

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Homer High School
Homer, Alaska 99603

March 6, 2000

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

Ms. Deborah Germano, President
Mrs. Debra Mullins, Vice President
Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk
Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Treasurer
Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, Member
Dr. Nels Anderson, Member
Mr. Mike Chenault, Member
Miss Melinda Haring, Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT:

Dr. Donna Peterson, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Patrick Hickey, Assistant Superintendent, Operations and Business Management
Mr. Todd Syverson, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Rich Toymil	Mr. Tim Peterson
Ms. Sally Burns	Ms. Bev Gillespie
Ms. Debbie Turkington	Mr. Rich Patton
Mrs. Dana Sander	Mrs. Karen Mahurin
Mr. Dick Sander	Mr. Scott O'Tremba
Mrs. Lorraine Murphy	Mr. Mark Robinson
Mr. Ed Murphy	Mr. Bill Searle
Ms. Anita Harry	

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

Ms. Germano called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Ms. Germano invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Ms. Deborah Germano	Present
Mrs. Debra Mullins	Present
Mrs. Susan Larned	Present
Mrs. Sammy Crawford	Present
Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross	Present
Dr. Nels Anderson	Absent/Excused
Mr. Mike Chenault	Present
Miss Melinda Haring	Absent/Excused

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The agenda was approved with a revision to item Number 10a.(1) Resignations.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The School Board Minutes of February 21, 2000, were approved as printed.

SCHOOL REPORTS:

Mr. Rich Toymil, Paul Banks Elementary principal, stated that he is working with the finest staff and a positive and supportive parent and community body. He stated that the school environment is positive and child-centered. He reported that the school offers a breakfast program provided by volunteers, donations and a grant through the Community Schools Program. He stated that teachers and specialists share ideas and problem-solving strategies regarding student needs and curriculum specifics. He reported that assessment scores are on the rise in the areas of CBM and DIBBLES and that remediation and enrichment opportunities are provided by Title I funds, Quality Schools Initiative grants, resource staff, QUEST and regular education teachers. Mr. Toymil stated that the school specials include music, physical education and library. He noted that the Borough Maintenance Department has worked to upgrade air quality, plumbing and heating and painting. He added that asbestos abatement and playground equipment improvement is scheduled for the future. He reported that the Homer Charter School and Connections Programs share the Paul Banks Elementary facility. Mr. Toymil reported that the school offers an after-school program in arts. Ms. Renda Horn presented Mrs. Kirby's kindergarten class who demonstrated movement to music and acted out the meaning of words.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. Don Ronda, retired teacher and school administrator, stated that parking near the pool entrance of Homer High School during the day is nearly impossible. He stated that it is especially dangerous during inclement and icy weather and that walking to the pool from the nearest parking area is extremely treacherous. He noted that between 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., the pool serves approximately 100-150 non-student users. He stated that an estimated 10-15 additional spaces would reduce parking problems. Mr. Ronda presented the Board with a petition that included 71 signatures from citizens who currently use the pool during the midday hours. He distributed a list of suggestions to resolve the problem and added that quite a number of people who would normally use the pool are afraid to come during the winter for fear of injury.

Ms. Karen Ballard, stated that she cares for her three grandchildren who attend Homer-area schools. She expressed her concern for the safety of students who walk in the roadway during the winter because there is no access to the shoulder of the road. She stated that she lives just inside of a one-mile radius from Homer Middle School and does not qualify for bus service and so her middle school grandchild must either walk to school or catch a ride. She recounted an incident when she narrowly missed hitting a student walking along the dark, narrow roadway and added that this situation is an accident waiting to happen. She asked the Board to consider a policy that would allow students to ride the bus after the first snowfall if they live along a bus route, regardless of whether they live within a one-mile radius of their school.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

Dr. Peterson stated that she received a letters from Representative Gail Phillips concerning computer classes for senior citizens; from Representative Davis concerning legislation introduced on behalf of AML/JIA to expand AS 21.76.010(a) to include Native associations, Native village councils, and non-profits; and from the Peninsula legislative delegation concerning school funding.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Ms. Germano and Mrs. Gross presented awards of appreciation to Sally Burns, Paul Banks Elementary; Loraine Murphy, Homer High; Susie Peterson, Homer High; Mark Robinson, Homer High; and Bill Searle, Homer High for their outstanding contributions to education and the District.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS
(continued):

