

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Homer High School
Homer, Alaska 99603

November 6, 2000

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

Ms. Deborah Germano, President
Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Vice President
Mrs. Debra Mullins, Clerk
Mr. Joe Arness, Treasurer
Dr. Nels Anderson, Member
Mr. Mike Chenault, 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
Mr. Todd Syverson, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ms. Cindy Farrens	Mrs. Shirley Gribble
Mr. Rick Ladd	Ms. Paula Setterquist
Mr. Rich Toymil	Ms. Cindy Smith
Mr. Pete Swanson	Mrs. Bev Gillaspie
Mr. Charlie Trowbridge	Mr. Don Rhonda
Mr. Michael Farrens	Mr. Barrett Fletcher

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

Ms. Germano called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Ms. Germano invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Ms. Deborah Germano	Present
Mrs. Debra Mullins	Present
Mrs. Susan Larned	Present
Mrs. Sammy Crawford	Present
Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross	Present
Dr. Nels Anderson	Present
Mr. Mike Chenault	Absent
Miss Sara Hart	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The agenda was approved as written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The School Board Minutes of October 16, 2000, were approved as printed.

Ms. Germano noted that the Board visited Chapman Elementary School earlier in the day.

SCHOOL REPORTS:

Dr. Ron Keffer, Homer High principal, commended Homer High School for its excellent staff, supportive community, involved parents and students who come to school eager to learn. Dr. Keffer gave a computer-generated presentation highlighting student achievements in music, creative arts, computer technology, vocational education and cocurricular activities. He announced that the Homer High choir and theater programs (120 students) presented the musical, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. He featured student artwork displayed in the school building including ceramics, paintings, and sculpture. He announced that 105 new computers were installed for student use, which has enabled the creation of three computer labs. He explained that each student can log on to the fiber optic network, access files on the District server, and use applications such as Microsoft Word, Excel, and Power Point. He stated that teachers can assign research on the Internet, which can be used safely by students because of the District's filtering system. He stated that teachers can also use advanced software such as Interactive Physics or the Geometric Sketchpad. He announced that FFA students recently traveled to Louisville, Kentucky to participate in the National FFA Convention. Dr. Keffer summarized the student activities offerings and complimented the new activities director, Chris Perk, for his enthusiasm and his enthusiasm and energy. He concluded his report by playing a comical video clip featuring the Homer High School staff marching band

SCHOOL REPORTS (continued):

Ms. Germano introduced Boy Scouts Charlie Trowbridge and Michael Farrrens.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. Charlie Trowbridge, eighth grade student at Homer Middle School, asked the Board why the junior high school sports season was shortened. Dr. Peterson recommended that Mr. Trowbridge check with the school principal first, and if he cannot answer the question, the principal can check with KPSAA. Mr. Trowbridge expressed specific concern for the soccer and basketball practice period and intramural season.

Mr. Don Ronda, thanked the Board for improvements made in the parking configuration at the Homer High School pool and changes in the handicapped parking area. He noted that there have been considerable improvements; and although all of the projects are not complete, they should be finished during the upcoming summer.

Mr. Steve Wolfe, Homer High teacher, distributed information concerning school fees. He stated that state law says that all students shall receive an education without tuition. He noted that in his research there were no Alaska court cases concerning school fees so he researched the western states and found that in the Hartzell versus Connell Supreme Court decision school fees could be illegal and are in effect tuition. He stated that if a class action suit was filed, the District could be asked to repay the fees. He stated that school fees are bad for children because it discourages participation and suggested that the District not collect the fees.

Mr. Arness noted that only one of the court cases mentioned in the information supports Mr. Wolfe's conclusion. Mr. Wolfe responded that the District considers student activities as cocurricular an integral part of the curriculum.

Mr. Barrett Fletcher, Homer parent, reported that he has two students enrolled in the IDEA Program through the Smokey Bay Learning Center. He stated that it is a relief to get into a workable academic program and that his children are doing very well. He stated that he would like to be reimbursed for the money spent on tuition. He stated that he would like the difference between the benefits he receives from IDEA and the state grant that Galena receives for administration to stay in the community. He stated that he also would like relief from the 7.5 mils of taxes that support the school system which couldn't or wouldn't provide an adequate program for his children and costs nearly twice as much per student as the current private program. He stated that he doesn't expect to

be reimbursed within the ten years that his children have remaining in school but added that he does intend to see it happen in his lifetime. He suggested that the District direct the administration of the Connections Program to fully and wholeheartedly cooperate with parents and other providers who have chosen an alternative academic program. He also suggested that the District give charter schools first choice of the best equipment and nicest facilities. He stated that charter schools have demonstrated extraordinary commitment to their programs, and they have dealt with unbelievable obstacles to work within the system and should be rewarded.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS: Dr. Peterson noted that she received a letter of request from Bartlett Elementary/High school for a name change. She noted that she also received a request from Homer Charter School to change their name and to renegotiate their contract. Dr. Peterson stated that all school name change requests would come to the Board later.

