

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
148 N. Binkley Street

Soldotna, AK 99669

April 5, 1999

SCHOOL BOARD
MEMBERS:

Mr. Joe Arness, President

Mrs. Debra Mullins, Vice President

Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

Ms. Deborah Germano, Treasurer

Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, Member

Dr. Nels Anderson, Member

Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Member

Miss Charise Calvert, Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT:

Mr. John Dahlgren, Superintendent of Schools

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

Mr. Ed McLain, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Fred Deussing

Mr. Tim Peterson

Mr. Carlton Kuhns

Mr. Tim Navarre

Mr. Terry McBee

Ms. Elaine Velsko

Mrs. Diane McBee

Ms. Barb Bechtel

Mr. Gene Dyson

Ms. Cindy Rasmussen

Dr. Don Boehmer

Mrs. Sandra Taylor

Mr. Pete Sprague

Mr. Larry Semmens

Mr. Don Oberg

Mrs. Karen Mahurin

Mr. Justin George

Ms. Jayne Porter

Ms. Barb Vogel

Mr. Don Glaze

Mr. Todd Syverson

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. A quorum of School Board members, Mrs. Debra Mullins, Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Mr. Arness, Mrs. Susan Larned and Dr. Anderson, were in attendance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 5:05 p.m., Mrs. Crawford moved that the Board go into executive session to discuss subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person, provided the person may request a public discussion. Specifically, the executive session was to conduct a student expulsion hearing. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 7:32 p.m., Mrs. Crawford moved the executive session be adjourned. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

ROLL CALL:	Mr. Joe Arness	Present
	Mrs. Debra Mullins	Present
	Mrs. Susan Larned	Present
	Ms. Deborah Germano	Present
	Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross	Absent/Excused
	Dr. Nels Anderson	Present
	Mrs. Sammy Crawford	Present
	Miss Charise Calvert	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved with the addition of a school report from Chapman Elementary.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of March 15, 1999, were approved as printed.

SCHOOL REPORTS: Mr. Carlton Kuhns, Nikolaevsk Elementary principal, stated that he has an enrollment of 145 students in kindergarten through 12th grade. He noted that 70% of the students are Russian and speak English as a second language. He added that the remaining 30% of the population are non-Russian students that live outside the village. He stated that all elementary students receive Russian language instruction each day and that they are completely fluent in Russian and English by the 4th or 5th grades. He stated that at the high school level, Russian instruction is an elective and is well attended. Mr. Kuhns noted that over the past ten years, 57 students have graduated from high school and of that number, 8 students have completed a four-year degree, 22 students have completed a 2-year, associate degree or certificate program, and 10 students are working on a four-year degree. He presented assessment scores for analytical writing, math performance and CAT/5 reading, language, and math. He noted that test scores tend to be low at the elementary grade levels but soon increase or excel in the upper grades as students become more familiar with the English language. He reported that students who have returned from college have started businesses in the village or moved to Anchorage to pursue their careers.

He presented a video created by students showing the school facility, students in classrooms and students participating in after-school activities. He stated that he will have six students graduate in May 1999.

Mrs. Crawford asked what percentage of male and female students attended the high school. Mr. Kuhns replied that the breakdown of male and female was very close to even.

SCHOOL REPORTS:

Mr. Fred Deussing, Chapman Elementary principal, stated that he has an enrollment of 121 students. He cited parent support as one of the main reasons why Chapman students perform incredibly well. He stated that the school goal is to foster a genuine love of reading among students and to enhance their reading skills across the curriculum capitalizing on their multiple intelligences. He reported that the staff instituted the Reading Mastery Intervention Program with primary students. He thanked Dr. Boehmer for supplying the materials, support and ongoing training to implement the program. He reported that 25 students in K-2 were identified as not reading or had severe reading problems. He stated that those students are now excited to read and feel good about themselves.

Mr. Deussing introduced Cindy Rasmussen, kindergarten through 4th grade special education teacher, and Elaine Velsko and Barb Bechtel Title I tutors. A packet of reading and assessment information was distributed and each teacher explained their involvement in the Reading Mastery Program. Each of the teachers thanked Dr. Boehmer for his assistance and support.

Mr. Deussing presented a short video which included demonstrations of students reading aloud.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. William Hill asked the Board about the District's policy on parent notification when a child is assaulted at school. He recounted an incident involving his son and stated that the incident occurred in the morning and he was not notified until 2:00 p.m. Mr. Arness suggested that Mr. Hill speak to the District administration to resolve the issue.

