gross stated that the Board still wishes to have a worksession with Ms. Schwartz.

Mrs. Gross stated that she would like to schedule a districtwide site council worksession with the Board.

Mr. Dahlgren introduced and welcomed Danielle Meacham, Soldotna High School senior, to the Board as the 1997-98 student representative.

BOARD REPORTS:

Mrs. Gross reported that members of the school board will meet with members of the Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau and Mat-Su school districts to discuss funding legislation introduced last year and review their effects.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Primary Sponsor of Gaming Permits; Unpaid Leaves of Absence/Support; 1997-98 Teacher Appointment; 19-Day Substitute Teacher Contracts; Furniture and Equipment List; Early Graduation Request; Extended Field Trip Request; and Tentative Non-Tenure Teacher Assignment/1997-98.

PRIMARY SPONSOR OF GAMING  
PERMITS:

By memorandum, Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve Primary and Alternative Members in Charge for the following schools applying for gaming permits for the 1997-98 school year: Mary Downs and Fred Deussing, Chapman School; Cynthia Farrens and Keith Gebhardt, Homer High; Sue Crane and Margaret Goodman, K-Beach Elementary; Sam Stewart and Hank Overturf, Kenai Central High; Glen Szymoniak and Laura Sheldon, McNeil Canyon Elementary; Ralph Steeves and Melanie Schilling, Moose Pass Elementary; Darolyn Brown and Jim Dawson, Mt. View Elementary; Leslie Weld and Scott Otterbacher, Nanwalek Elem/High; Lassie M. Nelson and Robert Bellmore, Nikiski Middle/High; Carlton Kuhns and Dunia Martushev, Nikolaevsk Elementary/High; Paul Kubena and Janet Clark, Ninilchik Elementary/High; Kim Schaeffer and Joanne Love, North Star Elementary; Rochelle R. Hanson and Wayne A. Young, Port Graham

PRIMARY SPONSOR OF GAMING  
PERMITS(Continued):

Elementary; Marilyn Kowalski-Eaton and Malcolm Fleming, Seward Middle/Senior High; Marlene Byerly and Dawn Conn, Skyview High; Sylvia Reynolds and Daniel Gensel, Soldotna High; Fabian Castilleja and Sandy Geagel, Susan B. English Elementary/High; Lisa Stroh and Ethel Riley, Tustumena Elementary; Roderick M. Ladd, Jr. and Jean Calhoun, West Homer Elementary; and Leanne S. Krieger and Michael Murray, Voznesenka Elementary.

UNPAID LEAVE OF  
ABSENCE/SUPPORT:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a request for unpaid leave of absence for Debbie Methvin, Special Services Assistant, Nikiski, Elementary, effective during the 1998-99 school year.

1997-98 TEACHER APPOINTMENT:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a teacher assignment for the 1997-98 school year for Indy Walton, Generalist, Skyview High.

19-DAY SUBSTITUTE TEACHER  
CONTRACTS:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve 19-day substitute teaching contracts for Kevin Harding, Art, Skyview High; Steven Evans, Science, Soldotna Middle; Barbara Spence, Special Education/Severe, Soldotna Middle; and Kathleen Herring, Applied Communications, Nikiski Middle/Sr. High.

FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT  
LIST:

By memorandum, Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve the purchase of furniture and equipment for West Homer Elementary School in the amount of \$50,222.94.

EARLY GRADUATION REQUEST:

Mr. McLain recommended the Board approve an early graduation request for a Soldotna High School student to graduate at the end of the first semester of the 1997-98 school year. The student plans to live with a host family in Holland.

EXTENDED FIELD TRIP REQUEST:

Mr. McLain recommended the Board approve an extended field trip request for twelve Seward Elementary QUEST students to travel to Corpus Christi, Texas, to visit the Texas State Aquarium. They will gather information which will help them write the education section for the web page at the Alaska SeaLife Center in Seward.

TENTATIVE NONTENURE  
TEACHER ASSIGNMENT/1997-98:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a tentative nontenure teacher assignment for the 1997-98 school year for Joseph Miller, Correspondence Program.

TENTATIVE NONTENURE  
TEACHER ASSIGNMENT/1997-98  
(Continued):

ACTION

Mrs. Fischer moved the Board approve Consent Agenda item numbers 1 through 8. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

VOTE:

YES - Fischer, Larned, Mullins, Gross

NO - Germano

Advisory Vote - YES

Motion approved.

FIRST READING OF POLICY  
REVISIONS:

The Board conducted a first reading on Board Policies 3300, Expenditures/Expending Authority and 3313, Leases and Agreements.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mrs. Fischer thanked the Seward community for hosting the school board meeting. She told those present that she empathized with the problems they are facing. She stated that the Board does hear their concerns and thanked those who have written her letters voicing their concerns.

Mrs. Germano stated she was pleased to be meeting in Seward. She welcomed Miss Meacham to the board.

Miss Meacham stated that she was looking forward to the learning experience of serving as the board's student representative.

Mrs. Mullins, welcomed Miss Meacham to the Board and hoped it would be a positive experience for her. Mrs. Mullins echoed Mrs. Fisher's comments concerning the overcrowded situation in Seward classrooms. She noted that the Board will soon be placed in a very uncomfortable situation when they have to cut something to balance the budget. She reassured those present that the Board does feel the pinch.

Mrs. Mullins stated that the Board feels the need to communicate with Site Based Decision Making Councils, and she liked the idea to meet together with the Board.

Mrs. Larned thanked parents and teachers for their involvement in the special programs that were reported on.

Mrs. Gross noted that there have been 10 years of budget cuts and all schools are feeling the effects. She thanked the Seward staff and parents for hosting the School Board Meeting and reminded those present to vote at the October 7 elections.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 8:40 p.m., Mrs. Mullins moved the Board go into executive session to discuss subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person, provided the person may request a public discussion. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 9:37 p.m., Mrs. Fischer moved the executive session be adjourned. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN: At 9:38 p.m., Mrs. Mullins moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Fischer seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President

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Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

The Minutes of October 6, 1997,  
were approved on October 20, 1997.

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
148 N. Binkley Street  
Soldotna, AK 99669

October 20, 1997

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President  
Mr. Joe Arness, Vice President  
Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk  
Dr. Nels Anderson, Treasurer  
Mrs. Joyce Fischer, Member  
Mrs. Deborah Germano, Member  
Mrs. Debra Mullins, Member

STAFF PRESENT: Mr. John Dahlgren, Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Patrick Hickey, Assistant Superintendent, Operations and  
Business Management  
Mr. Ed McLain, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction  
Mrs. Sharon Radtke, Assistant Superintendent, Human  
Resources

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Lawrence Colston Mr. Pat Dye  
Mr. Justin George Ms. Barbara Vogel  
Mrs. Melody Douglas Ms. Linda Raemaeker  
Ms. Shana Loshbaugh  
Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Mrs. Gross called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mrs. Gross invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

OATH OF OFFICE: The Oath of Office was administered to newly elected school board members Mari-Anne Gross and Susan Larned, by Notary Public, Sally Tachick.

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross Present  
Mr. Joe Arness Present  
Mrs. Susan Larned Present  
Dr. Nels Anderson Present  
Mrs. Joyce Fischer Present  
Mrs. Deborah Germano Present  
Mrs. Debra Mullins Present  
Miss Danielle Meacham Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved as written.

REORGANIZATION OF BOARD: Mrs. Gross announced reorganization of the Board was in order.

ACTION Mr. Arness moved the Board approve Mrs. Gross as President of the Board. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ACTION Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve Mr. Arness as Vice President of the Board. Mrs. Germano seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

REORGANIZATION OF BOARD  
(Continued:

ACTION

Mrs. Germano moved the Board approve Mrs. Larned as Clerk of the Board. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve Mrs. Mullins as Treasurer of the Board. Mr. Arness seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ESTABLISH MEETING TIME,  
DATE, AND PLACE:

ACTION

Mrs. Germano moved the Board approve their meeting time, date, and place at 7:30 p.m. on the first and third Monday of each month at the Borough Administration Building, Soldotna, Alaska, except for two meetings each in Homer and Seward. Mrs. Fischer seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The School Board Minutes of October 6, 1997, were approved as printed.

SCHOOL REPORTS:

Mr. Pat Dye, Lead Teacher, Cooper Landing Elementary, presented a slide show highlighting student activities, parent volunteers, swimming lessons and a ski program sponsored by the PAC, installation of new playground equipment, a visit by Governor Knowles, and various student field trips including a study of Bear Creek and Cooper Creek.

Mr. Dye reported that Cooper Landing Elementary School was given 90 acres adjacent to the school for conservation purposes. The students worked with the forestry service in constructing a trail system that will eventually connect with community trails in the Cooper Landing area. Mr. Dye reported that two acres of forest is designated as a timber study area. The students are creating a plant catalog and are involved in a plant exchange program with their sister school in New Zealand.

Mr. Dye reported that students have been corresponding via e-mail to remote science research camps located in Antarctica.



SCHOOL REPORTS (Continued): Mr. Dye reported that the state fisheries department invited students to participate in a salmon study at Bear Creek. Fishery biologists assisted students as they collected, fertilized, and sorted salmon eggs. The students will continuously monitor the progress of the eggs and then plant them in Bear Creek in the spring. The students are responsible for keeping the data associated with each tray of eggs. Students learned the value of each salmon as it relates to the sports fishing and commercial fishing industry.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Ms. Barbara Dahl, Anchor Point community member, requested the Board schedule a worksession on the staffing formula used at Chapman Elementary School before the budget committee begins working on the 1998-99 District budget.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND/OR P.T.A., K.P.A.A., K.P.E.A., K.P.E.S.A.: Mr. Lawrence Colston, KPEA President, told the Board that teachers at Seward Elementary are still very concerned about the one-half time teaching position that has been allocated but not funded.

Mr. Colston requested that the Board allow the release of the KPEA President at no cost to the District.

Ms. Angela McKinney, Chapman Elementary Site Based Council parent representative, spoke in support of the letter from Ms. Dahl asking for a worksession to discuss staffing formula in regards to Chapman Elementary School before the budget review committee begins their work. Ms. McKinney stated that the Chapman Elementary Site Council is not satisfied with the decision to reclassify Chapman Elementary School as an elementary school. She stated that this is the fifth year that Chapman Elementary representatives have come before the Board and they feel that there is no communication with the Board and need some answers.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Mr. Dahlgren reported that he attended a luncheon honoring Todd Syverson as the Milken Family Foundation Principal of the Year. He noted that Mr. Syverson is the third winner from the District. Previous Milken winners in other categories were Lorraine Crawford, Soldotna High and Dick Sanders, Homer High.

Mr. Dahlgren suggested that the Board consider submitting comments regarding the proposed Quality Schools Plan announced by the Governor. Mr. Dahlgren stated that the administration will be gathering comments and responding as a group. He further suggested that the Board may want to consider the Governor's comments pertaining to local autonomy and that decisions should be left at the local level.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT  
(Continued):

Mr. Dahlgren asked the Board to consider what kind of report they will want from the charter schools. He stated that he will be meeting with them concerning their academic committees. He noted that a lot of time is still being spent assisting the charter schools with District procedures.

HIRING PRACTICES AND  
PROCEDURES:

Mrs. Sharon Radtke reported on the District application and hiring process, statistical retirement and hiring information, local hire, and the future of the Human Resources Department. Mrs. Radtke reported that over 150 people were hired or are in new positions within the District. The Human Resources Department has made communicating through the internet possible and is investigating the feasibility of using a universal application which would be used by Alaska Teacher Placement and the District.

RETIREMENT INCENTIVE  
PROGRAM FOR 1997-98:

Mrs. Radtke reported that the state of Alaska has extended the availability of the retirement incentive program for the 1997-98 and 1998-99 school years. She noted that the District does not yet have statistical information from the state on eligible retirees. She stated that, both locally and statewide, the pool of eligible candidates is low and she does not recommend that the District participate.

Mrs. Gross asked about the future of the applicant pool. Mrs. Radtke replied that there has been a decline in the number of interested teachers. She reported that the Anchorage School District is on the second year of a two-year retirement incentive program and is expecting approximately 250 retirees. She recommended that this would be a good year to stabilize, build up the applicant pool, and then look at the possibility of participating next year.

Mrs. Fischer expressed concern over the possibility of a large turn over. She asked if it would be better to have smaller numbers retiring in two years rather than a large turn over all at once. She asked how long it would take for the state to forward the list of eligible teachers and how soon a decision would have to be made. Mrs. Radtke responded that she thought the deadline to declare District participation was December 31. Mrs. Radtke stated that she has asked the Department of Education several times for the list and was told that it is coming. She explained that districts must be able to show a savings in order to participate.

RETIREMENT INCENTIVE  
PROGRAM FOR 1997-98  
(Continued):

Mrs. Germano asked to see a preliminary report at the next school board meeting concerning the district's participation in the retirement incentive program. Mrs. Radtke stated that she would bring the figures from the state if they are available, otherwise, she will have preliminary figures from the District administration.

Mrs. Gross asked to have the report brought back to the Board as an action item.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Mr. Hickey presented the financial report of the District for the period ending September 30, 1997. Mr. Hickey responded to a question from Mrs. Germano concerning a large increase in the data processing budget. He explained that money had been encumbered the previous year but not paid out. The funds are carried over into the current year budget and are reflected as an increase until the items are received and paid for.

BUDGET TRANSFER REPORT:

Mr. Hickey presented a summary of budget transfers Numbers 1 through 96 for various schools and departments within the District.

BOARD REPORT:

Mr. Arness reported that KPSAA is in the process of developing guidelines for the spring soccer program. He noted that the Math Curriculum Committee has an e-mail discussions folder and it contains quite a bit of interesting information. He reported that the current schedule will have the math curriculum available for review by the Board by December 1, 1997.

Mrs. Mullins reported on the Urban School Boards meeting conducted Saturday, October 11, in Anchorage. She stated that it was a timely meeting coming the day after Governor Knowles released his mandatory standards for Alaska schools.

Mrs. Mullins reported that she attended the "No Decline in 99" meeting sponsored by ARCO and while there, invited the Governor to speak at the annual AASB conference in November. She stated that Governor Knowles agreed to attend and explain his proposal for Alaskan schools.

Ms. Gross reported that she had the privilege of participating on the selection committee to choose the Milken recipients for the year. She was pleased that Todd Syverson was chosen as the Milken Family Foundation Principal of the Year.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were 1997-98 Teacher Appointments, 19-Day Substitute Teacher Contract and Furniture and Equipment List.

1997-98 TEACHER  
APPOINTMENTS:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve 1997-98 teacher appointments for Emma McCune, Library (temporary), Nikiski Jr./Sr. High; Lori Uponen, Grades 1-2 (half-time) Aurora Borealis School; Heidi Vann, Special Ed/Severe, Districtwide; Michael Stewart High School Generalist (half-time), Nanwalek School; and Laura Dershewitz, Generalist, Nanwalek School.

19-DAY SUBSTITUTE TEACHER  
CONTRACT:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a substitute teacher contract for Vickey Roney, Special Ed./Emotionally Handicapped, Mt. View/Soldotna Elementary.

FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT  
LIST:

Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve the purchase of furniture and equipment for West Homer Elementary School in the amount of \$3,186.27.

ACTION

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

Motion carried unanimously.

EXPULSION NUMBER 1:  
ACTION

Joe Arness moved the Board approve the following: "The Decision of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District in the Matter of Expulsion of AT.

This matter was heard before the Board on Monday, October 20, 1997. Diane Payne, Child Protective Services/Domestic Violence Coordinator/Indian Child Welfare Specialist with Chugachmiut was in attendance on behalf of the student. The student's mother attended by telephone, and the student was not present. Leslie Weld, Principal of Nanwalek Elementary/High School and Mr. Ed McLain, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction, were present on behalf of the administration, which recommended a one-year expulsion of the student for violation of the District's Board Policy 5131.7(a).

The evidence presented showed that on October 2, 1997 AT brought an unloaded, lever action pellet gun capable of shooting 3/8" pellets, to the school grounds at approximately 4:30 p.m. and brandished it in a menacing manner at several other students in the playground. The gun is an air gun. Ms. Weld went outside and confiscated the gun from AT, and made arrangements to meet AT's mother the following morning. By that time, the other children had run away from the playground, and Ms. Weld did not believe they felt threatened by AT's behavior. District and school records contain no history of formal behavior problems with AT.

EXPULSION NUMBER 1  
(Continued):

Based on the uncontradicted evidence, the Board finds that AT did violate the District's Board Policy 5131.7(a) on October 2, 1997 by possessing a weapon on school grounds, that his behavior was inimical to the safety and welfare of other students and school employees, and concludes that he should be expelled from the District for one calendar year. AT may apply for early readmission at the beginning of the second semester of the 1997-98 school year upon successful completion of the following, at the student's expense:

1. A certified gun safety course designed to teach the dangers of guns;
2. A counseling/anger management program as designed by Cugachmiut and/or Homer Mental Health to include psychological evaluation pertaining to safety of self and others;
3. An approved district or other correspondence course until readmitted; and
4. Upon re-entry to school, for one semester, complete weekly student/parent/counselor/ administrator meetings pertaining to positive progress as recommended by the principal.

Except as necessary for such readmission AT shall not go on school grounds during the period of expulsion for any reason, nor shall he attend any school event or function whatsoever." Dr. Anderson seconded.

VOTE:

YES - Anderson, Arness, Germano, Gross, Mullins, Fischer  
ABSTAIN - Larned

Motion carried unanimously.

EXPULSION NUMBER 2:  
ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the following: "The Decision of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District in the Matter of Expulsion of JG.

This matter was heard before the Board on Monday, October 20, 1997. The student and his guardians were in attendance. Paul Sorenson, Principal of Kenai Middle School and Mr. Ed McLain, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction, were present on behalf of the administration, which recommended a one-year expulsion of the student for violation of the District's Board Policy 5131.7(a).

EXPULSION NUMBER 2  
(Continued):

The evidence presented showed that on October 3, 1997, after school, JG and another student left the school grounds and walked to JG's house, where they retrieved JG's air rifle. They brought the rifle back to the school grounds and located themselves in the trees near the parking lot and both students shot at the vehicles in the lot, shooting out the rear windows of at least two vehicles. Evidence also showed that JG has been diagnosed as learning disabled, and his IEP team met and determined there is no relationship between the behavior and the disability. District and school records contain no history of formal discipline problems with JG.

Based on the uncontradicted evidence, the Board finds that JG did violate the District's Board Policy 5131.7(a) on October 3, 1997 by possessing and using a weapon on school grounds, and concludes that his behavior was inimical to the safety and welfare of other students and school employees, and he should be expelled from the District for one calendar year. JG may apply for early readmission at the beginning of the 1998-99 school year upon successful completion of the following, at the student's expense:

1. A certified gun safety course designed to teach the dangers of guns. It is recommended that he be accompanied by his guardian.
2. The anti-gang program sponsored by the Kenai Fire Department. It is recommended that he be accompanied by his guardian.
3. An approved district or other correspondence course of study and special service program for the 1997-98 school year.
4. Complete sixty hours of community service and make restitution for damages.
5. Psychological evaluation to determine safety issues, and receive anger management counseling sessions with a certified counselor as may be recommended by the psychological evaluation.
6. Upon re-entry to school: complete scheduled bi-monthly student, parent, administrator, and counselor meeting pertaining to positive progress, for the period of one semester.

The board also recommends that JG's guardians complete a district sponsored "Parent to Parent Class". Except as necessary for such readmission JG shall not go on school grounds during the period of expulsion for any reason, nor shall he attend any school event or function whatsoever." Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

EXPULSION NUMBER 3:  
ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the following: "The Decision of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District in the Matter of Expulsion of JB.

EXPULSION NUMBER 3  
(Continued):

This matter was heard before the board on Monday, October 20, 1997. The student and his mother were in attendance. Paul Sorenson, Principal of Kenai Middle School and Mr. Ed McLain, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction, were present on behalf of the administration, which recommended a one-year expulsion of the student for violation of the District's Board Policy 5131.7(a).

The evidence presented showed that on October 3, 1997, after school, JB and another student left the school grounds and walked to the other student's house, where they retrieved the other student's air rifle. They brought the rifle back to the school grounds and located themselves in the trees near the parking lot and both students shot at the vehicles in the lot, shooting out the rear windows of at least two vehicles. Evidence also showed that JB was remorseful for this act. He has been diagnosed as learning disabled, and his IEP team met and determined there is no relationship between the behavior and the disability. District and school records contain no history of formal discipline problems with JB.

Based on the uncontradicted evidence, the Board finds that JB did violate the District's Board Policy 5131.7(a) on October 3, 1997 by knowingly possessing and using a weapon on school grounds, and that his behavior was inimical to the safety and welfare of other students and school employees, and concludes that he should be expelled from the District for one calendar year. JB may apply for early readmission at the beginning of the fourth quarter of the 1997-98 school year upon successful completion of the following, at the student's expense:

1. A certified gun safety course designed to teach the dangers of guns. It is recommended that he be accompanied by his mother.
2. The anti-gang program sponsored by the Kenai Fire Department. It is recommended that he be accompanied by his mother.
3. An approved district or other correspondence course of study and special service program for the second and third quarters of 1997-98 school year.
4. Complete forty hours of community service and make restitution for damages.
5. Psychological evaluation to determine safety issues, and receive counseling sessions with a certified counselor as may be recommended by the psychological evaluation.
6. Upon re-entry to school: complete scheduled bi-monthly student, parent, administrator, and counselor meeting pertaining to positive progress, for the period of one semester.

EXPULSION NUMBER 3  
(Continued):

The board also recommends that JB's mother complete a district sponsored "Parent to Parent Class". Except as necessary for such readmission JB shall not go on school grounds during the period of expulsion for any reason, nor shall he attend any school event or function whatsoever." Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

MEMORANDUM OF  
AGREEMENT/KPESA:

Mr. Hickey presented a Memorandum of Agreement between the Kenai Peninsula Educational Support Association, and the Board to begin co-payments of \$420 for medical insurance beginning October 1997. Any remaining funds in the medical insurance account on June 30, 1998, will be reimbursed to participating employees by August 31, 1998.

ACTION

Mrs. Germano moved the Board approve the KPESA Memorandum of Agreement for Health Care Co-Payments. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

BUDGET PREPARATION:

Mr. Dahlgren presented a listing of dates to be used as a guideline for preparation of the 1998-99 School District Budget.

Mr. Dahlgren stated that an additional meeting will be added to the list which will be a preliminary worksession with the assembly to determine the amount of local contribution. He stated the District will have to work on the assumption that the legislature will not be changing the foundation formula. He reminded the Board that the local contribution is at the cap with an additional \$1.2 million outside the cap for student activities. The date for the preliminary meeting will be announced when it has been set.

He stated that there will be a worksession at the next Board meeting to look at staffing allocations and class sizes as they currently exist. He told the Board that, although Chapman Elementary parents want the Board to specifically look at their school, he felt they should look at the entire District.

ACTION

Mrs. Fischer moved the Board approve the Budget Preparation Calendar. Mrs. Germano seconded.

Mrs. Fischer requested that a draft budget be sent to the assembly members prior to the joint worksession.

Deb Germano asked the Board to meet with the assembly after the staff allocation worksession. Mr. Dahlgren responded that the District will not have salary schedule information until December 19.



BUDGET PREPARATION  
(Continued):

Mrs. Fischer stated she would like to meet with the assembly as soon as salary adjustments have been made.

Motion carried unanimously.

POLICY REVISIONS:

Mr. Dahlgren presented policies BP 3300, Expenditures/Expending Authority; and BP 3313, Leases and Agreements for approval.

ACTION

Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve Board Policy BP 3300, Expenditures/Expending Authority. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Mrs. Germano asked why the word "purchase" is substituted for "obtain." Mr. Hickey explained that some products and services are leased such as Xerox machines and building rental.

Motion carried unanimously.

ACTION

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve Board Policy BP 3313, Leases and Agreements. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Mrs. Fischer expressed her continued concern for the ambiguity that BP 3313 allows. She stated that policies are created for administration and boards that continually change. She felt that \$15,000 and \$5,000 are too high and that the Board does not know what is being purchased. She noted that some school districts publish their requests for bids and the results on their web. Mrs. Fischer stated she would vote against this policy because she did not feel it is in the best interest of her constituents.

Mrs. Fischer recommended that contracts over \$5,000 but less than \$15,000 be put out to bid and that formal proposals be required for contracts over \$15,000, when practical.

Mr. Hickey explained that not all District transactions lend itself to the bid process, for example leased space at the Homer Flex School.

Mrs. Germano suggested that the District send out a request for proposal in situations such as the Homer Flex School. Mr. Hickey explained that when the District is searching for a facility there are too many specifics to meet the educational model that made the present facility a good choice. He added that simply requiring an amount of square footage would not have been a good choice. Mrs. Germano commented that there may have been an individual who would want to construct a building specifically for lease to the District.

POLICY REVISIONS (Continued):  
ACTION

Mrs. Fischer moved the Board postpone action on BP 3313, Leases and Agreements to the next meeting. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Germano explained to the student audience that postponement of an action item stops any further discussion of that item.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Gary Boatright, Soldotna resident, asked the Board for information from other school districts concerning the rate of pay for substitutes. Mrs. Radtke stated that she had conducted a survey last year and would provide that information.

Mrs. Radtke verified that the substitute rate of pay was reduced in 1987. Mrs. Gross added that all staff members received a salary reduction and that the Board and substitute salaries are the only salaries that have not recovered.

Mr. Boatright stated that currently the certified substitute, with four years of education, earns the equivalent of a playground aide.

Jessie Burnam, Skyview High student, questioned the Board about the recent raise in the math grading scale. Mrs. Gross responded that the change was a site-based decision and that teachers have the power to set their own grading system. She further explained that there is an effort Districtwide to raise the standards. Mr. Burnam expressed his concern that the lower grade would prevent him from competing in extracurricular activities.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mrs. Fischer thanked the administration for sending the School Board packet on District e-mail. She recommended the Board read an article in NEA Today on student portfolio assessments.

Mrs. Germano stated that she hoped to have time before the next school board meeting to compile Board comments regarding the governor's recent proposals.

Mrs. Germano asked whether students are cut from middle school extracurricular athletic activities. Mr. Dahlgren explained that all middle schools provide an intramural program and then select students for an interscholastic program. All students have the opportunity to participate in intramural and interscholastic programs.

BOARD COMMENTS (Continued): Mrs. Germano asked whether students could participate in one sport and then participate at the end of another sport. She gave an example of students that played soccer and then participated in cross-country running. Mr. Dahlgren replied that some activities are not offered on the same days and accommodations are made by coaches. Mrs. Germano recommended KPSAA consider addressing student participation in more than one activity at a time.

Dr. Anderson stated that he had received some complaints that all of the students on the middle school basketball team were children of School District employees.

Miss Meacham, Student Representative, stated she was glad to be able to serve on the Board. She expressed her appreciation for the Skyview High students who were in attendance in the audience.

Mrs. Mullins commended the Skyview students that stayed throughout the entire meeting. She expressed her concern over the student count of 164 students under projection.

Mr. Dahlgren stated he will bring a recommendation to the Board after the count period ends on Friday, October 24. He explained that 20 part-time students were not counted in the recent enrollment figures which will reduce the total number.

Mrs. Larned encouraged the students in the audience to take the opportunity to address the Board.

Mr. Arness explained that a coach can refuse students who wish to participate in more than one sport. Mr. Arness expressed his unhappiness that the Nikiski Middle School basketball program is operated as an interscholastic activity; students are selected for the team and no intramural program is offered. Mr. Arness stated that this year students will be allowed to participate in more than one activity.

Mr. Arness served warning to the Board that he will be responding to the attack against the District regarding the local hire article in the Peninsula Clarion. He felt that the statements made were unfounded.

Mr. Arness congratulated the Nikiski High School football team on a great season.

BOARD COMMENTS (Continued): Mrs. Gross made the following committee appointments: Calendar Committee/Joyce Fischer, Reconsideration of Instructional Materials/Deb Germano, Certified Diploma/Nels Anderson and Mari-Anne Gross, Math Curriculum/Joe Arness, World Language/Susan Larned, KPSAA/Joe Arness, Safe and Drug-Free Schools/Joyce Fischer, Recognition Committee/Debra Mullins, Vocational Education/Deb Germano, Middle School Committee/Susan Larned and Deb Germano.

Mrs. Gross suggested that the Board meet with the Chapman Elementary parents prior to the next board meeting and explain how staffing decisions are made.

Mr. Dahlgren felt it would be appropriate to speak to all parent groups who are interested in the staffing formula.

Mrs. Fischer concurred with Mrs. Gross' suggestion to meet with the Chapman Elementary parents.

Mrs. Germano stated that she would like to extend time to talk with site based councils before each meeting.

Mr. Dahlgren stated that he will be attending area meetings throughout the District. He recommended that Board members individually make site visitations.

Mrs. Gross asked Mr. Dahlgren to coordinate a Districtwide meeting of school site councils. She suggested that the District administration provide training.

ADJOURN: At 9:25 p.m., Mr. Arness moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Germano seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President

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Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

The Minutes of October 20, 1997,  
were approved on November 3, 1997,  
as written.

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
148 N. Binkley Street  
Soldotna, AK 99669

November 3, 1997

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President  
Mr. Joe Arness, Vice President  
Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk  
Mrs. Debra Mullins, Treasurer  
Dr. Nels Anderson, Member  
Mrs. Joyce Fischer, Member  
Ms. Deborah Germano, Member  
Miss Danielle Meacham, Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT: Mr. John Dahlgren, Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Patrick Hickey, Assistant Superintendent, Operations and  
Business Management  
Mr. Ed McLain, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction  
Mrs. Sharon Radtke, Assistant Superintendent, Human  
Resources

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Todd Syverson  
Mr. Greg Paxton  
Mr. Harry Lockwood  
Mr. Lawrence Colston  
Mrs. Shana Loshbaugh  
Mr. Justin George  
Miss Haylee Best  
Miss Janna Schaafsma  
Ms. Cindy Litzenberger  
Mr. David Martian  
Mr. Dave Schmidt  
Mrs. Erin Lockwood  
Mrs. Paula Christensen  
Ms. Terri Woodward  
Miss Kathryn Lockwood  
Ms. Shellie Church  
Ms. Karen Mahurin  
Miss Jessica Truesdell  
Miss Katie VanDerWege  
Ms. Jane Davis

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Mrs. Gross called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 2:01 p.m., Mrs. Joyce Fischer moved the Board go into executive session to discuss subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person, provided the person may request a public discussion. The purpose of the executive session is to conduct a level III grievance hearing. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 7:34 p.m., Mr. Arness moved the Board adjourn the executive session. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mrs. Gross invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:	Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross	Present
	Mr. Joe Arness	Present
	Mrs. Susan Larned	Present
	Dr. Nels Anderson	Present
	Mrs. Joyce Fischer	Present
	Mrs. Deborah Germano	Present
	Mrs. Debra Mullins	Present
	Miss Danielle Meacham	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved as written with the deletion of Item 10a.(2) Approval of Furniture and Equipment List.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of October 20, 1997, were approved as printed.

SCHOOL REPORTS: Mr. Todd Syverson, Principal, Soldotna Middle School, presented a mock core team meeting conducted by Paula Christensen, Shelli Church, David Martian, Jane Davis and Cindy Litzenberger. The core team discussed student concerns, upcoming curriculum events, technology integration, and core team activities and deadlines. Core teams meet each day during a common working planning time.

Haylee Best, Jessica Truesdell and Katie VanDerWege demonstrated a student-led conference. The demonstration included a discussion of the student's work in her core classes, what has been learned, work samples, overall performance and improvement strategies. Mrs. Christensen explained that it takes two weeks to prepare for student-led conferences. She noted that time is reserved at the end of the conference to talk privately about parent concerns. Mr. Syverson emphasized the importance of the student-led conference in helping parents take a partnership role in their child's education.

Mr. Dave Schmidt presented a vocal duet performed by Katie VanDerWege and Kathryn Lockwood, and a clarinet duet performed by Janna Schaafsma and Honni Phillips.

Mr. Syverson thanked the Board for middle school staffing and urged their continued support to help meet students' needs. Mr. Syverson asked the Board to consider the overcrowding situation at Soldotna Middle School. He stated that currently there are eight portables with 580 students and the school is at a point where something needs to be done. He encouraged the Board to develop a plan, especially as the state considers the possibility of funding for facilities.

COMMUNICATIONS AND  
PETITIONS:

Mrs. Gross reported that she received a letter from the Nikiski Elementary PTA expressing concern over the lack of staffing for nursing, and from the Hope Elementary Site Based Decision Making Council asking for a change in configuration to a K-8 or K-12 school.

Mr. Dahlgren stated that he will be talking with the Hope Site Based Decision Making Council on November 4 concerning their request to change grade level configurations and will report back to the Board. Mrs. Radtke explained that the request came about because students' were having to leave Hope Elementary half way through their high school career.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND/OR  
P.T.A., K.P.A.A., K.P.E.A.,  
K.P.E.S.A.:

Mr. Lawrence Colston, KPEA President, commented on KPEA's concern that academic education be considered during the selection of certificated staff; release time for the KPEA president; and letters to the Commissioner of Education and legislature regarding the area cost differential.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Dahlgren reported that on Thursday, October 28, he met with the Nikiski Area PAC and discussed their concerns regarding reconfiguration of schools, additions to school facilities and the recent recommendations from the Governor.

Mr. Dahlgren announced that the Chapman Elementary PTA has invited the Board to come to Anchor Point on Thursday, November 6, to discuss staffing issues. Mrs. Gross stated that the PTA had invited them to dinner at 6:15 p.m. and the meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. at Chapman Elementary.

Mr. Dahlgren announced that the twenty-day count period is over and preliminary calculations indicate that the District will need \$500,000 to balance the budget. The administration has already been considering places to reduce the budget. Mr. Dahlgren reported that with the savings of \$290,000 for the reduction in the PERS contribution; subtraction of over projected students and their revenues for alternative schooling of \$159,000 and an additional \$150,000 payment that was budgeted and not required for the replacement of the Borough's mainframe, these items should balance the budget. Mr. Dahlgren reported that the District hired additional staff with the savings from PERS last year but suggested that instead, the money for the additional staff should come from existing unallocated money. He noted that although the budget is still extremely tight, he did not recommend a reduction of the equipment account or unallocated staff accounts. He stated that he will report back to the Board on any transfers necessary to balance the budget.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT  
(Continued):

Mrs. Gross stated that she had heard concerns voiced by parents about the lack of money to purchase new textbooks.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Substitute Teacher Contracts and an Extended Field Trip Request.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER  
CONTRACTS:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve substitute teacher contracts for Heidi Harding, Grade 1, Redoubt Elementary and David Martian, Science, Soldotna Middle School.

EXTENDED FIELD TRIP  
REQUEST:

Mr. McLain recommended the Board approve a request from Kenai Central High School for approximately 15 students to travel to France as part of the Intercultural Student Experiences program.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 and 3. Ms. Germano seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

RETIREMENT INCENTIVE  
PROGRAM:

Mrs. Radtke presented information on the state retirement incentive program stating that only districts that can prove a savings may participate. She reported that she had just received the actuarial information from the state that afternoon. She stated that because of the two-tiered salary schedule the District would realize a savings if they chose to participate.

Mrs. Radtke explained that if the Board chose to participate the administration would prepare resolutions for Board approval; the resolutions would be submitted to the state; the Retirement and Benefits office will develop an agreement between the state and the District. Anyone retiring must retire no later than six months after the close of the application period.

Mr. Lawrence Colston, KPEA President, reported that an informal poll indicated that 24 KPEA members and two administrators expressed an interest in the retirement incentive program.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve the participation in the state retirement incentive program. Ms. Germano seconded.

Mrs. Mullins asked how many employees would be eligible to participate in the retirement incentive. Mrs. Radtke replied that there are 111 PERS employees and 312 TRS employees eligible to participate but not necessarily for full retirement. The list includes anyone who is eligible for both full or partial retirement.



RETIREMENT INCENTIVE  
PROGRAM (Continued):

Mrs. Radtke explained that several items are considered when trying to get a realistic picture of who may choose to retire, such as, who is eligible for full retirement, how old are their children, are both spouses eligible, etc. Mr. Arness asked for an administrative recommendation. Mr. Dahlgren confirmed that the recommendation had not changed from the October 20 Board Meeting when it was originally discussed.

Mr. Hickey stated that the District will be paying for last year's retirement for two more years. Mr. Dahlgren noted that \$600,000 was budgeted as a savings and that the District would not realize a savings during the second and third year.

VOTE:

YES - Anderson, Fischer, Germano, Larned, Mullins,  
Gross  
NO - Arness  
Advisory Vote - ABSTAIN

Motion carried.

MEMORANDUM OF  
AGREEMENT/TEAM TEACHING:

Mrs. Radtke recommended approval of a memorandum of agreement allowing team teaching with the KPEA President. A substitute will be hired to teach in the classroom two days each week, one team teaching day with the classroom teacher, and one KPEA president release day. The cost of the substitute is borne by KPEA.

Mr. Colston, KPEA President, reviewed the past practice of hiring a teacher to substitute for the KPEA President in order to provide continuity within the classroom. He stated that in the past the cost was split between the District and KPEA; but through the negotiation process, the substitute money was eliminated. He stated that the expense would now be borne by KPEA because they believe that it is in best interest of students.

ACTION

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve the Memorandum of Agreement as presented. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

1998-99 ENROLLMENT  
PROJECTIONS:

Mr. Patrick Hickey recommended the Board approve the projected student enrollment for the 1998-99 school year at 10,430. Mr. Hickey noted that this year the student population is lower than projected and this is the first time the kindergarten class is smaller than the senior class.

1998-99 ENROLLMENT  
PROJECTIONS (Continued):

Mr. Ed Oberts asked the Board to consider including an additional 50 home school students for the Aurora Borealis Charter School.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the projected student enrollment for the 1998-99 school year at 10,430. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Mrs. Germano asked what happens if enrollment projections are exceeded at the charter schools. Mr. Dahlgren replied that two charter schools did not meet their projected enrollment this school year and their budgets were adjusted downward. He noted that Aurora Borealis had an average of 76 students and the budget was adjusted upward. Mr. Dahlgren stated that he would like to uphold the enrollment projections especially with charter schools because the money follows the students. Mr. Arness responded that Aurora Borealis will have to rewrite their agreement to be able to include home school students.

Ms. Germano asked the Board to conduct a meeting in the future to discuss what happens when charter schools do not meet their enrollment.

Motion carried unanimously.

MOOSE PASS RESOLUTION  
#0997-01 TO ADD BUS SERVICE:

Mr. Patrick Hickey presented a recommendation to maintain the current bus route for Moose Pass Elementary and offer Parent-in-Lieu of Transportation reimbursement at \$.30 per mile for students residing in the Summit Lake area.

Mr. Hickey reviewed the history surrounding the busing of Moose Pass students residing in the Summit Lake area. He stated that he was contacted by Moose Pass community members this year and spoke with them about a review of the busing situation. After a review of possible solutions, the Moose Pass community forwarded a resolution that requested an additional bus for the Moose Pass Elementary routing. Mr. Hickey reported that this request would cost the district an additional amount of \$317.16 per day for four students.

MOOSE PASS RESOLUTION  
#0997-01 TO ADD BUS SERVICE  
(Continued):

Mr. Hickey read his response to the Moose Pass Community:

“Deluxe Sales and Service was the successful proposer for the Moose Pass Cooper Landing route in March of 1994. The per bus, per day, bid as approved by the State of Alaska was \$293 per day. Last school year Deluxe sold their contract to Laidlaw. It was a direct transaction that was approved by the State Department of Education and did not affect the contract other than a change in ownership. With cost of living allowances that are approved by the state over the last three years, the per bus amount has increased to the present rate of \$317.06 per day. Adding another bus to that community would equate in per day bus charges in the amount of \$54,534.32 per year. An effort which would accommodate the transportation needs of approximately four school children. At this time as much as I empathize with the plight of the community, I ask the Board to verify and confirm the pupil routing situation we have in place and we will continue to offer Parent-in-Lieu of transportation of \$.30 per mile to compensate those parents for routing their children to the nearest bus stop.”

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board endorse the current pupil routing solution including the parent-in-lieu of transportation reimbursement to the parents at \$.30 per mile. Mr. Arness seconded.

Mrs. Fischer asked what the cost would be to the District to reimburse the parents \$.30 per mile per day. Mr. Hickey responded that it would be approximately \$1,800 per family. He noted that there are two families with two children each, one child will go to Seward Middle school next year. Mr. Hickey stated that he told the Moose Pass Community members that the District would evaluate next year's routing situation based on next year's enrollment.

Motion carried unanimously.

BP 3313, LEASES AND  
AGREEMENTS:

Mr. Dahlgren reminded the Board that action on proposed policy BP 3313, Leases and Agreements was postponed to the current meeting.

ACTION

Mrs. Fischer moved the Board amend paragraph one to read, “When it appears in the best interest of the district to enter into leases or agreements to obtain equipment, real estate, and services, the district shall do so on a competitive bidding basis. Leases and agreements shall be in compliance with legal statutes.” Mr. Arness seconded.

RECESS: At 8:55 p.m., Mrs. Gross called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS: At 9:01 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

Mr. Hickey stated that he understood the intent and was hoping to draft language that would not constrain the administration unduly. He noted that the wording "when practical" is important because it allows the District to choose motivational speakers, such as the inservice keynote speaker, instead of bidding it out.

Ms. Germano stated that BP 3313 concerns business and non-instructional operations. Mr. Hickey explained that purchases are not divided into categories and would like to see language that would allow the District to continue to perform all of the different types of transactions as they currently do.

