

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

January 6, 1997

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mrs. Connie Jung	Mr. Robert Bellmore
Mrs. Karen Mahurin	Mr. Hal Smalley
Mr. John Kistler	Mr. Mark Norgren
Mrs. Rosemary Bird	Mr. Dave Spence
Mr. and Mrs. Sam Stewart	Mrs. Jennifer Tabor
Mrs. Melody Douglas	Mr. Chris Schrier
Mr. Todd Syverson	Mr. Paul Sorenson
Ms. Heidi Chay	Mrs. Nadine Russo
Mrs. Kathryn Kennedy	Mrs. Dawn Thorpe
Mrs. Shana Loshbaugh	Mrs. Peggy Rogers

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mrs. Gross called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. A quorum of the Board with Dr. Anderson, Mr. Arness, Mrs. Germano, Mrs. Larned, Mrs. Mullins, and Mrs. Gross were in attendance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 1:36 p.m., Mrs. Mullins moved the Board go into executive session to discuss matters, the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the Borough. Mrs. Germano seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 3:25 p.m., Mr. Arness moved the executive session be adjourned. Mrs. Germano seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

RECESS:

At 3:26 p.m., Mrs. Gross called a recess.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

At 7:30 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session, and Mrs. Gross invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross Present

Mr. Joe Arness	Present
Mrs. Susan Larned	Present
Dr. Nels Anderson	Present
Mrs. Joyce Fischer	Absent - Excused
Mrs. Deborah Germano	Present
Mrs. Debra Mullins	Present
Miss Megan Corazza	Present

- APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved as printed with the deletion of Item 9b, Technology Status Report, and the deletion of Item 10d, Approval of KPSAA Hearing Determination.
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of the December 2, 1996, Regular Meeting, and the December 9, 1996, Special Meeting were approved as written.
- COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS: Mrs. Gross acknowledged receipt of a letter from the Voznesenka Parent Advisory Committee expressing concerns about the staffing formula for their school.
- AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS: Mrs. Gross presented Awards of Appreciation in the form of an inscribed gold apple to Rosemary Bird for her selection as the 1996 Alaska Music Educator of the Year, to Mark Norgren on being selected Alaska's 1996 Assistant Principal of the Year, to Jennifer Tabor on her selection as the 1996 Alaska Home Economics Teacher of the Year, to Jim Beeson as the 1996 Football Coach of the Year, to Chris Schrier in recognition of his selection as the 1996 Vocational Education Teacher of the Year, and to Peggy Rogers for her recognition by Alaska's First Lady and on receiving the 1997 First Lady's Volunteer Award. Mrs. Gross commented that it was exciting to be a part of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District and the quality of teachers within the district.
- SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Bromenschenkel presented written reports to the Board on unfair labor practice charges against employer filed by Don Oberg on behalf of KPESA and KPEA, results of an arbitration award to the district on the hire of a receptionist, the development of an urban coalition of school district superintendents from Fairbanks, Mat-Su, Anchorage, and Kenai to put together a legislative agenda of common issues, and the announcement that the KPBSD will receive 100 Macintosh computer units from British Petroleum for use in a training program in the district.
- FINANCIAL REPORT: In the absence of Mr. Swarner, Dr. Bromenschenkel presented the financial report of the district for the period ending November 30, 1996. He requested the Board to compile any questions related to the report for response from Mr. Swarner.
- CONSENT AGENDA: Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Extended Field Trip Requests, Furniture and Equipment List, 1996-97 Teacher Assignments, 19-day Substitute Teacher Contract, and Rescinding Leave of Absence Request/Support.
- EXTENDED FIELD TRIP REQUESTS: Mr. Thorpe recommended the Board approve extended field trip requests for five Nikolaevsk High School seniors to participate in Close-Up activities in Washington, D.C., May 2-10, 1997; for 8-10 Redoubt Elementary students to travel to Magadan, Russia, March 24-31, 1997, on a lingual/cultural exchange; for 11 Seward Jr/Sr High School students to participate in a cultural visit to Madrid and Seville, Spain, March 21-29, 1997; and for 2-4 Homer High School students to participate in the 1997 International Bridge Building Contest, March 11-12, 1997, in Bellingham, WA.

FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT  
LIST:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve the purchase of furniture and equipment for West Homer Elementary School in the amount of \$131,112.33.

1996-97 TEACHER ASSIGN-  
MENTS:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve 1996-97 teacher assignments for Connie Wirz, Grade 4, Mountain View Elementary, Temporary; and Randall Sparks, Mathematics (.6 time), Skyview High, Temporary.

19-DAY SUBSTITUTE TEACHER  
CONTRACT:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a contract for 19-day substitute teacher Kristin Cannava, Grade 1, Sears Elementary.

RESCIND LEAVE OF ABSENCE  
REQUEST/SUPPORT:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve rescinding an unpaid leave of absence request for Bonnie Larkin, Title I Tutor, Seward Elementary, effective January 25, 1997.

ACTION

Mrs. Germano moved the Board approve the consent agenda items as presented. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

POLICY REVISION/AR 5030/  
STUDENT HANDBOOK:

Dr. Bromenschenkel recommended the Board approve a revision to item 1 of the policy for the provision of the handbook to each student and encouraging the student and his parent to read the handbook. He noted it had been brought to the board's attention that the policy required a parent's signature verifying that they had reviewed the handbook. He stated the administration felt this was an impractical obligation.

Mr. John Kistler, parent, urged the Board not approve the policy change. He stated it is practical to add a parent's signature line to the student folder, send it home, and the teacher check to see that the parents have reviewed it. He noted the Board discussed and decided that parents needed to know the school's rules. He commented that during the years his children have attended school, he has not received the student handbook to review and know its regulations. He stated he brought the topic to the Board's attention in an effort for them to see that their policies are not always followed.

ACTION

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve the policy revision AR 5030, Student Handbook. Mr. Arness seconded.

Mrs. Mullins commented that the policy further states that staff, students, and parents or guardians shall be responsible for knowing, understanding and complying with the law, policy, regulation and school rules included in each handbook, however, the policy did not state how parents would receive this information. Mr. Arness stated that he doubted parents would receive the information if sent home with students, and probably the only way a signature would be returned to school would possibly be with some penalty imposed.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved to amend the motion to the second paragraph to read, "The handbook will be provided to students and parents or guardian via their students and they are all encouraged to carefully read the contents. Student awareness of the handbook should be reinforced in one or all of the following ways." Delete #1. #2 becomes #1. #3 becomes #2, and #3 would be added to read, "With teacher discretion a signature may be required." The next paragraph would read, "Faculty, staff, and students shall be responsible for, knowing, understanding and complying with law, policy, regulations, and school rules included in each handbook." Dr. Anderson seconded.

POLICY REVISION/AR 5030/  
STUDENT HANDBOOK  
(continued):

Mrs. Germano stated she was not happy with the wording "teacher discretion" and students would potentially be punished if they did not get a parent's signature. She stated that as a parent she would like to sign the handbook. Dr. Bromenschenkel stated problems will arise when some parents were required to do this with sanctions, and others were not required to respond. He felt there is a joint responsibility between families and the schools to know the rules. He felt secondary students know the rules and he questioned the practicality on getting parental signatures. Kenai Central High School principal, Mr. Dave Spence, stated the handbooks were distributed years ago on the first day of school, but most were left lying on the floors; the current practice is a folder with the most significant parts of the handbook printed on the folder and students are tested the first day of school on the handbook matter. Other important information is printed in the parent newsletter. Mrs. Marlene Byerly, Skyview High School principal, stated the August newsletter to parents includes the date students are to be tested on the handbook information and students have that information. Both principals agreed this is a difficult situation to enforce.

Questions were posed on whether the student handbook is a legal document. Dr. Bromenschenkel stated as part of the due process system it is a requirement and legal document. On question on whether parents can be forced to sign, Dr. Bromenschenkel responded there would be difficulties where students do not live at home and it could be challenged in court. He felt the requirement for a teacher to make the decision on requiring parental signatures was unfair and could get complicated.