Angela McKinney thanked the Board for their support of Chapman Elementary School and for hiring remarkable teachers. She stated that she is happy to be a part of her children's education and thanked the Board for their open door policy.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

Mr. Arness announced that he received an invitation to attend a meeting regarding the formulation of the Borough Maintenance Department budget from Borough Mayor Navarre. He noted that Borough Mayor Navarre, Mr. Dave Eagle and Mr. Jeff Sinz will attend from the Borough and that he and Mr. Hickey will attend from the District. He stated that the meeting will be held Wednesday, April 7 at 10:00 a.m., and he invited other Board members to attend as well. Mr. Hickey stated that he will e-mail the Board with more details.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. Arness presented awards of appreciation to Mr. Terry McBee, Soldotna Middle School and Ms. Donna Austin, Chapman Elementary for their outstanding service to education and the District.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Dahlgren announced that schools in the Homer and Seward areas have had difficulty with roof snow loads; however, borough maintenance crews have worked to ensure that all schools remain open and operational. He noted that parent-teacher conferences at Seward Elementary were moved to the high school for one day.

Mr. Dahlgren stated that the Pupil-Teacher Ratio grant has been completed and was submitted before spring break.

Mr. Dahlgren announced that the positions of assistant superintendent for Human Resources and principal of Skyview High School have been readvertised.

EVALUATION OF HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS AND FIVE-YEAR PLAN:

Mr. Dahlgren presented a report compiled from Homer High, Kenai Central High, Nikiski High, Seward High, Soldotna High and Skyview High schools which outlined the direction of the schools for the next three to five years.

He noted that each school's plan was unique and he is satisfied by what they have submitted.

Ms. Germano asked what process was used to develop the school plans. Mr. Dahlgren described various methods used by the schools and gave examples.

Ms. Germano asked what kind of information is given to new administrators regarding site councils. Mr. Dahlgren explained that new administrators receive one day of training and further noted that the central office provided site council training in October which was attended by many administrators.

Ms. Germano expressed her frustration that one high school's goal was to use site councils within the next three to six years.

Mrs. Crawford asked about high schools moving towards the magnet school concept and whether there was any planning being considered by the administration. Mr. Dahlgren stated that the magnet school concept is already being used and cited examples.

BOARD REPORTS:

Ms. Germano reported that Derek Peterson conducted an ASSETS training session in Homer along with a community informational gathering.

CONSENT AGENDA:

One item was presented on the Consent Agenda, a request for leave of absence/certified.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE/
CERTIFIED:**

By memorandum, Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a one-year, unpaid leave of absence for the 1999-2000 school year for Deborah Olson, special education/severe education, Seward Middle/Senior High School.

Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Item Number 1. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**NEW ADMINISTRATOR
APPOINTMENTS:**

By memorandum, Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve administrator assignments for the 1999-2000 school year for Robin Williams, principal, Nikiski Middle/Senior High; Micheal Wetherbee, principal, Ninilchik Elementary/High School; and Beverly Hunter-Gillaspie, assistant principal, Homer High.

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve the administrator assignments as presented. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

STUDENT EXPULSION: Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve the following "The Decision of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District in the Matter of Expulsion of KH.

PROCEEDINGS: This matter was heard by the Board on April 5, 1999. Those School Board Members present were Joe Arness, President, Debra Mullins, Susan Larned, Nels Anderson, and Sammy Crawford. Present on behalf of the administration were Ed McLain, Asst. Superintendent, Instruction and KPBSD Alternative High School principal, Dennis Dunn. KH was present. KH's mother was present. The hearing was conducted in accordance with the Hearing Outline with a presentation by the administration, an opportunity for questions and statements from KH, questioning by the School Board, and recommendations by the administration prior to the Board's deliberation and decision.

STUDENT EXPULSION
(continued):

FINDINGS: The evidence showed that on Wednesday, March 17, 1999 a student brought to Mrs. Halstead a note which stated that KH was in possession of a controlled substance at Kenai Alternative High School. This student stated that another student had given them the note. That student stated the note was found on the floor. Both informing students stated that KH had been showing the pot to others during the morning break. Principal Dennis Dunn questioned KH in the presence of Mrs. Halstead and asked her whether she had possession of anything she should not have. She stated she did. Principal Dunn asked her to give it to him and she gave him a plastic M&Ms container, which held marijuana. Principal Dunn attempted to call KH's mother but her phone was not working. The Kenai Police Department was contacted and KH was placed under arrest and given a notice and order of revocation. KH was released to her mother who came to school during the lunch period to pick her up.

KH was given the choice of an informal or formal hearing and on March 19, 1999 an informal hearing was held consistent with Board policy with Principal Dunn, Jerry Wilson, CPCS Family Support Specialist, KH and KH's mother present. Based on the facts above, KH was recommended for expulsion for violating KPBSD policy 5131.6 for the second time. Her prior incident involved a suspension from Soldotna Middle School in 1995 for violation involving marijuana.

