

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
148 N. Binkley Street

Soldotna, AK 99669

January 3, 2000

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

Ms. Deborah Germano, President

Mrs. Debra Mullins, Vice President

Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Treasurer

Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, Member

Dr. Nels Anderson, Member

Mr. Mike Chenault, Member

Miss Melinda Haring, Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT:

Mr. Patrick Hickey, Assistant Superintendent, Operations and Business Management

Mr. Ed McLain, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction

Mr. Todd Syverson, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Jim Dawson

Mrs. Satorene Jackson

Ms. Shelly Morgan

Mrs. Rosie Reeder

Dr. Kathy Schwartz

Mr. Lee Young

Mr. Martin Galloway

Mrs. Darolyn Brown

Mr. Tim Peterson

Ms. Karen Mahurin

Ms. Norma Holmgaard

Mrs. Sue Liebner

Ms. Barb Vogel

Mr. Justin George

Others present not identified.

- CALL TO ORDER:** Ms. Germano called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. A quorum of School Board members, Dr. Anderson, Mr. Chenault, Mrs. Gross, Mrs. Larned, Mrs. Mullins and Ms. Germano were in attendance.
- EXECUTIVE SESSION:** At 5:31 p.m., Mrs. Gross 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. Specifically, the executive session was to conduct a student expulsion hearing. Mr. Chenault seconded.
- Motion carried unanimously.
- ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:** At 7:31 p.m., Mrs. Gross moved the executive session be adjourned. Mrs. Larned seconded.
- Motion carried unanimously.
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Ms. Germano invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- ROLL CALL:**
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| Ms. Deborah Germano | Present |
| Mrs. Debra Mullins | Present |
| Mrs. Susan Larned | Present |
| Mrs. Sammy Crawford | Absent |
| Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross | Present |
| Dr. Nels Anderson | Present |
| Mr. Mike Chenault | Present |
| Miss Melinda Haring | Present |
- APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** The agenda was approved as written.
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The School Board Minutes of December 6, 1999, were approved as printed.

SCHOOL REPORTS:

Mr. Jim Dawson, Mt. View Elementary principal, facilitated a student-led school report. Miss Bethany Blumenshine introduced the activities group who reported that students participate in 9 weeks of enrichment classes. The classes include art, health, Japanese, riddles and music. The students reported that the school has a computer lab, a movie room and a game room that is available during lunch. They reported that Mt. View Elementary offers a study hall during school and a study hall after school. They presented a short video summarizing various school activities.

Students from the technology group presented a poster displaying pictures of the school computer lab. They explained the uses and types of computers at Mt. View Elementary. Students from the climate group reported that students at their school get along well and that the teachers are helpful and nice. The students reported that the school goals are to improve reading comprehension and increase vocabulary. Students from the teacher and principal group reported on the special things that they liked about the school staff. The students concluded their report by reading and displaying a banner containing the school mission statement.

RECESS:

At 7:45 p.m., Ms. Germano called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:

At 7:47 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Dr. Kathy Schwartz, Art Specialist, displayed samples of elementary student artwork in response to a School Board request to showcase student accomplishments. She reported that the art represented the skills and concepts taught throughout the District curriculum. She noted that the frames were loaned to the District compliments of the Frontier Frame Gallery so the artwork can be hung in the Borough Administration building. She suggested that student artwork be hung throughout the community accompanied by the District philosophy statement. Ms. Schwartz reemphasized the importance of art education. She reported that twelve schools were introduced to the District Art Program last year and six additional schools have been included this year. She noted that the staff development program has gained national recognition and will be offering 14 courses this summer including Technology in the Arts and Comprehensive Literacy. She thanked parent volunteers Robin Bennett, Debbie Harris, and Lisa Tremaine for their invaluable assistance. She thanked Mr. Dawson for providing office space for the District Art Program.

Mrs. Gross and Ms. Germano commended Dr. Schwartz for her art education instruction in the schools. Dr. Schwartz stated she is pleased to work for the District.