Mrs. Fischer stated that the language used to develop the proposals can be limiting enough to allow the District to specify who they want to do business with in situations such as an inservice keynote speaker. She expressed her concern that the District be more consistent with submitting more proposals out to the competitive bid process.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

YES - Anderson, Fischer, Germano  
NO - Arness, Larned, Mullins, Gross  
Advisory Vote - NO

Amendment failed.

ACTION

Mrs. Fischer moved the Board amend paragraph two to read, "Contracts over \$5,000 but less than \$15,000 require informal proposals from all interested vendors." Ms. Germano seconded.

Mrs. Fischer stated that this amendment removes the requirement of three vendors. She stated that, according to Mr. Hickey, there are services such as the electric company, where there is only one vendor. She stated that traditionally vendors indicate an interest in doing business with the district and felt this amendment would make it available to anyone who is interested.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

YES - Fischer, Germano, Mullins  
NO - Anderson, Arness, Larned, Gross  
Advisory Vote - YES

Amendment failed.

BP 3313, LEASES AND  
AGREEMENTS (Continued):

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board amend paragraph three to read "Contracts over \$15,000 require formal proposals from interested vendors on the approved vendor list." Mrs. Fischer seconded.

Mrs. Fischer expressed frustration that funding is extremely tight and yet the Board is not interested in assuring that the District gets the most for their money. She stated that there are many small businesses in the community that are not being allowed to send in bids or proposals. She stated that local businesses also provide two percent of their sales in taxes that go to District schools.

Mr. Arness stated that the language requesting informal proposals from all interested vendors is not practical.

Mr. Hickey commented that he agreed with the aspect of accepting proposals from all interested vendors rather than just from those vendors on the approved vendor list.

Mrs. Fischer asked for information about the approved vendor list. Mr. Hickey responded that the list includes those vendors that the District will do business with. He explained that vendors are removed from the list if their work is unsatisfactory or if they are in not in compliance with tax restrictions that are further outlined in policy.

Dr. Anderson questioned whether the change would require a bid from every vendor on the vendor list, even if they were not interested in submitting.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

YES - Fischer, Germano

NO - Anderson, Arness, Larned, Mullins, Gross

Advisory Vote - YES

Amendment failed.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board amend paragraph three to read, "Contracts over \$15,000 require, when practical, formal proposals from three or more vendors. All appropriate vendors on the approved vendor list shall be given the opportunity to submit a proposal." Mrs. Germano seconded.

BP 3313, LEASES AND  
AGREEMENTS (Continued):

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

YES - Anderson, Arness, Germano, Larned, Mullins, Gross  
NO - Fischer  
Advisory Vote - YES

Amendment carried.

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board amend BP 3313 to add paragraph four which would read, "The superintendent or designee shall provide the school board a quarterly report of leases or agreements entered into. The report shall include the bid specifications, number of respondents, successful vendor, and dollar amount of successful bid." Mrs. Fischer seconded.

Mr. Arness stated he supported the intent of the amendment but did not feel it was reasonable or realistic to ask for a report that would include bid specifications, number of respondents, successful vendor and the dollar amount of the successful bid. He felt that a list of the items that were bid and the successful bid would be adequate.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board amend the second sentence of the amendment to read, "The report shall include the number of respondents, successful vendor and dollar amount of successful bid." Dr. Anderson seconded.

Mr. Hickey confirmed that this type of a report could be done.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT:

YES - Anderson, Arness, Germano, Larned, Mullins, Gross  
NO - Fischer  
Advisory Vote - YES

Amendment to the amendment carried.

Amendment carried unanimously.

VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION:

YES - Anderson, Arness, Germano, Larned, Mullins, Gross  
NO - Fischer  
Advisory Vote - YES

Motion carried.

LETTER TO STATE  
COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION:

Mr. Dahlgren presented a draft letter to the Commissioner of Education concerning the proposed changes to the Department of Education regulations and the costs that are passed on to school districts.

Mrs. Gross explained the reason for the letter to the Commissioner and read a draft letter from Mrs. Ossiander, Anchorage School Board President, to substitute for Item 10g.

“We appreciate your leadership in raising the important topic of quality education to the forefront of our state’s agenda. You have certainly championed standards and aligned assessment. We are writing today, however, to share some concerns we have about recently announced education initiatives.

On October 11, 1997 school board members from Anchorage, Fairbanks, Kenai, Mat-Su and Juneau met in Anchorage to talk about common educational issues. As part of this discussion we reviewed proposed regulations from the State Board of Education.

While we are supportive of the intent, we collectively have strong concerns about the cost of implementing the following:

- the move towards requiring accreditation for all schools, beginning with the Title I schools
- assessment of the readiness of all students entering kindergarten or first grade in the areas of cognitive development, physical well being and motor development, language and emerging literacy development, social emotional development and approaches to learning
- increasing levels of mandated testing, including the high school exit exam
- mandated remediation for students who are not performing.

Given school districts’ current financial pressures, we believe these mandates will require us to eliminate programs or cut personnel.

The potential requirement to adopt state standards immediately in reading, writing and mathematics was a surprise to us. We would like assurance that districts may adopt standards that are specific to their own needs and constituency interests, consistent with state standards.

LETTER TO STATE  
COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION  
(Continued):

Our districts have utilized standards as our various curricular disciplines have come up for review and revision. Curriculum review is cyclical. It would be a significant hardship for districts to be forced to take up the defined content areas at once. Districts should be able to adopt standards as their related curriculums move through the regular revision cycles. We also have many questions about the upcoming high school exit exam and would like to be consulted and included as it is developed.

As locally elected school board members we have a unique and important perspective on education reform, particularly in our own districts. We have been chosen by our communities for this job because we care deeply about our children and their academic success. We look forward to working collaboratively with you to improve education in Alaska.”

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve the draft letter as read by Mrs. Gross. Mrs. Fischer seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

LETTER TO STATE  
LEGISLATURE:

Mr. Dahlgren presented a draft letter to the state legislature concerning the proposed foundation formula, support of the area cost differential study, and funding of capital projects.

Mrs. Gross read a draft letter from Mrs. Ossiander, Anchorage School Board President, to substitute for Item 10h.

“On October 11, 1997 school board members from Fairbanks, Anchorage, Mat-Su, Kenai and Juneau met in Anchorage to discuss education and share our districts’ concerns. It was an interesting meeting and showed us that we had more in common than we anticipated. We all appreciated the attention that education is receiving at the state level and spent much of the meeting discussing legislative concerns. At the meeting we agreed on five prioritized concerns we would like to share with you.

- There should be inflation proofing and periodic review/adjustments made to the state foundation formula to cover the increases to our cost of doing business.
- The formula should be made more equitable for larger districts and include a new area cost differential study.



LETTER TO STATE  
LEGISLATURE (Continued):

- All communities, including REAAs, should contribute to the cost of education. (WITH ANY FUNDS GENERATED ADDED TO OVERALL STATE EDUCATION FUNDING) Juneau amendment.
- The state should provide funding for mandated services, such as required testing/assessment and Quality School Initiatives.
- Large districts would like to see another 70/30 match on capital projects. (WITH GREATER LOCAL DETERMINATION OF LOCAL PROJECT PRIORITIES AND THE ABILITY TO INCLUDE MAJOR MAINTENANCE PROJECTS) Juneau amendment.

We appreciate your involvement and support for our school districts. We look forward to the opportunity to discuss our individual district concerns with you in more detail at your convenience.”

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve the draft letter as read by Mrs. Gross. Ms. Germano seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board also send the original letter as presented in Item 10h. to District legislators. Mr. Arness seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board also send the original letter as presented in Item 10g. to Commissioner Holloway. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Mr. Arness stated that he was opposed to sending a separate letter to the Commissioner of Education because he felt it would break the solidarity of the group signing the original letter.

VOTE:

YES - Fischer, Germano, Mullins  
NO - Anderson, Arness, Larned, Gross  
Advisory Vote - NO

Motion failed.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. Colston thanked the Board for approving the letters to the legislature and Commissioner of Education.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS  
(Continued):

Mr. Paul Fischer stated that Board action on BP 3313 was not in accordance with BP 3311. Mr. Fischer voiced his objections to language that permits the authority to sole source if the situation warrants. He stated that expenditure of public funds should go to bid.

Mr. Oberts suggested the District post their bids on the internet.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Dr. Anderson asked Mr. Fischer to offer suggestions concerning BP 3313. He also announced that Senator Torgerson and Representative Davis will be at Soldotna High School to talk about the Educational Endowment Initiative and the foundation formula. He recommended that Board members be there to express an opinion.

Mrs. Larned stated she enjoyed the presentation by Soldotna Middle School students. She reported that she attended a Middle School Committee meeting and the Committee is trying to define what the model is and compare it to District middle schools.

Mrs. Germano stated she looked forward to attending the Middle School Committee meetings. Mrs. Germano shared a handout with information on Alaska Municipal League's latest committee on education regarding education and funding. She thanked Soldotna Middle School for their presentation.

Mrs. Mullins thanked the government students in the audience. She expressed her concern about the destruction and vandalism at Nikiski High. She reported that last Friday evening approximately 40 bullet holes were shot into the Nikiski High School. She reminded the public that money to repair the damages comes directly out of District funds that could be spent on the education of students. She stated that she hoped the communities will keep their ears open and hopefully solve this vandalism problem. She stated there were visiting students in the building at the time and could have caused bodily harm in addition to the facility damage.

Miss Meacham thanked students in the audience for attending.

Mrs. Gross stated that she had recently attended the graduation standards and math curriculum committee meetings. She stated the Math curriculum committee reviewed textbooks and was disappointed with the selection. She stated that she had the privilege of attending The Music Man at Homer High School and was impressed with the quality of the production which included 250 students.

ADJOURN:

At 9:53 p.m., Mr. Arness moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned.  
Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President

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Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

The Minutes of November 3, 1997,  
were approved on November 17, 1997  
as written.

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
148 N. Binkley Street  
Soldotna, AK 99669

November 17, 1997

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President  
Mr. Joe Arness, Vice President  
Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk  
Mrs. Debra Mullins, Treasurer  
Dr. Nels Anderson, Member  
Mrs. Joyce Fischer, Member  
Ms. Deborah Germano, Member  
Miss Danielle Meacham, Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT: Mr. John Dahlgren, Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Patrick Hickey, Assistant Superintendent, Operations and Business  
Management  
Mr. Ed McLain, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction  
Mrs. Sharon Radtke, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

OTHERS PRESENT: Ms. Ginger Drais Mr. Justin George  
Mr. Lawrence Colston Mr. Rick Ladd  
Mrs. Karen Mahurin Mrs. Etta Mae Near  
Mrs. Nancy MacVie Mr. Chuck Boll  
Mr. Sam Stewart Mrs. Melody Douglas  
Mr. Patrick O'Brien Ms. Shana Loshbaugh  
Ms. Barb Vogel Miss Bobbi Deal  
Miss Kasey Vienna Miss Cindy Wood  
Miss Jessica Banas Mr. Zach Miller  
Miss David Wohlers Miss Rachel Rogers  
Miss Shevaun English Ms. Kathy Groleske

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Mrs. Gross called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mrs. Gross invited those present to stand while the National Anthem was  
sung by Miss Bobbi Deal, KCHS student.

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross Present  
Mr. Joe Arness Present  
Mrs. Susan Larned Present  
Dr. Nels Anderson Present  
Mrs. Joyce Fischer Present  
Ms. Deborah Germano Present  
Mrs. Debra Mullins Present  
Miss Danielle Meacham Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved as written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of November 3, 1997, were approved as  
printed.

KENAI CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL  
REPORT:

Mr. Sam Stewart, KCHS principal, reported that this week KCHS is hosting the State Music Festival and the State Music Educators' Conference and invited the Board to the concert on Saturday, November 22, at 7:00 p.m. He stated that the 1997-98 goals for KCHS are to improve student writing in all six Analytic Writing Assessment rubric areas; have students use computer technology to conduct research, organize material and create multimedia presentations; and have students be able to communicate the goals and expectations established to enhance their educational experience at KCHS.

Ms. Kathy Groleske, Special Services/Resource teacher, explained that the students addressing the Board during the evening are representative of a larger group involved in the KCHS Special Services Work Program. She explained that through this work program students are given the opportunity to learn how to manage for themselves.

Miss Cindy Wood, KCHS student, told of her employment at K-Mart as a customer greeter and her previous work at the Peninsula Clarion and Salvation Army. She expressed hope that these experiences would help her find a job after high school; allow her to be more independent; and be able to stay in the community.

Mr. Zack Miller, KCHS student, told the Board that he had been working at the Kenai Police Department. He stated that he had learned how to take finger prints and had ridden with patrol officers during the day. He thanked the Board for making the program possible. Mr. Miller stated that he would like to pursue law enforcement and might go on to college after high school.

Miss Rachel Rogers, KCHS student, stated that after graduation she would like to be the first woman fire fighter at the Kenai Fire Department. She stated that she works two to three hours per day at the Department. She explained that part of her work includes CPR and first aide training. She introduced Fire Chief Elson, Kenai Fire Department, and thanked him for the opportunity to work at the Kenai Fire Department.

Miss Kasey Vienna, KCHS student, stated that she has been working at Sears Elementary with hearing-impaired students. She reported that she has been learning sign language and getting to know how students act. She stated that she would like to be an interpreter for the deaf and would probably go to college.

Ms. Groleske stated that every student in the work program has been fun, exciting, and motivated, and the District can be proud of each of them.

KENAI CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL  
REPORT (continued):

Ms. Liz Burck, KCHS biology teacher, explained that students are learning about technology related to DNA. She announced that the students addressing the Board will explain the process of gel electrophoresis. She introduced Jesse Banas, who explained how genes are located; Mr. David Wohlers, who explained DNA structure and drew a diagram for those present; and Miss Shevaun English, who explained the process of dividing DNA into sections to better study it. The Board participated in an experiment coordinated by the students.

Mr. Stewart thanked the Board for the opportunity to present to the Board and concluded by inviting the Board to visit KCHS and visit classrooms.

COMMUNICATIONS AND  
PETITIONS:

Mr. Dahlgren stated that he had received a thank-you card from Chapman Elementary parents for the Board's and Superintendent's attendance at the meeting on Thursday, November 6.

Mr. Dahlgren reported that he had received a letter from the Hope Elementary School Site Based Decision Committee requesting that their school be reconfigured to a K-12 school. Mr. Dahlgren reported that he met with the Site-Council last week and told them he was concerned over the type of curriculum that could be offered due to the size of the school.

Mrs. Gross stated that she had received a thank you note from Jenni Baraass, Seward Elementary exchange teacher, for the gift presented during the Board meeting held in Seward in October.

Mrs. Gross stated that the letter from the Urban School Board group to Shirley Holloway had been sent.

Mrs. Gross stated that the State Senate Committee on Health, Education and Social Services sent an invitation to the Board to attend a Town Meeting on School Funding Reform. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 19, at the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly Chambers, Soldotna, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND/OR  
P.T.A., K.P.A.A., K.P.E.A.,  
K.P.E.S.A.:

Mr. Patrick O'Brien, Kenai Borough Assembly, introduced himself as the Board representative on the Assembly. He stated that he is interested in what is going on and is looking forward to working with the Board. He added that, during his campaign he was supportive of schools and funding outside the cap and continues to hold that opinion. He also indicated his interest in serving on the Budget Review Committee.

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

Mrs. Karen Mahurin, KPESA President, asked the Board to carefully consider the issue of the support staffing formula. She urged the Board to go into the schools and talk to custodians, nurses, and secretaries for a realistic picture of how budget cuts are impacting employees. She stated that she was directed to report that there were some KPEA members who felt that the decision to reduce nursing staff was based on one Board member's ability to gain financially.

Mr. Lawrence Colston, KPEA President, expressed a concern from the teachers regarding school nurses. He asked the Board to reconsider the student/teacher ratio at the high school. He explained that some courses will have small student numbers, while other courses will have larger numbers. He reminded the Board that the pupil/teacher ratio is set as an average and with that, some classes could range as high as 38-40 students. Mr. Colston pointed out that the middle school pupil/teacher ratio appears low; but to maintain a middle school, a considerable amount of time is needed and adding additional students per classroom is not the answer. He recommended the Board pursue the legislature for additional funding.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Dahlgren congratulated the volleyball teams of Soldotna High, Nikiski High and Seward High for their recent participation in the state tournament and Mr. James Blake, Skyview High student, for his state championship in diving.

Mr. Dahlgren announced that on Wednesday, November 19, he will be traveling to Anchorage to participate in the Best Business Practices with the Commissioner of Education and the President of ARCO. Governor Knowles has asked Alaskan school districts to look at budget ideas from the business community. Mr. Arness will also attend.

Mr. Dahlgren announced that on Friday, November 21 he will attend the State Board of Education worksession in Anchorage starting at 9 a.m. He stated that charter school legislation will be discussed as well as other regulations that have implications for the District.

ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT:

Mr. Hickey presented the annual audit report and stated that he was pleased to let the Board know that the only finding was in regards to meeting the year 2000 time change in District computer software.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Mr. Patrick Hickey presented the financial report of the District for the period ending October 31, 1997.

BOARD REPORTS (continued):

Mrs. Larned reported that she attended the World Language Curriculum Committee. The Committee is trying to align standards in the District with the state. She noted that an interesting change might be to eventually include world languages at elementary schools.

Dr. Anderson reported that he had recently attended the Certified Diploma Steering Committee meeting. He clarified that the Committee is developing a diploma which is based on standards. There is concern that a number of students will not achieve the standards resulting in a high rate of failure. He added that endorsements will be issued for specializations above and beyond those standards. He reported that if anyone had any objections to this format they should notify Mr. McLain, otherwise, that will be the Committee's basic goal.

Mrs. Fischer announced that the Calendar Committee is meeting tomorrow at Soldotna Elementary, 3:00 p.m.

Ms. Germano reported that she attended the AASB Annual Conference, and it was a great weekend with much good information shared. She stated that after attending she felt that the District needs to re-examine the amount of money spent on staff development as the District looks at improving student learning.

Mrs. Mullins stated that she also attended the AASB Annual Conference and one of the sessions she participated in dealt with nursing licensure. She reported that one of the suggestions was that nurses would be required to obtain a license to practice as a school nurse every five years and be required to take five credits to recertify. She stated she is not sure how the proposed change would effect the KPBSD nurses since they would be required to obtain two different licenses in two different areas. Mrs. Mullins reported that the conference speakers were outstanding, and she came away with the impression that every child can learn and that not all leaders emerge from the top 10 percent of their class.



BOARD REPORTS (continued):

Mrs. Larned reported that she also attended the AASB Annual Conference. She reported on the asset building session in which a list of 40 positive things happening in a child's life is being compiled. She gave some examples and stated that the more positive things that happen in support of a child, the more successful that child will be. She announced that AASB is collecting ideas on how each person can help one child, and compiling them into a book to be published in February. Mrs. Larned stated that at a future Board meeting she would like to solicit ideas from Board members and would have a short form for them to complete. She stated that the feeling at the conference was that board members and districts need to be proactive to reach children who are not being supported.

Mr. Dahlgren introduced Mr. Bill Coghill, CPA from Mikunda, Cottrell and Company. He reported that the FY 97 audit of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District received a clean opinion. He mentioned that the only finding in the federal and state single audit was the tardiness of the foundation formula and cigarette tax reports. Mr. Coghill recommended that the District continue to pursue its year 2000 plan to correct computer software prior to the change of the millennium.

Mr. Coghill reported that their newest staff member, Randy Morgan, is a former KCHS student who recently graduated from the University of Alaska-Fairbanks. He complimented the District on their work program and stated that Ms. Morgan is doing an excellent job.

Both Mr. Coghill and Mrs. Gross thanked Mrs. Douglas, Mr. Hickey and the administration for their assistance and cooperation with the audit.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Substitute Teacher Contracts, Leave of Absence/Support, and 1997-1998 Teacher Appointment.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER  
CONTRACTS:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a substitute teacher contract for Laurie Heckert, Grades 7-12, Homer Flex School.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE/SUPPORT:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a leave of absence request for Lorrel Ludy, Special Services Assistant, Skyview High School.

TEACHER APPOINTMENT:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a 1997-98 teacher assignment for David Cain, Districtwide School Psychologist. Mrs. Radtke clarified that teacher appointments appearing on the consent agenda are not new hires. These employees were hired when school began but are not brought to the Board for approval until their entire credentialing process is cleared with the State.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 3. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

1998-99 REGULAR  
EDUCATION/CERTIFIED  
STAFFING FORMULA:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve the proposed staffing formula for regular education/certified employees. Mr. Dahlgren reminded the Board that the staffing formulas are a guide for preparation of the FY 99 budget.

Mrs. Radtke explained that, per Board direction at a previous worksession, the high school pupil/teacher ratio was changed to 1:22 and 7-12 high schools were changed to 1:20.5. The theater manager formula was changed to reflect the actual allocation at KCHS, and the other theater managers were changed to technicians. She stated that reductions were made to the Homer High School theater technician and high school pool directors.

Mrs. Radtke reported that staffing at K-8 elementary schools changed because of a of the new rounding off formula. She stated that the small elementary schools "specials" teacher formula was changed to provide at least 1.5 specials per school. She recommended that the frontier schools' student/teacher ratio be changed to 1:20 and schools less than 100 remain the same at 1:15. Mrs. Radtke stated that the principal positions did not change but reflect how the small schools are currently being staffed. Village schools greater than 100 were changed to 1:17 and alternative schools were changed to 1:17. Mrs. Radtke reported that the total staffing changes amounted to 10 fewer teachers.

Ms. Germano asked about the staffing changes at the frontier schools and Bartlett Elem/High. Mrs. Radtke explained that staffings stayed the same or were increased by the rounding formula or by the ratio. She further explained that the District doesn't usually hire .5 teaching positions in the villages; the administration usually waits to see how the enrollment comes in and tries to combine the position to make one full-time position.

1998-99 REGULAR  
EDUCATION/CERTIFIED  
STAFFING FORMULA (continued):

Mrs. Gross clarified that Cooper Landing would have 3.5 teaching positions with 37 students. Mrs. Radtke explained that their staffing comes to 2.47 FTE and is rounded up to 2.5 FTE. She further explained that currently there is a head teacher, one FTE regular education teacher, a .25 FTE special education/.75 FTE regular education teacher, a .25 FTE regular education/.75 FTE special education teacher. She stated that Cooper Landing has a unique situation because two teachers cover special education services for Moose Pass, Cooper Landing and Hope.

Ms. Germano asked for a review of the reductions at the high school level. Mrs. Radtke explained that reductions were made of 2. FTE at Homer High; .75 FTE for each of the high school pools; .25 FTE for the Homer High theater manager; 1.75 from KCHS; 1.75 from Skyview High; 2.75 FTE at Soldotna High; 1.5 Nikiski High, and 2.25 FTE at Seward High. She stated that the total reductions total 12 teachers; after the .5 additions are calculated back in, the total reductions amount to 10 FTE.

ACTION

Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve the 1998-99 Regular Education/Certified Staffing Formula. Mrs. Fischer seconded.

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board amend the staffing formula for elementary schools to K-3 1:24, 4-6 1:26 and 7-8 1:19. Mrs. Fischer seconded.

Mrs. Fischer spoke in support of the amendment and felt that Chapman Elementary should be staffed as a middle school at the 7th and 8th grade levels.

Dr. Anderson asked how much additional staff Chapman Elementary would receive. Mr. Dahlgren replied that the amendment would change from 10 to 11 regular education teachers. He added that the number increases to 12.5 when the principal and specials are added in. Ms. Germano clarified that her amendment adds 1 FTE position.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

YES - Fischer, Germano, Larned, Mullins, Gross

NO - Anderson, Arness

Advisory Vote: - NO

Amendment carried.

Mr. Arness expressed his disappointment at reducing the high schools but will vote for the motion.

Amended motion carried unanimously.

RECESS: At 9:00 p.m., Mrs. Gross called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS: At 9:14 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

1998-99 SPECIAL EDUCATION STAFFING FORMULA: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve the proposed staffing formula for special education employees. She explained that the formula will be used as a guide for budgeting purposes.

Dr. Anderson asked whether the allocation had increased from last year. Mrs. Radtke stated that last year's special education staffing was 159 and this year's recommendation is 163.88. She explained that the special education department is attempting to build in unallocated staff rather than borrowing from regular education. Mrs. Radtke stated that the administration will probably recommend eight regular education unallocated teaching positions.

Mrs. Fischer asked to have all staffing formulas available during future worksessions.

Ms. Germano asked if the staffing formulas reflect what is going on in the schools. Mrs. Radtke explained the rationale for variances of the established formulas.

ACTION Ms. Germano moved the Board approve the 1998-99 Special Education Staffing Formula. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Dr. Anderson stated that he objected to removing 14 teachers from the high schools, adding four back to the village schools and Chapman, and now are being asked to give four more back to special education.

VOTE:

YES - Arness, Fischer, Germano, Larned, Mullins, Gross  
NO - Anderson  
Advisory Vote: - YES

Motion carried.

1998-99 SUPPORT STAFFING FORMULA: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve the proposed staffing formula for support employees. Mr. Dahlgren noted that these formulas will be used as a guide to staff the schools and will be revisited later when balancing the budget.

Mrs. Radtke noted that the theater technicians were added and this reflects what is currently being done. She stated that Homer Middle School was given an additional .5 custodian due to an increase in the square footage with the move of West Homer. She explained that, in the past, the custodian from Homer Intermediate cleaned the lower end of Homer Middle School.

1998-99 SUPPORT STAFFING  
FORMULA (continued):

Mrs. Radtke explained that village schools with less than 100 students were given a .5 secretary. She noted that if the change hadn't occurred there would not have been a secretary at Hope School. She stated that this year there was no secretary at Razdolna and the administration feels it is not realistic for schools to not have any secretarial assistance.

Mrs. Radtke explained that an additional .5 secretary was added to Ninilchik Elem/High.

Dr. Anderson verified that no changes were made to the nursing formula. Mrs. Radtke stated that it was falsely reported in the news that the nursing formula was increased. She stated that the administration used the same formula as last year.

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve the 1998-99 Support Staffing Formula. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

RETIREMENT INCENTIVE  
RESOLUTION 97-98-3/TRS:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve the proposed Resolution 97-98-3 authorizing the District to enter into an agreement with the administrator of the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS). Mrs. Radtke noted a revised resolution was distributed.

Mrs. Radtke noted that Item Number 3 changed to \$9,061,719; Item Number 4 was changed to \$90,617 and must be paid at close of the application period. She explained that once the application period closes the administration can compute the exact amount the District will owe. Mrs. Radtke reported that she spoke with Mr. Bill Church from the state retirement office and was told that the District must wait 30 days before the application period can be opened. The application period must be a minimum of 30 days with a maximum of 60 days.

Ms. Germano asked if there was any estimate on the number of employees interested in the retirement incentive program. Mrs. Radtke stated that there has been expressed interest from District employees. She noted that she had received a number of phone calls asking whether the District will participate in the retirement incentive program next year. Mrs. Radtke stated that the Board cannot make that decision yet because the District has not been provided with the figures from the state for the 1998-99 school year.

ACTION

Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve the Retirement Incentive Resolution 97-98-3/TRS. Ms. Germano seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

RETIREMENT INCENTIVE  
RESOLUTION 97-98-4/PERS:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve the proposed Resolution 97-98-3 authorizing the District to enter into an agreement with the administrator of the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS).

Mrs. Radtke noted a revised resolution was distributed, similar to the TRS Resolution. She stated that the dollar amount in Item Number 3 was changed to \$1,532,504, and the dollar amount in Item Number 4 was changed to \$15,321.

ACTION

Mrs. Fischer moved the Board approve the Retirement Incentive Resolution 97-98-4/PERS. Ms. Germano seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

AURORA BOREALIS CHARTER  
BUDGET TRANSFER:

Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve a budget transfer in the amount of \$2,617 from the Aurora Borealis Charter School budget to the District general fund.

Mr. Hickey explained that according to the charter school contract the amount of the budget will be adjusted immediately following the ADM student count period which concluded in October. Mr. Hickey noted that based on that count and the per pupil allocation in dollars the Aurora Borealis Charter School is currently over funded.

ACTION

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve the budget transfer of \$2,617 from the Aurora Borealis Charter School to the District general fund. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

BAY VIEW CHARTER BUDGET  
TRANSFER:

Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve a budget transfer in the amount of \$9,359 from the Bay View Charter School budget to the District general fund.

Mr. Hickey noted that the same situation exists at Bay View Charter School. The pupil enrollment was lower than projected.

ACTION

Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve the budget transfer of \$9,359 from the Bay View Charter School to the District general fund. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

HOMER CHARTER BUDGET  
TRANSFER:

Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve a budget transfer in the amount of \$5,743 from the Homer Charter School budget to the District general fund.

Mr. Hickey stated the Homer Charter School was also below their projected enrollment by 1.5 students.

HOMER CHARTER BUDGET  
TRANSFER (continued):

ACTION

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve the budget transfer of \$5,743 from the Homer Charter School to the District general fund. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mrs. Mullins congratulated Mrs. Gross on her election to the Board of Directors of AASB as Secretary/ Treasurer.

Mrs. Mullins noted that it is National Education Week and recognized and thanked District personnel. She stated that it takes every person in the organization to educate students.

Mrs. Fischer expressed her appreciation to District staff.

Mrs. Larned echoed the appreciation for District staff. She stated that she was pleased to hear from students during the school presentations. She stated that she was interested in hearing about the KCHS work program and was happy to see local businesses involved with the schools.

Mrs. Larned reported that she attended the morning session of the administrator meeting. She stated that she was excited to learn about elementary schools that are bringing art education into their classrooms.

Ms. Germano congratulated Ms. Gross on her recent appointment as the Board representative to the Alaska Association of School Activities and thanked her for all of her hard work.

Mr. Arness stated that he was deeply offended by Mrs. Mahurin's comments insinuating that a member of the Board could gain financially by the reduction of nursing staff.

Dr. Anderson asked the administration to review the retention policy. He stated his concern over the language that does not allow the District to retain students without parental consent.

Mrs. Gross appointed Mrs. Mary Green as the parent representative to the KPSAA Board and Mrs. Mullins as the Board liaison to the Borough Assembly.

ADJOURN:

At 9:43 p.m., Mr. Arness moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned.  
Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President

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Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

The Minutes of November 17, 1997,  
were approved on December 1, 1997,  
as written.



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
148 N. Binkley Street  
Soldotna, AK 99669

December 1, 1997

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President  
Mr. Joe Arness, Vice President  
Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk  
Mrs. Debra Mullins, Treasurer  
Dr. Nels Anderson, Member  
Mrs. Joyce Fischer, Member  
Ms. Deborah Germano, Member  
Miss Danielle Meacham, Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT: Mr. John Dahlgren, Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Patrick Hickey, Assistant Superintendent, Operations and Business  
Management  
Mr. Ed McLain, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction  
Mrs. Sharon Radtke, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Gary Jackson Ms. Trena Richardson  
Mrs. Bekkie Jackson Mr. Greg Paxton  
Mr. Sam Strange Ms. Lori Uponen  
Ms. Terri Carter Mr. Clyde Folley  
Mr. Mick Wykis Miss Kelsey Cusack  
Mr. Lawrence Colston Mr. Garrett St. Clair  
Ms. Traci Davis Miss Tess Caswell  
Mr. Todd Syverson Mr. Sam Clyde  
Ms. Carolyn Cannava Miss Ashley Waldrip  
Mrs. Karen Mahurin Miss Robin Dover  
Ms. Shana Loshbaugh Mrs. Rosanne VanRay  
Ms. Marlene Byerly Mr. Joe Cannava  
Mrs. Robin Nyce Ms. Bev Edwards  
Miss Kristin Cannava Mr. Joseph Cannava  
Ms. Terri Woodward

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mr. Arness invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross Absent/Excused  
Mr. Joe Arness Present  
Mrs. Susan Larned Present  
Dr. Nels Anderson Present  
Mrs. Joyce Fischer Present  
Ms. Deborah Germano Present  
Mrs. Debra Mullins Present  
Miss Danielle Meacham Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved as written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of November 17, 1997, were approved as printed.

SCHOOL REPORTS:

Mr. Gary Jackson, Principal, K-Beach Elementary, stated that his school had experienced much change this year with four new teachers. He stated that 15 of his teachers qualify for early retirement next year, and he expects another year of change. He reported that K-Beach Elementary's academic goals for the last two years were in the areas of math and writing. He stated that he was pleased with the writing results but math remains a challenge. He stated that this year art was added to the school goals. Mr. Jackson thanked the many parent volunteers and the PTA, and he listed the Student in Good Standing, Caribou Kid Award, Random Acts of Kindness and Spirit Days as activities sponsored by the school PTA. He stated that the school is involved with the Slikok Creek Project, cross-age activities and Critical Incident Planning.

Ms. Carter reported on K-Beach Elementary's campaign to select a state land mammal to represent Alaska. Clyde Folley, Kelsey Cusack, Garrett St. Clair, Tess Caswell, Sam Clyde, Ashley Waldrip, and Robin Dover told the Board about some of their memories while attending all of their elementary grades at K-Beach Elementary School.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Lori Uponen, secretary, Sears Elementary PTA, spoke to the Board in support of the school nurses. She stated that the PTA feels that the nurses provide an essential and a beneficial service to the students. She noted that at Sears Elementary, Bekkie Jackson does everything from vision and hearing screening, TB tests, liaison between the school and the community, detection of communicable diseases and first aid in emergency situations. Ms. Uponen asked the Board not to reduce nursing services any further.

Terri Woodward, custodian, Skyview High, told the Board that the recent classes of freshman have been polite and clean, and she credited this change in behavior to the middle school staff and Mr. Syverson. She thanked Mr. Syverson and the middle school staff for the outstanding work they have been doing with the students.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS  
(Continued):

Debbie Adams, president, Kenai Central High PTSA, expressed her concern over the reduction in nursing time at Kenai Central High. She stated that the nurse is only available a couple of days a week and, therefore, cannot be a part of the intervention team or teach health classes. Ms. Adams stated that having a female nurse at the school is essential since the counselors, PE teachers, and administrators are male. She told the Board that female students need to have someone to go to when they have personal issues to discuss. She stated that as more and more staff reductions are made parents are withdrawing their children from school; the District is therefore losing funds. She urged the Board to spend some time with the nurses during their daily work and see what they do before making any more staff reductions.

HEARING OF DELEGATIONS:

Mrs. Bekkie Jackson, school nurse, Sears Elementary, expressed her concern over future funding of the Health Services Program. She stated that the nursing issue has become a very political one and that nurses feel that they are re-elected each year. Mrs. Jackson distributed packets to each Board member containing humorous campaign materials supporting school nursing. She urged the Board to recognize the importance of having nurses in District schools and noted that only 1.127% is spent on health services.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND/OR  
P.T.A., K.P.A.A., K.P.E.A.,  
K.P.E.S.A.:

Mr. Lawrence Colston, president, KPEA, thanked the Board for filling the half-time position at Seward Elementary. He urged the Board not to replace school nursing staff with health aides. He stated that it is the level of expertise that is important when dealing with an injured or ill child. He stated that he could recommend other areas of the budget to cut rather than \$78,000 to reduce the level of expertise in the health services program.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. Arness presented an Award of Recognition to Mr. Todd Syverson, Principal, Soldotna Middle for his recent 1997 Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award; and to Ms. Carolyn Cannava, principal, Soldotna Elementary for her recent Alaska Distinguished Principal Award.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Dahlgren reported that he attended the All-State Music Festival on Saturday, November 22 at KCHS. He stated that he was quite impressed with the caliber of the talented young musicians. He thanked Ms. Renée Henderson for her efforts in coordinating the festival.

Mr. Dahlgren stated that the Homer Charter School had recently been awarded a grant from the state in the amount of \$144,995.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT  
(Continued):

Mr. Dahlgren announced that there will be a meeting with the administration, Board and local legislators on December 8 at 3:00 p.m. to discuss educational issues.

Mr. Dahlgren reported that he had invited the Borough Assembly to meet with the Board and administration on December 16 at 2:00 p.m. to discuss the District financial situation and the budget process.

Mr. Arness recognized that Ms. Barbara Jewell, former administrative secretary to the School Board/Superintendent, was in the audience.

NURSING SERVICES REPORT:

Mrs. Radtke presented a computerized slide presentation concerning the District Health Services Program. She presented a listing of top priority items including state and federally mandated items for which school nurses are responsible. She explained that the idea of offering no health services and relying on Public Health Nursing is not a workable option. Federal mandates, including Special Services IEPs and ADA 504 Plans, make it impossible not to offer some health services support. Mrs. Radtke described a day in the life of a school nurse, which includes administering medicines, conducting rapid eye exams, tending to ill students, conducting student health screenings and providing consultation with school staff. She presented a comparison of nursing services in the Anchorage, Kenai, Fairbanks, Juneau, Kodiak and Mat-Su School Districts. She listed several options for consideration such as restoration of the pupil/nurse ratio to the 1996-97 level, imitation of other Alaskan districts, remain as currently staffed, establishment of a new pupil/nurse ratio, replacement of a portion of the nurses with unlicensed assistive personnel, investigation of alternate funding, investigation of contracting out to village health aides, or dependance on outside agencies to provide health coverage. Mrs. Radtke commented that the best option is to reinstate the program as it has existed in the past.

FALL LEVEL TEST RESULTS:

Mr. Ed McLain presented a comparison of District scores to the average, or mean, scores of the Northwest Evaluation Association Consortium group for Grades 3-9 in language, math and reading.

FALL LEVEL TEST RESULTS  
REPORT (Continued):

Mr. McLain explained that the tests were developed jointly by Northwest Evaluation Association and District staff. He stated that level tests are a tool to measure student achievement in a curriculum-aligned fashion. Mr. McLain noted that KPBSD students compare about the same with those of the NWEA consortium of schools except in the upper levels of math. Mr. McLain explained that the District tests do not include students who take algebra in the eighth and ninth grade, otherwise he would expect the score to be higher. Mr. McLain thanked Mr. Wykis and the principals for their efforts in coordinating and administering the test.

Mr. Arness asked how the test can be compared when it has been designed around the District curriculum. Mr. Wykis responded that the test is aligned with the District's curriculum goals. Mr. Wykis explained that test questions may be different in other districts that belong to the NWEA, but the questions are weighted the same; therefore, comparisons can be made with other districts.

Ms. Germano asked what the District expects to see in the way of growth next year. Mr. Wykis responded that the District should see a line of growth in reading, language arts and math in Grades 3 through 9, and short-term growth from fall to spring. He stated that the benefit of the test is looking at growth over time. He explained that locator tests were taken this year and now the computer will determine the next test that will be given to each student. Locator tests will be given to each third grade student.

Mr. Wykis stated that the District was considering an exit exam for algebra students. The scores reported for ninth grade represent a small portion of the total population. He stated that most of the ninth grade students took only reading and language tests, although a few schools also chose to administer the math test.

Mr. Arness asked how the results will be used. Mr. Wykis explained that the school administrators received a copy of the preliminary results showing their school average and the District average. This will provide a comparison. Mr. Wykis stated that the real benefit of the test is looking at individual student scores and comparing them against the standard. He reminded the Board that some schools have such a small number of students taking the test that the results are skewed.

Mr. Wykis thanked the building administrators and assessment coordinators for their work in sorting, collecting, and administering tests to 6300 students.

BOARD REPORTS:

Ms. Larned reported that she had recently attended the Middle Schools Committee meeting. The Committee has been reviewing and discussing the model for a model school. She stated that she hoped to preserve funding for the middle school concept. Mrs. Larned reported that she had attended the World Language Curriculum Committee and that, in four days, they have nearly written the curriculum for K-12. Committee discussions have included the importance of exposing all students to another language in all grades.

Mrs. Fischer complimented the Calendar Committee for their efficient work developing the calendars for the next three school years.

Mrs. Mullins reported that she introduced herself at the November 18 Assembly meeting. She reported that Ordinance 97-72 dealing with handicapped access upgrades for Soldotna Middle School was introduced. She will attend the hearing on December 16.

Mr. Arness reported that the final meeting of the Math Curriculum Committee was held, and the Board should see a proposal after the first of the year.

Mr. Arness reported that, at the request of the Governor, he and Mr. Dahlgren had attended a meeting in Anchorage sponsored by ARCO. They listened to experts tell school districts how to cut the costs of doing business. Mr. Arness stated that two ideas had merit: use of District credit cards for purchasing and billing for information; i.e., ARCO-Alaska invoices ARCO International when research information is requested.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Leave of Absence Request/Support, Extended Field Trip Requests, Substitute Teacher Contract, and Leave of Absence Request Extension/Support.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE  
REQUEST/SUPPORT:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a leave of absence request/support for Lisa Bismark, Special Services Assistant, Bartlett School.

EXTENDED FIELD TRIP  
REQUESTS:

Mr. McLain recommended the Board approve extended field trip requests for twenty Homer High School students to travel to Paris, France, to experience first-hand the language and culture of the country; and for fifty Homer Middle School students to travel to Washington, D.C., and New York City, N.Y., to participate in the American Student Travel Program.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER  
CONTRACT:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a substitute teaching contract for Bev Wellborn, Grade 5, North Star Elementary.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST  
EXTENSION/SUPPORT:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a leave of absence request extension/support for Cheryl Samples, Personnel Specialist, effective January 3, 1998, through January 2, 1999.

