

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
148 N. Binkley Street

Soldotna, AK 99669

March 1, 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

Mrs. Sharon Radtke,  
Assistant  
Superintendent,  
Human Resources

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Don Oberg	Mrs. Karen Mahurin
Mr. Tim Peterson	Ms. Teri Woodward
Mr. Mark Leal	Mrs. Angela McKinney
Mr. Hal Neace	Ms. Laura Brooks
Dr. Donna Peterson	Ms. Catherine Kennedy
Mrs. Melody Douglas	Ms. Margaret Blanding
Ms. Jill Kriens	Mr. Rick Ladd
Ms. Rene Jahnke	Mrs. Debra Turkington
Ms. Debra Lowney	

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 1:01 p.m., Mrs. Crawford moved 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 7:30 p.m., Mrs. Mullins moved the executive session be adjourned. Dr. Anderson 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

Present

Mrs. Debra Mullins Present

Mrs. Susan Larned Present

Present

Ms. Deborah Germano Present

Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross Present

Present

Dr. Nels Anderson

Mrs. Sammy Crawford

Miss Charise Calvert

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The agenda was approved with the addition of Item 10i., Approval of Superintendent Appointment, the addition of a revised memorandum for Item 10c., Approval of 1999-2000 Administrator Appointments and the deletion of the Chapman Elementary School report.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The School Board Minutes of February 1 and the Special School Board Minutes February 8, 1999, were approved as printed.

SCHOOL REPORTS:

Mr. Mark Leal, Homer Middle School principal, announced that March is National Middle School Month, which is sponsored jointly by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) and the National Middle School Association. He announced that his report would highlight the areas of math, science and art. He introduced Mr. Hal Neace who distributed information regarding a nuclear energy unit developed by four teachers at Homer Middle School. Mr. Neace introduced several students who demonstrated the laws of motion through the use of bottle cars created by the students. Mr. Neace explained that students were required to use a rubber band for the energy source for the cars and that the body of the car had to contain a polyethylene beverage bottle.

Ms. Margaret Blanding reported on an architectural project that 7<sup>th</sup> grade math students participated in by using many math skills including percentages, fractions, cross-multiplying, measurements and problem solving. She explained that the project required the students to design a three-bedroom, two-bathroom home with a garage that would meet all building codes for the Homer area for \$200,000. She stated that to prepare for the task, the students searched the web, listened to building contractors, investigated local buildings and learned about computer-assisted drafting. Ms. Blanding stated that students were eager to work on their projects and even stayed after school. She stated that students wrote clever advertisements for their homes in their language arts class. Ms. Blanding introduced two students who shared their house designs.

Mr. Mark Robinson directed the middle school choir in a demonstration of the process of sight singing. The choir sang two selections titled, "The River Sleeps Beneath the Sky" and "Journey."

Ms. Germano asked Mr. Leal what his enrollment projection is for next year. Mr. Leal responded that one of the smallest classes of 6<sup>th</sup> graders will be promoted to his school next year, therefore, Homer Middle School's enrollment projection will be 210. He reported that two staff members will be retiring at the end of this school year and that the positions will not be filled. He added that the low enrollment creates some difficulty in scheduling classes.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:**

Ms. Kathryn Kennedy, Ninilchik parent, thanked the Board for their assistance in the rebuilding of the Ninilchik Elementary/High School. She asked the Board to keep the school facility properly staffed and presented a visual demonstration, with the assistance of Waynette Burkhardt, using books to emphasize her point. Ms. Kennedy stated that at a K-12 school, there is a special challenge to meet the requirements of secondary level students. She expressed her concern about proposed teacher reductions and asked the Board to provide an equal opportunity education for Ninilchik students.

Ms. Germano asked what the projected enrollment is for Ninilchik. Ms. Kennedy stated that currently Ninilchik Elementary/High School has 235 students with 8.7 teachers teaching 47 classes. She stated that she anticipates the enrollment to decline next year.

Miss Elena Kuzmin, Miss Marfa Martushev, Miss Ludmila Martushev, Miss Drasida Reutov, Miss Klavdi Martushev, Miss Polly Basargin and Miss Faina Martushev, students at Voznesenka School, thanked Mr. Hickey for the portable building to house the junior high school students and for the new snow blower. They invited Mr. Hickey to visit their school.

Ms. Sharon Bayer, Chapman Elementary School nurse, stated that the two-tiered salary schedule is unfair. She stated that she is hired at a salary far below her years of experience and expertise. She stated that KPBSD nurses are the only school nurses in the state that are not certified. She noted that other medical professionals such as occupational therapists, physical therapists and speech pathologists are certified. She stated that school nurses are being denied professional recognition and are being paid 40% less than their peers. She stated that school nurses ensure that students can stay in school to learn. She asked the Board to eliminate the

two-tiered salary schedule and pay school nurses the salary they deserve.

