

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
Homer High School Auditorium  
Homer, Alaska 99603

October 7, 1991

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

Mrs. Betty Obendorf, President  
Mrs. Marilyn Dimmick, Vice President  
Mrs. Joyce Fischer, Clerk  
Mr. Clifford Massie, Treasurer  
Mr. Joe Arness, Member  
Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, Member  
Mr. Michael Tauriainen, Member

STAFF PRESENT:

Dr. Robert Holmes, Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. John Dahlgren, Associate Superintendent, Planning,  
Operations, and Technology  
Mrs. Mary Rubadeau, Executive Director, Instructional Services  
Mrs. Sharon Radtke, Executive Director, Personnel  
Mr. Richard Swarner, Executive Director, Business Management

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Henry Anderson	Ms. Eileen Summers
Mr. Hal Smalley	Mr. Thomas Boedeker
Mr. and Mrs. Louis Gjosund	Mr. Hal Spence
Mr. Lance Peterson	Mr. Lewis McLin
Mr. Joe Gallagher	Mrs. Marie Walli
Rep. Gail Phillips	Mr. Jeff Coultier
Mr. Lincoln Saito	Mr. James Hornaday
Dr. Peter Larson	Dr. Sara Peterson
Mr. and Mrs. Mike Wiley	Sen. Paul Fischer
Mrs. Diane Borgman	Mr. Rick Ladd
Mr. Serve Wilson	Mr. Robert Bell
Mr. Kenneth Moore	Mrs. Mildred Martin
Mr. Al Poindexter	Mr. Mike Bundy
Mr. David Brann	Mr. James O'Toole
Mr. Ken Satre	Mrs. Mary Trimble

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mrs. Obendorf called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

ROLL CALL:

Mrs. Betty Obendorf	Present
Mrs. Marilyn Dimmick	Present
Mrs. Joyce Fischer	Present
Mr. Clifford Massie	Present
Mr. Joe Arness	Present
Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross	Present
Mr. Michael Tauriainen	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The agenda was approved with a change from a report item to an action item on the Tustumena Boundary Change, and the addition of a Level III Grievance Decision.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The School Board Minutes of September 16, 1991, were approved with a correction.

SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT:

Dr. Holmes reported enrollment has increased by 20 students since the last reporting period, but is 140 short of the projected enrollment on which the 1991-92 budget is based. He noted the central office administration will carefully monitor the enrollment through the October 25 deadline.

He announced a Parent Training Conference will be held on Saturday, October 19, 1991, at the Borough Administration Building, Soldotna. This meeting is open to parents, administrators, teachers and staff, and will feature guest speakers, a session on MegaSkills, and other areas of parent involvement.

The Board heard committee reports from Mrs. Radtke on evaluations, negotiations, and hiring practices; Mr. Swarner on the budget; Mr. Dahlgren on activities and housing; and Mrs. Rubadeau on instruction.

Mrs. Fischer commented that Mrs. Radtke's report did not outline how the best qualified candidates are selected. Mrs. Radtke responded that candidates are selected according to the job description for the specific position. The best candidates in the pool for the position are then reviewed according to their references, eligibility, etc. and then follow on to the interview process. She noted administrators have often gone to using a hiring committee which includes department chairpersons, parent representatives and staff from the school. Mrs. Fischer added she was primarily concerned with the process at the central office level where individuals were not considered by central office staff. Mrs. Radtke responded the personnel department does not decide who is to be interviewed. She stated each candidate must complete the application and needs to notify the central office whether they are interested in job vacancies. The principals follow through with the interview process and make the decision for their school.

Mr. Swarner indicated the Budget Committee would meet prior to the next meeting on October 21 to review the guidelines for the budget process. Board representatives to the committee are Mr. Arness and Mrs. Gross.

SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT (cont.):

Mr. Dahlgren stated the Board's committee would be working on a philosophy statement for co-curricular activities and receive additional information from the areas of general, financial and administration. He noted the board's representatives should continue with the recommendations.