Ms. Germano recognized Assembly Member Chris Moss and suggested he recommend the Assembly allow space for District artwork.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. McLain reported that Dr. Peterson attended a meeting with Senator Stevens to discuss current federal education legislation. He announced that Kenai Middle School was awarded funding for the Gear Up Alaska grant and will receive \$50,000 each year for five years, depending on student progress. He explained that the money is to be used to prepare middle school students for success in college. He thanked Ms. Holmgaard for writing the grant.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. Syverson presented the Alaska Association for Community Education's Outstanding Cooperation with Community Educators award to the Soldotna Middle School custodial staff: Martin Galloway, Jack McGarry, Lance Roberts, Greg Reser, Connie Todd, and John Gordon (not in attendance). Mr. Lee Young commended the staff on their flexibility and enthusiasm and stated that they are the finest staff he has worked with.

Mr. Hickey announced that the District received from the Alaska Municipal League/Joint Insurance Association, Inc. a 1999 fiscal year loss control award recognizing the District's conservative loss history.

BOARD REPORTS:

Mrs. Gross stated that she attended the National School Board Association Pacific Region meeting and reported that Alaska is at the forefront of education. She noted that the State of California reported to the group that they are building on the Board Standards developed by Alaska. She added that the State of Utah is developing an ASSET model similar to Alaska's. Mrs. Gross stated that she is proud of the District's accomplishments and that Alaska is well ahead of many other states. She reported that she recently attended an alumni basketball game in Homer and noted that each one of the former students is either in college or a college graduate.

Mrs. Larned reported that she visited Mt. View Elementary School and was especially impressed with the enrichment activities. She stated that she attended the December administrators' meeting and spoke with Dr. Schwartz about coordinating the art displays. She thanked Dr. Schwartz for her work.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were 1999-2000 Teaching Assignments, Long-Term Substitute Teachers, Resignations and Early Graduation Request.

1999-2000 Teaching Assignments:

Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve teaching appointments for the 1999-2000 school year for Andrea Berg, (temporary) generalist, Kenai Alternative; Scott Wolner, Grades 3/4, Susan B. English; and Patricia Cahill, generalist, Nanwalek Elementary/High.

- Long-Term Substitute Teachers: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve a 19-day substitute teaching contract for Teri Hoffman, Grade 6, North Star Elementary and Aileen Hediger, kindergarten, Voznesenka Elementary/High.
- Resignations: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve resignations from Stephen Howell, QUEST/language arts, Homer Middle (effective January 3, 2000); Andrea Morris, special education/resource, Susan B. English (effective January 3, 2000); Pamela Gennari, Grade 6, North Star Elementary (effective December 30, 1999) and Daniela Martian, Math, Kenai Central High (effective January 14, 2000).
- Early Graduation Request: Mr. McLain recommended the Board approve an early graduation request from a Nikiski Middle/High School student.
- ACTION Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve Items 1 through 4. Mrs. Mullins seconded.
Motion carried unanimously.
- Administrator Resignation: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve the resignation of Mr. Rich Patton, Homer High School principal.
- Administrator Resignation (continued): Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve the resignation of Mr. Rich Patton, Homer High School principal. Mrs. Gross seconded.
- ACTION Motion carried unanimously.
- Student Expulsion: Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve the following: "The Decision of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District in the Matter of Expulsion of H.H.
- ACTION
This matter was heard by the Board on January 3, 2000. Those School Board Members present were Deborah Germano, President, Dr. Nels Anderson, Mike Chenault, Mari-Anne Gross, Susan Larned, and Debra Mullins. Present on behalf of the administration were Ed McLain, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction, Homer High School Principal, Richard Patton, and Bev Hunter-Gillaspie, Assistant Principal. H.H. and his parents were present. The hearing was conducted in accordance with the Hearing Outline with presentations by the administration, an opportunity for questions and statements from H.H., questioning by the School Board, and recommendations by the administration prior to the Board's deliberation and decision.

FINDINGS: H.H. is an eleventh-grader at Homer High School. On November 19, 1999, H.H. was found by a teacher in a hallway at Homer High School to be in possession of a pipe, which was later determined to contain drug residue. H.H. had found the pipe in the school parking lot after arriving late to school, and had possessed it for at least one hour on school grounds when a teacher saw him showing it to another student. H.H. admitted that he had considered selling the pipe. No evidence was presented to show that H.H. had taken any steps to sell it.

