

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Homer High School

Homer, AK 99603

November 2, 1998

Mr. Joe Arness, President

Mrs. Debra Mullins, Vice President

Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

Ms. Deborah Germano, Treasurer

SCHOOL BOARD
MEMBERS:

Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, Member

Dr. Nels Anderson, Member

Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Member

Miss Charise Calvert, Student Representative

Mr. John Dahlgren, Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Patrick Hickey, Assistant Superintendent, Operations and
Business Management

STAFF PRESENT:

Mr. Ed McLain, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction

Mrs. Sharon Radtke, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

Mr. Glen Szymoniak Mr. Chris Russ

Mr. Rich Patton Mr. Rich Toymil

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ms. Karen Wessel Ms. Nancy Holstrand

Mr. Rick Ladd Mr. Stan Eller

Mrs. Margaret Ladd Mr. Mike Morgan

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 8:15 p.m. The meeting was called to order after the school reports were given.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mr. Arness invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Joe Arness Present

Mrs. Debra Mullins Present

Mrs. Susan Larned Present

Ms. Deborah Germano Present

ROLL CALL:

Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross Present

Dr. Nels Anderson Present

Mrs. Sammy Crawford Present

Miss Charise Calvert Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The agenda was approved with the inclusion of revised memorandums for Items Numbers 10a.(1) and 10a.(2).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The School Board Minutes of October 19, 1998, were approved as printed.

SCHOOL REPORTS:

The school reports were presented at 7:30 p.m. prior to convening the regular school board meeting so the auditorium stage could be used for the school performances.

SCHOOL REPORTS

(Continued):

Mr. Glen Szymoniak, McNeil Canyon Elementary principal, stated that this year their school goal related to art. He introduced Rebecca Boone, whose first grade students sang "Hello to You", a song from their Three Bears show to be performed next week. Ms. Debbie Piper's second and third grade students sang "Everybody Has Music Inside."

Ms. Karen Wessel, Homer Flex lead teacher, thanked the community and administration for their support this past year. She stated that without their support she would not have full enrollment and a student waiting list. She also thanked Lucy Kuhns, Jeff Szarzi, Harry Rassmussen and the Homer Flex site council for their help in making Homer Flex School successful. She reported that Homer Flex School has two goals: to encourage the love of reading and to foster the vocational education program.

Mr. Szarzy, vocational education, math and science teacher and job coordinator, stated that Homer Flex students have had the opportunity to be involved in the development and operation of a small salsa business. He stated that 14 students are involved in the work coop program, and 14 students are involved in shop or the small business program. He stated that people in the Homer area have also given the students small projects to do.

Jamie Preston, Homer Flex student, explained the steps involved in running a small business. She stated that Homer Flex School taught her what it takes to get along in the world and helped her pursue an interest in marine biology.

Roger Jones, Homer Flex student, stated that he struggled in school, but with the help of Rich Patton and Keith Gebhardt, he enrolled in Homer Flex School. He stated that Mr. Patton directed him towards activities that kept him out of trouble. He stated that the Homer Flex School saved his education and restored his faith in himself.

Angie John, former Homer Flex student, stated that with the help of Homer Flex School and the Homer Incentive Trust, she now has a job at a realty company and is studying for her realtor's license.

Becca Schriver, former Homer Flex student, stated that people mistakenly think that flex schools are for mothers and drug addicts but that there are those students who learn better in an alternative environment.

SCHOOL REPORTS

(Continued):

Mr. Lance Peterson, Homer High theater director, introduced the Homer High School Performing Arts Department theater group who performed an excerpt from The Wizard of Oz. He explained that the orchestra accompaniment was comprised of adult and student musicians and directed by Mark Robinson, band director, Homer High School.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mike Morgan, teacher and musician, Kasilof, asked the Board to waive all or a portion of the fees involved in the use of the Kenai Central High School auditorium for a fund raiser on Saturday, November 7, 1998. He explained that local artists are donating their talents towards a fund raiser for various organizations on the Kenai Peninsula. He stated that the rental fees total \$1,060, not including a damage deposit of \$250. Mr. Morgan stated that he was told the damage deposit would not have to be paid prior to Saturday night and that their performance would be considered nonprofit, again reducing the fee.