Ms. Germano reported that she received a letter of response from Commissioner Cross. She explained that five large school districts collectively wrote a letter to the Department of Education and Early Development regarding special education issues.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS: The Board presented a certificate of appreciation to Shirly Gribble for being chosen as one of the 1999-2000 British Petroleum Teachers of Excellence.

The Board presented golden apple awards to Paula Setterquist, Homer Area school volunteer, and Cindy Smith, Homer High School kitchen manager, for their service and dedication.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Peterson reported that Dr. McLain was excused from the meeting. She announced that Diane McBee, North Star Elementary teacher, was awarded the 2000-2001 Eleanor Roosevelt Teacher Fellow Award and that Dick Sander and Sharon Conley are the recipients of the Larry Graham Aspiring Principal Scholarship from the Alaska Association of Elementary and Secondary School Principals.

BOARD REPORTS: Mrs. Crawford reported that she recently judged student government projects at Soldotna High School and that it was a wonderful experience. She announced that she participated in the Technology Work Group meeting.

Mrs. Mullins reported that two weeks ago she visited classrooms at Paul Banks Elementary School, Nanwalek Elementary/High School and Port Graham Elementary/High School.

Mr. Poindexter stated that he has been attending the Homer High Vocational Advisory Committee meetings and that there have been some lively discussions. He added that the committee is making some progress and will meet again on November 21. He announced that he will be attending the districtwide vocational committee meeting on Monday, November 13.

Ms. Germano stated that she also attended the Technology Work Group meeting. She noted that no one from the Assembly attended the meeting since a member had not yet been appointed. She stated that the Student Activities Task Force did not have representation from the Board or Assembly at their recent meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA: Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of: Budget Transfer, Long-Term Substitute Teacher Contracts, New Teacher Appointments, Leave of Absence Request-Support and Request for Sabbatical.

Budget Transfer: Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve budget transfer Number 75, which

transfers \$15,000 to cover costs for classroom computers and printers at Aurora Borealis Charter School.

Long-Term Substitute Teacher Contracts: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve a long-term substitute teaching contract for Attila Harrison, music, Seward Middle/High; Dan Hill, special education/resource, Soldotna High; Saundra Hudson, math, Homer Middle; and Wendy Lefton, art, Homer Middle.

New Teacher Appointment: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve teacher assignments for the 2000-2001 school year for Kimberly Denesen, emotionally handicapped (temporary), districtwide Special Services; Wendi Dutcher, math (temporary), Skyview High School; and Kathryn Cross, school psychologist (temporary), districtwide Special Services.

Leave of Absence Request-Support: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve an unpaid leave of absence effective for the remainder of the 2000-01 school year for Laura Norton, school secretary II, Voznesenka Elementary/High School.

Request for Sabbatical: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve a request for an unpaid sabbatical without benefits for the 2001-2002 school year for Dale Moon, vocational education, Skyview High.

ACTION Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve Items Numbers 1 through 4. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ACTION Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve an unpaid sabbatical without benefits for the 2001-2002 school year for Dale Moon, vocational education, Skyview High. Mr. Arness seconded.

ACTION Dr. Anderson moved the Board amend the motion to pay Mr. Moon \$1,000 towards TRS or insurance coverage while on sabbatical. Mr. Arness seconded.

Mrs. Mullins asked the administration for a recommendation to the amendment. Mr. Syverson stated that per the negotiated agreement, it is the Board's prerogative to pay for TRS contributions or health insurance for employees on sabbatical. He stated that he believes 1987 was the last time the Board approved a sabbatical with pay. He added that in 1989 the Board approved a sabbatical leave without pay. He stated that past practice has been to grant employees sabbatical leave without financial benefits or support.

Mr. Poindexter asked how much it would cost to pay health benefits for Mr. Moon. Mr. Hickey responded that health benefits would cost between \$5,000 and \$6,000 depending upon the amount of claims during the plan year.

Mr. Poindexter asked how much it would cost to pay the TRS contribution for Mr. Moon. Mr. Hickey responded that the figure is 11% of Mr. Moon's annual salary.

Mrs. Crawford stated that she felt it was bad precedent to offer financial support to employees on sabbatical since the Board has not done so since the 1980s. She stated that she would like to continue the practice of awarding sabbaticals but not providing financial support because the District has a budget shortfall.

