

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
148 N. Binkley Street

Soldotna, AK 99669

November 16, 1998

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. Gordon Goodman Mrs. Joanie Goodman

 Mrs. Paula Christenson Mr. Tim Peterson

 Mr. Todd Syverson Ms. Carolyn Cannava

 Mrs. Lana Syverson Ms. Cindy Litzenberger

 Mrs. Jacquie Imle Ms. Barbara Ralston

 Mrs. Karen Mahurin Mr. Bill Coghill

 Mrs. Gretchen Becker Mrs. Debbie Church

 Mr. Dave Carey Mrs. Bekkie Jackson

 Mr. Justin George Mrs. Marlene Byerly

Mrs. Barbara Vogel
Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 2:36 p.m. A quorum of School Board members, (Mr. Arness, Dr. Anderson, Mrs. Crawford, Ms. Germano, Mrs. Larned and Mrs. Mullins), were in attendance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 2:37 p.m., Dr. Anderson 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. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 7:35 p.m., Mrs. Crawford moved the executive session be adjourned. Ms. Germano 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	Present
	Dr. Nels Anderson	Present
	Mrs. Sammy Crawford	Present
	Miss Charise Calvert	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved as written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of November 2, 1998, were approved as printed.

SCHOOL REPORTS: Jacquie Imle, Sears Elementary principal, and Barbara Ralston, teacher, gave a computer-generated presentation depicting a day in the life of a first grade student at Sears Elementary School. The pictures and script were created by first grade students, with the assistance of Ms. Ralston, and included scenes from various childrens' homes as they prepared to go to school, waited for buses, participated in reading and math lessons, ate lunch, played during recess, engaged in music, physical education and library activities and rode the bus or walked home.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS: Mr. Dahlgren reported that he had received a letter from Darroll Hargraves, executive director, Alaska Council of School Administrators (ACSA), notifying the District that the governor has declared November 20, 1998, as Alaska Principal Recognition Day. Mr. Dahlgren announced that Melody Douglas, director, Operations and Business Management, has recently qualified as a Registered School Business Official from the Association of School Business Officials International. Mr. Arness introduced Peter Sprague as the Assembly's new representative to the Board.

AWARDS AND
PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. Arness presented awards of appreciation to Joanie Goodman, parent volunteer, for her dedicated service to the students and staff at Soldotna Elementary School; to Cindy Litzenberger, Soldotna Middle School counselor, for her commitment, leadership and outstanding service to the District; and to Marlene Byerly, Skyview High School principal, for being selected as Alaska's 1998 Secondary Principal of the Year.

SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT:

Mr. Dahlgren reported that 167 students still have not received their second MMR vaccination and were excluded from school today. He commended the school nurses for their efforts to ensure that all students are in compliance.

Mr. Dahlgren congratulated the Nikiski High School girls' volleyball team for placing first in the 3A state volleyball championships. Mr. Dahlgren also congratulated Stacey Pault and Lucas Peterson for placing first in the state swimming/diving championships.

He announced that Elaine Larson, music teacher, Sears Elementary, was selected by the Alaska Music Educators Association to receive the 1998 Alaska Outstanding Music Educator Award.

Annual Audit Report:

Mr. Hickey introduced Mr. Bill Coghill, Mikunda, Cottrell and Company, who presented the Annual Audit Report of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1998.

Mr. Coghill commended Mr. Hickey and Mrs. Douglas for their excellence in financial reporting and noted that a certificate of achievement is included in the audit report that was achieved during the fiscal year 1997.

Mr. Coghill noted that the District had approximately \$83 million in revenues and expenditures and that the fund balance in the general fund was approximately \$1.8 million to begin the year and finished at approximately \$2.2 million. He explained that the increase is due to the recording of \$465,000 worth of inventory located at the borough maintenance department that had not be reported previously. He explained that the inventory consists of maintenance supplies such as light bulbs, filters for furnaces, vehicle repair supplies and parts. He further explained that the fund balance is partially reserved for encumbrances totaling \$760,000, borough maintenance inventory totaling 465,000 and the remainder is food inventory and other supplies. He reminded the Board that \$500,000 from the fund balance has been designated for equipment replacement costs. He stated that \$180,000 remains in the fund balance for the Board to use as they decide.