Mr. Thorpe commented that in student disciplinary proceedings over the past few years, all students were aware of the violations of policy. He did not feel a problem existed, and any sanctions would be disruptive to the educational process. In response to Mrs. Mullins' question on why these requirements had been developed, Mr. Dahlgren responded these developed through infractions from activities and students saying they didn't know the rules. A signature situation developed so students would be aware of the rules.

Miss Corazza stated it was important for parents to see the handbook, and since parents sign for everything else their students do, she felt parents should sign off on the handbooks also.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved to amend the amendment to delete item #3, and replace it with "Any practicable means should be used to notify parents about the handbooks." Dr. Anderson seconded.

Amendment to amendment carried unanimously.

Amendment carried.

VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION:

YES - Anderson, Arness, Germano, Larned, Mullins

NO - Gross

Advisory Vote: NO

Amended motion carried.

POLICY REVISION/BP 6162.71/  
INTERNET USE:

Dr. Bromenschenkel recommended the Board approve a revision to Policy BP 6162.71, Internet Use. He noted the policy change prohibits individual student demographic information or student photographs to be published unless parent/guardian permission has been secured. The purpose of the revision is to protect students from people with improper character.

Mrs. Germano questioned whether this would slow down internet licensing for students in the school buildings. Dr. Bromenschenkel commented a form for parental use would be developed within the near future, but it is important that children are protected from possible abuse on the internet. Dr. Bromenschenkel further stated that the form would have different options that parents could be willing to have published on the internet about their student.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve Policy BP 6162.71, Internet Use. Mrs. Germano seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

RATIFICATION OF KPEA  
NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve ratification of the Negotiated Agreement between the Kenai Peninsula Education Association and the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District for the years 1996-97 through 1998-99. The agreement included the arbiter's decision from binding arbitration.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the KPEA Negotiated Agreement. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

RATIFICATION OF KPESA  
NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve ratification of the Negotiated Agreement between the Kenai Peninsula Educational Support Association and the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District for the years 1996-97 through 1997-98. The agreement included the arbiter's decision from binding arbitration.

Mrs. Karen Mahurin, KPESA President, questioned why the agreement needed to be ratified when the union had agreed to go to binding arbitration. Mrs. Radtke responded that legal counsel determined this is an appropriate measure to come to public approval.

Mr. John Kistler, parent, thanked the Board for opening a portion of the negotiations process in arbitration to the general public.

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ACTION

Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve ratification of the KPESA Agreement. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

LEASE AGREEMENT WITH  
NINILCHIK FAIRGROUND  
ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve a lease agreement with the Ninilchik Fairground Association for classroom space at the Chinook Building. Changes from the original agreement are restoration of the facility to the original facility unless mutually agreed upon, a revised hold harmless clause, and insurance clarifications for the Fairground Association.

Mrs. Nadine Russo, Manager of the Fair Association, told the Board their legal name is the Ninilchik Fair Association which needed to be changed in the agreement. She also noted the Ninilchik Fair Association would meet on Thursday to address the agreement. Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve the lease agreement contingent upon approval by the Ninilchik Fair Association.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the School Facility Lease Agreement between the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District and the Ninilchik Fairground Association. Dr. Anderson seconded.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved to amend the motion to revise the agreement to change the wording from Ninilchik Fairground Association to Ninilchik Fair Association. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Amendment carried unanimously.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved to amend the motion that approval of the agreement would be contingent upon approval by the Ninilchik Fair Association. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Amendment carried unanimously.

Amended motion carried unanimously.

LEASE AGREEMENT WITH  
NINILCHIK TRADITIONAL  
COUNCIL:

Mr. Dahlgren noted the Board previously approved an agreement with the Ninilchik Traditional Council for space to hold classes in their subsistence building. The contract was returned with an addendum that the Ninilchik Traditional Council would donate its profits from the agreement to a New Ninilchik School Fund. He noted legal counsel advised that the addendum would not affect the lease agreement, and he recommended approval of the revised lease agreement.

