

## KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

148 N. Binkley Street  
Soldotna, AK 99669

Dr. Donna Peterson, Superintendent

March 4, 2002

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**SCHOOL REPORTS:** Mr. Dave Evans, Razdolna Elementary principal/teacher, gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the school history and demographics. He stated that the school instructional goal is to improve oral language and is supported through Author's Day, a health fair and student research and reports. He explained that 100% of incoming kindergarten students speak Russian as their only language. He noted that disciplinary action is rarely needed. He reported that the school sponsors the vegetable fair, fire safety training, and a six-week summer library program which provides local access to school library books. He reported that the staff conducts weekly staff collaboration about students and instructional strategies and monthly collaboration of onsite and itinerant staff to celebrate successes and discuss concerns. He reported on assessment and state standards and noted that challenges that face the school are daily road access, parent involvement, building maintenance inadequacies, poor attendance with migrant families and 100% high school dropout rated by Grade 10 (some students take the GED test).

Mr. Glen Szymoniak, Homer Middle School principal, explained that the school offers four core classes and several exploratory classes including technology skills taught by Mr. John Bushell, a full-time technology teacher. He introduced Miss Kasey Aderhold and Miss Hannah Harrison who gave a PowerPoint presentation thanking the Board, administration and Borough for the new computers. The presentation highlighted many areas where the new computers are being used. Miss Harrison explained that all teachers post their assignments and grades online and maintain websites where they post the standards that are addressed in their classes. She noted that the school has been participating in Cyber Safari, a nationwide competition, and placed first in 1999, tenth last year, and are waiting for the results of this year's competition. She stated that the Kachemak Bay Branch of the University of Alaska uses the computer lab for college courses and the After the Bell Program uses the computers to provide student academic assistance.

**AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:** The Board presented a Golden Apple Award to Mrs. Angela McKinney, Chapman Elementary volunteer, for her service and dedication to the District. Ms. Mondari, Razdolna Elementary and Kachemak-Selo Elementary secretary, and Ms. Jane Symens, Chapman Elementary volunteer were not in attendance but were also awarded Golden Apples.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Dr. Peterson announced that the Borough Assembly will conduct a worksession on Tuesday, March 12 at 4:00 p.m. to continue the review and discussion of the final report filed by the Borough Reapportionment Committee regarding School Board apportionment and districting. Dr. Peterson reported that the "Leave No District Behind" legislative campaign was recently discussed in a meeting that included parents, Board members and the administration. She explained that the campaign addresses the area cost differential, rural schools and geographic differences in the District. She noted that the information will be posted on the District website. She announced that a delegation from the District will travel to Juneau on March 5 to discuss the campaign with state legislators. She announced that she will travel to Juneau again on March 20 for further discussions with the legislature.

**2002-2003 BUDGET PRESENTATION:** Mrs. Melody Douglas presented the 2002-2003 preliminary School District budget. She recommended that \$1,453,435 in adjustments be made to reconcile the FY03 general fund expenditure budget. She reported that on March 12 the Assembly will discuss a resolution to award the

District approximately \$2 million in retroactive interest earnings.

Leave of Absence Requests – Certified: The Board unanimously approved an unpaid leave of absence request for the 2002-03 school year for Douglas Emmerich, Grade 4, Mountain View Elementary; Steve Gillaspie, health/physical education, Nikiski Middle/High; Russell Lewis, Grade 6, Tustumena Elementary; Linda Overturf, home economics, Soldotna Middle; and Bev Hunter-Gillaspie, assistant principal, Homer High.

New Teacher Assignment: The Board unanimously approved a teacher assignment for the 2001-2002 school year for Amber Fischer, elementary music (temporary), Tustumena Elementary.

Resignations: The Board unanimously approved resignations for Malcolm Fleming, unassigned, (effective March 4, 2002); Ralph Steeves, Moose Pass School principal/teacher (effective at the end of the 2001-2002 school year); Alice Tucker, Spring Creek principal/teacher (effective at the end of the 2001-2002 school year); and Donald Glaze, Nikiski Middle/High assistant principal (effective at the end of the 2001-2002 school year).

Tentative Tenure Teacher Assignment: The Board unanimously approved a tentative tenure teacher assignment for the 2002-2003 school year for Dale Moon.

Administrative Recommendation Regarding Leave of Absence Requests – Support: The Board unanimously approved an unpaid leave of absence request for the 2002-2003 school year for Jeanie Carter, special education aide, Nikiski Middle/High. The Board did not approve an unpaid leave of absence request for the 2002-2003 school year for Debbie Church, school secretary II, Nikiski Middle/High.

Budget Transfers: The Board unanimously approved budget transfer Number 252 for Aurora Borealis Charter School for \$19,575 for additional work days for teachers; for \$55,000 for desks, chairs, curriculum and classroom supplies for three classrooms; and for \$40,000 for computer purchases.

The Board unanimously approved budget transfer Number 256 to reallocate part of the Learning Opportunity Grant as follows: \$298,000 to fund the after school and summer After-The-Bell programs at Nikiski, Seward, Homer and Kenai; \$10,000 to provide counseling treatment and support to grade 7-12 students by Seaview Community Services; and \$10,000 to provide out-of-school suspension services for Homer Alternative School.

Sabbatical Request: The Board unanimously approved an unpaid sabbatical request for the 2002-2003 school year for Jerry Dixon, Quest, Seward Elementary.

Approval of Administrator Appointment: The Board unanimously approved an administrator appointment for the 2002-2003 school year for Charles W. Walsworth III, West Homer Elementary principal.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: The next regularly scheduled School Board Meeting is Monday, April 1, 2002, 7:30 p.m., Borough Administration Building, Soldotna, Alaska.

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