Angela McKinny, a parent from Anchor Point, expressed her concern regarding coed wrestling at the middle school level. She stated that she was distressed to watch girls wrestling boys during a recent wrestling tournament. She stated that she has a son who wrestles and has taught her son not to inappropriately touch young ladies in private areas. She stated that she believes coed wrestling causes disharmony and asked the Board to separate girls and boys wrestling and not put young men in awkward predicaments.

Ms. Laura Brooks, thanked the Board for coming tonight. She stated that she represented a group of Homer High School parents who want to keep music education in schools. She referred to a recent news article correlating music education with high SAT scores.

#### COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

Mr. Arness reported that he received a lengthy letter from Catherine Bishop concerning the Bayview Charter School.



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

Mrs. Karen Mahurin, KPESA president, stated that last year bargaining went well and that the Association was optimistic this year. She stated that the Association listed five items in the interest of coming to an agreement before the last quarter of school. She stated that the response from the District negotiating team was that they were not interested at this time. She stated that the elimination of the two-tiered schedule is the primary focus of KPEA and KPESA. She stated that the two-tiered salary schedule creates polarization among employees and establishes a feeling of less money for equal work. She stated that the second tier does not attract quality candidates.

Mrs. Mahurin stated that, after meeting numerous times in bargaining, the Association has only made some minor house keeping changes. She stated that the proposal currently on the table is more costly than the original proposal, and she expressed concern that some Board members may not be seeing the proposals being exchanged. She stated that the Association team feels that the issue is not about money but about power, and they truly want a mutually agreed-to contract as soon as possible. She stated that there are employees who are taking home less money than they were making five years ago.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. Arness presented awards of appreciation to Ms. Jill Kriens, Paul Banks Elementary School; Ms. Rene Jahnke, Paul Banks Elementary School; Ms. Debra Lowney, Homer Middle School; and Mrs. Debra Turkington, Paul Banks Elementary School, for their outstanding contributions to education and the District.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Dahlgren noted that a Board budget worksession will be held Thursday, March 4 at 1:00 p.m. and that the budget will be presented to the School Board on Monday, March 15. He also announced that a budget worksession with the Borough Assembly will be held on March 16, 1999.

Mr. Dahlgren announced that Mr. Paul Sorenson has been selected as the 1999 Alaska State Principal of the Year by the Alaska Association of Secondary School Principals (AASSP).

Mr. Dahlgren announced that the Borough honor band festival was being held at Homer High School and that Miss Calvert was participating.

## Capital Improvement Projects Report:

Mr. Hickey presented a listing of capital improvement projects for House District Number 7 for \$3,908,000, House District Number 8 for \$4,268,000 and House District Number 9 for \$3,911,000. He stated that although the Borough will not be able to fund a \$12 million request, it will help the District address some of the remaining items as capital and major maintenance projects.

## BOARD REPORTS:

Mrs. Larned reported that she attended a School Career Advisory Committee meeting and that the Committee amended the guidelines for high school program improvement grants. She stated that a discussion was held regarding the building trades classes and a summer pilot work experience program for Port Graham students.

Mrs. Gross stated that she represented the Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB) at the national legislative fly-in for school boards in Washington D.C. She noted that it was interesting to observe educational legislation at the national level. Mrs. Gross reported that she recently attended the AASB Legislative Fly-in in Juneau. She stated that Board members were told that districts will receive full funding.

Ms. Germano reported that she attended a very interesting presentation by Dr. Roland Good on the DIBELS Program.

Mrs. Mullins reported that she also attended the AASB legislative fly-in. She stated that Board members met with all local legislators and the chairmen and cochairmen of the house and senate Health Education and Social Services and Finance committees. She stated that legislators seem to feel that districts would receive full funding as outlined in SB 36. She stated that HB 5 relating to vouchers received a ruling from the attorney general declaring that the legislation is unconstitutional. She noted that HB 6 seeks to change the constitution to allow HB 5 to occur. She reported that District Board members voiced their objections to the voucher legislation.

Mrs. Crawford reported that she attended the meeting with Dr. Roland Good regarding the DIBELS program. She stated she was impressed with the information.

Miss Calvert reported that she attended the AASB legislative fly-in in Juneau. She stated that she was impressed by the positive experience. She thanked the Board for allowing her to attend. Mrs. Gross noted that Miss Calvert did a nice job representing the District.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Early Graduation Requests, 1998-1999 Teacher Assignments, 1999-2000 Teacher Assignments, Substitute Teacher Contracts and Resignations.

EARLY GRADUATION REQUESTS:

By memorandum, Mr. McLain recommended the Board approve two early graduation requests for a student at Kenai Central High and a student at Nikiski Middle/High.