Mr. Hickey stated that he was in support of Mr. Morgan's request, but in accordance with Board policy, the waiver request must be approved by the Board. He added that, although he felt the fund raiser was a worthwhile event, he did not want to set a precedent by deciding who would be subject to auditorium fees and who would not.

Mr. Arness explained that the Board could not make a decision on the request for waiver during that portion of the agenda but would speak to the issue towards the end of the meeting.

Nancy Holstrand asked the Board how the public can follow the budget process. Mrs. Gross explained that copies of the budget are available at the public libraries and that the budget process will begin in January. Mrs. Gross encouraged her to participate on the review committee. Mr. Dahlgren stated that the Budget preparation calendar will be posted on the District web site.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AND/OR P.T.A., K.P.A.A., K.
P.E.A., K.P.E.S.A.:

Mr. Glen Szymoniak, McNeil Canyon Elementary principal, told the Board that a letter was included in the Board's information packet from the McNeil Canyon Elementary site council concerning parent/teacher conference time changes from last year.

AWARDS AND
PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. Arness presented awards of appreciation to Stan Eller for being selected to receive the 1997-98 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching and to Rick Ladd for being selected as the 1998 Alaska Elementary Principal of the Year.

SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT:

Mr. Dahlgren announced that Homer Middle School students won the CyberSafari Contest which includes a \$2,000 cash prize for their school. He added that over 14,000 computers logged on at 11:00 a.m. on the day of the competition with the Homer team finishing at 1:00 a.m. on the following morning.

Mr. Dahlgren announced that Mr. Dan Walker, Seward Middle School teacher, was selected as the 1999 Alaska Teacher of the Year.

CLASS SIZE REPORT:

Mr. Ed McLain presented the class size report based on enrollment of September 30, 1998. The report included a summary of students per classroom teacher at each site, average class size per site, classroom sizes districtwide, specific teachers and class loads, vocational education and special education courses and various other statistical information. A worksession was held prior to the regular meeting to review the class size and enrollment information in more detail.

Ms. Germano thanked Mr. McLain for presenting the report in a format that was easy to read and understand.

Mrs. Crawford asked how many classes have over 30 students. Mr. McLain replied that the District has 130 classes of over 30 students.

Mrs. Gross stated that she attended the Alaska Student Activities Association (ASAA) Committee meeting, October 4-6. She stated that the Committee passed a motion to implement a legal defense fund to be used in cases of litigation. She explained that each district will be assessed \$100 each year until the balance reaches \$25,000. Mrs. Gross reported that the Committee is considering the formation of an Alaska Youth Endowment to support travel for state tournaments. She stated that the proposal assesses \$2,000 for each 4A member school down to \$500 for each 1A member school. She stated that \$1 would also be added to the admission price of each ticket for state activities. Mrs. Gross reported that the Committee is

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considering required training for coaches. She stated that there is an active push to get all coaches trained

at the national level. She stated that in some states it is required for all coaches and in other states it is required only for coaches who are not teachers. She stated that, although she felt mandated training was a good idea, in Alaska it would be difficult to bring coaches in from all over the state for training. She added that the possibility of distance delivery for coach

training is being researched. Mrs. Gross stated that an unpopular decision was made to maintain the state football roster limit at 40 students. She stated that the National Federation of High Schools has

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(Continued):

adopted an authentication mark program. She explained that a mark will be placed on each ball and hockey puck that is manufactured in the future and that a percentage of the royalties will be returned to the National Federation of High Schools.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Substitute Teacher Contract, Resignation and Budget Transfer.

Substitute Teacher Contract:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve substitute teaching contracts for Suzanne Klaben, special education/resource, Nikiski Elementary and for Susan Howard, Grade 1, Redoubt Elementary.

Resignation:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve resignations from William Stavley, special education/resource/ emotionally handicapped, Kenai Central High (effective at the end of the 1998-99 school year) and from Jocelyn Shiro-Westphal, physical therapist, districtwide special services (effective November 25, 1998).

Budget Transfer:

Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve budget transfer Number 97 which transfers \$58,000 to schools for FY99 language textbook adoption and budget transfer Number 98 which transfers \$324,522 to schools for FY99 math textbook adoption.

