

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

148 N. Binkley Street
Soldotna, AK 99669

April 2, 2001

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

Ms. Deborah Germano, President
Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Vice President
Mrs. Debra Mullins, Clerk
Mr. Joe Arness, Treasurer
Dr. Nels Anderson, Member
Mrs. Sandra Wassilie, Member
Mr. Al Poindexter, Member
Miss Sara Hart, Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT:

Dr. Donna Peterson, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Patrick Hickey, Assistant Superintendent, Operations and Business Management
Dr. Ed McLain, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction
Mr. Todd Syverson, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Ross Kendall	Mrs. Annie Kendall
Mr. Mark Norgren	Mrs. Kristin Morrow
Mr. Tim Peterson	Ms. Lindy Cox
Mr. Jim White	Mrs. Anne Holloway
Mr. Pete Sprague	Ms. Lori Evans
Ms. Shana Loshbaugh	Dr. Gary Whiteley
Mrs. Melody Douglas	Mr. Rick Matiya
Ms. Lechliter	

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mrs. Crawford called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mrs. Crawford invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Ms. Deborah Germano	Absent/Excused
Mrs. Sammy Crawford	Present
Mrs. Debra Mullins	Absent/Excused
Mr. Joe Arness	Present
Dr. Nels Anderson	Present
Mrs. Sandra Wassilie	Present
Mr. Al Poindexter	Present
Miss Sara Hart	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The agenda was approved as written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The School Board Minutes of March 5, 2001, were approved as printed.

SCHOOL REPORTS:

Mr. Mark Norgren, Nikiski Elementary principal, expressed his gratitude to the Nikiski community for their support of the school. Mrs. Annie Kendall introduced three 5/6-grade students (Tyler Payment, Mike Wicker and Keyna Quinn) who participated in the school's wax museum by researching information on a historical person and then wearing a costume to symbolize that person.

Mr. Norgren gave a computer-generated presentation highlighting school expectations, activities and events (fall carnival, all-school concert, Native dancing workshop, hosting author David Greenberg, Chinese New Years, and Love of Reading month). He praised the staff and stated that he his enjoying is position as principal.

- SCHOOL REPORTS (Continued):** Ms. Lindy Cox explained the Reading FUNnel Program and emphasized that the staff is working as a team to improve reading skills. Mrs. Kristin Morrow presented school reading data and related one student's success story.
- Mrs. Anne Holloway, site council member, reported on the site council's work during the school year. She commended the school staff for their commitment and for the individualized attention paid to the students, and she praised Mr. Norgren for his leadership skills. She noted that the school communicates to parents through a newsletter, which includes a calendar of school and community events.
- Ms. Judy Leichliter, first grade teacher, introduced four students who recited the First Grade Creed, told about the Iditaread Race, and presented pictures of Mr. Norgren as a clown, Santa Claus and Cat in the Hat characters for various school events.
- Mr. Norgren presented a Nikiski Elementary sweatshirt to Mr. Arness for correctly answering a District trivia question.
- RECESS:** At 7:53 p.m., Mrs. Crawford called a recess.
- RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:** At 7:57 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.
- COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:** Dr. Peterson reported that the District continues ongoing communications with the legislature. She reported that she received three positive letters regarding individual teachers throughout the District.
- AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:** The Board presented a golden apple to Ms. Lori Evans and Mrs. Shana Loshbaugh from the Peninsula Clarion for the newspaper's consistent and accurate reporting of District events.
- SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Dr. Peterson reported that Mr. Jerry Dixon and Mrs. Sammy Crawford have been nominated to the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. She announced that the Alaska Association of School Librarians selected Mr. Sam Stewart and Mr. Mick Wykis to receive the Pat on the Back Award and that Mr. Bob VanDerWege was selected to receive the 2001 Linda K. Barrett Service Award.
- COMMUNICATION REPORT:** Dr. Donna Peterson presented the District Communications Goal Report. She stated that the administration examined the overall goal based on 1) improvement in relationships/reciprocal communication between central office and school staffs, community members, Borough Assembly members, legislators, the State Department of Education and school board members about educational issues and directions and; 2) quality service at all sites/programs. She explained that these two categories are used nationally to evaluate communications in business and industry. She noted that "artifacts" are included in the report as evidence of both areas. She stated that the administration believes that communication can only improve and noted that Goal Number 2 in the Long Range Plan deals with internal and external communications.