Mr. Dahlgren noted Housing Facilities Committee Meetings are scheduled for October and November to prepare a board recommendation to be presented in December. He commented that the district is 200 students over last year's enrollment which is causing housing problems in the district. Mrs. Fischer commented that community input should be received before a recommendation is made. Mr. Dahlgren agreed that community input is important, but noted the report is due in December. He added that the communities would have opportunity to express their wishes during the budget process, and no major changes or new facilities are planned for the upcoming year.

Mrs. Rubadeau reported that as part of a board goal the counselors and administrators are involved in the Alaska School Counseling Program and would be meeting next week on Phase 3 Training. Secondary administrators and counselors will also review the issues of dual credit, scheduling options, and smoking. Information was gathered at the Student Leadership Conference last week in these areas.

EARLY LEAVER REPORT:

Mrs. Rubadeau reported the KPBSD early leaver (drop out) rate is 4.3% for grades 7-12 as compared to the 1989 national percentage of 12.6%. The report indicated the largest percentage of students left district schools for "family reasons." The report data will be used by school staff members to reduce the numbers of early leavers.

KENAI MIDDLE SCHOOL  
REPORT:

Mrs. Rubadeau presented a written report on the transition of Kenai Junior High School to a middle school for the 1991-92 school year. The Board concurred on receiving a report from the Kenai Middle School staff at their October 21 meeting.

HOMER PARENT ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE:

Mr. James O'Toole, Homer Parent Advisory Committee Chairperson, requested the Board review and clarify its policy on parent involvement. He noted the apparent intent of the policy was well thought out, but needed clarification. He thanked the Board for its promptness in advertising Homer school vacancies. He also stated the PAC was concerned about student population growth and hoped the Board would show foresight in addressing the crowded situations in Homer. Top priorities would be a West Homer Elementary School and completion of Homer Junior High. He also expressed appreciation to Mrs. Fischer for her involvement and commitment to the school district during her years on the school board.

HOMER PARENT ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE (cont.):

Mrs. Linda Martin introduced the Homer Area Parent Advisory Committee members. Those introduced were Cindy Barker, Jim O'Toole, Don Heckert, Anne Scally and Linda Martin.

HOMER FLEX SCHOOL  
PARENT ADVISORY  
BOARD:

Mrs. Marie Walli, Homer Flex School Advisory Board representative, informed the Board they would be holding their first meeting of the season on Wednesday, October 9 at 5:00 p.m. She commented a graduation would be held in December and an open house is scheduled soon. She noted the Board has been working on a program for homeless teens in the area. She also commented that lower peninsula projects had not received priority listings that they received in previous years and she asked the board to consider staffing and housing of students as important needs. She commented that new buildings are needed to handle the unhoused students. She felt this should be an issue to be lobbied in Juneau, particularly for Anchor Point and Homer.

HOMER HIGH PARENT  
GROUP:

Mr. Don Heckert, Homer High School Parent/Student/Teacher Association, told the Board there were five active committees working to achieve objectives within the schools. These committees were selection committee, co-curricular restructuring committee, site-based management, PTR Ratio, financial matters, and their mission is to be actively involved and facilitate interaction with the Board. He expressed concern on the library hours, hot lunch program, counselor focus, the teen pregnancy rate, and club and sports participation fee which impacted low income families. They supported the Homer Junior High School be completed in the near future.

HOMER JUNIOR HIGH  
PARENT GROUP:

Mrs. Mary Trimble, Homer Junior High Parent Organization President, told the Board their group was concerned with the ongoing need for a lunch room at Homer Junior High. She noted this was an academic impediment. She stated the parent group would continue to pursue this issue.

K.P.E.A. :

Mr. Henry Anderson, K.P.E.A. President, invited the Board to participate in an open forum coalition on education funding and other educational issues on October 23 in the Borough Assembly Room, Soldotna. Local state legislators or their representatives will be in attendance at the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Sick Leave Draw Request/Certified, Sick Leave Draw Requests/Support, Requests for Leave/Certified, Substitute Teacher Contracts, Resignation, Leave of Absence Request/Support, 1991-92 Teacher Assignments, Extended Field Trip Request, Early Graduation Request and Grant Applications.