ActION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 3. Ms. Germano seconded.

Ms. Germano asked how the amount being transferred to each school was decided. Mr. Hickey replied that the budget transfers were calculated by each site's expenditure of funds.

Motion carried unanimously.

Teacher Termination:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve the termination of a certified employee. She explained that the teacher declined the contract.

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve the termination of a certified employee. Mrs. Gross seconded.

ACTION

Motion carried unanimously.

1999-2000 Enrollment
Projections:

Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve the 1999-2000 projected enrollment at 10,123 students. Mr. Hickey explained that a worksession was held prior to the Board meeting in which an informational forecast of enrollment for future years was presented.

1999-2000 Enrollment
Projections (Continued):

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve the 1999-2000 projected enrollment as presented. Mrs. Larned seconded.

ACTION

Motion carried unanimously.

Aurora Borealis Charter School
Lease Agreement:

Mr. Dahlgren presented a lease agreement between Aurora Borealis Charter School and the Grace Brethren Church for use as a school site. The lease amount is \$6,300 per month and will continue for a two-year period. The new lease agreement includes an increased amount of space.

ACTION

Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve the lease agreement between Aurora Borealis Charter School and the Grace Brethren Church. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Ms. Germano asked about the Aurora Borealis Charter School's request to relocate to the Kenai Elementary building.

Mr. Dahlgren explained that the review of use of the Kenai Elementary building is ongoing.

Motion carried unanimously.

POLICY REVISIONS:

Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve revisions to BP 3315, Relations with Vendors. The changes address situations in which employees conduct business with the District as vendors.

ACTION

Mrs. Gross moved the Board approve revisions to BP 3315, Relations with Vendors. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

RECESS:

At 8:50 p.m., Mr. Arness called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER
RECESS:

At 9:00 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mrs. Crawford congratulated the Board-recognized awardees, Mr. Dan Walker for being named Alaska Teacher of the Year and Homer Middle School for winning the CyberChallenge.

Ms. Germano echoed the congratulations extended by Mrs. Crawford. She asked whether the Board should take action on the proposed ASAA resolutions. Mrs. Gross replied that if the Board wishes they may. Ms. Germano expressed her concern that the enrollment projected for next year is lower than this year's and that the Board has had discussions concerning students withdrawing from public school to enroll in correspondence study courses from other districts. She stated that the Board will have further discussions regarding meeting those students' needs.

BOARD COMMENTS

(Continued):

Dr. Anderson stated that he enjoyed coming to Homer.

Mrs. Gross thanked the schools for their productions and extended her congratulations to the Board-recognized awardees. She stated that she appreciated the fact that the Board meeting was held in Homer and thanked those present for attending.

Miss Calvert stated that, from a student perspective, it is quite impressive to see the Homer student and educator achievements. She added that there were some good discussions during the informal meeting with the public prior to the Board meeting.

Mrs. Larned stated that she was impressed with the programs that the Homer schools presented. She stated that it is nice to be a part of a district with such highly qualified personnel.

Ms. Mullins praised the students who participated in the school reports. She thanked Mr. Ladd and Mr. Patton who welcomed her into their schools during a recent visit to the Homer area. She stated that she was impressed with the number of volunteers she saw at each of the schools. She added a special thanks to Mr. Szymoniak who transported her on his 4-wheeler to see the Russian villages. Mrs. Mullins expressed her appreciation for the input provided by the four people who attended the informal meeting with the Board prior to the regular meeting.

Mr. Arness explained to Mr. Morgan and those present that the Board cannot allocate money without a published agenda notifying the public of the upcoming action. He stated that the administration will review Mr. Morgan's request and may recommend that it be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Mr. Morgan stated that the fund raiser may become an annual event and that he might possibly seek the same waiver again next year. Mr. Arness suggested that, in the future, a waiver request be put in writing and sent to the superintendent to bring to the Board for their consideration.

At 9:05 p.m., Dr. Anderson moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

ADJOURN:

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Joe Arness, President

Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

The Minutes of November 2, 1998,
were approved on November 16, 1998,
as written.