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 4. Mrs. Fischer seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

1998-99 SCHOOL CALENDAR:

Mr. McLain reported that the Calendar Committee met on November 18 and 24, 1997, to discuss and set calendars for the 1998-1999, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 school years. The Committee recommended the Board approve the 1998-1999 calendar and tentatively approve the remaining two years' calendars. The calendars were presented with beginning and ending dates as well as quarter and semester dates. For the 1998-1999 school year, teachers would begin August 19, and students would begin August 26. The ending date for students would be May 26, and the last day for teachers would be May 27. All of the calendars contain a winter break and a one-week spring break.

Mr. McLain thanked the Committee and introduced committee member, Ms. Katie Carmody, to speak to the Board. Ms. Carmody reported that the Committee worked on the calendars for two days, and she recommended approval.

Dr. Anderson asked what discussions were held concerning ending the semester in January rather than December. Ms. Carmody responded that teachers and former teachers on the Committee felt very strongly that there was more instructional time and benefit to students to end after the winter break.

Ms. Germano asked what the feedback was from high school students and parents. She stated that students and parents have expressed to her that instructional time is lost because it is spent reviewing for final tests and that they like ending the semester in December. Ms. Carmody stated that the student representative on the Committee also liked ending before the winter break but the Committee felt that more weight should be given to the teachers' recommendation if instructional time could be gained. Ms. Carmody explained that if the semester ended in January, the second quarter would be considerably shorter and there would be less instructional time, especially with Christmas programs and other activities surrounding the winter break.

1998-99 SCHOOL CALENDAR  
(Continued):

Mr. McLain explained that five teachers or former teachers spoke in favor of ending the semester in January. He noted that one parent felt that since all teachers on the Committee felt strongly about ending the semester in January then the committee should follow their advice. Mr. Arness asked about feedback from the schools. Mr. McLain answered that Committee members reported back from their colleagues or building principals that they would like to have the second quarter end after winter break.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve the 1998-1999 calendar as presented and give tentative approval to the 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 calendars as presented. Mrs. Fischer seconded.

Ms. Germano stated that she would like to see feedback from the communities about ending the semester before winter break.

Mr. Dahlgren clarified that last year was the first year of ending the semester before the winter break. A previous committee decided to try ending the semester before the winter break and recommended the same calendar for the next year, with the understanding that feedback would be solicited. Mr. Dahlgren told the Board that, instructionally, the teachers did not like the shortened thirty-eight day quarter and that the curriculum director and teachers felt that students were getting short changed. He stated that, while students enjoy having the winter break to themselves, it didn't make sense to have a seventy-day semester and a ninety-day semester.

VOTE:

YES - Anderson, Arness, Fischer, Germano, Larned, Mullins  
Advisory Vote - NO

Motion carried unanimously.

SOLDOTNA MIDDLE SCHOOL  
FACILITY RECOMMENDATION:

Mr. Hickey reported that the administration's recommendation to relieve overcrowding at Soldotna Middle School is to initiate the planning phase for a prototypical middle school and ultimately construct the facility. A worksession was held prior to the November 17 School Board meeting to discuss solutions to the overcrowding situation. He asked the Board for direction on how to proceed.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve a directive to the administration to present the Board with options for an adequate addition to Soldotna Middle School. Ms. Germano seconded.



SOLDOTNA MIDDLE SCHOOL  
FACILITY RECOMMENDATION  
(Continued):

Mr. Todd Syverson, principal, Soldotna Middle School, urged the Board to continue to aggressively pursue a solution for the eight portables.

Ms. Fischer asked the administration if they could combine Soldotna High and Soldotna Middle to create a high school complex and change Skyview High School into a middle school. Mr. Dahlgren explained that Skyview High could not accommodate a middle school program with its present classroom space. He further explained that the core area contains many vocational rooms such as an automotive shop, wood shop, etc. In Soldotna Middle School, there is only one vocational room and more classrooms. Mr. Dahlgren stated that combining both high schools would amount to a population in excess of 1200 students, which could not be accommodated by either of those two facilities. He stated that Soldotna High was designed for 800 students and, at one point, had 900 students with nine portables. Mr. Dahlgren reported that Soldotna High can realistically accommodate 700 students, and Soldotna Middle School can accommodate 400 students. Therefore, the District would not gain anything by reconfiguring the local secondary schools.

Motion carried unanimously.

HOPE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
RECONFIGURATION:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve a request from the Hope Elementary Site Council to reconfigure Hope Elementary from Grades K-10 to K-12. Mr. Dahlgren informed the Site Council that the staffing would remain the same based on student enrollment, and the high school program would be more self-directed.

Mr. Dahlgren stated that Hope High School students have not been successful and have either dropped out or their families have moved from the community. Current students would not be affected for two years unless families with high school aged children move into the Hope community.

Ms. Germano asked whether students would have the option to participate in the boarding home program if a high school program were available. Mr. Dahlgren replied that students could not board out if Hope School is reconfigured to include a high school program.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve the request from the Hope Elementary Site Council to reconfigure Hope Elementary from Grades K-10 to K-12. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

FIRST READING OF POLICY  
REVISIONS:

The Board heard a first reading of BP 1321, Solicitation of Funds From and By Students and AR 5123, Promotion/Acceleration/Retention.

Mr. Hickey explained the history regarding a fund raising activity at West Homer which had received prior approval from their site based council. A member of the community objected to the company offering the fund raising opportunity. Mr. Hickey explained that the majority of companies that offer fund raising activities are for-profit and that these corporations exist to assist school districts in raising money.

Mrs. Fischer concurred with Mr. Hickey but was concerned that nonprofit organizations, such as the Food Bank and United Way, would not be allowed to solicit funds within District schools. Mr. Hickey explained that the most restrictive language was deleted. That language required that all activities to be only those dealing with non profit organizations. Activities would be permitted by both nonprofit and for-profit organizations, subject to local site-based council approval and the concurrence of the superintendent.

Ms. Germano commented on the use of the term "non-partisan" and stated that it is a term that can be used loosely. Mr. Hickey agreed but noted that he specifically left the term as part of the original language. He stated that he was hoping to use the least restrictive language in the policy and leave those decisions to the site-based councils.

Mr. Dahlgren stated that changes to AR 5123 were made at School Board request. Dr. Anderson stated that he had suggested the changes as a result of conversations during the Certified Diploma Committee meeting. He stated that after discussing the issue of retention with others he was told that most problems came from parents who wanted their child retained. Dr. Anderson suggested that a change also be made to BP 5123 under the section titled, Retention. He suggested that BP 5123 read, "Retention may be considered when the student has not acquired appropriate and necessary skills and knowledge. Alternatives to retention shall be considered."

FIRST READING OF POLICY  
REVISIONS (Continued):

Dr. Anderson further recommended that the stricken paragraph in AR 5123 be kept and the following sentences be inserted: "Acceleration shall be considered only with the approval of parents. Retention and disputed promotion, normally requires parent concurrence. The District, however, retains the right to either retain or promote, if such concurrence cannot be reached." He added that the words, "or acceleration" should be inserted after the word "retention" in the first sentence.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mrs. Fischer suggested to those present that they lobby District legislators, the Governor, and other state legislators and recommend that nursing funding be placed outside the school foundation unit. She stated that there are two issues involved, an education issue and a health issue and that districts should not have to decide between hiring teachers or hiring nurses. She reminded those present that it is also an election year. She wished everyone a Merry Christmas and happy holidays.

Ms. Germano asked the Board to talk about future housing of the Homer Flex School. She expressed her concern over the lack of space for thirty students. She also stated that the Homer Charter School is interested in the small building at the Homer Intermediate School and asked whom they should contact.

Miss Meacham wished everyone a happy holiday and thanked K-Beach Elementary for their school report.

Mrs. Mullins stated that she had attended the Senate Health, Education and Social Services Committee meeting two weeks ago. She stated that there was a lot of public testimony, and the legislators asked communities and board members to provide their opinions. She urged those present to contact all state legislators and let them know that the KPBSD is suffering financially. She stated that she and her family chose to live on the Peninsula because of the educational opportunities for her children, and she does not want to see that jeopardized.

Mrs. Larned expressed her appreciation for the K-Beach Elementary School report and the innovative ideas used to reward positive behavior. She welcomed Mrs. Barbara Jewell. Mrs. Larned wished those present a Happy New Year and hoped that their New Year's resolution would be to call or write state legislators concerning funding for education.

ADJOURN:

At 9:32 p.m., Mrs. Fischer moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned.  
Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President

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Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

The Minutes of December 1, 1997, were  
approved on January 5, 1998, as written.

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
148 N. Binkley Street  
Soldotna, AK 99669

January 5, 1998

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President  
Mr. Joe Arness, Vice President  
Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk  
Mrs. Debra Mullins, Treasurer  
Dr. Nels Anderson, Member  
Mrs. Joyce Fischer, Member  
Ms. Deborah Germano, Member  
Miss Danielle Meacham, Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT: Mr. John Dahlgren, Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Patrick Hickey, Assistant Superintendent, Operations and Business  
Management  
Mr. Ed McLain, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction  
Mrs. Sharon Radtke, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Lawrence Colston Ms. Barbara Vogel  
Mr. Sam Strange Mrs. Traci Davis  
Mr. Fabian Castilleja Mr. Paul Fischer  
Ms. Beth Martin Mr. Justin George  
Mr. Buck George  
Mrs. Karen Mahurin  
Mrs. Nancy MacVie

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Mrs. Gross called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mrs. Gross invited those present to participate in the Pledge of  
Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross Present  
Mr. Joe Arness Present  
Mrs. Susan Larned Present  
Dr. Nels Anderson Present  
Mrs. Joyce Fischer Present  
Ms. Deborah Germano Present  
Mrs. Debra Mullins Present  
Miss Danielle Meacham Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved as written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of December 1, 1997, were approved as  
printed.

SCHOOL REPORTS:

Mr. Fabian Castilleja, principal, Susan B. English Elem/High School reported that there are 95 students and fourteen staff members; one principal, eight certified and five classified staff. He reported that test scores are slightly above the District average in some areas and slightly below in other areas. He explained that the school offers a full range of elementary, middle school and high school courses. Support staff has been converted to certificated staff in order to continue providing all the classes that have been previously offered. He stated that, as a result, the staff have assumed duties normally performed by support staff as well as rely on volunteer assistance. He reported both the pool and library have been staffed by volunteers in order to provide a quality education for their students.

Mr. Castilleja disseminated an informational brochure listing the mission statement, statement of beliefs, parent questionnaire results, student activities and history of Susan B. English School. He reported that one senior graduated last year and five more will graduate this year. He reported that Susan B. English School has a band, middle school sports, elementary intramurals and high school interscholastic sports. He reported that students not only placed, but received the sportsmanship award for their participation in the Borough small schools basketball program. Their volleyball team went to regional. He stated that teachers are extremely overloaded and are sometimes teaching two subjects at the same time.

Mr. Castilleja thanked the School Board and Seldovia community for their support of the annual senior class trip. Students begin working in 7th grade to earn money to fund the trip and approximately \$18,000 has been earned towards this year's trip to Europe. Mr. Castilleja stated that he felt that the senior trips are worthwhile and provide experiences for students that last a lifetime. He reported that during a ten-day fund raising event the school collected \$5,000 to purchase a computer. He added that the problem is that the school is asking for more and more and the community is becoming reluctant.

Mr. Castilleja assured the Board that his school is not over staffed, or pampered. He reported that his staff has been required to make many sacrifices and that much of the school equipment is 15 or 20 years old. He added that the school is grateful for what the District provides them and will make the most of the situation. He concluded by presenting a video tape showing the school facility, student activities, staff, and last year's senior trip to Cancun, Mexico.

SCHOOL REPORTS (Continued):

When questioned, Mr. Castilleja responded that the band students are being taught by a noncertified person during the forty-minute study hall period. He added that the spouse of one of the teachers is a certified music teacher and assisted with this year's Christmas program.

Mr. Arness stated that he attended the basketball tournament at ACS and reported that the Susan B. English School team presented themselves very well.

Mr. Castilleja reported that the Seldovia population has been fairly constant and did not expect any significant changes.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND/OR  
P.T.A., K.P.A.A., K.P.E.A.,  
K.P.E.S.A.:

Mr. Lawrence Colston reported that the long-standing dispute between the District and KPEA concerning the \$650 payment has been settled. He extended a special thank you to Don Oberg and John Dahlgren for the tremendous amount of work involved in resolving this issue.

Mr. Colston stated that he hoped the nurse staffing would remain the same as this year. He stated that there is a feeling from society that public education is not a satisfactory way to educate their children.

Dr. Anderson thanked Mr. Colston and KPEA for their work on the agreement and expressed hope that this signaled a new era of cooperation.

Mr. Colston reported that comments from building representatives were that, although they would like to protect the health insurance program, they would like to get on with the business of educating children.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Dahlgren reported on the terms of the settlement between the District and KPEA of the \$650 payment grievance.

Mr. Dahlgren highlighted points of the agreement:

- The District agreed to pay the \$650 payment and will remit the amount deducted thus far.
- The \$650 payment will be terminated for the 1998-99 school year.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT  
(Continued):

- The parties mutually agreed that at the end of the 1997-98 school year, the following paragraph of Article 210, Health Insurance, shall become null and void:

Bargaining unit employees shall be paid \$650.00 each year during the duration of this contract. The total amount of District obligated dollars may be subtracted from the balance of the health fund.

- The District agreed that if KPEA requests release time for its president for the 1998-99 school year, the release time will be granted by the District. The Association shall pay the full salary and benefits for the president to the District to fully reimburse the District for the salary and benefit costs of the president of the Association.

- The District also agreed to grant a leave time request for the president of KPEA for the 1997-98 school year, if requested. The president's release time for the 1997-98 school year shall be granted by the District, provided that the following conditions are met: (a) KPEA shall pay the full salary and benefits costs for the released president; (b) release time for the president for the 1997-98 school year shall not start prior to January 18, 1998; (c) the president shall not be released until the District has found an acceptable substitute who can perform the president's professional duties and responsibilities.

- The District agreed to release any claim for reimbursement from KPEA for the salary and fringe benefits of the Association's president during the 1996-97 school year.

- The superintendent and the president of the Association shall issue a joint press release publicizing the settlement of this grievance.

- Both parties agreed to jointly notify the arbitrator that the grievance submitted to arbitration has been settled by mutual agreement.

Mr. Dahlgren expressed hope that this issue can be put behind both the District and KPEA and that they can get on with the task of educating students.

LEASE AGREEMENTS:

Mr. Patrick Hickey presented a report of leases or agreements entered into as of July 1, 1997. Leases were issued to Bay Realty, Inc. for Homer Flex School; to the Village of Kachemak Selo for the school facility; and to Peninsula Grace Brethren Church for the Aurora Borealis Charter School.



- NIKISKI BUS PURCHASE: Mr. Hickey reported that the District had the unique opportunity to purchase a 1995 Bluebird bus in the amount of \$30,000. Nikiski High School expressed an immediate interest in the bus and subsequently purchased it. Mr. Hickey stated that the value of the bus was approximately \$70,000 and prior to purchase, asked Borough maintenance to evaluate the condition of the bus.
- BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS: Mr. Hickey reported that the 1997-98 budget will be amended to reflect a decrease in revenue and commensurate balancing expenditure adjustments will be made.
- BOARD REPORTS: Mrs. Gross stated that she attended the first meeting of AASA in early December. She reported that the group discussed how the third berth would be awarded for the state basketball tournament and she suspected that it will have to be competed for in the future.
- CONSENT AGENDA: Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Extended Field Trip Requests, 1997-98 Teacher Appointment and Early Graduation Request.
- EXTENDED FIELD TRIP REQUESTS: Mr. Ed McLain recommended the Board approve extended field trip requests for 15-25 Kenai Middle School students to travel to Washington, D.C., March 22-27, 1998, to participate in the Lakeland Tours Program; for 16 Soldotna High School students to travel to Branson, Missouri, April 24-28, 1998, to participate in the Branson Jubilee National Music Festival competition; and for 5 Susan B. English School students to travel to Spain and France, May 25-June 5, 1998, to experience the different languages, cultures, and economies.
- 1997-98 TEACHER APPOINTMENT: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a teaching appointment for the 1997-98 school year for Barbara Spence, temporary (half-time), Special Services/ Resource at Skyview High.
- EARLY GRADUATION REQUEST: Mr. McLain recommended the Board approve an early graduation request for a Ninilchik High School student.
- ACTION Ms. Germano moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 3. Dr. Anderson seconded.
- Motion carried unanimously.
- K.P.A.A. MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a Memorandum of Agreement between the District and KPAA. She recommended the following language be added as an addendum to the current negotiated agreement.

K.P.A.A. MEMORANDUM OF  
AGREEMENT (Continued):

The deadline for administrators to announce their intention to retire will be January 16, 1998. This announcement will be in the form of a "letter of intent written by the administrator who is retiring to the superintendent of schools. This date is a change from the previous deadline of November 15.

The agreement would take effect immediately and will be effective for only the 1997-98 school year.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the District and KPAA. Ms. Germano seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

1998-99 HEALTH SERVICES  
PROGRAM:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a specified dollar amount of \$831,957.68 for the Health Services Program which allows for continued RN/BSN coverage of all District schools similar to the coverage for 1997-98. A new formula would be developed based on the School Health Acuity Formula. Mrs. Radtke reported that 18.13 FTE would be needed.

Mrs. Radtke presented other options which included a decrease in RN/BSNs and an incorporation into the program of LPNs (licensed) or a discontinuation of nursing services in the KPBSD.

Mrs. Martin, secretary at Soldotna High told the Board that she had attended to 328 nursing incidents between the months of September and December and asked the Board to consider more nursing time. She explained that when the nurse is not there she provides health services that range from administering long-term medication, applying bandages, caring for injuries, providing medical supplies to students and more. She stated that her secretarial duties are being neglected and when she adds nursing duties she feels overwhelmed. Mrs. Martin stated that she does not envy the difficult decisions that the Board had to make to balance the budget. She stated that even though she is indemnified against liability issues, she could not live with herself if a student should have a medical need that she could not help with and the student's life was permanently altered as a result.

ACTION

Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve the administrative recommendation as outlined. Mrs. Fischer seconded.

1998-99 HEALTH SERVICES  
PROGRAM (Continued):

Mrs. Radtke clarified that the 1998-99 health services formula recommendation is contingent on the budget preparation process and is to be used as a guideline for the purpose of staffing. Mrs. Mullins explained to those present that nursing staff could be changed based on the results of the budget process.

Mr. Dahlgren reported that research from other districts indicated that they are using specialized centers for medically fragile students and that this concept would not be practical for KPBSD.

Mrs. Fisher asked the nurses' assistance in lobbying the legislature to remove funding of school nursing services from the Department of Education budget and include it with the Department of Health and Social Services budget.

Motion carried unanimously.

RECOMMENDATION TO OPEN  
NEGOTIATIONS WITH KPESA:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board appoint a District negotiation team and prepare to open negotiations with the Kenai Peninsula Educational Support Association. She recommended that the first meeting of the negotiation team be no later than February 15, 1998.

ACTION

Mrs. Fischer moved the Board approve the recommendation to open negotiations with the Kenai Peninsula Educational Support Association. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Mrs. Radtke explained that the negotiation team and a spokesperson must be appointed by the Board to represent the District. She stated that traditionally someone from Human Resources and someone from the Business Office are appointed to the team. Ms. Germano asked what method is used to negotiate. Mrs. Radtke replied that in the recent history of the District the Board has appointed an in-house team and the negotiations have been fairly straightforward. Mrs. Radtke stated that she has served on the negotiating team each year both as a resource and a spokesperson. She recommended the Board plan an executive session with the negotiating team before or after the next meeting so the team can begin work.

Motion carried unanimously.

SCHOOL VAN PURCHASE:

Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve the purchase of a fifteen-passenger van from Seekins Ford in the amount of \$29,826 for Skyview High School. Seekins Ford was not the low bidder but was within the 5% local preference of being equal.

SCHOOL VAN PURCHASE  
(Continued):  
ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the purchase of a fifteen-passenger van from Seekins Ford in the amount of \$29,826. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Mr. Hickey responded to a question from Mrs. Mullins that Seekins Ford holds the new car dealership franchise authorized by Ford Motor Company for the Kenai Peninsula area and that Cal Worthington is not sanctioned by Ford Motor Company for new car sales.

Dr. Anderson stated he did not feel that it was in the District's best interest to purchase the van from Seekins Ford.

Mrs. Fischer thanked Mr. Hickey for presenting the purchase to the Board but expressed concern for the use of vans to transport students. She noted that during her attendance at many holiday events, she did not notice the unsuccessful bidders as sponsors of these events. She felt that even though it may cost more to award to the local bidder the District more than recoups the money in many other ways. She clarified that she was not in favor of the motion but that she was in support of the 5% local bid preference.

VOTE:

YES - Arness, Germano, Larned, Mullins, Gross

NO - Fischer, Anderson

Advisory Vote - YES

Motion carried.

XEROX COPIER LEASES:

Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve a modification to an existing lease agreement with Xerox Corporation to provide copier services to the District by document outsourcing rather than selling copier hardware. The District will be required to supply paper and be charged a flat fee of \$.017 per copy and Xerox Business Services would buy out existing lease agreements from Xerox Corporation. Mr. Hickey stated that Xerox Business Services, by using their in-house financing rates, can buy out District leases, convert our rates to a more favorable one, and stabilize our copy costs over the term of the lease allowing the District the opportunity to replace aging hardware. He assured the Board that if the District is unhappy with this arrangement at any time, it is in writing that they are willing to convert back to the original lease plan. When asked where the savings will come from, Mr. Hickey responded that it would be realized by not using the copiers over the summer or by closely monitoring the amount of copies being made.

XEROX COPIER LEASES  
(Continued):

Ms. Germano asked if costs will be broken out by school. Mr. Hickey explained that currently the money is allocated into accounts that the schools cannot spend to ensure that the bills will be paid. Under the new agreement the money would be allocated into a supply account. The lease includes the cost of toner supplies and maintenance. Mr. Hickey stated that Xerox Business Service has dedicated a full-time staff person to handle the District's account. Mr. Castilleja stated that by allowing administrators the freedom to monitor the number of copies being made, they can control their copy costs.

Mrs. Fischer confirmed with Mr. Hickey that site visits include all District sites. She asked what the cost would be if the District was dissatisfied and converted back to the old lease program. Mr. Hickey stated he could not provide those figures, but he felt that Xerox was a reputable firm and felt comfortable in his dealings with them and did not anticipate any problem. Mrs. Fischer expressed concerns about down time and asked whether the District investigated other copier companies. Mr. Hickey responded that he was more concerned with the service provided after the agreement is signed than the cost of the machines and would prefer to deal with a company the size of Xerox when considering the geographical layout and size of the District.

Mr. Hickey stated that he had not investigated other vendors, because he is not interested in replacing every copy machine throughout the District.

Mr. Dahlgren stated that the District went out to bid three years ago, the lowest bidder was Xerox, and that a maintenance response time of 24 hours was included in the bid.

Mr. Paul Fischer suggested that the Board consider requiring a performance bond that would outline what needs to be provided.

Karen Mahurin, secretary at Sears Elementary, expressed concern for those schools that use teacher generated materials and use the copier to reproduce them. She explained that few textbooks are purchased at Sears Elementary. She stated that Sears Elementary purchased a copier machine for their volunteer work room that has been successful. She expressed concern about more supply monies coming out of instructional supplies and that teachers are receiving less and less money for supplies. She also expressed concern that her school could not do without a copier for more than 24 hours and that maintenance response is vital.

XEROX COPIER LEASES  
(Continued):

Ms. Germano asked what happens to schools that own their own machines under the proposed lease? Mr. Hickey stated that those schools have been asked whether they would like to be converted but no final decisions have been made until the proposed lease is approved. He added that those schools already have the benefit of paying for the paper charges and toner supplies and didn't know how closely the toner usage would equal the \$.017 charge.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve a modification to an existing lease agreement with Xerox to provide copier services to the District with the final contract to be returned for Board approval. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

BP 1321 SOLICITATION OF FUNDS  
FROM AND BY STUDENTS:

Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve revisions to policy BP 1321 Solicitation of Funds From and By Students. Revisions to BP 1321 will allow fund raising activities to occur with "for profit" companies or organizations.

ACTION

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve revisions to policy BP 1321 Solicitation of Funds From and By Students. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

AR 5123 PROMOTION/  
ACCELERATION/RETENTION:

Mr. McLain recommended the Board approve revisions to regulation AR 5123 Promotion/Acceleration/Retention. Revisions to AR 5123 will require monthly meetings monitoring the intervention strategies selected for the current year and documentation of discussions related to next year's placement alternatives. The timeline for submitting the retention or acceleration list to the superintendent or designee was extended to not later than three weeks prior to the end of the school year. Mr. Dahlgren explained that the instructional team had reviewed the proposed revisions to the regulation.

Dr. Anderson referred his two requests noted in the Board minutes of December 1 on pages 10 and 11. He stated that he did not object to the changes that were made but felt that a process that clarifies retention is needed. He suggested that the recommendations made at the December 1 meeting be incorporated into the policy and regulation and postpone action until the next meeting. Dr. Anderson expressed concern that the District is not allowed to retain students and that parents have absolute veto power.

AR 5123 PROMOTION/  
ACCELERATION/RETENTION  
(Continued):  
ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board postpone action on regulation AR 5123 Promotion/Acceleration/Retention until the next Board meeting. Mrs. Fischer seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mr. Dahlgren announced that Jay Hakkinen, a former graduate of Skyview High School, was selected as a member of the U.S. Olympic Biathlon Team and will compete in Japan this winter.

Mrs. Larned stated she was pleased with the settlement between the District and KPEA and felt that there was a vital need to be proactive for public schools.

Ms. Germano echoed comments by Mrs. Larned. She asked to have more of the curriculum meeting dates posted on the Board calendar. She expressed her displeasure over football trivia published on the school lunch menu.

Mrs. Mullins thanked those in the audience for attending and invited them to come to the budget committee meeting on January 8 and 12. She expressed her appreciation for the spirit in which the settlement was achieved and looked forward to a better working relationship and a time when both parties can lobby the state legislature with a unified voice.

Mrs. Fischer reemphasized to the nurses the need to lobby the legislators about changing the formula for funding through the Health and Social Services budget. She stated that she had contacted Senator Torgerson who was receptive to the idea and Representative Hodgins who expressed concern that the money would be used elsewhere. She stated that if he could be assured that the money would go to nursing services he might look favorably on the idea.

Mrs. Gross announced that two legislative fly-ins are scheduled for February 21-24 and April 26-28, 1998. She stated that she will be attending and would like at least one more member to be present. Ms Germano, Mrs. Larned and Mrs. Mullins expressed an interest. Mrs. Gross stated she was looking forward to a positive relationship with the Association.

ADJOURN:

At 9:27 p.m., Mr. Arness moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned.  
Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President

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Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

The Minutes of January 5, 1997,  
were approved on January 19, 1998,  
as written.



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
148 N. Binkley Street  
Soldotna, AK 99669

January 19, 1998

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President  
Mr. Joe Arness, Vice President  
Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk  
Mrs. Debra Mullins, Treasurer  
Dr. Nels Anderson, Member  
Mrs. Joyce Fischer, Member  
Ms. Deborah Germano, Member  
Miss Danielle Meacham, Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT: Mr. John Dahlgren, Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Patrick Hickey, Assistant Superintendent, Operations and Business  
Management  
Mr. Ed McLain, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction  
Mrs. Sharon Radtke, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

CALL TO ORDER: Mrs. Gross called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross Present  
Mr. Joe Arness Present  
Mrs. Susan Larned Present  
Dr. Nels Anderson Present  
Mrs. Joyce Fischer Present  
Ms. Deborah Germano Present  
Mrs. Debra Mullins Present  
Miss Danielle Meacham Excused

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 6:31 p.m. Mr. Arness 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 KPESA negotiations. Ms. Germano seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 7:30 p.m. Mr. Arness moved the Board adjourn the executive session. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Dave Spence Mr. Bill Rolph  
Mr. Ken Meacham Mrs. Jeanna Carver  
Mrs. Lynn Kennedy Mr. Buck George  
Mrs. Debbie Griffin Mr. Mick Galic  
Mrs. Karen Mahurin Mrs. Susan Liebner  
Mrs. Ann McLain Mrs. Melody Douglas  
Miss Kelly McLain Mr. Mick Wykis  
Mr. Jim Robb Mr. Tony Oliver  
Mrs. Chris Robb Mr. Patrick O'Brien  
Miss Mallory Robb Mrs. Grace Merkes  
Mr. Lawrence Colston Ms. Cindy Romberg  
Mrs. Nan Spooner Miss Marie Johnson  
Mr. Cody Beus Mr. Kurt Romberg  
Others present not identified.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mrs. Gross invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:	Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross	Present
	Mr. Joe Arness	Present
	Mrs. Susan Larned	Present
	Dr. Nels Anderson	Present
	Mrs. Joyce Fischer	Present
	Ms. Deborah Germano	Present
	Mrs. Debra Mullins	Present
	Miss Danielle Meacham	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved as written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of January 5, 1997, were approved as printed.

SCHOOL REPORTS: Mr. Ken Meacham, principal, Redoubt Elementary, reported on their reading program through the Title I program and introduced Carol VanDerWedge, Patty Lawyer, and Tammy Hanley as part of the school reading team. He also introduced the president of the site council, Mr. Mick Galic, manager of Safeway, and credited him with being an extremely important partner in their reading program.

Carol VanDerWedge explained that the school celebrated National Children's Book week in November. They began with an opening assembly created and performed by the 8th grade drama class at Soldotna Middle School, they celebrated with theme day where people dressed as story characters and community members were invited to read to the students. She noted that Mr. Dahlgren, Mayor Navarre, the Soldotna fire chief, police chief and several officers, Mick Galic and Cindy Dexter came into the school and read to students. Mrs. VanDerWedge explained that throughout the year each classroom will choose an outstanding reader. Mr. Galic presented awards to those students selected to date: Mallory Robb, Cody Beus, Kurt Romberg, Kelly McLain, Marie Johnson and John Junkert (absent). She noted that the students will receive a free book and video from Safeway.

Mr. Meacham explained that he is norming the entire school for reading and when completed, he will be able to determine at what grade level the students are reading in grades second through sixth.

Mrs. Griffin's third grade students sang a Hawaiian song accompanied with a hand game.

SCHOOL REPORTS (Continued):

Mr. Bill Rolph gave a technology presentation highlighting the use of technology at Redoubt Elementary. He stated that the school is making an effort to give every student equal access to technology. He reviewed the school technology plan and referred those present to the school web page for a more complete description. Mr. Rolph reported that Redoubt Elementary has made optimum utilization of existing computer equipment to provide all students with the opportunity to learn in a technological environment. He reviewed the technology equipment and computer labs and described how Redoubt Elementary is doing more for students with the technology equipment they have available to them. He explained that one of the school goals was to improve student writing. In order to accomplish that goal, he provided a classroom writing lab for grades four through sixth from discarded Macintosh Plus computers. Mr. Rolph stated that with the help of Jared Verba, he was able to rewrite the operating system to operate the computers from a fileserver.

Mr. Rolph noted that Redoubt Elementary was fortunate to participate in two pilot programs; Title I reading specialists are integrating multi-media software into the reading curriculum and Lightspan Partnership provided interactive adventures operated from a Sony Playstation. Once the adventures are completed, the student has learned and fulfilled all of the goals and objectives of the national standards.

Mr. Meacham thanked the Board for the support received for the upcoming work on their bus turn around and playground equipment. Two students distributed Redoubt Elementary drink cups to Board members.

Dr. Anderson asked Mr. Meacham to explain his concerns about the elementary math curriculum. Mr. Meacham stated that he felt that the District needs a comprehensive K-6 program which has sequential programming from one grade level to the next.

Mr. Arness questioned the use of Sony Playstations in place of computers. Mr. Meacham invited him to visit the school to see a demonstration. Mr. Rolph stated that, unfortunately, Lightspan is only selling their program to school districts.

Mr. Meacham responded to a question from Ms. Germano by stating that he felt elementary schools use their technology better than high schools.

Mrs. Gross and Mrs. Fischer expressed their gratitude to Redoubt Elementary for doing the best they can with limited technology equipment.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Ms. Elaine Frazee, Sterling parent, spoke to the Board concerning the bus route on Scotsman, Aspen and Leaf roads. She asked the District for bus service last year and was told that buses could not pass other traffic because the roads were too narrow. She stated that it is hazardous for students to walk to the bus stop on Feuding Lane and asked the Board to consider extending bus service to those fourteen students.

COMMUNICATIONS AND  
PETITIONS:

Mrs. Gross read a resolution from the Kenaitze Indian Tribe encouraging the Board not to reduce nurses during the upcoming budget process.

Mrs. Gross read a letter from Keaton Walker, a Skyview High school student, who summarized the results of a survey he conducted on nursing services as a school assignment. He encouraged the Board to increase the nursing services, if possible. It was noted that the letter was not signed since the student is blind.

Mrs. Gross noted that a thank you card was received from Mrs. Larned for flowers sent by the Board after the death of her mother.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Dahlgren announced that January is School Board appreciation month and distributed certificates of appreciation to each Board member. He commended the Board on the number of hours spent on behalf of District students.

He reported that the Board conducted a budget worksession prior to the Board meeting and now has a balanced budget for FY 99. He announced that budget hearings will be conducted in Kenai, Homer, Seward, Soldotna, and Nikiski to solicit input from the public.

Mrs. Gross thanked the Board for their hard work and dedication to District students.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Mr. Hickey presented the financial report of the District for the period ending November 30, 1997, and December 31, 1997.

BUDGET TRANSFERS REPORT:

Mr. Hickey reported on budget transfers Numbers 97 through 211 for various schools and departments within the District.

Mrs. Fischer asked whether a budget transfer of \$100,000 to Ninilchik School was a duplication of the amount being requested in the redirection of bond funds. Mr. Hickey replied that it was not a duplicate amount and that the District received funds from West Homer Elementary that were in excess of the building and opening costs.

BUDGET TRANSFERS REPORT  
(Continued):

Ms. Germano asked why a Homer school is transferring \$1,400 for technology instruction. Mr. Hickey stated the he would investigate the issue and report back to the Board.

COCURRICULAR REPORT:

Mr. Dave Spence, Executive Secretary, Kenai Peninsula School Activities Association, stated that cocurricular activities are an integral part of the educational program. He reported that the primary goal of all elementary cocurricular programs is the involvement of the maximum number of participants. At the middle level the primary goals are to encourage student participation and to afford individual students the opportunity to further develop the skills required to participate in their chosen activities. High school cocurricular programs involve students in District-sponsored activities that refine their interests and talents.

Mr. Spence provided a listing of academic cocurricular programs offered districtwide and at the individual building level this past school year. He reported that while high school enrollment has shown an increase of approximately 8% since the 1992-93 school year, participation in cocurricular programs has grown by approximately 45% overall; a 43% increase for boys, and a 48% increase for girls.

Mrs. Grace Merkes responded to Ms. Germano's question that there are approximately 12 students in seventh and eighth grade gymnastics. She explained that the ages of the participants in the Polar Gymnastics Club range from 2 and up with more than 100 members. She added that next year ten more members at the club will be in junior high school.

Mr. Spence stated that the District is in a dilemma over being able to continue supporting these cocurricular offerings in light of increased demands on diminishing resources. Heavier burdens have been placed on schools and programs to finance travel, students are required to pay higher fees to participate, parents and booster clubs spend an inordinate amount of time raising funds to purchase equipment and assist with facility rentals, and school districts need to cope with increasingly complex compliance issues and regulations at both the state and federal levels that seem to change almost on a daily basis. In summary, Mr. Spence stated that these problems do not outweigh the benefits students receive from cocurricular programs. Students who might not have been successful in school are being given a chance by the extra effort and time of a concerned coach, sponsor or advisor, or the motivation provided by their involvement in a cocurricular activity of some kind.

COCURRICULAR REPORT  
(Continued):

Ms. Germano asked how academic programs are funded and how many students participate. Mr. Spence responded that the figures available to him are included in the Board packet report. He noted that figures fluctuate considerably in the academic programs. He reported that some of the academic programs, such as Mind Amazes and Future Problem Solving, are supported through the Special Services QUEST Program and are available to all students. No cocurricular money is used to fund academic competition.

Ms. Germano stated that she was annoyed that cocurricular monies are funding athletics and not academic programs. She expressed her frustration that academic competition opportunities are not a priority.

CERTIFIED DIPLOMA INTERIM  
REPORT:

Mr. Ed McLain presented a three-part interim report on certified diplomas. He explained that Part I is an overview of the process and action plan that the Certified Diploma Steering Committee has developed and is following; Part II is an overview of Committee comments and considerations in key areas under review; and Part III is a list of key questions contained in the initial statement of charge for the Committee.

Mr. McLain stated that there will be a full report in April. The Committee wanted to offer an overview on what has been accomplished. Mr. McLain thanked the committee members for their hard work and introduced committee member, Mr. Tony Oliver, who was present in the audience.

Mr. Oliver stated that this was his first time serving on a District committee. He admitted that it seemed like an impossible task to develop a certified diploma but in the past six to eight meetings the group has accomplished much of the work. He credited Mr. McLain for keeping the committee on task and felt that overall it has been a good process. He complimented Mrs. Nan Spooner for her excellent help with the "behind the scenes" work.

Mr. McLain called the Board's attention to the Statement of Intent and Focus on page 4 of the report. He explained that one of the primary tasks of the Committee is to clarify the definition of a certified diploma. Mr. McLain noted that comments are included under each of the subsections, and they are meant to provide the Board with a sense of Committee direction. He explained the committee will be dividing into smaller subgroups and soliciting additional membership from primary, elementary and middle level schools.

CERTIFIED DIPLOMA INTERIM  
REPORT (Continued):

Mrs. Gross extended her appreciation for the committee's hard work and asked Mr. McLain to solicit as many parents and students as possible to serve on the subgroups. Mr. McLain assured the Board he would solicit additional membership through the local news media. He also thanked Mrs. Spooner for her efforts coordinating the Committee work.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Substitute Teacher Contracts, 1997-98 Teacher Appointment, and Resignations.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER  
CONTRACT:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve nineteen-day substitute teaching contracts for Colleen Jones, Special Education/EH, Soldotna High School; and Ann Heimbuch, Grade 6, West Homer Elementary.

TEACHER APPOINTMENT:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a teaching appointment for the 1997-98 school year for Sharon Stevens-Ganser, Temporary (half-time) Kindergarten, Seward Elementary.

RESIGNATIONS:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve resignations effective at the end of the 1997-98 school year for Jolee Ellis, Grade 1, McNeil Canyon Elementary; David Lewis, Special Ed/Severe, West Homer Elementary; Sheryl McMichael, Grade 6, Sterling Elementary; and Lawrence Moore, Photography/Vocational Ed, Skyview High.

ACTION

Mrs. Fischer moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 3. Ms. Germano seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

REDIRECTION OF BOND FUNDS:

Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve a request to redirect remaining funds from the West Homer Elementary and Tustumena Elementary projects for use toward the purchase and installation of a replacement boiler at Ninilchik Elementary/High School in the amount of \$12,000; purchase of furniture and equipment for the new second story addition at Ninilchik Elementary/High School in the amount of \$100,000; and apply remaining funds towards the Seward High School swimming pool renovation.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve a request to redirect remaining funds from the West Homer Elementary and Tustumena Elementary projects for use as outlined. Ms. Germano seconded.

REDIRECTION OF BOND FUNDS  
(Continued):

Mr. Arness asked how much money is remaining. Mr. Dahlgren responded that the Assembly and Borough Administration have received approval through their Bond Council to use interest money from the original bonding from West Homer Elementary. Approval was received from the state to use those remaining monies for the Ninilchik school. Mr. Dahlgren stated that there is approximately \$200,000 to \$300,000 remaining. Mr. Dahlgren stated that a boiler is in need of replacement at Ninilchik School in the amount of \$12,000, and if the state approves the expenditure of remaining funds, the Seward pool needs to be replaced. Mr. Dahlgren explained that once the identified needs are approved by the Board, the Borough will consider the Board request.

Mr. Arness asked what the \$100,000 for Ninilchik school will purchase. Mr. Dahlgren explained that the money would furnish the computer lab and six classrooms. He noted that in the budget request book, the Ninilchik principal asked for \$120,000 to complete the project but felt that it could be accomplished for under \$100,000.

Mr. Dahlgren assured the Board that new construction purchases would be brought to the Board for approval.

Mrs. Fischer asked if the money expended for the swimming pool renovation would come before the Board for approval also. Mr. Dahlgren stated that the administration estimates the Seward pool renovation to cost approximately \$900,000. He stated that money to accomplish that is not available. Last year \$75,000 was set aside to do design development for the Seward facility. Mr. Dahlgren explained that any capital improvement must receive Assembly approval.

Mr. Spence explained that the ball park figures provided by Mr. Dahlgren are the best available at this time.

Motion carried unanimously.

KPESA NEGOTIATION TEAM:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve the appointment of Sharon Radtke as spokesperson and Patrick Hickey and Melody Douglas as members to the District negotiating team.

ACTION

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve the appointment of Sharon Radtke as spokesperson, and Patrick Hickey, Melody Douglas and two members of the Board of Education to the District negotiating team. Mrs. Fischer seconded

Motion carried unanimously.



KPESA NEGOTIATION TEAM  
(Continued):

Mrs. Gross appointed Debra Mullins and Joe Arness to serve as Board representatives.

POLICY REVISIONS:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve changes to BP and AR 5123 Promotion/Acceleration/Retention. Mr. McLain explained that changes to the policy and regulation support strong parental involvement; require a specific form and a process to be used by all students; broaden the range of options for students; mandate a monthly monitoring and review; remove the current blanket restriction limiting the consideration of alternative placement; and extend the time allowed for intervention, discussion and consideration.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve changes to BP and AR 5123 Promotion/Acceleration/Retention. Mrs. Larned seconded.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board amend AR 5123 Promotion/Acceleration/Retention to include the wording "or acceleration" after retention in the first sentence; delete the sixth paragraph and add the wording, "A parent may appeal any decision under the provisions of the district's due process policy.", after the third sentence of the seventh paragraph. Mr. Arness seconded.