BOARD REPORTS:

Dr. Anderson provided a written report of his recent trip to the National School Board Conference in San Diego. He reported that the conference provided a number of valuable ideas, some of which the District can accomplish and some that the District cannot afford. He stated that he left the conference even more convinced that the District should put money into staff development and training to allow teachers to improve their skills. He noted that one state pays a \$25,000 bonus to those teachers who attain national certification and suggested that the Board pursue the legislature to consider the idea. He noted that he was impressed with a presentation by two districts that require teachers to evaluate themselves based on four categories ranging from inadequate to superior. He stated that one district offers incentive pay, which has been so successful that the District has not needed to negotiate with the teachers' union. Instead the two parties continue to roll their contract forward. He reported that both districts also gave each teacher 2-3 days with pay to prepare an evaluation defense. He stated that he would like the District to consider the self-evaluation idea. He reported on a company that grades essays by computer in only a few seconds and with better accuracy. He suggested that if the District were to use this program, turnaround time would be shortened and it might give teachers the opportunity to add more writing and more evaluation. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to attend the conference. He noted that John Glenn and Jonathon Kozel were excellent speakers. He added that he was excited about math after attending a program sponsored by the National Math Teachers' Association. He noted that there will be a math conference in April 2002 and suggested that the District send several teachers.

Mrs. Crawford clarified with Mr. Syverson that the District has one teacher who is nationally certified.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Administrative Recommendation of a Request for 2001-2002 Leave of Absence – Certified, Long-Term Substitute Teacher Contract, Resignations, Tentative Tenure Teacher Assignments, and Budget Transfer.

Administrative Recommendation
REGARDING a Request for 2001-2002
Leave of Absence – Certified:

Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve the administration's recommendation to deny a leave of absence – certified for Melissa Cloud, Grade 4, West Homer Elementary (fall semester 2001).

Long-Term Substitute Teacher Contract:

Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve a long-term substitute teacher contract for Stephanie Cox, Grade 2, Soldotna Elementary; Joanne McClain, special education/severe, Seward Middle/High; and Judy Schmidt, reading, Nikiski Elementary.

Resignations:

Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve resignations effective the end of the 2000-2001 school year for Bill Altland, math, Soldotna Middle; John Andrews, activity director/athletic director, Skyview High; Lydia Wren, English/library, Nikolaevsk School; Gordon Griffin, theater, Kenai Central High; Debbie Griffin, music, Redoubt Elementary; Carrie Robbins, English, Skyview High; Deborah Dover, Grade 2, K-Beach Elementary; Robert Dover, Grade 3, K-Beach Elementary; Robert DeMeulemeester, content area technology/Connections, districtwide Alternative Programs; Nancy Synhorst, Grade 1/2, Paul Banks Elementary; and JoAnne Campbell, special education/resource, Nikiski Middle/High.

Tentative Tenure Teacher Assignments:

Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve tentative tenure teacher assignments for the 2001-2002 school year for Susan Wells, Kenai Middle and for Johanna Idzerda, Voznesenka.

Budget Transfer: Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve budget transfer Number 242 that transfers \$16,500 and \$24,500 to cover the cost of an administrator for the Aurora Borealis Charter School.

ACTION Mr. Arness moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 5. He noted that Item Number 3 was a revised version. Mrs. Wassilie seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Administrator Appointment: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve Steve Pautz as the principal of Seward Middle/High School for the 2001-2002 school year.

ACTION Mr. Arness moved the Board approve Steve Pautz as the principal of Seward Middle/High School for the 2001-2002 school year. Mr. Poindexter seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

BP 5030, School Discipline and Safety and BP 5040, AR 5040, Student Handbook: Dr. McLain recommended the Board approve the adoption of BP 5030, School Discipline and Safety and the revision of BP 5040, AR 5040, Student Handbook. He stated that the policy presented in the packet reflects the review from legal council regarding a three-year versus one-year timeline. He noted that there is specific mention in the policy that community members will be involved in the review and discussion at each school regarding discipline. He stated that the former BP 5030 and AR 5030 have been renumbered to BP 5040 and AR 5040 to be consistent with the AASB model.

