

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

November 4, 1996

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
Miss Megan Corazza, Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT:

Dr. Walter Bromenschenkel, Superintendent
Mr. John Dahlgren, Associate Superintendent, Planning,
Operations, and Technology
Mr. Thomas Thorpe, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction
Mrs. Sharon Radtke, Executive Director, Personnel
Mr. Richard Swarner, Executive Director, Business Management

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. James Legner	Dr. Donna Peterson
Mrs. Sandy Miller	Mrs. Rose Mary Reeder
Mr. Jesse Johnson	Mrs. Melody Douglas
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Tachick	Dr. Jim Clark
Mr. Shane Tachick	Mr. Spencer Tachick
Mrs. Shana Loshbaugh	Mrs. Diane Borgman
Dr. Donald Boehmer	Mrs. Karen Mahurin
Mr. Hal Smalley	Mr. Joe Malatesta
Mr. Tony Lewis	Mr. John Kistler
Ms. Sherri Caddell	Ms. Tess Dally
Ms. GiGi Langer	Ms. Ellen Crownover
Ms. Cathy Cousineau	Ms. Patty Lawyer
Ms. Elizabeth Yates	Ms. Kathy Gildea
Ms. Dawn Bowman	Ms. Karen Ruebsamen

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mrs. Gross called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 4:01 p.m., Mrs. Germano 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. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 7:30 p.m., Dr. Anderson moved the Board adjourn the executive session. Mrs. Fischer seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
November 4, 1996
Page 2

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 Megan Corazza	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved as printed with the addition of Item 8b, Resignation of Superintendent/School Board Administrative Secretary.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of October 21, 1996, were approved as written.

NORTH STAR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REPORT: Dr. Donna Peterson, Principal of North Star Elementary, staff members Jim Legner and Sandy Miller, and fifth grade student Jesse Johnson gave a presentation on electronic portfolios which are a part of their regular school program. They explained that the portfolios are the central focus of parent conferences and are a tool for managing information, are a multi-media experience for students, and are an authentic assessment for accountability. To make the program a success the staff has trained and is dedicated to technology, the community has bought-into the philosophy that technology is important to learning, and students are taught and feel comfortable with the technology process. They explained that the students share this information with their parents at parent-teacher conferences. The program is into its third year at North Star Elementary and uses the Hyperstudio Program for the portfolios.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Mr. Joe Malatesta, Clam Gulch resident, spoke in support of the history book Alaska Through the Years, but objected to page 83 which he felt unjustly featured the fisheries industry. He noted he did not believe in censorship, but felt this information may have been written prior to current decisions being made. He commented he had met with the school district administration, and was hopeful the situation could be handled through methods they suggested.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS: Mrs. Gross commented the Board received a letter from Mr. Will Bishop, Homer parent, requesting the spring break be included in future school calendars.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Bromenschenkel presented a summary of Arbitrator William Dorsey's decision on KPEA, KPESA, and the District's negotiated agreements. He noted the unions and district administration would meet on Tuesday, November 5, to review the decision and wording of the articles for printing of the negotiated agreements.

Dr. Anderson expressed concern that funds are not available for payment of the \$650 amount from the Health Insurance Fund. He urged that the unions work with the administration to work out a way to have their health care benefits best managed. Dr. Bromenschenkel responded the Health Fund has a deficit of approximately \$250,000 and it was his opinion that adjustments in benefits, co-payments or other actions would need to take place for payment of these awards. He anticipated the Health Fund Committee would meet with the administration to resolve the situation.

Mrs. Karen Mahurin, KPESA President, expressed disappointment that the superintendent's report was not available until the meeting and she did not have time to review it previously. She noted there was inaccurate information in the report such as language wording.

Superintendent Bromenschenkel announced the RIP retirement of the School Board/Superintendent Administrative Secretary, Barbara Jewell, effective July 31, 1997. He expressed appreciation to Ms. Jewell for her professionalism to the position.

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS REPORT:

Mrs. Rose Mary Reeder, Lead Coordinator for the Soldotna Community Schools Program, reported to the Board on current activities in Soldotna area schools through this joint venture with the City of Soldotna and the school district. Students Shane and Spencer Tachick told of their summer camp experiences, and Tony Lewis, Skyview High teen coordinator, reported on teen activities planned for this year. The program also provides a teen coordinator at Soldotna High. The Soldotna Community Schools Program has been operating for 21 years serving both young people and adults.