1998-1999 TEACHER ASSIGNMENTS:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve teaching appointments for the 1998-1999 school year for Connie Wheat, math (temporary), Seward Middle/Sr. High; Julie Ball, teacher specialist (half-time, temporary), Aurora Borealis; and Virginia Bucher, reading (half-time, temporary), West Homer Elementary.

1999-2000 TEACHER ASSIGNMENTS:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a teaching appointment for the 1999-2000 school year for James Carlson, metals/drafting, Soldotna High.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER CONTRACTS:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve 19-day substitute teaching contracts for Heather Truesdell, computers/business education, Skyview High, and Stacy O'Tremba, Russian/art/social studies, Voznesenka Elementary.

RESIGNATIONS:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve resignations from Paula O'Connell, (effective 2/8/99) special education/resource, Sears Elementary, and Michael Ashwell, (effective 5/27/99) science/physics, Kenai Central High.

ACTION

Mrs. Gross moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 5. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Administrator Contracts:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve an administrative assignment for the 1999-2000 school year for G. Scott Mengel, principal, K-Beach Elementary.

ACTION

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve the administrative assignment for the 1999-2000 school year for G. Scott Mengel, principal, K-Beach Elementary.  
Ms. Germano seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

1999-2000 Administrator Appointments:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a revised listing of administrator and Central Office contracts for the 1999-2000 school year.

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve a revised listing of administrator and Central Office contracts for the 1999-2000 school year.  
Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

1999-2000 Tentative Tenure Teacher Assignments:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a listing of tentative tenure teacher assignments for the 1999-2000 school year.

ACTION

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve a listing of tentative tenure teacher assignments for the 1999-2000 school year. Mrs. Gross seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Physical Education Curriculum:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve the K-12 Physical Education Curriculum Guide.

Mr. Brent Keene, West Homer Elementary School teacher, stated that he appreciated all of the work that went into producing the curriculum guide. He asked the Board to consider allocating the necessary teaching positions to implement the new curriculum. He stated that he teaches one-half time and does not have time to teach everything in the curriculum document to 330 students. He stated that students entering his school are becoming less physically able to achieve even limited goals.

Mrs. Crawford announced that Senator Stevens has proposed that every student have physical education each day. She asked whether money was allocated to fund that mandate. Mr. Arness stated that he did not know of any funds being allocated.

Ms. Deb Lowney thanked Mr. Keene for his comments and agreed with him that the Physical Education Curriculum document was well written. Ms. Lowney stated that in order to fulfil the requirements of the curriculum, more teaching time is necessary. Ms. Lowney explained that the onset of student health habits begins at a young age and that establishing good patterns early is critical.



ACTION

Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve the K-12 Physical Education Curriculum Guide. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Ms. Germano stated that she would like to see full implementation of the physical education curriculum guide.

RECESS:

At 8:55 p.m., Mr. Arness called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:

At 8:58 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

Motion carried unanimously.

Title IX Indian Education Grant:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve the 1999-2000 Title IX Indian Education Grant application in the amount of \$204,798. He explained that the grant is a five-year continuation grant.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve the Title IX Indian Education Grant application. Mrs. Gross seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Student Expulsion:

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

ACTION

PROCEEDINGS: This matter was heard by the Board on March 1, 1999. Those School Board members present were Joe Arness, Lorraine Crawford, Debra Mullins, Susan Larned, and Nels Anderson. Present on behalf of the administration were Ed McLain, Assistant Superintendent—Instruction, and Sylvia Reynolds, Principal, Soldotna High School. RB was present with his mother.

FINDINGS: The evidence showed that on Wednesday, February 10, 1999, at approximately 7:50 AM, Assistant Principal Mark Norgren received information RB may be in possession of a weapon while on school grounds. RB is a 16 year-old junior at Soldotna High School. Sylvia Reynolds, principal, and Mr. Norgren, assistant principal, were present during an initial interview with RB, locker and backpack search. Upon obtaining RB's belongings from his locker, and escorting him to the office, RB admitted that he had been in possession of a .22 caliber Barretta pistol on the school bus on two separate occasions on February 9, 1999. RB stated he brought the gun to school on that date. He further stated that the gun was to be given to an acquaintance, and the acquaintance was to pick the gun up at Soldotna High School. Since the acquaintance went home sick, RB transported the gun home on Tuesday on the bus. On the

bus, RB showed the gun to another student. RB did not take the gun into school, but hid it outside wrapped in his jacket. RB stated to the Board that he had never fired the gun, nor had bullets for it. RB has had prior incidents including, but not limited to, fighting for which he was suspended, and bringing a knife to school after being told not to.