Mr. Coghill stated that a new item in the financial statement is the retirement incentive program (RIP). He noted that in the long-term debt section of the balance sheet, \$2.2 million is the commitment to the RIP program payments to the Public Employment Retirement System that will be paid over the next two years.

Annual Audit Report
(continued):

Mr. Arness asked whether the inventory in the maintenance department is purchased from District funds. Mr. Hickey explained that the inventory is purchased with in-kind funds and is part of the general fund revenue.

Mr. Coghill noted that the Single Audit Report cited one finding. The finding was that the final foundation report was two weeks late.

Mr. Coghill stated that the management letter urged the District to continue its plan to correct computer software prior to the change of the millennium and to dedicate resources to correct a virus problem with the Microsoft Excel program currently being used by the accounting office.

Mr. Coghill thanked Melody Douglas, Patrick Hickey and the School Board for the opportunity to be the District auditor.

Dr. Anderson asked whether the in-kind donations from the borough were audited. Mr. Coghill replied that an audit was made and had been called to the borough's attention in previous years. Dr Anderson asked to see the list of inventory items. Mr. Coghill explained that most of the expenditures are charges by the borough maintenance department for services performed on School District equipment or property.

Mr. Coghill explained that accounting standards call for the District to inventory the maintenance items and expense them according to consumption, not according to when the inventory items are purchased. He stated that in the past the District has been charged for inventory items as they are purchased regardless of how many items are used. He explained that under the new method the District will be charged for the usage of each inventory item.

Mr. Coghill noted that a breakdown of in-kind services is provided in the "Notes to the Financial Statements" section of the Annual Audit Report.

Financial Report:

Mr. Hickey presented the financial report of the District for the period ending October 31, 1998. Mr. Hickey noted that the student count period has passed and that an adjusted budget will be returned for Board approval upon confirmation from the Department of Education.

Financial Report (Continued):

Ms. Germano asked how the students were accounted for who are participating in correspondence programs in other districts. Mr. Dahlgren explained that Districts offering correspondence programs have been notified of any discrepancies regarding the counting of part-time or full-time students. Mr. Dahlgren reported that cooperative agreements have been sent to each district that is serving District students. He stated that the state may have to intervene and resolve some of the issues relating to the student count. Mr. Hickey stated that he compiled a list of 50 students who appear on the District's enrollment as well as that of other districts.

BOARD REPORTS:

Miss Calvert reported that she attended the AASB student leadership conference in Anchorage. She stated that approximately 50 students from throughout the state were in attendance.

Mrs. Gross reported that over 300 school board members attended the AASB Annual Conference. She stated that the AASB resolutions were finalized. She reported that the resolution receiving the highest priority dealt with finance and called for districts to lobby the legislature to fully fund the requirements of SB36. She stated that another resolution dealt with ensuring that the mandates in SB36 are evaluated and remediated if certain aspects of the legislation are found not to be working.

Mrs. Larned reported that she attended the Elementary School Review Committee meeting and that the committee is gathering information for their report to the Board. She reported that she attended the Calendar Committee and that information will be brought to the Board very shortly.

Mrs. Larned stated that she also attended the AASB annual conference and participated in a meeting with representatives from the large districts to discuss mutual concerns. She suggested that the Board and administration schedule a meeting with legislators prior to their departure to Juneau to voice concerns.

Mr. Arness asked whether a meeting with the legislators has been scheduled. Mr. Dahlgren stated that he would like to confer with the Borough mayor first to decide whether or not to schedule a joint meeting with the Assembly, Board and legislators. He reported that he and Mrs. Gross met with Representative Phillips prior to the election.

BOARD REPORTS:

Mrs. Mullins reported that she attended a conference titled, "Hot Topics in School Law", prior to attending the AASB Annual Conference. She stated that the school law presentation was extremely beneficial. Mrs. Mullins stated that during the first day of the AASB conference, she helped conduct the new school board training. She stated that during the following day, she attended several workshops, one of which included standards for school boards. She stated she will leave the school law workbook and school board standards information at central office for Board members to review. She announced that during the AASB conference a fund-raiser was held that raised \$7,000 for student scholarships. She stated that she attended a round table discussion on student assessment and had the opportunity to listen to Dan Walker, Alaska's 1998

Teacher of the Year, who she felt did an outstanding job. She stated that she attended a workshop on interest-based bargaining and felt that it was an interesting process and would like to consider using it in this District.