COST ANALYSIS OF HOMER
INTERMEDIATE AND KENAI
ELEMENTARY:

Mr. Dahlgren reported the district receives \$32,400 in revenues annually from Kenai Elementary School, but expends \$43,150 on utilities for that facility. He noted Homer Intermediate School will be vacated next year, and its utility expenditures are currently \$38,763 annually. He stated that in addition to utility expenditures, maintenance expenses for Kenai Elementary are approximately

COST ANALYSIS OF HOMER
INTERMEDIATE AND KENAI
ELEMENTARY (continued):

\$20,700 and \$10,250 for Homer Intermediate. He advised the Board that further discussions should be made on whether the school district needs to surplus these buildings to the borough or budget for their continued usage.

COUNSELING SERVICES REPORT: Ms. Karen Ruebsamen, Family Support Program Coordinator, and Dr. Jim Clark, Director of Central Peninsula Counseling Services, reported to the Board on progress and growth of the Family Support Program within the district. Currently, mental health counselors serve eight elementary/middle schools within the Central Peninsula. Family Support staff members were introduced from the various schools. Dr. Clark noted the program is into its third year and it has been a successful, cooperative effort between their organization and the school district. He stated the program is funded primarily through Medicaid and future funding will be determined at the federal level with changes being passed on to the state. At the state level, school district support will be needed on discussions and decisions related to the program. The Board complimented Ms. Ruebsamen and Dr. Clark on the success of the counseling services program.

SCHOOL INTERVENTION TEAMS REPORT: Mrs. Diane Borgman and Dr. Donald Boehmer reported on the success of the district school intervention teams in developing methods for identifying and problem solving student learning difficulties and needs. Dr. Boehmer supplied background information leading to today's intervention teams. He noted the district has contracted for staff training related to the intervention process. The school intervention teams cover a range of problems including classroom learning referrals, disciplinary behavior problems, and accommodations for students with medical problems in a shared decision making and problem solving process. Mrs. Borgman presented statistics related to improvements within the district from 1992-93 through 1995-96 school years. The total number of students served by special education dropped from 15.8% to 12.7%, a decrease of 3.1% since 1992.

CLASS SIZE REPORT: Mr. Thorpe reported the Board reviewed a class size report in a worksession prior to the meeting. The report was organized to reflect the same six school groups included in the staffing formulae and was based on enrollment from all KPBSD schools on October 7, 1996.

BOARD REPORTS: Mr. Arness reported the Calendar Committee met on October 29 and decided to reinstate spring break in next year's calendar. The committee also decided to recommend the next school years' calendars for Board approval on December 2. However, the calendars will not include the ending and beginning dates for semesters since the committee felt they needed feedback on the semester ending prior to the winter vacation this year. The committee will meet again in January to set the semester dates.

Mrs. Gross reported she was the AASB representative in the selection of Alaska's Teacher of the Year. The selection announcement will be made in the near future.

CONSENT AGENDA: Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Extended Field Trip Request, Resignations, Leave of Absence Request/Support, and Tentative Non-tenure Teacher Assignment.

EXTENDED FIELD TRIP REQUEST: Mr. Thorpe recommended the Board approve an extended field trip request for 35 Homer Junior High eighth graders to travel to Washington, D.C., March 22-29, 1997, to participate in the American Student Travel Program.

RESIGNATIONS:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve resignations effective the end of the 1996-97 school year for Patrick Dixon, English/Photography, Kenai Central High; Harold Smalley, Social Studies/Physical Education, Kenai Central High; Howard Draper, Grades 5-6, Soldotna Elementary; Frank Garrity, Principal, Chapman Elementary; James Huff, Mathematics/Social Studies/Vocational Education, Susan B. English Elem/High; Betha Chesser, Kindergarten, Nikolaevsk Elem/High; Linda Jarvi, Computers, Kenai Central High; Jack Albaugh, Grade 4, Redoubt Elementary; Bryan Epley, Grades 6-8, Chapman Elementary; Roger Liebner, Grades 9-12, Kenai Alternative; Judith McKinley, Alternative Education, Correspondence Program; and Clyde Farrington, Speech Pathologist, Districtwide Special Services.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST/
SUPPORT:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve an unpaid leave of absence request for the 1996-97 school year for David Tourtellot, Custodian, Kalifornsky Beach Elementary.

