

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

Dr. Donna Peterson, Superintendent

May 1, 2000

NEWS IN BRIEF

**SCHOOL REPORTS:** Mr. Steve Smith, Cooper Landing Elementary principal/teacher, reported that the K-8 grade school has 39 students a principal/teacher, two regular education teachers, and a part-time special services teacher. He reported that the school uses a multiage approach which emphasizes learning through class projects that are relevant to the community. He presented several collages containing pictures of student projects during the past year. He reported that the school publications include a magazine called, *Our Point of View*, pamphlets which profile the local flora and fauna, and approximately 150 books written and illustrated by students. He stated that recently, Grade 3-5 students authored and posted a website which includes historical data of Cooper Landing, profiles school staff and provides information about many of the school's programs. Mr. Smith reported that an ASTF grant provided funds to publish a book entitled, *Wild Alaskan Plants of the Kenai Peninsula*, which was written by Grade 6-8 students. He reported that the school also celebrates learning through the annual Christmas Program, Battle of the Books competition, science expositions, and the millennium museum. He commended the parents and community members for their whole-hearted support of the school. He noted that the members of the Dall Homemakers organization read to students, listen to students read out loud and raise money for school needs. He reported that Cooper Landing Elementary students typically perform very well on the CAT/5 and District standardized assessment measures. He announced that 6 out of 10 seventh and eighth grade students qualified for the Johns Hopkins youth talent search. He stated that next year, students will work on a project focusing on the K'beq and Hchan'yut historical archaeological sites located near the Russian River Camp Ground funded by a \$10,000 grant awarded by the Toyota Tapestry Foundation to Mrs. Sotelo, teacher.

**AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:** The Board presented a golden apple award to Ms. Celiene Turner, Moose Pass Elementary custodian, for her outstanding service to the District.

The Board also presented an award of appreciation to Mr. Ralph Steeves, Moose Pass principal, for being selected as the Alaska Association of Elementary School Principals' 1999 Principal/Teacher of the Year.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Dr. Peterson reported that Mr. Syverson is at a job fair recruiting candidates for specialized positions that are difficult to fill. She reported that 185 high school students were honored at the academic recognition night for receiving a 4.0 grade point average throughout the year. She noted that 12 of those students had earned a 4.0 average for all four years of high school. Dr. Peterson reported that the Caring For the Kenai competition was recently held with the final banquet held on April 28. She announced that the District received the Employer Support of Guard and Reserve Award from the National Guard. She announced that Seward High School received a \$21,000 grant from the Department of Education and Early Development to pay for specialized remediation programs for students who do not meet the benchmark cutoff. Dr. Peterson reported that she will participate in a statewide task force that will submit to Senator Stevens a long-term distance education and technology plan to enhance and expand distance education opportunities for all Alaskans. She reported that in cooperation with the Sea Life Center and GCI Cable Network, Seward Elementary will soon have a live broadcast of the Chiswell sea lion rookery located in Resurrection Bay. She reported that the District provided a live webcast of the Soldotna High School spring band concert and that 75 people joined online from outside the District.

**AR 0420, School-Based Management/Site Councils:** The Board unanimously approved AR 0420, School-Based Management/Site Councils, which was recommended in response to the following Board goal: revisit and clarify roles, relationships, and expectations for site councils.

**Resignations:** The Board unanimously approved resignations from Roderick Ladd, principal, West Homer

Elementary (effective the end of the 2000-2001 school year); Lillian Seapy, business education, Soldotna High (effective the end of the 1999-2000 school year; and Scott O'Tremba, principal, Homer Middle (effective the end of the 1999-2000 school year).

Budget Transfer: The Board unanimously approved budget transfer Number 453 for \$16,180 to cover substitute costs for an employee on an approved extended medical leave.

New teacher Assignment 2000-2001: The Board unanimously approved teaching appointments for the 2000-2001 school year for Clayton Holland, special education/severe and resource, Kenai Middle and Kenai Central High and for Erika Gustafson, generalist, Bartlett Elementary/High.

Leave of Absence Request—Support: The Board unanimously approved an unpaid leave of absence request from Teresa Calhoun, special education aide, Paul Banks Elementary (effective the 2000-2001 school year) and from Jackie Haeg, supply buyer, warehouse (effective May 15, 2000, through May 15, 2001).

Long-Term Substitute Teacher: The Board unanimously approved a 19-day substitute teaching contract for Reubin Payne, Grade 4, Redoubt Elementary.

Tentative nontenure Teacher Assignments 2000-2001: The Board unanimously approved a list of tentative nontenure teacher assignments for the 2000-2001 school year.

Nontenured Teachers for Tenure 2000-2001: The Board approved a list of nontenured teachers for tenure for the 2000-2001 school year.

Administrator Appointments: The Board unanimously approved the appointment of Gregg Wilbanks as principal of Chapman Elementary and Fred Colvin as principal/teacher of Bartlett Elementary/High.

FIRST READING OF POLICY REVISIONS: The Board heard a first reading of BP 2120, Superintendent of Schools; BP 2121, Superintendent's Contract; BP and E 2122, Superintendent of Schools: Job Description; BP, AR and E 2123, Evaluation of the Superintendent; and BP 0420, School-Based Management/Site Councils.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: The next regularly scheduled School Board Meeting is Monday, May 15, 2000, 7:30 p.m., Borough Administration Building, Soldotna, Alaska.

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