Dr. Anderson stated that he agreed in general with Mrs. Crawford's statement but recommended that the money be paid because Mr. Moon will be receiving specialized training that will be of immense value to the District. He stated that in the past, the

Board has proposed providing \$1000 plus in financial benefits to those who received specialized teacher certification in their area but has not implemented the proposal.

Mr. Arness stated that when Mr. Moon receives his doctorate degree, he will be rewarded financially on an annual basis and agreed with Mrs. Crawford that the amendment is a bad idea.

Mr. Poindexter stated that he favored the amendment because Mr. Moon has been an extremely valuable employee of the District and has gone beyond the duties of his assignment in many instances. He stated that since the Board is granting Mr. Moon a sabbatical, the Board should support him. He noted that the KPEA Faculty Council recommended that Mr. Moon be financially supported while on sabbatical. He stated that he supports the amendment.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

Advisory Vote: YES

YES – Anderson, Poindexter

NO – Arness, Crawford, Mullins, Germano

Amendment to the motion failed.

Motion carried unanimously.

2001-2002 ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS:

Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve the 2001-2002 projected enrollment at 10,061 students. He explained that the projections are the basis for determining the budget in the areas of instructional supplies and staffing formulas. He explained that the Board discussed the projections in detail during a work session held prior to the Board meeting.

ACTION

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve the 2001-2002 projected enrollment at 10,061 students. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

2001-2002 ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS (continued):

Ms. Germano thanked Mr. Hickey for his work on the projected enrollment. She stated that it will be a tough budget year and added that she is concerned about the low enrollments in the elementary grades.

Motion carried unanimously.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mrs. Mullins confirmed that the Boy Scouts in the audience are working on their merit badges. She expressed appreciation for those who attended the Board meeting and especially noted the attendance of several government students. She reported that the Board had a nice visit at Chapman Elementary School earlier in the day and noted that the Board had an opportunity to visit teachers in their classrooms. She reported that the Board had an exciting trip to Voznesenka and expressed appreciation to the staff for staying late at the end of the day to visit with Board members.

Dr. Anderson noted that the Boy Scouts in the audience are members of Troop 555. He noted that an outstanding former scoutmaster of Troup 555 was Mr. Maynard Gross, husband of AASB President and former Board member Mari-Anne Gross. He encouraged the boys to pursue the Eagle Scout Award. Dr. Anderson stated that he enjoyed the school visits earlier in the day.

Mr. Poindexter thanked the audience for their attendance. He stated that he is a new member and is already becoming frustrated but added that he hopes to learn more about the process. He reported that he spent the morning at Homer Middle School in Brenda Domel's science class working with students on a ground water flow model for the Soil and Water Conservation District. He reported that he is attending the Association of Alaska School Board's Annual Conference in Anchorage on November 8-12. He announced that the Homer High Future Farmers of America group recently returned from Louisville, Kentucky. He explained that the students participated in the national convention with 49,000 other students nationwide. He congratulated the horticulture team for winning a bronze medal. Mr. Poindexter stated that the Careers Technical Vocational Student Organization state officers would attend the next Vocational Advisory Committee meeting in Soldotna to plan the districtwide CTSO conference. He congratulated the award recipients and noted that he had the opportunity to transport Mrs. Gribble's sixth grade students to Seward several times and noted that she is an outstanding teacher.

Mr. Arness thanked Dr. Keffer for the school report. He reminded those present to vote on November 7.

Mrs. Crawford thanked Dr. Keffer for the Homer High School presentation. She stated that she enjoyed the visits to Chapman Elementary School and Voznesenka School. She congratulated the award recipients.

Ms. Germano stated that she appreciated the Board's visit to Voznesenka. She thanked the students in the audience. She thanked Michael Farrens and Charlie Trowbridge for their attendance and wished them success in their endeavors. She stated that she attended the production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* at Homer High and noted that it was a wonderful performance. She reported that she attended the annual McNeil Canyon Elementary fall carnival. She thanked Dr. Keffer for the school presentation and for hosting the Board meeting. She noted that earlier in the day Homer High conducted student debates for the presidential election. She extended best wishes to Laura Norton. She recognized Borough Assembly members Chris Moss and Millie Martin.

Mrs. Mullins noted that she served on the School Board with Mrs. Martin a number of years ago.

Miss Hart stated that it is nice to be back in Homer and added that she enjoyed the visits to Chapman Elementary School and Voznesenka School.

ADJOURN:

At 8:33 p.m., Mrs. Mullins moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Deborah Germano, President

Mrs. Debra Mullins, Clerk

The Minutes of November 6, 2000,
were approved on November 20, 2000,
as written.