Dr. Anderson reported that the Certified Diploma Committee discussed the promotion/acceleration/ retention issue, and the general consensus was that the proposed wording was superior to the earlier language. He reported that a concern was expressed regarding AR 5123 by Mrs. Byerly that parents occasionally wish to retain their child for various reasons ranging from extracurricular participation to academic failure. Dr. Anderson stated that the parents should be afforded an appeal process if an agreement cannot be reached.

Amendment carried unanimously.

Amended motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mrs. Mahurin expressed appreciation that two Board members will serve on the District negotiating team.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mrs. Fischer expressed her appreciation to Redoubt Elementary for a fine presentation. She asked how much of Feuding Lane is considered state maintained.

BOARD COMMENTS (Continued):

Mr. Dahlgren explained that all of Feuding Lane is on state maintained road. He added that the request for bus service deals with a development off of Feuding Lane that will be upgraded over the summer. With the Board's concurrence, the administration will report on the situation.

Mrs. Fischer echoed Mrs. Mahurin's comments concerning Board Members serving on the negotiating team.

Dr. Anderson extended his gratitude to Mr. Druce, Soldotna High teacher, for giving up his prep period to tutor two students, one of which failed a math class and wasn't allowed to return.

Miss Meacham extended her thanks to Mr. Druce also.

Mrs. Mullins extended her thanks to Safeway. She stated that she was pleased that Board members will be serving on the negotiating team and that it helps the negotiation process. She stated that she looked forward to the process and expected that it would be a positive experience. Mrs. Mullins thanked the District for the School Board appreciation certificates.

Mrs. Larned expressed her appreciation for the Redoubt Elementary School report. She stated she especially liked hearing about the emphasis on reading and the community participation. She stated she was impressed with the recycling of old computers.

Mr. Arness concurred with the Feuding Lane bus route investigation but felt hesitant because of the hundreds of miles of Borough roads where parents would like to have bus service. He stated that he would agree to extend bus service if it is legitimate and can be done safely. He added that he does not want to set a precedent for approving bus service in places where it shouldn't be.

Mrs. Gross thanked the Budget Committee and Certified Diploma Committee for their hard work. She thanked Mr. McLain for his work coordinating the Certified Diploma Committee.

ADJOURN:

At 9:12 p.m., Mr. Arness moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned.  
Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President

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Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

The Minutes of January 19, 1998,  
were approved on February 2, 1998,  
as written.

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
148 N. Binkley Street  
Soldotna, AK 99669

February 2, 1998

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President  
Mr. Joe Arness, Vice President  
Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk  
Mrs. Debra Mullins, Treasurer  
Dr. Nels Anderson, Member  
Mrs. Joyce Fischer, Member  
Ms. Deborah Germano, Member  
Miss Danielle Meacham, Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT: Mr. John Dahlgren, Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Patrick Hickey, Assistant Superintendent, Operations and Business  
Management  
Mr. Ed McLain, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction  
Mrs. Sharon Radtke, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Justin George Mrs. Karen Mahurin  
Mrs. Sheryl Sotelo Mrs. Bonnie Clouston  
Mr. Ed Sotelo Mr. John Mills  
Mr. Mark Berezin Mrs. Sue Evanson  
Mrs. Libby Berezin Mrs. Paula Christensen  
Ms. Barb Vogel Mrs. Pauline Mills  
Dr. Donna Peterson Mr. Dave Spence  
Mrs. Shana Loshbaugh Mr. Greg Paxton  
Mr. Doug Mallett Mrs. Lisa Stroh  
Mr. Larry Rockhill Mr. Ken Meacham

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Mrs. Gross called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mrs. Gross invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross Present  
Mr. Joe Arness Present  
Mrs. Susan Larned Present  
Dr. Nels Anderson Present  
Mrs. Joyce Fischer Present  
Ms. Deborah Germano Present  
Mrs. Debra Mullins Present  
Miss Danielle Meacham Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved, with Awards and Presentations moved ahead of Public Presentations.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of January 19, 1998, were approved as printed.

SCHOOL REPORTS:

Mrs. Lisa Stroh, principal, Tustumena Elementary School, reported that the school goals this year are to improve writing skills, improve social skills, and implement student portfolios. She reported that the school publication *Lynx Tales*, a compilation of student stories and illustrations, is almost ready for distribution. She thanked the PTO for raising the \$2,000 needed to print the book. She reported on the implementation of the Stop and Think program, which teaches students how to react to a situation rather than escalate it. She reported that the school is using technology to assist in the data collection used for student portfolios. The portfolios are being aligned with Alaska state standards.

Mrs. Stroh announced that the Battle of Books competition begins next week, Love of Reading Week will be the last week of February, intramurals for fifth and sixth grade are conducted during lunch and after-school activities will soon begin. She reported that their Intervention Team is in place to assist students who are having difficulties. Mrs. Stroh reported that the school Site Council and PTO have been working to clearly define the roles of each group. She reported that Dean Evans was recently hired as the Technology Coordinator and Beth Fowler was hired as the Parent Coordinator, a position funded from Title I monies. She thanked Gates Construction, Kasilof Mercantile and the many parent and community volunteers for their support of Tustumena Elementary School.

Ms. Tammy Massengill's kindergarten students sang two songs and Miss Marina Holt, a sixth grade student played the bassoon. Mrs. Sotelo's sixth grade students presented research information and demonstrated pneumatic devices they created for use by astronauts in space or on the space shuttle. The students presented a chart showing the different layers of the atmosphere and launched a balloon rocket.

Mrs. Stroh extended an invitation to the Board to visit Tustumena Elementary School.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Mrs. Gross presented awards of appreciation to Paula Christensen, teacher, Soldotna Middle School, and Sheryl Sotelo, teacher, Tustumena Elementary School, for being selected as finalists for the 1997 Alaska Teacher of the Year, which is presented by the Alaska Department of Education. Flowers and gifts were also presented to Mrs. Sotelo by her students who were in attendance.

RECESS:

At 8:01 p.m., Mrs. Gross called a recess.

- RECONVENE AFTER RECESS: At 8:07 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.
- SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Mr. Dahlgren announced that the School Board and Administration will have a budget worksession with the Borough Assembly on Tuesday, February 3, 1998, beginning at 1:00 p.m. at the Ninilchik School, Ninilchik.
- Mr. Dahlgren reported the budget hearings will be held February 4 at Kenai Central High School, February 5 at Homer High School, February 10 at Seward High School, February 11 at Soldotna High School, and February 12 at Nikiski Middle/Sr. High School.
- Mr. Dahlgren announced that the deadline for participation in the retirement incentive program was Friday, January 30. He reported that 24 teachers, 3 administrators and 16 support staff have taken advantage of the retirement program.
- BOARD REPORTS: Ms. Germano reported that she attended the Vocational Advisory Committee meeting. She stated that the committee reviewed grant proposals submitted by the schools for Carl Perkins money.
- Mrs. Larned reported that the Middle School Review Team worked on developing a ninth grade student survey and a parent survey. She announced that the next meeting will be Monday, February 23, 1998.
- CONSENT AGENDA: Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Budget Transfer Number 000217, Substitute Teacher Contracts, Leave of Absence Requests/Support, Resignations, and Leave of Absence Request/Certified.
- BUDGET TRANSFER: Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve budget transfer number 000217 to the Alternative Schooling Program in the amount of \$23,300 to purchase Calvert programs being offered through Alternative Programs.
- SUBSTITUTE TEACHER CONTRACTS: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve 19-day substitute teaching contracts for Janet VanDriessche, Special Education/Resource, Seward Jr./Sr. and Vickie Roney, Special Education/Resource, Soldotna Elementary.
- LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTS/SUPPORT: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a one-year unpaid leave of absence for the 1998-99 school year for Cheryl Keegan, Secretary III, Seward Elementary, and Dawn Stetz, Administrative Secretary I, Districtwide Alternative Education.

RESIGNATIONS:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve resignations effective at the end of the 1997-98 school year for Jimmy Standefer, Art/Science, Nikiski Jr./Sr.; Marilyn Standefer, Language Arts, Nikiski Jr./Sr.; Elaine Sandoval, Science, Ninilchik; Leanne Krieger, Language Arts/Social Studies, Voznesenka; Mary Beaumont, Grade 4/5, McNeil Canyon; Marc Berezin, Technologist, Districtwide Special Services; John M. Bundy, Math/Science, Homer High; Gary Horwath, Math, Soldotna Middle; Vickie Lund, Grade 2, K-Beach; Michael Murray, Principal, Voznesenka; Sally Oelrich, Grade 3, K-Beach; Greg Paxton, Assistant Principal, Soldotna Middle; Marlene Thiel-Pearson, History, Nikiski Jr./Sr.; Mary Jo Sanders, Coordinator, Districtwide Migrant Education; John Steckel, Physical Education, Soldotna Middle; Robert Ammerman, Vocational Education, Homer High; Stan McKnight, Psychologist, Seward; Beverly Chapman, Home Economics, Seward Jr./Sr. High; Dorothy Cline, Music/Library, Paul Banks Elementary; Michael Cline, Grade 4, West Homer Elementary; Sharon Irvin, Art, Seward Jr./Sr. High; Lawrence Rockhill, Grade 6, Redoubt Elementary; and Larry Wheat, Grade 5, Sterling Elementary.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 5. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE  
REQUEST/CERTIFIED:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a leave of absence request for the remainder of the 1997-98 school year or until the District receives confirmation of disability retirement or the employee has a release from her doctor to return to work for Suzie Stafford-Hawker, Special Education/Resource, Seward Jr./Sr. High.

EXTENDED FIELD TRIP  
REQUEST/MAGADAN:

Mr. Ed McLain presented an extended field trip request from Larry Rockhill and Ken Meacham to take approximately ten Redoubt Elementary students to Magadan, Russia, on March 21 to March 29, 1998. Larry Rockhill, sponsoring teacher, stated in a letter that the focus of the sixth grade social studies curriculum is the study of Alaskan history and the interdependence of the people and cultures of the Pacific Rim. The students will experience hands-on, in-depth activities; exposure to high quality, relevant, multicultural literature; and knowledge related to the states, past and present.

Mr. Dahlgren reported that additional information concerning the request was included in the Board information packets and stated that the trip does not comply with the advanced time notification required by District policy.

EXTENDED FIELD TRIP  
REQUEST/MAGADAN (Continued):

ACTION

Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve an extended field trip request from Larry Rockhill and Ken Meacham to take approximately ten Redoubt Elementary students to Magadan, Russia, on March 21 to March 29, 1998. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Mr. Arness asked about elementary students traveling overseas. Mr. Dahlgren responded that it has always been a concern. He stated that the result of Board discussions last year was that sixth grade students and older could travel overseas.

Motion carried unanimously.

CAPITAL PROJECTS LIST:

Mr. Dave Spence presented a listing of legislative capital improvement/major maintenance projects for 1999.

He explained that the list is a compilation of site visits to all 40 schools in the District. The list was categorized into three groups; Health/Safety, Maintenance and Recognized Needs.

Ms. Germano asked how each item was prioritized. Mr. Spence explained that the items were categorized based on the amount of need. He explained that some projects have been deferred for years and therefore received a higher priority rating. He stated that the Borough administration assists in making that determination.

Ms. Germano asked about playground equipment removal. Mr. Spence stated that new equipment has replaced the removed items. Mr. Hickey stated that he is preparing a report for the Board on playground equipment.

Mr. Hickey urged the Board to take action on these legislative lists so they can be forwarded to the Borough Assembly for consideration at their next meeting.

Ms. Germano asked why items labeled as a recognized need would be higher on the list than a health/safety item. Mr. Hickey explained that Mr. Eagle, Director of Borough Maintenance, had some of the items scheduled on the Borough's repair/maintenance list. He further explained that the items on the Borough's priority list are not all funded but some will come from in-kind money the District expects to receive from the Borough for FY 99. He added that most of the items would be paid for from capital improvement money.



CAPITAL PROJECTS LIST  
(Continued):

Mr. Dahlgren explained that some items are considered preventative and not major maintenance expenses, such as refinishing gym floors. He stated that, generally, Borough Maintenance has scheduled in their preventative maintenance program the refinishing of two gym floors a year. Mr. Dahlgren stated that each year the Borough requests a list of maintenance items and so does the legislature. Some items on the list are maintenance projects that have to be done. Capital projects lists generally do not include items under \$25,000; otherwise, they are considered minor maintenance.

Ms. Germano asked whether the water situation was addressed. Mr. Hickey stated that it is addressed on line two of each list, and it is his personal top priority.

Mr. Hickey explained that bottled water is used at schools where lead and copper content exceed health standards. He stated that some schools choose to buy bottled water even though their water passes the lead and copper tests. Mr. Dahlgren stated that he does not feel that the water at Voznesenka Elementary school is appropriate for District employees to drink so bottled water is provided. Mr. Dahlgren stated that some schools collect money from staff members or other outside sources and pay for their own water cooler.

Dr. Anderson noted that the lists did not add up to the \$29 million listed on the summary page. Mr. Spence explained that the summary was compiled from a 43-page document that was not included in the Board packet.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve a listing of legislative capital improvement/major maintenance projects for 1999. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Mrs. Mullins asked why West Homer Elementary would have \$1,200 worth of Health/Safety items since it is a new school. Mr. Hickey explained that they requested fencing, a fire alarm volume adjustment, a garbage disposal, and some other minor incidental items not covered by the contractor.

Mr. Spence explained that the lists are generated by each school and are screened by himself, Mr. Hickey and the Borough Administration during their site visits.

Motion carried unanimously.

XEROX BUSINESS SERVICES  
CONTRACT:

Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve a proposal to modify the existing agreement with Xerox Corporation and extend the contract length. He stated that the information was shared with the building administrators. He called the Board's attention to the appendix, Exhibit II Performance Standards, and the last page including a table comparing the current state of service responses to the proposal. He reminded the Board that the District retains the option to return to the existing contract at any time.

Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve a recommendation to modify the existing agreement with Xerox Corporation and extend the contract length. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Dr. Anderson asked whether the District was obligated to generate 13 million copies for \$.017 per copy. Mr. Hickey explained that copies 1 through 13 million will be billed at \$.017 per copy; and after 13 million, each copy will be billed at \$.014 per copy. Mr. Hickey stated that he will provide to the Board the estimated number of copies generated each year Districtwide.

Mrs. Fischer asked what the reaction from building principals was concerning the proposed contract. Mr. Hickey reported that there was some hesitancy at first but after further explanation felt that most administrators supported the idea. Mr. Hickey stated that principals expressed fear that this contract would be another way to implement cost cutting and reduce their supply budgets. He assured them that the intent was to take \$300,000 worth of lease expenses that are currently spent on copiers and transfer the control of that money back to the schools.

Ms. Germano asked what happens to schools that own their own copying equipment. Mr. Hickey explained that the District will not do anything that is detrimental to the schools. He stated that he will meet with those schools individually to determine whether it is cost effective for them to participate in the proposed contract.

Motion carried unanimously.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Dr. Anderson stated that some clean up work needed to be done to the District Policy Manual. He reported that a student had expressed unhappiness at being required to read a book that he objected to but did not want to file a formal protest. Dr. Anderson stated that he was concerned that there were no alternatives for people who objected to instructional materials other than requesting a formal review.

Mrs. Larned expressed her appreciation for the Tustumena Elementary School presentation.

Mrs. Larned announced that the Village Fair Workshop will feature "What Do Kids Need to Succeed" conducted by Derek Peterson from AASB, Friday, February 6, 1998, at the Kenai Central High School Little Theater. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., and the workshop times are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The workshop is sponsored by Healthy Communities/Healthy People and the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District.

Mrs. Fischer thanked the Tustumena Elementary students for their presentation. She asked for an excused absence during the February 16 School Board meeting.

Mr. Arness reported that the District Negotiating Team recently met to plan negotiations strategy. He stated that, in compliance with HB 465, a hearing must be conducted to allow public input. He suggested the Board convene the February 16 School Board meeting one hour earlier, at 6:30 p.m. to allow for public input.

Ms. Germano asked what information would be provided. Mrs. Radtke explained that the first step is to provide the public an opportunity for input. The current negotiated agreement is available for the public to review during the hearing. She stated that after public input has been taken a proposal is prepared and made available to the public. Mrs. Radtke stated that she would send an announcement to the news media advertising the hearing date. Ms. Germano asked that the advertisement be sent to the Homer and Seward news media announcing that the documents would be available for public review at the local libraries.

Mrs. Gross declared that a special meeting would be conducted Monday, February 16, at 6:30 p.m. to provide a public hearing for the purpose of negotiations.

BOARD COMMENTS (Continued):

Mrs. Mullins expressed her appreciation to the Tustumena Elementary staff and students for the time and effort involved in coordinating their school presentation. She paid tribute to retiring Nikiski teachers, Mr. and Mrs. Standefer and Ms. Marlene Thiel-Pearson. She stated that she was sorry that they will be leaving the District.

Mrs. Mullins announced that there will be a legislative hearing February 3, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Legislative Information Office to discuss SB 36 and other education legislation. She urged those present to attend and let their voices be heard. She thanked the *Clarion* and Shana Loshbaugh for the recent articles on schools and funding.

Miss Meacham thanked Tustumena Elementary School for the presentation. She thanked the Board for approving the extended field trip request from Redoubt Elementary School to travel to Magadan. She stated that she had participated in a similar trip while a student at Redoubt Elementary and it impacted her life. She stated that she is studying Russian and returned to Magadan last summer.

Ms. Germano asked the Administration to distribute a press release announcing that teacher and principal evaluation documents are available for public comment. Mrs. Radtke stated that principals were directed to share that information with parents and community members through their school newsletters. Mrs. Gross concurred with Ms. Germano and asked that the public be made aware of their opportunity to comment on teachers and principals evaluation forms.

ADJOURN:

At 8:47 p.m., Mrs. Mullins moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President

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Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

The Minutes of February 2, 1997,  
were approved on February 16, 1998  
as written.

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
148 N. Binkley Street  
Soldotna, AK 99669

February 16, 1998

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President  
Mr. Joe Arness, Vice President  
Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk  
Mrs. Debra Mullins, Treasurer  
Dr. Nels Anderson, Member  
Mrs. Joyce Fischer, Member  
Ms. Deborah Germano, Member  
Miss Danielle Meacham, Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT: Mr. John Dahlgren, Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Patrick Hickey, Assistant Superintendent, Operations and Business  
Management  
Mr. Ed McLain, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction  
Mrs. Sharon Radtke, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. John Kistler  
Mrs. Shana Loshbaugh  
Mrs. Nancy MacVie  
Mrs. Melody Douglas  
Dr. Donna Peterson  
Mr. Justin George  
Ms. Terri Woodward  
Mr. Dave Schmidt  
Ms. Barbara Vogel  
Ms. Penny Tinker  
Mr. Dale Bondurant  
Ms. Patty Jolin  
Mr. Paul Epperson  
Ms. Barbara Eastham  
Mr. Dave McCard  
Mr. Ed Seims  
Mrs. Becky Epperson  
Mr. Lawrence Colston  
Mr. Todd Syverson  
Ms. Donna Kime  
Mrs. Vicky Harrison  
Ms. Jamie Shirts

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Mrs. Gross called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mrs. Gross invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross Present  
Mr. Joe Arness Present  
Mrs. Susan Larned Present  
Dr. Nels Anderson Present  
Mrs. Joyce Fischer Absent/Excused  
Ms. Deborah Germano Present  
Mrs. Debra Mullins Present  
Miss Danielle Meacham Present/Arrived 7:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved as written with the deletion of Item 11f.,  
Expulsion.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of February 2, 1997, were approved as  
printed.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Mrs. Gross invited those present to speak to the Kenai Peninsula Educational Support Association negotiated agreement. Mr. Dahlgren explained that HB 465 requires the District to conduct a public hearing prior to negotiating with any bargaining group. He stated that the Board has reserved from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. to receive public input.

Mr. John Kistler asked the Board to compare salaries in the private sector. He stated that most employers paid \$7 hour or less with no benefits. He recommended the Board start their negotiations by requiring a 50% employee copayment for health benefits.

Mr. Dale Bondurant, stated that he has been a union representative most of his life. He stated that he doesn't have children but he is willing to pay the price to hire good teachers. He stated that lowering teacher salaries just because others are not receiving a deserving salary is a very poor attitude. Mr. Bondurant stated that children are the future and deserve good teachers. He stated that he attended school in a small farm community and appreciated the teachers that he had as a child.

RECESS:

At 6:30 p.m., Mrs. Gross called a recess.

RECONVENE:

At 7:01 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

Mrs. Gross extended an invitation to those present to address the Board regarding the Kenai Peninsula Educational Support Negotiated Agreement.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mr. Arness 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 and might prejudice the reputation and character of any person. He explained that specifically, the executive session would address litigation, disciplinary actions and retirement. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

RECONVENE:

At 7:35 p.m., Dr. Anderson moved the executive session be adjourned. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

SCHOOL REPORTS:

Mr. Paul Epperson, principal, Sterling Elementary, presented a visual overview displaying activities related to their school goals and the intervention that addresses each goal.

SCHOOL REPORTS (continued):

Mr. Epperson reported that the staff decided that too many students in Grades 4-6 were unable to read, and parents of special services students were unhappy that their children were not able to read. He stated that Dr. Boehmer, director of Special Services, assisted them in searching for a reading intervention program. He reported that the staff settled on a research-based program published by SRA called Reading Mastery.

Mr. Epperson explained that the reading intervention program has two components: Reading Mastery for Grades 1 to 3, and Corrective Reading for Grades 4 to 6. He stated that primary grade students need to learn to read and intermediate grade students need to read to learn. He stated that it is easier to concentrate reading intervention at the primary grades so students can read for a lifetime. Mr. Epperson reported that brain research strongly suggests that reading skills are best learned by age 10.

Mr. Epperson stated that in order to keep accurate data which is also meaningful to parents, an assessment instrument called Curriculum Based Assessment is used. He explained that the reading portion measures words read correctly per minute. Norms were created for Grades 2 through 6 for the fall and winter, and a spring norm will be completed before the end of school. He stated that the school considers a student "at risk" if he or she scores 50% below the median. All students that are defined "at-risk" by their score are referred to the reading intervention program. Mr. Epperson presented a graph showing a random sampling of second grade students' reading scores. He noted the significant improvement from the fall testing period to the winter testing period.

Dave McCard, first grade teacher, explained that Reading Mastery was designed as a pull-out program. After discovering that too many students were being pulled out of his class, he convinced Mr. Epperson to allow him to use Reading Mastery for all of his students. Mr. McCard explained that much of his school day involves reading, and he listed activities such as student journals, reading tubs, word charts, student read-alouds, sounding letters, research journals, clipping out words from newspapers and magazines and teacher read-alouds. Reading Mastery is a small but very important part of his school day.

SCHOOL REPORTS (continued):

Mrs. Patty Jolin, second grade teacher, stated that students read 90 minutes each day and then participate in group "read-alouds" using whole language books. She stated that each year she would promote some students to the next grade knowing they were not prepared. She stated that since the implementation of the reading intervention program, students are proud that they can read. Ms. Jolin noted that students are transferring their new reading skills to their writing and spelling. She stated that with reading intervention students have word attack skills that are as good or better than some of her more advanced readers. She stated that test scores show an obvious increase in reading abilities because of Reading Mastery intervention which relates directly to decreased referrals to the Special Services department.

Jamie Shirts, special services teacher, explained that a typical reading intervention lesson would include sound practice, a sound game, reading sight words, rhyming words and reading short stories. She stated that there is also a lesson involving take-home reading for students to share with their families. Ms. Shirts stated that the Reading Mastery program systematically moves students from simple words to more complicated reading in the primary grades. She explained that the Corrective Reading program was chosen to use with intermediate level students. She stated that the program was designed for students who have developed phonetic errors or still cannot sound out words or attack text. She stated that, although the successes at the intermediate level may not be as dramatic as those at the primary level, the teachers are observing similar results in student reading skills.

Penny Tinker, special services and half-time sixth grade teacher, stated that she is using Corrective Reading in her classroom in addition to other reading strategies. She stated that she had several students who were poor to nonreaders. She stated that with the implementation of the Corrective Reading program five of those students have progressed from 14 to 60 words per minute. She stated that the parents have noticed a difference in their children's reading and attitude towards school. Ms. Tinker stated that the students have become excited and self-confident, and they see themselves as readers and capable learners. She noted that some students have asked to take their books home to share with their parents.



SCHOOL REPORTS (continued):

Mr. Epperson, recognized Sterling Elementary teachers, Vicky Harrison and Donna Kime, who were in attendance. He stated that he is very proud of his staff for taking the initiative to solve students' reading problems. He stated that their goal to have all students reading by the time they leave sixth grade was incorrect and that all students should be reading by the time they leave second grade. He noted that the issue of reading can be controversial but commends his staff for doing what is best for children.

Mr. Epperson stated that the Reading Mastery program has been successful because the staff decided to spend time on it, they located appropriate materials to use, they dedicated time to train themselves on the use of the materials, and they have a high degree of enthusiasm towards the program.

Mrs. Jolin concluded the presentation by introducing students, Charlie Sue Evans and Chazz Mykel Gourley, two of her reading intervention successes.

Dr. Anderson asked if Sterling Elementary would be willing to inservice District staff on their reading intervention program. He stated that if the School Board mandated the use of the Reading Mastery Program teachers would resist, but if it were presented by teachers who are successfully using the program, it might be accepted by others. Mr. Epperson stated that personnel from six schools have already visited Sterling Elementary to observe the program. He added that North Star and Soldotna Elementary teachers will be coming within the next couple of weeks. He stated he would be willing to consider inservicing staff on the Reading Mastery program. Mr. Epperson invited the Board to spend a morning at Sterling Elementary.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. Todd Syverson thanked Mrs. Gross for visiting Soldotna Middle School last week and welcomed her back anytime.

Shana Loshbaugh commented that she visited her daughter's high school for a counseling appointment. She stated that she was disappointed that parent evaluation feedback forms were not readily available at the office. She stated that when she asked for the forms, the reaction from the staff was one of dismay and confusion.

COMMUNICATIONS AND  
PETITIONS:

Mr. Dahlgren announced that a letter was received from Sally Rule, president of the Juneau School Board, inviting the Board to a meeting on Friday, February 20, 1998, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss issues which impact large districts, and the meeting will be held in conjunction with the Legislative Fly-In.

**AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:** Mrs. Gross presented an award of appreciation to David Schmidt, teacher, Soldotna Middle School, for being selected by the Soldotna Chamber of Commerce as the 1997 "Devoted Service to Young People and Youth Activities Award" recipient.

Dr. Anderson commended Mr. Schmidt on his accomplishments and stated that all of his children have benefited from Mr. Schmidt's music instruction. He stated that he was impressed that one-third of the boys at Soldotna Middle School are involved in choir and credited Mr. Schmidt for the large participation.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Mr. Dahlgren stated that Board members will be traveling to Juneau to participate in the AASB Legislative Fly-in, February 21-24, 1998. He stated that, in addition to planned activities, the School Board members will be meeting individually with legislators. Mr. Dahlgren wished them luck during their trip.

Mr. Dahlgren announced that the next school Board meeting will be in Homer on March 2, 1998. He stated that he would not be present since he will be attending the AASA National Conference.

**HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULING REPORT:** Mr. Dahlgren, reported on the various types of schedules used at Soldotna, Skyview and Kenai Central High Schools. He summarized options that have been offered previously and provided a selection of new options such as a seven-period day, course blocking/course integration, collaboration with the Kenai Peninsula College, expansion of dual credit, night classes, open campuses, magnet schools, shared programs, distance delivery, study halls and apprenticeships.

Mr. Dahlgren noted that the Soldotna High School partnership with the Kenai Peninsula College in offering calculus has been successful. He stated that as certified diplomas are being developed, the issue of dual credit should be explored. He suggested that consideration be given to night classes that are compressed into a shorter amount of time. He noted that transportation is an issue that might exclude some students from participation in courses offered off campus. Mr. Dahlgren offered the report as information to be followed by a worksession with the Board for the purpose of seeking the Board's direction.

Mr. Dahlgren told the Board that Phil Biggs, Jim Bennett and Jim White are exploring enrichment classes for students to take via the internet.

HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULING  
REPORT (continued):

Ms. Germano asked about interactive courses. Mr. Dahlgren explained that the idea had been explored in the past and the possibilities are there depending on equipment. Ms. Germano asked for a technology update.

Ms. Larned asked to have students and a counselor participate in a high school scheduling worksession so their viewpoints could be heard. Mrs. Gross asked the administration to arrange a worksession on technology and high school scheduling.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Mr. Hickey presented the financial report of the District for the period ending January 31, 1998.

BOARD REPORT:

Mrs. Larned reported that she participated in the Village Fair held in Kenai and that quite a few people attended. She stated that Mr. Derek Peterson conducted a workshop on what students need to succeed. She stated that the main thing that impressed her was the different agencies that were represented. She stated that she would like to see them meet occasionally so that services are not duplicated.

Mrs. Mullins reported that she attended a committee meeting on staff recognition. She stated that she was disappointed that only two or three schools had submitted names of employees for recognition. She stated that she would like to see more schools submit employee names.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Extended Field Trip Request, Substitute Teacher Contracts, 1997-98 Teacher Appointment, Leave of Absence Request/Support, and a Resignation.

EXTENDED FIELD TRIP  
REQUEST:

Mr. McLain recommended the Board approve an extended field trip request for seven Nikolaevsk High School students to travel to Washington, D.C., to participate in the Close-Up Program.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER  
CONTRACTS:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve 19-day substitute teaching contracts for Patricia Linville, music, Seward Elementary; Dina Marion, kindergarten, Paul Banks Elementary; and Lisa Sova, physical education, Kenai Middle.

1997-98 TEACHER  
APPOINTMENT:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a teaching appointment for the 1997-98 school year for Willa deSousa, temporary (half-time) generalist at Homer Flex School.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE  
REQUEST/SUPPORT:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a one-year unpaid leave of absence beginning June 12, 1998, for Kelly Gifford, curriculum secretary, Districtwide Curriculum.

RESIGNATION: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a resignation, effective at the end of the 1997—98 school year, for Jeffrey Harriman, principal/teacher, Hope School.

ACTION Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 5. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATOR CONTRACTS: Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve a listing of administrator and Central Office contracts for the 1998-99 school year. Mr. Dahlgren noted that there were vacancies at Hope Elementary, Soldotna Middle and Voznesenka Elementary Schools.

ACTION Mr. Arness moved the Board approve a listing of administrator and Central Office contracts for the 1998-99 school year. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Ms. Germano asked if there had been changes to the existing Central Office contracts. Mr. Dahlgren explained that a three-year salary schedule was approved last year and that benefit packages changed downward.

Motion carried unanimously.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST/SUPPORT: Mrs. Radtke presented a one-year unpaid leave of absence request for the 1998-99 school year for David Tourtellot, custodian, who is currently on an unpaid leave of absence. She stated that the administration did not recommend approval since this would be his third year. The Board has never granted a third-year unpaid leave of absence.

ACTION Ms. Germano moved the Board approve the administrative recommendation. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

MATH CURRICULUM: Mr. McLain recommended approval of the proposed District K-12 math curriculum. Mr. McLain thanked Dr. Peterson, administrators, teachers, students and members of the public who worked on the math curriculum.

ACTION Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the proposed math curriculum. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Ms. Germano asked whether the October 1998 inservice on the math curriculum would be the only mandated training for staff.

MATH CURRICULUM (continued): Dr. Peterson explained that the curriculum will be presented to the staff at each school. She stated that staff inservice will be conducted this spring with materials available during the summer.

Mr. Arness stated that, although some things had been changed from the current math curriculum, he was disappointed that it did not change as much as he had hoped. He stated that he felt there is a legitimate argument to be made for people who are immersed in their own subject; i.e., language arts teachers should write math curriculums with help from math teachers. Mr. Arness stated that the proposed math curriculum is similar to the existing curriculum.

Motion carried unanimously.

1998-99 INSERVICE DATES: Mr. McLain recommended the Board approve eight inservice dates for the high schools and ten inservice dates for the elementary and middle schools for the 1998-99 school year. He stated that high schools may apply to the District Instructional Office for up to two additional inservice dates (for a total of ten days) based on school site development plans and needs.

Mr. McLain stated that a memo detailing plans for each inservice was included in the Board information packet.

ACTION Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve the 1998-99 inservice days as presented. Mr. Arness seconded.

Ms. Germano asked whether legal holidays were counted in teacher contract days. Mr. McLain explained that five legal holidays are counted in addition to the 180 days of instruction and that the inservice days are counted with the required 180 days. Mr. McLain noted that, excluding inservice days, there are 170 days of student contact. He explained that Memorial Day is not included as a holiday for teachers and that either Labor Day or Memorial Day usually affects the school calendar, but not both.

Mr. Dahlgren noted that parent/teacher conference days are included with inservice days so that students are not out of the classroom as often as in the past.

Dr. Anderson asked why holidays were chosen as inservice days. Mr. McLain answered that parents requested the inservice committee to try, whenever possible, to match holidays with inservice days. Dr. Anderson expressed concern for students being out of school four days in a three-week period.

1998-99 INSERVICE DATES  
(continued):

Ms. Germano thanked Mr. McLain for scheduling inservice days during holidays. Mr. McLain explained that parent-teacher conferences will be half-day conferences and half-day inservice days or full-day conferences depending on each school's needs. Mr. McLain noted that administrators requested some flexibility in regard to staggered evening conferences, thereby allowing parents to visit two or more schools.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. Kistler asked the Board to solicit input from communities and educators regarding school board policies and how they are being implemented at each site. He also stated that he felt students should be trusted to bring their report cards home rather than the schools mailing them. He suggested that the Board attach a survey card to each report card to be completed by the parent asking how they felt the school board policies were being implemented at their school.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Ms. Germano thanked the administration for their hard work and expressed appreciation for the positive climate of School Board meetings this year.

Ms. Mullins commended Mr. Epperson and his staff for the challenge they have undertaken and their goal of requiring each child to be able to read by second grade. She stated that it disturbs her to think there are sixth grade students that cannot read.

Dr. Anderson echoed previous comments concerning the Reading Mastery program. Dr. Anderson stated that he agreed with Mr. Kistler's statement on trusting students to bring their report cards home, and he also felt that high school students should be trusted to handle their own medications.

Mrs. Larned concurred with comments made concerning the Sterling Elementary reading program and added that she was equally impressed that teachers were giving up their personal time to work on the reading program. She reported that she will be one of three Board members traveling to Juneau for the legislative fly-in and hopes to bring back some positive information.

Mrs. Gross stated that she also enjoyed the Sterling Elementary report and looks forward to positive news in all District schools regarding early readers. She added that she feels intervention should start at an early age.

ADJOURN:

At 8:58 p.m., Dr. Anderson moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President

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Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

The Minutes of February 16, 1998,  
were approved on March 2, 1998,  
as written.

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Homer High School Auditorium  
Homer, Alaska

March 2, 1998

- SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President  
Mr. Joe Arness, Vice President  
Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk  
Mrs. Debra Mullins, Treasurer  
Dr. Nels Anderson, Member  
Mrs. Joyce Fischer, Member  
Ms. Deborah Germano, Member  
Miss Danielle Meacham, Student Representative
- STAFF PRESENT: Mr. Patrick Hickey, Assistant Superintendent, Operations and Business Management  
Mr. Ed McLain, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction  
Mrs. Sharon Radtke, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
- OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Rich Toymil Mr. Ken Satre  
Mr. Rich Patton Ms. Shana Loshbaugh  
Ms. Dotty Cline Mr. William Searle  
Ms. Jill Kreins Mr. Pat Shields  
Mr. Stan Eller Mr. Glen Szymoniak  
Mr. Rick Ladd Mrs. Margaret Ladd
- Others present not identified.
- CALL TO ORDER: Mrs. Gross called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.
- ALASKA FLAG SONG: Ms. Dotty Cline, librarian and music teacher, Paul Banks Elementary, directed second grade students in singing and signing the "*Alaska Flag Song*."
- ROLL CALL: Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross Present  
Mr. Joe Arness Present  
Mrs. Susan Larned Present  
Dr. Nels Anderson Present  
Mrs. Joyce Fischer Present  
Ms. Deborah Germano Present  
Mrs. Debra Mullins Present  
Miss Danielle Meacham Present
- APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved with the deletion of Item Number 10a.(3), Early Graduation Request, and the addition of Item Number 10j., Approval of Resolution 97-98-5.
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of February 16, 1998, were approved as printed.



SCHOOL REPORTS:

Mr. Rich Toymil, principal, Paul Banks Elementary School, thanked Ms. McLin, second grade teacher, for her dedication to teaching, and expressed his appreciation to Ms. Cline, librarian and music teacher, for the services she has given to the students and staff. He announced that Ms. Cline will be retiring at the end of the school year and that her talents will be greatly missed. Mr. Toymil stated that the transition from Mr. Lewis McLin and the acceptance from the staff, students and community has been extremely smooth. He stated that his school is successful largely due to the strong support of parent volunteers. He reported that volunteers have assisted in the office, classrooms, library, lunchroom, kitchen, computer lab, playground, as guest speakers and performers, at the school carnival, and during field trips and swimming lessons. He commended the Site Based Council for acting as a sounding board for a variety of school issues and the PTO Board for their fund raising efforts to upgrade playground equipment. Mr. Toymil reported that the school's basic skills programs are highly successful as proven by the curriculum based measurement scores. He stated that the basic skills areas are enhanced by a strong arts component that is integrated into the curriculum as well as taught separately. He reported that Paul Banks Elementary's portfolio project is completing its first year, and with staff collaboration, has developed rubrics and a new report card for parent-teacher conferences. He stated that the Title I program provides an in-depth learning opportunity for students.

Jill Kreins, resource teacher, Special Services, distributed information regarding assessment and intervention. She explained that the intervention and collaboration program is two-tiered and that the intervention staff meets every Wednesday from 8:00 to 8:30 a.m. to discuss school concerns, curriculum, scheduling for special events, 504 plans, and referrals of students with special needs. Ms. Kreins stated that their intervention program is mainstream-driven and is not just for special services students, i.e. student on crutches. She stated that the grade level collaboration team meets every Thursday from 3:00 to 3:30 p.m. and that grade level teachers share materials, schedule group events, and review and update enrichment and behavior plans. She stated that measurable goals and objectives are outlined for each referral and that Special Services teachers participate in intervention plans. She reported that intervention team money was used for Paul Banks University, a resource library for parents, and inservice training for staff. She stated that the staff is committed to making Paul Banks a positive learning environment for students.

SCHOOL REPORTS (Continued):

Mr. Toymil stated that teamwork is one of the best attributes of his staff and extended an invitation to the Board to visit Paul Banks Elementary School.

Mr. Rich Patton, principal, Homer High School introduced Mr. Bill Searle, music teacher, who conducted the jazz band in two music selections. Mr. Patton told the Board that Mr. Searle conducts 10 bands in four different schools and teaches more than 400 students weekly. Mr. Patton introduced Mr. Stan Eller, science and biology teacher, who presented a slide show summarizing the activities of the advanced science program. Mr. Eller stated that each year he takes the freshman class to Jakalof Bay to observe sea life. He added that some of his advanced students come along and act as teachers. He stated that the trip provides a great opportunity for his advanced science students to gain leadership skills and that their grade is dependent upon how well the freshman learn. He stated that the advanced science students travel up Kachemak Bay on a Department of Fish and Game research boat and troll back to the Homer Spit collecting sea life. He stated that biologists lift the catch on the deck of the boat for the students to observe. He stated that some of the fish are taken back to the classroom to be studied. Mr. Eller stated that Homer High has a permit to spawn silver salmon in collaboration with the Department of Fish and Game. The eggs are brought back to the classroom and raised to the fry stage and then are released in a lake near Anchor Point. Mr. Eller reported that students traveled to the Barron Islands and observed whales and sea lions and to the Kenai Fjords to observe glaciers. He stated that he recently received a grant titled "Teaching DNA the Alaska Way" which will be used to determine whale and bear breeding habits.

Mr. Pat Shields reported on his recent acquisition of 74 used computers through a governmental computer upgrade program. He explained that he submitted an application asking for 90 computers but was approved for 30 computers. He stated that, after complaining, he was invited to come to California and personally select computer equipment. He reported that he chose 74 computers, six laser printers, and several huge monitors. He invited the Board to stop by and see the recently acquired equipment. Mr. Patton stated that with the new equipment, Homer High plans to upgrade their library, change the typing lab to an IBM lab, increase the number of computers in both computer labs, and provide better quality computers for each teacher.

Mr. Searle concluded the school presentation with another selection from the Homer High School jazz band.

COMMUNICATIONS AND  
PETITIONS:

Mrs. Gross acknowledged receipt of letters from the Homer High School Hockey group requesting to remain a coed junior varsity team until they can compete on the District varsity level; from Dave Dieckgraeff concerning swimming pool maintenance and improvement issues at Seward High; from the Skyview PTSA supporting the recent retention policy revisions; and from a home schooling parent suggesting the District offer computers to home school students.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND/OR  
P.T.A., K.P.A.A., K.P.E.A.,  
K.P.E.S.A.:

Ms. Marg Ringer, community council president, McNeil Canyon Elementary, thanked the Board for their support and stated that the Homer area PAC/PTOs are focusing their attention on budget concerns and plan a letter writing campaign to legislators. She stated that information will be provided at the next PTA meeting urging parents to contact legislators. She thanked the Board for their hard work.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Mrs. Gross presented an award of appreciation to Margaret Ladd, West Homer Elementary, for her devotion and dedication to the education of students and her sincere love for teaching.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS:

Mrs. Radtke reminded the Board of the Administrators' Meeting, Tuesday and Wednesday, March 3-4, at Solid Rock Camp and that negotiations with KPESA will begin Monday, March 9, 1998.