SICK LEAVE DRAW  
REQUEST/CERTIFIED:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a draw of 9 days from the K.P.E.A. Sick Leave Bank for Jean Wykis, Kindergarten, Tustumena Elementary.

SICK LEAVE DRAW  
REQUEST/SUPPORT:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve draws from the K.P.E.S.A. Sick Leave Bank as follows: Judy A. Lyday, Custodian, Homer High School, 10 days; and Donna Mahaffey, Aide/Special Services, Kenai Junior High, 24 days.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE  
REQUEST/CERTIFIED:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve unpaid leave of absences for the 1992-93 school year for Jeanna Carver, Home Economics/Health, Soldotna High; and Julie Stephens, Grade 3, Mountain View Elementary.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER  
CONTRACTS:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve substitute teacher contracts for Teresa Toller, Special Education/QUEST, Kalifornsky Beach Elementary; and Angela Hamm-Brinkerhoff, Grade 1, Sears Elementary.

RESIGNATIONS:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve the resignation of Tom Atkinson, English/QUEST, Soldotna High effective September 20, 1991.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE  
REQUEST/SUPPORT:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve an unpaid leave of absence request from October 14 to October 20, 1991 for Chris Crum, Aide/Special Services, Chapman Elementary.

1991-92 TEACHER  
ASSIGNMENTS:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve 1991-92 teacher assignments for Ellen Halseth, Language Arts, Homer Junior High; Jennifer Carr, Grade 2, Seward Elementary; Jennifer Carlson, Special Education/Educationally Handicapped, Homer High; Michele Robbins, Tutor (half-time), Paul Banks Elementary; and Teresa Toller, QUEST (half-time), Kalifornsky Beach Elementary.

EXTENDED FIELD TRIP  
REQUESTS:

Mrs. Rubadeau recommended the Board approve an extended field trip request for three Soldotna High School students to attend the Western Regional DECA Leadership Conference, November 10-13, 1991 in Portland, Oregon.

EARLY GRADUATION  
REQUEST:

Mrs. Rubadeau recommended the Board approve an early graduation request for a Soldotna High School senior to graduate at the end of the first semester of the 1991-92 school year.

GRANT APPLICATIONS:

Mrs. Rubadeau recommended the Board approve grant applications for the TECH Program for \$221,037; and Homeless Peninsula Teens for \$9,169.

Mrs. Fischer requested the Board vote separately on Item 6a (10), Approval of Grant Applications.

ACTION

Mrs. Dimmick moved the Board approve Consent Agenda items #1 through #9. Mr. Arness seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ACTION

Mrs. Fischer moved the Board approve 6a (10), Approval of Grant Applications. Mrs. Dimmick seconded.

Mrs. Fischer questioned whether \$101,000 had been budgeted for the TECH Program grant. Mrs. Rubadeau responded that staff had been allocated to work with the severely emotionally population at Soldotna High School and this would serve as in-kind services through the Health and Social Services grant.

Mrs. Gross questioned whether this was a new grant which would set a precedent in the district. Mrs. Rubadeau commented this was a three-year grant which was opened to school districts to provide day treatment to students. This would serve students certified with disabilities. Mrs. Rubadeau responded to a question from Mr. Tauriainen that the program would service certified students through mental health funds with current staff. Mrs. Obendorf questioned how students would be helped in the homeless grant. Mrs. Rubadeau commented that in-servicing, referral groups for students, etc. would effect the homeless students.

Motion carried unanimously.

RECONSIDERATION OF  
INSTRUCTIONAL  
MATERIALS:

Mrs. Rubadeau recommended the Board appoint the Reconsideration of Instructional Materials Committee for the 1991-92 school year as follows: Board member, Joe Arness; Teachers, Mary Toutonghi and Marguerite Wilcox; Principal, Carolyn Cannava; Librarian, Mary Estes; Community members, Gwen Gjovig, Ross Kendall, and Barbara Christian.