ACTION

Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve the Lease Agreement with the Ninilchik Traditional Council. Mr. Arness seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

DATE FOR CHARTER SCHOOL  
PROPOSAL REVIEW:

Dr. Bromenschenkel recommended the Board approve reviewing charter school proposals on Friday, January 17, 1997, at 9:00 a.m. He noted three charter school proposals had been received, one each from Seward, Homer and the Central Peninsula area. Proposers will be invited to attend their review session with the school board.

ACTION

Mrs. Germano moved the Board set the Charter School review to be held on January 17, 1997, at 9:00 a.m. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Mr. Arnese stated he would be unable to attend the review sessions due to a prior commitment.

Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mrs. Karen Mahurin, KPESA President, stated the intent for filing the unfair labor practice suit was strictly to clarify whether this is a mandatory/non-mandatory procedure of bargaining since it has been a part of the negotiated agreement for many years. These items were not addressed by Mr. Dorsey during the arbitration process and clarification was needed for future bargaining by the employee group. She hoped the Board understood the spirit in which the suit had been filed.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS  
(continued):

Additionally, Mrs. Mahurin addressed the grievance arbitration, the second served by the union. She wondered why the first grievance arbitration was not in the Board packets since the union had been given the award in that case. She felt that the union had been awarded part of this grievance and encouraged the Board to read the entire grievance arbitration document.

Mrs. Mahurin stated that, though not as a criticism, the awards given at the meeting were recognized as teachers, whereas, Mrs. Rogers, the recipient of the First Lady's Volunteer Award, is a support employee. Mrs. Gross apologized for her statement made earlier in the meeting.

Mr. Hal Smalley, KPEA President, echoed Mrs. Mahurin's comments related to the unfair labor practice suits. He also addressed a situation where a teacher at Kenai Central High School has been assigned to a position for which he is not qualified to teach. He stated he would address this in a written communication to the Board, but was concerned this could jeopardize accreditation at that school.

Mrs. Kathryn Kennedy, SBDM Council Chair at Ninilchik School, emphasized her position that the council be informed of details on the rebuilding of the addition at the Ninilchik School.

Mr. John Kistler, parent, told the Board that children should be educated about responsibility, but the Board by their earlier action on the handbook policy, refused to recognize that accountability and responsibility go hand in hand. He noted there are other requirements, i.e. library fines being paid before receiving a final report card, but parents are not required to know the rules in the student handbook. He urged the Board to reconsider their previous action on the basis of accountability and responsibility.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mrs. Germano raised a procedural question on policy revisions requiring first, second and third readings, and the action taken by the Board at this first reading. Dr. Bromenschenkel noted that policy adoptions require first and second readings, but policy revisions do not. He stated it appeared regulations fall in the same category, but he would research this for the Board.

Mrs. Germano served notice of reconsideration on the student handbook policy and the internet policy at the next meeting.

BOARD COMMENTS (cont.)

Dr. Anderson stated he would like parents to read the handbooks, but was not supportive of burdening teachers and expending a lot of money publishing the handbooks when they do not make it home with students. His opinion was that this was a responsibility of the students, and he favored Skyview High School's method of notifying parents.

Miss Corazza stated she agreed with Mr. Dahlgren, and hoped that perhaps a shortened version of the student handbook and parent notification through the school newsletter would serve this purpose.

Mrs. Larned commented she was pleased with the awards made at the meeting, and encouraged that many more be made to the excellent staff members within the district.

Mrs. Gross commented she was appreciative of the wonderful support staff in the district. She again apologized for her previous comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 9:05 p.m., Mrs. Germano moved the Board go into executive session to discuss matters, the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the Borough regarding the Superintendent's Contract; and to discuss subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person, provided the person may request a public discussion. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 10:50 p.m., Mr. Arness moved the executive session be adjourned. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN:

At 10:51 p.m., Mr. Arness moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President

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Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

The Minutes of January 6, 1997,  
were approved on January 20, 1997,  
as written.