The incident was reported to the police, and the Soldotna Police Department made an incident report. RB and his parents were furnished with copies of the School District policies on Weapons and Dangerous Instruments, Discipline and Due Process.

**CONCLUSIONS: AS 14.03.160** requires expulsion for at least one year for a student who violates AS 11.61.210(a)(8) by having a gun on a school bus. Possession of a gun on a school bus is inimical to the welfare and safety of other students. This student has had prior violence-related incidents. AS 14.03.160 allows for early readmission and modifying the one-year expulsion which are allowable in this case because the student did not load or fire the gun.

**ACTION:** Student shall be expelled from KPBSD for one calendar year. During the term of the expulsion, the student shall not be permitted on school grounds or at any school activities.

Early admission to KPBSD for the fall semester of 1999 will be allowed provided the following conditions are met:

1. Student shall undergo a formal mental health assessment to ensure that the student does not pose a threat to the safety and welfare of our school, students, and staff. Student will follow all recommendations of the assessment and prescribed treatment plan.
  
2. Student shall complete a District correspondence course of study developed by school administration and counselors.

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:

ABSTAIN: Gross, Mullins

YES: Anderson, Crawford, Larned, Mullins, Arness

Motion carried.

Policy Revision BP 3120, Transfer of Funds:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve BP 3120, Transfer of Funds. He explained that the revision changes the reporting of budget transfers to a quarterly cycle.

Ms. Germano clarified that all budget transfers would be final in the July report.

Mr. Hickey stated that this change would allow the Business Office to close the books during the month of June.

**ACTION**

Mrs. Germano moved the Board approve BP 3120, Transfer of Funds. Mrs. Gross seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

SUPERINTENDENT CONTRACT:

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve the superintendent contract and the appointment of Dr. Donna Peterson as Superintendent of Schools. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

FIRST READING OF POLICY REVISIONS:

The Board heard a first reading of revisions to BP and AR 5119, Access to District Schools By Private School, Correspondence and Other Programs. Mr. Dahlgren explained that the proposed revision brings District policy into compliance with state law regarding part-time student enrollment and removes priority for full-time students in the selection and availability of classes. The revision in the administrative regulation removes the delayed enrollment process for part-time students. Mr. Dahlgren noted that the proposed revisions have been reviewed by legal counsel and discussed with District administrators.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Miss Calvert congratulated Dr. Peterson on her appointment as the new superintendent. She thanked Homer High School for hosting the Borough honor band festival.

Mrs. Crawford thanked Homer Middle School for the report. She extended her congratulations to Dr. Peterson.

Mrs. Gross pointed out that the Homer Middle School choir is an example of the fine students and teachers in the Homer area. She stated that she attended the performance of Carousel and noted that several District students were in the cast and that it was a wonderful production. She stated that 14 Homer students participated in the Northwest Honor Choir festival in Portland, Oregon.

Ms. Larned stated that she enjoyed the school presentation and was especially impressed with the large number of students participating in the middle school choir.

Dr. Anderson stated that he was impressed with the nuclear energy unit developed by Mr. Neace, Mr. Howell, Mr. Clark and Mr. Parlow.

Mrs. Mullins thanked Homer for hosting the School Board meeting. She stated that she enjoyed the Homer Middle School report. She extended congratulations to Dr. Peterson and stated she was impressed with the interview and noted that Dr. Peterson was well prepared. She stated that the Board is appreciative that Dr. Peterson is willing to

take on the challenge of superintendent. Mrs. Mullins stated that she attended the Administrators' Meeting and participated in an interesting discussion regarding student expulsion.

With the consensus of the Board, Mrs. Mullins requested a worksession with the principals regarding policies that deal with expulsion. Mr. Arness directed Mr. Dahlgren to schedule a worksession regarding expulsion.

Ms. Germano welcomed Dr. Peterson to her new position as superintendent. She thanked Mr. Leal and the Homer Middle School staff for the school report. She stated that she appreciated the improvements to the lunch menu. Ms. Germano expressed her concern regarding the increase in student discipline incidents and asked the Board to consider future discussions on the topic.

Mr. Arness welcomed Dr. Peterson. Mr. Arness expressed his unhappiness towards Mrs. Mahurin for her negative characterizations of Board members. He stated that he objected to Mrs. Mahurin expressing her frustrations to the Board's constituency. He clarified to those present that his comments were his own opinion. He further stated that the process of negotiations



does not have to become personal and is sorry that it has. He assured Mrs. Mahurin that the Board is kept informed regarding the progress of negotiations.

ADJOURN: At 9:15 p.m., Dr. Anderson moved the School Board meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mr. Joe Arness, President

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Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

The Minutes of March 1, 1999, were approved on March 15, 1999 as written.