ACTION

Mrs. Dimmick moved the Board approve the Reconsideration of Instructional Materials Committee as recommended by Mrs. Rubadeau. Mrs. Fischer seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

PROPERTY FOR NIKISKI  
MIDDLE SCHOOL:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board reaffirm their support of the Site Selection Committee's recommendation for a Nikiski middle/junior high school, and request that the mayor reintroduce it through the appropriate channels.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board adopt the proposal to reintroduce the Nikiski middle/junior high school site. Mr. Tauriainen seconded.

Mrs. Fischer questioned the number of people in attendance at the meeting and method of advertising the meeting. Mr. Dahlgren responded approximately 35-40 people were in attendance. Mr. Arness responded the Chairman of the Local Affairs Committee requested participation of governmental agencies, local service area boards, as well as local

PROPERTY FOR NIKISKI  
MIDDLE SCHOOL  
(continued):

advertising. Mrs. Fischer stated she had received many comments that the community had not been involved or their opinions solicited. She added residents were concerned that additions could be made to the current junior/senior high school rather than considering a new facility. Mr. Dahlgren commented the district attempts to make sites available for future facilities as addressed in the Six Year Plan.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Fischer served notice to reconsider the motion at the next meeting and that a public meeting be held in the Nikiski area prior to that meeting to ascertain the desires of that community. Mr. Arness stated he would take responsibility for organizing the meeting in the Nikiski area.

TUSTUMENA BOUNDARY  
CHANGES:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board change the Tustumena Elementary boundaries from Mile 9.5 to Mile 5.5 on Kalifornsky Beach Road and from Mile 0 to Mile 5.5 for Skyview and Soldotna Junior High students. This request was presented earlier in the year by Kasilof parents.

ACTION

Mrs. Gross moved the Board approve the Tustumena Elementary boundary change from Mile 9.5 to Mile 5.5. and the Skyview/Soldotna Junior High School boundary be changed from Mile 0 to Mile 5.5. Mr. Massie seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

LEVEL III GRIEVANCE  
HEARING DECISION:

Mrs. Obendorf noted the Board conducted a Level III Grievance Hearing prior to the school board meeting.

ACTION

Mrs. Gross moved the Board approve the following resolution: The Board has heard the Level III grievance regarding track coach salaries on October 7, 1991. The grievance asserts inequity in pay for track coaches since they are paid less than some other extracurricular sponsors and coaches. The board finds this is not grievable under the agreement. The salaries are set by Section 120 of the Negotiated Agreement and there is no claim this is being violated. The concerns in this grievance cover subjects of bargaining and the board has no authority to alter the agreement by grievance decision. These issues are part of the collective bargaining process and should be handled in that process. Mr. Tauriainen seconded.

Mrs. Dimmick stated she would abstain from voting since was not in attendance at the grievance hearing.

VOTE:

YES - Arness, Fischer, Gross, Massie, Tauriainen, Obendorf  
ABSTAIN - Dimmick

Motion carried.

K.P.E.A. NEGOTIATIONS  
TEAM:

Dr. Holmes recommended the Board appoint Mrs. Sharon Radtke, Mr. Richard Swarner and Mrs. Melody Douglas as the board's team for negotiating with K.P.E.A. Mr. Massie seconded.

VOTE:

YES - Arness, Dimmick, Gross, Massie, Tauriainen, Obendorf  
NO - Fischer

Motion carried.

AASB BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS NOMINATION:

Mrs. Obendorf recommended that Mrs. Marilyn Dimmick be selected as their nominee to the Association of Alaska School Boards Board of Directors.

