

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

148 N. Binkley Street  
Soldotna, AK 99669

Dr. Donna Peterson, Superintendent

October 7, 2002

NEWS IN BRIEF

**SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING:** A special School Board meeting was held on September 18, 2002. The Board convened an executive session to discuss negotiations strategies and tactics.

**SCHOOL REPORT:** Mr. Steve Jones, Susan B. English Elementary/High principal, reported that the school has an enrollment of 76 students in grades kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. He reported that the school campus of 48,000 square feet includes classrooms, a vocational education building and a pool. He reported that the school goals are to provide a comprehensive educational program, to maintain strong community support and to improve written language and communication. He presented reading, language arts and math scores and provided a comparison between scores statewide, District and school. He reported that none of the students at Susan B. English Elementary/High received "not proficient" on the benchmark exams. He reviewed past academic awards and extracurricular activity achievements. He reported that the school has a graduation rate of 100% and noted that of those students 70% are attending college, 20% are working, 5% are attending vocational education training, and 5% have joined the military. Mr. Jones concluded his report with a review of the many reasons for the school's success.

Dr. Ron Keffer, Homer High principal, reported that 9<sup>th</sup> grade students come to the high school well-prepared and credited the local elementary and middle schools for their success. Mr. Keffer reported that TERA NOVA, ACT, and SAT test scores are above the national average. He reported that a Homer High student is a finalist for the National Merit Scholar. He reviewed extracurricular activities achievements, reported on the recently-held Student Government Conference and noted that three Board members acted as instructors. He reported that the school music program is outstanding, and reported that the school and community performance of Mozart's Requiem was performed for the public during the spring of 2002 and on September 11.

**AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:** Dr. Peterson reported that Mrs. Debra Mullins was selected to receive the Don MacKinnon Excellence in Education and Human Services Award presented by the Alaska Association of School Administrators.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Dr. Peterson reported that Nikolaevsk Elementary/High School conducted a critical incident drill that included local police. She reported that the School to Careers Advisory Committee (SCAC) met on Monday, September 30, to develop a draft for the development of a short-term blue ribbon task force for the purpose of providing details for the District's vision, specifically; 1) providing the opportunity for every KPBSD student to graduate with both an academic diploma and coursework leading to vocational certification; 2) the development of regional priorities rather than comprehensive offerings at each of the high schools; and 3) the expansion of partnerships to provide necessary services to students.

**Appointment of Student Representative to the Board of Education:** The Board unanimously approved the appointment of Mr. Cameron Poindexter, a Homer High School student, as the student representative to the Board of Education.

**Primary Sponsor of Gaming Permits:** The Board unanimously approved a list of primary and alternative members in charge of gaming for those schools applying for gaming permits for 2002-2003.

**Budget Transfer:** The Board unanimously approved budget transfer Number 59 for \$13,126 for the purchase of various instructional supplies at Skyview High School.

**New Teacher Assignments:** The Board unanimously approved teacher assignments for the 2002-2003 school year for Vicki M. Abraham, .50 FTE Migrant reading/language arts (temporary) and .50 FTE Migrant math (temporary) in the Homer area and Larry J. Shortell, special education/intensive needs teacher at Seward Elementary.

**Long-Term Substitute Teacher Contracts:** The Board unanimously approved long-term substitute teaching contracts for Mathew Winbigler, science at Kenai Central High School; Nancy Thibodeau, third grade at Mountain View Elementary; and Rita Geller, physical education at Soldotna Middle School.

**Administration's Recommendation Regarding Leave of Absence – Support:** The Board unanimously approved a substitute motion granting approval for an unpaid leave of absence for Kate Carmody, head custodian at Sears Elementary.

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING:** The next regularly scheduled School Board Meeting is Monday, October 21, 2002, 7:30 p.m., Borough Administration Building, Soldotna, Alaska.

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