Mr. Arness confirmed with Dr. McLain that the Board had moved, seconded and were considering an amendment to the motion regarding BP 5030, BP 5040 and AR 5040. Dr. McLain explained that the amendment proposed at the February 19 meeting was to change wording from advisory councils to site councils. He advised the Board to accept the version of BP 5030 in the packet.

Mrs. Crawford reminded the Board that the amendment before them is “the Board approve an amendment to BP 5030 to insert the word “school” in place of the word “community” in the last sentence of the first paragraph; to make the same replacement in the second sentence of the second paragraph.”

Mrs. Wassilie asked whether the new language allowed for one site council for communities with more than one school, as is the case in Seward. Dr. McLain confirmed that legal council was consulted and that the new language will accommodate the Seward community.

ACTION Mr. Arness moved the Board amend the amendment to add the words “community members” after the words “guardians” in the last sentence of the first paragraph and in the second line of the second paragraph as presented. Mrs. Wassilie seconded.

Amendment to the amendment carried unanimously.

Amendment carried unanimously.

BP 5030, School Discipline and Safety and BP 5040, AR 5040, Student Handbook
(Continued):

Amended motion carried unanimously.

Dr. McLain announced that the District has developed a model site council handbook for student discipline that will be shared with building administrators.

FY 2001-2002 Budget:

Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve the FY 2001-2002 annual budget in the amount of \$88,420,316.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the FY 2001-2002 annual budget.
Mr. Poindexter seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

2001-2002 Tentative Board Meeting Dates:

Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve a tentative list of School Board meetings and a planning session for the 2001-2002 school year. She noted that the Board will have one meeting in May because of the conflict with graduation ceremonies. She noted that there is also only one meeting in December.

Dr. Anderson and Mr. Arness suggested that the Board refrain from conducting worksessions on the first meeting in April, if possible, so that those who are interested may watch the NCAA basketball championship game.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve a tentative list of School Board meetings and a planning session for the 2001-2002 school year. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Miss Hart stated that she thoroughly enjoyed the Nikiski Elementary report.

Mr. Arness asked the cost of a breakfast program and whether the District could assist with supplying the food. Mr. Hickey responded that the breakfast programs are being provided aside from the food service program. He noted that a breakfast program is included in the proposed District Long Range Plan, and he added that he has already discussed the issue with Mr. Lengenfelder. He stated that Mr. Lengenfelder suggested the District offer brunch and feed students early rather than late in the day. Mr. Arness asked whether prepackaged food could be provided. Mr. Hickey expressed concern for handling of the food.

Mrs. Wassilie reported that she was invited to visit K-Beach Elementary on March 5. She reported that she attended the Monday morning assembly. She noted that the teachers were training with CCC software, which is designed to reinforce and monitor basic skill development. She reported that the Long Range Planning session was well attended in Seward and that Dr. Peterson gave an excellent presentation. She reported that she attended the Alaska Rural Systemic Initiative Forum on developing culturally responsive curricula for Alaska. She stated that the Alaska Rural Systemic Initiative is based at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks and is concerned with developing math and science curricula that also incorporate indigenous knowledge for use in rural areas. She noted that Mrs. Daniela Martian from the Challenger Learning Center also attended the conference. She announced that the Challenger Learning Center is considering ways to provide distance delivery to rural Alaska. She announced that the Alaska Weekly Review television program featured two Peninsula science teachers.

BOARD COMMENTS (Continued):

Sammy Crawford recognized the Skyview wrestlers who won state championships (wrestlers Cody Phipps, Neil Strausbaugh, Ian Leach, Chris Rice, Ron Wenger and coaches Neldon Gardner, Dave Carey and Bob Ermold). Mrs. Crawford noted the recent death of Mrs. Trish DeBusschere, teacher. She reported that Soldotna Elementary's critical incident plan worked very well.

ADJOURN: At 8:29 p.m., Mr. Arness moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Deborah Germano, President

Mrs. Debra Mullins, Clerk

The Minutes of April 2, 2001,
were approved on April 16, 2001
with corrections.