ACTION

Mrs. Gross moved the Board approve the nomination of Marilyn Dimmick to the AASB Board of Directors. Mr. Tauriainen seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. Henry Anderson read a petition from parents which would limit class sizes beginning with the 1995-96 school year. The petition specified that classes be set as follows: K-3, not more than 15 students; grades 4-6, not more than 20 students, and grades 7-12 not more than 25 students. Students assisted by PL 94-124 would count as two students, and this measure would not apply to art, typing, library, music, vocational or gym. It does not apply during the last weeks of school.

Mr. David Brann, Homer Junior High School teacher, stated he supported Mr. Sorenson on his middle school program and noted approximately 100 students from Kenai Middle School and some Homer Junior High School were on a student exchange program this week.

Mrs. Kathy Godfrey, Homer City Council, welcomed the Board to Homer.

Mrs. Mildred Martin, Homer resident, commented on behalf of a parent unable to attend the meeting. She stated it was a concern that the school district could save money by lowering the temperature of the schools. It was her observation that schools are heated on weekends when not in use. Mrs. Martin expressed concern that students are denied access to the school libraries during certain hours of the day. She stated the library aides are valuable to the library program and teaching volunteers takes time away from the librarians. She also expressed pleasure with the reestablishment of the Homer PTSA, and encouraged site based management for funding schools. She concluded that the petition on class size should also stipulate that the state would guarantee funding for classroom space.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS  
(continued):

Mrs. Debra Germano, Homer parent, told the Board the McNeil Canyon Elementary Parent group, was pleased with their new principal, Dr. Sara Peterson. She also noted the parent group supported the completion of the Homer Middle School project.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mr. Tauriainen expressed appreciation to the Homer community for their welcome and participation in the meeting.

He also extended congratulations to peninsula students who participated in the cross-country meet, especially the Seward boys and girls teams for the championships as well as high GPA scores.

Mrs. Gross thanked Homer residents for supporting her in the recent election.

She commented she was interested in converting the Homer Middle School area to a multipurpose area due to the lack of space. She felt the Board needed to push this issue this year.

Mrs. Gross commented that she had enjoyed recent visits to schools on the peninsula, and heard many comments on the lack of librarians. She added that teachers and parents had stated they would like to see school board members in the schools more often.

She requested a worksession on PACs/PTAs in the near future.

Mr. Massie stated a recent vocational gathering at KCHS was very enlightening. He requested the Board hold a worksession with the vocational committee and determine the board's direction in this area.

Mrs. Fischer questioned whether baccalaureate services would continue in the schools. Dr. Holmes responded that schools will no longer sponsor the baccalaureate services and each individual religious group is allowed to organize baccalaureate services. He noted baccalaureate services have been poorly attended in the past.

She commented that she was frustrated with local hiring and stated that of seven local hires this spring, five of those hires were not registered voters, did not have a local phone listing and did not have a state auto registration.

Mrs. Fischer commented she felt formulas were a necessity, but it would be a benefit if schools could retain year end funds.

She stated that from visits with local people, the parents felt they are not welcomed in the schools. Parents felt frustrated about this.

BOARD COMMENTS  
(continued):

Mrs. Fischer expressed appreciation to the Homer area and others for supporting her during the election.

Mr. Arness commented the middle school site had been discussed extensively for the last eight months and he was aware that some people were not pleased with the site selected, but they had not expressed that displeasure to him. He stated he would report to the board at the next meeting on the Nikiski gathering related to the middle school site.

Mrs. Dimmick stated she was pleased with audience participation at the meeting as well as the enthusiastic parent groups in the Homer area.

Mrs. Obendorf stated she attended the boroughwide student government meeting this week and was encouraged by student enthusiasm and leadership. The next day she attended a meeting with the governor and was pleased with the students' well thought questions.

She stated she would be on the committee for the Youth Summit III.

Mrs. Obendorf requested Mr. Arness notify the board members on the Nikiski site selection meeting.

ADJOURN:

At 9:29 p.m., Mrs. Dimmick moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mr. Arness seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Mrs. Betty Obendorf, President

  
Mrs. Joyce Fischer, Clerk

The Minutes of October 7, 1991,  
were approved on October 21, 1991,  
with a correction.