H.H. was previously suspended from school for being under the influence of alcohol at a high school dance. H.H. was also recently suspended from school on several occasions for disruptive behavior, being truant, and other unspecified reasons. H.H. and his parents strongly denied that H.H. has used drugs or alcohol since his completion of a drug counseling program in 1999. No contrary evidence was presented. H.H. admitted that he had made a serious mistake by not turning the pipe in when he found it, and expressed his regret for that mistake. H.H. also indicated his strong desire to remain in school and willingness to abide by school rules in the future. Due to an apparent misunderstanding that H.H. would not receive credit for any course work done during his suspension, H.H. has not completed course work during this period.

CONCLUSIONS: Board policy 5131.6(a) requires the administration to recommend expulsion for a second drug or alcohol-related offense. This was H. H.'s second violation of Board policy, and the administration's actions in bringing this matter to the Board for consideration were entirely appropriate. The Board finds that the behavior in this particular instance was not sufficient to warrant expulsion. Instead, H.H. shall be suspended from school until the end of the current school term. In addition, the School Board requests that H.H. shall prepare a 700 word written essay on personal responsibility and respect for authority. This shall be submitted to the School Board by January 14, 2000. The Board also strongly encourages H.H. to make every effort to successfully complete two of his courses before the end of this semester, during his suspension. This would begin to demonstrate his sincerity. Finally, the Board requests that the administration provide a report to the Board on the status of this student at the end of the current school year, to the maximum extent allowed by law." Dr. Anderson seconded.

Student Expulsion (continued):

Motion carried unanimously.

FY 2000 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT
AND MAJOR MAintenance projects:

Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve a list of legislative capital improvement and major maintenance projects for FY 2000. He explained that the list is being presented later in the school year than usual due to the change in Borough administration leadership. He requested the Board approve the list as presented and noted that the list has already been forwarded to the Borough Assembly for action at their January 4 meeting.

ACTION

Mrs. Gross moved the Board approve the list of legislative capital improvement and major maintenance projects for FY 2000. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Ms. Germano asked whether some of the projects on the list were already in progress. Mr. Hickey stated that some of the projects have been started. He stated that some of the life/safety projects may be reimbursed from the state.

Motion carried unanimously.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mrs. Mullins recognized Mr. Howell, former Nikiski Middle/High teacher who recently resigned from Homer High, and stated that she appreciated the work he has done and wished him the best in his future plans. She reported that she attended the Nikiski High School talent show and stated that it was outstanding and quite entertaining.

Mr. Chenault commented on the Nikiski Middle/High talent show and thanked Mr. Dawson and his students for the school report.

Mrs. Gross stated that she is extremely proud of the Kenai Peninsula. She complimented the Mt. View Elementary students for a wonderful school report and noted that good things are happening for kids throughout the District.

Miss Haring thanked Mr. Dawson for his school report. She thanked Ms. Martian, Kenai Central High math teacher, for being a dynamic teacher and wished her good luck in her future plans.

Dr. Anderson asked how the realignment of the student cocurricular teams is decided. Mr. Spence explained that the process used to make changes within cocurricular activities is initiated by proposals submitted from athletic directors, principals, and coaches. He stated that the Alaska School Activities Association (AASA) decides the assignment of school teams to specific regions. He stated that Ketchikan was reassigned to the Northern Lights South Conference because of their school size. He stated that he was told Ketchikan's football team will travel for all of their games next year since their field is under repair and that the following year, two games will be played in Ketchikan. He noted that Ketchikan will provide 22 airline tickets for each game so there will be no additional expense to the District. He stated that the realignment was prompted because of the one-sided competition the District has had with Region 4A schools.

Ms. Germano asked how there could be no extra cost to the District when traveling to Ketchikan. Mr. Spence stated that Ketchikan will provide 22 airline tickets per game for each school that they play.

BOARD COMMENTS (continued):

Mrs. Larned thanked the Mt. View Elementary school students for their report. She stated that the Soldotna Middle School custodians are well deserving of the Community Education's Outstanding Cooperation with Community Educators award. She thanked Mrs. Reeder for her work as the Community Schools Lead Coordinator. She also thanked the students who were willing to share their artwork for display.

Ms. Germano echoed Mrs. Larned's comments. She wished Mr. Howell good luck with his future plans.

ADJOURN: At 8:25 p.m., Dr. Anderson moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Deborah Germano, President

Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

The Minutes of January 3, 2000,
were approved on January 17, 2000,
as written.