RETIREMENT INCENTIVE  
PROGRAM REPORT:

Mr. Hickey reported that 3 administrators, 24 certificated staff, and 16 classified staff have opted to participate in the State of Alaska Retirement Incentive Program at the conclusion of the current fiscal year. The savings to the District from retiring certificated employees for FY 99 is \$141,803 and \$2,928 from retiring classified employees. Mr. Hickey stated that the savings would fluctuate depending upon actual teacher placements on the salary schedule and results of negotiations with the Kenai Peninsula Educational Support Association.

BOARD REPORTS:

Mrs. Mullins reported that she and two other Board members recently participated in the AASB Legislative Fly-In in Juneau. She stated that they were fortunate to be present for the unveiling of SB 36. She stated that some of the state's Districts will gain and some will lose. She stated that she was told that the KPBSD could gain anywhere from \$1 to \$6 million. She announced that March 3, at 8:30 a.m., the committee will review the bill again. She urged those present to provide feedback to legislators on the SB36. Mrs. Mullins stated that if the school funding issue isn't resolved this legislative session then the District will be back in the same situation for two more years. She stated that she was told that there will be no new money put into school funding, only a reshuffling.

- BOARD REPORTS (Continued): Mrs. Gross stated that they were told if the education funding formula changes there may be some new money.
- Mrs. Larned stated that during their visit in Juneau, Board Members met with other large districts from around the state and shared common concerns. She stated that she can't emphasize enough how important it is for the public to voice their opinion to legislators.
- Ms. Germano asked to have information on the proposed education funding formula as soon as possible to share with parents.
- Mrs. Gross, reported that, as the AASB representative to the Alaska Student Athletic Association, she has been attending a three-day meeting in Anchorage. She stated that the main topics have been hockey and wrestling and that wrestling coaches have been lobbying to combine the 4A wrestling season with the 1A, 2A, and 3A schools. She reported that during the coming year, the wrestling season for 4A will begin two weeks earlier so that it will overlap, and then consideration will be given to scheduling all wrestling divisions to occur at the same time.
- CONSENT AGENDA: Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Rescission of Resignation, Extended Field Trip Request, Leave of Absence Requests/Certified, Substitute Teacher Contract, and 1997-98 Resignation.
- RESCISSION OF RESIGNATION: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board rescind the resignation of Larry Wheat, Grade 5, Sterling Elementary School.
- EXTENDED FIELD TRIP REQUEST: Mr. McLain recommended the Board approve an extended field trip for 13 Seward High School students to travel to Washington, D.C., March 28-April 4, 1998, to participate in Close-Up activities.
- LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTS/CERTIFIED: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve one-year, unpaid leave of absence requests for Wendy Todd, physical therapist, Paul Banks Elementary School and Liesl Davenport-Wheeler, music, Seward Jr./Sr. High School.
- SUBSTITUTE TEACHER CONTRACT: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a 19-day substitute teaching contract for Kristin Cannava, Grade 8 Social Studies, Kenai Middle School.
- 1997-98 RESIGNATION: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve the resignation of Melody Schwartz, QUEST teacher, Districtwide Special Services, effective April 30, 1998.

1997-98 RESIGNATION  
(Continued):  
ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

1997-98 RESIGNATION:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve the resignation of Leslie Weld, principal/teacher, Nanwalek Elementary/High School, effective immediately. She reported that a substitute is already in place.

ACTION

Mrs. Fischer moved the Board approve the resignation of Leslie Weld, principal/teacher, Nanwalek Elementary/High School, effective immediately. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

1998-99 TENTATIVE TENURE  
TEACHER ASSIGNMENTS:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a listing of tentative tenure teacher assignments for the 1998-99 school year. The listing is as follows:

Chapman

Donna Austin  
Molly Brann  
Christine Crum  
Carole Demers  
Thomas Dougherty  
Mary Durman  
Pamela Fogg  
Luanne Nelson  
Cindy Rassmussen  
Gary Van Hooser  
Jill Wright (.5)

Cooper Landing

Aaron Pat Dye  
Teresa Orr  
Carol Smith  
Steve Smith

Homer High

James Ballentine  
Dan Bartos  
Barbara Browning  
Judy Bundy  
Eileen Clark  
David Cloud  
Stan Eller  
Sharyn Harris  
Randy Hunt  
Richard Ingels  
Patricia Jay  
Brad Kloeckl

Homer High (continued)

Troy Minogue  
Holly Morris  
Loraine Murphy  
Brittany Nowak  
Alan Olson  
Tashawna Olson  
Todd Phillips  
Harold Rasmussen  
Catherine Rate  
Frances Roberts  
Mark Robinson  
Camille Rohrer  
Richard Sander  
William Searle  
Janet Shepard  
Mickey Todd  
Esther Webb  
Steven Wolfe

Homer Middle

Blanding, Margaret  
Bushell, John  
Dan Calhoun  
Wayne G. Clark  
Margaret Corbisier  
Timothy Daugharty  
Brenda Dolma  
Ellen Halseth  
Kathy Hill  
Stephen Howell  
Alex Koplín

1998-99 TENTATIVE TENURE  
TEACHER ASSIGNMENTS  
(Continued):

Homer Middle (Continued)

Debra Lowney  
Harold Neace  
Tonia Parlow  
Michelle Robbins  
Linda Rourke

Hope

Elena Yoter

K-Beach

Carol Brown  
Kathy Clark  
Cecilia Colvin  
Susan Crane  
Lynda Dahlgren  
Robert Dover  
Beverly Edwards  
Shelli Furlong  
Margaret Goodman  
Thomas Houglum  
Sally Kishbaugh  
Gloria Larson-Sweeney  
Linell McCrum  
Connie Meyer  
Irma Peterson  
Mary Roed  
Jane Teller  
Barbara Vogel

Kachemak Selo

Sharon Conley  
Randall Creamer  
Michelle Stenger

Kenai Central High

Thomas Barnard  
James Beeson  
Liana Bingham  
Elizabeth Burck  
Thomas Burck  
Mark Burgener  
James Davis  
Tim Delaney  
Kim Foley  
Susie Franklin  
Kathleen Groleske  
Renee Henderson  
Jason Hobart  
Dudley Homelvig  
Craig Jung  
Nathan Kiel  
Deborah Knaus  
Jon Lillevik  
Mark Manuel  
Alan Roger Phillips

Kenai Central High  
(Continued)

Luann Reynolds  
William Stavley

Kenai Middle School

Margaret Barron  
Rosemary Bird  
Tanya Boedeker  
Dave Fischer  
Thomas Green  
William Hatch  
Natalie Kant  
Joyce Koppert  
Alecia Lybrand  
Sidney Maurer  
Tim Peterson  
William Radtke  
Kenneth Roser  
Timothy Sandahl  
Cheryl Schey  
Mary C. Schmelzenbach  
David C. Schrier  
Cheryl Schweigert  
Stanley Steffensen  
Robert Summer  
Mark Tobin  
Susan Wells  
Holly Zwink

McNeil Canyon

Rebecca Boone  
Amy Budge  
Lori Ford  
Patricia Kane (.5)  
Atz Kilcher  
William Noomah  
Diane Patch (.5)  
Deborah Piper  
Nancy Vait  
Duncan Wanamaker

Moose Pass

Terri McKnight (.5)  
Jean Polowski (.5)

Mt. View Elementary

Jacqueline Bock  
Karen Brewer-Fair  
Terry Cramer  
David Daniel  
Janice Daniels  
Martine Dikes  
Rebecca Epperson  
Margaret Gilman (.5)  
Marsha Gustkey



1998-99 TENTATIVE TENURE  
TEACHER ASSIGNMENTS  
(Continued):

Mt. View Elementary  
(Continued)  
Dana Hallet  
Angela Hamm-Brinkerhoff  
Monica Heath  
Satorene Jackson  
Rose Ann Keating  
David Knudsen  
Katherine Pault  
Patricia Springer-Hann  
Julie Stephens  
Toni Steward  
John D. Uponen  
Kellie Wannamaker  
Berni Wensley  
John Wensley

Nikiski Elementary  
Gretchen Bagley  
Donna Bellmore  
Owen Mathew Boyle  
Catherine Carrow  
Denise Cox  
Melinda Cox  
Terry Durrant  
Doug Emmerich  
Wayne Floyd  
Elizabeth Hufford  
Wally Hufford  
Judy Leichter  
Barbara Lodge  
Cindy Rehm (.5)  
Judy Shields  
LaVona Smith

Nikiski Jr./Sr.  
Scott Anderson  
Robert Bird  
Michael Boyle  
Greta Cox  
Marcie Curry  
Richard Frederic  
Darlene Gehrke  
Steven Gillaspie  
Maurice Glenn  
Cheryl Hobart  
Beverly Hunter-Gillaspie  
Michael Johnson  
Vern Kornstad  
Daryl Mannausau  
Janet Miller  
Debra Moore  
Lee Moore  
Phillip Morin  
Linda Ralston  
Ward Romans

Mt. View Elementary  
Dorothy Sanders  
Kent Sanders  
Kimberly Shostak  
Christine VanBuskirk (.5)

Nikolaevsk  
Michael Chitty  
Patricia Chitty  
Mark Kessler  
Steven Klaich  
Susan Ledger  
Frances Moore  
Christine Normandin  
Debra Schmidt  
Barbara Veeck

Ninilchik  
Julie Boll  
Marina Bosick  
Karen Brett Vadla  
Gerald Byrne  
Susan Byrne (.75)  
Bernie Clark  
Patricia Cruz  
Joel Hilbrink  
Jamie Leman  
Eric Skjold  
Wayne Vaughan  
Mike Wetherbee

North Star Elementary  
Henry Anderson  
Gloryann Baily  
Ruby Bingham  
Pam Gennari  
Richard Gennari  
Virginia Glenn  
James Legner  
Charmaine Lundy  
Sherry Matson  
Diane McBee  
Sandra Miller  
Laurie Moon  
Rosemary Pilatti (.75)  
Lesley Weatherman (.75)  
Tracey Withrow  
Linda Zimmerman

Paul Banks  
Ingrid Avril  
Sheryl Baechler  
Roberta Creamer  
Jennifer Edwards  
Kathy Eller  
Sharon Friesen



1998-99 TENTATIVE TENURE  
TEACHER ASSIGNMENTS  
(Continued):

Paul Banks Elementary  
(Continued)

Kari Greiner  
Gloria Hensen  
Elizabeth Kirby  
Jill Kriens  
Sandra McDaniel  
Jeri McLean  
Lynn McLin  
Mary Perry  
Linda Satre  
Nancy Synhorst

Razdolna

Bonnie Evans  
David Evans

Redoubt Elementary

Nancy Boehmer  
Barbara Burman  
Chuck Chavka  
Judy Cox  
Janice Delaney  
Sheila DeVold (.5)  
Lynn Dusek (.5)  
Melisa Frates  
Zada Friedersdorff  
Candice Goldstein  
Deborah Griffin  
Joy Hagen  
Anita Hakkinen  
Heidi Harding (.5)  
Teresa Kiffmeyer  
Sandra Lewis  
Sohail Marey  
Daniel Roach  
William Rolph  
Carol Simons  
Lyle Tiel Smith  
Patricia Walker

Sears Elementary

Lisa Atchley  
Kathy Atkinson  
Gretchen Becker  
Eileen Bryson  
Mary Castimore  
Mary Fischer  
Kristin Green  
Laraine Hanson  
Mary Jackson  
Mary Knudsen  
Nancy Lafferty  
Elaine Larson  
John Mills  
Lori Newton

Sears Elementary  
(Continued)

Barbara Ralston  
Paula Redlin  
Jean Sorenson  
Jeannette Sorrels  
Don Weller

Seward Elementary

Karla Arndt  
Kim Blommel  
Jennifer Carr  
Charles Crangle  
Jerry Dixon  
Clifford Draper  
Jeanne Fredrickson  
Ann Ghicadus  
Melody Hatch (.5)  
Daphne Honn  
Janice Kristenson  
Kirstie Leslie  
Jerry Olive  
Paul Prebys  
Paul Sayan  
Deetta Scarborough  
Linda Kay Smith  
Marc Swanson  
Catherine Turnbull  
Mary Vesel  
John Wickersham  
Herbert Wottlin

Seward Jr./Sr.

Robert Arndt  
Gary Benson  
Charles Boerger  
Jane Boerger  
Daniel Bohrsen  
Debra Burdick  
Wayne Clark  
Lawrence Colston  
Everett Corbin  
Martha Fleming  
Angela Hammer  
Richard Houghton  
Sharon Inman  
Dan Marshall  
Andrea Messenger  
Deborah Olson  
Thomas Osborne  
Sandra Pelischek  
Mike Richards  
Suzie Stafford-Hawker  
Marvin Tapsfield  
Nancy Tapsfield  
Katherine Taylor

Diane Porter

Daniel Walker

1998-99 TENTATIVE TENURE  
TEACHER ASSIGNMENTS  
(Continued):

Skyview

John Andrews  
Susan Bacon  
Hans Bilben  
David Carey  
Carol Dallman  
Clark Fair  
Erling Hofseth  
Darren Jones  
John Kennedy  
Mark Larson  
Sandra Lewis  
Wade Marcuson  
Hilary Matthews  
Miriam McKay  
Dale Moon  
Joseph Mooney  
Kent Peterson  
Linda Raemaeker  
Richard Redmond  
Rose Roeske  
David Schmidt  
Dianne Silva  
Robert Sparks  
Lana Syverson  
Jennifer Tabor (.5)  
Joseph Trujillo  
Joanne Wainwright  
Susan Wheeler  
Paul Zobeck  
Terri Zopf-Schoessler

Soldotna Elementary

Thomas Anderson  
Regina Banas  
Catherine Bishop  
Jan Bobek  
Teresa Brown  
Nancy Courtright  
Patricia DeBusschere  
Yvonne Emery  
Robin Evans  
Mitchell Glover  
Lesley Murphy  
Emily Nicholson  
Anne Pfitzner  
Kathleen Thompson  
Kelly Vasilie  
Deborah K. Verney

Soldotna High

Robert Amundson  
James Barkmen  
Ron Becker  
Julie Britton

Soldotna High (Continued)

Jeanna Carver  
Neal Dallman  
Mark Devenney  
Kevin Dougherty  
LaDawn Druce  
Michael Druce  
Dana Edwards  
Daniel Gensel  
Stuart Goldstein  
Dan Harbison  
Allan Howard  
Sarah Jones  
Sandra Miller  
Patrick Nolden  
Trudy Petersen (.6)  
Jill Ramponi  
Sharon Sauer  
Vernel Schneider  
Kelley Smith  
Abigail Smola  
Noreen Sullivan  
Marisol Tapia  
Lloyd Tappana  
Grigori Vaissenberg  
Martha Wallace-Keck  
Mathew Walton

Soldotna Middle

William Altland  
Leonard Ball  
David Boyle  
Dave Carpenter  
John Christensen  
Paula Christensen  
Polly Crawford-Lowenstein  
Jane Davis  
Mary Dougherty  
Sean Dusek  
Pamela Furlong  
Neldon Gardner  
Darell Hagen  
Letitia Hallett  
John David Harro  
Patricia Johnson  
Cindy Litzenberger  
Terry McBee  
Stewart McDonald  
Kathleen McDowell  
Shari Meacham  
Robert Moore  
Terry Myrick  
Linda Overturf  
Laura Pillifant  
Cathleen Rolph

1998-99 TENTATIVE TENURE  
TEACHER ASSIGNMENTS  
(Continued):

Soldotna Middle (Continued)

David Schmidt  
Charlie Stephens  
John Tabor  
Clark Whitney  
Shannon Wyatt

Sterling

Fred Colvin  
Vicki Harrison  
Sarah Hepner  
Vicki Johnston-Freese  
Patricia Jolin  
Donna Kime  
Suzanne Martin  
David McCard  
Ed Seims  
Lora Sterling (.5)  
Kelli Stroh (.5)  
Catherine Szabo-Bendock  
Penny Tinker  
Larry Wheat  
Tracy Wimmer

Susan B. English

Ann Agosti-Hackett  
Sherri Burt  
Andrea Morris  
David Morris

Tustumena

Katie Blossom  
Michael Chase  
Darcia Dierick  
Ann Fraser  
Sharon Hopkins  
Marilyn Kirkham  
Judy Klunder  
Gail Knobf  
Russell Lewis  
Tammy Massengill (.5)  
David Michael  
Karla Schneider (.5)  
David Silva  
Colleen Sinnott  
Sheryl Sotelo  
Fran Stetson  
Jean Wykis

Voznesenka

Sue Dougherty  
Bill Idzerda  
Johanna Idzerda  
John Szajkowski  
Olga Veter-Eluska  
Stanley White

West Homer Elementary

Susan Bunting  
Melissa Cloud  
Janet Fink  
Shirlie Gribble  
Brentley Keene  
Gary Kirby  
Margaret Ladd  
Carolyn Maslow  
Katherine Morissette  
William Morissette  
Alice Porter  
Susan Scott-Ingels  
Deborah Smith  
Jeffrey Smith  
Caroline Venuti  
Beverly Wisdom

D/W Alternative Schooling

Cathleen Brothen

D/W Theater

Griffin, Gordon  
Petersen, Lance (.75)

D/W Grants

Dorothy Gray  
Judy Downs

D/W Vocational

Benjamin Eveland  
Walter Ward

D/W Special Services

James Bennett  
Janette Cadieux-Lexmond  
Virginia Drais  
Renee Estelle  
Kevin Hall  
Edward Harrison  
Carolyn Hitzler  
Jennifer Knutson  
Todd Knutson  
Theo Lexmond  
Scott Linner  
Diana Marsh  
Susan Mathews  
Laurine Maxwell  
Rick McCrum  
Vidya Oftedal  
Ed Sotelo  
Maureen Stoner  
Raniece Sutton-Gamache  
Vince Wagner  
Kaye Watts  
Marjory Wiley (.75)



1998-99 TENTATIVE TENURE  
TEACHER ASSIGNMENTS  
(Continued):

NOT ASSIGNED  
Gayle Buben  
Lori Manion-Langseth  
Laura Sievert

ACTION

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve the 1998-99 tentative tenure teacher assignments. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Mrs. Fischer stated that she would abstain from the vote due to the appearance of a possible conflict of interest.

VOTE:

YES - Anderson, Arness, Germano, Larned, Mullins, Gross  
ABSTAIN - Fischer  
Advisory Vote - YES

Motion carried.

BOARD POLICY REVISIONS:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve revisions to BP 4116, Nontenured/Tenured Status and BP 4117.6, Nonretention to bring the District in compliance with the requirements of HB 465.

Ms. Germano questioned whether the policies should return for a second reading and approval even though they are housekeeping revisions. Mrs. Radtke replied that she would return the revisions for approval at the next meeting.

WORLD LANGUAGE  
CURRICULUM:

Mr. McLain recommended the Board approve the World Language curriculum as presented. Mr. McLain stated that the curriculum has been developed by some very dedicated people and that it ties language and culture together in a very forward manner and speaks to the benefit of dual language capabilities.

ACTION

Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve the World Language curriculum. Ms. Germano seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

TITLE IX INDIAN EDUCATION  
GRANT:

Mr. McLain recommended the Board approve a Title IX Indian Education Grant application in the amount of \$204,798. The grant serves 957 students in 11 schools and is developed collaboratively with the Indian Education committee. The grant addresses academic needs in the areas of reading, language arts, mathematics, science and study skills as well as integrating cultural education activities throughout the curriculum. The application will be forwarded the Department of Education for final approval.

TITLE IX INDIAN EDUCATION  
GRANT (Continued):

Mrs. Gross offered opportunity for a public hearing on the grant application. No members of the audience commented on the grant application.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the Title IX Indian Education Grant application. Mrs. Fischer seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

KPEA MEMORANDUM OF  
AGREEMENT FOR HEALTH CO-  
PAYMENTS:

Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve a Memorandum of Agreement between the Kenai Peninsula Educational Association and the Board to begin co-payments for medical insurance. Any remaining funds in the medical insurance account on June 30, 1998, will be reimbursed to participating employees by August 31, 1998.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve a Memorandum of Agreement between the Kenai Peninsula Educational Association and the Board as presented. Ms. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

NIKISKI JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL  
NAME CHANGE:

Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve a request to change the name from Nikiski Junior/Senior High School to Nikiski Middle/High School in order to accurately reflect the school's configuration.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board change the name from Nikiski Junior/Senior High School to Nikiski Middle/High School. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Mrs. Fischer expressed concern for the costs involved in changing the name on signage and letterhead. Mr. Arness stated that most of those changes have already occurred.

Motion carried unanimously.

FEUDING LANE PUPIL  
TRANSPORTATION SERVICE:

Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve a recommendation to have the elementary school bus transit Aspen Street Loop off Feuding Lane on the condition that Aspen is widened sufficiently for a school bus and a standard-sized vehicle to pass each other, and that the road be fully maintained. Lack of maintenance will mean suspension of this portion of the route until it has been determined that a bus can safely travel the road.

Mr. Hickey asked for an exception to Board policy in consideration for the small children this route would serve. Mrs. Gross explained that Feuding Lane is north of Soldotna and not far from an area where a person was recently killed by a bear.

FEUDING LANE PUPIL  
TRANSPORTATION SERVICE  
(Continued):

ACTION

Mrs. Fischer moved the Board approve a recommendation to have the elementary school bus transit Aspen Street Loop off Feuding Lane under the conditions presented by the administration. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Mr. Arness asked the difference between Feuding Lane and other gravel roads throughout the District that are not state maintained. Mr. Hickey stated that typically the District restricts bus travel to borough maintained roads. He stated that the problem with the transportation policy is that state maintained roads are being turned over to the borough in increasing numbers and he feels that the policy will require a review in the future. He stated that he was cautioned that this request might lead to many more requests, but in this specific situation, bus transportation can be accommodated.

Mr. Hickey stated that other exceptions to the Board transportation policy relate to student safety. He stated that had it not been for the activity of a bear in the area and the age of elementary students walking a mile and a half to the road, he would have recommended otherwise.

Mr. Arness stated that there are many places in the District that students walk to the bus along areas where bears are living. He stated that he did not want to set a precedent and, therefore, opposed the recommendation.

Ms. Germano asked how the District is reimbursed for busing transportation. Mr. Hickey explained that state reimbursement is provided for the transportation of these students. He further explained that the only limitation is time and that all students could not be picked up and arrive at the school in a reasonable amount of time.

VOTE:

YES - Fischer, Germano, Mullins, Gross

NO - Anderson, Arness, Larned

Advisory Vote: YES

Motion carried.



RESOLUTION 97-98-5:

Ms. Gross stated that while in Juneau, the legislature suggested that the Board pass a resolution concerning school funding. She recommended the Board approve a resolution stating:

“The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District supports the current efforts by the Alaska State Legislature to rewrite the education foundation funding formula so that it more equitably distributes money and support to all districts; and

The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District strongly supports the placing of additional funds into education and strongly supports inflation-proofing the educational funding formula for future years and inflation; and

The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District supports the use of a transition period to the new formula.”

Mr. Syzmoniak, principal, McNeil Canyon Elementary School, thanked the Board for taking the initiative to draft a resolution. He told the Board that the Homer area site based decision making councils have met to organize a group lobbying effort to the legislature. He thanked the Board for attending the legislative fly-in in Juneau.

ACTION

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve Resolution 97-98-5. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Mr. Arness stated that he objected to paragraph number three because it is open-ended and the Board has no idea what kind of a transition period is being considered.

Mrs. Gross stated that, according to discussions in Juneau, one to five years was suggested.

ACTION

Mr. Arness amended the Board delete paragraph number three. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Ms. Germano expressed concern that there would not be a change if the transition period continues for five years.

Mrs. Mullins stated that in conversations with legislators they indicated that they were willing to institute the changes within one year. She stated that she would like to see paragraph number three remain because in 1986-87 the District suffered a \$10 million loss in one year and was forced to release all nontenured teachers and cut salaries 10%. She stated that she would hate to see any district suffer that type of loss again.

RESOLUTION 97-98-5 (Continued): Mrs. Gross stated the reason for paragraph number three was to show support for other districts that may be losing a large amount of funding.

VOTE:

YES - Anderson, Arness, Fischer, Germano  
NO - Larned, Mullins, Gross  
Advisory Vote: YES

Amendment carried.

RECESS: At 9:06 p.m. Mrs. Gross called a recess.

RECONVENE: At 9:08 p.m. The Board reconvened in regular session.

Amended motion carried unanimously.

BOARD COMMENTS: Mrs. Larned thanked the Paul Banks Elementary and Homer High schools for their presentations. She stated that she was especially interested when Mr. Toymil reported that Paul Banks Elementary is integrating art into their curriculum.

Ms. Germano thanked the audience for coming. She commented on the letter from the parent home schooling her children on the Galena School District program and suggesting the District buy computers for home school students to keep the money in this District, SB 36 proposes to reduce funds for Galena School District which has 200 regular students and 1200 home school correspondence students. She explained that home schooled correspondence students generate more money than regular students.

Ms. Mullins expressed her pleasure at coming to Homer for a Board meeting and for the Homer High School jazz band performance. She encouraged those present to send public opinion messages to their legislators regarding school funding. She stated that the Board has told legislators that the District has been reducing its budget for twelve years while other districts have not. She stated that she did not want to see other districts hurt by a change in school funding because it is the public's duty to see that all children are educated. She stated that the legislature needs to know that more money is needed and not just a reallocation of existing funds.

Mrs. Fischer thanked the audience for their attendance and for the student musicians. She stated that it is encouraging and inspiring to see the talented students in this District.

Miss Meacham thanked Mr. Searle for his enthusiasm towards his band.

BOARD COMMENTS (Continued): Mrs. Gross echoed compliments concerning Mr. Searle and the Homer High jazz band.

ADJOURN: At 9:15 p.m., Mr. Arness moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President

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Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

The Minutes of March 2, 1998,  
were approved on March 16, 1998,  
with corrections.

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Borough Administration Building  
Soldotna, Alaska 99669

March 16, 1998

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President  
Mr. Joe Arness, Vice President  
Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk  
Mrs. Debra Mullins, Treasurer  
Dr. Nels Anderson, Member  
Mrs. Joyce Fischer, Member  
Ms. Deborah Germano, Member  
Miss Danielle Meacham, Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT: Mr. John Dahlgren, Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Patrick Hickey, Assistant Superintendent,  
Operations and Business Management  
Mr. Ed McLain, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction  
Mrs. Sharon Radtke, Assistant Superintendent, Human  
Resources

OTHERS PRESENT: Mrs. Darolyn Brown Mr. Jim Dawson  
Mr. Tim Navarre Mrs. Natalie Kohler  
Mr. Jeff Kohler Mr. Fabian Castilleja  
Mr. Rick Matiya Mr. Greg Paxton  
Mrs. Rosanne VanRay Mr. Ron Drathman  
Mr. Martin Galloway Ms. Debra Sanders  
Mrs. Karen Mahurin Mr. Lawrence Colston  
Mr. Larry Van Ray Mr. Todd Syverson  
Mr. Dave Beckett Mr. Mike Navarre  
Mrs. Margaret Gilman Mrs. Melody Douglas  
Ms. Carolyn Cannava Ms. Peggy Cloninger  
Ms. Denita Higman

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Mrs. Gross called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mrs. Gross invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross Present  
Mr. Joe Arness Present  
Mrs. Susan Larned Present  
Dr. Nels Anderson Present  
Mrs. Joyce Fischer Present  
Ms. Deborah Germano Present  
Mrs. Debra Mullins Present  
Miss Danielle Meacham Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved with the addition of awards and presentations to Roseanne VanRay, head secretary, Soldotna Middle School and Martin Galloway, head custodian, Soldotna Middle School.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of March 2, 1998, were approved with the deletion of Mr. John Dahlgren as staff present.

SCHOOL REPORTS:

Mr. Dawson, principal, Mt. View Elementary, thanked the Board on behalf of the students for the opportunity to present their school report. He stated that tonight's presentation was completely student-produced. Mr. Dawson introduced Megan Kohler and Ashley Robin who emceed the presentation. The first group of students recited their school cheer, another group of students presented an analogy of their school and student council as compared to a bicycle tire. Students showed a video tape with interview responses from students, parents and teachers on the reasons for the positive climate at their school.

Miss Dixie Mapes stated that Mt. View Elementary is a nice place with nice teachers with different ways of teaching students. She added that she especially liked the school principal because he helps students with their work and supervises bus loading and off-loading.

The Learning Committee students shared a learning collage. Mr. Tom Benson described a chemistry experiment that was conducted with his teacher, Mr. Daniels. Mr. C.J. Henley told about community members coming into the classroom to teach about fur trading and trapping in Alaska. He stated that he hoped more community members would come to Mt. View Elementary to teach the students about Alaska and other topics.

The Technology Committee students told about the Macintosh and GS computer labs and stated that there is an average of six computers in each room. Miss Kira Matiya explained and demonstrated her electronic portfolio. She stated that the portfolio keeps an electronic record of activities and outstanding work that each student accomplishes during the year.

The Special Events committee students told about student council, the bus behavior incentive program, spirit days, sleep overs, raffles for sleep overs, recess choices, the DARE program and Turn Off TV week. The students concluded their presentation by reading the school mission statement from their school banner.

RECESS:

At 7:55 p.m., Mrs. Gross called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:

At 8:25 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Ms. Denita Higman, parent, Seldovia, stated that one of the reasons that Seldovia is a great place to raise children is because of the excellent school program. She urged the Board to reconsider Seldovia's staffing allocation. She stated that the Seldovia community is very involved in their school and they are concerned over losing teaching staff. She stated that students are having trouble enrolling in college because they lack the required courses on their transcript. She stated that Susan B. English Elementary/High is operating a "bare bones" program for students that wish to continue on to college. She stated that their foreign language courses were discontinued once the STAR/STEP program was eliminated. Ms. Higman referred to letters of appeal for teaching staff from the Seldovia community.

Mr. Fabian Castilleja, principal, Susan B. English Elementary/High School, stated that he appreciated the help their school has received in the past to maintain their current programs. He stated that the school has lost one-third of its staff since 1990, and in addition, have lost three aide positions, the music, fine arts and technology programs. He stated that his school has taken some major reductions and, with next year's cuts, will have to totally restructure. He stated that it is becoming very difficult to maintain the programs that they would like to offer their students.

Ms. Germano asked how the current staff was assigned. He replied that the current classroom breakdown is kindergarten through Grade 2 with 18 students, Grades 3 and 4 with 14 students, Grades 5 and 6, with 19 students, Grades 7 through 8 with 20 students, and Grades 9 through 12 with 28 students.

Ms. Margaret Gilman, parent, Sears Elementary, stated that she and her husband were both former students in the District and graduated from Kenai Central High. She stated that she and her husband were very well prepared for their postsecondary education as a result of their District schooling. She expressed her concern that Sears Elementary will be reduced to a one-half time librarian next year. She stated that, as a parent of three young children, this was unacceptable. She asked the Board to consider funding librarians and teaching staff for higher level classes so that students will be prepared to continue on to colleges or universities.

COMMUNICATIONS AND  
PETITIONS:

Mrs. Gross stated that she had received 19 letters from the Seldovia community expressing concern for their staffing situation and a letter regarding the one-half time secretary reduction at Soldotna Elementary.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND/OR  
P.T.A., K.P.A.A., K.P.E.A.,  
K.P.E.S.A.:

Ms. Peggy Cloninger, representative of the Seldovia Parent Advisory Committee and president, Seldovia Chamber of Commerce, expressed concern about the staff reduction next year. She stated that the Chamber of Commerce is concerned that the community will shrink in population because the school cannot adequately educate the children of the area. She stated that with the reduction of teaching staff, fewer classes can be offered. She stated that the school does not offer music or higher level classes. Ms. Cloninger told the Board that a Seldovia senior was told she will have to apply for a waiver in order to attend college because she was not able to take a foreign language. She stated that even though Seldovia is a small community, Susan B. English Elementary/High School has produced some outstanding students; and she asked the Board not to forget them.

Mrs. Gross acknowledged Borough Assembly Members, Ron Drathman and Tim Navarre, who were in the audience.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Mrs. Gross presented an award of appreciation to Roseanne VanRay, head secretary, and Martin Galloway, head custodian, Soldotna Middle School, for their outstanding service to education and the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Dahlgren announced that Tustumena Elementary and Soldotna Middle School Battle of the Books teams won first place at the state competition. He added that the Soldotna High School team won second place.

Mr. Dahlgren announced that on Thursday, March 19, from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. in the Borough Assembly Chambers, Lieutenant Governor Fran Ulmer will present Governor Knowles' proposed Smart Start for Alaska's Children Initiative. He stated that this time period has been reserved especially for all District employees and Board members to ask questions about the proposal. A public hearing covering the same topic will be held later that evening at 7:00 p.m.

1998-99 BUDGET PRESENTATION:

Mr. Hickey presented the 1998-99 School District budget to the Board. The Board will consider adoption of the budget at their April 6, 1998, meeting. He noted that the document was a third draft and asked the Board to pay attention to page Number 2, Goals and Objectives of the Strategic Plan. He stated that the focus of the budget document was to establish a budgeting process which will involve the borough administration, assembly and public. Mr. Arness clarified that the Goals and Objectives were from the Board of Education and not the Strategic Plan. Mr. Hickey and Mrs. Gross expressed appreciation to the staff for their countless hours of work.

- FINANCIAL REPORT: Mr. Hickey presented the financial report of the District for the period ending February 28, 1998.
- CONSENT AGENDA: Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Extended Field Trip Request, Leave of Absence Request/Support, Leave of Absence Requests/Certified, Substitute Teacher Contract, and 1998-99 Tentative Tenure Teacher Assignment.
- EXTENDED FIELD TRIP REQUEST: Mr. Ed McLain recommended the Board approve an extended field trip request for 15 students from various District schools to travel to Mountain View, California, to participate in the U.S. Space Camp.
- LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTS/SUPPORT: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a one-year, unpaid leave of absence request for the 1998-99 school year for Merry Zogas, Special Services/aide, Hope Elementary School.
- LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTS/CERTIFIED: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve unpaid leave of absence requests for the 1998-99 school year for Jeannette Sorrels, Special Services/preschool, Sears Elementary and Atz Kilcher, music, McNeil Canyon/West Homer Elementary.
- SUBSTITUTE TEACHER CONTRACT: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a 19-day substitute teaching contract for Stephanie Mullaly, math/physical education, Susan B. English Elem/High School.
- 1998-99 TENTATIVE TENURE TEACHER ASSIGNMENT: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a tentative tenure teacher assignment for the 1998-99 school year for Anne Kendall, Nikiski Elementary.
- ACTION  
Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 5. Mrs. Larned seconded.  
  
Motion carried unanimously.
- 1997-98 RESIGNATION/ ADMINISTRATIVE: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve the resignation of Jeffrey Harriman, principal/teacher, Hope Elementary School, effective March 20, 1998.
- ACTION  
Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve the resignation of Jeffrey Harriman, principal/teacher, Hope Elementary School, effective March 20, 1998. Mrs. Larned seconded.  
  
Motion carried unanimously.
- BOARD POLICY REVISIONS: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve revisions to BP 4116, Nontenured/Tenured Status and BP 4117.6, Nonretention, to bring the District into compliance with the requirements of HB 465.



BOARD POLICY REVISIONS:  
ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve revisions to BP 4116, Nontenured/Tenured Status and BP 4117.6, Nonretention, to bring the District into compliance with the requirements of HB 465. Mrs. Fischer seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

FIRST READING OF POLICY  
REVISIONS:

The Board heard a first reading of BP 6153, School-Sponsored Trips and AR 6153, School-Sponsored Trips.

Mr. McLain stated that the proposed changes clarify current practice, streamline forms and address water travel. He explained that the current policy does not allow students to participate in field trips involving non-motorized vessels such as canoes and kayaks. He noted that the proposed changes allow field trips with reasonable caution and care of students but does not allow wilderness travel. He noted that a packet containing the policy as it would look with the additions and deletions was contained in their information packet.

Mrs. Gross asked whether a field trip down the Johnson Lake canoe trail would be denied. Mr. McLain stated that some wilderness travel would be eliminated.

Susan Larned asked whether students were required to buy extra insurance to participate in field trips abroad. Mr. McLain explained that parents must show proof of medical insurance for the student for the duration of the trip.

Mrs. Fischer commented on the timeline for submitting extended field trip requests to the Board for approval. She suggested that the requirement be changed or eliminated. Dr. Anderson suggested that field trips be submitted for Board approval at least three months prior to excursion and also suggested that District personnel be aware that Board approval must be secured prior to raising funds. He stated that the Board has consistently granted exceptions and the policy should either be followed or changed.

Dr. Anderson asked that the opportunity for students to travel on canoe trails without a motorized vessel be included in the water policy statements. Mrs. Gross asked Mr. McLain to explore the possibilities of making that change.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Ms. Peggy Cloninger submitted a petition containing 62 signatures.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Dr. Anderson congratulated the Soldotna High cheerleaders for winning the region cheerleading competition. He commented that the boys' basketball team and others from the Soldotna area were in attendance to cheer on the cheerleaders. He stated that Soldotna High had more supporters present than any of the other schools combined, even though the competition was held in Wasilla.

Mrs. Larned stated that she was looking forward to Spring Break and hoped the warm weather would continue.

Ms. Mullins commented that the Mt. View Elementary School report was impressive. She commended the students who presented to the Board and expressed her appreciation for all the work the students put into their presentation.

Mrs. Mullins asked for an excused absence from the April 6, 1998, School Board meeting. She will be attending the National School Board Association convention.

Mrs. Fischer thanked the students from Mt. View Elementary for a fine presentation. Mrs. Fischer stated, for the benefit of the Seldovia parents in the audience, that the Board discussed the staffing difficulties during the worksession earlier in the day. She reassured them that their appeal was not falling on deaf ears.

Miss Meacham congratulated the Soldotna High School cheerleaders for their first place win. She noted that Soldotna High was the first Peninsula school to win the regional competition and announced that Homer High received second place. She expressed her appreciation for the Mt. View Elementary presentation.

Mrs. Gross announced that the Homer High, Nikiski High and Seward High Schools girls' and the Kenai boys' basketball teams will compete in the state tournament.

ADJOURN:

At 8:40 p.m., Mrs. Mullins moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President

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Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

The Minutes of March 16, 1998,  
were approved on April 6, 1998,  
as written.

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
148 N. Binkley Street  
Soldotna, AK 99669

April 6, 1998

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President  
Mr. Joe Arness, Vice President  
Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk  
Mrs. Debra Mullins, Treasurer  
Dr. Nels Anderson, Member  
Mrs. Joyce Fischer, Member  
Ms. Deborah Germano, Member  
Miss Danielle Meacham, Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT: Mr. John Dahlgren, Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Patrick Hickey, Assistant Superintendent, Operations and Business Management  
Mr. Ed McLain, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction  
Mrs. Sharon Radtke, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Bob Bellmore Mr. Bill Reeder  
Mrs. Rose Mary Reeder Mrs. Karen Mahurin  
Mr. and Mrs. Lancaster Mr. David Boyle  
Mr. and Mrs. Orth Mrs. Melody Douglas  
Mr. Mark Leal Mr. Paul Sorenson  
Mr. Phil Morin Mr. Fabian Castilleja  
Mr. Greg Paxton Mr. Fred Deussing  
Mrs. Paula Christenson

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Mrs. Gross called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mrs. Gross invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross Present  
Mr. Joe Arness Present  
Mrs. Susan Larned Present  
Dr. Nels Anderson Present  
Mrs. Joyce Fischer Present  
Ms. Deborah Germano Present  
Mrs. Debra Mullins Absent/Excused  
Miss Danielle Meacham Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved as written. Ms. Gross noted that Paula O'Connell (Redlin), was removed from Item 10a.(4) Approval of Resignations.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of March 16, 1998, were approved as printed.

SCHOOL REPORTS:

Bob Bellmore, principal, Nikiski Middle/High, introduced several staff members in the audience. He reported that British Petroleum donated several computers for their school's Apple computer lab. Phil Morin, science teacher, reported that teachers are using the computer lab and incorporating word processing programs, data bases, spread sheets and web browsers for research into cross curricular lessons. Mr. Morin stated that by using the lab as a cross curricular tool, students are able to complete final end-type projects.

Breanna Butler and Kendall Barrett, students, presented several web pages designed by students as part of a research assignment on Egypt. Both students explained how web pages are created and how to conduct research on the internet.

Stephanie Roberts, math teacher, stated that the computer lab is another assessment tool for teachers by providing another way to see what the students have learned. She stated that the students were excited to use the computer lab and the teachers noticed more peer teaching. Ms. Roberts stated that the teachers have also learned a lot from the students. She stated that the use of the computer lab was so successful that the teachers are considering expanding the project next year.

Mr. Bellmore stated that Nikiski Middle/High School's focus has been to break down the "technology cliff" and the BP computer lab is an attempt to accomplish that goal.

COMMUNICATIONS AND  
PETITIONS:

Ms. Gross stated that she received a copy of a letter to the news media written by Anchorage School Board President, Debbie Ossiander, who expressed concern for the negative news coverage relating to SB36. Mrs. Gross read a fax from Anchorage Superintendent, Bob Crystal containing a script that will be used for local radio announcements next week. The advertisement voices support for area legislators on the topic of school funding. Mrs. Gross stated that she received a letter from Shirley Holloway, Commissioner, Department of Education, and the State School Board, criticizing the school funding proposal.