1996-97 TENTATIVE NON-TENURE
TEACHER ASSIGNMENT:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a tentative non-tenure teacher assignment for the 1996-97 school year for Debra Schmidt, Physical Education (half-time), Paul Banks Elementary.

ACTION

Mrs. Germano moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items #1 through #4. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

1997-98 PROJECTED
ENROLLMENT:

Mr. Swarner recommended the Board approve the projected enrollment for the 1997-98 school year at 10,450, which is an increase of 54 students or .5% over the current year. He noted the economy of the Peninsula appeared stable with no major changes in tourism, fisheries and the oil industry. No allowance was made for the impact of charter schools and the projections will be modified when more information on charter schools is available.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the 1997-98 projected enrollment. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Mrs. Germano noted some of the school enrollments would need to be adjusted once the charter schools applications and student enrollments are known.

Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mrs. Karen Mahurin, KPESA President, told the Board this was the third meeting where all board packet information was not available to the union. She stated this was quite upsetting since she was not prepared to respond to board members comments related to these items. She stated union representatives would be meeting with the district administration on Tuesday to discuss the arbitrator's award. She commented there were discrepancies in the pay schedule and other items of the arbitrator's award. She further noted there were wording discrepancies in the award from those in the sections of the agreement. Specially, the use of the word "may" was not included in the original proposal.

Dr. Anderson stated his comments were made exactly from the arbitrator's report. He added he was not making an editorial comment, but was concerned that there will be not enough money in the health care reserve fund to meet the employees wants, those being health insurance.

Mrs. Mahurin responded he should read the KPESA proposal and arbitrator's comments. She added it was her intent not to get into a debate over this at the meeting.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS
(continued):

Mr. Hal Smalley, KPEA President, stated the \$650 was discussed at the table as to when these payments would be made. The arbitrators report did not discuss when these payments would be made, however, past practice has been that they are issued in October-November. Discussion with teachers at the table was that they felt it would be better if the teachers received their checks in Spring. Therefore, there would be ample funds for payment. Again, the language says "may", and the arbitrator erred since he was not to write new language.

Mr. Kistler reminded the Board and audience that Tuesday is election day and to not forget to vote. He made a humorous suggestion as to a write-in candidate.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Miss Corazza stated that she had spoken to several schools last week about the spring break. She noted they would be happy to know the spring break has been included in next year's calendar.

Mrs. Mullins requested a copy of the curriculum Mr. Malatesta spoke to. She noted she was not familiar with the document he was speaking about.

Mrs. Mullins complimented Barbara Jewell for her many years and long hours of service to the Board and district. Mrs. Larned and other Board members echoed Mrs. Mullins comments.

Mrs. Larned requested a Board representative be made to the Tech Prep Committee. Mr. Thorpe commented he would report back to the Board at the next meeting on the committee meeting dates. Mrs. Germano stated she would consider serving on the committee if the meeting dates met with her schedule.

Mrs. Gross noted a Board representative was needed for the Reconsideration of Instructional Materials Committee. Mr. Arness volunteered to serve on this committee.

Mrs. Fischer requested that packet information be made available in a more timely manner. She commented that it is frustrating to receive information at the meeting without time to study it.

BOARD COMMENTS (cont.):

Mrs. Germano agreed with Mrs. Fischer's comments, and questioned whether there was a way to place the public documents on the internet. She noted when she receives her packet on Friday she has little time to read it and has no time to ask questions. She added that she attempted to contact the central office twice during the day, the phone rang eight times and went to voice mail. She felt this was unnecessary and requested this be looked into.

Dr. Anderson stated he thought the negotiated contracts were already decided with the arbitrator's report, and it was not his intent to create problems with his comments.

Mrs. Gross commented she would like to work towards putting the school board agenda and back up materials on the internet.

ADJOURN:

At 9:30 p.m., Mr. Arness moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President

Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

The Minutes of November 4, 1996,
were approved on November 18, 1996,
as written.