

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

August 19, 1996

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President
Mr. Joe Arness, Vice President
Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk
Mr. Emery Thibodeau, Treasurer
Dr. Nels Anderson, Member
Mrs. Joyce Fischer, Member
Mrs. Deborah Germano, Member

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:

Mrs. Debra Mullins	Mrs. Ann Bayes
Mrs. Carolyn Venuti	Mrs. Melody Douglas
Mrs. Karen Mahurin	Mr. Hal Smalley
Ms. Michelle Vaughan	Mr. Joe Gallaher
Mr. Richard Patton	Mr. Tim Volstad
Mr. and Mrs. Mike Chitty	Mr. Carlton Kuhns
Mr. Lewis McLin	Mr. Glen Szymoniak
Mr. Mark Leal	Mr. Rick Ladd
Ms. Susan Kernes	Mrs. Michele Bournonville
Mrs. Kaylene White	Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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
Mr. Emery Thibodeau	Present
Dr. Nels Anderson	Present
Mrs. Joyce Fischer	Absent - Excused
Mrs. Deborah Germano	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The agenda was approved as printed with the addition of Item 10e, Approval of Superintendent's Retirement.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The School Board Minutes of the August 5, 1996 regular meeting and August 7, 1996 special meeting were approved as written.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. Tim Volstad, Seldovia resident, spoke to the Board about the band program at Susan B. English Elem/High School. He commented there was no certified teacher to teach the music program, and it had been taught by him as an extracurricular activity for the past five years. Since he is not a certified person, he was paid as an aide and later on a coach contract. There has been a change this year that he would not be able to teach the music class. He asked the Board review this situation. The Board requested Mrs. Radtke to report back to them related to staffing the music program.

Mrs. Michele Bournonville, Homer parent, requested the Board consider an additional half-time teacher for McNeil Canyon Elementary School. She noted teachers must deal with children with language differences, and if children do not have special needs they sometimes do not get the teaching attention they need. She urged the Board to consider the additional teacher allocation.

Mrs. Kaylene White, parent, spoke on the McNeil situation where she felt an additional half-time teacher was needed. She commented that the teacher's time was utilized teaching the Russian-speaking children and then teaching the other students in the class. She stated the teachers were very good, but additional help was needed to accommodate all students at McNeil Canyon Elementary School.

Mr. Bill Marshall, probation officer, urged the Board to apply for grant money available through the Department of Health and Social Services which could be used for an alternative program in Homer. He commented Mr. Heckert's program has helped troubled students effectively in the past. Dr. Bromenschenkel requested Mr. Heckert contact the central office administration with information on the grant.

Mrs. Robin Morin, McNeil Canyon Elementary parent, expressed concern that the staff had been reduced. She noted that the Russian speaking children require additional teacher time where regular students need attention. She presented a petition to the Board where parents requested an additional half-time staff person.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS
(continued):

An unidentified parent addressed the Board on her concern related to the half-day kindergarten program at McNeil Canyon School and the burden it presents on parents for transportation. She felt parents should not be placed in a position where their children will not be prepared for first grade if they do not attend kindergarten. She noted many parents in the area cannot provide dependable transportation.

COMMUNICATIONS AND
PETITIONS:

Mrs. Gross noted receipt of a letter from Michele Borounsville related to additional staffing for McNeil Canyon Elementary.

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KPESA:

Mrs. Karen Mahurin, KPESA president, told the Board KPESA has abided by the negotiations ground rules agreed upon but the district has not. She commented she was frustrated with the bargaining process where the district was unwilling to talk, discuss and bargain. She noted the district declared an impasse to the media in June, which was not mutually agreed to, and in violation of the negotiations ground rules. She stated the association was hopeful an agreement could be reached prior to binding arbitration. She felt the disregard and unwillingness to talk and compromise by the district was the worst ever in her history of negotiating. She noted the employees are eager to begin schools, but feel cheated and frustrated by the bargaining process. She noted some current personnel matters were in disregard to the negotiated agreement, and might possibly be grieved, although the association was hopeful a better working relationship with the board could be obtained.

Mr. Hal Smalley, KPEA President, greeted the Board in his capacity as the new president of that association. He commented he had a couple of questions but Mrs. Radtke had answered them.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Bromenschenkel reported administrator meetings held on Thursday and Friday of last week were successful, and he anticipated this week would bring a good beginning to the school year.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Mr. Swarner presented the financial report of the district for the period ended July 30, 1996.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of 1996-97 Substitute and Temporary Pay Schedule, 1996-97 Tentative Non-Tenure Teacher Assignment, 1996-97 Teacher Assignment, Leave of Absence Request/Support, and Furniture and Equipment List.

1996-97 SUBSTITUTE AND
TEMPORARY PAY SCHEDULE:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve the 1996-97 Substitute and Temporary Pay Schedule. Salaries for support substitutes and temporaries remain the same as for the 1995-96 school year.