RECESS:

At 7:55 p.m., Mrs. Gross called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:

At 8:00 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

**AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:** Mrs. Gross presented awards of appreciation to Rose Mary Reeder, Soldotna Community Schools Program, for the countless hours she has dedicated to the program which provides many benefits for District students and to David Boyle, Soldotna Middle School, for his outstanding contribution to education and the District.

Mr. Dahlgren stated that he remembered David Boyle when he was a freshman at Kenai Junior High School. Mr. Dahlgren stated that he is an exceptional young man.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Mr. Dahlgren reported that Eric Simpson, Soldotna Elementary sixth grade student, recently placed second at the State Geography Bee.

Mr. Dahlgren announced that Phil Biggs, technology director, had successfully applied for Technology Literacy Challenge grant monies in the amount of \$200,000 to be used for staff development.

Mr. Dahlgren reported on his recent trip to Juneau to participate in the Superintendents' AASA Legislative Fly-In. He reported on the progress of SB36 relating to school funding and expressed concerns for legislation dealing with part-time students and expansion of the number of charter schools.

Mr. Dahlgren reported that the District has reached a tentative agreement with KPESA. He stated that the agreement is currently being prepared for public inspection to comply with the requirements of HB465. He stated that upon ratification by the Association it will be brought before the Board for approval. He commented that it is a one-year agreement and that negotiations went smoothly and was positive and productive for both parties.

**QUARTERLY LEASE REPORT:** Mr. Hickey presented a report of leases or agreements entered into for the third quarter of fiscal year 1998. The District terminated the lease for equipment with Xerox Corporation and entered into a service agreement with Xerox Business Services.

Dr. Anderson asked whether schools that already own their own copier equipment were included in the new service agreement. Mr. Hickey replied that those particular schools were not included and that he will be meeting with those principals during the first week in May and will report back to the Board.

MIDDLE SCHOOL REPORT:

Ms. Dorothy Gray extended her thanks to the Middle School Committee team members for their dedication to the review process. She stated that it has been nine years since the District approved a plan to transition the junior high schools into middle schools. Ms. Gray reviewed the history of middle schools in the District with Kenai Middle and Homer Middle Schools being the first to participate in the transition process in 1991. She stated that the committee based their data analysis and research on the National Middle School Association's twenty characteristics of exemplary middle schools. She stated that the results of a staff survey of middle school traits were that teachers are highly confident that schools are staffed by educators knowledgeable and committed to teaching early adolescents and that schools regularly use cooperative learning strategies. Two weaknesses that were identified by teachers were that most schools lack a comprehensive student advisory program which allows teachers to work with small groups of students and that physical plants in the District do not easily accommodate teams or provide sufficient space for small and large group meetings.

She reported that a random survey conducted of ninth grade parents revealed that 91% felt that the District best met their child's needs in the use of a variety of classroom teaching and learning activities and 89% felt that their child received individual attention and concern by District staff. Academically, parents felt their children had been well prepared for high school in the areas of language arts and science.

Ms. Gray reported that 83% of ninth grade students surveyed felt that their middle school experience had prepared them well for high school in the areas of language arts, reading, music, and recreational sports. She reported that, when asked, students said they would like to have lower class sizes, greater curricular and elective class offerings, longer class periods and more hands-on activities.

Ms. Gray presented a comparison of CAT-5 scores administered to eighth grade students, including special needs students, statewide. Her report indicated that the District ranked higher than the Alaska state average in the areas of reading, writing and math.

MIDDLE SCHOOL REPORT  
(Continued):

Mrs. Gray stated that some primary points of consideration are that 16% of the total school population are being serviced by a middle school program. She added that these students are at a "turning point" in their school career which directly affects their future. She added that another consideration is that the state and local certified diplomas may dictate structural and organizational changes to occur in the middle school.

Ms. Gray stated that the committee recommends that a middle school review should occur every 5 years, the District should continue to support national studies which recognize the importance of middle school conceptual learning with the specific recommendations of the Carnegie Report, and the Board of Education recognize the specific needs of middle school physical plant design as new schools are built and older schools are remodeled.

Mark Leal, principal, Homer Middle School, stated that in order to continue with the successes of the middle schools in providing developmentally appropriate programs for young adolescent students, the District should renew its commitment to full implementation of the middle school model; that all schools continue to focus on developing appropriate programs for young adolescents; that the District move beyond focusing on development of interdisciplinary units and begin developing and implementing a rigorous, challenging and authentic curriculum that promotes connections between subject areas; that the District examine sports programs at the middle school level to determine a proper balance of intramural competition and interscholastic competition; and that the District develop a districtwide focus on implementing effective practices and programs for young adolescents.

In response to Ms. Germano's questions concerning future plans, Mr. Leal stated that the middle school principals have begun to meet during the administrators' meetings. He emphasized the importance of finding time to share program ideas among themselves.

Ms. Germano asked for an explanation of a model student advisory plan. Mr. Leal responded that a student advisory program is a place where a small group of students interact with an adult. He added that it is not counseling but that it is a time when a group of students could work on goal setting or talk about problems. He stated that a key element of a successful advisory program is when an adult becomes an advocate for a group of students. He stated that this year he worked with an advisory group and has been following those 14 students throughout the year.



MIDDLE SCHOOL REPORT  
(Continued):

Vicki Leach, middle school parent, stated that she especially appreciated the accessibility that parents have in a middle school program. She stated that parents are called on to assist with registration, fortnightlies, teacher projects, staff interviews, PTA, extracurricular activities, fund raising activities, library, drama, music, band, career exploration, site councils, field trips, student led conferences. She expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to meet with teachers. Ms. Leach stated that middle schools need more books for students and lower class sizes. She stated that, even though middle schools cost more to operate, it is money that is extremely well spent.

Dan Walker, teacher, Seward Middle School, stated that teaching middle school is about helping students who are going through social and physical changes and converting from elementary to high school. He stated that the team approach is very important for middle school teachers. He stated that if teachers are going to teach the way research and experience calls for, teachers must be integrating curriculum. If teachers are to be fair and use consistent discipline, teachers must meet regularly. He stated that the successes identified by the review team were that all the participants learned something, even those who have been middle school teachers for quite awhile. He stated that teachers on the committee felt that the review process should continue, that current teachers should be trained and new teachers be recruited and trained to be middle school specialists. Mr. Walker stated that advisor/advisee programs are important because students need an adult who knows them on a more personal basis and can be their advocate. He stated that quite often parents are at wits end with their child and welcome the help of an advocate. He concluded by saying that he would like to have a one-day District middle school conference next year.

Mrs. Fischer asked whether new state curriculum requirements may require the District to revise or restructure school programs and would the District teach to the test. Ms. Gray responded that the issues center around the exit exam. Ms. Gray stated that the District curriculum standards are much more detailed than the state standards. She stated that middle schools will need to identify students who require remedial assistance before they get to the exit exam.

Dr. Anderson stated that he would list his questions and concerns in the form of a letter for the committee's response.

MIDDLE SCHOOL REPORT  
(Continued):

Ms. Germano asked how the change in the math curriculum will impact the middle schools. Ms. Gray stated that the staff development department will begin an intensive program to provide inservice training to all K-12 math teachers in May.

Mr. Walker reported that teachers have expressed concerns that the new math curriculum will be more restrictive in the choices of textbooks. He stated that teachers like to have lots of options available to them.

Ms. Germano commented that she would like to see a middle school review every 3 years and each individual school staff review each year.

BOARD REPORTS:

Mr. Arness announced that a tentative agreement with KPESA had been reached and thanked Ms. Mahurin and Mr. Justin George for their time and effort. Mrs. Radtke assured the Board that they would receive a copy of the agreement before it is made public. Mrs. Radtke explained that after the union verifies that the draft copy is correct, announcements will be made in the newspaper stating that copies will be made available at public libraries. She added that the association will submit the proposed agreement to their members for ratification with Board approval scheduled for May 18.

RECESS:

At 8:50 p.m., Mrs. Gross called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:

At 9:05 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Budget Transfer, Extended Field Trip Request, 1997-98 Teacher Assignments, Resignations and Leave of Absence Request/Support.

Ms. Fischer asked to remove Consent Item Number 2. Ms. Germano asked to remove Consent Agenda Item Number 1.

1997-98 TEACHER ASSIGNMENTS:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve 1997-98 teacher assignments for Janet VanDriessche, full time (temporary) Special Ed/Resource at Seward Middle/Senior High and James William Carlson, full time (temporary) Vocational Education at Soldotna High.

RESIGNATIONS:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve the resignations of Julie Britton, Special Ed/Resource, Soldotna High, effective March 31, 1998; and Margaret Evans, Generalist, Kenai Alternative; Laurie Cramer, Physical Therapist, Districtwide Special Services; Jamie Shurts, Special Education/Resource, Sterling Elementary; effective May 29, 1998.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST/  
SUPPORT:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a one-year leave of absence request for the 1998-99 school year from Mary Downs, school secretary III, Chapman Elementary School.

ACTION

Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Item Numbers 3, 4, and 5. Mr. Arness seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

BUDGET TRANSFER:

Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve budget transfer number 358 for \$19,135 for the purchase of computers for the Quest Program.

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve budget transfer number 358 for \$19,135 for the purchase of computers for the Quest Program. Mr. Arness seconded.

Ms. Germano asked why a request was made to transfer QUEST funds to purchase equipment. She expressed concern that money to fund staff for the QUEST program is already limited.

Mrs. Radtke responded that several years ago when Special Services made reductions in their QUEST Program they developed a plan to meet the needs of those student by converting staffing dollars to equipment to purchase computers. She explained that this plan would serve remote students on-line via computers. Ms. Germano asked why the money wasn't put in the equipment account originally. She commented that QUEST teachers are already spread too thin and could not support the purchase of equipment.

Mr. Arness stated his objections to the purchase of equipment with Special Services money. Mr. Dahlgren stated that all Special Education money is budgeted as certificated staff and then converted into aides, secretarial positions and other expenditures. He added that he would like to meet with Mr. McLain and the Special Education staff to develop a budget that can be understood by everyone.

Dr. Anderson stated that he would not vote for the budget transfer. Mrs. Gross concurred and felt that the QUEST Program has been understaffed for quite some time, and it is an area in which parents are unhappy.

BUDGET TRANSFER (Continued):  
ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board table action on the motion to approve budget transfer number 358. Ms. Germano seconded.

VOTE ON MOTION TO TABLE:

YES - Anderson, Arness, Fischer, Larned, Gross  
NO - Germano  
Advisory Vote - YES

Motion carried.

EXTENDED FIELD TRIP  
REQUESTS:

Mr. McLain recommended the Board approve extended field trip requests for Soldotna High School students to travel to Denver, Colorado, to participate in the National DECA Conference and for Homer High School students to travel to Washington, D. C., to participate in the CloseUp Program.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve an extended field trip request for Soldotna High School students to travel to Denver, Colorado, to participate in the National DECA Conference. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Mrs. Fischer noted that the timeline for the DECA field trip did not meet established Board policy and suggested that the Board either enforce or change the policy if it was not going to be followed.

Mr. McLain stated that the question of timelines is an issue that he has been working on with the principals. He stated that when he arrived in the District there seemed to be a misunderstanding concerning what trips needed advance approval. He stated that the perception was that ongoing, routine field trips were exempt from the timeline requirement. He stated that when field trips are submitted this late the reality is that the planning has been done and fees have been paid. Mr. McLain stated that he has been correcting the principals and teachers as each field trip is submitted late. He requested that the Board approve the field trips and allow him to transition to the requirements of the proposed policy revisions.

Mrs. Fischer stated that, although Mr. McLain may be new to the District, the principals are aware of the Board policy regarding extended field trip requests.

Mrs. Gross asked what eligibility criteria was used to qualify for participation in the National DECA competitions. Mr. McLain responded that students win the right to attend at the state level; however, the application process could be started earlier. He reiterated that an understanding among principals is that routine extended field trips are treated as ongoing trips.

EXTENDED FIELD TRIP  
REQUESTS (Continued):

Ms. Germano asked whether the extended field trip process is reviewed with principals at the beginning of each school year. Mr. McLain stated that the information is available to principals before school begins, but he did not review the process with them. Mr. McLain stated that he will review the policy with the principals at the beginning of next year.

VOTE:

YES - Arness, Germano, Larned, Gross  
NO - Anderson, Fischer  
Advisory Vote: YES

Motion carried.

ACTION:

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve an extended field trip request for Homer High School students to travel to Washington, D. C., to participate in the CloseUp Program. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Mr. Arness expressed concern that many extended field trips were approved in the past that did not meet the required timeline. He added that the Board is about to approve language which reinforces Board policy requiring schools to abide by the timeline.

Mrs. Larned stated that she would support the field trip request because she did not feel the students should be punished for an oversight on the part of a teacher or principal.

Mr. Dahlgren stated that he understood the Board's frustration over the 30-day advance approval. He assured the Board that the central office would reject any further extended field trip requests that do not meet the required advance notice. He reminded the Board that field trips have been denied by central office in the past and pressure has been put upon the Board to approve them anyway.

Ms. Germano felt that the request was too short notice for an ongoing program. Dr. Anderson stated that he would like the schools to get the message that the Board will enforce the required deadline for submission of extended field trips.

VOTE:

YES - Anderson, Arness, Larned, Gross  
NO - Fischer, Germano  
Advisory Vote - YES

Motion carried.

HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULING  
RECOMMENDATIONS:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended that the Board approve proposed high school scheduling recommendations which include more course integration; selling teacher preparation periods; shared partial day programs in the areas of vocational education and specialty programs; development of a distance delivery model through the use of technology for enrichment and make-up for failed requirements; and expanded dual credit offerings for required course work with the college.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve the proposed high school scheduling recommendations as presented. Ms. Germano seconded.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board amend the recommendations to include the mandate of a seven-period day, or the equivalent, at the high school level. Mrs. Fischer seconded.

Ms. Germano expressed support for the amendment stating that seven periods could be delivered in many different ways.

Mr. Arness felt that he was not ready to mandate a seven-period day.

Mrs. Fischer asked what effect the seven-period mandate would have on staffing and cost to the Board. Mr. Dahlgren stated that there would not be any change.

Dr. Anderson stated that he was opposed to mandating anything but felt that the proposed change would allow an opportunity for students who are academically inclined to take electives. He stated that if the state legislature passes legislation requiring students to take a minimum of two vocational education classes the District will have to increase the number of class periods to accommodate the requirement.

Mr. McLain stated that, although he appreciated the perspective from Dr. Anderson, he felt that there were strong benefits of a buy-in from staff.

Ms. Germano stated that she felt the seven-period day would provide a study hall option for students who need additional time for school work. Ms. Larned concurred with Ms. Germano's comments and added that schools could be creative in the use of block scheduling.

Miss Meacham stated that most of the students she has spoken with want a seven-period day. She noted that because of a shorter day, students have dropped activities in order to take the classes they need to graduate.

HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULING

RECOMMENDATIONS (Continued): After further discussion, Dr. Anderson withdrew his motion.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board amend the high school scheduling recommendations to include the sentence, "It is strongly recommended that principals and central office develop a method to deliver a minimum of seven credits per year to high school students. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Mr. Arness felt that there were other ways to provide seven credits per year to students besides a seven or eight-period day.

Amendment carried unanimously.

Amended motion carried unanimously.

BP 6153 SCHOOL-SPONSORED  
TRIPS AND AR 6153 SCHOOL-  
SPONSORED TRIPS:

Mr. McLain recommended the Board approve revisions to BP 6153 School-Sponsored Trips and AR 6153 School-Sponsored Trips. The changes clarify current practice, streamline forms and address water travel.

Mr. McLain noted that the most significant change is the language concerning water travel. He explained that "when practical" was substituted to allow short distance boat trips. He stated that the change allows building principals the flexibility of planning courses that involve travel by canoe in shallow water where boats with motors would not be appropriate. He stated that this policy has been reviewed by Mr. Hickey.

Mr. John Kistler stated that he agreed with the revisions as long as the Board requires mandatory adherence to all approved policies instead of ignoring them.

Ms. Larned asked why a three-month advance approval was required. Mr. Dahlgren responded that three months was a realistic time frame for a group to decide whether or not they wanted to organize a trip and still have enough time to plan fund raising activities.

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve revisions to BP 6153 School-Sponsored Trips and AR 6153 School-Sponsored Trips. Mr. Arness seconded.

BP 6153 SCHOOL-SPONSORED  
TRIPS AND AR 6153 SCHOOL-  
SPONSORED TRIPS (Continued):

Mr. Arness asked why the Board was required to approve extended field trips. Mr. McLain responded that from the discussions surrounding school-sponsored trips, it has long been a point of interest to the Board. He stated that the degree of involvement by the KPBSD School Board is unusual and more than other Alaskan districts require. He stated that the necessity for the Board to approve extended field trips is due to the liability issues and assurances that the trip has been carefully planned.

Mr. Arness stated that he felt that a three-month advance notice converts to a five-month advance notice after the school completes the paperwork, schedules the field trip on the Board agenda and approval is received. He stated that he did not feel that it was a workable policy. Mr. McLain noted that the policy requires that the Board approve the extended field trip request prior to final planning, fund raising or three months prior.

Mr. Dahlgren added that the reason the policy is so extensive is because of the Board's request. He stated that the Board was concerned that schools were taking excursions and excluding certain individuals, and field trips were being taken outside of vacation time, especially trips abroad. He stated that the Board was also concerned about teacher chaperones and the cost of their substitutes. He stated that these concerns have resulted from past trips.

Mrs. Fischer reported that another concern of the Board was that trips were not aligned with any particular curriculum and that many times there was no time for the sponsor to modify the trip plans if the request came to the Board late.

ACTION

Mrs. Fischer moved the Board amend the motion to strike the words, "final planning" on page AR 6153(c), second paragraph, and return to the original language of "substantial plans." Ms. Germano seconded.

Mr. McLain stated that the change was made to eliminate prior fund raising, or planning commitments. He explained that one of the problems is that field trip request are coming to central office that are too vague, and these have been returned to the sponsors for more detail. He stated that the change was recommended to create a situation where enough detail was provided so that he felt comfortable bringing the request to the Board.

Mrs. Fischer withdrew the amendment to the motion.



BP 6153 SCHOOL-SPONSORED  
TRIPS AND AR 6153 SCHOOL-  
SPONSORED TRIPS (Continued):

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board amend the motion to say "whichever occurs first," at the end of the sentence on page AR 6153(c), second paragraph. Mrs. Fischer seconded.

Ms. Germano asked Mr. McLain whether the proposed amendment helped clarify the intent of the policy. Mr. McLain suggested that the Board change the word "or" to an "and" after the words "fund raising" on page AR 6153(c), second paragraph.

Ms. Germano withdrew the amendment to the motion.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board amend the motion to change the word "or" to an "and" after the words "fund raising" on page AR 6153(c), second paragraph. Mrs. Fischer seconded.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

YES - Anderson, Fischer, Gross  
NO - Arness, Germano, Larned  
Advisory Vote - YES

Motion failed.

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board amend the motion to change the word "or" to an "and" after the words "final planning" on page AR 6153(c), second paragraph. Motion died for lack of a second.

Mr. Arness suggested that the Board remove all reference to the Board of Education from the entire administrative regulation and policy.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board table action on Item 10c., BP 6153 School-Sponsored Trips and AR 6153 School-Sponsored Trips. Mrs. Larned seconded.

VOTE ON MOTION TO TABLE:

YES - Arness, Germano, Larned, Gross  
NO - Anderson, Fischer

Motion carried.

AR 3100 BUDGET:

Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve a revision to AR 3100 Budget. The revision changes the April 1 deadline to May 1 for the Board to adopt and submit the annual budget to the Borough Assembly for approval.

AR 3100 BUDGET (Continued): Mrs. Gross stated that the recommended revisions to AR 3100 Budget would be considered a first reading.

FY 1998-99 BUDGET: Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve the FY 1998-99 annual budget in the amount of \$84,059,605. Included in the budget is a request for Kenai Peninsula Borough contributions for in-kind and local appropriation to the "cap" for the general fund in the amount of \$29,139,010 and dedicated funding "outside the cap" for the cocurricular fund in the amount of \$1,175,000.

ACTION Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve the FY 99 annual budget as presented. Ms. Germano seconded.

ACTION Mr. Arness moved the Board amend the FY 99 Budget to reflect an increase in the staffing formula by .25 for 7-12 schools and .5 for 9-12 schools. Ms. Germano seconded.

Mr. Arness questioned the interpretation of the Board's intent of the staffing formula change at the last budget worksession.

Mrs. Fischer asked about reinstating staff at the high school level for Susan B. English High. Mr. Dahlgren explained that the Board directed that .25 FTE for Susan B. English High and an additional .5 FTE for the Homer Flex School be funded out of the unallocated.

Mr. Dahlgren explained in detail the Board-approved staffing formula and explained that, as a result of the last budget worksession, the Board asked for a decrease of the staffing formula at 9-12 high schools to 1:21.5 and a decrease at 7-12 schools to 1:20.25. He suggested that the Board keep the staffing formula clean by decreasing the staffing formula at the 7-12 schools by .25 to 1:20. and that the recommended change would not add any additional staff.

Mr. Dahlgren suggested the Board change the amendment to address the change in the staffing formula.

ACTION Mr. Arness reworded his amendment to amend the FY 99 Budget to decrease the staffing formula at 7-12 high schools to 1:20 and a decrease at 7-12 schools to 1:21.5.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

YES - Arness, Germano, Gross  
NO - Anderson, Fischer, Larned  
Advisory Vote: YES

Amendment failed.

FY 1998-99 BUDGET (Continued):

ACTION

Mrs. Larned moved the Board amend the FY 99 Budget to reflect an increase in the staffing formula by .25 for 7-12 schools and .5 for 9-12 schools. Ms. Germano seconded.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

YES - Anderson, Arness, Germano, Larned, Gross  
NO - Fischer  
Advisory Vote - YES

Amendment carried.

VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION:

YES - Anderson, Arness, Germano, Larned, Gross  
NO - Fischer  
Advisory Vote - YES

Amended motion carried.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Ms. Karen Mahurin thanked the Board and District's bargaining team for a very successful, amicable and positive negotiation. She stated that having school board members present became a learning process. She stated that it is difficult to represent a diverse group of employees including one-hour playground aides, eight-hour secretaries and twelve-month custodians. She stated that she feels positive about the proposed agreement, and she feels that it reflects KPESA and the District's commitment to attracting and maintaining quality personnel.

Mr. John Kistler stated that he has recently been hearing rural communities tell the public how their schools are going to "get ripped off" by a change in the state foundation formula. He stated that the communities in the KPBSD are the same size as many of the complaining rural communities and that he takes offense at their radio advertisements and attempt to influence the public to believe a blatant lie.

Mr. Paul Fischer suggested that the District require companies providing student graduation packages go to bid. He recommended that the District outline the specifications for a graduation package and allow all vendors to bid on the same offerings and require the successful bidder to post a cash bond. He stated that the students could then pick the package of their choice.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS  
(Continued):

Mr. Lawrence Colston expressed concern regarding the high school scheduling options and the recommendation of selling teacher preparation periods. He stated that it brings forth a question of educational excellence issues and that all further discussions should focus on that issue.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Dr. Anderson advised the Board to follow Robert's Rules of Order more closely.

Ms. Larned stated that she agreed with Ms. Germano's suggestion that a Middle School review be conducted every three years and thanked the committee members for their hard work.

Ms. Germano reported that the Homer High School girls' basketball team placed third in the 3A state basketball tournament and received the academic and sportsmanship awards. She thanked the middle school committee for their review. Ms. Germano stated that she would like to see more money be allocated to the gender equity issue concerning math and science for girls. She stated that she was getting tired of hearing how devastated bush schools are going to be if SB36 is passed by the legislature. She stated that, although there are a lot of good elements in the bill, more money should be included. She added that the state is raising expectations and, therefore, should financially help every school meet those expectations.

Mrs. Fischer thanked the association for their cooperation. She stated that she would rather see money from the budget for additional teachers be put in the unallocated account and given out as necessary. She stated it is easier to give teachers than take them away. She stated that she is unhappy with Mr. Arness' action postponing revisions to the policy and administrative regulation concerning school-sponsored trips. She stated that the Board is giving away all of their responsibilities and approving extended field trips is one of the few left. She stated she is convinced that her decision to leave the Board in June was the right one.

ADJOURN:

At 10:50 p.m., Mrs. Fischer moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President

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Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

The Minutes of April 6, 1998,  
were approved on April 20, 1998  
as written.

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
148 N. Binkley Street  
Soldotna, AK 99669

April 20, 1998

- SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President  
Mr. Joe Arness, Vice President  
Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk  
Mrs. Debra Mullins, Treasurer  
Dr. Nels Anderson, Member  
Mrs. Joyce Fischer, Member  
Ms. Deborah Germano, Member  
Miss Danielle Meacham, Student Representative
- STAFF PRESENT: Mr. John Dahlgren, Superintendent of Schools  
Mrs. Melody Douglas, Director, Business and Finance  
Mr. Ed McLain, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction  
Mrs. Sharon Radtke, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
- OTHERS PRESENT: Mrs. JoAnn Odom Mrs. Mo Stoner  
Mr. Chuck Boll Mr. Patrick Bennett  
Mrs. Carole Bear Ms. Phyllis Halstead  
Mr. Dennis Dunn Ms. Marnie Love  
Mr. Mike Fischer Mrs. Beth Martin  
Mrs. Ann Bayes Mr. Paul Fischer  
Mrs. Sylvia Reynolds Mr. Patrick O'Brien  
Mr. Lawrence Colston Mrs. Nan Spooner  
Ms. Barb Vogel Ms. Karen Mahurin  
Mr. Justin George Mrs. Pam Lazenby  
Dr. Don Boehmer
- Others present not identified.
- CALL TO ORDER: Mrs. Gross called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. A quorum of School Board members, Mrs. Debra Mullins, Mrs. Joyce Fischer, Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, Ms. Deborah Germano, Mr. Joe Arness and Mrs. Susan Larned, were in attendance.
- EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 2:31 p.m., Mr. Arness moved the Board go into executive session to discuss subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person, provided the person may request a public discussion. Ms. Germano seconded.
- Motion carried unanimously.
- ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 3:30 p.m., Ms. Germano moved the executive session be adjourned. Mr. Arness seconded.
- Motion carried unanimously.
- RECESS: At 3:31 p.m., Mrs. Gross called a recess.
- RECONVENE AFTER RECESS: At 7:40 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mrs. Gross invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:	Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross	Present
	Mr. Joe Arness	Present
	Mrs. Susan Larned	Present
	Dr. Nels Anderson	Present
	Mrs. Joyce Fischer	Present
	Ms. Deborah Germano	Present
	Mrs. Debra Mullins	Present
	Miss Danielle Meacham	Absent

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved as written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of April 6, 1998, were approved as printed.

KENAI ALTERNATIVE HIGH SCHOOL REPORT: Mr. Dennis Dunn, principal, Kenai Alternative High School (KAHS), reviewed the history of the alternative school and thanked the Board and central office administration for their support of the school. He stated that since August 1997, 60 to 70 windows have been replaced and the majority of the building has been painted among other improvements. He reported that Mrs. Radtke assisted in scheduling nursing care for his students and that Mr. Garoutte has assisted with computer technology. He thanked ARCO for their computer donation. Mr. Dunn noted that the focus of the mission is to serve those students that have difficulties. He reported that the delivery of instruction at Kenai Alternative High School must be flexible, the classes are smaller because his students have a greater need than most other students. He stated that student attitude means the difference between success or failure. He stated that students have to want to be there and to do what it takes; if not, they are withdrawn from the program. Mr. Dunn stated that it takes a great deal of patience and belief that his students can be successful in order to work with them. He presented a slide show with pictures of students, their children, teaching staff, volunteers, student artwork and projects, and the facility.

KENAI ALTERNATIVE HIGH  
SCHOOL REPORT (Continued):

Ms. Ruth Dennison, parent of a daughter at KAHS, stated that her daughter has had trouble in school since first grade, was diagnosed with Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD), and has been unable to function in a traditional school setting. She stated that her daughter continued to have trouble in high school and during the middle of her sophomore year wanted to quit school. She stated that her daughter felt she didn't have a chance to succeed. Ms. Dennison stated that her daughter enrolled in the KAHS in January of 1998 and now has a B average. She stated that her daughter is a smart girl who now feels good about herself and actively participates and feels like she belongs as a member of KAHS. Ms. Dennison reported that her daughter is much calmer at home and does not get as frustrated. Ms. Dennison stated that KAHS has made major difference in her daughter's life as well as her own.

Mr. Dunn read a letter from a student who has recently completed credits for graduation in spite of many obstacles in her life. She thanked the Board for the opportunity to complete her high school diploma in an alternative program.

Mr. Dunn displayed an overhead transparency with statistics showing the number of students enrolled at KAHS and the schools they transferred from or previously attended. He currently has 39 students, 19 of whom have been in the alternative school since October 1, 1997. He stated that he has interviewed a total of 86 students this school year with many of them being referred to other agencies for assistance, such as the Kenai Peninsula College, Cook Inlet Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, and Central Peninsula Mental Health Center. Nine students are expected to graduate this school year. Mr. Dunn reported that students who seek help from the alternative school are typically behind academically, have behavior problems, are pregnant or are teen parents, involved in drugs and alcohol abuse, are abandoned, or have multiple problems. He said that it takes flexibility, structure, consistency, and mature people with life experiences to work with his students. He stated that classes are one hour and forty-five minute, courses are 6 weeks long, and he blends direct instruction with independent study. He stated that he would like to involve students in the community by having them work in local businesses. Mr. Dunn listed the many organizations and businesses that have helped KAHS and thanked them. He stated that recently the students focused on a three-week unit concerning giving back to the community, had a Christmas celebration with gifts for each student and was excited to have 100% attendance at Parent/Teacher conference.



KENAI ALTERNATIVE HIGH  
SCHOOL REPORT (Continued):

Mr. Dunn summarized phone calls and contacts during the a typical day which can include calls from youth detention facilities, parents, Kenai Peninsula Care Center, Youth Corrections, sick students, and school nurses. He reported that many of his students have not finished an entire school year during their entire school career. He stated that KAHS needs adequate funding and resources like other schools to be able to expand the alternative program in a manageable way. Mr. Dunn stated that, unfortunately, his enrollment is growing and concluded with an analogy of the importance of locating at-risk students early in their school careers. He thanked the Board for their time, support and invited them to attend the KAHS graduation ceremony.

Mr. Arness encouraged those present to attend the KAHS School graduation on May 15 at 7:00 p.m. He stated that he has attended five years in a row and felt that the KAHS students have a real appreciation for their accomplishment that is not found in the other schools.

HEARING OF DELEGATIONS:

Ms. Ann Bayes, South Kenai Peninsula State Parks Advisory Board, asked the Board for a resolution or letter of support for the concept of developing the Anchor Point Beach Community Safety Trail (ABC'S Trail). Mrs. Bayes shared a map showing the proposed trail and new parking area. She stated that currently Anchor Point has a tremendous number of visitors in the summer who use a narrow road without shoulders. The trail would be approximately three miles long. She stated that Alaska State Parks is working with the community to secure ISTE A funding from the Department of Transportation. She stated that the Anchor Point Advisory Planning Commission has selected this project as their top capital projects priority.

Mrs. Bayes responded to a question from Mrs. Gross that the trail will be a gravel, handicapped accessible, family oriented type of a trail. It is not to be used for motorized vehicles or high-speed bicycles.

Mr. Arness asked how much the project will cost and why Board support was being solicited. Mrs. Bayes responded that more detailed plans are currently being drawn and so she was not sure of the total cost. She stated that community support is important for the proposal to qualify for ISTE A funding and because of the close proximity to the school. She noted that the trail head parking area would provide additional parking for the school and also would provide a safe trail for student field trips to the beach.

HEARING OF DELEGATIONS  
(Continued):

Mr. Arness asked what other projects the ABC'S Trail would be in competition with for funding. Mrs. Bayes responded that she did not know of any others. She has heard rumors about pedestrian trails in the Deep Creek area.

COMMUNICATIONS AND  
PETITIONS:

Mr. Dahlgren called the Board's attention to two extended field trip reports from Kenai Middle School and Kenai Central High School located in their information packet.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Mrs. Gross presented awards of appreciation to Phyllis Halstead, secretary, Kenai Alternative High School; Carole Bear, counseling secretary, Soldotna High School; and Marnie Love, bookkeeper, Soldotna High School, for their outstanding dedication to the District.

Mr. Arness read a proclamation from the Borough mayor Mike Navarre, declaring Friday, May 1, 1998, as Alaska School Bus Driver Appreciation Day. Mr. Chuck Boll, area supervisor, Laidlaw Transit Company, accepted the proclamation on behalf of the school bus drivers.

Mr. Boll introduced Mrs. JoAnn Odom, who has been a bus driver for 27 years, and Ms. Colleen Puch, who has been a bus driver for 22 years. Mr. Boll expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to pay tribute to the 100 plus drivers and monitors employed by Laidlaw. He stated that District bus drivers travel more than 7,000 miles each school day and over 1.2 millions each school year. He reported that Laidlaw busses transport an average of 5,800 pupils each day to 25 different schools in the District. He stated that during the past two years there have not been any preventable accidents and no pupil injuries. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to acknowledge his drivers.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Dahlgren announced that the annual Strategic Planning Update will be held Saturday, May 9, 9:00 a.m., at the Skyview High School library. He reported that Mrs. Radtke and other central office staff are attending the Job Fair in Anchorage and that Mr. Hickey is attending a conference as part of the Borough's disaster preparedness plan.

He announced that interviews for the assistant principal position at Soldotna Middle School have been conducted and a selection will be brought to the Board at the next meeting.

Mr. Dahlgren invited the Board to attend a potluck honoring the Magadan visitors on Friday, April 24, 6:00 p.m. at Redoubt Elementary.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT  
(Continued):

Mr. Dahlgren reported that there have not been any hearings on any educational legislation since April 6. He added that SB36 was scheduled to be heard in House Finance today but was postponed.

Mr. Dahlgren announced that the Budget had been delivered to the Borough Clerk's office and will be formally introduced during the April 21 Borough Assembly meeting.

Mr. Dahlgren announced that Mr. Theo Lexmond was selected as the Alaska School Psychologist Association's Psychologist of the Year and that Mr. Rick Ladd was selected as Alaska's National Distinguished Principal of the Year.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Mrs. Douglas presented the financial report of the District for the period ending March 31, 1998.

BUDGET TRANSFERS REPORT:

Mrs. Douglas reported on budget transfers Numbers 200 through 366 for various schools and departments within the District. She stated that this is a quarterly report for the months of January through March, 1998.

Ms. Germano asked about budget transfer 266 for KCHS academic coach stipends from Districtwide for \$3,000. Mo Stoner explained that the high school QUEST program was scaled down several years ago and KCHS traded-in their one-half time QUEST allocation along with several other school QUEST allocations and consolidated services. She explained that by doing that they became eligible for financial support for academic coaching for competitions such as Future Problem Solvers, Mind of Mazes, Knowledge Master and the Academic Decathlon. Mrs. Stoner explained that the stipend pays for after-school coaching for academic competitions for Kenai Central High students.

Dr. Anderson asked if the stipend arrangement was unique to Kenai or whether other schools have the same funds available to them for similar academic coaching. Mrs. Stoner responded that a few of the high school principals decided to pool the money and then divide it out equally to be used more efficiently to fund academic competitions. She added that the other high schools decided to keep their .5 FTE QUEST allocation instead. Mrs. Stoner added that the high schools who have elected to pool their money also get computer support for six on-line courses taught via the internet. She stated that money is also used to pay for a couple of classes for students who take an on-line class outside of the District and to provide a mentorship program.

BUDGET TRANSFERS REPORT  
(Continued):

Mrs. Douglas explained that budget transfer number 285 for \$3,750 pays for accounts payable check charges. She explained that the past banking contract included check stock but the new contract puts the charges back to the District.

BOARD REPORTS:

Dr. Anderson stated that he had the opportunity to attend a presentation by Dr. Roland Good who was brought to the District to inservice the special services staff. He stated he was quite impressed with Dr. Good's presentation on the ability and techniques available to ensure that all students are brought up to reading level. He stated that he hoped that a twenty or thirty minute presentation could be made to the Board.

Mrs. Mullins reported on her trip to New Orleans to attend the National School Boards Conference. She stated that Education Secretary Riley addressed their group and told them that the U. S. Department of Education is considering hiring 100,000 new teachers to lower the pupil-teacher ratio in Grades 1 through 3. She reported that three people spoke to them about overcoming major obstacles in their lives and how their association with an adult mentor helped them become successful. Mrs. Mullins stated that after listening to the speakers she left the conference with the idea that any child can succeed if they have a mentor to help them.

Mrs. Mullins reported that she is one of the District representatives on the Borough Assembly Space Allocation Committee and the committee has toured several buildings in order to develop a plan to alleviate overcrowding in the Borough Administration building. She stated that the committee has three more meetings before the recommendation is due and will report the long-range plans for the next ten to twenty years to the Board.

RECESS:

at 9:02 p.m., Mrs. Gross called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:

at 9:10 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Resignations, Substitute Teacher Contracts, 1997-98 Teacher Appointment and Grants.

RESIGNATIONS:

By memorandum, Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve resignations effective at the end of the 1997-98 school year from Sandra J. Lewis, Grade 3, Redoubt Elementary; Patti Jolin, Grade 2, Sterling Elementary; Laura Dershewitz, generalist, Nanwalek Elementary/High School; Michael Stewart, generalist, Nanwalek Elementary/High School; and Scott Otterbacher, Grades 4-6, Nanwalek Elementary/ High School.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER  
CONTRACTS:

By memorandum, Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve 19-day substitute teaching contracts for Kristina Owens, physical education/art, Chapman Elementary and Susan Ridgway, art, Homer Middle.

1997-98 TEACHER APPOINTMENT:

By memorandum, Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a teaching appointment for the 1997-98 school year for Merry Zogas, full time (temporary), K-8, Hope Elementary School.

GRANTS:

Mr. McLain recommended the Board approve grants for Title VI: Innovative Education Program Strategies for \$89,885 and for Title II: Eisenhower Professional Development for \$97,867.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 4. Mrs. Fischer seconded.

Ms. Germano asked about the purpose of the Eisenhower grant. Mr. McLain responded that the grant began primarily as a math and science initiative but is now being used to consolidate and coordinate with other supplemental grant programs. He added that even though Eisenhower funds help support staff development, the focus is mainly math and science.

Mr. McLain explained that there has been a definite push from the state and federal government to enlarge the focus by including higher order thinking skills. He stated that for his first year with the District he asked to continue to focus the grant on math and science. Mr. McLain referred to the needs assessment plan that was completed for the Eisenhower grant application. Dr. Anderson stated that he had heard complaints from teachers that Eisenhower money was also funding language arts projects. Dr. Anderson asked what the parameters were of Eisenhower money. Mr. McLain explained that each grant is reviewed by the state Department of Education and that the Title II grant has routinely been recognized as exemplary and has even been used a model. He assured the Board the grant does not contain anything inappropriate or illegal.

Ms. Germano asked how the District reported expenditures from the Eisenhower grant. Mr. McLain explained that the District submits quarterly reports and year-end program evaluations to the state. He stated that to his knowledge the District has never failed a report.

GRANTS (Continued):

Ms. Germano asked why the budget amounts for membership and other professional growth organizations were considerably more than last year's. Mr. McLain explained that this year the District insisted that the entire District be able to participate in the POLARIS initiative which increased the membership costs. He added that there was also an increase in consortium fees.

Ms. Germano asked about staff travel and participation in professional development and membership activities at the district, state and national level. Mr. McLain explained that the District uses Eisenhower money for staff to travel to state and local conferences and that POLARIS money is used to send people to national conferences.

Motion carried unanimously.

1998-99 RETIREMENT INCENTIVE  
PROGRAM PLAN AND SCHEDULE:

By memorandum, Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve the Retirement Incentive Program for TRS and PERS employees that is offered by the state for the 1998-99 school year. Her memo stated that declaration/waiver packets would be mailed August 15, 1998, and that employees must declare their participation after September 15 and before October 15, 1998.

ACTION

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve the Retirement Incentive Program for TRS and PERS employees. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Mrs. Fischer asked why the declaration dates are so early in the school year. Mr. Dahlgren explained that it allows enough time to advertise and plan for vacancies. He further explained that the retirement program must have the employee waivers prior to providing the District with a list of those who plan to retire.

Mrs. Mullins asked why the District would want to participate in the retirement incentive considering the small number of substitutes who are available. Mr. Dahlgren explained that the District did not want to participate in the retirement program this year because too many teachers had retired during the last retirement offer and the District needed some time to recover. He added that the District also did not want to compete with the Anchorage School District. He stated that this is the last year that the District will be able to participate in the retirement incentive program.

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board table action on participation in the retirement incentive program. The motion died for lack of second.

1998-99 RETIREMENT INCENTIVE  
PROGRAM PLAN AND SCHEDULE  
(Continued):

VOTE:

YES - Anderson, Arness, Fischer, Larned, Mullins,  
Gross  
NO - Germano

Motion carried.

STUDENT EXPULSION:  
ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the following: "The Decision of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District in the Matter of Expulsion of LM.