Mrs. Crawford stated that she also attended the AASB Annual Conference and thanked Mrs. Mullins for doing a fine job presenting the new school board training session. She extended congratulations to Mrs. Gross for being elected as the new president-elect for AASB.

Mr. Arness stated that he attended the Certified Diploma Committee meeting. He reported that the committee discussed what students need to know to earn a high school diploma.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Substitute Teacher Contract, 1998-99 Teacher Appointment, and Resignations.

Substitute Teacher Contract:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a substitute teaching contract for JoAnn McClain, special education, Seward Middle/Sr. High.

1998-99 Teacher Appointment:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a teaching appointment for the 1998-99 school year for Kevin Harding, special education/resource (temporary, half time), Kenai Alternative High School.

Resignations:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve resignations effective at the end of the 1998-99 school year from Kathy Hill, counselor, Homer Middle; Stuart Goldstein, metals, Soldotna High; Sharon Sauer, art, Soldotna High; and Kathleen McDowell, physical education, Soldotna Middle.

CONSENT AGENDA
(Continued):

Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 3. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

1999-2000 Regular Education/
Certified Staffing Formula:

Mrs. Radtke presented the 1999-2000 regular education/certified staffing formula and recommended approval. Mrs. Radtke stated that the staffing formulas are a guide for preparation of the FY 00 budget.

- ACTION Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve the 1999-2000 regular education/certified staffing formula as presented. Mrs. Mullins seconded.
- ACTION Ms. Germano moved the Board approve an amendment to staff kindergarten through third grade students at a pupil-teacher ratio of 1:22. Mrs. Crawford seconded.
VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

Yes - Gross, Larned, Crawford, Mullins, Germano

No - Anderson, Arness

Advisory Vote - NO

Amendment carried.

Amended motion carried unanimously.
- 1999-00 Support Staffing
Formula: Mrs. Radtke presented the 1999-2000 support staffing formula and recommended approval. Mrs. Mahurin asked whether the formula was the same as that of the current year. Mrs. Radtke stated that there were no changes from this past year's staffing formula.
- ACTION Mrs. Gross moved the Board approve the 1999-2000 support staffing formula as presented. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.
- Student Expulsion:
ACTION Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve the following: "The Decision of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District in the Matter of Expulsion of LM.

This matter was heard before the Board on Monday, November 16, 1998. LM and his parents were in attendance. Todd Syverson, Principal of Soldotna Middle School and Ed McLain, Assistant Superintendent, were present on behalf of the administration. The administration recommended an expulsion of LM for the remainder of this school year, that LM be allowed to continue his education via correspondence at his own

Student Expulsion (Continued): expense, and be considered for readmittance to the District during the first semester of the 1999/2000 school year should he complete and pass an approved 8th grade correspondence course in certain core subject areas, that LM complete a mental health counseling assessment at LM's own expense, comply with the program's recommendations and complete 50 hours of community service.

The evidence presented showed that on October 28, 1998 a teacher heard music coming from LM's locker and discovered a stereo-radio in the locker in violation of school policy. The teacher conducted a search of the student's locker and backpack with LM's permission, and in addition to the stereo-radio found a butterfly knife with a 4-1/4 inch blade, two unused CO-2 Crossman Argonne powerlet devices and a grenade replica used by the military in practice training. LM stated he had placed the items in his backpack several weeks earlier and that on the day in question he was unaware they were in his backpack. LM had indicated the knife belonged to his brother and the CO-2 devices were for his CO-2 car at home. LM had not been granted permission to bring the items on school grounds. Evidence also showed LM is not considered a violent student but was expelled in the spring of 1998 for possession of the same grenade replica on school grounds. Pursuant to the terms of the previous expulsion LM was readmitted in the fall of 1998 after completing certain requirements, one of which was a psychological assessment. The psychologist suggested LM had Oppositional Defiant Disorder (ODD). District personnel concluded LM's ODD did not qualify LM as an emotionally disturbed student as defined under IDEA guidelines, but that it does cause LM to fall under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Soldotna Middle School developed a Section 504 plan for LM which it has followed in compliance with that act.

