



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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July 11, 2011

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Tim Peterson, Director, Human Resources

THROUGH: Dave Jones, Assistant Superintendent *Dave Jones*

SUBJECT: Approval of Administrative Recommendation regarding
Leave of Absence Request – Certified - Item 10 a (6)

It is recommended the following request for an unpaid leave of absence for the 2011-12 school year be denied.

Sandra Lewis Art Teacher Kenai Central High School

July 2, 2011

Sandra Lewis

Kenai, AK 99611

Dr. Steve Atwater
Superintendent
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

Mr Atwater:

I am writing to you to request a leave of absence from my job as art teacher at Kenai Central High School for the 2011-12 school year.

I have the opportunity to travel to Vietnam and work as the art teacher in the American School of Vietnam located in Ho Chi Minh City.

The job would give me the unique chance to learn about the art and culture of Vietnam, which I could use to enrich my teaching. It will also offer me the opportunity to hone my teaching skills by helping a relatively new school develop its art curriculum and integrate art instruction into a K-12 school.

Additionally, living in Vietnam would be an excellent opportunity for me and my family. I have two boys, 12 and 13, who would have the chance of a lifetime to travel, learn about the world and be immersed in very different culture.

I apologize for this request coming so close to the upcoming school year. I started my search for a temporary overseas position in December. I literally just found out about the job offer a few hours ago. I have talked to my principal, Alan Fields, about my search for an overseas job many times during the past six months, and he is aware that I may be asking for a leave of absence.

I have worked in this school district for 22 years and lived in this community for most of my life. This is an opportunity for me to step out of my comfort zone, face new challenges and grow both personally and professionally.

I would respectfully ask that you forward my request for a year's leave of absence to the school board as soon as possible – Tuesday's meeting, if possible. Unfortunately, I will be out of town and out of cell phone range until Thursday, July 7.

Sincerely,

Sandra Lewis