1996-97 TENTATIVE NONTENURE
TEACHER ASSIGNMENT:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a tentative nontenure teacher assignment for the 1996-97 school year for Chris VanBuskirk, Music (half-time), Nikiski Jr/Sr High.

1996-97 TEACHER ASSIGNMENT:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve the assignment of Brittna Praker, School Psychologist, Districtwide, for the 1996-97 school year.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE/SUPPORT

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve an unpaid leave of absence request for Nancy Yeaton, Special Education Aide, Nanwalek School for the 1996-97 school year.

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 \$67,675.

Mrs. Pat Chitty, Nikolaevsk Librarian and Counselor, requested the Board reconsider the pay schedule for substitute teachers. She noted it is very difficult to secure certificated teachers in the small schools and the amount set does not attract qualified people. She felt they should earn far more than what they are paid. She felt the current rate was not a just wage.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

SIX YEAR PLAN/ENROLLMENT
PROJECTIONS AND SCHOOL
CONSTRUCTION NEEDS:

Mr. Dahlgren presented the Six Year Plan of Enrollment Projections and School Construction Needs 1996-97 through 2001-2002. He noted a few adjustments had been made to the capital projects list since it was reviewed at the August 5 meeting. The major maintenance list was presented in priority order, and the document would be sent to the Department of Education for funding considerations.

ACTION

Mr. Thibodeau moved the Board approve the Six Year Plan of Enrollment Projections and School Construction Needs as presented. Mrs. Larned seconded.

SIX YEAR PLAN (cont.):

Mrs. Germano questioned why some projects such as covering an ice rink were more important than student needs. Mr. Dahlgren commented the list was rated on input from Board members, inspection at schools, and other needs. Dr. Anderson commented he was aware of the changes on the list from prior years, and even though he did not favor some of the projects he would vote for the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

POLICY BP 9250/ COMPENSATION,
REIMBURSE-MENT, AND OTHER
BENEFITS:

Dr. Bromenschenkel commented Policy BP 9250, Compensation, Reimbursement, and Other Benefits, was presented for Board approval. This policy related to school board benefits.

Dr. Anderson commented this item had been voted upon, but failed at a meeting on July 8. He stated Robert's Rules of Order specify the motion could not be brought before the same body. He noted a new school board could vote on it. After a brief period of discussion, the Board Parliamentarian, Mr. Arness, ruled the Board could entertain a motion on the item because the motion could be considered at new meeting.

ACTION

Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve BP 9250. Mrs. Germano seconded.

VOTE:

YES - Arness, Germano, Larned, Thibodeau, Gross

NO - Anderson

Motion carried.

SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD
MEETING:

Dr. Bromenschenkel recommended the Board schedule a special school board meeting for September 4, 1996, to review the last "best-offers" submitted from KPEA and KPESA.

Mrs. Germano requested the meeting be held in the evening because of work commitments.

ACTION Mr. Arness moved the Board approve holding a special school board meeting at 7:00 p.m., on September 4, 1996, at the Borough Building, Soldotna. Mrs. Germano seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RETIREMENT: Dr. Bromenschenkel submitted a letter of resignation for purposes of retirement effective June 30, 1997. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve them for the period of three years, and offered to assist them in a smooth transition. He stated he would continue to direct the district toward completion of school board priorities.

ACTION Mr. Thibodeau moved to approve the Superintendent's Retirement. Mr. Arness seconded.

Mrs. Gross commented she was unhappy to see Dr. Bromenschenkel retire. Mr. Thibodeau commented he enjoyed working with Dr. Bromenschenkel for the past three years. Dr. Anderson stated he was supportive of Superintendent Bromenschenkel and would not vote for the resignation.

VOTE:

YES - Arness, Germano, Larned, Thibodeau, Gross

NO - Anderson

Motion carried.

FIRST READING/POLICY: The Board heard the first reading of policy AR 9250, Compensation, Reimbursement and Other Benefits. This policy relates to school board member benefits.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Mr. Richard Patton, Homer High School Principal, thanked Dr. Bromenschenkel for his leadership and wished him well in the future.

Ms. Susan Kernes thanked the Board for holding their meeting in Homer. She also expressed appreciation to Mr. Swarner for his tenure with the school district.

Mr. Glen Szymoniak, McNeil Canyon School Principal, thanked the parents who spoke on behalf of their school. He extended an invitation to the Board to visit the school whenever possible.

BOARD COMMENTS: Mrs. Larned expressed appreciation to the parents who spoke at the meeting and also to the people who called with their comments on issues. She extended best wishes to Dr. Bromenschenkel.

BOARD COMMENTS (cont.): Mrs. Germano expressed appreciation to the people who called her and parents who spoke at the meeting. She commented the situation at McNeil Canyon School related to a nontenure teacher not being rehired. She suggested the Board take a look at staffing this year.

Mrs. Gross commented she was appreciative of those attending the meeting.

ADJOURN:

At 8:37 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 August 19, 1996,
were approved on September 16, 1996,
as written.