CONCLUSIONS: Board policy 5131.6(a) requires the administration recommend expulsion for a second drug-related offense. This was KH's second offense. Possession of drugs in school is conduct inimical to the welfare, safety, and morals of other students and persons at the school. Early readmission from an expulsion may be beneficial to KH who is motivated to graduate and meet certain conditions (set forth below).

ACTION: KH is suspended through April 9, 1999 with an expulsion beginning on April 10, 1999 and ending on March 17, 2000. If all conditions set forth below are met KH may have early readmission to KAHS on January 3, 2000.

1. KH may have limited early readmission to participate in the ATOSS program from August 24, 1999 to December 17, 1999 and comply with the program requirements.

2. KH must complete an assessment with Cook Inlet Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse and follow through with the recommendations of the assessment.

STUDENT EXPULSION
(continued):

3. KH must have 3 consecutive clean Urine Analysis (UA) at the expense of KH. The first UA must be performed within one week of attendance at ATOSS, and the next two will be random as specified by the administration. Any unclean UA will result in revocation of early readmission.

4. KH must complete a Psychological Assessment with Central Peninsula Counseling Services and follow through with the recommendations of the Assessment.

5. KH may have early immediate limited readmission to complete at least four correspondence study courses, which must be completed before readmission on January 3, 2000.

6. KH must complete 60 hours of community service prior to readmission.

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL SCHOOL BOARD'S FINAL EXPULSION DECISION: You are hereby notified that you have 30 days from the date this final decision is distributed to file an appeal with the Superior Court of the state of Alaska at Kenai in accordance with the Alaska Rules of Appellate Procedure." Mrs. Mullins seconded.

VOTE:

YES – Arness, Mullins, Larned, Anderson, Crawford

ABSTAIN – Germano

Motion carried.

DISPOSITION OF KENAI
ELEMENTARY FACILITY:

Mr. Dahlgren stated that Borough Mayor Navarre felt he needed to check with legal counsel to find out whether he could commit the Borough to a memorandum of agreement without receiving Assembly approval. He stated that the memorandum included in the Board packet is identical to the memorandum originally presented at the March 15 meeting.

Assembly Member Tim Navarre asked the Board to transfer the Kenai Elementary facility to the Borough without any strings attached. He stated that in the future, if the District felt that it was in their best interest, the Borough could transfer the facility back to the District.

DISPOSITION OF KENAI
ELEMENTARY FACILITY
(Continued):

Dr. Anderson stated that he had been opposed to giving the Kenai Elementary facility to the Assembly because he felt that it could possibly be used as a school again. He stated that he is also reluctant to transfer the building without at least a tacit agreement that consideration be given to the interested groups.

Mr. Navarre stated that the Assembly has heard the requests for the use of the building and does not have a problem with them. He stated that he felt it was in the best interest of the District to turn over the facility to the Borough since it is currently not usable. Mr. Navarre stated that if grant money becomes available, the Assembly may choose to turn the facility and the grant over to the City of Kenai to administer.

Ms. Germano expressed concern for District charter schools and their housing situation. She stated that she would like to see consideration be given to the Aurora Borealis Charter School.

Mr. Hickey stated that the recommendation language in the memorandum was written to take advantage of a financing opportunity that would not force the Board to reappropriate the other priorities on the capital improvements project list, therefore, setting aside other priorities. He stated that the language in the recommendation was meant to be ambiguous because he cannot speak on behalf of the Assembly.

Mr. Arness restated the postponed motion, "that the Board approve the transfer of the Kenai Elementary building to the Kenai Peninsula Borough and that the transfer include the stipulation that the Kenai Alternative School be permitted full and continued access to the facility for as long as the building suits their needs and that should the facility be rehabilitated to allow the occupancy of school children, consideration be given to providing Aurora Borealis Charter School space within Kenai Elementary."

Motion carried unanimously.

nikiski reconfiguration:

Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve the concept of a shift to the middle school for the Nikiski area. He stated that the administration will include the cost to remodel the school in the priority list that will be submitted to the Board for their approval in FY00.

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve the concept of a shift to the middle school for the Nikiski area. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

nikiski reconfiguration
(Continued):

Mrs. Mullins reported that a Nikiski community member notified her that the Nikiski Parent Advisory Committees (PAC) will conduct a meeting Tuesday, April 6, to vote on the reconfiguration issue.

ACTION

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board postpone action on the Nikiski reconfiguration to the April 19 meeting so that the results of the Nikiski PAC vote can be reported. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion for postponement carried unanimously.

fy 1999-2000 budget:

Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve the FY 1999-2000 annual budget in the amount of \$85,647,900. Included in the budget is a request for Kenai Peninsula Borough contributions for in-kind and local appropriation to the "cap" for the general fund in the amount of \$29,435,314.