This matter was heard before the Board on Monday, April 20, 1998. The student and his parents were in attendance. Todd Syverson, Principal of Soldotna Middle School and Mr. John Dahlgren, Superintendent, were present on behalf of the administration. The administration recommended an expulsion of the student for the remainder of this school year and for the first semester of the 1998-99 school term, for violation of the District's Board Policy 5131.7(a). The administration also recommended that LM be allowed to continue his education via correspondence, and that LM be considered for readmittance during the second semester of the 1998-99 school year upon completion of a mental health counseling assessment, compliance with the recommended program and completion of 40 hours of community service.

The evidence presented showed that on April 9, 1998, while walking by some school lockers, Assistant Principal Greg Paxton heard an alarm sound from inside a student's locker. Upon further inspection, Mr. Paxton saw an alarm clock, and also what appeared to be a grenade inside the locker. Mr. Paxton subsequently determined that the locker was assigned to LM, and that the item was a grenade replica used by the military in practice training. The replica had a large hole drilled through its base, and did not contain any explosives or any mechanism capable of triggering an explosion. LM stated he had brought it to school to show it to other people, and that he had no intention of using it to scare anyone. He had not been granted permission to bring the replica on school grounds. The administration agreed that LM probably did not intend to cause harm with the replica, and also indicated that LM had a history of numerous other less significant infractions for which he had been disciplined during the 1997-98 school year. On the day in question LM had just returned from a one-day suspension for insubordination.

STUDENT EXPULSION (Continued): Based on the uncontradicted evidence, the Board finds that LM did violate the District's Board Policy 5131.7(a) on April 9, 1998, by knowingly possessing a replica of a weapon or dangerous instrument on school grounds, and that his behavior was inimical to the welfare, safety or morals of other students and school employees, and concludes that he should be expelled from the District for the remainder of the 1997-98 school year and the first semester of the 1998-99 school year. The Board also finds that the grenade replica did not constitute a firearm or deadly weapon as defined by statute, and that LM may apply for limited admission to the Alternative Out-of-School Suspension Program for the remainder of the 1997-98 school year and the first semester of 1998-99. LM may apply for early full readmission to the general school District programs for the first semester of 1998-99 if he satisfactorily completes the above alternative program for the remainder of the 1997-98 school year, plus 40 hours of community service, and also completes a mental health counseling assessment by a duly licensed counselor, and completes the counselor's recommendations. Such early readmission is subject to approval by the superintendent. Except as necessary for such limited readmission to the alternative program LM shall not go on school grounds during the period of expulsion for any reason, nor shall he attend any school event or function whatsoever." Ms. Germano seconded.

VOTE:

YES - Arness, Fischer, Germano, Mullins, Gross  
ABSTAIN - Larned, Anderson

Motion carried.

MIDDLE SCHOOL  
RECOMMENDATIONS:

Mr. McLain recommended the Board approve three recommendations and nine actions to guide District plans for middle school organization, support and staff development in 1998-1999.

The three recommendations are:

- The District should affirm its commitment to the implementation of a full middle school program based on "best practices," research and standards of the National Middle School Association as outlined in the Middle School Review Committee report.
- The District should affirm its intent to continue our focus on offering a developmentally appropriate and standards-based program for all students at the middle school level.



MIDDLE SCHOOL  
RECOMMENDATIONS (Continued):

- The District should affirm its commitment to offer a rigorous and challenging integrated/ interdisciplinary curriculum for all middle school students.

The nine associated actions were in the areas of District level staff development, District and site collaboration, site level staff development, Districtwide extracurricular, District planning and District staff recruitment.

ACTION

Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve the middle school recommendations as presented. Mrs. Fischer seconded.

Ms. Germano asked about the plan's review cycle. Mr. McLain responded that a complete review would be scheduled every four years.

Mr. Arness noted that one of the recommendations was to study, review and advise on middle school intramural as compared to competitive sports programs. He informed the Board that KPSAA recently completed a comprehensive study and conclusion on that same issue. Mr. McLain stated that he would make sure that the committee members are aware that the study exists.

Dr. Anderson expressed concern about the Board affiliating themselves with the National Middle School report. He stated and that after a two-hour worksession there was not enough time to ask questions of the committee. He expressed concern over the recommendation that the District affirm its commitment to offer a rigorous and challenging integrated/interdisciplinary curriculum for all middle school students. He stated that he was not convinced that that was best practice, and he did not want to commit to one philosophy. He stated the he would not support the recommendations.

Ms. Germano expressed concern that student intervention is not followed in all classes. She also stated that a four-year review cycle was too long.

Mrs. Larned asked how much money it would take to implement the middle school recommendations. Mr. Dahlgren responded that the recommendations will be used to focus the District's energies during the next few years. He assured the Board that if there were large costs associated with the implementation of the recommendations, he would seek Board direction. He stated that the report will be used during the June 1998 Board planning session.

MIDDLE SCHOOL  
RECOMMENDATIONS (Continued):

Mrs. Mullins asked whether the District level staff development recommendation to organize a middle school conference would be statewide or Districtwide. Mr. McLain stated that the intent is to conduct a District conference using Title VI grant money.

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board amend the middle school recommendations to include a parent, staff and student survey every two years. Mrs. Fischer seconded.

Amendment carried unanimously.

VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION:

YES - Arness, Fischer, Germano, Larned, Mullins, Gross  
NO - Anderson

Amended motion carried.

BUDGET TRANSFER:

Budget transfer number 358 for \$19,135 for the purchase of computers for the QUEST Program was removed from the table.

Dr. Boehmer explained that during the 1994-95 school year he was asked by Dr. Bromenschenkel, former superintendent, to cut three teaching positions from the QUEST Program. He stated that at that time, eleven schools were not receiving any QUEST services. He stated that he suggested the District cut only two teachers and convert the third teaching position to cash to purchase computers and serve students via distance learning. He explained that this practice has been ongoing for the last three years.

BUDGET TRANSFER (Continued):

Ms. Germano commented that the reduction in QUEST services is most noticeable at the elementary level and asked what sites have received QUEST money. She asked Dr. Boehmer whether distance learning serves the needs of elementary students. Dr. Boehmer stated that it meets the needs of some students but not all. Ms. Germano stated that she did not feel that it was practical to share a half-time QUEST teacher among four schools. Dr. Boehmer stated that the District was left with limited options after such a drastic reduction in staff and that equity is a major issue. Mrs. Stoner assured the Board that all schools that have students that meet the criteria for the gifted matrix currently have QUEST service. Ms. Germano asked what the purpose of budget transfer number 358 was. Mrs. Stoner explained that the transfer was to provide more computers to the schools that need them so that more students can have more time on-line without having to double up on equipment. Mrs. Stoner stated that the computers are available to other students when they are not being used for QUEST students and that the computer equipment is moved and reallocated as the needs change.

Dr. Boehmer told the Board that the money will go towards purchasing Macintosh computers. Mr. Arness verified that the QUEST Program was reduced by two teaching positions with the third position being converted to cash and then expressed unhappiness about the "black hole of special services" where the money cannot be touched.

Mrs. Fischer asked whether according to the technology plan the District would be purchasing IBM compatible computer equipment and moving the Macintosh computers to the elementary grades. Mr. Dahlgren explained that there is a migration in secondary schools towards the Windows 97 format but that there has not been a mandate to purchase either type of computer system. He further added that the technology plan contains standards that all purchases must meet which includes a Pentium processor or a Power Macintosh.

Ms. Germano stated that she felt that the District should get the best bargain for their money and questioned the purchase of both types of computer systems. She stated that she was unhappy to see the degradation of the QUEST Program and added that teachers teach children and but computers don't.

BUDGET TRANSFER (Continued):

Mr. Dahlgren stated that budget reductions over the past several years have been extremely tough and that the plan to reduce Special Services and the plan to deliver QUEST services came before the Board. He stated that a similar budget transfer came to the Board last year also. He stated that it is difficult for program directors to operate without a plan and that if plans are going to be changed they need to be done prior to the beginning of the school year. Mr. Dahlgren explained that, at the time, Dr. Bromenschenkel was looking for ways to reduce the budget and this was one of the plans that Special Services developed which has been effective.

Ms. Germano asked why the funds for the equipment weren't allocated in the equipment account from the beginning. Mr. Dahlgren explained that the entire Special Services budget is based on certified FTEs, including the secretarial pool. He stated that he is currently working on revising the Special Services budgeting process to make it easier to understand.

VOTE:

YES - Anderson, Arness, Fischer, Larned, Mullins,  
Gross  
NO - Germano

Motion carried.

1998-99 TENTATIVE MEETING  
DATES:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve a tentative listing of School Board, administrator and miscellaneous meeting dates for the 1998-99 school year. He stated that the administrators will be meeting one less day than this school year.

Mr. Dahlgren reminded the Board the District Academic Night honoring 4.0 students in grades 9 through 12 will be Monday, April 27, 6:30 p.m. at Soldotna High School.

ACTION

Mrs. Fischer moved the Board approve the tentative listing of School Board, administrator and miscellaneous meeting dates for the 1998-99 school year as outlined. Mrs. Larned seconded.

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board change the August 17 meeting in Homer to November 2. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Ms. Germano stated that the last August meeting in Homer had a very small audience because the school year had not yet begun.

1998-99 TENTATIVE MEETING  
DATES (Continued):

VOTE ON THE AMENDMENT:

YES - Arness, Germano, Larned, Gross  
NO - Anderson Fischer, Mullins

Amendment carried.

Amended motion carried unanimously.

POLICY REVISION BP 6153 AND  
AR 6153 SCHOOL-SPONSORED  
TRIPS:  
ACTION

Mr. McLain recommended the Board approve revisions to BP 6153 School-Sponsored Trips and AR 6153 School-Sponsored Trips.

Mr. Arness moved the Board remove item 10f. BP 6153 School-Sponsored Trips and AR 6153 School-Sponsored Trips from the table. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board amend the original document with the document presented in the packet and strike the words "short-distance" and add the words "when practical" after the word "trips" in Item B. on page AR 6153(j). Ms. Germano seconded.

Mr. Arness stated that the intent of the substitution was to remove the Board from approving routine extended field trips and establish some guidelines that the administration would follow regarding qualified and appropriate field trips. He explained that the policy revision also establishes a quarterly report to be made to the Board from the administration listing the approved field trips. He added that the Board will act in cases of appeal.

Mrs. Fischer expressed her opposition to the Arness amendment. She stated that the Board is abandoning their responsibilities and that the Board will not always be aware of student trips. She stated that the Board was elected to represent their constituents and to take care of the business of the District.

Mr. Arness stated that as long as the proposed guidelines are administratively followed then there is no reason for the Board to approve extended field trips. He added that earlier this week some KCHS students were almost unable to participate in an out-of-state field trip because they did not meet the requirements of the current policy.

POLICY REVISION BP 6153 AND  
AR 6153 SCHOOL-SPONSORED  
TRIPS (Continued):

Ms. Germano asked about the due process procedure. Mr. McLain referred to page two of his memo, Item Number 3, second paragraph, "Parties denied approval for a trip may appeal that decision to the Superintendent. Denial by the Superintendent may be appealed to the Board following the District appeal process."

Ms. Germano asked about the three-month advance approval requirement. Mr. McLain explained that the use of the word "or" gave the administration the flexibility needed to review each request on a case by case basis. Field trip requests will be sent to the superintendent or designee prior to final planning or fund raising, or three-months prior to the trip.

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board amend the amendment to add Item Number 11 to BP 6153, "Parties denied approval for a trip may appeal that decision to the Superintendent. Denial by the Superintendent may be appealed to the Board following the District appeal process." Mrs. Larned seconded.

Amendment to the amendment carried unanimously.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT AS AMENDED:

YES - Anderson, Arness, Germano, Larned, Mullins,  
Gross  
NO - Fischer

Amendment carried.

VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION:

YES - Anderson, Arness, Germano, Larned, Mullins,  
Gross  
NO - Fischer

Amended motion carried.

Mr. Dahlgren assured the Board that the administration will deny those extended field trips that do not meet the guidelines. He warned the Board that the administration will follow Board policy and that there will be appeals.

POLICY REVISION AR 3100  
BUDGET:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve a revision to AR 3100 Budget. The revision changes the April 1 deadline to May 1 for the Board to adopt and submit the annual budget to the Borough Assembly for approval.

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve revisions to AR 3100 Budget. Dr. Anderson seconded.

POLICY REVISION AR 3100  
BUDGET (Continued):

Ms. Germano asked whether the budget process would be moved forward by one month. Mr. Dahlgren responded that the revision aligns the policy with current practice.

Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Lawrence Colston, technology teacher, expressed concern for computers purchased from QUEST money. He suggested that books be purchased instead.

Mr. Mike Fischer, owner, Images Fine Photography, expressed frustration over the bid process for the District selection of the student photography contract. He stated that several times he has tried to obtain a contract and was told the first time that his company was not big enough to process the job. He stated the second time bid requests were advertised he hired a consultant whose specialty was to work with companies that handle school photography contracts but was told that the successful bidder was giving a 30% return to District schools and he was only giving 20%. He stated that eventually the successful firm had their contract withdrawn due to their inability to perform.

Mr. Fischer stated that following the most recent request for proposals he was told that a change had been made and that proposals would be analyzed and rated instead of a presentation to the principals. Mr. Fischer stated that he had prepared a presentation that pointed out discrepancies between his company's product and the competitors'. He stated that again, he was not awarded the contract. He stated that when he inquired he was given a paper listing the selection criteria. He stated that his company scored 22 out of 30 points possible and yet his proposal guaranteed that each item the District listed in the request for proposal would be done. He stated his was the only proposal that made that guarantee and yet his company received the lowest score. He told the Board that the company whose contract was withdrawn received a high score and that the other bidders either modified or stated that they couldn't deliver each item requested in the request for proposal.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS  
(Continued):

Mr. Fischer stated that his company photographs 35% of the high school seniors in the District and he felt that that demonstrated professional expertise. He stated that the company that received a perfect score was Jostens and they are operating under the name of Digital Systems Group which does not have a sales tax number in the Borough and questioned how they could have past experience with the District, earning them 30 points. Mr. Fischer reported that two weeks ago Jostens canceled out of the Nikiski High School prom because they received a better offer from Chugiak High School so his firm accepted the contract.

He stated that for the past six years his company has photographed the Ninilchik High prom and last year made \$160. He stated that last year his store gave back over \$13,000 to students and school-related projects. He stated that two months ago he received a call from central office asking for a donation of several sessions per month, and 8" by 10" and retouching for more than \$3,000 for the teacher appreciation program. He stated that, according to his knowledge, the other bidders did not donate any money to the District. He asked the Board what he is doing wrong and how can he do business with the District.

Mrs. Fischer asked what the District appeal process is.

Ms. Germano asked whether the request for proposal was stated more clearly than in the past. Mr. Dahlgren stated that he felt that the bid request was clearer than last time and that it included an explanation of the evaluation process, point system and the criteria. He stated that Mr. Spence also consulted with the Borough attorney prior to release of the bid request. He stated that Mr. Spence solicited volunteers to evaluate the photography proposals and that two principals, two teachers, a parent, and a teacher's aid evaluated all of the proposals and selected one. Mr. Dahlgren explained that the District office has an appeal process and tries to make the bid request process as open and fair as possible. He assured the Board that none of the committee members participated in the selection process with any preconceived ideas.

Mr. Dahlgren told the Board that they can hear the appeal if they wish. He stated that the administration would not make a different recommendation. He stated that if the Board wants to evaluate proposals on their own then they need to decide to do that.

Dr. Anderson stated that either businesses meet the request for proposals or they don't.



PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS  
(Continued):

Ms. Germano clarified that the reason photography bids are not brought to the Board for approval is because it is not the District's money. Mr. Dahlgren stated that money received from photography companies goes to PTAs and 30s accounts. He added that the only reason the photography contract is brought as a bid request is to assure that all schools receive photography service.

Mr. Arness stated that if the District does not select a local business then the successful bidder had better be able to prove that they can really perform much better and cheaper or the District should choose the local business.

Mr. Arness asked the concurrence of the Board to suspend awarding of any photography contracts. He asked the president to appoint members of the Board to discuss and review with Mr. Dahlgren and Mr. Hickey how contracts are awarded and make suggestions.

Anne Bayes complimented Board and administration for making the budget process more clear to the public.

Mr. Paul Fischer told the Board that they did the right thing by suspending the award of the photography bid. He requested that the bid award for the graduation paraphernalia be suspended also; otherwise, the same thing will happen to his company as happened to Images Fine Photography.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mrs. Mullins stated that she appreciated the opportunity to hear from the Kenai Alternative High School and for all of the work that is being done there. She reiterated that during the conference she learned that every child can learn no matter what circumstance they are in. She stated that if one person or mentor cares it will make the difference in a student's success. She added that she had the opportunity to talk to Board members from other states and feels that, unfortunately, the District is progressing into the fast lane of student violence.

Mrs. Fischer stated that she appreciated Mr. Dahlgren's warning that he can say no to extended field trip requests that do not qualify. She reminded the Board that when writing policy, personnel change from year to year and they might not always follow established guidelines. She stated that she was sorry that the Board relinquished their responsibility for the approval of extended field trips.

Mrs. Fischer noted that the Anchorage School District requires that companies who are awarded contracts with them to have a local contact and suggested the District do the same.

BOARD COMMENTS (Continued):

Mrs. Larned echoed comments regarding KAHS and is glad that so many students are taking advantage of a second chance at a high school diploma. She stated that she agreed with Mr. Arness that the KAHS graduation ceremonies are wonderful.

Mr. Arness expressed regret that the Board did not have a chance to ask the Middle School Review Committee questions regarding the middle school recommendations.

Dr. Anderson commented that, although he does not always agree with Mr. Arness on the issue of local hire, he was amazed at how the scoring was done for the photography contract.

Mrs. Gross asked the administration to prepare a letter of support for construction of the ABC'S Trail as an action item on the next agenda.

Mrs. Gross appointed Mr. Arness and Mrs. Mullins to review the procedure for awarding contracts to the District.

Mrs. Gross stated that she attended the AASB workshop on writing standards for school boards on April 16 and 17 in Anchorage.

ADJOURN:

At 11:20 p.m., Joe Arness moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Ms. Germano seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President

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Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

The Minutes of April 20, 1998,  
were approved on May 4, 1998,  
as written.

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Seward High School  
Seward, Alaska 99664

May 4, 1998

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President  
Mr. Joe Arness, Vice President  
Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk  
Mrs. Debra Mullins, Treasurer  
Dr. Nels Anderson, Member  
Mrs. Joyce Fischer, Member  
Ms. Deborah Germano, Member  
Miss Danielle Meacham, Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT: Mr. John Dahlgren, Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Patrick Hickey, Assistant Superintendent, Operations and Business Management  
Mr. Ed McLain, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction  
Mrs. Sharon Radtke, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Lawrence Colston Mr. Jerry Dixon  
Mr. Malcolm Fleming Ms. Merry Zogas  
Mr. Bob Boyle Mr. Patrick O'Brien  
Mr. Pat Dye Mrs. DeEtta Scarborough

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

NATIONAL ANTHEM: Mrs. Liesl Davenport-Wheeler presented the Seward Vocal Ensemble who sang the National Anthem.

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross Absent/Excused  
Mr. Joe Arness Present  
Mrs. Susan Larned Present  
Dr. Nels Anderson Present  
Mrs. Joyce Fischer Present  
Ms. Deborah Germano Present  
Mrs. Debra Mullins Present  
Miss Danielle Meacham Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved as written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of April 20, 1998, were approved as printed.

SCHOOL REPORTS: Ms. Zogas, teacher, Hope Elementary School, introduced Elena Yoter, teacher, and ten students. She stated that while she and her students were visiting Seward for two days they would be touring the Seward Phoenix Log, AVTEC, library and many other areas of interest. She reported that the students are learning desktop publishing skills and producing their own school newspaper.

SCHOOL REPORTS (Continued): Ms. Zogas explained that funds from the Alaska 2000 grant paid for an artist-in-residence to spend two weeks teaching students about the art of clowning. The students presented two humorous skits and a juggling act. She added that the students learned about the history of clowning, mime, makeup, juggling, writing scripts, stilt walking and unicycle riding.

HEARING OF DELEGATIONS: Mr. Jerry Dixon introduced students, Eric Amberg, Shannon Hohl, and Kenny Faust, who explained about the Christa McAuliffe Fellowship grant. Mr. Dixon stated that the grant purchased ten computers for the QUEST program and phones for every Special Services teacher. The students reported that the computers were used to create web pages for the Seward SeaLife Center. They stated that the pages provide a spring and fall tour of the Center and are the most popular sites on the SeaLife Center's home page. They explained that teachers can also log on and obtain lesson plans designed specifically for visits to the SeaLife Center. The students presented a two-minute video concerning water and marine ecosystems. The students reported that 12 students participated in an extended field trip to Texas as part of the SeaNet project; and during the trip, they compared the Gulf Coast to Resurrection Bay.

Mr. Dixon expressed his appreciation for being able to participate in the Christa McAuliffe Fellowship and being able to work with students and stated that he hoped he made a difference.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND/OR P.T.A., K.P.A.A., K.P.E.A., K.P.E.S.A.: Mr. Lawrence Colston, KPEA president, expressed concern that when hiring teachers, the District seek applicants with excellent classroom skills first and consider other skills such as extracurricular coaching as secondary.

Mr. Colston stated that he was also asked to share a concern over the lack of materials needed to meet the curriculum goals of the District.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS: Mr. Arness presented awards of appreciation to DeEtta Scarborough, Seward Elementary teacher, and Pat Dye, Cooper Landing Elementary lead teacher, for their outstanding contributions to education.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Mr. Dahlgren announced that the Strategic Planning Update session will be held at Skyview High School, May 9, beginning at 9:00 a.m. and that the District retirement ceremony honoring all retiring employees will be held at Soldotna High School, May 18, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Mr. Dahlgren reported that two Board members and members of the central office administration developed guidelines to be used for soliciting school photography and graduation paraphernalia bids. Mr. Dahlgren referred to a memorandum contained in the Board information packet explaining that vendors will bid on a basic package developed for each contract.

Dr. Anderson asked if the photography bid guidelines would be used for future contracts. Mr. Dahlgren responded that he felt that the administration understands the feelings of the Board and stated that after a lengthy discussion the group outlined a basic photography package which reflects the desires of most parents. Mr. Dahlgren stated that a basic package was also developed for graduation paraphernalia. Dr. Anderson expressed concern over the requirement to return 20% of the sales to the District.

**BOARD REPORTS:** Ms. Germano reported that four Board members recently attended the Juneau AASB Fly-In and stated that the experience was very frustrating. Ms. Germano stated that she had discussions with other board members across the state and felt that, in comparison, the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District was in the worst financial shape.

Mrs. Larned stated that the visit to Juneau was intense. Mrs. Larned reported that Mr. Derek Peterson would be returning to the Kenai Peninsula on May 15 to teach a session on how to advocate for children. His presentation will be held at the Kenai Middle School.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Early Graduation Request, Leave of Absence Requests/Certified, Resignations and Leave of Absence Request/Support.

**EARLY GRADUATION REQUEST:** Mr. McLain recommended the Board approve an early graduation request from a Soldotna High School student to graduate at the end of the first semester of the 1998-99 school year.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTS/CERTIFIED:** Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve unpaid leave of absence requests for the 1998-99 school year for Paula O'Connell, Special Services/resource, Sears Elementary and Sherri Burt, math/physical education, Susan B. English Elementary/High.

- RESIGNATIONS: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve resignations effective at the end of the 1997-98 school year from Elizabeth Hull, deaf education teacher, Districtwide Special Services and Dory Munder, English/social studies, Susan B. English Elementary/High.
- LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST/SUPPORT: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a one-year unpaid leave of absence for the 1998-99 school year for Elena Chernichoff, Bilingual Instructor/Migrant Tutor, Voznesenka School.
- ACTION Mrs. Fischer moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 4. Mrs. Larned seconded.  
  
Motion carried unanimously.
- 1998-99 NONTENURE TEACHERS FOR TENURE: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a listing of 18 nontenure teachers for tenure beginning with the 1998-99 school year.
- ACTION Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve the nontenure teachers for tenure beginning with the 1998-99 school year. Ms. Germano seconded.  
  
Motion carried unanimously.
- 1998-99 TENTATIVE NONTENURE TEACHER ASSIGNMENTS: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a listing of 88 tentative nontenure teacher assignments for the 1998-99 school year.  
  
Mrs. Mullins asked about a Nikiski teacher who is certified in agriculture. Mrs. Radtke explained that the teacher's endorsement is in agriculture, but he is teaching vocational education.  
  
Ms. Germano thanked Mrs. Radtke for ensuring that teachers are being hired to teach in their area of certification.
- ACTION Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve the tentative nontenure teacher assignments for the 1998-99 school year. Mrs. Larned seconded.  
  
Motion carried unanimously.
- 1999 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT LIST: Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve a revised listing of six capital projects totaling \$986,892 to be forwarded to the Borough Assembly for funding in their FY99 budget. The projects were for areawide asbestos abatement and lead and copper removal; North Star and Mt. View Elementary walkway safety awning installation; Kenai Middle victaulics abatement and replacement; and Seward High remaining pool renovation and portable relocation.

1999 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT  
LIST (Continued):

Ms. Germano asked which portables would be moved next year. Mr. Hickey explained that a portable is scheduled to be moved to Voznesenka, and a portable in Ninilchik is scheduled to be moved to an undetermined location.

Mr. Malcolm Fleming thanked the Board for the swimming pool renovation. Mr. Hickey reported that the pool project will be completed in two phases beginning with the mechanical needs first so that the swim season can be salvaged.

ACTION

Mrs. Germano moved the Board approve the capital improvement project list for 1999 for \$986,892. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE  
ANCHOR POINT BEACH-  
COMMUNITY SAFETY TRAIL:  
ACTION

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve language to be used in a letter of support for the Anchor Point Beach-Community Safety Trail.

Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve the letter of support for the Anchor Point Beach-Community Safety Trail. Mrs. Fischer seconded.

Mr. Arness stated that he could not support the letter because he felt uneasy supporting the trail project without knowing what the other options are.

Mrs. Fischer stated that she originally shared Mr. Arness' concerns, but the letter presents legitimate reasons to support the ABC'S trail. Ms. Germano concurred with Mrs. Fischer.

VOTE:

YES - Anderson, Fischer, Germano, Larned, Mullins

NO - Arness

Advisory Vote - YES

Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATOR  
APPOINTMENTS:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve the appointments of R. Lee Young, assistant principal, Soldotna Middle and Norma Holmgaard, coordinator, grants/parent involvement Districtwide.

Ms. Germano expressed concern that Ms. Holmgaard's background is mostly administrative. Mrs. Radtke stated that Ms. Holmgaard has been trained in Mega Skills and felt that she will be able to work into the position. She added that coordinator, grants/parent involvement Districtwide, was a difficult position to fill.

ADMINISTRATOR  
APPOINTMENTS (Continued):

Mrs. Fischer expressed concern that Mr. Young's credentials do not reflect any middle school training or expertise. Mr. Dahlgren explained that the school where Mr. Young is currently serving as the assistant principal is operating a middle school program. Mr. Dahlgren reported that Mr. Young interviewed very well in the areas of block scheduling and course integration and is familiar with using core teams.

ACTION

Mrs. Fischer moved the Board approve the appointments of R. Lee Young, assistant principal, Soldotna Middle and Norma Holmgaard, coordinator, grants/parent involvement Districtwide. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER  
RESIGNATION:

Mr. Dahlgren announced that Mrs. Gross received a letter of resignation from Board member Mrs. Joyce Fischer effective June 30, 1998. Mr. Dahlgren stated he would like to advertise the Board vacancy during the next week so that letters of interest can be received by May 22. Mr. Dahlgren stated that Mrs. Gross would like to have the Board screen and then interview candidates during a special Board meeting on June 1, choose a replacement during the June 8 regular Board meeting, and swear in the new member during the July 6 Board meeting. He stated that an application will be developed and advertised on the District web page. Mr. Dahlgren provided a list of questions for the Board to review and offered to lead them through a screening process if a large number of people apply.

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board accept the resignation of Mrs. Joyce Fischer from the Board of Education. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Ms. Germano encouraged interested persons from the Seward community to apply.

Mrs. Joyce Fischer stated that she would like to be a part of the planning session in June and that she will serve completely until June 30. Mr. Dahlgren explained that the intent of expediting the selection process was to include the new member in the planning session prior to adopting the Board goals in July.

Ms. Germano stated that she felt that it was very important to have the replacement Board member involved in the Board planning process.

Mr. Arness stated that he would like the Board to keep the schedule as outlined.

Motion carried unanimously.



SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER  
RESIGNATION (Continued):

Dr. Anderson suggested that questions 1, 6, 8, 14, 21 and 22 from the proposed list be used in the application form.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. Patrick O'Brien thanked the Board for coming to Seward for the Board meeting. He thanked the Board and administration for their support of the Seward High pool renovation project. Mr. O'Brien stated that the Seward community would try to submit a quality candidate to be considered for the upcoming Board vacancy.

Mr. Lawrence, KPEA, stated that it will be sad to lose Mrs. Fischer as a Board member and stated that the word "character" describes her best.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mrs. Fisher thanked Mr. Colston for his kind comments. Mrs. Fischer suggested that the application questions include a statement about what he or she would do for constituents. She thanked the students from Hope Elementary School for their presentations and the students from Seward who sang the National Anthem.

Mrs. Mullins expressed her appreciation for the Hope Elementary School clowning presentation, the SeaLife Center presentation and the singing of the National Anthem. Mrs. Mullins stated that she had the opportunity to attend the Juneau AASB Fly-in and is saddened that the legislation has pitted students against students. She stated that the Board told the legislature that they want all students to be educated and added that she is unhappy to see school funding become a rural versus urban issue.

Ms. Germano extended her thanks to the Hope Elementary students for their presentation and to the students who gave the SeaLife Center presentation. Ms. Germano stated that she had brochures to leave entitled, "Fifty Ways to Show Kids You Care." Ms. Germano stated her objections to the Board planning session scheduled for Tuesday, June 9.

Mrs. Larned expressed her thanks to the students who participated in the School Board meeting and to the Seward community for hosting the meeting. She announced that staff development courses will be offered for teachers during the week of June 8-12 in the areas of art, dance, drama, literary art, music and visual art and encouraged teachers to take advantage of the opportunity.

Dr. Anderson stated that he was impressed by the student presentations. He stated that he recently attended the Soldotna High School band concert and was amazed at the quality of music and artistic abilities of District students.

ADJOURN:

At 8:55 p.m., Dr. Anderson moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Fischer seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President

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Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

The Minutes of May 4, 1998,  
were approved on May 18, 1998,  
as written.

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
148 N. Binkley Street  
Soldotna, AK 99669

May 18, 1998

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President  
Mr. Joe Arness, Vice President  
Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk  
Mrs. Debra Mullins, Treasurer  
Dr. Nels Anderson, Member  
Mrs. Joyce Fischer, Member  
Ms. Deborah Germano, Member  
Miss Danielle Meacham, Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT: Mr. John Dahlgren, Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Patrick Hickey, Assistant Superintendent, Operations and Business  
Management  
Mr. Ed McLain, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction  
Mrs. Sharon Radtke, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Larry Willard Miss Anne Pfitzner  
Mr. Marc Berezin Mr. Bill Hutchinson  
Mrs. Yvonne Emery Mrs. Becky Hutchinson  
Mrs. Carolyn Cannava Mrs. Chris Sholin  
Mr. Tom Anderson Mrs. Mary Stenga  
Mr. James Fisher Mr. Steve Stenga  
Mrs. Shana Loshbaugh Mr. Dave Beckett  
Mrs. Laura Mohorcich Mr. Jim Bennett  
Mrs. Patty Campbell Mrs. Patty Besse  
Mr. Richard Campbell Mr. John Mohorcich  
Mr. Jim White Ms. Nancy Courtright  
Mr. Bill Schweigert

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Mrs. Gross called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mrs. Gross invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross Present  
Mr. Joe Arness Present  
Mrs. Susan Larned Present  
Dr. Nels Anderson Present  
Mrs. Joyce Fischer Present  
Ms. Deborah Germano Present  
Mrs. Debra Mullins Present  
Miss Danielle Meacham Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved as written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of May 4, 1998, were approved as printed.

SCHOOL REPORTS:

Mrs. Carolyn Cannava, principal, Soldotna Elementary, reported that students at Soldotna Elementary are placing well above the District average in all academic areas. Miss Anne Pfitzner and her third grade class gave a slide presentation showing the Adopt-a-Creek Project for Soldotna Creek. Their Adopt-a-Creek project included water testing, observations of the stream during all four seasons, wetlands exploration and animal observations. The third grade students sang a song titled, All the Earth is a Garden.

Ms. Courtright's fourth grade class narrated a slide presentation describing their three-day field trip to Independence Mine which was funded through a grant from the Alaska Chapter of the National Geographic Society. The students reported that their field trip included a stop at Portage Glacier, camping at Birchwood Camp, a tour of Independence Mine state park, a visit to the Anchorage Museum to see the gold mining exhibit, and mining at Crow Creek Mine. The students also reported on their field trip to Jackaloff Bay to study beach life.

The Soldotna Elementary After-School Theater group concluded the presentation with a medley from their spring production, Wizard of Oz. Ms. Cannava invited the Board to attend the Soldotna Elementary Super Kids Day picnic on Thursday, May 28, 1998.

RECESS:

At 8:08 p.m., Mrs. Gross called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:

At 8:13 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Ms. Kathy Schwartz, director, Alaska Alliance for Arts Education, announced the upcoming art education staff development and student art camp opportunities sponsored jointly by the District Staff Development Office, Kenai Peninsula College, Phi Delta Kappa-Kenai Chapter and the Alaska Alliance for Arts Education. She stated that the sponsoring organizations are dedicated to improving education in the arts, which is important to Alaska because of the new state and national standards for teaching the arts. Ms. Schwartz stated that the Alaska Arts Education Institute will be held June 8-12 at Soldotna High School. She stated that the Soldotna Community Schools Program will sponsor a children's Art Institute during the following week with the same quality instruction being used with the adult group. She stated that publicity about the Art Institute had been distributed statewide and added that the Institute will receive television coverage. She thanked the District for their support and encouraged those people interested to register as soon as possible.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS  
(Continued):

Mrs. Gross asked how full the classes were. Ms. Schwartz responded that several classes were already closed but space will be made available for registrants from the Kenai Peninsula.

Mr. Chuck Boll, manager, Laidlaw Transit Company, shared the results from the local and state bus rodeos. He explained that the rodeo competitions included a pretrip inspection, written test, student loading and off loading and driving ability demonstrated through an obstacle course. Mr. Boll also presented a \$500 donation to the District from Laidlaw Transit Company to be used for a student scholarship fund at Ninilchik High School.

COMMUNICATIONS AND  
PETITIONS:

Mr. Dahlgren stated that he had received a letter from Representative Gail Phillips requesting a letter of support for SB36.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND/OR  
P.T.A., K.P.A.A., K.P.E.A.,  
K.P.E.S.A.:

Mr. Lawrence Colston, president, KPEA, stated that tonight will be his last official visit to the School Board, and he wanted to express his appreciation to Sharon Radtke and Mrs. Gross. He expressed appreciation to Joyce Fischer on behalf of the KPEA Building Representative Council.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Mrs. Gross presented awards of appreciation to Fran Norman, Port Graham Site-Based Council Chairperson, for her years of volunteer service, leadership and devotion to quality education for the community of Port Graham; and Patty Campbell, programmer/analyst, Data Processing, for being the primary author of the District's comprehensive financial system and her outstanding service to the District.

Mrs. Gross read a letter from the Alaska Association of School Boards announcing that Skyview High School student, Joni Huntsperger, had been awarded the June Neilson Scholarship for \$1,000.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Dahlgren told the Board that the passage and subsequent signing into law of SB36 will bring additional monies to the District and that the Board will need to develop a plan for its use.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Mr. Hickey presented the financial report of the District for the period ending April 30, 1998.

Ms. Germano expressed concern that the Board of Education account had been overspent again.

- CERTIFIED DIPLOMA:** Mr. McLain presented the certified diploma report which included a listing of 19 recommendations and comments. He thanked the committee members for their participation in developing the report. Mr. McLain suggested that the Board conduct a worksession during their June 8 meeting to review the recommendations.
- BOARD REPORTS:**
- Mrs. Larned reported that she attended a workshop conducted by Derek Peterson on what students need to succeed. She stated that she felt that Mr. Peterson's presentation was good. She stated that Mr. Peterson is hoping that people in the Kenai Peninsula area will become involved in teaching others.
- Mrs. Gross stated that she recently attended the Alaska Student Activities Association (AASA) meeting in Anchorage. She reported that the basketball state tournament berth selection was discussed and that three teams from Region III will be allowed to participate. She noted that AASA is considering a weighted system for selecting basketball teams to participate in the state tournament and will evaluate both selection processes to determine which is best. Mrs. Gross stated that AASA will impose a fine for hockey coaches when they exceed a determined number of penalties. The first fine will be \$250, the second fine will be \$500 and the third fine will be \$1,500. She stated that each school district will have to decide how penalties are paid.
- CONSENT AGENDA:** Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Resignation, Tentative Nontenure Teacher Assignment and 1998-99 Teacher Assignment.
- RESIGNATION:** Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a resignation effective at the end of the 1997-98 school year from Stuart Allen, science, Seward High.
- TENTATIVE NON-TENURE TEACHER ASSIGNMENT:** Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve tentative non-tenure teacher assignments for the 1998-99 school year for Emma McCune, library, Nikiski High and Roy Shapley, Grade 4, Sterling Elementary.
- 1998-99 TEACHER ASSIGNMENT:** Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a teaching assignment for the 1998-99 school year for Allan Miller, science (full-time), Soldotna Middle School.
- ACTION**
- Mrs. Fischer moved the Board approve the Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 3. Ms. Germano seconded.
- Motion carried unanimously.
- RETIREMENT INCENTIVE RESOLUTION 97-98-6/TRS:** Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve the proposed Resolution 97-98-6 authorizing the District to enter into an agreement with the administrator of the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS).

RETIREMENT INCENTIVE  
RESOLUTION 97-98-6/TRS  
(Continued):  
ACTION

Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve Resolution 97-98-6 authorizing the District to enter into an agreement with the administrator of the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS). Ms. Germano seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

RETIREMENT INCENTIVE  
RESOLUTION 97-98-7/PERS:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve the proposed Resolution 97-98-7 authorizing the District to enter into an agreement with the administrator of the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS).

ACTION

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve Resolution 97-98-7 authorizing the District to enter into an agreement with the administrator of the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS). Ms. Germano seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

MEMORANDUM OF  
AGREEMENT/KPAA:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a memorandum of agreement to add language to the KPAA agreement establishing September 15, 1998, as the deadline for administrators to announce their intention to retire.

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve the KPAA memorandum of agreement as presented. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

RECOMMENDATION TO CHANGE  
1998-99 RETIREMENT WINDOW:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a recommendation to change the 1998-99 retirement window to be set at December 1, 1998 through January 6, 1999. She explained that this window will not alter the District's requirement that eligible candidates notify the District between September 15, 1998 and October 15, 1998, of their intent to resign and participate in the retirement incentive program. She stated that keeping the original District window allows the Human Resources office enough time to complete the necessary paperwork before the state deadline and to advertise and fill vacancies for the next year.

Dr. Anderson asked what happens if teachers change their minds. Mrs. Radtke stated that employees who change their mind after the deadline may request a waiver for justifiable reasons.

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve the recommendation to change the 1998-99 retirement window. Mrs. Larned seconded.

RECOMMENDATION TO CHANGE  
1998-99 RETIREMENT WINDOW  
(Continued):

Ms. Germano asked whether there were two opportunities for employees to declare their intent to retire. Mr. Dahlgren stated that the administration wants to use the District window because of budgeting ramifications. He stated that waivers can be requested for justifiable reasons. He added that if the District waits until January it will be too far into the budgeting process. Ms. Germano expressed concern that the retirement date is too early. Mr. Dahlgren explained that teacher recruitment and planning for the following year is a big concern for the administration. Mrs. Radtke stated that she anticipated that there will be a very large group of retirees, especially administrators. She stated that the nationwide pool of teachers is becoming so small that teachers are being offered signing bonuses. She stated that the prime time for recruitment of administrators is October and November, and December for teachers. She stated that she will have three negotiated agreements to work on next year and added that it will be too difficult to get everything accomplished in such a short amount of time.

Motion carried unanimously.

EXPULSION/STUDENT #1:  
ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the following Decision of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District in the Matter of Expulsion of DC.

"This matter was heard before the Board on Monday, May 18, 1998. The student and his father were in attendance. Ken Meacham, Principal of Redoubt Elementary, and Ed McLain, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction, were present on behalf of the administration. The administration recommended an expulsion of the student pursuant to Board Policy 5131.7(a), with early readmission upon completion of counseling and community service as deemed appropriate by the Board.

The evidence presented showed that on April 30, 1998, during the school lunch recess, Mr. Meacham was on the playground and noticed DC and another student acting suspiciously by chasing other children with something the other student appeared to have in his jacket pocket. When Mr. Meacham approached the two boys, they first attempted to run away but stopped and cooperated fully when Mr. Meacham asked the other student what was in his coat. That student produced an item that later was identified as a stun gun by Officer McGillivray of the Soldotna City Police. Upon further questioning, both boys indicated that it belonged to DC, who said he had found it a couple of days earlier in a school restroom. DC stated that he did not know what the item was and that he had first tried it on himself. He said it did not burn or hurt,



EXPULSION/STUDENT #1  
(Continued):  
ACTION

but tingled. He admitted trying it on his brother and also on a friend at school. DC indicated he thought it was a type of toy. The administration stated that a total of four or five students had been stunned by both DC and the other student and that the police said the stun gun was a mild one. DC has no history of discipline problems, is a good student, and cooperated fully with the administration in this matter. Additionally, DC stated he had attempted to see Mr. Meacham to turn in the stun gun shortly after he first found it but failed to turn it in as Mr. Meacham was not in the office. DC also expressed a great deal of remorse.