Mrs. Gross presented a certificate of recognition to Dick Sander for successfully passing the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Peterson noted that Department of Education and Early Development Commissioner, Rick Cross, recently visited District schools and conducted public forums on the Quality Schools Initiative. She stated that the Commissioner left with a new awareness of what it takes to educate students on the Kenai Peninsula. She reported that interviews for the Homer High School principal position were conducted Monday, February 28. She reported that the Board and Borough Assembly conducted a joint worksession on the 2000-2001 budget. She reported that she attended the AASA Superintendent's Conference and came away with new information and inspiration. She noted that the next Board meeting is March 27, 2000.

BOARD REPORTS:

Mrs. Gross stated that she attended the School Designator Committee meeting whose mission is to assign each public school in each district the performance designator of "distinguished," "successful," "deficient" or "in crisis" based on multiple student measures including student achievement. She reported that the Committee heard presentations from the Departments of Education in Indiana and California who have already completed similar designation processes. She noted that Committee members agreed that student test results would be the most important indicator but that as stated in state law, it should be based on multiple student measures to indicate how schools are rated. Mrs. Gross reported that she accompanied Mrs. Mullins and Miss Haring to Juneau to participate in the AASB Leadership Training and Fly-In and visit with legislators. She stated that the group met with Peninsula legislators and the chairman of the House and Senate HESS and Finance Committees. She stated that they did not come away with much hope for additional funding for education.

Mrs. Mullins commented that it was very beneficial to take the Board student representative with them to the AASB Fly-in and that Miss Haring learned a lot about the government process. She stated that the District delegation met with aids and legislators and that the mood was not hopeful. Mrs. Mullins stated that she does not think the District will receive any more money per pupil but may receive some supplemental money for bussing. She stated that the Board members took quite a lot of budget information to Juneau to share with legislators.

Mrs. Larned reported that she attended the School to Careers Advisory Committee meeting and Borough VSLO Conference on February 25 at the Kenai Peninsula College. She noted that many students from the District attended. She noted that the state VSLO Conference will be March 15 in Anchorage. She reported that VSLO has changed their name and is now Career Technical Student Organization (CTSO) and that they are in the process of selecting students to receive scholarships and awards for student of the year.

Mrs. Crawford stated that she attended the Employee Recognition Committee meeting, Language Arts Curriculum Committee meeting, and the joint District Borough Assembly budget meeting. She stated that a highlight this week was reading to first and second grade students at Sears Elementary on Dr. Seuss' birthday.

BOARD REPORTS (continued):

Ms. Germano stated that she received a letter from Rick Ladd, KPSAA president, expressing concern for the District budget cuts and asking the Board to cut specific athletic programs instead of continuously cutting away at the KPSAA budget.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Resignation; Budget Transfer Number 263; Long-Term Substitute Teacher; and Early Graduation Request.

Resignation: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve resignations from Susan Matthews, occupational therapist, districtwide special services; Heidi Jacobson, math, Skyview High; Nancy Boyle, English/special education, Seward Middle/High; Hilary Matthews, English, Skyview High; and Fred Deussing, principal, Chapman Elementary.

Budget Transfer: Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve budget transfer Number 263 for \$35,000 for administrator costs for Aurora Borealis Charter School.

Long-Term Substitute Teacher: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve a 19-day substitute teacher contract for Cheryl Chastain, language arts, Soldotna Middle School.

Early Graduation Request: Mr. McLain recommended the Board approve a request for early graduation from a Nikiski Middle/High School student.

ACTION Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve Consent Agenda items Numbers 1 through 4. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

2000-2001 Tentative Tenure Teacher Assignments: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve a list of tentative tenure teacher assignments for the 2000-2001 school year.

ACTION Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve the list of the 2000-2001 school year tentative tenure teacher assignments. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

HOMER ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION Contract for Long-Term Electric Service: Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve a five-year contract for electrical services to locations currently being served by Homer Electric Association. He stated that under the contract, the District will receive an acceleration on capitol credits at the rate of approximately 5 percent of consumption. He explained that the District will agree to remain HEA consumers for the next five years in an effort to help them stabilize their market in the face of potential deregulation.