Based on the uncontradicted evidence, the Board finds that LM did violate the District's Board Policy 5131.7(a) on October 28, 1998 by knowingly possessing both a replica of a weapon and a weapon or dangerous instrument on school grounds. The Board also finds that LM's conduct was inimical to the welfare, safety or morals of other students and school employees, and concludes that he should be expelled from the District for one calendar year beginning with the date of his suspension for this violation. The Board also finds that the knife is a deadly weapon or dangerous instrument as defined by school policy and state law, and the grenade replica did not constitute a firearm

or deadly weapon as defined by statute. LM may immediately apply for limited readmission via correspondence for the remainder of the 1999 school

Student Expulsion (Continued): year. Such correspondence program shall not be at LM's expense if it is with the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District's program. LM may apply for full readmission to the general School District program for the first semester of 1999-2000 if he satisfactorily completes and passes an approved 8th grade correspondence course in the subject areas of language arts, math, science and social studies, plus 50 hours of community service, plus completes a mental health counseling assessment by a duly licensed counselor at LM's expense, and complies with and completes the counselor's recommended programs. Such early readmission is subject to approval by the superintendent. Except as necessary for such limited readmission to the correspondence program, LM shall not go on school grounds during the period of expulsion for any reason, nor shall he attend any school event or function whatsoever." Mrs. Crawford seconded.

VOTE:

Yes - Crawford, Germano, Larned, Mullins, Arness

No - Anderson

Abstain - Gross

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Mr. Dave Carey commended Sears Elementary for their fine presentation. He complimented Mrs. Byerly for doing an excellent job as principal of Skyview High School. He stated that he appreciated the fact that she allows teachers to use many different teaching styles to teach their students. Mr. Carey stated that recently, two teachers were assaulted by students, one teacher was a Tier 1 teacher and the other was a Tier 2 teacher. He stated that when students decide to attack a teacher they do not consider their amount of pay, they are considered equal.

Mrs. Imle thanked the Board for their decision to lower class sizes. She stated that the District's focus is the certified diploma and even though it may be viewed as a high school issue it actually begins with elementary school. She recommended that the District give priority to lowering class sizes. She stated that teachers are observing more and more students entering school unprepared for kindergarten. She stated that she and Ms. Lafferty are serving on the Elementary School Review Committee and class size is the committee's first priority.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mrs. Crawford extended her congratulation to the District employees who received awards for their achievements. She congratulated Melody Douglas, Mari-Anne Gross, Joanie Goodman, Marlene Byerly and Dan Walker.

BOARD COMMENTS (Continued):

Ms. Germano thanked Mrs. Imle for her comments but deferred the credit for lowering class sizes to Sharon Radtke. Dr. Anderson stated that he supported the reduction of elementary class sizes but is concerned about committing the half million dollars to pay for the additional teachers' salaries.

Miss Calvert thanked the Board and District for sponsoring her recent trip to the AASB Annual Conference.

She added her thanks to Mrs. Crawford for acting as her chaperone.

Mrs. Gross thanked the Board members for their support of her as president elect of AASB. She stated that she expected to be extremely busy during the next year.

Mrs. Larned echoed Mrs. Crawford's congratulations and added a special thanks to Joanie Goodman for her assistance at Soldotna Elementary School. She stated that she enjoyed the presentation given by Sears Elementary.

Dr. Anderson
recognized
Joanie and
Gordon
Goodman for
their many
contributions to
the community.

Mr. Arness
thanked
Mr. Dahlgren
for the Title IX
information
received in the
Board
information
packets. He
stated that the
issue has made
him furious.

ADJOURN: At 8:48 p.m.,
Mrs. Crawford
moved the
School Board
Meeting be
adjourned.
Mrs. Larned
seconded.

Motion carried
unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Joe Arness, President

Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

The Minutes of November 16, 1998,
were approved on December 7, 1998,
as written.