Based on the uncontradicted evidence, the Board finds that DC did violate the District's Board Policy 5131.7(a) on April 30, 1998, by possessing a weapon or dangerous instrument on school grounds without written permission, and by attempting to use it on other students. This behavior is harmful to the safety and welfare of other students. The Board also finds that safety in the schools is extremely important and commends the administration for correctly following the strong board policy against weapons possession by strictly construing the policy against possessing weapons and dangerous instruments. Clearly, questions in interpretation of the weapons policy should be answered conservatively by the administration so as to help ensure the safety and well-being of all students. While this stun gun is neither a firearm nor a deadly weapon as defined by statute, it is a defensive weapon, and state statutes prohibit the knowing possession of a defensive weapon on school grounds without permission. However, the Board finds that in this case DC did not knowingly possess a weapon or dangerous instrument, nor did he intend to cause serious physical harm to other students. Based on the violation of Board Policy 5131.7, the Board concludes that DC should be suspended for the time he has served and readmitted to school immediately. Due to the severity of weapons possession on school grounds, the Board also recommends that DC perform five hours of community service before commencement of the 1998-1999 school year." Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

EXPULSION/STUDENT #2:  
ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the following decision of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District in the Matter of Expulsion of DG.

EXPULSION/STUDENT #2  
(Continued):  
ACTION

"This matter was heard before the Board on Monday, May 18, 1998. The student and his parents were in attendance. Ken Meacham, Principal of Redoubt Elementary, and Ed McLain, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction, were present on behalf of the administration. The administration recommended an expulsion of the student pursuant to Board Policy 5131.7(a), with early readmission upon completion of counseling and community service as deemed appropriate by the Board.

The evidence presented showed that on April 30, 1998, during the school lunch recess, Mr. Meacham was on the playground and noticed DG and another student acting suspiciously by chasing other children with something DG appeared to have in his jacket pocket. When Mr. Meacham approached the two boys, they first attempted to run away but stopped and cooperated fully when Mr. Meacham asked DG what was in his coat. DG produced an item that later was identified as a stun gun by Officer McGillivray of the Soldotna City Police. Upon further questioning, both boys indicated that it belonged to the other student, who said he had found it a couple of days earlier in a school restroom. DG stated that he did not know what the item was but that the other student told him he had tried it on himself and that it did not burn or hurt, but tingled. DG admitted trying it on one other person at school and indicated he thought it was a type of toy. The administration stated that a total of four or five students had been stunned by both DG and the other student and that the police said the stun gun was a mild one. DG has no history of discipline problems, is a good student, and cooperated fully with the administration in this matter.

Based on the uncontradicted evidence, the Board finds that DG did violate the District's Board Policy 5131.7(a) on April 30, 1998, by possessing a weapon or dangerous instrument on school grounds without written permission and by attempting to use it on other students. This behavior is harmful to the safety and welfare of other students. The Board also finds that safety in the schools is extremely important and commends the administration for correctly following the strong board policy against weapons possession by strictly construing the policy against possessing weapons and dangerous instruments. Clearly, questions in interpretation of the weapons policy should be answered conservatively by the administration so as to help ensure the safety and well-being of all students. While this stun gun is neither a firearm nor a deadly weapon as defined by statute, it is a defensive weapon, and state statutes prohibit the knowing possession of a defensive weapon on school grounds without permission. However, the Board finds that in

EXPULSION/STUDENT #2  
(Continued):  
ACTION

this case DG did not knowingly possess a weapon or dangerous instrument, nor did he intend to cause serious physical harm to other students. Based on the violation of Board Policy 5131.7, the Board concludes that DG should be suspended for the time he has served and readmitted to school immediately. Due to the severity of weapons possession on school grounds, the Board also recommends that DG perform five hours of community service before commencement of the 1998-1999 school year." Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF COCURRICULAR  
ACTIVITIES AND HANDBOOKS:

Mr. Dave Spence recommended the Board approve changes to the Cocurricular Activities Guidelines proposed by the Kenai Peninsula Student Activities Association Executive Board.

He noted that changes were recommended for middle school cocurricular activities in the areas of school grade/team competition, travel limitations, participation limitations, District awards, and track and field exceptions. Mr. Spence noted that changes were also recommended for High School cocurricular activities in the areas of eligibility, student requirements, holiday practices, and travel limitations.

Dr. Anderson asked what prompted the change to require athletes to participate in at least fifty percent of the scheduled contests for each activity. Mr. Spence replied that the change was in response to controversy over students who were participating in two activities but weren't actually attending practices. Dr. Anderson expressed concern for the appropriateness of excluding an athlete from participation because of scheduling. Mr. Spence stated that the KPSAA Executive Board considered the participation dilemma and felt that there was an opportunity for students who want to participate in two activities.

Ms. Germano stated that she felt the fifty percent participation requirement was a good change and that students need to make choices.

Mrs. Gross asked why it was necessary to change the statement concerning holiday practices. Mr. Spence stated that the executive board felt activities should not be held on a holiday or Sundays except under rare circumstances; for example, activities that are canceled due to weather or "acts of God" and the activity must be made-up. Mr. Arness cited examples of activities that have been held on Sundays and holidays and stated that the change allows administrators the flexibility to accommodate unforeseen circumstances.

APPROVAL OF COCURRICULAR  
ACTIVITIES AND HANDBOOKS  
(Continued):

Mrs. Gross asked whether schools could have more teams than stipends, even though money was raised for additional stipends. Mr. Arness stated that team scheduling is completed during the prior year and officially there is an interscholastic team for each coach. He stated that, unofficially, teams can be organized and play other teams or schools, but these games would not be a KPSAA sanctioned event.

Ms. Germano asked about the discussions concerning establishing a balance between the 7th and 8th grade teams at Soldotna Middle School. Mr. Spence stated that a recommendation has been made to the KPSAA Board but no action has been taken.

Mrs. Fischer suggested that the handbook state the number of sanctioned interscholastic teams based on Appendix D.

Mr. Dahlgren stated that as extracurricular activities budgets were reduced, the District moved towards intramural activities. He stated that if schools are allowed to have as many interscholastic teams as they want then the District will be reverting back to the former interscholastic philosophy. He cautioned the Board that allowing more teams will reduce student participation, especially in the areas of girls' volleyball and basketball. Mrs. Fischer asked whether it would be permissible to raise money to fund an additional team. Mr. Dalgren stated that it would be permissible to raise funds to create another team, but the team may also expect to compete in the Borough tournament. Mrs. Fischer asked whether the outside funding of additional teams for borough competition has occurred. Mr. Arness stated that Homer Middle School had been rotating approximately 20 basketball players throughout the year and subsequently asked to have two separate teams.

Mrs. Mullins stated that there are parents who might object to a Sunday performance or game and asked whether there is a penalty for those students who choose not to participate. Mr. Spence assured the Board that penalties are not issued to students who choose not to participate in activities on a Sunday or holiday.

Ms. Germano stated that she was hoping to see a statement in the cocurricular handbook addressing the issue of balanced teams.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve changes to the Cocurricular Activities Guidelines as outlined. Mrs. Larned seconded.

APPROVAL OF COCURRICULAR  
ACTIVITIES AND HANDBOOKS  
(Continued):  
ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve an amendment to Item Number 1 to add that any school with more than one team, that those teams shall be balanced by ability level. Motion died for lack of a second.

Mrs. Mullins commented that the school day encroaches enough on the lives of children and parents without the inclusion of weekends and Sundays. Dr. Anderson agreed with Mrs. Mullins and stated that his children have been subjected to penalties if they did not participate in Sunday practices. Mrs. Fischer stated that she shared the concerns of Mrs. Mullins and Dr. Anderson and would like to see language that ensures that students will not be penalized if they choose not to participate in Sunday or holiday activities.

ACTION

Mrs. Fischer moved the Board approve an amendment to Item Number 3 that states, "There will be no penalties for children who do not participate in Sunday or holiday practices or events." Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Mr. Arness asked whether similar language already existed in the cocurricular handbooks. Mr. Spence stated that it is illegal to penalize students for not participating in Sunday or holiday activities.

Amendment carried unanimously.

Amended motion carried unanimously.

BOUNDARY CHANGES FOR  
REDOUBT AND SOLDOTNA  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS:

Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve a recommendation to change the boundaries for Redoubt Elementary and Soldotna Elementary Schools. He explained that the area contained between the streets of Fireweed and the Kenai Spur Highway, north of Marydale and south of Knight Drive, Soldotna, will now be assigned to Soldotna Elementary effective July 1, 1998. Mr. Hickey noted that twenty-four families will be impacted by the change, but they will be allowed to continue their enrollment at Redoubt Elementary. He added that new families to the District will be required to enroll at Soldotna Elementary.

Dr. Anderson asked how either principal will staff their building with such a nebulous change. He stated that it creates problems, especially in a situation where a family may have a kindergarten student who is the oldest child, and therefore, the siblings could continue to attend Redoubt Elementary for many years. He stated that a boundary change should be made the year before and affected students should be surveyed.

BOUNDARY CHANGES FOR  
REDOUBT AND SOLDOTNA  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS  
(Continued):

Mr. Hickey stated that affected students have already been identified and they will be surveyed upon passage of the boundary recommendation. Mr. Hickey stated that each school has a high pupil-teacher ratio and the administration is trying to balance the enrollment by adjusting the school boundaries. He stated that moving as few as 10 students to either school could impact staffing. He added that depending on future growth, further changes may include extending the boundary further down Marydale Avenue. Mrs. Larned asked whether kindergarten visitations would be reissued to students who are affected.

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve a recommendation to change the boundaries for Redoubt Elementary and Soldotna Elementary Schools as presented. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Ms. Germano asked that Mr. Hickey include a notice to parents of kindergarten students inviting them to participate in kindergarten orientations and other similar activities.

Motion carried unanimously.

SALARY SCHEDULE FOR  
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS  
AND DIRECTORS:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve a salary schedule for assistant superintendents and directors. He noted that directors and assistant superintendents not receiving a step advancement will receive a longevity payment of two percent above their salary, if they have satisfactorily fulfilled their goals for the previous year.

Mrs. Fischer asked whether the two percent increase will compound each year. Mr. Dahlgren stated that the two percent increase is based on the level five salary amount and that it was not the intent that the increase compound each year.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the salary schedule and the addendum for assistant superintendents and directors as proposed. Ms. Germano seconded.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve an amendment to delete the last paragraph. Ms. Germano seconded.

SALARY SCHEDULE FOR  
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS  
AND DIRECTORS (Continued):

Mr. Arness stated that he opposed Dr. Anderson's amendment because the salary schedule is only a five-year step program as opposed to the ten or fifteen year programs that were negotiated by the other associations and that there are only three or four employees affected by the addendum. He stated that the Board declined to negotiate a longevity bonus with the support association but at the same time granted a percentage increase at each step of their salary schedule. He stated that he could support the addendum because it does not permanently affect the salary schedule. Dr. Anderson stated that he could not support an increase since District funds will be limited even with the assistance of SB36. He expressed concerned that a precedent will be set.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

YES - Anderson, Germano  
NO - Arness, Fischer, Larned, Mullins, Gross  
Advisory Vote - YES

Amendment failed.

VOTE:

YES - Anderson, Arness, Fischer, Larned, Mullins,  
Gross  
NO - Germano  
Advisory Vote - YES

Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATOR APPOINTMENT: Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve the appointment of Bill Hague, principal/teacher, Hope Elementary/High School.

ACTION Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the appointment of Bill Hague, principal/teacher, Hope Elementary/High School. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

FIRST READING OF POLICY  
REVISIONS:

The Board heard a first reading of BP 6146.1, High School Graduation Requirements. Proposed revisions delay the requirement for students to fulfill 22 credits for graduation by one year.

Dr. Anderson suggested that consideration of the revision be postponed until the issue of dual credits are addressed and discussions are held with various principals and PTAs.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Dr. Anderson distributed copies of his response to the Kenai and Nikiski groups who wrote to the Board regarding graduation requirements. Dr. Anderson stated that he is providing copies of a video titled, Math Who Needs It for each Board member and various PTA groups.

Mr. Arness commended the Nikiski Middle/High School boys' track team performance at the Borough meet.

Ms. Germano stated that a representative from the Paul Banks Site-Based Council contacted her and requested a response to their letter asking to relocate the Homer Charter School from Paul Banks Elementary portable buildings.

Mrs. Larned expressed appreciation for the Soldotna Elementary student presentations. She suggested that the Board carefully review the murals displayed as part of the school presentation. She congratulated the Laidlaw employees for their accomplishments at the local and state rodeos. Mrs. Larned extended a thank you to Kathy Schwartz for her presentation and announcement about the Alaska Arts Education Institute.

Mrs. Mullins extended congratulations to Danielle Meacham on her upcoming graduation. Mrs. Mullins stated that she has appreciated her input on the School Board during this past school year. She also stated that she is looking forward to attending the various graduation ceremonies this week. Mrs. Mullins expressed her appreciation to Mr. Morin and Mr. Bird for their hard work in the production of the Nikiski Middle/High School performance of Oklahoma.

Miss Meacham stated that she is excited about graduating and will try to continue serving on the Board until her term is complete. She expressed her appreciation for the Soldotna Elementary School report and performance.

Mrs. Gross congratulated Miss Meacham on her upcoming graduation and urged her to complete her term as the student representative to the Board.

Mrs. Gross requested that the administration write an acknowledgment letter to the Paul Banks Site-Based Council.

Mrs. Gross asked that information be provided concerning the expenditures of Eisenhower funds for the past three years.



BOARD COMMENTS (Continued): After a lengthy discussion, Mrs. Gross asked that the Board conduct a worksession prior to the Board meeting on June 8 to develop a plan for the expenditure of additional funds received as a result of SB36. She stated that a meeting will be scheduled with the Borough Assembly after their worksession.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President

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Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

The Minutes of May 18, 1998,  
were approved on June 8, 1998,  
as written.

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
148 N. Binkley Street  
Soldotna, AK 99669

June 1, 1998

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President  
Mr. Joe Arness, Vice President  
Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk  
Mrs. Debra Mullins, Treasurer  
Dr. Nels Anderson, Member  
Mrs. Joyce Fischer, Member  
Ms. Deborah Germano, Member

STAFF PRESENT: Mr. John Dahlgren, Superintendent of Schools

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Paul Fischer Mrs. Alyson Skogsdill  
Mrs. Rosie Reeder Mr. Tim Peterson  
Mrs. Karen Mahurin Mrs. Jean Kimple  
Ms. Tammy White Ms. Marianna Keil  
Mr. Richard Jobe Mrs. Lorraine Crawford  
Mrs. Jeri Best Mr. Jim Skogstad

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mr. Arness invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross Absent/Excused  
Mr. Joe Arness Present  
Mrs. Susan Larned Present  
Dr. Nels Anderson Present  
Mrs. Joyce Fischer Present  
Ms. Deborah Germano Present  
Mrs. Debra Mullins Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved as written.

Mr. Arness thanked the applicants for their interest. He explained that the purpose of the special meeting was to hear from individuals who had submitted applications for the vacant position on the Board. He further explained that applicants will draw numbers and be interviewed in the order of their number in ten minute intervals. He stated that after the interviews, each applicant will have two minutes to summarize their comments. He asked each applicant to begin by answering the question, "If you were sitting in the Board's position, how would you select a replacement?"

It was noted that Mr. Doug Mallette and Mr. Dave Beckett were not in attendance. Mr. Beckett submitted a written statement which was distributed to each school board member explaining that his absence was due to a conflict.

SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE  
PRESENTATIONS:

At 7:45 p.m., Mrs. Lorraine Crawford told the Board she would choose the person best qualified to fill the Board vacancy, based on their answers. She stated that she has lived in Kenai and taught in the District for 30 years. She stated that her years of classroom experience gives her a unique perspective that would be a valuable asset to the Board. She stated that if she were selected, she would concentrate on consensus building, assist in achieving the Board goals, and work towards raising standards for students and teachers via the National Board Certification. She stated that the District has an obligation to hire and keep the best teachers and is appalled by the number of experienced teachers that have retired. She stated that many teachers feel unappreciated and suggested that Board develop a method to recognize them. Mrs. Crawford noted that, at this time, she was not interested in seeking election as a school board member in October.

At 7:55 p.m., Jeri Best told the Board that her experiences as the former District public relations director, Kenai Peninsula College computer instructor, and service on the Governor's Council on the Disabled makes her a good candidate to fill the board vacancy. She stated that all of the candidates have excellent qualifications to fill the Board vacancy but that the person who answers the questions in line with Board goals should be chosen. Mrs. Best stated that she felt strongly that the School Board interim appointment should not be used as a springboard to become elected to the position and stated that she would not file for candidacy. Mrs. Best stated that class size and student standards are her greatest concerns.

At 8:05 p.m., Ms. Tammy White stated that she applied for the vacancy because she wanted a representative from the eastern side of the Peninsula on the Board. She stated that the decision to select a replacement for the Board vacancy should be based on geographic location. Ms. White stated that she would consider filing for election and that the interim position would provide her an idea of the time commitment involved. She stated that one of her strengths is her past experience as a school district finance officer. Ms. White stated that her major focus would be a back-to-basics approach to ensure that students learn how to read, write and use a computer. She stated that disciplinary distractions demand too much teacher attention and take away from the education of other students. She stated that she believes a program should be instituted to separate those students who are disruptive and added that parenting responsibilities should be put back onto the parent. Ms. White stated that equal education should begin with establishing standards for all students and then providing the funds to meet those standards.

SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE  
PRESENTATIONS (Continued):

At 8:15 p.m., Mr. Richard Jobe stated that the Board should choose the person whom they feel they can work with the best and would be the most valuable asset. He stated that regardless of the Board's decision he will file for election in October. He cited his endless energy and motivation to assist the Board or local government, in combination with his Christian beliefs of responsibility to community as his strengths. He stated that he would like to see religion be allowed in the schools. Mr. Jobe stated that his funding focus would be to reinstate the recent staff reductions.

At 8:25 p.m., Mr. Skogstad stated that his main focus on the Board would be the best interest of students. He stated that he has previously served on the Borough Assembly and has experience in dealing with borough and school district budgets. He expressed concern for declining funding for education. He stated that he would like to see Board members visit remote schools more often to get a first-hand look at their needs. Mr. Skogstad stated that he had considered filing for election the past few years but was concerned with the time commitment involved. He stated that he will work well with the administration and those currently on the Board. Mr. Skogstad stated that he felt teachers were well-paid and that the promise of additional money should not be guiding force towards salary increases.

At 8:35 p.m., Marianna Keil stated that she has lived in Seward for ten years and is employed at the Legislative Information Office. She stated she has served on the Seward City Council and Board of Directors for the Seward Mental Health and Substance Abuse agency. She stated that she would consider filing for election in October depending upon the time commitment involved. She stated that the biggest concern in the Seward area is increased class sizes. She stated that she felt that it was important for the Board of have an advocate from the Seward area. She stated that she supported the middle school philosophy would like to see more concentration on learning. Ms. Keil stated that she supported open negotiations with the unions and could support a salary increase for teachers, if money was available. Ms. Keil stated that districting the Board of Education would be a good idea.

SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE  
PRESENTATIONS (Continued):

At 8:45 p.m., Mrs. Kimple stated that anyone of the candidates the Board chooses would be a good selection. She stated that it is unlikely that she would file for election whether she is selected or not. She stated that her top priority would be to reinstate full-time librarians in all school libraries. She explained that during her years of teaching her students learned to read by using the library. She expressed concern that today's culture is drifting away from words printed in books. She stated that she would address the issue of smaller classroom sizes. She stated that she would like to see a better system of teacher acknowledgment and appreciation.

At the conclusion of the interviews, Mr. Arness invited the applicants to make a two-minute summary statement.

Ms. Kimple told that Board that with the quality of applicants they couldn't make a bad choice.

Ms. Keil noted that she is an extremely good listener, voracious reader, and fast learner.

Mr. Skogstad suggested that one way to gain community, teacher and student support is through good communication accomplished by school visitations, especially in remote schools.

Mr. Jobe stated that his employment as a free lance writer will allow him the time and availability to serve on the school Board.

Ms. White stated that, although all of the candidates would be a good choice, she would like a person serve from the eastern side of the Peninsula. She noted that one of the determining factors in moving to the Peninsula was the education system.

Mrs. Best stated that her greatest experience while working for the District, was traveling to all of the remote schools. She stated that it is important to give recognition to teachers, support staff and all those that help educate students. She expressed concern that no matter what community you live in, Board members represent the entire district.

Ms. Crawford expressed her thanks to Mrs. Fischer for her years of service on the Board. She stated that she felt qualified to serve on the Board and that her focus would be on what is best for the students.

SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE  
PRESENTATIONS (Continued):

At the conclusion of the summary statements, Mr. Arness expressed appreciation to the candidates for their presentations. He explained that there will be an executive session prior to the June 8 Board meeting to discuss the candidates. He stated that a selection would be made during the June 8 meeting and requested that whomever is chosen be available to attend the Board planning session on June 9. He noted that the replacement would be sworn in on July 6.

ADJOURN:

At 9:21 p.m., Mrs. Fischer moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President

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Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

The Minutes of June 1, 1998,  
were approved on June 8, 1998,  
as written.

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
148 N. Binkley Street  
Soldotna, AK 99669

June 8, 1998

- SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President  
Mr. Joe Arness, Vice President  
Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk  
Mrs. Debra Mullins, Treasurer  
Dr. Nels Anderson, Member  
Mrs. Joyce Fischer, Member  
Ms. Deborah Germano, Member
- STAFF PRESENT: Mr. John Dahlgren, Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Patrick Hickey, Assistant Superintendent, Operations and Business Management  
Mr. Ed McLain, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction  
Mrs. Sharon Radtke, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
- OTHERS PRESENT: Ms. Rebecca Jorgenson Mrs. Rosie Reeder  
Mr. Doug Mallette Mr. Jim Skogstad  
Ms. Shana Loshbaugh Mr. Tim Peterson  
Ms. Karen Mahurin Ms. Pam Lettington  
Mr. Justin George Ms. Terri Woodward  
Ms. Barbara Vogel Mrs. Jeri Best  
Mr. Jim Dawson Mr. Paul Fischer  
Mrs. Jean Kimple Mr. Richard Jobe
- Others present not identified.
- CALL TO ORDER: Mrs. Gross called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. A quorum of School Board members, Mr. Arness, Mrs. Larned, Mrs. Mullins, Mrs. Fischer and Mrs. Gross were in attendance.
- EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 1:36 p.m., Mrs. Larned moved the Board go into executive session to discuss subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person, provided the person may request a public discussion. The purpose of the executive session was to discuss the applicants for the School Board vacancy. Mrs. Mullins seconded.
- Motion carried unanimously.
- ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 7:30 p.m., Mr. Arness moved the executive session be adjourned. Mrs. Mullins seconded.
- Motion carried unanimously.
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mrs. Gross invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:	Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross	Present
	Mr. Joe Arness	Present
	Mrs. Susan Larned	Present
	Dr. Nels Anderson	Present
	Mrs. Joyce Fischer	Present
	Ms. Deborah Germano	Present
	Mrs. Debra Mullins	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved as written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of May 18, 1998, and June 1, 1998, were approved as printed.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Mr. Doug Mallette apologized to the Board for his absence during the special School Board meeting of June 1, 1998. He explained that due to an unexpected death in the family he was not able to attend. He told the Board that he is still interested in the vacant seat and will also seek election in the future.

HEARING OF DELEGATIONS: Ms. Pam Lettington, spokesperson for the Nikiski Area Reconfiguration Committee, told the Board that a committee was formed as a result of concerns expressed by Nikiski residents that Nikiski Middle/Senior High school was not built to house middle school students and that the gymnasium was not adequate to allow the delivery of a middle school extracurricular program. She stated that the committee was also concerned about the perceived competition that exists between the two elementary schools. She stated that the committee divided into small work groups and solicited input from local PTAs, site-based councils and school staff concerning the reconfiguration of the Nikiski schools. Ms. Lettington stated that after the input had been received, a survey was developed for Nikiski area families, a sampling of senior citizens, school staff and a sampling of students in grades 7-12. Ms. Lettington reviewed the results and reported that most of the people surveyed would like to see a change in the educational delivery of the Nikiski schools. She reported that the two scenarios that garnered the most votes were to establish a middle school that is separate from the Nikiski High School. She asked the Board, on behalf of the Nikiski Area Reconfiguration Committee, to have the administration reconfigure the Nikiski area schools by the 1999-2000 school year.



HEARING OF DELEGATIONS  
(Continued):

Mr. Arness asked if an addition to Nikiski Middle/Senior High School was an option, would it be the community's choice. Ms. Lettington replied that a new wing for middle high students would be the community's preferred choice. She added that the community felt that it was worth reconfiguring the Nikiski area schools so that students can have the benefit of the middle school philosophy. She felt that by offering a separate middle school, schools could focus primarily on middle school issues and that it would eliminate many of the discipline problems at Nikiski Middle/Senior High School.

Dr. Anderson asked Ms. Lettington how the community felt about housing kindergarten students in a high school setting. Ms. Lettington replied that between scenario Number 2 and scenario Number 5 most of the community felt that they would like the kindergarten students to be located at the high school. She explained that, at first, parents showed some resistance to having kindergarten students in the high school but, after further information was provided, accepted the idea. Ms. Lettington stated that, based on the survey results, scenario Number 2 and scenario Number 5 were the community's choice.

Mr. Dahlgren suggested the Board give the administration direction concerning a review of the Nikiski area schools and to collaborate with the community to develop a reconfiguration plan. He further recommended that the Board consider the reconfiguration issue during their upcoming goal setting session.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND/OR  
P.T.A., K.P.A.A., K.P.E.A.,  
K.P.E.S.A.:

Mrs. Karen Mahurin, KPESA president, informed the Board that the union ratified the KPESA agreement and thanked Mrs. Mullins and Mr. Arness for their participation in the negotiation process. In response to comments made during the June 1, 1998, special School Board meeting, Mrs. Mahurin pointed out that there is a difference between traditional bargaining and adversarial bargaining. She expressed her appreciation to the Board for a combination of traditional bargaining and collaborative bargaining. Mrs. Mahurin thanked the Board for appointing Board members to serve on the negotiating team. She apologized to the Board for the lack of union attendance during the employee recognition committee meetings and assured the Board that she will have a representative attend next school year.

**AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:** Mrs. Gross presented "Pat on the Back" awards from the Alaska Association of School Librarians to Jim Dawson, Donna Peterson and Sue Liebner. Mrs. Gross explained that the awards are given each year to principals who actively give their support to school libraries.

Mrs. Gross presented a gift of appreciation on behalf of the Board and the District to Mrs. Joyce Fischer for her nearly two decades of dedicated service to the Board of Education.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Mr. Dahlgren reminded Board members of the Board planning session on Tuesday, June 9, 1998, beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the Skyview High School Library. He stated that the purpose of the planning session will be to review last year's goals and establish Board goals for 1998-99. He stated that the Board will also complete their plan to allocate the additional money received as a result of the passage of SB36.

Mr. Dahlgren announced that Mrs. Donna Peterson was representing the District at the State School Board meeting. He noted that the State School Board will be unveiling some regulations for public comment that are of major interest to the District.

**FINE ARTS REPORT:** Mr. McLain thanked Mrs. Donna Peterson, Ms. Dorothy Gray and Ms. Kathy Schwartz for their work on the fine arts report and for their contribution to the committee. He announced that Ms. Schwartz has reserved spaces for Kenai Peninsula teachers who wish to attend the Alaska Arts Education Institute, which is being held at the Kenai Peninsula College. Mr. McLain called the Board's attention to a diagram included in the fine arts report that demonstrated the connection of art to social studies, writing and science.

**BUDGET TRANSFERS REPORT:** Mr. Hickey reported on budget transfers Numbers 358 through 854 for various schools and departments within the District.

TITLE II EISENHOWER GRANT  
EXPENDITURES REPORT:

Mr. Ed McLain presented a report consisting of the last three Title II end-of-year reports to the Alaska Department of Education. The reports included the approved goals and objectives of the grant, activities funded by the grant, the numbers (of teachers, parents, others) served by those activities, and the dollars expended for those activities for each of the years 1995–1996, 1996–1997 and 1997–1998. Mr. McLain noted that as many as forty-eight activities are funded each year and that 18-20% of the grant is used for Ms. Gray's salary. He stated that all of the activities were related to math and science and that the total budgets range from \$80,000 to \$100,000 each year. He called the Board's attention to the positive review comments included in the report.

Mrs. Larned asked whether the Eisenhower grant can fund other activities. Mr. McLain answered that two years ago the Eisenhower grant was broadened to allow staff development in a variety of activities connected to higher-order thinking skills. He reported that a committee was formed to review the change in grant restrictions. He noted that the grant has been primarily used to fund math and science activities but that Eisenhower grant recipients now have been asked by the state and federal government to collaborate with other programs.

Ms. Germano asked why the entire District wasn't invited to participate in the POLARIS initiative. Mr. McLain explained that this decision was made when the initiative was first offered to the District because of the cost. He noted that only \$8,000 was spent on POLARIS-related activities. Mr. McLain explained that this year the District insisted that the entire District be allowed to participate in the POLARIS initiative.

Dr. Anderson asked whether a committee existed to oversee and plan Eisenhower expenditures and activities. Mr. McLain replied that Mrs. Peterson and Ms. Gray formed a committee composed of representatives from the entire District and that it is an advisory committee since grant expenditures must fall within specific parameters.

Dr. Anderson requested that the administration provide a detailed list of one year's workshops that were paid for by Eisenhower grant money.

- CONSENT AGENDA: Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Early Graduation Request, Title IX and Section 504 Compliance Officer Appointments, Budget Transfers, Tentative Nontenure Teacher Assignment, Leave of Absence Request/Certified, Resignations, 1998-99 Teacher Assignments, Substitute Teacher Contracts, and Leave of Absence Request/Support.
- EARLY GRADUATION REQUEST: Mr. Ed. McLain recommended the Board approve a Homer High School student's request to graduate by the end of the first semester, 1998-99 school year.
- TITLE IX AND SECTION 504 COMPLIANCE OFFICER APPOINTMENTS: Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve the appointment of Mr. Ed McLain as the District Title IX compliance officer and Mr. Rick Matiya as the District Section 504 compliance officer.
- BUDGET TRANSFERS: Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve budget transfers Number 622 for \$13,385 to cover periodic temporary help to process mail and freight shipments, Number 631 for \$13,058 to purchase computers for the QUEST distance learning program, Number 705 for \$10,296 to cover extraordinary substitute costs resulting from an employee on long-term leave due to an injury and Number 852 for \$14,945 to cover the purchase of replacement sound system equipment.
- TENTATIVE NONTENURE TEACHER ASSIGNMENT: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a tentative nontenure teacher assignment for the 1998-99 school year for William Withrow, physical education, Sterling Elementary.
- LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST/CERTIFIED: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a one-year unpaid leave of absence request for the 1998-99 school year for Sandy Pelischek, Special Education/Speech and Resource, Seward High.
- RESIGNATIONS: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve resignations effective at the end of the 1997-98 school year from Debbie Burdick, math, Seward High; Carol Huntington, Special Education/resource, West Homer Elementary and Rondi Marsh, music, Skyview/Sterling Elementary.
- 1998-99 TEACHER ASSIGNMENTS: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve teaching appointments for the 1998-99 school year for Bruce Christianson, Special Education/resource, Soldotna High; Laura Lawrence, Special Education/resource, Sterling Elementary; Jason Daniels, primary grades, K-Beach Elementary; and Victoria Hagen, Districtwide School Psychologist.
- SUBSTITUTE TEACHER CONTRACTS: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve 19-day substitute teaching contracts for Donna Anderson, Grade 1, Sears Elementary and Suzanne Klaben, Grade 3, Nikiski Elementary.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE  
REQUEST/SUPPORT:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve an unpaid leave of absence request for Barbara Baldwin, Title I Tutor, Sears Elementary, beginning January 11 to May 7, 1999.

ACTION

Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 9. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Ms. Germano asked whether budget transfer Number 622 for \$13,000 for temporary help to process mail and freight shipments was out of the ordinary. Mr. Hickey responded that the warehouse has encountered peak loads in the past and felt that the \$13,000 was a bit out of the norm but that any amount over \$10,000 required Board approval.

Ms. Germano asked whether the Special Services budget transfer for the purchase of computers for the QUEST distance learning program was in addition to the transfer considered at an earlier meeting. Mr. Hickey stated that he would report back.

VOTE:

YES - Anderson, Arness, Fischer, Larned, Mullins,  
Gross

NO - Germano

Motion carried.

KPESA NEGOTIATED  
AGREEMENT:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve the 1998-99 KPESA Negotiated Agreement as presented. She reported that the agreement has been ratified by the union.

ACTION

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve the 1998-99 KPESA Negotiated Agreement as presented. Mr. Arness seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Germano thanked those people who worked on the negotiating team.

HEALTH COPAYMENT  
MEMORANDUM OF  
AGREEMENT/KPAA:

Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve a memorandum of agreement between the Kenai Peninsula Administrators' Association and the Board to begin copayments for medical insurance beginning with the 1998-99 school year. The memorandum of agreement states that any remaining funds in the KPAA Employee Copay Medical Insurance Account on June 30 of the fiscal year will be reimbursed to participating employees by August 31 of the following year.

HEALTH COPAYMENT  
MEMORANDUM OF  
AGREEMENT/KPAA (Continued):

Mr. Hickey stated that District expenditures may require another \$84 per employee per month to meet the shortfall. He stated that the KPEA Memorandum of Agreement is still awaiting some procedural work, and he expected to bring it to the Board for approval in the fall. He reported that the KPESA negotiated agreement that just received Board approval included a change in the structure of KPESA's health plan and, therefore, will not require a memorandum of agreement.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve a Memorandum of Agreement between the Kenai Peninsula Administrators' Association and the Board. Ms. Germano seconded.

Mrs. Germano asked whether orthodontics coverage was extended only to KPAA members. Mr. Hickey explained that only KPAA has orthodontics coverage and that there is an additional copayment or premium that covers the costs. He reported that dependent children are covered for KPAA. Mrs. Gross asked whether other groups could participate in the orthodontics coverage. Mr. Hickey stated that orthodontics coverage is a negotiable item.

Motion carried unanimously.

POLICY REVISION BP 6146.1,  
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION  
REQUIREMENTS:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve revisions to BP 6146.1, High School Graduation Requirements, which delays by one year the requirement for students to fulfill 22 units for graduation.

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve revisions to BP 6146.1, High School Graduation Requirements. Mrs. Fischer seconded.

Mr. Arness explained that the idea to delay the new graduation requirements by one year came up when the District reduced high school staff. He explained that there was a concern that students could not earn the credits necessary to graduate under the new graduation requirements. He stated that, even though that may not be an issue anymore, enough questions have arisen that he felt it wise to step back and reconsider the science and math third-year requirement. He felt that revising BP 6146.1 would be the cleanest way to accomplish that.

Dr. Anderson expressed concern that because students are allowed to take practical arts as a science, they can graduate without taking any science classes. He suggested that the Board review the policy in a one-hour worksession. He further stated that the corresponding administrative regulation should be revised to allow dual credit for those students taking college classes.

POLICY REVISION BP 6146.1,  
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION  
REQUIREMENTS (Continued):

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board postpone action on BP 6146.1, High School Graduation Requirements, until a worksession is held. Ms. Germano seconded.

Mr. Arness expressed concern that teachers are currently being hired and that high schools are planning their schedules for next year. Mr. Arness further explained that hiring may be influenced by decisions to change high school graduation requirements. Mrs. Radtke reported that a plan is in place at each high school and that the District is close to completion of hiring high school staff. She added that some additional shifting and hiring will take place based on the Board's plan to allocate the additional money from the state. She stated that the high school principals were directed to design their schedules based on additional staff but no actual hiring has occurred.

Mrs. Mullins stated that she would support the one-year delay since the Board has recommended that high schools shift to a seven-period day.

VOTE:

YES - Anderson, Germano

NO - Arness, Fischer, Larned, Mullins, Gross

Motion failed.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve an amendment to reduce the mathematics credits to two and require that all students take algebra and geometry. If algebra is mastered before high school another higher level math class could be substituted. Ms. Germano seconded.

Dr. Anderson read from the article "What Works and What Doesn't," in the School Board Journal, and cited a school that required students to take two math classes at a time so they could catch up and take algebra. He stated that he believes that both algebra and geometry are essential and required for all types of employment. He stated that he feels sure that the state will require both classes on their graduation exam.

Mr. Arness stated that he did not agree with Dr. Anderson's amendment and felt that the curriculum staff should be involved in decisions of this nature. Ms. Germano suggested the Board not do anything with the policy.

POLICY REVISION BP 6146.1,  
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION  
REQUIREMENTS (Continued):

Mrs. Fischer stated that she agreed that the Board should not hastily amend Board policy during a meeting. She felt that in light of the concerns expressed, the one-year delay would not be harmful.

Mr. Dahlgren reminded the Board that the Graduation Requirements Committee worked long and hard on developing the new graduation requirements. He stated that those requirements set higher standards for students. He stated that the Math Curriculum Committee considered sequencing math courses to push students harder and further. He advised the Board not to amend the graduation policy during the Board meeting. Mr. Dahlgren further stated that any attempt to mandate particular courses as graduation requirements would be too specific. He recommended that if the Board wished to adopt a detailed list of courses for graduation then the Instruction Department should be allowed to provide advice, and the list should be available at the meeting.

Mr. McLain stated that a delay of one year would not be difficult to accommodate, and he echoed Mr. Dahlgren's comments that the Instruction Department should be involved in the revision of the graduation policy.

Dr. Anderson withdrew his amendment but stated that he would vote against the delay and urged the Board to consider the matter in a timely fashion.

VOTE:

YES - Arness, Fischer, Germano, Larned, Mullins,  
NO - Anderson, Gross

Motion carried.

SCHOOL BOARD VACANCY  
REPLACEMENT:

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve Mrs. Lorraine Crawford to serve as the interim Board member. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Mr. Arness stated that after a lengthy discussion the Board decided to nominate Mrs. Crawford.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Gross welcomed Mrs. Crawford to the Board and stated that the decision was very difficult. She expressed her appreciation to the applicants and encouraged them to consider filing for election this fall.



FIRST READING OF POLICY  
REVISIONS:

The Board heard a first reading of BP 3541.1, School-Related Trips and BP 5134, Student Production of Services and Materials. Mr. Hickey explained that revisions to BP 3541.1 adds language requiring drivers of school-sponsored trips to be 21 years of age or older and registered with the District. The adoption of BP 5134 would require that a waiver of liability and assumption of risk form be completed prior to receipt of any item for which student labor is involved.

Mrs. Fischer asked how a driver registers with the District. Mr. Hickey explained that a regulation and exhibit page follows the policy and they outline the requirements that the driver must have a valid driver's license, automobile insurance, and a vehicle in good working order. Mrs. Fischer asked whether the form is completed for each elementary field trip. Mr. Hickey responded that the registration form should be completed for each field trip for each driver.

Mrs. Gross suggested a dollar amount be specified in BP 5134, Student Production of Services and Materials.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. Richard Jobe congratulated the Board on their successful negotiations with KPESA. He thanked the Board for their consideration of the applicants for the vacant seat. He noted that he will file for the upcoming election.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mrs. Mullins stated that she was pleasantly surprised at the negotiation process. She expressed her appreciation for the manner in which the bargaining teams were able to discuss the issues. She thanked the candidates who applied for the vacant Board seat. She added that each candidate was well qualified and that the choice was difficult. She thanked Mrs. Fischer for her years of Board service and expressed her appreciation for the many things Mrs. Fischer has taught her about being a Board member.

Mrs. Larned echoed Mrs. Mullins comments regarding the successful KPESA negotiations and her appreciation to the Board applicants. Mrs. Larned expressed her appreciation to Mrs. Fischer and added that she appreciated her viewpoints and forthrightness. She extended her best wishes to Mrs. Fischer on her future plans.

Mr. Arness stated that although he and Mrs. Fischer disagreed many times in the past he hoped that it was respectfully so and wished her well on her future plans.

BOARD COMMENTS (Continued):

Dr. Anderson expressed appreciation for the things he has learned from Mrs. Fischer and for the years of service she has dedicated to the Board of Education. He added that the selection of the interim Board member was a difficult choice to make. He encouraged the candidates that were not selected to consider filing for election. Dr. Anderson expressed his disappointment over the recent newspaper headlines characterizing the recent negotiations as a "dispute." He stated that he did not agree and felt that the negotiation process went very well.

Ms. Germano announced that her seat will also be up for election this fall. She stated that all of the Board candidates were well qualified.

Mrs. Fischer stated that she was not surprised at how smoothly negotiations went with the support association. She noted that for nearly three decades the Board has been able to depend on KPESA to reach a compromise. Mrs. Fischer expressed her appreciation for the kind comments from Board members. She stated that she hoped her frequent minority vote kept Board members "on their toes." She expressed her appreciation for those who voted for her in the past and urged the Board applicants to file for election this fall.

Mrs. Gross extended her appreciation for Mrs. Fischer's point of view, sensitivity, persuasive arguments and input during the past years. She thanked the Board candidates for submitting their applications to fill the vacant Board seat.

ADJOURN:

At 8:53 p.m., Mrs. Fischer moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President

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Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

The Minutes of June 8, 1998,  
were approved on July 6, 1998,  
as written.