Ms. Germano asked whether the Kenai Alternative School budget needed to be changed with the transfer of the Kenai Elementary building to the Borough. Mr. Dahlgren replied that no changes should be made until the Borough decides on rental charges. He suggested that the Board pay attention to the offsetting costs of revenue from the Boys and Girls Club against the utility costs. He predicted that the lost revenue and deletion of the utility costs will probably balance out evenly.

Mrs. Sandra Taylor asked whether the lost revenue from the Boys and Girls Club and the elimination of utility costs would balance out. Mr. Dahlgren stated the lost revenue and elimination of utility costs would probably balance out or the District might receive a slight gain. Mrs. Taylor asked whether the Boys and Girls Club and the Kenai Alternative High School would be responsible for the utility expenses. Mr. Dahlgren explained that the owner of the facility would be responsible for any utility expenses.

ACTION

Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve the FY 1999-2000 annual budget in the amount of \$85,647,900. Dr. Anderson seconded.

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board amend the budget to include any savings from the transfer of the Kenai Elementary facility into the unallocated salary account. Mrs. Crawford seconded. Mr. Hickey asked the Board to approve the budget without the Germano amendment. He added that as soon as a complete assessment is made regarding any savings from the Kenai Elementary facility transfer, he will present a budget transfer for approval.

fy 1999-2000 budget
(Continued):

Ms. Germano withdrew her amendment.

Motion approved unanimously.

POLICY REVISION:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve changes to AR 5144.11, Due Process. He explained that the changes protect the identity of students who act as witnesses in due-process situations and bring the District into compliance with current practice.

ACTION

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve the proposed changes to AR 5144.11, Due Process. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Ms. Germano expressed her concern about the language regarding reasonable attempt to contact parents. Mr. Dahlgren responded that the District is not trying to keep parents uninformed and he stated that he feels very comfortable with the effort that principals are making to contact parents.

VOTE:

Advisory Vote – YES

YES – Anderson, Crawford, Larned, Mullins, Arness

NO - Germano

1999-2000 TENTATIVE
MEETING DATES:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve a tentative listing of School Board meetings and miscellaneous dates for the 1999-2000 school year.

ACTION

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve a tentative listing of School Board meetings and miscellaneous dates for the 1999-2000 school year. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Ms. Germano requested that Board meetings not be scheduled on inservice dates.

Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Larry Semmens thanked the Board for hearing the Aurora Borealis Charter School's request for space. He stated that he hopes the Assembly will have the same concern as the Board and that the school can afford the rent that is established. He noted that the money projected for the Nikiski reconfiguration would be enough to remodel the Kenai Elementary facility.

Sandra Taylor thanked the Board for considering the Aurora Borealis Charter School's request for the use of the Kenai Elementary facility.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mrs. Crawford thanked Nikolaevsk Elementary/High School and Chapman Elementary School staffs for their presentations. She extended thanks to all District teachers for their hard work. Mrs. Mullins stated that she was reluctant to give the Kenai Elementary building to the Assembly but felt that there was no other alternative for funding necessary renovations. She expressed her frustration that, as Board members, they have no taxing authority and can only make requests for items that the District needs. Mrs. Mullins stated that she will be contacting Assembly members and asking that they allow space for the Aurora Borealis Charter School in the Kenai Elementary building.

Mrs. Larned congratulated the staff members who were recognized by the Board. She stated that she was impressed to see how successful the Reading Mastery Program is at Chapman Elementary. She stated that she enjoyed comments made by the Nikolaevsk Elementary/High School principal concerning second languages and higher test scores.

Dr. Anderson concurred with comments made by Mrs. Mullins regarding Kenai Elementary, and Mrs. Larned's comments regarding the reading program.

Dr. Anderson asked the District to consider an all-weather playing field to minimize damage caused by early use of school outdoor fields. He asked for an assessment of damage already done to the fields and the cost of repairs.

Dr. Anderson stated that the high school reports were difficult to read.

Dr. Anderson noted that the District enrollment has declined below 10,000 with the majority of the withdrawals at the 10th grade level.

Ms. Germano thanked Nikolaevsk Elementary/High School and Chapman Elementary School staffs for their presentations. She stated that she echoed earlier comments regarding the Kenai Elementary facility. Ms. Germano asked for a worksession to discuss the District's technology plan. She stated that she would like to invite technology committee members to the worksession.

Mr. Arness asked Mr. Dahlgren to schedule a worksession prior to the next Board meeting to discuss the District's technology plan.

BOARD COMMENTS (Continued):

Mr. Arness
echoed
earlier
comments
made
regarding
Kenai
Elementary.

ADJOURN: At 9:56 p.
m.,
Mr. Arness
moved the
School
Board
Meeting be
adjourned.
Mrs. Mullins
seconded.

Motion
carried
unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Joe Arness, President

Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

The Minutes of April 5, 1999,
were approved on April 19, 1999
with a correction.