ACTION Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve a five-year contract for electrical services to locations currently being served by Homer Electric Association. Mrs. Gross seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Nikiski Reconfiguration Project: Mr. Hickey recommended the Board halt further efforts toward reconfiguration of the Nikiski Area schools and refrain from any financial expenditures. He noted that three significant factors contributed to the recommendation: declining enrollment in the Nikiski area; a request that the administration review all facilities for possible consolidation; and the cost of renovation.

Nikiski Reconfiguration Project (continued): Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve a recommendation to halt further efforts toward reconfiguration of the Nikiski Area schools. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

ACTION

Mrs. Mullins stated that she spoke to a member of the Nikiski Area School Reconfiguration Committee who reported that they received notification of the proposed recommendation but were not able to convene a meeting of the Committee to discuss it.

ACTION

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board postpone action on the recommendation to halt further efforts toward reconfiguration of the Nikiski Area schools until the Committee can meet, provide input and develop a recommendation. Mr. Chenault seconded.

Postponement carried unanimously.

Dr. Peterson asked the Board for clarification of the postponement of the Nikiski recommendation. Mrs. Mullins responded that the Board would like input from the Committee. She stated that she would like the Committee to have the opportunity to review the report and respond with a recommendation. She noted that when speaking to the Committee member, she did not promise that the Committee's input would change the outcome of the Board's decision.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mrs. Crawford thanked Mr. Toymil, the Paul Banks staff and kindergarten class. She remarked that it is wonderful to see great teachers and great things happening in classrooms in spite of terrible budget cuts. She congratulated the Homer teachers who received awards and especially recognized Mr. Sander for being the first in the state and District to receive NBPTS certification.

Mrs. Mullins thanked Mr. Toymil and the Paul Banks Elementary students for their school report. She stated that she appreciated the opportunity to travel to Juneau to speak to legislators. She added that it is sad to watch the dismantling of the Kenai School District as difficult budget decisions are made and that she has some serious concerns for next year. She complimented Miss Haring, student Board Representative, for doing an outstanding job while in Juneau and noted that legislators paid attention to what Miss Haring had to say. Mrs. Mullins thanked those who attended the public forum prior to the Board meeting.

Mr. Chenault thanked the Paul Banks Elementary students and staff for their school report. He complimented Mr. Rick Matiya for his public presentations of the Connections Program.

Mrs. Larned stated that this has been an especially difficult year dealing with budget problems. She thanked the public for their input and asked for their understanding regarding the cuts made to next year's budget. She reported that the Board had a good meeting with the Borough Assembly regarding the District budget. Mrs. Larned thanked the Homer award winners for their service to the District and thanked the Paul Banks Elementary students and staff for their report. She stated that she especially appreciated Mr. Toymil's statements reminding those present that children are the main focus and that it is important to be concerned with educating the whole child and not just sections.

BOARD COMMENTS (continued):

Mrs. Gross stated that Homer is fortunate to have such wonderful teachers and is glad to acknowledge them. She added that she feels privileged that her children were taught by some of the recognized teachers. She stated that she enjoyed the Paul Banks Elementary School report and the Homer Charter School report (held prior to the Board meeting). Mrs. Gross remarked that while she was in Juneau, Mr. Cross mentioned that the trip to Voznesenka Elementary gave him a new appreciation for teaching on the Peninsula. Mrs. Gross echoed Mrs. Mullins' comments regarding Miss Haring and the fine job she did representing the District while in Juneau.

Ms. Germano thanked the Paul Banks Elementary students and Mr. Toymil for the school report. She congratulated the award recipients, thanked the Homer Charter School staff and parents for their presentations, and thanked Mr. Ronda and Ms. Ballard for sharing their concerns with the Board. Ms. Germano stated that the letter from KPSAA requesting the Board to cut specific athletic programs bothers her. She stated that the Board is proposing the elimination of all funding to elementary schools for extracurricular activities, elimination of Borough tournaments for middle schools, elimination of state travel, and increased activity fees. She added that the Board has made some very difficult budget decisions this year and hopes that the Board will look at other areas besides the ones that are near and dear to individual members' hearts and consider the good of the entire District.

ADJOURN: At 8:50 p.m., Mrs. Mullins moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Deborah Germano, President

Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

The Minutes of March 6, 2000,
were approved on March 27, 2000
as written.